

**PCAL SPORTS RULES**  
**TENNIS (Girls)**  
**As Amended March 2024**

**1.1 Season of Sport**

This sport shall be conducted in the Fall season as defined by the Central Coast Section and State CIF by-laws. See Article V of the By-Laws of the Central Coast Section.

**1.2 Start Dates for Practices, Scrimmages and Contests**

Dates for the start of practices, of scrimmages, and of contests shall be as set forth in Article V of the By-Laws of the Central Coast Section.

**1.3 Contest Limits per Season**

Limitations on the number of contests in which a team or athlete may compete shall be as set forth in Article V of the By-Laws of the Central Coast Section.

**1.4 Divisions**

League competition in Girls Tennis shall be conducted in three divisions formed according to league by-laws and policies concerning Division Placement (See Article 19 of the League By-Laws as well as the League's Division Placement Policy as published on the League website.) Those three divisions shall be named as follows: PCAL-Gabilan; PCAL-Mission; and PCAL-Cypress.

**1.5 League Schedules**

**1.5.1 Round Robin**

The league schedule for each Division shall be a double or triple round robin schedule, as may be decided by the League Board of Managers from year to year.

**1.5.2 Preparation and Approval of Schedules**

League schedules shall be prepared by the League Commissioner and sent to the League Athletic Directors Council for review, modification as needed. The Athletic Directors Council then send a recommended schedule to the League Board of Managers who consider, change as they deem necessary and vote approval of a final schedule.

**1.5.3 Obligation of Schools to Compete According to Schedule**

See Article 19 in the League By-laws regarding the obligation of all league schools to compete according to the approved league schedule.

**1.6 Regular Season League Dual Meet Contests**

The following provisions shall govern all regular season Girls Tennis contests hosted by a League School. Tournaments or Invitational events may be conducted under differing rules not in conflict with the rule book for this sport.

**1.6.1 Rules**

The official rules for Girls Tennis are contained in the current edition of the United States Tennis Association Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, the Central Coast Section (CCS), and these Sports Rules.

**1.6.2 League Team Contest Start Times**

Except as otherwise set forth herein, the start time for PCAL league dual meet matches is **4:00 PM**. Home matches at Carmel and York shall start at 3:00 p.m. It is understood that transportation schedules for visiting teams may interfere with starting times. It is also understood that visiting teams will notify home

team administrators or athletic directors. No team shall be penalized for transportation difficulties.

**1.6.3 Equipment**

USTA approved balls will be used for competition, with those balls used for CCS playoffs highly recommended.

**1.6.4 Levels of Competition and Priority of Teams**

There shall be varsity competition and may be JV competition where facilities and circumstances permit. Unless otherwise allowed specifically by the PCAL Board of Managers, a school must first field a full Varsity team before fielding a JV team.

**1.6.5 Conduct and Management of League Dual Match Contests**

**1.6.5.1 Officials**

The host school shall act as the official umpire. Players shall referee their own matches unless they request a coach/umpire. Back and side line calls cannot be made by a player at the net - the person closest to the line makes the line call.

**1.6.5.2 Home Team Host Responsibilities**

- a. The home coach shall greet the visiting team and explain any non-USTA court rules because of physical inadequacies.
- b. The home coach shall collect from the visiting coach a binding written line-up within the first five minutes upon arriving at the host school premises and shall at the same time provide the visiting coach with a binding written line-up for the home team.
- c. The home coach shall introduce competitors, assign courts, and explain the scoring system.
- d. The home coach shall provide new pressurized tennis balls for each of the seven matches and also have available extra new balls in case of a flaw or a loss.
- e. At least two days prior to the match, the home coach shall call the visiting coach or school indicating the number of exhibition matches, the courts available, the location of courts, etc.
- f. While it is not mandatory, it is a good idea for the home coach to offer the courtesy of water and snacks for the competitors.

**1.6.5.3 Conduct of Team Contest Matches**

- a. Play shall be governed by USTA rules.
- b. A dual meet shall consist of 7 matches, 4 singles and 3 doubles.
- c. A match will consist of 2 out of 3 sets with no ad scoring (see USTA guide), with the third set being a match 10 point super tie breaker.
- d. The 12 point tie-breaker procedure will decide the winner of a 6-all set.
- e. Ladders. Team line-ups will be made with two separate ladders: a singles ladder and a doubles ladder. Ladders will be formed by ability level, i.e. the strongest players at the top of their respective ladders. The number one player must play number one singles.

Substitutions shall be made at the bottom position of each ladder. For singles, all players will be moved up and a substitution made at #4 singles. For doubles, a substitution is made at the #3 doubles. Forfeitures can only be made at either the #4 singles or #3 doubles, i.e. the bottom of either ladder.

In the event that the team meet is won by one school or the other before all matches are completed (i.e. 4-1 after five matches), the coach may change the line-up by mutual agreement.

- f. Coaching During Matches:  
USTA Coaching Rules Apply. Coaching is defined as giving advice or instruction. Coaching will be allowed only on changeover. Players must come to the coach at the fence or side of the court. During the break between sets, the coach may talk with the players. After due warning an offending player may be disqualified. When an approved point penalty system is in operation, the umpire shall impose penalties according to that system.  
The point penalty system is as follows:  
First Offense: Warning  
Second Offense: Point  
Third Offense: Game  
Fourth Offense: Default  
Coaches agreement: If the violation occurs, the coaches' honor will dictate the use of the point penalty system, in hopes that it will not be abused.
- g. Sportsmanship violations include, but are not limited to calling lines, abusive language, flagrant violation, or CIF and USTA sportsmanship code violations.
- h. Matches can be called because of rain, darkness, heat, cold, or smog.

### **1.7 League Championship Determination**

Each of the three Divisions shall have a team league champion, determined by the league round robin team results. In the case of a first place tie between two teams, those teams shall be Co-Champions of the Division. In the case of a first place tie between three teams, those teams shall be Tri-Champions of the Division.

### **1.8 League Team Qualifiers to the CCS Team Girls Tennis Playoffs**

The process of determining PCAL's league team qualifiers to the CCS Team Girls Tennis Championships shall involve the top three team finishers in PCAL-Gabilan division, the top finisher in PCAL-Mission division, and the top finisher in PCAL-Cypress, all as determined by the final division standings after completion of the divisions round robin schedule. Any ties for any of those spots shall be broken in accordance with the PCAL tie breaker rules as set forth in Article 23.3 of the PCAL By-Laws.

There are three team PCAL automatic qualifier spots to the CCS Team Championships. Any needed tie breakers shall be applied. Then the first qualifier spot shall go to the top PCAL-Gabilan finisher after application of any needed tie breakers. The second qualifier spot shall go to the winner of a play-in team contest between the second place PCAL-Gabilan finisher and the first place Cypress finisher, to be held at the home site of the PCAL-Cypress team. The third spot shall go to the winner of a play-in team contest between the third place PCAL-Gabilan finisher and the first place PCAL-Mission finisher, to be held at the home site of the PCAL-Mission team. These play-in matches shall be held after the end of the league round robin

schedule and before the beginning of the individual league tourney set forth in Section 1.9 hereinbelow.

## **1.9 League Individual Qualifiers to CCS Individual Girls Tennis Championships**

### **1.9.1 Divisional Individual Tournaments; Purposes**

There shall be three division individual tournaments after the end of the round robin season. There are two purposes for these tournaments: First, to determine the All-League players for each division in accordance with Section 1.10 below; and second, to move toward determination of the PCAL singles and doubles representatives to the CCS Girls Tennis Individual Championships.

### **1.9.2 Conduct of Divisional Individual Tournaments**

These division individual tournaments shall be conducted as follows:

#### **1.9.2.1 Entries**

Each school may enter 2 singles and 2 double teams in the league tournament. All singles matches shall be in one flight. All doubles matches shall be in one flight. The starting time for all days of divisional tournament play shall be 2:00 PM.

#### **1.9.2.2 Seeding**

The Seeding for each division individual tournament shall be conducted in the following manner: Division Coaches hold a tournament draw meeting at conclusion of regular season. Each coach reveals to each other their 2 players.

Decide the top four players in the league. Use win/loss and head-to-head results. Use intangibles to decide ties, vote if necessary. These will be the 4 seeds. Only 4. 1st seed goes on line 1, 2nd on 16, 3rd on 9, 4th on 8. \*

Remaining 12 players each get their name on a card, cards thrown in a hat. \*\* First name out of the hat goes on line 2, unless they have a teammate on that half of the draw already, in which case they go on line 10, and then the next name out would go on line 2. Repeat until all names are out of the hat and on lines of the draw.

For doubles, just substitute 'team' for 'player' and use the same process.

\* If 2 of the top 4 are from the same team, disregard those positions if necessary in order to put the 2 on opposite halves of the draw.

\*\* If there are 11 names in the hat (if 1 team brings just 1 player), line 2 is a bye. If there are 10, lines 2 and 15 are byes. If 9, lines 2, 15 and 10 are byes. If 8, lines 2, 15, 10 and 7 are byes. These byes, up to 4, are placed on the draw before names are drawn out of the hat. If there are less than 8 names in the hat, place the 4 byes as above, then add bye name card(s) to the hat so there are 8 cards total in the hat. Treat bye name cards as player names above, i.e. like teammates that are placed on opposite halves as much as possible.

#### **1.9.2.3 Location of Each Division Tournament**

Each division tournament shall be held at a location as established by the PCAL Board of Managers.

#### **1.9.2.4 Single Elimination**

Each division tournament shall be single elimination, and shall include final matches between the final two singles players and the final two doubles teams. In PCAL-Gabilan, there shall also be a match between the losers of the singles and doubles semi-finals matches to determine third place finishers.

**1.9.3 Determination of PCAL Individual and Doubles Qualifiers to the CCS Individual Girls Tennis Championships**

There are three singles and three doubles PCAL automatic qualifier spots to the CCS Girls Tennis Individual Championships. These shall be determined as follows: The first qualifier spot shall go to the top PCAL-Gabilan single and doubles finishers in the PCAL-Gabilan Division Individual Tournament. The second qualifier spot shall go to the winner of a play-in individual contest between the second place PCAL-Gabilan single and doubles finishers and the first place PCAL-Cypress singles and doubles finisher. The third spot shall go to the winner of a play-in individual contest between the third place PCAL-Gabilan single and doubles finishers and the first place PCAL- Mission singles and doubles finisher. These play-in matches shall be held after the end of the division individual tournaments at a day, time and location as determined by the PCAL Board of Managers.

**1.10 All League Selections**

Each division shall have 6 all-league selections determined as follows: The top 2 singles and Top 2 Double teams in that division's Individual Tournament as set forth in Section 1.9 above.

**1.11 Season Long Play**

In Girls Tennis, if an individual athlete would be unable to participate in the CCS playoffs due to failure to meet the CCS Playoff Policy regarding "Season Long Play (at least ½ the regular season league events), that athlete will be ineligible to participate in the League tournament on behalf of his/her school. The League Commissioner shall make the final determination with respect to an individual's eligibility, including the exceptions involved in that CCS Playoff Policy.

**End PCAL Girls Tennis Sports Rules.**

**March 2024:** Amended 1.6.5.2.d to specify that the tennis balls to be provided for league matches must be pressurized.