



IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Tennis Fall Memo September 17, 2025

Good morning, Head Tennis Coaches, AD's, & Asst. AD's –

Hope everyone is having a great fall. We have just a few quick tennis updates for the upcoming 2026 season this spring.

1. Substate Team Tennis

In working with our tennis advisory committee and approved by our Board of Control, we have adjusted the qualification process for our substate team tennis tournament. For this upcoming season, only the top 32 teams in each class will qualify and participate in the substate team tennis tournament with a chance to advance to the state tournament. There is no change to the singles/doubles district or state tournament, and the team state tournament remains the same as well. This change was made for multiple reasons.

First, tennis and wrestling are the only two sanctioned sports that have two separate state tournaments. In wrestling, only the top 24 teams from each class participated in the regional dual team tournament so this change would create consistency with formats in a sanctioned sport with two state tournaments. Teams dropping out the night before and others unable to form a team or opting out altogether was part of this change. The top 32 teams from each class that advance to the substate team tournament will be from a combination of coaches' rankings poll, UTR, and overall record/strength of schedule as metrics. More details to come when the season approaches.

2. Substate & State Team Tennis Format

With a proposal from our tennis advisory committee and approved by our Board of control, doubles will be played first, followed by singles, still first to five in both our substate and state team tennis tournaments. Based on time, facilities, participation numbers, etc., format and scoring will still be local control during the regular season.

3. IHSAA Postseason Tennis Dates

With change in substate team tennis format and IGHSAA moving their tennis to the fall, there have been a few calendar adjustments for our postseason tennis dates:

- District Singles & Doubles has been moved Saturday, May 16 (week 45 of NFHS calendar).
- Substate Team tennis is now played on one date: Wednesday, May 20 (week 46 of NFHS calendar).
 - Only advancing 32 teams (4-team bracket @ 8 sites) giving room in calendar to extend regular season.
 - More details on format and structure when the season approaches.
- State Singles & Doubles: May 27-28, 2026; State Team Tennis: June 3-4, 2026.

4. Postseason Scoring

Scoring was discussed as well within these format changes but will remain consistent across formats. Team and individual postseason tournaments will all be best 2 out of 3 sets with ad-scoring with a super tie-break instead of an entire 3rd set, with all consolations remaining no add scoring.

5. Cooperative Sharing Agreement Classifications

This was communicated to schools in the spring in our executive director's updates but house file 189 has changed how we are tasked with counting enrollment for cooperative sharing agreements. This change in code adjusts how cooperative sharing agreements are counted; numbers will go to nearest 100th as only 25% of a cooping schools enrollment counts towards the total BEDS of the cooperative sharing agreement between schools.

Thanks, and do not hesitate to reach out if you've got further questions as we progress into the 2025-26 school year.



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