

# 2017-2018 MPA RULE BOOK

## MISSION STATEMENT

"The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, an awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity." (National Federation of State High School Associations)

## INTRODUCTION

This rule book has been published by the Maine Principals' Association's Tennis Committee and the Maine Tennis Association Tennis Tournament Committee who are working to promote excellence in Maine high school tennis.

## OFFICIAL RULES

The United States Tennis Association rules have been adopted by the MPA Tennis Committee and with the rules in the accompanying MPA bulletin, are in effect during the regular season and all MPA-sponsored events.

Rule books may be ordered from U.S.T.A. Publications, 70 West Red Oak Lane, White Plains, NY 10604 or by visiting their website at <http://www.usta.com/Improve-Your-Game/Rules/>.

## HEAL POINT REPORTER SYSTEM

The seeding for the MPA Tennis Tournament will be determined by using the Heal Point System. Athletic Directors are responsible for the reporting of home matches online ASAP following the match's completion. Coaches/athletic administrators are asked to enter results through the link on the MPA website. Please report all scheduled matches to this site.

## **TEAM TOURNAMENT QUALIFICATION INFORMATION**

1. Two-thirds of the schools in each region (north/south) in each class will qualify for the regional tournament.
2. If two or more teams finish with identical heal point tournament ratings, the following tie-breaking system will be in effect:
3. If the tying teams are both (all) qualifiers for the tournament field, the numerical seeding will be defined by: 1) Head-to-head play, 2) A coin flip. If two teams are tied for the final playoff spot, and the tie is not resolved by head-to-head play, a one match playoff will be held with the home team determined by a coin flip. NOTE: In the event of a three- (or more) way tie for the final qualifying position(s), byes and pairings to determine the tournament qualifier(s), will be decided by a coin flip(s). All coin flips will take place at the MPA office.
4. Each school's boys and girls tennis eligibility rosters are due at the MPA office on or before the team tennis schedule due date. A late fee of \$35 will be assessed for forms not received by the due date.

## **QUALIFICATION FOR SINGLES ROUND OF 48 PLAY**

Players for the MPA Singles Championships will be determined by qualifying play in five geographical regions. Schools may designate up to three girls and three boys to participate in qualifying play.

The number of female and male qualifiers from each region is set as follows:

Region 1 – 4

Region 2 – 11

Region 3 – 8

Region 4 – 8

Region 5 - 17

## **SINGLES ROUND OF 48 DRAW PROCEDURE**

1. The 48 girls and 48 boys who will participate in the MPA Singles Championships will be determined by qualifying play in five geographically constructed regions.

1. The players qualifying for the round of 48 in the singles tournament will be seeded by the director, after consulting with the coaches. The \$75 default fee for absence on Day 1 of the Singles Championships and \$100 default fee for absence on Day 2 of the Singles Championships will remain in effect throughout the championship singles tournament.

2. The draw for the boys' and girls' Round of 48 Championship Singles Tournament will be developed with the following guidelines:

a. The top twelve players will be seeded numerically by ability.

If two (or more) teammates are seeded, an effort will be made to place them in separate halves (quarters) of the draw unless such placements result in obvious errors in seeding. Non-seeded teammates must be placed in opposite halves (quarters) of the draw from other seeded/non-seeded teammates.

b. The numerically seeded players should be assigned to the draw sheet as follows: #1 seed - line 1; #8 seed - line 5; #9 seed - line 7; #4 seed - line 9; #5 seed - line 13; #12 seed - line 15; #11 seed - line 18; #6 seed - line 20; #3 seed - line 24; #10 seed - line 26; #7 seed - line 28; and #2 seed - line 32.

c. The four quarters of the draw will then be constructed so that non-seeded players join the two seeded players in each quarter of the draw.

Four non-seeded but highly rated players will then be randomly drawn and placed on lines 3, 11, 22, 30 of the draw sheet, with attention still given to [#2, A (2)]. These players may come from any of the state's five tennis regions and will come from a pool of players considered for numerical seeding.

32 qualifying players will be randomly assigned to draw sheet lines 2a, 2b, 4a, 4b, 6a, 6b, 8a, 8b, 10a, 10b, 12a, 12b, 14a, 14b, 16a, 16b, 17a, 17b, 19a, 19b, 21a, 21b, 23a, 23b, 25a, 25b, 27a, 27b, 29a, 29b, 31a, 31b. Attention to [#2, A (2) above] remains in effect.

d. The winners of these preliminary matches will advance to the 'Round of 32', joining the twelve seeded and four placed players.

e. In the MPA round of 48 singles championship tournament, first round matches will be two sets in length with a 10-point match tiebreaker utilized if players split sets. All matches from the round-of-32 forward will be the best two of three tie break sets.

## **TENNIS PROTOCOL FOR ALL MPA SANCTIONED EVENTS**

(Regular season, singles tournament, team tournament)

- Glassware must not be taken onto the court.
- Most first-class tennis facilities prohibit gum chewing on all courts.
- All **technological devices** must be turned off or not taken onto the court by the players.
- Tennis shoes with non-marking soles are always required
- Players must use appropriate language at all times.
- Common sense and courtesy should always prevail while playing tennis

### **TOURNAMENT BALL**

The official ball for the MPA Team Regional and State Championship and the MPA Singles Championship will be the Wilson Extra Duty Hard Court Tennis Ball. Tennis balls will be provided by the MPA for these events.

In the preliminary, quarterfinal and semifinal rounds of regional team play, the host school will be responsible for providing yellow, USTA approved tennis balls for the matches.

Each entrant in the singles qualifying tournament must bring one unopened can of yellow, USTA approved balls with him/her to the qualifying site. The individual match winners will take the unused balls for his/her next match; the opponent will keep the used balls

## **School Assignments to Sections and Regions**

(for Purposes of the singles qualifying seeding Meeting and the Singles  
Tennis Tournament Qualification rounds)

### **SINGLES QUALIFYING REGIONS**

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4
Regional Tournament Director: Dave Wakana B: 493-4260	Regional Tournament Director: Joe Gallant C: 343-1072	Regional Tournament Director (boys): TBA  Director (girls): Sheila Bohlin H: 833-6401 C: 522-2552	Regional Tournament Director (boys): Tom Leblond C: 577-6307  Director: Anita Murphy C: 333-8356 H: 783-3250
Caribou	Bangor	Boothbay	Carrabec
Fort Kent	Belfast	Brunswick	Dirigo
Houlton	Brewer	Camden Hills	Edward Little
Limestone / MSSM	Calais	Cony	Hall-Dale
Madawaska	Deer Isle-Stonington	Erskine Academy	Lewiston
Presque Isle	Dexter	Gardiner	Lisbon
Van Buren	Ellsworth	Lawrence (boys)	Madison
Woodland	Foxcroft	Lincoln Academy	Maranacook
	George Stevens	Medomak Valley	Monmouth
	Hampden	Messalonskee	Mt. Abram
	Hermon	Morse	Mt. Blue
	John Bapst	Mt. Ararat	Mountain Valley
	Lee Academy	Oceanside	Oak Hill
	MCI	Skowhegan	Oxford Hills
	Mattanawcook	Waterville	Spruce Mountain
	MDI	Winslow	St. Dominic
	Old Town	Wiscasset	Winthrop
	Orono		
	Penobscot		
	Penquis		
	Piscataquis		
	Shed		
	Stearns / Schenck		
	Sumner		
	Washington Academy		

#### **REGION 5**

Chair: Cooper Higgins C: 650-0390 / H: 797-3337

Biddeford	Kennebunk	Scarborough
Bonny Eagle	Lake Region (girls)	South Portland
Cape Elizabeth	Marshwood	Thornton
Cheverus	Massabesic	Waynflete
Deering	Maine Girls' Academy (girls)	Westbrook
Falmouth	North Yarmouth	Windham
Freeport	Portland	Yarmouth
Fryeburg	Sanford	York
Gorham		

Greely		

## **TEAM TENNIS FIVE POINT MATCH SCORING SYSTEM**

1. There are five equal points in the team competition, three for singles, and two for doubles. The match is won by the team that earns the most points. (5-0, 4-1, 3-2)
2. A player may only participate in one of the five matches in a team tennis competition. There are no substitutions allowed once play has commenced in a singles or doubles match, but a coach whose team has already won the team competition may change his/her line-up to allow a lesser player(s) to participate in a match not yet underway.

## **DETERMINING THE LADDER FOR MPA TEAM TENNIS MATCHES**

The three tennis players who have earned one of the top three singles positions on a team's singles tennis ladder must play singles. The #1 singles player must be better than the #2 singles player, and the #2 singles player must be better than the #3 singles player.

Once the best three singles players have been established by ladder play, the coach may set doubles pairings in a manner of his/her choosing. Doubles teams may be composed of any of the remaining squad members, providing the #1 doubles team is better than the #2 doubles team. It is recommended that all coaches maintain a separate doubles ladder to verify the rank correctness of the doubles teams. Participation on the doubles ladder must never excuse talented players from challenging on and assuming their rightful spot on the singles challenge ladder.

## **COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING PROPER SINGLES AND DOUBLES LADDERS:**

### **1. It is the coach's responsibility to:**

- A. Develop tennis ladders that include ALL team members in rank order of ability. Whenever possible, this rank ordering should be established by head-to-head ladder matches (though it is understood that because of weather-shortened pre-seasons, the initial rank ordering of players may necessarily be partially subjective, it is expected this subjective order be revised through substantiated ladder play as soon as possible). A coach should never allow a dubious challenge match result to justify an incorrect lineup for an extended period of time!
- B. Promote, provide time for, and document the results of ladder matches.
- C. Have documentation of the dates and results of these ladder matches available at team matches in case a challenge is lodged by an opposing coach as to the rank ordering of players.
- D. Determine match lengths which should be discussed by both coaches beforehand. It is recommended that a match consist of best out of three six-game sets, utilizing twelve-point tiebreakers. Common sense should prevail when very few courts are available or when weather forces indoor play. "Pro sets" are acceptable for use. However, both coaches must agree on the format to be used before the start of play. If no agreement can be reached, the best two of three tiebreak sets format will be utilized. Also, the order of individual match assignments should be established before the competition begins if less than five courts are available for simultaneous play. In both the Regional and State Team Tennis Tournament, matches will always be assigned in ascending order beginning with #2 doubles.

## 2. Transgressions:

A. It is inappropriate for a coach to withhold skilled players from challenging on the team's singles ladder or for a skilled player to declare himself/herself exempt from the team's singles ladder to become doubles eligible. Such a practice is unacceptable, unethical, and dishonest.

B. Coaches should never discipline a player by dropping him/her down the ladder for the next match. This only punishes the next opponent. If a player must be disciplined, the only fair solution is to drop him/her from the lineup.

C. Players who have suffered a long-term illness or injury (missing four or more team matches) MUST successfully challenge the player who has assumed his/her ranked order on the team ladder. If unsuccessful, he/she must continue to challenge successively lower ranked players until his/her proper order is established before being entered into a match.

D. Players who have suffered short-term illness or injury (less than four team matches) may be reinserted in their former ranked position when he/she has been deemed ready to play by the proper authority. **A player having been on short-term leave from the team may NOT be dropped down in the team lineup upon his/her return unless ladder play dictates.**

E. If the coaches and administrators of a school feel a player who has earned a singles ranking on the tennis ladder needs to be dropped to doubles due to health concerns or chronic injury, they must:

1. submit such a request, in writing, to the MPA Tennis Committee Chair (at least 48 hours before this proposed change is to take effect), and
2. submit a written doctor's recommendation for making the proposed change.

## **APPROPRIATE ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO PLAYER ABSENCES:**

**Over the years, there have been numerous transgressions of the rules dealing with substitutions due to player absence. Many, but not all, of these transgressions have been deemed unintentional by opposing coaches and the MPA Tennis Committee.**

The following guidelines have been established to help clarify appropriate options to deal with player absence(s):

**A. Teams that will not have a full seven-player team throughout the entire season:**

*1. The three most highly ranked players on the singles challenge ladder must play singles throughout the season. The #1 player must be better than the #2 player, and the #2 player must be better than the #3 player. 2. If a doubles match can be played, it must be at the #1 doubles position!*

**B. When a full complement of seven players is available but a regular player in the top seven is missing:**

1. *If the missing team member is a singles player, the coach may (1) break up one or both of the doubles teams and play the eighth ranked player on one of the doubles teams, or (2) play the eighth ranked player as the #3 singles.*
2. *If the missing team member is a doubles player, any doubles adjustment made by the coach is permissible.*

3. In both 1. and 2. above, the #1 doubles team must be stronger than the #2 doubles team.

**C. When fewer than seven players are available for a specific match:**

1. Six players available: default #3 singles or #2 doubles (depending whether a singles player or a doubles player is absent)
2. Five players available: default #2 doubles
3. Four players available: default both doubles or #3 singles and #2 doubles (depending on the combination of singles players and doubles players absent)
4. Three players available: default both doubles
5. Fewer than three players available: default the match

**D. In all MPA Team Tournament play Rule A will govern play. In a match where a tie could exist the tie breaker format will be:**

- a) Total sets won
- b) Total games won
- c) Total sets in the Singles matches won

## **Questioning an Opponent's Calls**

1. The tennis code dictates that **any line call in which the result is unclear must be resolved in favor of one's opponent.**
2. Everyone misses a call now and then; therefore, no player should become enraged when he/she believes his/her opponent has "missed one."
3. An angry refutation of an opponent's call is just like saying "You're a cheater" for everyone to hear.
4. When **Player A** feels that an incorrect call by **Player B** has "robbed" him/her of a point fairly earned and is so upset that he/she must stretch the constraints of "the honor code" (which does not allow for questioning an opponent's call), he/she should politely ask **Player B** if he/she is quite sure the call was correct. If **Player A** continues to feel that **Player B's** calls are erroneous in **Player B's** favor, **Player A** should ask for both coaches and explain the situation to them. From that point on, the coaches are expected to resolve the situation and, if necessary, officiate the remainder of the match.
5. **SPECIAL NOTE:** At all MPA-sponsored singles and team competitions, it is still the responsibility of the individual players and their respective coaches/school representatives to attempt to resolve on-court conflicts regarding rule interpretations, line calls, appropriate time sequencing, foot-faulting, and inappropriate behavior or language. MPA Tennis Committee members should only be called to the scene when this process has been exhausted and there is no resolution in sight. Coaches and players are not absolved of their usual duties and responsibilities just because state competition is taking place. **These responsibilities and a higher order of sportsmanship are what make high school tennis matches unique and refreshing.**

## **Twelve-Point Tiebreaker and Match Tiebreaker**

Object (12 point tiebreaker): To get seven points and win by two points.

Object (Match tiebreaker): To get ten points and win by two points.

Note: Coaches should give special attention to teaching the correct tie-breaking procedure and should attempt to supervise all tiebreak situations when they arise.

### **Rotation for Both the 12-point and Match Tiebreakers:**

1. Player whose turn it is to serve (at 6 all) serves one point from "deuce" (server's right) court.
2. Opponent serves twice, the first coming from the "AD" (server's left) court.
3. Other side serves twice, etc. with players **switching ends of the court after six points have been played; so after 6, 12, 18...total points have been played players switch sides until the tiebreak procedure produces a "winner."**
4. If the match requires an additional set, the side who received first in the set just concluded, now has the first serve in the next set; regardless of who won the tiebreaker.
5. If the first two sets are both decided by tiebreakers, a spin of the racket will determine who will serve to begin the third set.

Order of Play Twelve-Point Tiebreaker and Match Tiebreaker					
A vs B			Swap Sides After Six Points		
Point	Server	Side	Point	Server	Side
1	A	R	7	B	R
2-3	B	L-R	8-9	A	L-R
4-5	A	L-R	10-11	B	L-R
6	B	L	12	A	L

Repeat sequence starting with point one until one player has won seven points in a twelve-point tiebreaker or ten points in a match tiebreaker and is ahead by a margin of two.



## **Duties of the Coaches:**

**(Coaches are reminded that some of these duties extend into MPA-sponsored Tennis Tournaments.)**

1. Both coaches must meet to establish, verify and accept team line-ups before the match may start..
2. He/she shall assign the courts. He/she must adhere closely to all information outlined in "The Five-Point Match Scoring System."
3. He/she shall supply a new can of USTA approved tennis balls for each match.
4. He/she shall enforce the ten-minute warm-up period prior to the start of the match. All practice serves must be part of this timed warm-up.
5. He/she must assure the sporting conduct of all players and spectators at home and away matches. He/she, as the match administrator, must ensure the integrity and the safety of all in attendance.
6. He/she shall report all match results, win or lose, to his/her athletic administrator for entry in the MPA online Heal point system.
7. After contacting and informing the opposing coach, either coach will warn players for: offensive language, inappropriate behavior, foot-faulting, inaccurate line calls, and misuse of appropriate break/rest periods. Coaches must confer and agree upon appropriate action to be taken against any player whose works or actions infringe upon the intended spirit of the match.  
**Note: The MPA has a strict default policy. Once a player has been officially warned by the coach(es), he/she may be defaulted at the next repetition of the objectionable offense. If a player is ejected from competition for misconduct of any type, he/she will be prohibited from playing for the remainder of that match and the next regularly scheduled MPA-sanctioned regular season or tournament competition.**
8. In the MPA Singles Championship and Team Tournament, coaches may coach individual players for no more than two minutes on the court at the completion of the first set. After split sets, coaching may take place on or off the court, but play must resume with 5 minutes.
9. All breaks may be waived (but not extended) through the mutual consent of the players and/or their coaches.
10. Coaches are expected to solve match problems in a sporting fashion with the best interest of all players in mind. Hopefully, common sense will prevail. Failure to complete matches usually results in disastrous consequences and creates hard feelings between the players, coaches, and school administrators. Protests are not allowed in MPA tennis play.
11. MPA representatives will assume duties 2, 3 and 4 at all regional and state championships.

## **Point of No Recall**

**Individual Match:** Once a match has started and one point has been completed, no substitution will be permitted in the case of illness or injury. The match pairing must stand and the injured/ill player must default the team point.

## **TENNIS CLASSIFICATION FOR 2017-2018**

### **CLASS A**

665+

#### **NORTH [12]**

Lewiston (1428)  
Bangor (1129)  
Oxford Hills (G) (1050)  
Edward Little (982)  
Skowhegan (777)  
Messalonskee (G) (759)  
Brunswick (746)  
Mt. Ararat (734)  
Hampden (718)  
Mt. Blue (669)  
Camden Hills (667)  
Cony (667)

### **CLASS B**

400-664

#### **NORTH [17]**

Brewer (659)  
Erskine (581)  
Modomak (553)  
Presque Isle (548)  
Waterville (544)  
MDI (526)  
John Bapst (513)  
Hermon (504)  
Belfast (501)  
Oceanside (488)  
MCI (479)  
Old Town (478)  
Ellsworth (448)  
Foxcroft (448)  
Winslow (446)  
Caribou (430)  
Washington (417)

### **CLASS C**

0-399

#### **NORTH [17]**

Orono (354)  
Houlton (324)  
George Stevens (321)  
Mattanawcook (321)  
Dexter (304)  
Fort Kent (281)  
Schenck / Stearns (276)  
Sumner (248)  
Calais (211)  
Lee Academy (192)  
Piscataquis (176)  
Penobscot (160)  
Madawaska (151)  
Deer Isle-Stonington (112)  
Woodland (112)  
Shead (101)  
Van Buren (76)

#### **SOUTH [17]**

Thornton (1412)  
Kennebunk /  
Wells (1110)  
Bonny Eagle (1100)  
Deering (1086)  
Scarborough (1021)  
Windham (1004)  
Sanford (1000)  
Massabesic (985)  
Portland (970)  
South Portland (892)  
Gorham (823)  
Biddeford (784)  
Marshwood (781)  
Westbrook (743)  
Falmouth (696)  
Cheverus (467)  
MGA (246)

#### **SOUTH [12]**

Greely (656)  
Gardiner (632)  
Morse (613)  
York (607)  
Lincoln Acad (579)  
Yarmouth (546)  
Cape Elizabeth (537)  
Lake Region (G) (512)  
Freeport (494)  
Oak Hill (G) (420)  
Spruce Mountain (408)  
Mountain Valley (407)

#### **SOUTH [12]**

Maranacook (G) (390)  
Lisbon (336)  
Hall-Dale (320)  
Dirigo (263)  
Madison (231)  
Waynflete (260)  
Winthrop (248)  
Carrabec (215)  
Boothbay (215)  
St. Dominic (180)  
Wiscasset (173)  
NYA (142)

Tennis Awards	
Trophies:	State champion team State singles champion State singles runner-up State singles semi-finalists
Plaques:	State runner-up team Regional champion team Regional runner-up team