

**ROPSSAA CO-EDUCATIONAL TENNIS**

**PLAYING REGULATIONS**

**1. DATE**

- (a) The first tournament of the season is to take place no earlier than the second full week after the start of the school year.
- (b) The rain dates for each tournament day will normally be scheduled as soon as possible.

**2. LOCATION**

- (a) The qualifying tournaments will be held at two sites with one site having a minimum of four (4) courts and the second site having a minimum of two (2) courts. A teacher/coach must be present at each location in which their athletes are competing.
- (b) Where possible, the ROPSSAA Finals will be held at locally available indoor courts.

**3. ELIGIBILITY**

- (a) (i) Open Division:  
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 3 star Ontario Tennis Association (OTA) tournaments or higher or the equivalent (USTA, 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.

Note: In order to enter a doubles team in the Open Division at least 1 partner must meet the criteria of an Open player.

- (a) (ii) High School Division:  
Any player who has not met the above criteria for an Open player.
- (b) All competitors must meet the following age eligibility requirements:  
  
All junior participants shall not have attained their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the school year in which competition is held (for the 2023-2024 season, born in 2008 or later) and must be in their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of high school.  
  
All senior participants shall not have attained his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (for the 2023-2024 season, born in 2004 or later).
- (c) The eligibility list must be submitted by the deadline announced at the pre-season meeting.

#### 4. OPERATING STRUCTURE

- (a)
  - (i) There will be a head convenor and quadrant/division convenors, (one of which may be the head convenor) whose duties are outlined in Appendix A.
  - (ii) Tennis competition will begin with qualifying tournaments in four (4) quadrants (NE, NW, SE, SW) or two (2) divisions (North/South). The convenor(s) will determine which schools compete in which quadrant/division based on entries received.
  - (iii) Qualification to the finals will be determined based on entries.
- (b) Qualifying Tournament Format:
  - (i) Each quadrant/division will have one tournament day.
  - (ii) The qualifying tournament will be a double elimination draw for each event. In the event of only 4 entries in any particular event, a round robin format will be adopted.
  - (iii) In the event of a round robin format, first place and second place will be determined on the best win/loss record. In the case of a tie, the head to head result of the tied teams will be the determining factor. In the case of a 3 way tie, the differential between the number of games won versus those lost will be the ranking factor.
  - (iv) There will be no add scoring at the qualifying tournament.
  - (v) *All matches on the CHAMPIONSHIP side and the CONSOLATION Final (SECOND PLACE match) will consist of an 8 game pro-set, with a 12 point tie-breaker played at 7*  
  
*All other matches on the CONSOLATION side will consist of a 6 game pro-set, with a 12 point tie-breaker played at 5 all.*
  - (vi) *Players must play lets.*
  - (vii) First place team will be the winner of the championship side; second place will be the winner of the consolation side.
  - (viii) The alternate for the ROPSSAA finals will be the loser of the last match on the consolation side of the draw.
  - (ix) Any undefeated player defaulted from, or unable to continue, in any match in the draw, will be given the opportunity to play their next match.
- (c) ROPSSAA Finals Format
  - (i) The convenor will establish a single elimination draw for each event in the ROPSSAA Finals. *For all senior events only, the losers of the semi-finals will play a 3rd place match to determine potential alternates for the OFSAA championship. No team points are awarded to the winner of this match.* The matches will be seeded according to Appendix C.
  - (ii) In the case that the first place entry is replaced with an alternate, that alternate assumes the 2<sup>nd</sup> position. (The 2<sup>nd</sup> place position assumes the

first place entry). Only those individuals who participated in the event at the qualifying tournament are eligible to play in the Championship tournament.

- (iii) The preliminary and quarter final rounds will be a 10 game pro-set with a tie-breaker at 9 all (if necessary), with NO ADD SCORING.

The semi-final and final rounds of the final will be the best 2 out of 3 sets with a tie-breaker at 6 all in each set. If a match requires a third set, players will play a super tiebreaker in lieu of a third set.

A super tiebreaker is first player to 10 points, with a margin of at least two points.

- (iv) The ROPSSAA Finals will take place on one day. Facilities for this championship should ideally include 12 courts for the day.
- (v) At the ROPSSAA Finals, a player will be given a time limit of 5 minutes to report to the court from the time the game is called or they will be defaulted. This decision may be reversed by a jury of appeal.
- (vi) *Players must play lets.*

## 5. ENTRIES

- (a) At the Senior Qualifying Tournaments there will be 10 events:

Girls Singles – High School  
Girls Singles – Open  
Girls Doubles – High School  
Girls Doubles – Open  
Boys Singles – High School  
Boys Singles – Open  
Boys Doubles – High School  
Boys Doubles – Open  
Mixed Singles – High School  
Mixed Doubles – Open

Only the High School events will be available at the Junior Qualifying Tournaments.

- (b) Each school may enter one in each of the following events, in addition to 2 wildcard entries that may be used in any event. Schools with two entries must identify their best team as one, the remaining team is two (maximum 2 entries per category).

<b>Juniors</b>	<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Open</b>
1 girls' singles	1 girls' singles	1 girls' singles
1 girls' doubles	1 girls' doubles	1 girls' doubles
1 boys' singles	1 boys' singles	1 boys' singles
1 boys' doubles	1 boys' doubles	1 boys' doubles
1 mixed doubles	1 mixed doubles	1 mixed doubles

- (c) No player may play in more than one event.
- (d) The coach **must** submit the categories they intend to enter, and the eligibility sheet to the Athletic Convenor, by the deadline(s) established at the pre-season meeting. **Failure to do so will result in the team's disqualification from competition.**

- (e) Coaches must submit the categories they intend to enter by the deadline announced at the pre-season meeting.
  - (i) Coaches must submit the participants full names with the entries.
  - (ii) Substitutions on the day of a qualifying tournament will be permitted only from the substitution list on the entry form. These players can replace in any category. Players may not change events on the day of the qualifying tournament.
  - (iii) In the event that one of the girls doubles, boys doubles, or mixed doubles players is absent from the qualifying tournament, the partner present will become an alternate.
  - (iv) Doubles teams may not be broken up to be paired with a different alternate once the entries are submitted.
  - (v) No new category entries are allowed on qualifying day.
- (f) No substitutions are permitted after any player has begun their first match in any event.
- (g) There will be no changes to the qualifying tournament entries once submitted with the exception of name changes for the alternate list on the morning of the event.
- (h) The Athletic Convenors must be notified as soon as an opening for the ROPSSAA finals is made known so the alternate may be substituted.
- (i) All draws will be electronically available 24 hours prior to the event.
- (j) No athlete will be allowed to participate unless under the supervision of a teacher/coach at the school which they represent.

## 6. EXPENSES

- (a) ROPSSAA will be responsible for covering the cost of court fees for all qualifying tournaments. ROPSSAA will pay half the cost of the court fees for the championship tournament. An entry fee for all schools wishing to participate in the qualifying tournaments will be levied regardless of the number of athletes participating for said school. The entry fee will be used to cover the other half of the court fees for the championship tournament.
- (b) ROPSSAA will cover the cost of new yellow Championship Quality tennis balls for the final tournament. **Participating schools are to share the cost of tennis balls for the qualifying tournaments.**

## 7. RULES AND OFFICIALS

- (a) Each school must have a copy of the official rules of tennis, 'The New Yardstick'. Coaches should familiarize themselves with the rules of the game.
- (b) Rules shall be in accordance with the O.T.A., with the following exceptions:
  - (i) No officials are required, except when requested by the players. Otherwise, players will make their own calls.

- (ii) In qualifying rounds, coaching is permitted by coaches only twice during a match, during a changeover, as long as this does not exceed the 90 seconds. Coaching periods do not have to occur at the same time.
  - (iii) In the ROPSSAA finals, coaching is permitted only twice during a match (by the designated staff coach). This may only be done during a change over, as long as this does not exceed 90 seconds. If a third set is needed, there may be one additional coaching break. Coaching periods do not have to occur at the same time.
  - (iv) In the qualifying round, competitors will be allowed a 5 minute break between the matches.
  - (v) Encouragement by coaches or teammates during matches should be of a general rather than a strategic nature.
  - (vi) In the championship tournament, competitors will be allowed a 10 minute break between matches.
  - (vii) At the championship, only athletes who are playing in the current match and their staff coach may be on/near the court.
- (c) Coaches noticing rule infractions should bring them to the attention of the quadrant/division convenor or member of the jury of appeal, so a neutral coach may be sent to the court. In the absence of a neutral coach the Convenor shall intercede.
  - (d) The quadrant/division convenor will assign mandatory supervision duties to coaches at the various sites during the qualifying tournaments.

## 8. UNIFORMS

- (a) Proper tennis clothes (top with sleeves) or school gym uniforms will be worn. Proper tennis clothes are considered to be shirts with tennis-oriented logos, and shorts, with pockets or skirts of reasonable length. **Shorts/pants being worn MUST have pockets.** Non tennis apparel shirts may be worn but they must be sleeved and cover midribs. Clothing must be in reasonable, presentable condition. Track suits are permitted, as long as they do not have logos unrelated to sports (i.e. beer ads, etc. are not permissible!!!!).

Any player not conforming to the above dress codes will be defaulted, unless they can change into the proper uniform in 5 minutes.

- (b) Dress for the ROPSSAA Finals must meet the standards of the club being used, and these standards, including footwear, will be strictly enforced. A person not meeting this dress code will have five minutes to change or be disqualified for that match by the Convenor.
- (c) Athletes may not change their clothing in the competition area. For all outdoor sports athletes must arrive dressed to compete. Visiting teams requiring the use of washroom facilities must send a staff member into the school with the team member(s). For all indoor sports, athletes must move to the designated locker room or change area to change their clothing.

9. AWARDS

- (a) ROPSSAA gold medallions will be awarded to the winners at the ROPSSAA Finals.
- (b) ROPSSAA silver medallions will be awarded to the runners-up at the ROPSSAA Finals.
- (c) Trophies will be awarded in the following categories:
  - (i) Overall team champions for the combined girls' and boys' team that amasses the greatest number of points.
  - (ii) Senior Boys' Team
  - (iii) Senior Girls' Team
  - (iv) Junior Boys' Team
  - (v) Junior Girls' Team

Note: A minimum of 6 participating schools are required for a sport to receive ROPSSAA Sponsorship

10. SCORING:

- (a) Final team standings will be determined by the number of points amassed over qualifying tournament play and ROPSSAA finals play.

Points will be awarded as follows:

- (i) One point for each participant
- (ii) At the qualifying tournament, points will be awarded as follows:
  - a) 5 or more competitors in a draw
    - 1<sup>st</sup> = 6 points
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> = 4 points
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> = 2 points
    - 4<sup>th</sup> = 1 points
  - b) 4 competitors
    - 1<sup>st</sup> = 4 points
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> = 2 points
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> = 1 point
    - 4<sup>th</sup> = 0 points
  - c) 3 competitors
    - 1<sup>st</sup> = 2 points
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> = 1 point
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> = 0 points
  - d) 2 competitors
    - 1<sup>st</sup> = 2 points
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> = 0 points
- (iii) At the championship tournament, points will be awarded as follows:
  - 3 points for a quarter final (and any earlier rounds) win
  - 4 points for a semi-final win
  - 5 points for winning the Championship

*Note: Should there be a bye in the championship tournament the player receiving the bye will only be awarded the points for that round if they successfully defeat their opponent in the next match.*

*For example: student A receives a bye in the quarter finals. They lose their semi-final match. They do not receive any points for the quarter finals. Student B receives a bye in the quarter finals. They win their semi-finals match. They receive victory points for quarter final AND semi final.*

- (iv) Points for the open division will be calculated as follows:
  - 1 point for each participant
  - 3 points for any quarter final (or earlier round) win
  - 4 points for any semi-final win
  - 5 points for winning the championship

Note: as the open draws are double elimination, points will only be awarded on the winning side of the draw. *Should there be a bye in the open championship tournament the player receiving the bye will only be awarded the points for that round if they successfully defeat their opponent in the next match.*

- (b) Ties in team championship standing will be broken in the following way:
  - (i) First place to the school with the most gold medals
  - (ii) If still tied, first place to the school with the most silver medals
  - (iii) If still tied, the championship will be shared

## 11. SUPERVISION

### (a) Qualifying Tournaments

Each participating school must have two (2) designated staff members at the qualifying tournaments – one staff member at each site per school.

### (b) Championship

Athletes must be supervised at all times at the championship event.

## 12. EQUIPMENT

- (a) Each student must supply his/her own racquet and practice tennis balls.
- (b) Wilson championship balls will be used at the qualifying tournaments.
- (c) Wilson U.S. Open balls will be used at the ROPSSAA Championship tournament.

## 13. DEPORTMENT

- (a) It is expected that all coaches will adhere to the supervision duties as assigned by the convenor(s).
- (b) It is expected that all coaches and athletes will conduct themselves in the manner outlined by the Ontario Tennis Association Guidebook and as per Article XVI, Section II of the ROPSSAA Constitution. Obscene language and unsportsmanlike behaviour will not be tolerated and will be penalized at the discretion of the Convenor or their designate.

14. JURY OF APPEAL

- (a) A Jury of Appeal constructed at the coaches meeting on each tournament day will rule on all disputes concerning the technical aspects and rule interpretations with the game of tennis. The Jury of Appeal will consist of the Convenor and four coaches from the participating schools.



## **ROPSSAA TENNIS - Statement of Responsibilities**

### **The Head Convenor will:**

- chair the pre-season meeting
- coordinate season's plans with quadrant convenors
- run the ROPSSAA finals at the indoor facility
- collect the results, award medals and calculate final team points
- chair the post-season meeting

### **The Quadrant Convenor will:**

- prepare a schedule of play for each site
- chair the tournament day meeting
- redraw where necessary, in case of scratches affecting existing draws
- pick a jury of appeal on tournament day
- make sure all match results/scores are recorded and returned to the head convenor

### **All Coaches will:**

- be familiar with the rules of tennis, including how to play a tiebreaker
- know all the ROPSSAA playing regulations
- check for all OFSAA transfer candidates at their school
- submit OFSAA transfer appeal forms by the meeting dates prior to tournaments
- familiarize all their athletes with the rules, codes of behaviour, playing regulations...
- inform the quadrant convenor of any scratches before the tournament date
- be prepared to reschedule their absence from school in case of tournament postponement
- prepare a junior and senior student phone chain in case of postponement
- get themselves and their team to the tournament site by coaches meeting time
- be prepared to supervise court sites and keep accurate, complete match records/scores
- be prepared to assist as on-court umpire if required
- be prepared to act on a jury of appeal if required
- arrange appropriate transportation to tournament and between sites
- act as a model of sportsmanship at tournaments
- attend the post-season meeting

**TIE BREAKER FORMAT**

**(Use when games are tied 9 all in 10 game pro-set,  
or 6 all in regular set)**

This is a special game to decide the winner of a set where both players or teams get the opportunity to serve, and to play both sides of the court.

The winner will be the first to reach 7 points, winning by at least 2 points.

The order of servers is continued from the way it was during the set. The first point is played into the deuce court, and service courts are switched on every new point.

*The first player to serve in the tie breaker will only serve for one point. Then, each subsequent server will serve for two points, until one side has reached 7 points and has won by at least 2 points. (This is so a player at 5 all cannot serve for the next 2 points and win the set.)*

*If there is any confusion as to where to serve to, note the score. If an odd number of points have been played, then you serve to the ad court, and an even number indicated you should serve the next point to the deuce court. (i.e. - if the score were 6-3, the next point is being served to the ad court.)*

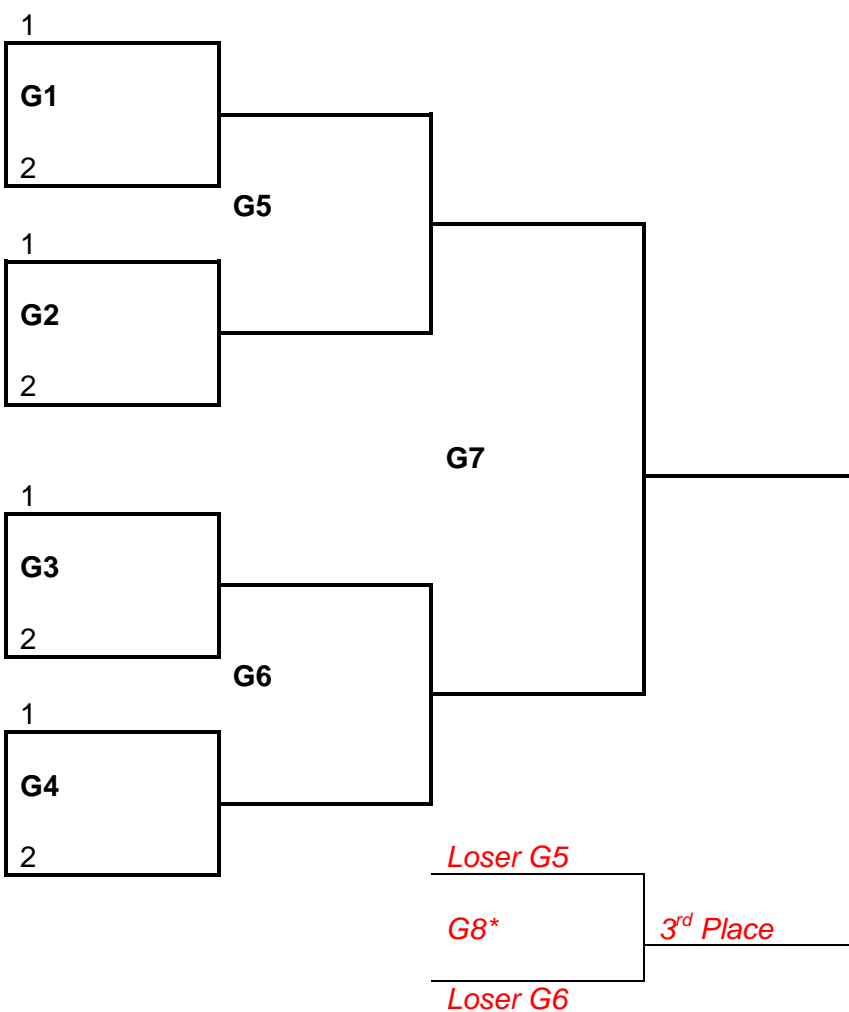
You must change ends every 6 points! (i.e. - at 6-0, 5-1, 4-2, 3-3, and if the match is close, 6-6, 9-9, 12-12 etc., you must change ends). So a tie breaker may continue indefinitely until someone wins by two!!

ROPSSAA TENNIS  
CHAMPIONSHIP

Division \_\_\_\_\_

Event \_\_\_\_\_

8 Draw



Final Results (Name/School)

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

*\*G8 is for senior draws only. This match awards no points. It is to determine alternates for OFSAA*

## **Guidelines of Expectations for Players in ROPSSAA Tennis**

### 1) Equipment

- Wear an outfit that has pockets. At the beginning of every point, the server should have 2 balls. If you don't do this, you'll waste valuable time and be breaking rule 30 section a "...play is continuous..." If a first serve is a fault, the second serve must be struck by the server without delay."
- Never leave a tennis ball on the playing surface where it is possible to step on it, or causes a distraction during play. Keep balls at the fence behind you, or in your pocket.
- It's your responsibility to keep the balls assigned to you on your court. If they go on to another court, then wait for that court to finish their point before you ask for it. Do not go on to the other court to recover the ball. If a ball comes onto your court, immediately call a let, and replay.

### 2) Line Calls

- You are responsible for the calls on your side of the net only. Make your calls quickly and fairly. If you are not sure, call in favour of your opponent. When in doubt it's GOOD!!!
- If someone makes a line call with which you strongly disagree, then diplomatically ask if they were sure. If they were, the call stands. If this happens repeatedly, and you feel you are being unfairly penalized, you have the right to call a neutral umpire.

### 3) Moving to/from courts of play

- STOP, LOOK, WAIT IF YOU HAVE TO, then go behind the court on your way. Never move onto or near a court during a point in progress!!!

### 4) Umpires

- An umpire may be called if you feel an unfair situation is persisting during a match. You should never have a score dispute since YOU BOTH SHOULD BE CONSTANTLY SAYING THE SCORE OUT LOUD!!!
- If you are unsure about a rule, or need help with playing a tie breaker, call for an umpire to help you.

### 5) On-Court Behaviour

- Introduce yourself to your opponent(s).
- During the match complement your opponents' good shots.
- Never use inappropriate language, or bad-mouth your opponent. You can and will be defaulted if you do so.
- Try to keep the same positive attitude whether you win or lose a point. A sense of quiet concentration reaps the greatest rewards.
- At the end of the match, shake hands and be gracious.

6) Tournament Desk

- The people at the desk don't know exactly when you will play, so don't hound them about it. They do know the approximate order of play, so you can judge for yourself the time you have available.
- Never leave a tournament site assuming you have plenty of time without telling your coach/teammates where you are going. Play may speed up and you will be defaulted if you are late.

7) Deportment

- If you must scratch before a tournament day, report it immediately to your coach.
- Be on time.
- Cheerleading should only be for good shots, and never for an obvious error made by the other side. Cheering should not have any remote similarity to giving advice (coaching).
- Inappropriate behaviour/etiquette, will be dealt with.
- Thank the tournament volunteers when you leave at the end of your day.
- Please dispose of your garbage, and keep washrooms tidy. We are very lucky that these private clubs allow us to use their facilities. Show respect for their graciousness!!!

**Guidelines of Expectations for Coaches in ROPSSAA Tennis**

- If you have a scratch before tournament day, please report it immediately.
- Be on time for the coaches' meeting.
- Coach your players only as the playing regulations allow.
- In the case of a 1 set all tie in the ROPSSAA finals, you may coach your team even if you did once before during the match, however, you cannot speak to them again during the 3<sup>rd</sup> set.
- Cheerleading by coaches and players alike should only be for good shots, and never for an obvious error made by the other side. Cheering should not have any remote similarity to giving advice (coaching).
- If a coach observes inappropriate behaviour/etiquette, they should take action immediately to correct the situation.