



2024 CLASS B/C



CENTRAL-DIVISIONAL TENNIS TOURNEY

We are looking forward to bringing your teams back to Cut Bank for this year's Central Divisional B/C Tennis Tournament. This communication is a follow-up from our initial communication.

I have created a 2024 Central Divisional section on our website. You can browse and get information there. It will be updated as more information becomes available. The link is: [2024 Central Divisionals](#)
You can also reach this link on the Wolves' [Schedule](#) and [Match Results](#) pages. A Divisional Packet will be posted on this site where you will be able to print a copy out.

Just another reminder that we must have your entry forms and seeding information by **May 10th**. If you are able to email me this info sooner, GREAT! We will need the time to seed the tournament; prepare the packets/programs; schedule; and brackets for the tournament. We also request that you **send us a digital picture of your team(s)** for the Central Divisional packet.

Seeding information is also requested.

Seeding

Each division will be charged with the responsibility of determining the divisional tournament seeding criteria. Suggested criteria for seeding entries could include the following: past record in previous state high school meets, divisional meets, head-to-head competition with most recent matches carrying the most weight, and record against common opponents.

What I need from coaches besides the entry form information would be:

- Individual (singles entry and doubles' entry) records and results for the season: ie. Player – 2 Wins/1 Loss; def. Gray(CB) 6-0,6-0; def. Blue(C) 6-3,6-2; loss to Purple(GF) 3-6;6-7(4) Doubles Team – 2 Wins/0 Losses; def Smith/Smith(CB) 8-6; def. Jones/Jones(Cho) 6-2,6-0 Please include the seasons results for each entrant.
- Past record in previous STATE & DIVISIONAL meets if pertinent
- We will look at Head to head competition results & Record against common opponents
- **YOUR OPINION and ranking** of the top 4-6 singles players in our Division for Girls' Singles; Girls' Doubles; Boys' Singles & Boys' Doubles.
- **Any other relevant information** for seeding purposes.
- PLEASE [email all of this information to me](#) by May 10th.
- All seeding will be based upon the information presented to me.

Rules from MHSА Tournament handbook:

III. Playing Rules for MHSА Postseason Tennis

USTA playing rules will be used for all competition in addition to any local rules or MHSА rules and regulations. The host manager, or their designee, will be the sole judge on rule interpretations. The site director serves as the umpire at each site, unless an official rules umpire is present. Situations brought to the judge will not include team or individual names so the ruling can be as objective as possible.

Competitors' conduct

- All tennis players in MHSА sanctioned tournaments shall be penalized one team point (on the first infraction) and removed from further play (on second infraction) for any unsportsmanlike conduct on site after a match or before the next match or at the end the tournament. Any contestant disqualified in an individual tournament competition is not entitled to any points earned in the tournament. All advancement points and placement points are negated. All vacancies created in the tournament pairing shall be scored as forfeits. During the match, players are under the point penalty system of warning, point, game, match. Warnings of this rule shall be written in pretournament letters and given to all players at the pretournament meeting.
- Each tennis court should have a site director and that director should be in charge of administering the penalty system above for violation/abuse of any equipment or facilities, abusive language, abusive gestures, and other obnoxious, offensive behavior.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct on the tournament site includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: throwing rackets or any equipment, swearing, intentionally hitting game balls out of the court, being abusive to tournament officials, and fighting.

Coaching Information - the MHSAA has instituted this best practice in relationship to coaching rules in all classifications of MHSAA tennis:

- Eligible member school tennis coaches are permitted to talk with their player(s):
- At 90 second change overs, except following the first game of a set. During shortened sets, coaches will be allowed to coach after the first game when the score is 3-2.
- At 120 second change set break (end of set).
- At split sets 10 minute rest period when playing regular 3rd set or 120 seconds with match tiebreaker.
- **Once players have taken the court for warm-ups, no coaching is allowed until the 90-second change over after the 3rd game.**
- Coaches also may **not** coach players during a bathroom break or a medical timeout (during a medical timeout, coaches can treat players for an injury, just not use this as a coaching opportunity) – per USTA rules.
- Locations where coaching can occur:
- Outside Courts – coaching will be at the fence, not on the court. The tournament manager may also determine other coaching locations, based on the facility setup.
- Inside Courts – Tournament managers will determine the coaching locations.
- Who can coach - to be an approved coach, an individual must:
- Be approved by their local school district administration.
- Have passed the MHSAA Coaches Education Program.
- Have been a bona fide member of the coaching staff during the season.
- Have proper identification.
- Coaches are expected to help with the crowd control at the sites.

Decisions - The decision must be made on each play. There is no replay of a point except in the case of a let. Only coaches and players can ask the site director to put a judge on the court to make calls if a problem arises.

Feathers worn in the hair - Below is how we will interpret feathers, tinsel or beads that are worn in the hair. We will treat this type of hair device very similar to the NFHS Volleyball Rules. Under NFHS Volleyball Rule 4-1-6b "hair devices made of soft material and no more than 3 inches wide may be worn."

- The rule does not specify the device must be used for hair control.
- The feather or tinsel cannot be wider than 3 inches. Length is not addressed in the rule. Most of these will not exceed a width of 3 inches.
- Items that fall within the rule would have to be considered in context with the rules.
- If the item is inappropriate by sportsmanship standards, prohibit the item from being worn.
- Hard and unyielding items being worn are prohibited.
- If an item presents a problem falling out (beads), USTA rules will be followed.

Hair Control Devices - Hair devices made of soft material or unadorned hair devices, such as bobby pins, barrettes, or hair clips, no longer than 2 inches, may be worn to control a player's hair. Hair adornments made of soft material and no more than two inches wide may be worn.

Inclement Weather Format – Inside - See Rules for Divisional and State sections for inclement weather formats.

Jewelry Policy – Jewelry is allowed per USTA rules, **with the exception of smartwatches or other devices that can be used to communicate with others.**

Match Tiebreaker - Match tiebreakers are sometimes played in lieu of a third set (see Indoor Format below). They follow the same rules and service rotations as the Set 7-Point Tiebreaker, except the winner is the first to score 10 points by a margin of 2.

Match Warm-ups - Outside and inside warm-up time will be 10 minutes. This warm-up will be timed and this time includes serving and net play. Tournament managers may shorten the warm-up to 5 minutes for special situations.

Medical Timeouts – a medical timeout consists of a maximum of three minutes of treatment time for a treatable medical condition.

- A meet official should be alerted and will monitor the time.

- The time starts when a trainer or coach arrives at the court.
- A player is limited to one medical timeout in warm-up and one in match for the same injury/condition.
- 15 minutes is the maximum time that play may be interrupted for injury evaluation and treatment during a match regardless of the number of injuries treated.

Bleeding Timeout – a bleeding timeout consists of up to 15 minutes to stop visible bleeding and clean up the court. A player is limited to one bleeding timeout in warm-up and one in match.

Additional bleeding timeout is allowed if visible bleeding occurs in a different area of the body.

15 minutes is the maximum time that play may be interrupted for bleeding regardless of the number of different areas of the body where bleeding occurs.

A player that is not able to resume play after the 15-minute maximum for a medical timeout and/or the 15-minute maximum for a bleeding timeout will default the match.

Nets - All tennis nets must be regulation height. Competitors are prohibited from changing the nets.

Normal Format - Outside

- Best of 3 sets and regular scoring will be used.
- USTA Set (7-point) tiebreaker will be used. See *Tie Breaker Sheet* (1st to 7 points by 2 point margin).
- 10 minutes rest will be allowed if split sets.
- There should be 2 tennis balls per match
- If indoor courts are being used as part of the regular scheduled play (not because of weather issues), scoring will be the same as the outdoor format.

Rest Time Between Matches: When players are involved in back-to-back matches, the MHSA will allow a minimum of a 30-minute rest period and a maximum of 60-minute rest period for both singles and doubles competition. After the 30-minute rest period, the match will be allowed to begin if both the players and coaches involved are ready to start the match. For consistency, the MHSA recommends a minimum of 30 minutes for all matches.

Set Tie Breaker - The MHSA method of breaking ties (USTA Set, 7-point Tie Breaker) will be used throughout the tournament, except for the tiebreaker mentioned in the inclement weather format section.

Scoring Devices - If possible, scoring devices should be available to keep score at each court. Please inform players to use them.

Uniforms for Competitors: Per MHSA Tennis Rules, Section I, General Rules and Regulations, item 2, which can be found under the MHSA Uniform/Dress Codes rules in this manual or in the MHSA Handbook.

Class Specific Rules:

- During competition at all Class B/C Divisional Tennis Meets, players will be limited to 3 full matches per day unless players have played less than 6 hours, then 4 matches would be allowed. There is no match limit per day for shortened matches.

Required number of Regular Season Meets

For an athlete to be eligible to compete in the postseason meet he/she must compete in at least two (2) Association-sanctioned meets during the regular tennis season. A medical waiver from a certified physician stating that an athlete has sustained an injury preventing him/her from competing until that time will be accepted as a condition to be exempt from this rule. The high school for which the student will participate must file a request with the MHSA Executive Director for consideration of a waiver of this rule.

Once again, we are looking forward to providing our players with a fun and productive Divisional tournament. Thanks everyone!

-Jim Gregg-