



2020-21 Tennis Rules Considerations

NHIAA Tennis Committee Adopted for 2021 Season

In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NHIAA Tennis Committee offers this document to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020-21 season. The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

****Keep in mind that some tennis courts are privately-owned facilities. Be sure to know and follow the policies and procedures of the facility prior to practice or a contest. ****

The NHIAA Tennis Committee highly recommends and encourages schools to wear face coverings (cloth is permissible if the nose and mouth are covered) during practice and competition. The NHIAA Council **recommends** that face coverings be worn while actively participating in spring tournaments and **requires** that face coverings be worn when not actively participating and appropriate distancing cannot be maintained. If a school participating in the playoffs has more restrictive playing requirements than those prescribed by the NHIAA, in the spirit of sportsmanship and by mutual agreement, the Council supports the two school playing by the more restrictive policies.

Considerations for regular season matches:

General Considerations:

- Coaches and non-athletes present shall wear a face covering at all times.
- The NHIAA Tennis Committee highly recommends and encourages all participants to wear face coverings (cloth is permissible if the nose and mouth are covered) during practice and competition. The NHIAA Council **recommends** that face coverings be worn while actively participating in spring tournaments and **requires** that face coverings be worn when not actively participating and appropriate distancing cannot be maintained.
 - If face coverings are being worn, athletes should be sure to secure their face covering between points, and during changeovers.
- All personnel present shall be cognizant of and maintain six (6) feet of social distance from others whenever possible.
- Visiting teams should always bring their own practice balls.
- Athletes should bring their own personal water bottles, towels, and equipment and should not share equipment.
- Schools should arrive to the facility as close as possible to their designated match time.

Pre-Match:

- Home teams should set up designated areas for each team with enough space to socially distance.
- Pre-Match announcements should be carried out as normal, with all participants maintaining six (6) feet of social distance.
- Home athletes should enter the court first, followed by their visiting opponent.
- Teams should be sure to bring their own hand sanitizer to competitions. Athletes should use hand sanitizer prior to their match.
- Whenever possible, avoid touching court gates, fences, benches, etc.
- Rather than exchange score books, coaches should take a picture of their lineup and send it to the opposing coach.

While Playing:

- Athletes should be sure to maintain six (6) feet of social distance whenever possible.
- Athletes should refrain from physical contact with others (no handshakes, high fives, etc.)
- During a changeover, athletes should use opposing net posts. The home athletes will use the post side where the scorecards are located, the opponent will use the opposite side.
 - Athletes should be cognizant of changeovers occurring on adjacent courts, and assure changeovers are not occurring at the same time.
- Scorecards should only be changed/updated by the home athletes.
 - Visiting opponents should witness the change/update of the scorecard and give their confirmation/affirmation of the change either verbally or by a “thumbs up” signification.
- Scorecards should be cleaned at the end of every match.
- At the end of a match, in lieu of shaking hands, athletes shall stand on their service line and raise their racket, acknowledging the completion of the match.

Post-Match:

- Teams should vacate the facilities as soon as reasonably possible.

Tennis Committee Approved – 2.9.2021

Sports Medicine Committee Approved – 3.10.2021

NHIAA Council – “took out cloth/mask and added face coverings (cloth is permissible if the nose and mouth are covered) and “cloth is permissible”. Approved 3.19.21

NHIAA Council Amended re: face coverings during the tournament – 5.13.21