

## OFSAA TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

*The sole basis for the very existence of high school sport is the contribution it makes to the general educational experience of those students who participate.*

### PLAYING REGULATIONS

**1. Date:**

The OFSAA Tennis Championship shall be a three day championship held during the first week in June unless extraordinary circumstances dictate a change. Player registration and coaches' meeting will be scheduled the morning of Day 1 prior to the start of championship play.

**2. Location:**

The location of the Championship shall be decided not later than the OFSAA Annual Meeting held in April of the school year prior to the Championship.

**3. Classifications:**

The OFSAA Tennis Championship shall provide competition in Open and High School divisions. Classification of divisions is as follows:

- (a) 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.
- (b) High School Division: any player who has not met the above criteria for an Open player.

**4. Events:**

The events to be conducted are:

(a) High School Division:

GIRLS' SINGLES	GIRLS' DOUBLES
BOYS' SINGLES	BOYS' DOUBLES
MIXED DOUBLES	

(b) Open Division:

GIRLS' SINGLES	GIRLS' DOUBLES
BOYS' SINGLES	BOYS' DOUBLES

MIXED DOUBLES

The OFSAA convenors, in consultation with the OTA, shall have the right to move or disqualify players from the high school division to the appropriate open division, if available.

**5. Tournament Structure and Procedure:**

- (a) The OFSAA Tennis Championship structure shall be an eight (8) game pro-set, no advantage scoring with a twelve (12) point tie breaker at seven (7) all.
- (b) Upon approval from the OFSAA Tennis Sport Advisory Committee, the convenor may modify the structure of the Championship if there is a lack of entries or inclement weather. This modification may range from a six (6) game pro-set to a match consisting of a best two (2) out of three (3) sets.
- (c) Convenors, whenever possible, should ensure that all participating players/teams are rotated throughout all Championship sites during the preliminary rounds of competition.
- (d) Players must be on site prepared to play at least one (1) hour before the scheduled start of their game.
- (e) In cases where students do not fulfil their participation commitment at the OFSAA Tennis Championship, a report will be forwarded by the Competitions Committee to the OFSAA Board of Reference – Sanctions.
- (f) Due to the possibility of changing weather conditions, the original schedule presented at the coaches' meeting prior to tournament play may be altered. If such changes occur, all coaches are to continually check with the convenor on site and/or website for tournament updates regarding times and locations.

**6. Seeding:**

The teams shall be seeded by the Championship committee. Seeding shall be done in consultation with the OFSAA office, the Chair of the Tennis Sport Advisory Committee and a representative from the Ontario Tennis Association.

**7. Entry:**

- (a) Entries shall be accepted from Association convenors or designates only.
- (b) Entries of Associations must be received by the OFSAA Championship Convenor one week before the Championship. Late entries will only be accepted if they can be accommodated and shall be subject to a penalty.
- (c) An association may enter a maximum of two (2) competitors in each event of each division. In the event of an Association not having a full entry or in the event of a late cancellation, the host Association is allowed an additional entry in that event.

- (d) No competitor may enter more than one event (e.g. singles, doubles, mixed doubles). In a doubles or mixed pairing, if any individual is ranked, the entire team shall be considered ranked. Players must enter in the same event as they participated in their association and with the same partner in a doubles event.
- (e) Any suspension or disciplinary actions in Association play shall be carried forward into OFSAA Championship competition. The Association convenor shall be responsible for reporting such players and the nature of the disciplinary action on the OFSAA entry form. Any disciplinary action is subject to appeal to the Competition Committee.
- (f) For associations withdrawing a team(s) after the commitment deadline the minimum sanction imposed will be a fine equal to the entry fee. Further, if the withdrawal takes place at a time that impacts on the convener, financially or logistically, a further fine may be issued. This fine may encompass costs incurred by the convenor for entry fee, banquet meals, banners, etc. as reviewed and approved by OFSAA. The association and/or school may also be brought forward to the Board of Reference sanctions.

## 8. Expenses:

An Entry Fee shall be charged which shall be sufficient to cover the operating costs of the Championship. Any Association that does not meet its entry commitment after it has declared an entry into the Championship will be required to submit the entry fee and a report will be made to the Board of Reference - Sanctions.

Those schools having entries are responsible for arranging and financing their own travel, meals and accommodation for the event.

## 9. Eligibility:

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation a student **must**:

- (i) be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules (Playing Regulations) of the Association to which his school belongs;
- (ii) be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school;
- (iii) meet the following age requirement: the individual's birth certificate indicates that he has not reached his 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held;
- (iv) be in Grades 9-12;
- (v) be eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy (By-Law 5, Section 4(f));
- (vi) be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9 (By-Law 5, Section 4(g));
- (vii) have signed the Rules of Behaviour signature form for the competition;
- (viii) have executed the Federation's "Release of Liability" form.
- (ix) Any athlete participating in an OFSAA Championship or an OFSAA qualifying event must have participated in a minimum of six (6) practices with school team as a member of a bona fide high school program during the current season under the supervision of a teacher-coach as certified by the school principal.

- (x) Only students who were entered and participated as members of a school's tennis team in the Association championship, where held, are eligible to participate in the OFSAA Championship.

#### **10. Rules and Officials:**

Revisions to rulebooks governing play at the OFSAA Tennis Championship shall be reviewed by the Sport Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Directors prior to implementation at any Championship.

The Tennis Canada Rules of the Court shall govern play at the OFSAA Tennis Championship with the exception that: the structure of the championship shall be an eight (8) game pro-set, no advantage scoring with a twelve (12) point tie breaker at seven (7) all; unless otherwise indicated by the convenor.

#### **11. Uniforms and Equipment:**

All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's/Association's name, colours and logos. No sport club insignia on uniforms shall be permitted. A sport club is defined as a community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized competition in single or multi sport programs. Sponsorship recognition is permitted to be visible but must conform with the placement guidelines outlined in By-Law 6, Section 2(h).

In order to be allowed to play, competitors must dress in proper tennis attire which covers the midsection.

Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate attire in the competition area, AND use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the Competition Committee for resolution.

The Tournament Convenor shall provide game balls for the Championship.

#### **12. Awards:**

Championship medals shall be presented to first, second, third and fourth place finishers.

#### **13. Supervision:** (Reference By-Law 6, Section 1)

*A teacher is defined as a member of the Ontario College of Teachers or a holder of an Ontario Teacher's Certificate or equivalent.*

- (a) For team sports ("A team consists of all athletes from the same school who qualify for Federation competition as a unit..." {reference By-Law 5, Section 3}), a teacher from the same school, or a retired teacher, as approved by the principal of the school, must accompany and be responsible for the team.

- (b) For individual sports (those sports in which athletes from a school qualify for federation competition as individuals), the principal of the school may designate an adult who is not a teacher to accompany the athletes. In addition, a teacher, or a retired teacher, must be present and on site and designated by the principal to be responsible for the athlete(s).
- (c) For all sports, where the teacher, as indicated in (a) and (b) above, is not of the same sex as the athlete(s), and where the athlete(s) are required or might be required to stay overnight, a supervisory adult, as approved by the principal of the school, of the same sex as the athlete(s), must be present and available at the accommodation site for the duration of their stay in the accommodation.

**14. Registration:**

Registration materials will only be given to the teacher accompanying the team, upon receipt of a completed Rules of Behaviour signature form, signed "Release of Liability" forms and photo forms.

**15. Deportment:** (Reference By-Law 6, Section 2)

- (a) A team is defined as, "All participants representing the same school at an OFSAA Championship event".
- (b) A participant is defined as, "Anyone who has been granted proper authorization to enter a restricted area." "Restricted area" includes "those areas occupied by athletes and to which access by the general public is restricted or prohibited."
- (c) All participants are expected to abide by the, "Rules of Behaviour for Participants to OFSAA Championships". (see Appendix to By-Laws)
- (d) Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants for the duration of the Championships.
- (e) Teams are open to censure for failure of its participants to abide by the "Rules of Behaviour".
- (f)
  - (i) All coaches are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics for Coaches to OFSAA Championships. (See Appendix II)
  - (ii) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Statement of Principle on Recruiting. (See Appendix IV)
  - (iii) Spectators are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour for Spectators. (See Appendix III)
  - (iv) All coaches are expected to adhere to the "Return to Play Guidelines". (See Appendix VI)
  - (v) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Policy on dispensing drugs, medication and food supplements. (See Appendix IX)
- (g) All schools entering a Federation Championship shall, by signature of the school principal on the Championship Entry Form, acknowledge responsibility for making restitution for damage resulting from misconduct by their participants.
- (h) No artificial noisemakers are permitted at OFSAA Championship events.

**16. Social:**

If a special event is arranged all team members and coaches must attend.

**Dress Code for Banquets:**

- no person shall wear jeans, shorts or a hat;
- boys shall wear dress pants, a dress shirt and a tie;
- girls shall wear dress pants or skirt with a dress top;
- if a themed event is planned by the convenor, then the convenor must apply to the OFSAA office for permission to vacate these rules;
- should there be an instance of improper attire, the Competition Committee shall deal with the matter and forward a report to the OFSAA Board of Reference - Sanctions.

**17. Medical:**

Provision MUST be made by the Convenor to have a medical doctor in attendance or readily available and to follow appropriate hygienic precautions with regard to bodily fluids and communicable diseases (See Appendix IV to the By-Laws). Qualified first-aid personnel and equipment must be readily available at the Championship site(s). Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (e.g. tape, Band-Aids) for their athletes.

**18. Jury of Appeal:**

The Jury of Appeal shall consist of three (3) individuals: the chairperson of the OFSAA Tennis Sport Advisory Committee or designate, a tournament committee member and one (1) other member appointed by the Championship Convenor. The Jury of Appeal shall handle disputes which fall within the realm of:

- (a) Tournament Structure and Procedure;
- (b) Rules and Officials;
- (c) Uniforms and Equipment;
- (d) Scoring.

Tournament structure and procedure concerns shall be addressed no later than the end of the coaches' meeting

A dispute must be submitted in writing to the Convenor or Designate together with a \$50.00 fee (refundable if dispute is upheld) within thirty (30) minutes, except as provided within specific sport governing regulations, of the conclusion of the game in which the incident under dispute occurred. Decisions of the Jury of Appeal shall be final.

A report of the Jury of Appeal decisions shall be forwarded to the Board of Reference - Sanctions.

**19. Competition Committee:**

- (a) The Competition Committee shall consist of three (3) individuals: the Championship Convenor, or designate; an OFSAA staff or Executive Committee Member, or designate; and the Chairperson of the OFSAA Tennis Sport Advisory Committee, or designate. The Competition Committee shall handle disputes regarding:

- (i) Eligibility;
- (ii) Department;
- (iii) Supervision and registration;
- (iv) Social;
- (v) Medical personnel;
- (vi) Awards.

If a dispute cannot be resolved by the Competition Committee within a reasonable period of time, the event will continue and the dispute may be referred to a Board of Reference - General. (Please note that eligibility under the OFSAA Transfer Policy cannot be addressed at OFSAA events (By-Law 5, Section 4 (f)).

Disputes which fall within the jurisdiction of the Competition Committee must be received in writing to the Convenor or designate, together with a \$50.00 fee (refundable if dispute is upheld) within a reasonable time frame.

Appeals to the decisions of the Competition Committee shall be addressed to the Board of Reference - General.

A report of the decisions of the Competition Committee shall be forwarded to the Board of Reference - Sanctions.

- (b) The Competition Committee shall be the body empowered to delay/cancel an event(s) due to unforeseen circumstances at the site(s).

***All Federation Championships/Festivals are non-smoking events.  
This includes the use of all tobacco related products.***

***Participants must obey the Ministry of Education's Code of Conduct.***