



# OTCA TEAM TOURNAMENT RULES

Revised March 2025

The Ohio Tennis Coaches' Association (**OTCA**) sponsors a Boys' and Girls' Team Tournament in each division. Below are listed the rules for this tournament.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

1. Matches played in the OTCA Team Tournament **DO NOT COUNT** toward the twenty (22) match limitation.
2. There are two divisions for this tournament. The division in which a school must play is determined by OHSAA standards.
3. In order to enter the team tournament, the school must be a member of the OHSAA and the Head Coach a current member of the OTCA. In the event that a head coach has not been hired, the Athletic Director may join the OTCA and then transfer the membership to the head coach when one is hired.
4. To enter the tournament, a coach must be a current member of the OTCA and must check the appropriate box on the entry form. **The entry form and payment must be in the possession of the OTCA treasurer prior to the tournament entry deadline.**
  - a. The entry deadline for both the boys' and girls' tournaments will be the published date on the entry form and website.
  - b. For the boys' team tournament, the deadline to enter is one week prior to the "Call to Order" of each district caucus meeting at the annual OTCA clinic.
  - c. For the girl's team tournament, the deadline to enter is July 8 at 10am (EST).
  - d. Late entries will be accepted up to the day of the draw with a late fee being assessed that is determined by the OTCA Executive Board.

## **PHONE AND EMAIL ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT OF OTCA MEMBERSHIP FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.**

- **Payments without entry selected or forms without checks will not be accepted.**
5. The final decision regarding the validity of team tournament entries will be made by the OTCA treasurer and membership secretary. (Any dispute will be taken to the VP in charge of the Team Tournaments and the President)
  6. The draw is made by members of the OTCA Executive Board. The draw is done by districts.

A copy of the draw, a list of the teams entered, phone numbers and emails of the coaches, will be emailed to each coach entered in the tournament. The rules and the draw also can be viewed at the association's website: [otca.us](http://otca.us)

## GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. ~~The OTCA Executive Board will determine the tournament entry deadline, completion dates for each round, and the date for the state final.~~ Every effort must be made to adhere to the scheduled dates set forth by the Executive Board. **Teams not adhering to deadlines may have a match date set by the district tournament director or be defaulted.**
2. District boundary organization will be consistent with that of the OHSAA (Northeast, Northwest, Southwest, and Central-Southeast).
3. Seeding for each district will be done by the coaches prior to the draw being made. If coaches do not feel that any teams should be seeded, then there will be no seeds. Districts may seed up to 4 teams. They will be placed on opposite quarters and on a bye line when possible. The seeding procedure will be as follows:
  - A. Label the four seeded teams 1, 2, 3 and 4. 1 and 4 would be on the same half of the bracket, and then 2 and 3 would be on the other half. **If coaches do not feel they can seed four teams, they can seed three, two, one or no teams at all.**
  - B. **Other scenarios/solutions where the top 4 teams are not able to be identified:**
    - a. **Four Seeds - No difference between the four seeded teams**  
If coaches do not feel like they are able to distinguish between the seeds, then they do not need to label them 1 through 4. They can just be “general” seeds and would be placed randomly.
    - b. **Four Seeds - Top two seeds are obvious, the other two seeds appear to be even**  
If the coaches feel like they can clearly distinguish only two top teams, then it is okay to simply label those two teams as the 1 and 2 seeds and place them on opposite sides of the draw. The other two seeded teams can be placed randomly so that one is on the top half and the other is on the bottom half.
    - c. **Three Seeds - Only three teams stand out as seeds**  
If there are 3 obvious seeds and no others, then it is okay to label them 1, 2 and 3. The 1 and 2 seeds would go in opposite halves, and the 3 seed would be in the half with the 2 seed.
    - d. **Three Seeds - Only three teams stand out, but they all appear to be even**  
If the top three seeds are obvious, but they are **even** and the coaches can't label them 1, 2 and 3, then they would be placed randomly in the seeded positions.
    - e. **Two Seeds - Only two teams stand out as seeds**  
If the coaches feel that only 2 teams should be seeded, then they will be put on opposite sides of the draw. There will not be any other seeded teams. They can be labeled 1 and 2 seeds, or they can just be separated and not labeled.
    - f. **No Seeds - Only one team stands out**  
There is no need to seed any teams in this situation. The top team may be assigned a bye.
    - g. **No Seeds - No teams stand out**  
There is no need to seed any teams in this situation

4. The home team for each round will be designated on the draw sheet. Home and away sites will be determined by a coin flip by the OTCA board members during the draw process each season.
5. All OHSAA rules are to be followed. The OHSAA “**Code of Conduct**” and “**Uniform Rule**” are in effect and will be enforced.
5. Any player(s) declared ineligible from OHSAA regular or post season play is also ineligible from the OTCA Team Tournament. The OTCA team tournament is designated by the OHSAA as a post season tournament, therefore, any player ineligible for OHSAA post season play is not permitted to play in ANY OTCA team tournament match.
6. OTCA Team Tournament matches should take precedence over previously scheduled regular season matches, but not over league matches, league tournaments, or state sponsored tournaments.
7. **ALL MATCHES ARE TO BE PLAYED.** If two teams scheduled to play each other in the tournament already have a scheduled match, and that match falls within the completion dates of that round of the team tournament, the regular season match may also count as the tournament match. In these cases, **both coaches must agree in advance to count the match.**
8. Semi-final and final matches **MUST** be played in scheduled order.

## **RULES:**

1. All matches will consist of three singles and two doubles matches. Matches will be 2 of 3 sets using the 12-point tie-breaker at 6 all. **If a match is decided, then a 10-point tie-breaker can be played in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set.**
2. Coaches must be able to defend their line-ups. Coaches are required to bring season records and line-ups to each tournament match. Singles players must play in rank order. The better doubles team must play first doubles. A list of past challenge matches also needs to be present with each coach for line-up questions. The last time any two players or doubles teams have played a match, that result will define who must play ahead of one another. Any head-to-head matches in OHSAA events also will define line-up order. Stacking will not be part of any OTCA Team tournament match, and any dispute that cannot be settled by the coaches and their Athletic Directors, will be settled by the OTCA District Rep if available, and the OTCA Director and Officials at the semi's and finals
3. The home team will supply the tennis balls.
4. The home team coach will be responsible for ensuring a fair match, controlling spectators, and providing the best possible court conditions. In case of inclement weather, it is the responsibility of the home coach to contact the visiting coach and reschedule the match.
5. All matches are to be played on a hard surface. If the courts of the home team are not a hard surface, a neutral site, chosen by the home coach, will be used.
6. Continuous coaching is permitted, but continuity of play cannot be hindered.
7. All disputes should be resolved by the two coaches involved. If this cannot be accomplished, the decision of the District Tournament Director **will be final.**
8. If the dispute involves the District Tournament Director or the decision required could ultimately affect his/her team, he/she must disqualify himself/herself from the decision. The decision will then be made by the ~~three~~ other representatives of that district, plus one other representative designated by the VP in charge of the Team Tournament and the VP in charge of the State Team Tournament ~~Director~~. In the case of a 2-2 vote, the OTCA President will cast the deciding vote.
9. The coach of both teams must report the scores to the District Tournament Director on the night of the match. The coach of the winning team must contact the next round opponent to schedule the next match.

## **STATE SEMI-FINAL, FINAL, AND CONSOLATION MATCH REGULATIONS**

1. The OTCA Team Tournament State semi-finals, finals, and consolation matches will be held at the site determined by the Vice President in charge of the Team Tournament ~~in the Columbus area~~ on the ~~Sunday~~ day following the OHSAA State Tournament.
2. All efforts will be made to play at the outdoor tournament site. ~~Reynoldsburg High School~~. However, if conditions do not permit, play will be held at the site/sites determined by the State Tournament Director. His/Her decision will be final.
3. Each competing school must provide a list of eligible players ranked in order of singles ability. This list must be presented ~~at the coaches~~ on the date determined by the Vice President in charge of the Team Tournament. ~~meeting held~~ prior to the state semi – final matches.
4. IN A **CALENDAR** YEAR ENDING WITH AN **ODD NUMBER**, **Division I** will begin semi-final play at **9:00 A.M.** and **Division II** will begin semi – final play no earlier than **10:30 A.M.** IN A **CALENDAR** YEAR ENDING ~~BEGINNING~~ WITH AN **EVEN NUMBER**, **Division II** will begin play at **9:00 A. M.** and **Division I** will begin play no earlier than **10:30 A.M.** A coaches' meeting will be held for each division one-half hour prior to the scheduled semi- final match time. The final and the third-place match will begin no earlier than 12:00 noon for the division that begins semi – final play at 9:00 A.M. The final and the third-place match will begin no earlier than 1:30 P.M. for the division that begins semi – final play at 10:30 A.M. (**NOTE: Tournament Director has the ability to adjust match times as needed.**)
5. When a match is decided, play on the remaining courts will stop.
6. All participants will be guaranteed a minimum rest period of one hour, weather permitting.
7. Line ups may be changed from the semi-final round to the final and consolation rounds. Documentation and final approval from the State Tournament Director may be necessary.
8. Awards will be presented to all teams (seven players and one coach) playing in the State Team Tournament. Additional awards may be purchased from OTCA for others on the team or staff.
11. Pairings for the State Team Tournament will be published in the Newsletter and online at [otca.us](http://otca.us)

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER REGULATIONS:**

**In case of inclement weather or if the tournament is played indoors, the following options are available:**

- A. The OTCA VP in charge of the event can choose to delay the start of the event due to weather conditions.
  
- B. OTCA will pay \$300.00 per division in court costs. If the four schools involved in the semi-finals agree to share the remaining costs (approximately \$150-\$200 per school), the match will proceed as follows:
  - 1. Matches will be 2 of 3 sets if time/cost allows, otherwise a 10-point match tie-breaker will be played instead of the third set.
  - 2. Regular scoring will be used.
  - 3. When a match is decided, play on the remaining courts will stop.
  - 4. The match for third and fourth place will be played.
  
- B. If any of the four schools cannot share in the court costs or if court availability is limited, the match will proceed as follows:
  - 1. Matches will be 8 game pro sets with a 12-point tie breaker played at 8 all.
  - 2. No-ad scoring will be used.
  - 3. When a match is decided, play on the remaining courts will stop.
  - 4. The match for third and fourth place will be eliminated.

**Note: Unless court availability dictates the option, Division I and Division II schools do not have to choose the same option.**

**The implementation of the “Inclement Weather Regulations” will be determined by the State Tournament Director. His/Her decision will be final.**

