

BAY VALLEY ATHLETIC LEAGUE
BOYS AND GIRLS TENNIS GUIDELINES

I. Season

- A. Girls Tennis is a Fall sport as defined by the NCS.
- B. Boys Tennis is a Spring sport as defined by the NCS.
- C. League competition will consist of a double round robin.
- D. The BVAL meet shall be held prior to the NCS tournament.
- E. United States Tennis Association rules will be the official rules.
- F. Matches will be played on dates scheduled by the league unless both coaches, Athletic Directors, and Principals consent otherwise.
- G. All matches will begin at **3:30 PM** with the option to start earlier if agreed upon by both coaches and approved by the athletic directors and principals.
- H. During Boys Season, all matches after April 1 must start at **4:00PM** unless agreed upon by both coaches.
- I. It is the responsibility of the home team coach to decide whether a rain-out needs to be announced. If a match has already determined a school winner (five wins) and rain forces a stop of play, the score is defined as a completed match.
- J. Rainouts will be rescheduled on the next available school day with the approval of the school principals and athletic directors. If a match is made up, the same participants must compete in their respective positions as in the discontinued match or it is officially a default. The matches will continue from where scores are left off. League matches will take priority for re-scheduling.
- K. The number of matches shall **not exceed 24 plus 2 scrimmages**.

II. Participation of Players

- A. All players must be at the courts by 3:30 PM. Players not there at that time will be dropped from the team roster and players must be moved up on the ladder.
- B. If a team does not arrive at the away site by 4:15 PM, the match will be rescheduled on the next available date.
- C. Warm-up time prior to matches is not to exceed **ten minutes**. Serving is included in this warm-up.
- D. If a player requests a linesman during a match, the coaches must provide a linesman from each school to perform this duty. Coaches are not allowed to be line judges unless mutually agreed upon.
- E. Servers are responsible to call out game score after every point.
- F. Schools are limited to two active coaches at each contest.

- G. Questions, comments, or complaints regarding coaches need to be directed to both athletic directors in writing within 24 hours of completion of event.
- H. Player may confer with their coach for one and one-half minutes (90 sec.) only during the “changeover” Coaches are not allowed on the court unless an emergency situation arises or physical geography (such as buildings or construction) does not allow a coach to converse with a player). Players must bring water and racquets prior to going on court. Play is continuous and a player cannot leave the courts between first and second sets.
- I. Prior to scheduled match, coaches may agree to allow coaching by head coaches during matches for one scheduled contest per season with agreement of both competing schools athletic directors. Coaching may not interfere with the pace of play.
- J. Players cannot leave the courts once the match has started unless for an injury or a bathroom visit. Maximum time allowed is five minutes for bathroom and fifteen minutes for injury.
- K. League varsity matches shall consist of six singles and three doubles.
- L. Junior varsity matches will consist of doubles competition unless other arrangements are made prior to the match. JV Scoring will be an eight game pro set with a seven point set tie-breaker at eight all. Teams may use the alternative JV scoring format in item V. below if both coaches are in agreement.
- M. Varsity matches will be best two out of three sets, no ad, with a twelve point tie-breaker at six all (i.e. the first to seven points and winning by two).
- N. The order of play will be from top down.
- O. Ladders may be changed at the end of every calendar week. Ladders must be emailed to school Athletic Directors and BVAL Commissioner and all league coaches every Monday once league play begins.
- P. There will be no defaulting - Coaches must move players up.
- Q. League matches consist of:
 - 1. Six singles players
 - 2. Three doubles teams
- R. At conclusion of match, both coaches will verify scores and participants names for the official record book. The official book is the home record book.
- S. Matches will not begin unless both coaches are present. A team captain MAY NOT be sent in place of the school coach. An assistant coach or adult representative assigned by the school Principal may represent the head coach.
- T. If open courts exist at any time during team match play, teammates may watch from open court on the farthest side of the center line.
- U. Home Coaches shall contact each visiting team coach prior to their matches in order to find out the number of Junior Varsity players.

- V. Alternative JV scoring format is decided prior to the match and is as follows:
 - 1. Junior Varsity format will consist of a five point total; two singles and three doubles.
 - 2. All matches are eight or ten game pro sets depending on home site preference.
 - 3. Additional matches may be played but will not count against the team final point total.

- W. Linesmen may be requested during matches only by players participating in the match.
 - 1. Linesmen are placed at the net posts and will cover the half-width of the court closest to them.
 - 2. The linesmen would include one member from each team; coaches may not be linesmen.
 - 3. Linesmen do not offer calls on their own; they only respond when requested by a player.
 - 4. Linesmen do not keep score or call anything other than the lines.
 - 5. If a player is not in agreement with his/her opponent, that player can appeal to the linesman on the half-width of the court nearest to the call in question.
 - 6. Once that linesman makes a ruling, his/her call stands.
 - 7. If the linesman who is being appealed to did not see the ball clearly, he/she can shield his/her eyes and defer to the other linesman who then can make the call only if he/she saw it clearly. If neither linesmen can make a call, the original call stands.

- X. If a player requests a linesman in the BVAL Championship Tournament, the coaches must provide linesmen, preferable from a neutral school site, to perform this duty. Tournament Director must notify all participating coaches and neutral team coaches of the use of neutral linesmen. If no neutral site linesmen are available, Guideline D above.

- Y. Any medical time out, including those for injuries, may have a maximum of 10 minutes to assess and treat as appropriate.

III. League Champion/NCS Qualifier Determination

- A. Team champions will be the winner of the BVAL round robin as decided by the win/loss record.
- B. In the case of a tie, the champion will be determined by head-to-head competition. If a tie still exists, a one match playoff will be played at the site of the second-round winner between to two teams. The winner of the one match playoff will be the automatic qualifier to the NCS tournament and be considered league champion.

- C. Individual champions will be the first-place winners in singles and doubles in the BVAL Championship Tournament.

IV. Awards

- A. A BVAL Pennant and Certificates will be awarded to the Championship Team(s).
- B. League Medals will be awarded to the first, second, third, and fourth place singles and doubles players in the BVAL Championship Tournament.
- C. All league certificates will be awarded to the first and second place singles and doubles players in the BVAL Championship Tournament and Honorable Mention certificates will be awarded to the third and fourth place finishers.

V. Equipment and Uniforms

- A. The official league ball is a USTA approved championship ball.
- B. Home team shall furnish two new balls for each varsity match.
- C. If a third set is played, two new balls will be issued to players.

VI. Classification of Players

- A. Match player position is determined by ladder position. Coaches will carry a copy of their ladder.
- B. Coaches are to exchange lineups simultaneously. Lineups must be played according to ladder position.

VII. BVAL Championship Tournament

- A. The BVAL Championship Tournament will be held prior to the NCS Tournament.
- B. Winners of the league Championship Tournament will represent the BVAL in the NCS Tournament.
- C. The coaches will meet before the Championship Tournament to determine the draw and seeding according to the guidelines and league records. In order to be eligible for play, all participating players must play at least half of the league season. JV league matches count in participation total. (If this criteria is not met, an athlete may fulfill the requirements of guideline Q. below).
- D. All coaches will provide ladders and order of play at meeting prior to seeding.
- E. No higher number on an individual team ladder may be seeded higher than a teammate with a lower number on an individual team ladder.
- F. No number one or number two individual player or doubles team from the same school will be on the same side of the draw. The NCS

Hardship rule will apply. Matches will not begin unless the coach or designee is present.

- G. Each school team may enter six singles entrants into the BVAL tournament. The draw for the singles tournament is 32 with four entry matches to be played by the #6 players in the league and two #5 players. The #5 players will be selected based upon the final league standings; the fifth and sixth place teams will have their #5 players in the entry matches. Tournament day draws will determine which schools will face each other with the exception that no #5 player will face a #6 player from the same school. The winners of the entry matches will play the #1, #2, #3, and #4 seeds in the singles tournament.
- H. Each school may enter three doubles teams into the BVAL tournament. The draw for doubles is 16 with two entry matches to be played. The doubles entry match will be played by four #3 doubles teams. The #3 doubles teams that play in entry matches will be selected from the final BVAL standings; the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th place teams will have their #3 teams play in the entry matches. The entry match draw will occur before the main draw and the winners of the entry matches will play the #1 and #2 seeds.
- I. League coaches (or designee) of non-finalist teams will monitor for foot faults and lines.
- J. Coaches are to bring eight cans of balls.
- K. The BVAL Championship Tournament is single elimination.
- L. Players receive a 30 minute resting period between matches for 10 game prosets and one hour between any 2 out of 3 No-Ad tie-break sets.
- M. All scoring will consist of 10 game No-Ad prosets in the entry rounds, round of 32, and 16. The quarterfinals will be a best of two format with a supertiebreaker to 10 points played in lieu of the third set. The semifinals and finals will be two out of three No-Ad tie-break sets.
- N. Playoff for third and fourth place will be two out of three sets, No-Ad Scoring.
- O. Tournament Default: First 5 minutes, loss of toss and 1 game; Second 5 minutes, same as previous plus the loss of additional game; Third five minutes, same as previous and loss of match.
- P. BVAL Championship site rotates alphabetically on a yearly basis provided the host school has eight or more courts. Host school may choose not to host if principal, athletic director, or coach objects.
- Q. Players who have played less than half of the league matches must be voted in by coaches to play in the BVAL Championship Tournament. Coaches who propose entry for such players must explain hardship before vote.

VIII. BVAL All Sportsmanship Team

- A. At the conclusion of the BVAL postseason tournament, the league coaches will recognize those individuals that have demonstrated and serve as models for others in sportsmanship.

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