

OFSAA TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

The sole basis for the very existence of high school sport is the contribution it makes to the general educational experience of those students who participate.

PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. Events and/or Classifications:

- (a) The OFSAA Tennis Championship shall provide competition in Open and High School divisions. Classification of divisions is as follows:
 - (i) An Open Division player must have won a minimum of two rounds in total (one round or more in a tournament and/or at a later date wins a round in another tournament) in a 3 star Ontario Tennis Association (OTA) tournament or higher, **a Level 6 or lower United States Tennis Association (USTA) tournament** or the equivalent (European championship) in the three years prior to the beginning of the school year. Any player who has ever played in the Canadian Nationals or any player that has ever played in any U-14, U-16 or U-18 provincial championships shall also be considered an open player. A bye, defaulted or retired match in an OTA event does not constitute a win.
 - (ii) High School Division: any player who has not met the above criteria for an Open player.
- (b) The **events** to be conducted in both the High School and Open Divisions
 - GIRLS' SINGLES
 - GIRLS' DOUBLES
 - BOYS' SINGLES
 - BOYS' DOUBLES
 - MIXED DOUBLES
- (c) The OFSAA convenors in consultation with the OTA shall have the right to disqualify players if entered incorrectly. Disqualified student-athletes will not have entry fees reimbursed.

2. Championship Structure and Procedure:

- (a) The OFSAA Tennis championship structure shall be an eight (8) game pro set, no advantage scoring with a twelve (12) point tiebreaker **(the individual/team to win a minimum 7 points by a 2-point margin)** at seven **games** (7) all. The tournament structure shall follow a double elimination format up to and including the semifinals. That is: student-athletes with one loss up to and including the semifinals shall compete for a bronze medal. Finalists on the championship side shall compete for gold and silver.
- (b) Players must be on site prepared to play at least one (1) hour before the scheduled start of their match.

- (c) In cases where students do not fulfil their participation commitment at the OFSAA Tennis Championship, a report will be forwarded by the Competitions Committee to the OFSAA Board of Reference – Sanctions.
- (d) Due to the possibility of changing weather conditions, the original schedule presented at the coaches' meeting prior to tournament play may be altered. If such changes occur, all coaches are to continually check with the convenor on site and/or website for tournament updates regarding times and locations.
- (e) Registration materials will be given to the teacher accompanying the student-athletes upon receipt of the required entry materials as outlined on the OFSAA Tennis website.
- (f) The teacher-coach/supervisor must attend the coaches' meeting. If the coach is a non-teacher, both the teacher-supervisor and the coach must attend.

3. Entry:

- (a) Entries shall be accepted from Association convenors or designates only.
- (b) Entries must be received by the convenor (by the deadline date) as indicated in the coaches' information package on the OFSAA Tennis website. Late entries will only be accepted if they can be accommodated, and an additional entry fee will be charged.
- (c) An association may enter a maximum of two (2) competitors in each event of each division. In the event of an Association not having a full entry or in the event of a late cancellation, the host Association is allowed an additional entry in that event.
- (d) No competitor may enter more than one event (e.g. singles, doubles, mixed doubles). In a doubles or mixed pairing, if any individual is an Open player, the entire team shall be considered Open. Players must enter in the same event as they participated in at their Association Championship and with the same partner in a doubles event.
- (e) Any suspension or disciplinary actions in Association play shall be carried forward into OFSAA Championship competition. The Association convenor shall be responsible for reporting such players and the nature of the disciplinary action on the OFSAA entry form.

4. Expenses:

- (a) Those schools having entries are responsible for their entry fee, arranging and financing their own travel, meals and accommodation for the event.
- (b) All schools entering a Federation Championship/Festival shall, by signature of the school principal on the entry form, acknowledge responsibility for making restitution for any damage resulting from misconduct by participants.

5. Eligibility:

(a) Team/School Eligibility

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation, a school/team must:

- (i) Conduct a 'bona fide' high school program consisting of a minimum of six (6) practices during a one (1) month period in the current school year, under the supervision of a teacher as certified by the school principal.
- (ii) Participate in an Association-approved league if one is held.
- (iii) Participate in the Association Championship or OFSAA qualifying meet.
- (iii) Use only eligible student-athletes in any competition during the school year or the school forfeits its right to participate in the OFSAA Tennis Championship.

(b) Individual Student Eligibility

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation a student must:

- (i) Be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules (Playing Regulations) of the Association to which his/her school belongs.
- (ii) Be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school.
- (iii) Meet the following age requirement: the individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not reached his/her 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.
- (iv) Be in Grades 9-12.
- (v) Be eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy (By-Law 5, Section 4(f)).
- (vi) Be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9 (By-Law 5, Section 4(g)).
- (vii) Have signed the Rules of Behaviour signature form for the competition.
- (viii) Have executed the Federation's "Release of Liability" form.
- (ix) Only students who were entered and participated as members of a school's tennis team in the Association championship, where held, are eligible to participate in the OFSAA Championship.
- (x) Participate as a member of a 'bona fide' high school program as outlined in (a) above and attended the majority of practices and competitions.

6. Rules and Officials:

(a) The Tennis Canada Rules of the Court shall govern play at the OFSAA Tennis Championship with the exception that:

- (i) The structure of the championship shall be an eight (8) game pro-set.
- (ii) No advantage scoring with a twelve (12) point tie breaker at seven (7) all, unless otherwise indicated by the convenor.

7. Uniforms and Equipment:

(a) General

- (i) All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's/Association's name, colours and logos.

- (ii) No sport club insignia on uniforms shall be permitted. A sport club is defined as a community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized competition in single or multi sport programs.
- (iii) Sponsorship recognition is permitted to be visible but must conform with the placement guidelines outlined in By-Law 6, Section 2(h).
- (iv) Student-student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate attire in the competition area, AND use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the Protest Committee for resolution.
- (v) The above criteria must be met both on and in the immediate vicinity of the competitive area and during the awards' ceremonies.

(b) Sport Specific

- (i) In order to be allowed to play, competitors must dress in proper tennis attire which covers the midsection.

8. Awards:

OFSAA gold, silver, bronze and antique bronze medallions shall be presented to the top four finishers, in both the High School and Open Divisions.

9. Supervision: (Reference By-Law 6, Section 1)

A teacher is defined as a member of the Ontario College of Teachers or a holder of an Ontario Teacher's Certificate or equivalent.

- (a) For individual sports (those sports in which student-athletes from a school qualify for federation competition as individuals), the principal of the school may designate an adult who is not a teacher to accompany the student-athletes. In addition, a teacher, or a retired teacher, must be present and on site and designated by the principal to be responsible for the student-athlete(s).
- (b) For all sports, where the teacher, as indicated in (a) and (b) above, is not of the same sex as the student-athletes(s), and where the student-athlete(s) are required or might be required to stay overnight, a supervisory adult, as approved by the principal of the school, of the same sex as the student-athlete(s), must be present and available at the accommodation site for the duration of their stay in the accommodation.

Registration materials will only be given to the teacher accompanying the team, upon receipt of a completed Rules of Behaviour signature form, signed "Release of Liability" forms and photo forms.

10. Deportment: (Reference By-Law 6, Section 2)

- (a) Definitions:

- (i) A team is defined as, "All participants representing the same school at an OFSAA Championship event".
- (ii) A participant is defined as, "Anyone who has been granted proper authorization to enter a restricted area." "Restricted area" includes "those areas occupied by student-athletes and to which access by the general public is restricted or prohibited."
- (b) (i) All participants are expected to abide by the, "Rules of Behaviour for Participants to OFSAA Championships". (see Appendix to By-Laws)
- (ii) Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants for the duration of the Championships.
- (iii) Teams are open to censure for failure of its participants to abide by the "Rules of Behaviour".
- (iv) All coaches are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics for Coaches to OFSAA Championships. (See Appendix II)
- (v) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Statement of Principle on Recruiting. (See Appendix IV)
- (vi) Spectators are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour for Spectators. (See Appendix III)
- (vii) All coaches are expected to adhere to the "Return to Play Guidelines". (See Appendix VI)
- (viii) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Policy on dispensing drugs, medication and food supplements. (See Appendix IX)
- (c) No artificial noisemakers are permitted at OFSAA Championship events.

11. Social:

- (a) If a special event is arranged, all team members and coaches must attend.
- (b) Participants are expected to wear 'dress casual' attire. No jeans, shorts, tank tops, or hats are permitted.
- (c) Should there be an instance of improper attire, the Protest Committee shall deal with the matter and forward a report to the Board of Reference-Sanctions.

12. Medical:

Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (e.g. tape, Band-Aids, ice packs) for their student-athletes.

13. Protest Committee

All disputes during an OFSAA Championship/Festival shall be directed to the Protest Committee for resolution.

- (a) The Protest Committee shall consist of three (3) individuals; the chairperson of the Sport Advisory Committee or designate, a tournament committee member, and one other member appointed by the Championship convenor. **The Head official in some cases, may be asked to serve on the Protest Committee.** Members of the Protest Committee must not have any conflict of interest relevant to the incident under protest.

- (b) All protests must be submitted in writing to the Championship convenor or designate, shall fully outline the incident under protest, and shall be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee (refundable if protest is upheld).
- (c) A protest must be submitted within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the game/event in which the incident under protest occurred, or within thirty minutes of the occurrence if protesting an incident outside the field of play.
- (d) The following areas may not be protested at a Championship/Festival:
 - Officials' decisions
 - Eligibility of transfer students
- (e) Any disputes or protests re: tournament structure and procedure must be addressed no later than the coaches' meeting.
- (f) The Protest Committee shall be the body empowered to delay/modify/cancel an event due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. weather conditions) at the site(s).
- (g) Decisions of the Protest Committee shall be final.

A report of all appeals and decisions shall be forwarded to the OFSAA Board of Reference – Sanctions, **who may determine** that additional sanctions are necessary.

SPORT SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

1. Championship Structure and Procedure

- a) Upon approval from the OFSAA Tennis Sport Advisory Committee, the convenor may modify the structure of the Championship if there is a lack of entries or inclement weather. This modification may range from a six (6) game pro-set to a match consisting of a best two (2) out of three (3) sets.
- b) Convenors, whenever possible, should ensure that all participating players/teams are rotated throughout all Championship sites during the preliminary rounds of competition.

2. Seeding

- a) OPEN entries are seeded by the OTA.
- b) High School Division entries shall be seeded by the OFSAA Convenor based on the previous year's results if players are entered in the same division.

3. Officials

- a) The head official must attend the coaches' meeting, and is encouraged to hold an officials' meeting prior to the start of the first game, when possible. Otherwise the head official is responsible for communicating the information to all officials participating.

4. Facilities and equipment

- a) The Tournament Convenor shall provide game balls for the Championship.

5. Medical

- a) Provision must be made by the Convenor to have a medical doctor in attendance or readily available and to follow appropriate hygienic precautions with regard to bodily fluids and communicable diseases (See Appendix IV to the By-Laws).
- b) Qualified first-aid personnel and equipment must be readily available at the Championship site(s).

***All Federation Championships/Festivals are non-smoking and non-vaping events.
This includes the use of all tobacco and vaping related products.***

Participants must obey the Ministry of Education's Code of Conduct.