



TEXAS CHRISTIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE

Official TENNIS Athletic Plan

Rev. 3/2012

*The following are the T★CAL policies and guidelines for member school participation in the **TENNIS** platform. General athletic purposes and codes as stated in the football plan section A, also apply to Tennis. All Tennis contest rules shall be governed by the [United States Tennis Association, USTA](#) any exceptions to those rules shall be stated herein. Amendments are marked “**NEW**” and date is included.*

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Class, Region & District Alignment

1. **Enrollment Figures.** Each December, the T★CAL office shall obtain enrollment data from participant T★CAL member schools and home school programs (grades 9-12). The enrollment figures shall be used to determine the appropriate classifications.
 - a. **Average combined boys and girls enrollment figures** shall be used in determining the classifications as appropriate for the sports of Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field, Soccer, Baseball & Softball. Golf & Tennis are not currently aligned according to enrollment (see Golf and Tennis plans specifically).
 - b. **“Blended” Teams of Member Schools**
 - i. “Blended Teams” are allowed ONLY in the event a local Home school organization and/or Private/Charter school does not have an active TENNIS program and students from that organization desire to join an existing T★CAL member school for the purpose of playing TENNIS.
 - ii. If a member school (A) allows for players from a local Home school organization and/or Private/Charter school (B) to play on their team (A), the Home school organization and/or Private/Charter school (B) enrollment numbers shall be included of the Home school organization and/or Private/Charter school (B) in addition to their (A) typical enrollment numbers for the purpose of determining appropriate classification.
 - iii. Students enrolled in a UIL School are not allowed to participate in T★CAL programs.
 - c. **Home school enrollment** is accepted on a case-by-case basis by the TENNIS Commissioner, then reviewed and approved by the T★CAL Executive Board. Enrollment numbers shall include high school age siblings of the player as well as the total number of high school boys and girls participating in other sports teams and programs (e.g. football, baseball, etc.) and/or in co-ops. T★CAL teams receiving students from the same co-op will be reviewed and assessed at the regional level or committee.
 - d. **Multiple Disabilities** Students who are officially designated as having multiple disabilities may be excluded from the enrollment figures submitted for reclassification purposes. The TENNIS Commissioner must approve and submit this request to the Executive Board.
 - e. **Hardship Recourse.**
 - i. In the event a school’s enrollment numbers change significantly after January but prior to August, the school may petition the T★CAL TENNIS Commissioner and the Executive Board for hard ship recourse.
 - ii. If enrollment decreases – Schools may request to be moved from their existing classification to a lower classification
 - iii. If enrollment increases – Schools that have experienced a significant increase in enrollment MUST declare this to the T★CAL TENNIS Commissioner so that appropriate adjustments can be considered. A significant increase is defined as one where the resulting Average Boys

and Girls enrollment is at or greater than the number defined for separating the classifications.

2. ***Class A, 2A, and 3A.*** In general, the entire school membership for T★CAL is divided into three classes by enrollment. These divisions are Class A, Class 2A and Class 3A. The primary determining factor for assigning a class for each school or home school organization shall be the Average Boys and Girls total enrollment figures for grades 9-12.
 - a. T★CAL reserves the right to consider other factors in determining the appropriate class assignment for each school or home school organization. Non-enrollment factors that may be considered, as appropriate, are “preparatory” status of a private school or geographical & population coverage of a home school organization.
 - b. Ultimately, T★CAL’s desire is to have approximately the same number of schools among the 3 classes, with reasonable geographic representation. This may be accomplished over the next few years.
 - c. Any school may petition to play up or down a class, but petition must be received by ***February 1st*** of each year.
 - d. Any school may request to be moved one class level due to extreme travel concerns provided notification is submitted to the league office simultaneously with enrollment figures.
 - e. New alignments are released ***March 1st*** of each year.
3. ***Regions.***
 - a. There will be ***four*** Regions in each class, with each region representing a geographical area within the state of Texas.
 - b. Within each class, the various regions represent somewhat the same area so that teams moving up or down a class will “comfortably” adjust to their new class.
4. ***Districts***
 - a. Districts will be formed for the purposes of fellowship, community outreach, and strengthening relationships through healthy competition between member schools.
 - b. District schools shall be determined, based on the bi-annual alignments, and the number of “NEW” schools entering on a year-by-year basis.
 - c. Districts shall consist of a minimum of 1 school and not more than 5.
 - d. Each Region will have at least one District.
 - e. Each District shall have a district representative. This person shall be in charge of all voting issues, organizing all district meetings, and assisting the Executive Board with all regional playoff decisions. This person will be determined by T★CAL Athletic Director, with the help of the DARC Committees. This person shall serve until replaced, using the same criteria as above.

Qualifications for District, Region and State Tournament(s)

1. The top 2 doubles teams, from each Regional Tournament shall advance to the State Tournament (or by invitation on a year-by-year basis).
2. 1st and 2nd place individual winners from Regional Tournaments shall advance to the State Tournament (or by invitation on a year-by-year basis).
3. **“NEW”** Coed, or mixed, doubles shall ONLY participate, if there are at least 3 similar teams registered. A separate bracket shall be implemented for mixed doubles. **NOTE: Players competing individually can only participate on 1 team either doubles or mixed doubles but not both. If players are competing in both singles and doubles please notify the tournament director or commissioner, so that match times can be coordinated to allow for their participation in both. If the director cannot coordinate the times, athletes and coaches must choose 1 or the other in which to participate in.**
4. All entries and/or registration forms must be certified by the Regional Chair and submitted by the Regional Certification Deadline to the state office.

Championship Structure: State Tournament

1. The State Tournament will be a one (or two) day, event (as voted by committee annually). Tournament Qualification fees are set annually by the Executive Board.
2. A mandatory coaches/players meeting shall take place at courtside the morning of the tournament.
3. The **USTA Rules** shall apply to the Tournament. Any exceptions to those rules are stated herein.
4. Each school may qualify/enter a maximum of: 6 Boys, 6 Girls, 2 Boys’ Doubles, and 2 Girls’ Doubles in each division or classification (Please see Rule #3 under qualifications).
5. Each athlete must bring 1 “NEW” can of balls. For each contest. Only 1 can will be opened per match.
6. **MATCHES/SETS: FOR ALL TOURNAMENT MATCHES, QUARTERFINALS - FINALS**
 - ★ 8-Game Pro Set, must win by 2 or more games.
 - ★ In all SEMIFINAL matches and above the best 2 out of 3 sets shall determine the winner. In case of ties, the “10-point tiebreaker” system at 6-ALL shall be used.
 - ★ If players have played more than 2 matches in a day, a 15 minute rest period between matches will be in effect. Coaches can request more rest time if necessary. This shall be determined by the tournament director.
7. **OFFICIALS:** Each school shall be notified to provide one coach to officiate games (If NECESSARY) designated by the tournament director. If players are scoring their own matches, they must fully understand the USTA scoring system and must uphold the official “CODE OF INTEGRITY” which supports ethical fair play.

8. **SUBSTITUTES:** Any school may substitute player for player up to the start of the first match, but not after the tournament begins.
9. **COACHING:** Designated Coaches can coach their teams at any time before or after the matches and between sets during the 90-second “changeovers”.
10. **DIVISIONS:** The T★CAL GOLD and SILVER Divisions shall be applied to Boys and Girls Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles. They are designated by coaches as follows,
 - ★ **GOLD**= The Gold designation should be reserved for those athletes that have a USTA Ranking and/or have competed annually over the last 4 years or more in USTA sanctioned tournaments. These athletes are considered to have a greater degree of expertise.
 - ★ **SILVER**= The silver designation should be reserved for those athletes that have competed for 1-4 years or less and/or are considered “novice” or intermediate players. Players must have a working knowledge of USTA scoring and rules.
11. **DRAW:** Region or District winners, #1 players, shall face #2 players in the first round, and the pairings will be selected by draw, separating the Region or District teams from each of 4 regions in the first round. Seed considerations are based on the previous year’s district through state finish. The #2 seeds and down will be determined based on information and designations sent in by coaches. A Blind draw may be utilized to determine the remaining pairings.
12. **SCORING FOR TEAM CHAMPIONS:** Total points (singles and doubles combined) per school determine team standings in Boys and Girls Divisions. *As of January 2012*, the POINT SYSTEM for advancement will be implemented as follows:
 - ★ Based on the draw points shall be earned in the following way: 1,2,5,10,20
 - ★ If the *points* are equal, count the *total sets* won.
 - ★ If the *total sets* are equal, count the *total games* won.
 - ★ If the *total games* won are equal, then head-to-head matches shall determine who wins.
 - ★ If there is still a tie, count the number of players or doubles teams that have advanced to the *semifinals*.
 - ★ If there is still a tie, count the number of players or doubles teams that have advanced to the *quarterfinals*.
 - ★ If there is still a tie, a head-to-head game shall be played.
13. **DRESS CODE:** All participants shall wear proper attire. Standard tennis shorts, shirts, T-shirts, and flat bottom shoes are to be worn at all times. *Specifically prohibited* are the following: Sleeveless shirts with frayed edges, jersey type shirts, cut-off shorts, shorts without pockets, dress or cleated shoes. The tournament director has the authority to determine whether the clothing is appropriate.
14. **“NEW” ALL-DISTRICT, REGION, STATE:** As of January 2012, until such time as an official All-State selection meeting can take place, athletes who compete and place in the top 10 individuals and the top 5 doubles at the State Tournament shall be considered as the “All-State” Teams. [Amended 1/2012]
15. **AWARDS:** Team Plaques will be awarded as follows,
 - ★ State Champion
 - ★ State Runner-upIndividual Medals will be awarded as follows:

- ★ State Champion
- ★ State Runner-up

Practice Regulations Outside of the School Year

Any TENNIS practice conducted by a school outside of the school year must be in accordance with the outlined dates posted annually and released at the Summer Meeting. The following regulations are also applicable:

- a. Student-athletes shall not engage in more than 3 hours of practice activities on those days during which 1 practice is conducted.
- b. Student-athletes shall not engage in more than 5 hours of practice activities on those days during which more than 1 practice is conducted.
- c. The maximum length of any single practice session shall be 3 hours.
- d. On days when more than 1 practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, 1 hour of rest/recovery time between the end of 1 practice and the beginning of the next practice.
- e. ***“NEW” School Coaches*** can work with team at “Off-Season” open practices, and coach team in Summer Tournaments. This summer participation has to be termed “optional.”[Amended 5/12]
- f. ***“NEW” Off-Season*** is defined as, after the T★CAL State Championships; from last approved tournament/matches until end of school including summer through start of School. [Amended 5/12]