

Rules in this section shall apply to both boys' and girls' tennis unless otherwise specified.

21.1 IMPORTANT DATES - Due to COVID-19, all dates below are subject to change.

2020-2021 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
1st Day of School	1st Day of School	1st Official Practice/Match (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission and substance misuse forms must be on file. Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, March 8, 2021	36th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Monday, March 15, 2021	37th	Deadline to submit schedule online
Monday, April 12, 2021	41st	Boys' and Girls' Regional Entries Due
Monday, April 19, 2021 - Tuesday, April 20, 2021	42nd	Boys' and Girls' Regional Playoffs
Friday, April 23, 2021	42nd	Boys' and Girls' State Qualifying Entries Due
Monday, April 26, 2021 - Friday, April 30, 2021	43rd	Boys' and Girls' State Championships
Sunday, May 16, 2021	46th	Summer Rules Begin

21.1.1 Boys' and girls' tennis shall be divided into four equal or nearly equal divisions. Tennis divisions shall be based on a school's October 1 enrollment that is certified to the Louisiana High School Athletic Association under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the Constitution- Enrollment Calculation. Counting to achieve equal fourths shall begin with the lowest and end with the highest tennis school enrollment. All-girl schools shall be included in the counting to achieve equal divisions. All-boy schools shall be classified according to their enrollment after the tennis schools have been divided. A school may not participate in a division below that mandated by its enrollment. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line in a division shall play in the lower division. A school may elect to play in the next higher division if it submits a written declaration to the LHSAA by noon on the day of the first classification meeting in a classification year. The declaration shall apply for the next two years.

21.1.2 The LHSAA shall place each school into one of four equal or nearly equal regions based on geographic location.

21.2 CONTEST LIMITS

21.2.1 Season: Schools may participate in interscholastic competition from the first until the last day of the school year.

21.2.2 Contest Limitation

1. Additional matches on weekends or holidays.
2. Maximum three matches per day per contestant.

21.3 GENERAL

21.3.1 Boys' and girls' state competition and honors shall be separate.

21.3.2 Teams shall qualify from the regional tournament to the state tournament.

21.3.3 The USTA publication "Friend at Court" shall be the official LHSAA rules. An LHSAA rule shall supersede a USTA rule. The competition bracket to be used at regional and state tournaments shall be the sample brackets from "Friend at Court."

21.3.4 Coaches shall be allowed to instruct their players during regular season matches and regional and state tennis tournaments. Coaching may be done on odd-game changeovers and when players split sets. Only the team coach and/or assistant coach shall be allowed to instruct.

21.3.5 All matches in all tennis events shall be played on hard-surface courts; it shall not be allowed to conduct matches on clay surface courts and grass-surface courts.

21.4 SCORING

21.4.1 The point system shall be used to decide overall team honors in tournaments.

1. A school shall be credited with one point per winning match in boys' or girls' competition.
2. No entry shall count as a bye. One point shall be awarded for a bye only if the team wins the next match.
3. Two points shall be awarded to a player winning a second match and having a bye in the first round in both regional and state competition.
4. If a team is "entered," the entry shall be official. If a team fails to compete after entering, one default point shall be awarded to the other team in the bracket. The other team shall not have to win the next round match to be awarded this point.
5. If the LHSAA declares a team ineligible prior to the start (posted time of team's event) of a tournament, or after play has started, the entry becomes a "no entry" and is treated as a bye.

21.4.2 **Tie Breaker:** Ad scoring shall be used for regional and state competition. No-Ad scoring will be used in inclement weather. A 12-point tie breaker shall be used in all regional and state tournament matches when the score is tied in a set of six games all. The first player who gets seven or more points with a 2-point advantage in a 12-point tie breaker shall win the set.

21.4.3 **Penalty System**

1. A point-penalty system shall be used in all matches as follows: first – point; second – game; third – default (based on consultation with the tournament director and/or referee).
2. The point-penalty system shall be cumulative during the match. Doubles' players shall be penalized as a team, not individual players.

21.5 SEEDING

21.5.1 **Criteria for Seeding Singles at the Regional Tournament**

1. Players shall be seeded in all regional tournaments.
2. Players shall be seeded according to their (a) USTA Southern Standings unless there is verifiable evidence of head-to-head competition and (b) their current high school performance.
3. The tournament's regional chairman shall notify all head coaches in their region of the location, date, and time of the seeding meeting.

21.5.2 **Criteria for Seeding Doubles at the Regional Tournament**

1. Players shall be seeded in all regional tournaments.
2. Players shall be seeded according to their (a) USTA Southern Standings unless there is verifiable evidence of head-to-head competition and (b) their current high school performance.
3. In seeding doubles teams for the regional tournament, a school's first- and second-place teams shall be placed on opposite sides of the bracket.
4. The third-place team shall be placed on either side of the bracket and in a different quarter of the bracket.
5. Teams from the same school shall not meet in the first round of play.

21.5.3 Criteria for Seeding Singles at the State Tournament

1. The LHSAA will place regional qualifiers on the pre-determined state tournament bracket.
2. The LHSAA will post unofficial brackets and allow for a regional dispute time before making brackets official.
3. Regional runner-up contestants qualifying for the state tournament shall be placed in the opposite half of the bracket from the same region's champion.

21.5.4 Criteria for Seeding Doubles at the State Tournament

1. Seeding for the state tournament shall specifically be in the following order:
 - a. All Regional Qualifiers will be seeding on a pre-determined bracket.
 - b. All other entries shall be placed on the bracket per their regional finish.
2. In seeding doubles teams for the state tournament, a school's first and second place teams shall be placed on opposite sides of the bracket.
3. The third place team shall be placed on either side of the bracket and in a different quarter of the bracket.
4. Teams from the same school shall not meet in the first round of play.

21.6 REGIONAL TOURNAMENT PLAY

21.6.1 Each year's regional tournament winners shall select the site and host the tournament the following year.

21.6.2 In individual competition, each of the four (4) regions shall qualify the first through eighth place players in girls' singles competition and the first through eighth place players in boys' singles competition to advance to state competition; giving 32 automatic qualifiers to the state competition.

21.6.3 In doubles competition, each of the four (4) regions shall qualify the first through eighth place teams in girls' doubles competition and the first through eighth place teams in boys' doubles competition to advance to state competition; giving 32 automatic qualifiers to the state competition.

21.6.4 Each region shall be responsible for securing its regional tournament site. The previous year's regional champions shall automatically be the regional chairperson and be responsible for either hosting the tournament or securing another school within his/her respective region to be the regional tournament's host. When a previous year's regional champion changes districts or classifications in a classification year, that region's schools shall meet to determine the site and host for that year's regional meet. All tennis regional sites and hosts shall be determined by January 1 each year. No entries shall be accepted from schools outside an area.

21.6.5 Each contestant named on the entry form shall pay a \$15 entry fee.

1. Checks shall be made payable to the LHSAA and sent with the official entry form by certified, return-receipt requested mail to the LHSAA. The entry form shall also be sent to the regional tournament director.
2. Entry forms and checks shall be postmarked no later than the deadline established in Bylaw 21.1, "Important Dates" section.
3. Late entries (in writing) with the entry fee and fine shall be accepted up to the beginning of the seeding meeting.
4. No entries shall be accepted after the seeding meeting begins.
5. The fine shall be \$50 for one entry up to a maximum of \$100 for more than one entry.

21.6.6 Entries

1. Girls and boys in all divisions shall be allowed to enter one event.
2. Teams in all divisions shall be allowed to enter one player/team in each of the categories listed below. (Total of 8 entries per school)
 - No. 1 singles and No. 2 singles (Boys & Girls)
 - No. 1 doubles and No. 2 doubles and No. 3 doubles (Boys and Girls)

21.6.7 No trophies or medals shall be awarded by the LHSAA in the regional tournaments.

21.7 **STATE TOURNAMENT PLAY**

21.7.1 The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the boys' and girls' state tennis tournaments and present them to the Executive Committee for selection. The boys' and girls' state tennis tournaments shall be conducted by hosts selected by the Executive Committee.

21.7.2 A player may substitute on a doubles team if he/she has not participated in any regional tournament event.

21.7.3 Only regional tournament qualifiers shall be entered to compete in the state tournament.

21.7.4 Immediately following each regional tournament, the director shall provide each state director with the names of all participants in all four categories who qualify for the state tournament.

21.7.5 It shall be the responsibility of the state tournament host to contact and inform all schools or members of the seeding committee of the date, place and time of the seeding meeting.

21.8 **REGIONAL AND STATE PLAYING RULES**

21.8.1 A coaches' meeting shall be held at the court site one hour prior to tournament time.

21.8.2 Players on the same school team competing in boys' or girls' regional/state tournament shall be attired in the same color shirts and the same color pants or shorts; the pants or shorts may be a different color from that of the shirt. Players shall not be allowed to wear blue jeans or "cutoff" shorts. The same color shirts shall be worn by all team members the entire first set; a member may then change shirts with the referee's approval. A player that is not in compliance with this rule shall not be allowed to compete in the regional/state tournament.

21.8.3 Contestants shall be allowed a five-minute waiting period to report for play before a match is forfeited.

21.8.4 The meet director may delay a match's starting time up to 30 minutes if he/she is notified of a possible delay by the contestant(s)' school representative and if the delay is considered unavoidable.

21.9 **REGIONAL & STATE CHAMPIONS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY:**

21.9.1 Using the basis of one point per win, calculate the most points scored during the tournament.

1. If total points scored is tied, the team with the most individual overall winners shall be the champion.

2. If total points scored and most individual overall winners are tied, the team with the most semifinalists shall be the champion.

3. If total points scored, individual overall winners, and semifinalists are tied, the teams shall be co-champions or co-runner-ups.

21.9.2 At the championship match, the champion receives 1.5 points and the runner-up receives 0.5 points.