CIF SOUTHERN SECTION

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TENNIS

2026–2027

PLAYOFF BULLETIN

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2026-2027 GIRLS TEAM TENNIS PLAYOFF BULLETIN

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DETERMINATION OF PLAYOFF DIVISIONS – GIRLS TENNIS

With the passage of the new competitive equity playoff system (CIFSS Council, January 2024), and changes to Bylaws 3519 and 3520, the way we group playoff divisions has changed. To summarize:

- The playoff divisions will be created at the end of the regular season based on the current year's data utilizing a combination of WTN Power Rankings and team results calculated by Massey Ratings.
- It is imperative that coaches/athletic directors enter their full schedule, and score results consistently throughout the season in the USTA platform and CIFSSHome.
- Member schools who fail to accurately enter complete regular season results into the USTA Serve Tennis Platform and the CIFSSHome platform will not be placed into a playoff division and will be ineligible to participate in the Southern Section Championship Playoff Tournament.
- Schools (via the coach and/or AD email) have been getting updates of missing rosters, scorecards, results throughout the season. Please review your results carefully, entering actual opponents played, the correct date the contest was played on, and the match scores/results.

The only thing changing with respect to division placement is the timeframe of data used to feed this system. Previously, the two most recent year's results would determine pre-season divisional placement. Now, only the current year data will be used for in-season divisional placement. The benefit of this is being placed in a division based on the accolades of the team a school currently has, rather than the success of the team in the two previous years.

Please make sure all schedule and scores are completed by **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28th** (end of the day) or sooner!

Last league and contest date: Wednesday, October 28, 2026. (No games may be played after this date at any level).

Score Reconciliation: Thursday, October 29th
Playoff Bracket Release: Saturday, October 31st.

CALENDAR PLAYOFF DATES – TEAM TENNIS

- **TEAM: 2026-2027 CIF SOUTHERN SECTION FORD GIRLS TEAM TENNIS PLAYOFFS**
  NOTE: ALL PLAYOFF SCORES NEED TO BE INPUT ON THE USTA SERVE PLATFORM AS WAS DONE BY EACH TEAM DURING THE REGULAR SEASON.

  DIVISIONS (all divisions except Division 1)

First Round:	Wednesday, November 4, 2026	(Home Sites)
Second Round:	Friday, November 6, 2026	(Home Sites)
Quarter Finals:	Monday, November 9, 2026	(Home Sites)
Semi-Finals:	Wednesday, November 11, 2026	(Home Sites)
Finals:	Friday, November 13, 2026	(University of Redlands/Claremont Club)

  NOTE: NO WARM UP COURTS AVAILABLE AT CLAREMONT CLUB/UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

  Division 1 - Note: Division 1 in previous years was called OPEN Division

First Round:	Friday, November 6, 2026	(Home Sites)
Semi-Finals:	Wednesday, November 11, 2026	(Home Sites)
Finals:	Friday, November 13, 2026	(University of Redlands/Claremont Club)

  Up to eight (8) Division 1 teams will be selected to reflect the Top 8 teams in the section, as determined by the USTA Serve Tennis and Massey ratings.

- **2026-2027 CIF STATE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL and STATE GIRLS TENNIS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

Southern California Regional:	November 20-21, 2026 at Claremont Club
State Team Championship:	November 28, 2026 at Sierra Sport & Racquet Club, Fresno

RELEASE SCHEDULE

On **Saturday, October 31, 2026** after 10:00 a.m. pairings for all divisions will be released on our website at www.cifss.org. Pairings can be found on the Girls Tennis page of the website. Home team (host school) will be marked with an (*) on the bracket.

COIN FLIP SCHEDULE

After the first round, we will be conducting pre-flips in order to give the teams involved immediate notice of their next game location. When the pairings are released on Saturday, October 31, 2026, the draw will indicate home and away teams. On Monday, November 2nd, we will conduct the coin flips for the second round in the office. On Thursday, November 5th, we will conduct the coin flips for the quarterfinal round in the office. On Monday, November 9th we will conduct the coin flips for the semifinal round in the office. Coin flip results will be posted at www.cifss.org on the Girls Tennis page.

CIFSSHOME.org REQUIREMENTS

SCHEDULES &SCORES **Complete your schedule in CIFSSHOME.org prior to your season as well as update scores following each contest**
Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your entire season schedule into CIFSSHOME (as well as update the scores immediately following your contests.
Log in @ www.cifsshome.org (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director). Once you are logged in:
- To **Add a game:**
- On the left panel, click on "Events", select "Add Event"
- Choose Game under "Event Type"
- Choose date of game under "Event Date"
- Choose Tennis, Girls under "Sport"
- Choose Varsity under "Level"
- Type the opposing school name in "Add Opponent"
- Choose the type of game under "Select Game Type"
- Click on Home, Away or Neutral under "Location"
- Choose "Start Time"
- Click on "Save" to add one game or "Save & Duplicate" for multiple games.
- To **Submit your score**:
- On the left panel
- Click on "Teams"
- Select "Teams Manager"
- Scroll down to Tennis, Girls and click on VR to add Varsity scores
- Click on "Post Result" button
- Enter your team's score
- Enter the opponent's score
- The result should auto populate with either "W", "L" or "T" based on the correct match score entered.
- If the game was a forfeit, click on the Yes box
- Enter the set scores in "Notes".
- Make sure that your overall and team records are correct on your team page.

NOTE: Schools/Teams **MUST** enter results, **match-by-match**, into CIFSSHOME during the regular season as well as submit team rosters with players rankings (if applicable). This information is vital to rankings during the season & bracketing for the playoffs. Failure to do so **will** affect Schools/Teams ability to participate in the playoffs. See BYLAW 3519.3 & 3519.4

#3519.3 It is MANDATORY that all Southern Section member schools enter the results of ALL regular season contests and Southern Section playoff contests into the CIFSSHome system (www.cifsshome.org) within 2 weeks of your team's last contest.

#3519.4 Member schools who fail to accurately enter full and complete regular season results and/or Southern Section playoff results into the CIFSSHome system will not be placed into a playoff division for the upcoming season and will be ineligible to participate in the Southern Section Championships in that sport.

CIFSSHOME.org Requirements (continued)

VARSITY TEAM INFORMATION (ROSTER)

Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your entire Girls Tennis Varsity roster for academic eligibility purposes into CIFSSHOME.org no later than Monday, October 26, 2026.

(**Note: USTA Serve Tennis Platform** complete roster of players must be input by **October 10, 2025** in order for the player(s) to be eligible to compete in championships (see page 9)

Log in @ www.cifsshome.org (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director).

- Click on the **"Teams"** tab, click on "**Teams Manager**", click on "**Tennis, Girls**", select "Vr"

You can UPLOAD your roster using the instructions below (1) or you can enter each player one by one (2).

Required roster information for Girls Tennis is: First Name, Last Name, Birth date, Year, & Eligibility

(1) To ADD roster players one by one:

- Click on "+Add Players One By One" and complete fields required for Girls Tennis.

(2) To Import a Roster using an Excel sample file:

- Download the sample file **and** delete the "contents only".
- Copy and paste or type your roster information into the file as the contents and save the file to your computer.
- Only an excel file **(xls)** can be uploaded that is the exact same format as the sample file.
- Columns for information not required for your sport may be left blank, but the HEADER INFORMATION MUST REMAIN EXACTLY AS THE SAMPLE.
- **Required Columns for Girls Tennis are: First Name, Last Name, Birth date, Year, & Eligibility**
- Click on "Choose File" to find your file, then click on "Import"
- To confirm the roster has been uploaded, your players' names will be uploaded in the "**Official Roster**" section
- Click on the "Pencil" edit button next to the player's name to view each player's information.

VARSITY COACHES

Attention Athletic Directors/Coaches: It is very important that you enter your Girls Tennis coaches (Head & Assistants) into CIFSSHome no later than Monday, October 26, 2026.

Log in @ www.cifsshome.org (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director).

- Click on the **"Users"** tab
- Click on "**User Manager**"
- Click on the " **+** "in the upper right hand corner to add Coaches and Assistant Coaches. Enter the information requested on the "Add School User" page. Choose "Active" to provide the coach with access to CIFSSHome or "Inactive" for directory purposes only. Choose Yes or No to give the coach access to all sport, click **Submit**. Choose the applicable options on the Assign Coach to Team page, click Save or Add Another to add additional coach(s).

VARSITY TEAM INFORMATION (TEAM PHOTO)

Please upload no later than Monday, October 26, 2026.

Log in @ www.cifsshome.org (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director).

- Click on the **"Teams"** tab
- Click "**Teams Manager**"
- Click on "**Tennis, Girls**"
- Click on the "**Team Photo**" tab
- Click on the "pencil" edit button under "**TEAM PICTURE"**, choose the file
- Click **Submit.**

AT LARGE APPLICATION – MUST HAVE .500 RECORD OR BETTER

Attention Athletic Directors/ Coaches: Please follow the instructions below to enter your school as an At Large Entry for Girls Tennis. The At Large Application is to be submitted by your school no later than Wednesday, OCTOBER 28 @ 9:00 p.m.

Log in @ www.cifsshome.org (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director)

- Click on the **"Forms"** tab
- Click "**At Large Petition**"
- Add Sport: Select "**Tennis, Girls**", ADD
- Message will display that you have added

NEW PLAYOFF DIVISION FORMAT – 2nd YEAR

In the 2023-2024 school year, the CIF Southern Section Council voted unanimously to amend Bylaw 3519 which addresses playoff divisions. The change in the Bylaw allows for use a system or systems that evaluates the strength of teams based on current year data.
Girls and Boys Tennis will be using the **USTA Serve Tennis High School Module** which utilizes the World Tennis Number (WTN) number in combination with **CIFSSHome.**
USTA Serve Tennis Platform – member schools must claim their school, input roster of players, input schedule, set up scorecards for each match and report scores. The results on these scorecards are used in calculating a WTN (World Tennis Number) for each school. The complete roster of players must be input by October 9, 2026 in order for the player(s) to be eligible to compete in championships.

- All scorecards must be completed following each match.
- Team Power Ratings will be posted during the season. (date to be determined). Teams are expected to record all match scores on their **USTA Serve VARSITY TEAM PAGE** by **Friday** of each week to ensure that the WTN ratings and Power ratings are up to date.
- Final Rankings are a combination of WTN Power 6 Ratings and team results calculated by Massey Ratings.

CIFSSHome Platform – Schools must continue to enter schedules and scores into CIFSSHome as they have done in the past. Currently the USTA Serve tennis platform and the CIFSSHome platform do not interface with each other. League coordinators will submit their entries in CIFSSHome (www.cifsshome.org).

- All schedules and scores must be entered immediately following each match (Bylaw 3519.2)

MAXIMUM/MINIMUM CONTESTS

CIF-SS Girls' Tennis teams will be permitted to compete in a season maximum of 24 contests (each contest counts one) and includes tournaments played in a different format than CIF round robin play plus two interscholastic scrimmages. Any tournament match WILL count against your 24 match limit regardless of format. Scrimmages must be held before the first scheduled game and on or after the first contest date for the season.

TEAMS/INDIVIDUALS MUST PLAY AT LEAST EIGHT (8) TOTAL MATCHES MINIMUM OR A MAXIMUM OF TWENTY-FOUR MATCHES (24) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CIFSS TEAM AND/OR CIFSS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

***If your athlete and/or team has not competed in at least eight (8) matches, you MUST contact CIF-SS Assistant Commissioner Jerry De Fabiis to explain the reasoning.**

Girls and Boys Individual Tennis Sectionals/Championships – Entry Fee

ENTRY FEE: Schools that have athletes participating in Individual Girls Tennis Sectionals/Championships are responsible for the entry fee.
Fees are: $20/singles and $40/ doubles. Once your league notifies you that a player or players from your school have been selected to represent your league at the CIF-SS Individual Sectionals as a 1st and 2nd place entry or your school has been selected to play as a Freelance school, it is the responsibility of your school to pay the entry fee. If a 1st or 2nd place entry from a school should withdraw from the sectional before the posted deadline, the Alternate school from that league will be required to pay the fee. The entry fee must be received in the CIF-SS office before participation in the assigned Sectional. No fees will be refunded if a singles player or doubles team withdraws. Fees are to be paid through cifsshome.org or via school check made payable to CIF Southern Section. No fees will be collected on site at any of the Sectionals.

UPDATED: 7.7.2026

2026-2027 OFFICIAL BALL LIST

	OFFICIAL BALL	APPROVED FOR PLAY MODELS
BASEBALL	RAWLINGS RCIFSS	
BASKETBALL	WILSON NCAA EVO NXT	WILSON EVOLUTION & WILSON JET
FLAG FOOTBALL	WILSON GST SPEEDSKIN HEIR	WILSON GST SPEEDSKIN TDY
	WILSON GST TDY	WILSON GRT HEIR
FOOTBALL	WILSON GST	WILSON OMEGA
		WILSON GRT
		WILSON GST PRIME - DISCONTINUED
LACROSSE	PEARL X	PEARL LT
SOCCER	WILSON NCAA VIVIDO	WILSON NCAA VEZA
SOFTBALL	RAWLINGS PX2CIFSS	RAWLINGS DREAM SEAM
		RAWLINGS RED DOT
		RAWLINGS FPCIFSS - DISCONTINUED
TENNIS	PRO PENN MARATHON+	PENN TOUR
		PRO PENN MARATHON
		PENN CHAMPIONSHIP
VOLLEYBALL, BEACH	WILSON AVP OPTX	WILSON NCAA OPTX
VOLLEYBALL, INDOOR	MIKASA V200W-USAN	MIKASA VFC1000 SERIES
		MIKASA VQ2000 SERIES
WATER POLO	KAP7 HYDROGRIP	

*THE OFFICIAL BALL RULE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL CIF-SS PLAYOFF ROUNDS.

NFHS STAMP IS REQUIRED IN ALL SPORTS EXCEPT GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL, GOLF, TENNIS AND BEACH VOLLEYBALL.*

OFFICIAL BALL RULE:

SHOULD A SCHOOL FAIL TO PROVIDE THE CORRECT GAME BALL, THE GAME WILL ALWAYS BE PLAYED. TEAMS/SCHOOLS FAILING TO UTILIZE THE CORRECT OFFICIAL BALL IN CIF-SS PLAYOFFS WILL BE REPORTED BY OFFICIALS TO CIF-SS AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO HOST THEIR NEXT AVAILABLE HOME PLAYOFF GAME. PENALTY WILL CARRY OVER TO THE NEXT SEASON IF NOT ENFORCEABLE THIS SEASON DUE TO ELIMINATION.

PLAYOFF INFORMATION

A. PLAYOFF IMPORTANT INFO

The CIF Southern Section is pleased to conduct the 2026-2027 CIF Southern Section Ford Girls Team Tennis Championships.

We ask that coaches and athletic directors work closely together in a cooperative effort to produce a top-quality game action plan should your school become a participant in the playoffs. Should the number of playoff entries fail to complete the full bracket, the inclusion of "At-Large" teams will be added to the draw.

All rounds are scheduled to begin at **2:00 p.m.** unless otherwise stated. Scheduled beginning times for the finals will be announced in a later bulletin.

AFTER EVERY ROUND, INPUT SCORES INTO WWW.CIFSSHOME.ORG.

Complete brackets may be obtained via the Internet on the CIF-SS web site at www.cifss.org

B. CIF SOUTHERN SECTION GIRLS TEAM TENNIS QUALIFICATIONS

The 2026-2027 Girls Team Tennis Playoff Entry will be conducted by league placement within divisions.

All recognized leagues will be guaranteed entries based on the size of the league. All 4 team leagues will be guaranteed 2 entries; 5 and 6 team leagues will be guaranteed 3 entries; 7 or more team leagues will be guaranteed 4 entries. Under the playoff format, in all sports, leagues have the responsibility of developing and identifying the priority for their representatives into the playoffs as so noted under Article 320 (Playoffs) of the CIF Southern Section Blue Book. Please note, leagues may not conduct additional contests beyond the prescribed limits unless said contests are to determine ENTRY and not representative priority (leagues must have this as part of their constitution and must secure permission from the CIF-SS office before conducting such playoffs for entry).

AT-LARGE PETITION / APPLICATION – MUST HAVE .500 RECORD OR BETTER FOR CONSIDERATION (see Blue Book for clarification):
Please follow the instructions below to enter your school as an At-Large Entry for Girls Tennis. The At-Large Application is to be submitted by your school no later than Wednesday, October 28, 2026 @ 9:00 p.m. Log in @ www.cifsshome.org (If you do not have a log in & password as a coach, check with your Athletic Director). Once you are logged in:

- Please be sure that your Schedule is updated in CIFSSHome as this is where the information for the At-Large Petition will be created.
- On the left panel, click Forms > At-Large Petition
- Select “Girls Tennis” then click “Add”

Once automatic qualifiers have been placed into a division, and pending space, any remaining spots will go to the highest ranked, .500 overall record or better at-large teams in that grouping. **An At-Large team MUST be .500 or better to qualify for the playoffs regardless of their power ranking.**

FREELANCE PLAYOFF ENTRY QUALIFICATION:

All freelance schools desiring entry into the playoffs must submit their “Freelance Petition” and schedule with updated results into CIFSSHome. **Schedules must be input into CIFSSHome prior to the start of each season for evaluation.** (Rule 3410.1) Match scores must be regularly updated in the USTA Serve Tennis platform and in CIFSSHome, and final season results submitted to the CIF-SS office by October 28, 2026. Freelance schools must also submit an “At Large” petition through CIFSSHome prior to October 28, 2026.

PLAYOFF PAIRING FORMAT

The CIF Southern Section Girls Tennis Playoffs will consist of (8) eight playoff divisions. In 2026, all divisions will be a 32-team bracket, except for the top division (Division 1) which consists of 8 teams that will compete in a traditional single elimination bracket. Divisions 2 through 7 will compete in a traditional single elimination bracket with no more than 32 teams in each divisional bracket. Teams will be placed in the bracket and seeded 1 through 32, as determined by the selection process. This will be regardless of league finish and designation. The higher seeded team, regardless of league finish, shall be the host school in the first round. This means that in the first round two teams from the same league may meet, a league champ may play a league champ, and a league champ may have to travel.

Important information to be considered regarding the formation of the 2026 playoff divisions:

1. Rankings for all teams will be determined after the last league contest and all schedules & scores have been updated. Final Rankings are a combination of WTN Power 6 Ratings and team results calculated by Massey Ratings. As the rankings are dynamic, only these rankings, from that moment, will be used. Teams will be put into order based on their true decimal rating, not reflected in the public number posted.
2. After all qualified teams have been placed into the top division, the next available automatic qualifiers, and all remaining qualifying teams after that will make up 32 team brackets to form the remaining divisions. We anticipate there will be seven divisions (Division 1-7).
3. All divisions will start with an automatic qualifier from league entries, who will serve as the #1 seed in that division.
4. An average of automatic qualifiers will be used to place teams into a division. It is an average, with some divisions having more, and some less than the average depending on the order of automatic qualifiers and number of at-large teams in a grouping of teams. There are 201 automatic qualifiers for the 2026 season. (This number is subject to change based on participation of all teams during the league portion of our season).
5. Once automatic qualifiers have been placed into a division, and pending space, any remaining spots will go to the highest ranked, .500 overall record or better at-large teams in that grouping. **An at-large team MUST be .500 or better to qualify for the playoffs regardless of their power ranking.**

C. PLAYOFF TOURNAMENT RULES/HOSTING INFORMATION

1. SPORTSMANSHIP
   In order to maintain a high standard, we urge every player and coach to review the essentials of good behavior while on the court. You are reminded that this is a Southern Section activity which should be conducted in the highest tradition of good sportsmanship.

2. RULES
   All playoff matches will be conducted under USTA and Southern Section rules.

3. ELIGIBILITY LIST
   An eligibility list must be completed and submitted to the CIF-SS Office prior to your first playoff contest. This list will suffice for all remaining contests. This list is generated through the CIFSSHOME.org site when your roster information is input into the system.

4. TIME OF MATCHES
   All matches are scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. Schools may play at another time if it is mutually agreeable to both competing schools. The host school must notify the CIF-SS Office of any changes.

5. PRE-GAME/HOSTING ARRANGEMENTS

   The host school is responsible for:

   - Securing an adequate site for use in all playoff matches. Our office is recommending six courts with cloth nets be available for team competition if at all possible. If the site has fewer than six courts the rotation must be followed, and matches played as the courts become available.

   - Contacting the visitors immediately after learning opponents name and prior to game to establish any necessary ground rules should the courts or equipment not meet USTA standards.

   - Providing information to the visitors regarding directions to the school, locker room arrangements, visitor parking or any other special circumstances relative to the match.

   The CIF-SS Office is not presently equipped to survey all sites during the coming post-season competition. We depend upon the good judgment of the home school management to notify this Office and all opponents if a given site does not meet minimum standards as outlined in the USTA Rules Books.

7. MATCH RESULTS
   You must post your match results on CIFSSHOME.org immediately following the match.
   This is for score reporting only. Information regarding the next round will be updated on the CIFSS website after 9:30 a.m. the next day.

8. TEAM SIZE

Girls teams shall consist of nine players: three singles and three doubles teams. A player may play either singles or doubles but not both in the same match.

9. BALLS
The host team shall furnish the balls. Three new USTA approved Penn balls shall be provided for each court at the beginning of the match.

10. ROUND ROBIN PLAY - SINGLES & DOUBLES - USE CONVENTIONAL SCORING
(The no-add system of scoring shall NOT be used.) Players shall play a round robin, with all players of one team playing one set with all players of the other team, each set won counts one point in BOTH singles and doubles. Whenever possible, visiting players shall remain on the same court for all their matches, while the home team shall rotate from court to court. Immediately after the conclusion of each set, BOTH teams go directly to the tournament desk to report the results. After a 5 minute rest and as soon as opponents are available, begin playing the next round. Do not wait for the end of a round.

The following formula will be used for Round Robin Play:

1ST Round		2ND ROUND		3RD ROUND	
Visitor	Home	Visitor	Home	Visitor	Home
1	1	1	2	1	3
2	2	2	3	2	1
3	3	3	1	3	2

GAME SCORING: "Deuce + 1"
When opposing singles players or doubles teams reach the score of deuce in any game, the player who is serving will serve the "deuce" and add points. If the score returns to "deuce", the server will serve one more point to decide the game, and the receiver(s) may choose which side of the court to receive the serve on for the last point. In doubles, the player to receive the final point must receive on the same side of the court that the player has been receiving during that set.

11. TEAM LINE UP
All players on both teams starting line-ups must be ready to begin at the designated starting time. Any player(s) in the starting line-up arriving more than 10 minutes after the designated starting time will make that set(s) subject to forfeiture. Late arriving players are eligible to play in the succeeding round.

12. SUBSTITUTIONS
If at any point during a team tennis match a player is injured, play may be halted for five (5) minutes, ONCE only. A second stoppage causes a player/team to retire the set.

Teams may substitute for a singles player, a doubles team, or one-half of a doubles team at the end of any round, before that player(s) was due to begin play in the next round. Once a player has been removed from the lineup, she shall not go back in to play in the match. Players shall not switch between singles and doubles.

Rules governing substitutions:

1. The lineup exchanged at the beginning of the match must be used for the first round.

2. Potential substitutes must be listed on the opposing coach=s scorecard when the lineups are exchanged. Substitutes do not have to be physically present at the start of the match.
3. Before putting in a substitute(s) to play, the coach must notify the opposing coach as to who the substitute(s) will play for and in which position in the lineup. The substitute(s) may have the 10 minutes to warmup, if needed, with an opponent or teammate.
4. Substitutions shall not delay the start of the next round.
5. If a player becomes ill or is injured, the usual timeout is allowed. If it is determined that the ill or injured player cannot continue, the current set shall be retired with the retiring player retaining any games won (example: if the score is 3-3, then the set is retired, 6-3 for the opponent). All succeeding sets played will count in the normal manner. (Adopted April 26, 2001, CIF-SS Council.)

13. DEFAULT/RETIRE

A player may not retire any set other than due to injury or illness. A player defaults if they are listed to play and do not show up, arrive very late or have 3 code violations. Once a player has defaulted/retired in any set, they MAY NOT return to play in any subsequent set. A player who is removed (defaulted, retired, substituted, etc.) may not re-enter the match.

14. TIE BREAK SYSTEMS

In any set when the score reaches 6-6, the regular USTA tiebreaker (7 out of 12) system shall be used:

7 OUT OF 12 POINTS

SINGLES: A serves first point (from Right court); B serves points 2 and 3 (Left and Right); A serves points 4 and 5 (Left and Right); B serves point 6 (Left) and after they change ends, point 7 (Right); A serves points 8 and 9 (Left and Right); B serves points 10 and 11 (Left and Right), and A serves 12 (Left). If points reach 6-all, players change ends and continue as before A serves point 13 (Right); B serves points 14 and 15 (Left and Right); etc., etc., etc. until one player establishes a margin of two points. Players change ends for one game to start the next set, with player B to serve first.

DOUBLES follow the same pattern, with partners preserving the sequence of their serving turns.

(Assuming A & B vs. C & D) Player A serves first point (Right); C serves 2 and 3 (Left and Right); B serves 4 and 5 (Left and Right); D serves point 6 (Left) and, after teams change ends, point 7 (Right)... A serves 8 and 9 (Left and Right); C serves 10 and 11 (Left and Right); and B serves point 12 (Left)...If points reach 6-all; teams change ends and continue as before -- B serves point 13 (Right); D serves points 14 and 15 (Left and Right); etc., etc. until one team establishes a margin of two points. Teams change ends for one game to start the next set with team C & D to serve first.

NOTE: In this Wimbledon style tiebreaker, serve rotation is maintained, although each of the four players may find that she must serve from the end of the court opposite to that from which she served during the set.

15. TIE IN POINTS

In case of a tie in points when all sets have been counted, the total number of games (including any tiebreaker games) shall determine the winner.

"If, at the end of the match, teams are tied 9-9 in points and also in total games, the following procedure will be followed:

Another **complete round robin (18 tie break sets)** is to be played, but, instead of sets, players will play only the 7 out of 12-point tiebreaker against each opposing singles player or doubles team. Each tiebreaker is recorded as one game. If teams are still tied, the total number of points in the tiebreaker matches shall decide the winner. If the teams are still tied, the whole tiebreaker round robin shall be repeated until a winner has been determined. The lineup being played at the conclusion of the match shall be used in the Round Robin of Tiebreakers. The only exception would be the insertion of a substitute who was listed on the original team roster who has not yet competed. There shall be no warm-up, except that a player or team off the court for 10 minutes or more shall be entitled to a one-time only 3 minute warm-up prior to starting. There shall be no rest period between tiebreaker matches.

16. USTA POINT PENALTY SYSTEM

The USTA Point Penalty System will be in effect throughout the Tennis Tournament.
Any penalty points given to a player or doubles team shall carry over for the entire 3-sets match
Violations shall be penalized as follows:

First Offense - Point
Second Offense - Game
Third Offense - Default

Code Violations:

Delay

- Not resuming play after natural loss of physical condition
- Not resuming play after an injury timeout or after treatment on a changeover
- Not playing within 25 seconds of having been directed to resume play
- Passage of 25 seconds after any time violation
- Leaving the court for an unauthorized reason

Conduct

- Visible or audible profanity or obscenity.
- Abuse of racket, balls, or equipment.
- Verbal or physical abuse of a player or official.
- Coaching (except during the 90 second changeover).
- Abusive conduct by a player or a person associated with a player.
- Retaliatory calls (obviously bad call made in retaliation for the opponent=s calls).
- Unsportsmanlike conduct.

17. CONTINUOUS PLAY RULES

The USTA Continuous Play Rule shall be observed.

- All warm-ups (including ALL serves) must be taken before the first point is played.
- Warm-up time before the start of a singles or doubles team's first set - 10 minutes.
- Warm-up time before the start of any subsequent set - 5 minutes.
- No pause or stop in play is allowable except that players are allowed 90 seconds at the time they change sides of the court; this 90 second break is NOT allowed in tiebreakers.
  SPECIAL NOTE: *If court and opponents are available, play should begin.*

18. COACHING

Coaching is allowed only on the change over, between sets and during the 90 seconds allowed for changing sides, providing it does not distract opposing players or delay the start of play at the end of the 90 seconds. Coaching is allowed by TWO designated high school coaches only. These coaches' names must be included on the opposing coach's lineup card. Coaches are not allowed on the court while players are playing.

19. PRACTICE

No competing team will be permitted to practice at the designated championship sites for 12 days prior to the date of the scheduled CIF-SS Tournament.

Per Rule 504 (M) of the CIF Southern Section Blue Book, no interscholastic *practice* or game is to be held on a Sunday. Therefore, no practice is allowed on Sunday, October 27, 2024.

20. PROTESTS
By action of the CIF-SS Council at its March 1983 meeting, protests of playoff contests involving USTA rules will no longer be entertained following the conclusion of the contest. No protest may be carried forth once the contest is completed.

Coaches are encouraged to carry USTA rule books and this bulletin with them for all playoff contests.

Schools will still have the opportunity to protest a contest in accordance with Southern Section Rule 1111, as it pertains to use of ineligible players or violations of any CIF-SS rule in connection with the contest.

21. INCLEMENT WEATHER
In the event that a playoff match or finals match has to be postponed because of inclement weather, that match will be rescheduled. The CIFSS commissioner will give instructions regarding the postponement. Points previously played will stand. Scoring will resume at the point where play terminated.

D. TENNIS MEET MANAGEMENT/SUPERVISION OF ATHLETES

In every high school tennis match the **HIGHEST TYPE** of sportsmanship is expected from every player as described in the CIF Code of Ethics. In addition, spectators; including parents, friends and coaches, are welcome to watch and enjoy matches. **THEIR ROLE HOWEVER, IS CLEARLY RESTRICTED TO THAT OF PASSIVE OBSERVER WITH NO INVOLVEMENT OF ANY KIND DURING THE MATCH AS DESCRIBED BY THE USTA CODE OF CONDUCT.**

Therefore, it is recommended that:

Game management responsibilities for facilities and personal services should be accomplished in a manner which will contribute to the utmost comfort, convenience, and safety of students, spectators, and players.

Supervision be assigned to both home and away matches.

<u>Host School Supervision</u> - Faculty supervisors should be individuals who are as familiar as possible with members of the student body in order to facilitate identification of students whenever necessary.

<u>Visiting School Supervision</u> - The visiting school should assign a sufficient number of supervisors in order that adequate crowd control can be accomplished.

If both schools mutually agree to hire a USTA official for a playoff tennis match, the official's fees will be paid by the home school. If only one school requests an official for a playoff tennis match, the school requesting the official will pay the required fees. ***Contact:***

(1) Los Angeles Area	Teri Cohn, Sectional Chairman	(678) 467-5914
(2) Orange County Area	Bonnie Hartshorn, Sectional Chairman	(714) 992-4547
(3) Inland Area	Holly Haggerty, Sectional Chairman	(951) 788-8192
(4) Ventura Area	Harry Van Besoyen, Sectional Chairman	(805) 637-7606

ATTENTION COACHES:
Spectators should not be allowed on the tennis courts. Separate seating for spectators should be outside the tennis courts. Exceptions to these recommendations must be by mutual consent of each school's head coach.

E. PLAYOFF/CHAMPIONSHIP - Post Season Awards

General information regarding CIF Southern Section Playoff/Championship Additional/Custom Post Season Awards can be found at www.CIFSS.org on the download section of the sports page.

SPECIAL NOTICE - TEAM TENNIS

<u>SUPERVISION OF ATHLETES</u>

The Southern Section Office has experienced a problem which has perpetuated itself over the past few years as it pertains to proper supervision and entry of student-athletes in the post-season playoffs.

The situation relates only to individual sports, i.e. CROSS COUNTRY, INDIVIDUAL TENNIS, TRACK, SWIMMING, etc. and the official recognition and registration of entrants at the respective playoff sites.

State and Southern Section Rule 503 states:

No CIF team (i.e., individual) shall participate in inter-scholastic or approved competition with any other team unless the CIF team is under supervision as required by the California Administrative Code 49032 and CIF By-Law #503 (F). (Additionally, refer to Rule 123.) The supervisor must remain in attendance at all times.

Those persons APPROVED FOR SUPERVISION PURPOSES are limited to:
A. Certificated personnel
B. Certified Coaches (certified credentialed coaches)
C. Non-certificated temporary coaches (certified walk-on coaches)

(It should be noted that schools representing the same DISTRICT may send one credentialed or certified supervisor for three or four athletes. These individuals have been recognized and are to continue to be recognized for registration and participation purposes in that the district has assigned the supervisory role for all students from its' member schools to this one individual.)

However, the concern is for those students who ARE NOT accompanied by a faculty representative and report to the playoff site by themselves or with a parent. ***GIVING PARENTS THE SUPERVISION AUTHORITY, WHETHER IN WRITING OR NOT, DOES NOT MEET THE STANDARDS SET FORTH IN THE ABOVE REGULATIONS.*** **This also applies to parents who are the student's private coach but are not under contract to the member school.**

PLEASE NOTE, THIS RULE WAS REVIEWED BY BOTH THE STATE CIF OFFICE, ITS GENERAL COUNSEL AND THE SOUTHERN SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. IT HAS BEEN REAFFIRMED THAT THE INTERPRETATION STAND AS ABOVE AND THAT ANY STUDENT REPORTING FOR COMPETITION WHO IS NOT UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE AND SOUTHERN SECTION RULE 503, IS TO BE DENIED ENTRY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION.

As pointed out by the Southern Section and State CIF attorney, there are inherent liability problems when an individual competes in violation of said rule. Please review this rule with your staff in that it will be strictly enforced as per the above application.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The highest type of sportsmanship is expected from every player! An understanding of and a commitment to the points highlighted on this card are part of your responsibility as a player in a U.S.T.A. tournament. **Violators of this code or its spirit are subject to disciplinary action.**

1	Once you have entered a tournament, honor your commitment to play. Exceptions should occur only in cases of serious illness, injury, or personal emergency.
2	From the beginning of the match, play must be continuous. Attempts to stall or to extend rest periods for the purpose of recovering from a loss of physical condition (such as cramps or shortness of breath) are clearly illegal.
3	Intentional distractions that interfere with your opponent=s concentration or effort to play the ball are against the rules.
4	Spectators, including parents, friends, and coaches, are welcome to watch and enjoy matches. Their role, however is clearly restricted to that of passive observer with **no involvement of any kind** during the match.
5	Players are expected to put forth a full and honest effort regardless of the score or expected outcome.
6	Players are expected to maintain full control over their emotions and the resulting behavior throughout the match. If you begin to lose your composure during play, try the following: $ Take several deep breaths, exhale as slowly as possible and feel your muscles relax. $ Concentrate on your own game and behavior while ignoring distractions from your opponent or surroundings. $ Be your won best friend B enjoy your good shots and forget the poor ones.

ON-COURT RULES*

Take this card onto the court for reference!

If you have any doubt as to whether a ball is out or good, you must five your opponent the benefit of the doubt and play the ball as good. You should **not** play a let.

It is your obligation to call all balls on your side, to help your opponent make calls when the opponent requests it, and to *call against yourself* (with the exception of a first service) any ball that you clearly see out on your opponent=s side of the net.

Any Aout@ or Alet@ call must be made instantaneously (i.e., made before either an opponent has hit the return or the return has gone out of play); otherwise, the ball continues in play.

Do **not** enlist the aid of spectators in making line calls.

If you call a ball out and then realize it was good, you should correct your call.

To avoid controversy over the score, the Server should announce the set score (e.g., 5-4) before starting a game and the game score (e.g., thirty-forty) prior to serving each point.

If players cannot agree on the score, they may go back to the last score on which there was agreement and resume play from that point, or they may spin a racket.

Foot faults are not allowed. If an opponent persists in foot faulting after being warned not to do so, the Referee should be informed.

$ Do not stall, sulk, complain, or practice gamesmanship.

Wait until the players on another court have completed a point before retrieving or returning a ball.

**Excerpted from the official U.S.T.A. publication, AThe Code,@ whose principles and guideline shall apply in any match conducted without officials.*

United States Tennis Association
70 West Red Oak Lane
White Plains, NY 10604-3602

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2026-2027 CIF STATE SOUTHERN CALIF REGIONAL and STATE GIRLS TEAM TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP:

Southern California Regional:	November 20-21, 2026 @ Claremont Club
State Team Championship:	November 28, 2026 @ Sierra Sport & Racquet Club, Fresno

ENTRY INFORMATION:
The CIF Southern California Regional Tennis Championship will consist of one division with 8 teams.

The 8 teams will be allotted to the sections as shown below:

Central Section	1 Team
Los Angeles City Section	1 Team
San Diego Section	2 Teams
Southern Section	4 Teams **(Division 1 Semi-Finalists)**

Seeding will take place on the Sunday prior to the start of the tournament.

FORMAT:
The player strength ladder must represent both singles and doubles players strength on team roster starting with highest strength player as number one to lowest strength player listed last. This player strength ladder will be enforced for all matches.

Each team will consist of four (4) singles players and three (3) doubles teams. Players may only play one event (singles or doubles). Each school shall decide which event a player will enter. The number one singles player must be ranked higher on the team individual player strength ladder (ladder) than the number two player. The number two singles player must be ranked higher than the number three player. The number three singles player must be ranked higher than the number four singles player.

The ranking of the doubles teams will be determined by the sum of the ladder positions of each team. The #1 doubles team will be the team with the lowest sum, the #2 team with the next lowest sum, and the #3 team with the highest sum. 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.

Lineups may change from one match to the next. If a player in the lineup is unable to play, a substitution is allowed, providing the ladder rules stated above are met. No player can appear in the lineup unless she is listed on the ladder. Moving players with the intent of gaining an advantage is not permitted and shall subject the team to default by the tournament directors.

The player strength ladder submitted for Regional Championships shall be the same player strength ladder as used for the Sections Championship.

SCORING:
For the first round and semifinals, the scoring will be two out of three sets, with no-add-scoring (12-point tie-breaker system). This rule will be in effect, up to the final championship matches. The final championship matches shall be two out of three sets with add-scoring (12-point tie-breaker).

Players are responsible for returning the tennis balls and reporting match results to the Tournament Director immediately after their matches.

AWARDS:

A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the 1st place team.
Team plaques will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place teams.
Individual awards (max. of 15) will be given to members of the 1st and 2nd place teams

2026-2027 CIF STATE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL GIRLS TENNIS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA:

The following CIF-SS Tennis teams will advance to the State Regional Tennis Tournament: (**4 total entries**)

Division 1 – Semi-Finalists (4 teams)

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