

## **ARTICLE ELEVEN TENNIS**

### **11.1 SCHEDULE:**

11.1-1 Boys Tennis will be a Spring sport. Girls Tennis will be a Fall sport.

11.1-2 Boys and girls tennis will follow league approved schedules.

11.1-3 A tennis match requiring postponement will be rescheduled on the next available date as agreed upon by both schools.

11.1-4 The host school will make the final decision on the postponement of match due to inclement weather.

11.1-5 When the singles or doubles match is called off due to inclement weather or darkness, said match will be resumed at the earliest date which is mutually agreeable to both coaches with the exact score as set at the last completed game.

a) When the match is resumed the same lineup must be used. In the absence of a player the individual match which the absent player was involved in must be forfeited. No substitute player may be used.

11.1-6 If a player is late for a match and the coach thinks the player will be there the fifteen (15) minute default rule will apply. No match at his number or below will begin before 3:45. If the player is a no show the other players must be moved up the line-up in the order of the ladder. (Refer to rule 11.2-8)

11.1-7 The number of contests in which a team may participate must be in agreement with the Sac-Joaquin Section bylaw 1206. (See General Rule 1.14-1).

11.1-8 At the end of the season (Fall and Spring) there shall be a MEL singles and doubles tournament that will determine the top three (3) seeds. The top three (3) singles and top three (3) doubles will qualify for the Individual Section Tournament.

11.1-9 If during a match, one of the players asks for a linesman, a player or coach from each team will be chosen by the head coach and positioned at each net post. Each linesman will be responsible for line calls, only when appealed by the current players, on the sidelines or service boxes nearest their positions.

### **11.2 GAME ADMINISTRATION:**

11.2-1 Teams must field six (6) singles players and three (3) doubles teams for league matches.

11.2-2 No-ad scoring will be used in all contests. All matches must be played as best two out of three matches with a match tiebreaker for the third set in the event of a one set to one set tie. Once a team has won the overall contest all remaining matches which go to a third set will use a super-tie break (first to 10 by 2) in lieu of a third set.

11.2-3 The best player shall always play as the first single player. Each school must establish an entire singles' ladder of all their varsity players in ranking order. Positions on the ladder shall be determined by the players ability and the results of competition in inter-squad challenge matches. The coach may not just subjectively set the ladder.

Once the ladder is established the ladder must be entered into a shared Google Document. These ladders can only be changed at the beginning of each new round of play (after each team has been played once). The 1st through 5th singles player must be played in order of your team's ladder. The number of six singles can be played by anyone on the ladder below the #5 position but will remain the same during the entire round unless they must be moved up the ladder due to absent players on the day of the match. After the singles positions have been established, doubles teams will play according to the two players' combined ranking on the player strength ladder (lowest combined sum of a team's ranking is the #1 team). If the sum of any of the ladder positions for two or three of the teams is equal, then the highest ranked individual player shall play on the higher ranked doubles team.

11.2-4 A player's position may not be lowered as a disciplinary action by the coach. The coach may discipline the player by not allowing him to play that particular match. Again, the players must earn positions on the ladder. This rule is to discourage stacking of the ladder.

11.2-5 If it is discovered that an ineligible player has competed in a match, the entire contest is forfeited. Final score will read 9 – 0 for the other team.

11.2-6 The league champion in tennis shall be that which has won the greatest number of team matches during a season. A team match is a series of nine (9) matches between schools. If two schools are tied for first, and there is time for a playoff, home court advantage will be determined by the number of sets won from the three league matches. If sets are tied, number of games won will be counted. If still tied, a coin flip will be used. This system will also be used if there is no time left for playoffs, or if there is a tie for second and only two teams go to the Sac-Joaquin Section Playoffs.

11.2-7 A line-up giving the order of ability for singles and doubles players must be exchanged simultaneously by the coaches prior to each conference match and the 1-5 singles must not be forfeited. Any forfeited matches must start at number six (6) singles or number three (3) doubles. If a player is absent from singles, all players must move up the ladder to fill in for the positions. For example, if your #1 singles player is missing, #2 becomes #1, #3 becomes #2 and so through #5 singles. This means if you are missing two of your top five (5) players you may have to break up your #1 doubles team and move a player to singles.

11.2-8 Before each round of League play a copy of each school's complete ladder must be entered into a shared Google Document. Failure to send a new ladder after a round of play will indicate that the ladder of the previous round is still being used.

**11.2-9 SIDELINE COACHING:**

- a) When the players change sides and/or between sets, only the designated coach may confer with the team players for a maximum of 90 seconds.
- b) Players must play two sets before taking a break, which shall not be longer than ten minutes.
- c) Injured players are limited to a total of ten minutes recovery time before defaulting. Injury time is cumulative during a match.
- d) The home coach is responsible for game control.
- e) Teams may not have more than two (2) designated coaches to do sideline coaching. If a team has more than two (2) coaches, they should identify which two (2) coaches will coach from the sideline.
- f) Players may not coach other players during a match or on a switch over.
- g) All calls must be made by players on the court or sideline judges. Opposing coaches, parents and players outside the match cannot interfere. A coach may override a bad call of one of their own players if they clearly see the mistake. Coaches are responsible for making sure their players and spectators are not interfering during the match.

11.2-10 The home coach has complete authority to assign each single and doubles match to any court.

11.2-11 Players are encouraged to limit their warm-ups before each match to ten minutes.

11.2-12 Play will be governed by the USTA Rules. When a set is tied at 5-6 (all) the 12-point tiebreaker will be used

**11.3 EQUIPMENT:**

The home coach must provide new balls for each varsity match. Only USLTA approved tennis balls may be used in competition. The home coach has the discretion of providing or not providing new balls at the beginning of the third set.

## 11.4 MEL TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- 11.4-1 At the end of the regular league season there will be a singles and doubles championship tennis tournament to be held on separate but consecutive days. A player may qualify to play and be seeded in the championships by participating in at least one more than half of the matches of the regular league season.
- 11.4-2 The purpose of the MEL Championships is to qualify three (3) singles players and three (3) doubles teams for the Section individual tennis playoffs.
- 11.4-3 There will be an 8 a.m. meeting where the seeding will take place for the singles tournament. Seeding will be based on how well the individuals performed during regular league play.
- 11.4-4 There will be a draw of sixteen (16) players for each tournament (singles & doubles). How each school finished as far as their league standings will determine the number of players that each school will bring to the tournament. The first through fourth place teams (school standings) will each bring three (3) players and the fifth and sixth place teams will bring two (2) each. This will create a draw of sixteen (16).
- 11.4-5 During the draw process for singles, every effort will be made to separate the same schools from meeting in the first round. We will also separate the 1's and the 2's from being on the same side of the draw (we cannot implement this concept to the 3's). If we draw a name from the hat that does not meet the criteria for being placed on the next line of the draw, then the names go back into the hat and another name is drawn. We Will draw names until we have the draw for sixteen (16) complete.
- 11.4-6 The finalists in both singles and doubles, and the winner of the semi-finals losers, will qualify to represent the MEL in the individual Section Tennis Tournament.
- 11.4-7 The six (6) schools involved will designate who their #1 through #3 teams are for the top four (4) schools and the #1 and #2 teams for the fifth and sixth placed teams.
- 11.4-8 We will play three (3) rounds the first day of the singles tournament and play the finals of the singles tournament on the next day at 11 a.m. weather permitting. The same format of play will apply to the doubles tournament. If the same school is in the finals for doubles, then they may play at their home court.
- 11.4-9 Coaches will determine how much time in-between singles matches, and doubles matches at the seeding meeting on day one of the singles tournament.

11.4-10 Every effort should be made to hire a U.S.T.A. certified referee to assist in the draw and the enforcement of the U.S.T.A. rules of tennis both on and off the court during the MEL Championships. The first three (3) rounds of singles and doubles play in the league tournament will be two out three sets with a third set super tie breaker in lieu of a full third set, no-add scoring. If the set becomes tied at 6-6 then the twelve-point tiebreaker will be implemented. Coaching may only occur on change over. One coach will be designated from each school.

11.4-11 Each team must have a coach or school designated person in charge of their student athletes.

### **11.5 ALL League Awards**

All-League players, for MEL Sports, will be selected by a process approved by the Board of Managers (BOM) and conducted by the Athletic Director in charge of each sport.

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