

## OTCA Stacking Protesting Reasoning, Procedure and Outcomes

The Ohio Tennis Coaches Associations has developed a clear pathway when dealing with possible line-up issues when it comes to matches being played in the **Ohio Tennis Coaches Association's Team State Tournament.**

Line-ups must be played according to the strength of the players (singles) and teams (doubles). If line-ups are not played in order according to the existing guidelines of the OHSAA and OTCA (see rule A.1.11 in the OHSAA tennis manual). The best way to see who the strongest player/teams are through head-to-head competition. This head-to-head competition can (and is strongly suggested) come in the form of a challenge match **(strongly suggested formats to use would be pro set to 8, 2 out of 3 sets with a 10-point tiebreaker for the third set or 2 out of 3 set match would be the best indicator)** or the latest head-to-head match up that could occur at various times through the season. All teams start the OTCA Team Tournament with a warning on stacking.

If a team believes that another team is in violation of this, then the following would need to be done:

1. Inform the coach that the match will be played under protest (after the line-up has been exchanged and before warm-ups have begun) **and no matter the outcome, the protest will go through.** If after a protest has been announced and the opposing coach changes his line-up due to the protest, then the other coach will have an opportunity to make adjustments to their line-up prior to the exchange of new line-ups.
2. The protesting coach will contact the District Representative and their athletic director of the official protest, once again not matter the outcome.
3. The formal protest must be in writing (email) with specific detail(s) on why you are protesting.
4. Within 24 hours of receiving the protest, the District Representative will contact the protested coach to request the information needed. This information will be all the results and line-ups of matches played that season (including tournaments, invitationals, etc.) and all the results of challenge matches.
5. The coach will have 24 hours to submit the information. If it is not received within 24 hours, they will be found in violation.
6. **Once the information is received, the District Representative running the event, both Vice Presidents of the OTCA, President of the OTCA, the OHSAA rules interpreter (advisory role) and one District Representative from an outside district selected by the OTCA Vice President responsible for the overall event.** They will also use the following tools when evaluating: previous line-ups played in all matches during the year, UTR, USTA National Standing List, WTN, any head-to-head competitions at tournaments played throughout the season and challenge match results
7. After reviewing all the information, the following will take place:
  - a. Nothing if the committee decides that no violation has taken place.
  - b. Forfeit of match (NOT the individual matches stacked)—1<sup>st</sup> offense
  - c. Forfeit of the match and suspended one year from participating in the OTCA Tournament. ---2<sup>nd</sup> offense
  - d. Forfeit of the match, **the school** will be suspended one year from participating in the OTCA Tournament and a \$100 fine
8. The decision of the committee will be sent to the OTCA Board, Coaches of School's involved and the Athletic Directors of the school's involved.

