



UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

STATE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES

Championship Guidelines

Revised: 7/22/2026

- **Format:** the State Championships are single elimination tournaments.
- **Scoring:** two-out-of-three sets with regular scoring. Seven-Point Tiebreaker for all sets tied at 6-6.
- **Team Scoring:** players earn points for their team if they advance (1-2-3-4-5).
- **Tentative Order of Play:** 1st Singles, 2nd Singles, 3rd Singles, 1st Doubles, 2nd Doubles, if conditions permit
- **Warm-Up Times:** ten (10) minutes for the first round of the day; five (5) minutes thereafter.
- **Continuous Play:** play shall be continuous play after the first game of each set & during a tiebreak.
- **Changeovers:** a maximum of ninety (90) seconds are allowed during changeovers (continuous after 1st).
- **Rest Period Between Sets:** two (2) minute rest following first set; ten (10) minutes following second set.
- No practice is allowed during the rest period between sets.
- **Rest Period Between Matches:** 60 minutes for singles and 30 minutes for doubles.
- **New Balls for 3rd Set:** if the match goes to a third set, players pick up new balls from Championship Desk.
- **Reporting Scores:** match winners should immediately report the scores to the Championship Desk.
- **Tennis Etiquette:** fans & spectators should remain quiet during play. Coaching is only allowed during appropriate designated times by the certified coaches wearing their UHSAA credential and state badge.
- **Coaching:** instructions or advice intended to change or direct the players' performance. Words of encouragement are NOT coaching.
- **Report On Time:** players must report immediately to the Championship Desk when called. Players should remain at the championship site so they don't miss their call. A default may be called if players are not available 15 minutes after they are scheduled or called to play.
- Requesting an Umpire: a coach may request an umpire if there is a pattern of problems on a court.
- **Point-Penalty System for Code Violations:**
 - ▶ **First offense** – point; **Second offense** – game; **Third offense** – default.
- **Off-Court Disturbances:** coaches and championship personnel are expected to handle off-court incidents of unsportsmanlike or inappropriate behavior by spectators or fans. Issuing code violations and penalties to the participating players for off-court incidents is to be avoided.
- **If a player is disqualified,** the points earned in previous matches will not be taken away.
- **If an opponent or team** does not show up for their match, the assigned points (depending on the round) will be awarded to the player or team they were scheduled to play.
- **MEDIA /PHOTOGRAPHERS:** media wearing the UHSAA State Media Passes will be allowed to step onto the court to take a few shots before moving on as long as they do not disrupt the match. They are not allowed to come onto the court and sit and watch. Inside the fenced area is considered the playing area.

Coaching Guidelines

- Only the two coaches wearing the UHSAA credential and state badge are allowed to coach and only during the appropriate times.
- Coaches wearing the UHSAA credential may enter a court during the following times:
 - ▶ During rest periods between sets, and changeovers (except after first game of any set-continuous play)
 - ▶ Only one coach on a court at a time; they should not be going out on the same court.
 - ▶ Coaching is NOT permitted during warm-up, a tiebreaker or following the changeover following first game.
- USTA time limitations are in effect (rest periods, changeovers) and will be enforced by the Umpires.
- Coaches must be off-the-court and players ready to play at the expected time.
- **Penalties for Coach Misconduct:** Roving Umpires, Site Referee and the Championship Director have the authority to address coaches' misconduct. First, a warning will be issued; if the misconduct continues the coach will lose coaching privileges for the rest of the day; if warranted, the coach will be asked to leave the championship site for the remainder of the day. A "Unusual Situation" ejection report shall be emailed to the UHSAA within 24 hours of the ejection.
- **Appeal:** The coach has a maximum of 30 minutes from the time of the ejection to provide a written appeal to the Referee and/or Championship Director.

Utah Tennis Umpires Association

Roving Umpires Instructions

Revised 8-1-2018

The UHSAA wants the state tournaments to be a positive experience for all participants and recognizes the critical role that the Roving Umpires play and appreciate your willingness to work. The UHSAA State Tournaments adhere to the USTA playing rules and regulations, with exceptions that take into account the unique setting and mission of education-based high school activities.

Besides skill and knowledge to enforce the rules, it requires patience to educate players, coaches, parents and fans that may not be familiar with the role of umpires. Spectators and fans may not be acquainted with the rules of tennis etiquette and the consequences thereof. Because the state tournament is one of a kind, happening only once a year, it carries a great deal of significance to the participants, coaches and parents. For this reason, the UHSAA has some rules and guidelines that are unique to our tournaments. The state tournaments are NOT USTA sanctioned tournaments. A site referee will be assigned at each site and also a tournament committee to handle appeals. The Site Referee is the final authority on all questions of tennis law and the Referee's decision is final. The players have the right to call the Referee to the court if they disagree with an Umpires interpretation of tennis law (Friend of Court).

Primary Role of the Roving Umpire:

- Ensure that assigned courts are ready to play;
- Enforce the warm-up time and Point Penalty System;
- Report off-court incidents and code violations to the Site Referee and Tournament Director;
- Resolve scoring disputes; overrule line calls and call foot faults if directly observed

The Tournament Director and the coaches are expected to handle any OFF-COURT INCIDENTS.

- Issuing code violations and penalties because of off-court incidents, disruptive or unsportsmanlike behavior by spectators, fans or even coaches should be avoided. The Roving Umpire or Site Referee shall notify the Tournament Director so they can address the problem. The umpire can stop play to wait for the TD if the situation is disrupting play.
- Penalties for Coach Misconduct: warning, loss of coaching privileges for the day, ejected from the tournament site for the remainder of the day. The Umpire or Referee must email an "Officials Report of Ejections & Unusual Situations" Form to the UHSAA within 24 hours (uhsaa.org under Officials).

The Point Penalty System for Code Violations

- First offense – point; Second offense – game; Third offense – default.

The Court Umpire shall notify the Site Referee if a second offense is issued so the Site Referee & Tournament Director may be present if a default is issued. The default can be appealed to the Site Referee and then to the Tournament Appeals Committee (15 minutes to appeal). Players should remain on the court during an appeal. Final default is decided by the Tournament Appeals Committee.

The Site Referee is the final authority on all questions of tennis law and the Referee's decision is final. The players have the right to call the Referee to the court if they disagree with an Umpires interpretation of tennis law.

Tournament Appeals Committee: Tournament Director; UHSAA Rep; UHSAA Executive Committee; Umpires Association Officer (other than the assigned Site Referee). At least two, preferably three members of the Appeals Committee are needed to make a final decision.