

2024



TEAM TENNIS
Playoff Information
Handbook

2024 TEAM TENNIS

Congratulations on representing your district for the team tennis playoffs. Since your school is advancing to the playoffs, the following points should clarify questions asked by participating schools. If the League office can be of further assistance during your tournament preparation period, please call.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Team Tennis Playoff Information	3
Postseason Match Information	5
Postseason Video Broadcast Information	6

IMPORTANT DATES

Certification Deadlines for Team Tennis Playoffs 4A, 5A, 6A

October 5 District Certification Deadline
October 7-8 Bi-District
October 10-12 Area
October 14-15 Regional Quarterfinals
October 17-18 Regional Tournament
October 23-24 State Tournament

TEAM TENNIS PLAYOFF INFORMATION

Brackets. (*required for each round of playoffs) Submit results and update next round bracket information on the UIL website. **The winning coach must submit next round information and game results.**

- **Lineups.** Each team is responsible for completing the Team Tennis Lineup Entry form found on the UIL website [HERE](#) prior to each match/tournament (district, bi-district, area, regional quarterfinal, regional, or state) and submitting it to the person in charge of the respective match/tournament before that match/tournament begins. (For example, the regional tournament director will get a form from each advancing regional quarterfinal team prior to the start of the regional tournament.)
- **Certification of District Representatives.** The last date for certifying the district champions to the league office is Saturday, October 5, 2024 for 4A, 5A, and 6A only. District chairs must certify representatives on the UIL website [HERE](#).

Team Tennis Information & Photo Form (Regional Qualifiers). Teams qualifying for the regional tournament must submit the following materials to the UIL office by **Wednesday, October 16, 2024**. This is an important step in providing you with the best digital state program possible.

- [Team Information Form](#) (list of players, coaches, etc. and all matches played)
- [Photo Submission Form](#) (team picture 5x7, head coach picture, school mascot or logo)

Inclement Weather. If weather conditions make it impossible to determine a winner before certification, **UIL must be contacted for an extension.** The next round opponent(s) or regional site must also be contacted to inform them that the deadline has been extended. Extreme scheduling difficulties could result in a coin flip, which would determine the representatives to the next round.

Number of Team Participants. The minimum number of participants is six girls and six boys – a maximum has not been set. Players are eligible to play both singles and doubles, but it is not mandatory to play both singles and doubles. Girls' and boys' point totals count on team totals, but boys and girls cannot compete against each other, other than the mixed doubles match.

Lineup Changes. *As a reminder, in both singles and doubles, each player is to play according to ladder position, meaning the best player(s) at #1, the next best at #2, and so on down the lineup to #6. Although lineup changes are permitted, the submitted lineup must still be true to the player's competitive position within the team. Teams are not allowed to alter their lineup to procure matchups between different opponents.* The advancing team's coach must give his or her complete lineup prior to the start of their next round match. Also, coaches are responsible for exchanging the previous match roster/lineup.

Lineup changes and movement within the players ladder is outlined in this section and each coach may use the options **ONCE** in a calendar week during the playoffs. **Exception: No lineup change is allowed between the regional semifinals and the regional finals, and state semifinals and state finals.**

- **Lineup Changes.** The coach may change in the lineup to reflect proper ladder position prior to the start of the match/tournament, based on the following regulations.
- **Singles Movement on Ladder.** After the previous qualifying match/tournament, the coach may move each player no more than one position up or down in the singles lineup.
- **Doubles Movement on Ladder.** After the previous qualifying match/tournament, the coach may move each player no more than one position up or down in the doubles lineup. The coach may change a player from one doubles partner to another partner, but no player may move more than one position in the doubles lineup.

If a student has been out of the lineup for a grading period for academic purposes and returns, the lineup should be re-ranked with the “new” player in his/her appropriate position. Under no circumstances shall the coach change his/her lineup during a tournament. The penalty for doing so will be to forfeit the individual matches involved, with the scores becoming 6-0, 6-0 in each match. Coaches should be aware that a substitution and a lineup change are not the same.

Substitutions. A coach may make substitutions between team matches and/or during a team match before the individual match begins. In all instances of substitutions, the coach must use the following procedure.

- **Singles.** The coach removes a player from the lineup. All players lower in the lineup move up to fill the vacant spot in the lineup and the alternate becomes the #6 player. A player removed from the lineup for substitution may return to the lineup for the next team match but only to the position he/she vacated. All other players will return to their original positions.
- **Doubles.** If the coach removes one member of a doubles team from the lineup, he/she places the alternate in the vacated spot, and the team remains in the same position. If the coach removes both members of a doubles team, then the lower teams will move up to fill the vacant position, and the alternate pair becomes the #3 team.

Forfeits and Defaults. If, after an individual match begins, a forfeit occurs due to illness, injury or penalty for misconduct, the games and/or sets won by the forfeiting team shall stand and count. In all other matches if an injury or illness occurs before the individual match begins, take the player out of the lineup and move everyone else up in the lineup. The substitute then becomes #6.

Team Scoring and Ties. The scoring system will be No-Advantage Scoring, best 2-out-of-3 set matches with a 7-point tie breaker at six games all in the first two sets. If a third set is necessary it will be played as a ten-point match tiebreak. Each match won will count one point for the team.

Tennis Etiquette. Applauding a good play is always in order. Applauding an error is never in order. Any person who takes it upon oneself to berate the officials or make oneself conspicuous by bad behavior the team should be requested to leave the court area. Coaches are responsible for educating their students and parents about appropriate behavior. Players should shake the hand of their opponent before and after games.

Coaching. By school personnel only.

Number of Coaches Allowed. A maximum of 3 coaches may coach the team during a team match.

Appropriate Timing of Coaching. Coaches are allowed to coach between points and in breaks of play.

Protocols of Coaches on Court.

- Coaches may coach from on court but must be at or around the net post or bench area (specifically between the net post and half way down the service box). Only one coach may be on any one court at a time.
- Coaches should refrain from moving around during points and distracting players and/or disrupting continuous play.
- Coaches may move from court to court as long as it is between points and does not disrupt continuous play on any court.

Protocols of Coaches off Court. Coaching is allowed if the coach is outside the court area as long as it is between points, in any breaks of play, and does not interfere with continuous play.

Opposing Players.

- Coaches shall not initiate conversation with an opposing player.

- Coaches shall not inject themselves in any on court problem unless the opposing coach is also present. Players shall not initiate conversation with an opposing coach.

Point Penalty System. To ensure consistency in preparation for the state tournament the UIL office has provided a point penalty system for misconduct. The site director will closely enforce the point penalty system to ensure good sportsmanship and should not tolerate unsportsmanlike conduct or taunting. (Example: abuse of officials, abuse of players, abuse of equipment, cursing, screaming, obscene gestures, racket throwing, ball slamming, etc.) The tournament director will warn all players before the tournament starts. Once play begins, the site director will penalize each instance of unsportsmanlike conduct as follows:

- First offense in the tournament - deduct 1 point
- Second offense - DEFAULT game
- Third offense - DEFAULT match or tournament

Offenses will be cumulative throughout the tournament. The site director will give the point penalties and will report them to the site director of the next match.

POSTSEASON MATCH INFORMATION

Site Selection. Sites for all rounds of playoffs prior to the regionals are to be selected by the teams involved. See Section 1208 (o)(p) of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. If schools cannot agree, they must flip a coin.

- **Neutral Sites:** A site mid-point or near mid-point, or a site agreed on by both schools as neutral, is a neutral site. Unless mutually agreeable, a site cannot be neutral if its distance from either school is more than two-thirds the total distance between the schools.
- **Home Sites:** When two schools flip for two separate sites other than their home field or court, the sites are considered home sites unless both sites are near mid-point.
- **Mid-Point Sites:** Unless mutually agreed otherwise, post-district contests in the team sports of baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, team tennis, and volleyball shall be a mid-point site for schools located more than 100 miles apart.

Championship Structure. The top 4 teams in Conference 4A, 5A and 6A will advance from district to the playoffs.

District Matches.

- **Format.** The District Executive Committee will make arrangements and set format to determine the district representatives.
- **Entries.** Each school shall enter the district meet by certifying entries to the district director by the entry deadline set by the District Executive Committee. If a round-robin format is utilized in lieu of a district tournament, the District Executive Committee shall specify entry and team roster regulations prior to the entry deadline.

Regional Matches.

- **Regional qualifiers.** Regional quarterfinal winners will advance to a regional tournament. Regional tournament entries shall be certified by regional quarterfinal winners to the regional director.
- **Regional Qualifiers.** Regional quarterfinal winners shall contact the regional tournament director of qualifying for the regional tournament. Coaches will be required to send the area match roster/line-up and the regional quarter final match roster/line-up to the tournament director. The coach of each participating regional qualifying team shall turn their master tournament lineup in to the regional director 30 minutes before their semi-final and final match.
- **Order of Play.** The team match will begin with doubles matches first. After doubles matches are completed, players will be placed on the court starting with the number one position working down to the number six position. An alternating pattern of boys and girls matches should be kept if possible. However, open courts will not be held open in order to do so. For example: If the #1 boy's singles player is on the court in his doubles match but there are 4 open courts and the #1 through #4 girl's singles matches are available, then all 4 courts should be filled with girls. If the boy's singles #1 becomes available that match should be placed on

the first open court. Remaining courts should be filled with boy's matches until they catch up to #4, continuing with the alternating pattern.

- The regional meet director shall certify state tournament entries.

State Matches.

- The first-place team from each region will advance to the state tournament.
- Pairings will be made based on season records.

2024-2025 POSTSEASON VIDEO BROADCAST INFORMATION

Live or tape-delayed video broadcasts of a postseason contest require approval from the UIL. The UIL retains all broadcast rights to postseason contests and has granted rights to its broadcast partners (NFHS Network and Bally Sports Southwest), who have first rights to all postseason activities. Please see below for more information. Any questions should be directed to the UIL Media Department: pr@uiltexas.org

Broadcast Opportunities for UIL Member Schools:

1. Non-Commercial Academic Video Broadcasts

Schools interested in doing a non-commercial Academic Video Broadcast must submit this form by noon the business day prior to the event: [UIL Member School Playoff Video Broadcast Request](#). There are no fees to do an academic broadcast.

The UIL defines an Academic Broadcast as a broadcast with an educational purpose that is produced solely by a UIL-member school and/or school district primarily using school facilities, equipment, staff, and students without any commercial relationship for the financial benefit of another party.

To be approved, the broadcast **must feature at least one high-definition camera and an on-air broadcaster**. Any use of professional broadcasters should be as an exception on a limited basis and on a non-paid, volunteer basis. Regular season commercial obligations cannot be applied to postseason academic broadcasts.

Schools may air postseason broadcasts LIVE if approved by UIL. Additionally, schools may distribute the broadcast via their school or district website or via their official school-affiliated social media or YouTube channels. **Other commercial .com websites are prohibited**. The web page where the broadcast is to appear should be free of sponsor logos.

Failure to comply with the above may result in future prohibition of academic broadcasts.

2. NFHS School Broadcast Program Webcast

Schools who are members of the NFHS Network School Broadcast Program (SBP) and wish to broadcast an event on the network must submit this form by noon the business day prior to the event: [UIL Member School Video Playoff Broadcast Request](#). There are no fees to do an NFHS School Broadcast Program webcast.

WHAT IS THE NFHS SCHOOL BROADCAST PROGRAM?

The School Broadcast Program (or SBP) lets high schools produce and broadcast their own games, pep rallies, news shows, and any other event live on the NFHS Network. The NFHS Network has a dedicated support team and account managers to assist these schools with using the platform to stream their events. Most of these events are done by the actual students, and it is a great way for them to get real world experience and exposure to an always evolving technology platform. To learn more about SBP, please visit: <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/sbp>

Media Outlets

Media outlets and third party, non-school affiliated broadcast entities interested in video broadcasting a postseason contest have two options, abbreviated below. Full information can be found online, [linked here](#).

1. NFHS Production Partner

Media outlets may enter into an agreement with Sports in Action on behalf of the NFHS Network to produce and distribute one or more postseason contests exclusively on the NFHS Network. Outlets interested in participating should contact Sports in Action at sublicense@sportsinaction.com to be set up as an NFHS Production Partner.

2. Sublicense Video Rights

In the occurrence the contest is not being produced by UIL broadcast partners, the contest may be sublicensed to interested media outlets. Media outlets must complete this form by noon the business day prior to the event: [Playoff Video Broadcast Request form](#) and receive an approval email from Sports In Action.

The approved broadcaster is responsible for communication with the schools for selected broadcasts. The approved broadcaster will schedule the set-up and tear-down times for equipment with the schools and the venues. The approved broadcaster is responsible for any expenses associated with the broadcast. UIL approval does not guarantee preferred placement, accommodations are at the discretion of the host venue.

Congratulations on a great season! If we can be of any assistance, please let us know.