

# Tennis

## Section I - Championship Eligibility

The following schools compete for the conference championship in tennis: Bryn Mawr (women only), Dickinson, Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg, Haverford, Johns Hopkins, McDaniel, Muhlenberg, Swarthmore (women only), Ursinus and Washington.

## Section II - Men's Tennis Committee

*Chair:* Sean Sloane, Haverford

*Liaison:* Patricia Epps, Franklin & Marshall

## Section III - Women's Tennis Committee

*Chair:* TBA

*Liaison:* Patricia Epps, Franklin & Marshall

## Section IV - Playing Season Regulations

- A. Length of Playing Season.** The length of an institution's playing season in tennis shall be limited to a maximum of 19 weeks (traditional and nontraditional segments combined). *(Adopted 1/12/04)*
- B. Traditional Segment**
- 1. Preseason Practice.** A member institution shall not commence practice sessions before September 7 or the institution's first day of classes for the fall term, whichever is earlier. Spring semester practice may not begin prior to February 1. *(Revised 6/4/03)*
  - 2. First Date of Competition.** An institution shall not engage in its first date of competition (match or practice match) with outside competition before September 7 or the institution's first day of classes for the fall term, whichever is earlier. The first date of competition in the spring semester will be February 22. If February 22 falls between Sunday through Friday, a contest may be scheduled for the previous weekend in lieu of competition during that week. Teams that utilize this option are prohibited from scheduling a game or scrimmage during the following weekdays (Sunday-Friday). *(Revised 6/4/03; Revised 9/23/05; Revised 5/28/08)*
  - 3. Maximum Limitations.** An institution shall limit its playing schedule with outside competition in any one year to 18 dates of competition (including not more than four individual singles and/or doubles tournaments that are counted as single dates of competition), except for those contests excluded in the *NCAA Manual*. *(Revised 6/4/03)*
- C. Nontraditional Segment**
- 1. Preseason Practice.** Preseason practice may not begin prior to September 1 or the first date on which classes are scheduled for the institution's fall term, whichever date occurs first.
  - 2. First Date of Competition.** An institution shall not engage in its first date of competition (match or practice match) with outside competition prior to September 7 or the institution's first day of classes for the fall term, whichever is earlier.
  - 3. Nontraditional Season Length.** All practice and competition during the nontraditional segment must conclude by October 30.

## Section V - Rules Governing Championship

- A. Determining the Conference Champion.** The Conference champion will be determined by a four-team tournament. The teams will be determined by best won-loss record in the Conference round-robin dual match format. *(Adopted 6/1/05)*

**Semifinals** (Saturday at No. 1 seed): No. 4 seed vs. No. 1 seed; No. 2 seed vs. No. 3 seed. Top seed determines the order of semifinal games in consultation with Conference Office.

**Championship** (Sunday at No. 1 seed): semifinal winners. *(Adopted 6/1/05)*

## B. Tie-Breaking Formulas

1. Head-to-Head Centennial Conference play among tied teams;
2. Individual matches won in dual-match play among tied teams;
3. Record versus teams in descending order of standing;
4. Number of individual matches won against teams in descending order of standing;
5. Coin flip by the Executive Director.

When any secondary criteria separates one or more tied teams, but does not completely break the tie among all teams involved, re-apply the criteria to all groups of teams still tied, starting with the Conference's primary tiebreaker for all sports (head-to-head Centennial competition). *(Adopted 6/1/05)*

## C. Starting Times.

**Semifinals** (Saturday): 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. The top seed will determine the order of semifinal matches in consultation with the Conference Office.

**Championship** (Sunday): 1 p.m. *(Adopted 6/1/05)*



- D. Matches.** All tournament competition will take place until the winner of the team match is determined, unless coaches mutually agree before the start of the team match to play to completion of the match. *(Adopted 6/1/05; Revised 3/20/07)*
- E. Incomplete Tournament.** If the championship tournament cannot be completed and each team has completed at least one tournament contest, the highest remaining seed will be the Conference's champion and automatic qualifier to the NCAA tournament. Otherwise, the top seed as determined by the regular season will receive the automatic qualifier. *(Adopted 6/5/02; Revised 6/9/04)*
- F. Inclement Weather.** In the event of rain, the host institution will make provision for indoor backup courts. The host institution must secure a location that guarantees court availability and indoor backup for the duration of the championship. *(Adopted 6/1/05; Revised 5/28/08)*
- G. Officials.** The Conference Office will secure a USTA/ITA certified official for each semifinal and for the final match. *(Adopted 6/1/05)*
- F. Practice at Championship Site.** No practice will be permitted at the championship site (host team excluded) prior to match day. *(Adopted 6/1/05)*

## Section VI - Regulations Governing Team Competition

Conference competition shall follow ITA/USTA rules unless amended below.

- A. Order of Match.** Team matches shall consist of three (3) doubles, followed by six (6) singles matches. Doubles shall be played first. In Conference matches, each will be worth one point. Conference matches will consist of eight-game pro sets for doubles, and singles will be best-of-three sets. *(Revised 6/7/95; Revised 6/5/02; Revised 5/31/06)*
- B. Match Outcome Decided.** Once a team match outcome is determined, all individual matches in progress will play 10-point tiebreaker in lieu of a third set. Any individual matches not yet begun will be eight-game pro sets. *(Adopted 6/5/02)*
- C. Matches Moved Indoors.** If a match begins outdoors and moves indoors, individual matches in progress will be played to completion. Matches begun indoors will play 10-point tiebreaker in lieu of a third set. *(Adopted 6/5/02)*
- D. Official.** Each Conference match must have one paid ITA/USTA certified official. *(Adopted 6/15/94, Revised 6/2/99)*
- E. Completing Matches.** All team matches must be played to completion unless the coaches mutually agree to terminate competition once the team outcome has been determined. If a match is not played to completion, continuation of the match will be played according to ITA rules, unless mutually agreed upon by the coaches. The ITA rules stipulate that if a match can be continued within 48 hours of suspension of play, the match resumes where it left off. After 48 hours, a new match must begin. *(Adopted 6/3/98)*
- F. Warm-Up Time.** Players shall have five (5) minutes to warm up, including serves, prior to the start of a match.
- G. Rest Between Matches.** Players may receive a 15-minute rest period between matches.
- H. Postponed Matches.** All postponed Conference matches will be rescheduled within the next seven days upon mutual agreement by the coaches or administrators. In the final week of regularly scheduled Conference play prior to the NCAA tournament, a postponed Conference match will be rescheduled upon mutual agreement by the coaches and administrators for the next available date and shall have priority over non-Conference matches. All Conference matches must be rescheduled and played should the original date be postponed. *(Adopted 6/7/00; Revised 6/4/03)*
- I. Attire.** Players shall wear proper tennis attire with a team/college logo and/or school colors. *(Revised 5/31/06)*
- J. Jewelry.** Due to the potential for bodily injury, dismemberment, or even death, this policy regarding the wearing of jewelry, body piercing articles, and symbolic bracelets is recommended for all practices and games of Centennial Conference athletes. Tongue studs, spacers, or other objects are discouraged due to the potential for an obstructed airway or soft tissue damage. Protective mouthpieces are excluded from this policy. A player should not wear any jewelry, including earrings, chains, charms, watches, hair clips, bobby pins, tongue studs or items associated with piercing (visible or not visible), or bracelets. Exception: Medical alert bracelets or necklaces may be worn but should be taped to the body. Religious medals should be removed from chains and may be taped to the body or sewn under the uniform. *(Adopted 6/1/05)*