

Tennis Officials Regulations Recommendations

(Delete all current regulations on officials)

1. A minimum of one official and up to a maximum of 1 official per court site will be hired for each regional tournament and the state tournament per day. Officials will be USTA certified officials or will have completed the training required by the NDHSAA. If an official is not available, a member of the tennis advisory and one neutral coach will act as an officials team to make rulings and rules clarifications. The official's priorities in order are 1) making rulings/rules clarifications, 2) line-judging requested matches, 3) all other duties, 4) line-judging random matches.

2. During regional and state competitions, coaches or players may request a ruling or a rules clarification. The tournament official will go to that court and make the ruling or rules clarification. If off site, the tournament official will make the ruling or rules clarification by phone. If no official is hired, the ruling or rules clarification would defer to the officials team.

3. During regular season conference matches, the two coaches together will attempt to make a ruling or rules clarification. If a mutual ruling cannot be made, the two coaches must call a non-conference advisory member. If a non-conference advisory member is not available, they must call a conference advisory member or, if not available, a third coach of mutual consent. The ruling of the advisory/third coach is final.

4. Coaches or players may request a line judge. During regional or state competitions, the tournament official will line judge if available. If the tournament official is not available/not on site or during a regular season conference match, coaches shall act as the line judges. A third-party coach, one coach from each team, or one coach from one team upon approval of the opposing coach may act as the line judge.

5. Tournament official protocol:

- a. Be on site for the duration of each day of the tournament.
- b. Make rulings or rules clarifications when asked.
- c. Act as a line judge when asked.
- d. Line judges random matches and requested matches a minimum of 4 hours per day.
- e. Enforce the Point Penalty System.
- f. Enforce time rules on warm-ups, change overs, set breaks, and individual match start times.
- g. Conduct crowd control.

6. Line judge protocol:

- a. Stands at the net post. If two line judges, stand at opposite net posts and the closer line judge makes the overrule.
- b. During each change over, the team that called the line judge needs to request that the line judge stays. When not requested, the line judge may leave.

c. Duty: To call the following situations automatically when completely confident in ruling:

- i. Overruling balls that are called out, but were in.
- ii. Foot faults.
- iii. Double bounces.
- iv. Double hits occurring not in one continuous motion including tips.
- v. Touching the net or the other side of the court.
- vi. Illegally contacting the tennis ball on other side of court.
- vii. Touching of the ball with something other than the racquet.
- viii. Lets.
- ix. Enforcing the Point Penalty System.
- x. Enforcing changeover and set break times.
- xi. Hindrances.
- xii. Other obvious violations of the rules of tennis not listed.

USTA Friend of Court information on match and rest restrictions:

Page 86 Table 8:

Best of 3: 3 match max with a 2 singles max

Best of 3 w/8-game consolation: 2 main draw and 2 consolation max

Best of 3 w/super: 4 match max with a maximum of 3 singles

Best of 3 w/super w/8-game consolation: 3 main draw and 2 consolation max

Page 95 Table 11: 60 minute minimum rest time between matches. If using the best of 3 short sets with a super tiebreaker for the third, 30 minutes is the minimum rest time. If doubles only, 30 minutes is the minimum rest time.

Page 95 Recovery Rule: If a player plays two back to back best of three sets singles matches, that player is to be offered a 2 hour rest period.

CURRENT ND TENNIS FORMAT:

Regular Season Conference Duals: Best of 3 doubles, 10 minute break, best of 3 singles.

Sheyenne Invite: 4 best of 3 w/super singles. Or 2 best of 3 w/super with 3 consolation. No minimum break time.

State & EDC Team Tournament: 3 best of 3 matches with a half hour break minimum.

EDC Individual Tournament: 4 best of 3 matches with a half hour break minimum.

State Individual Tournament: 3 best of 3 matches with a half hour break minimum.

POSSIBLE ND TENNIS FORMAT TO BETTER FIT USTA RESTRICTIONS: This is only here to spur conversation if the NDHSAA makes the decision to make tennis more in line with the USTA, not to be a recommendation for current format.

Regular Season Conference Duals: Best of 3 w/super doubles, 30 minute break, best of 3 w/super singles. (This format would also allow a conference doubleheader and be within USTA match restrictions as well.)

Sheyenne Invite: Best of 3 short sets w/super, 30 minute minimum rest.

State and EDC Team Tournament: 3 best of 3 w/super matches with a 60 minute minimum rest.

EDC Individual Tournament: 3 best of 3 w/super matches with 60 minute break for championship side singles OR 2 best of 3 w/super matches and 2 best of 3 short sets w/super consolation side singles on Friday. Maximum of 3 best of 3 w/super matches on Saturday. 60 minute minimum rest except between 2 best of 3 short sets with 30 minutes minimum rest.

State Individual Tournament: Everything best of 3 w/super. Maximum of 3 matches per day. 60 minute minimum rest.

(EDC/State Individual 2nd Option: EDC semifinals/3rd/championship best of 3. State championship side best of 3. Maximum is 2 matches per day. Give an optional 120 minute rest period between matches that are best of 3 singles. Consolation is still best of 3 w/super.)

Note: With the above format possibility, the only place where ND tennis would be outside of USTA recommendations is the minimum rest time during duals. Rest time by USTA should be 60 minutes as both matches are not doubles. This would be a dramatic change to the current format having two less sets and triple the rest time. As players are only playing two matches (compared to a maximum of four during regionals) and one of the matches is doubles, 30 minutes of rest time is sufficient.

Weather Regulation Recommendation:

Play at the regional and state tournaments moves completely inside when the actual temperature is below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, the wind chill is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, the heat index is above 105 degrees Fahrenheit, or the sustained winds are above 30mph.

Tournament managers may make the decision to move play inside due to weather even if the aforementioned thresholds are not met.

Play during regular season conference matches will not begin at those same thresholds except winds. The home team's activities director will make the call to play or not if sustained winds are above 30mph.