

2021 KSHSAA BOYS TENNIS CONSIDERATIONS

Revised 3/23/2021

With support of the NFHS, the KSHSAA Sports Medicine Committee and the KSHSAA Executive Board, we offer this document as guidance to the member schools of the KSHSAA to consider for the 2021 boys tennis season. The considerations outlined are intended to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging physical distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel, and allowing for appropriate and reasonable protective equipment. The KSHSAA believes these reasonable accommodations will help with risk mitigation for the upcoming boys tennis season.

FOR AS LONG AS GROUP SIZE RESTRICTIONS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE IN PLACE, THE FOLLOWING BEST PRACTICES ARE RECOMMENDED.

Face Coverings:

All participants (including but not limited to athletes, coaches, officials, spectators, support staff and all others attending/participating in school activities) shall wear a face covering in the manner it is intended to be worn (for purpose of COVID-19 risk mitigation) while at the event venue and for duration of the event. The only exception is provided for athletes during the time they are competing and for officials during active play. Participants and/or officials may choose to wear a mask during active play unless it poses a safety risk.

(New 3/23/21): *KSHSAA Executive Board interpretation (March 23, 2021): Any participant (including but not limited to athletes, coaches, officials, spectators, support staff and all others attending/participating in school activities) **outdoors, who is able to maintain a minimum of six feet of social distancing** would not be required to wear a face covering. Adherence to a more restrictive local health authority or school district policy is supported and expected.*

Player Considerations:

- Practice social distancing and wear a mask when unable to keep a distance of 6 feet.
- Disinfect racket handles after each match and wash hands.
- Bring own water containers and towels and avoid sharing with others.
- Players may but are not required to wear a mask while playing.
- Players will have a temperature check each day.
- In absence of scoring devices, players will announce the set score at the beginning of each game and set.

Coach Considerations:

- Practice social distancing and wear a mask.
- Wear a mask when talking to players on a change-over and between sets.
- Coaches will have a temperature check each day.

Spectator Considerations:

- Practice social distancing and wear a mask.
- Provide own chairs/seats, or may sit in designated areas only.
- Spectators are asked to leave the area when their player is not playing.
- County Health Departments will dictate the number of spectators allowed.

Official/Roving Umpire Considerations:

- There will be no USTA Officials at the state tournaments.
- Arbitration Committees will be in place as usual. Members must stay through the conclusion of the tournament.

Athletic Trainer Considerations:

- Practice social distancing, wear masks, avoid contact with players unless injured. Wear gloves.

Event Staff/Facilities Considerations:

- When reporting results after a match, practice social distancing at score table.
- Remove all score devices on each court to prevent touching.
- Provide a player seat on each side of the court near net pole. Player(s) will use the same chair(s) during the match. Clean after each match.
- Provide signage about social distancing and wearing masks by all spectators, coaches, players not playing, etc.
- Provide hand sanitizer and wipes at score table for players to use after reporting match score.

Tennis Balls Considerations:

- **USE FOUR BALLS OR SIX BALLS**

Although unlikely, it is possible a tennis ball can transmit the COVID-19 virus, as virtually any hard surface can transmit the disease. So, here is an extra precaution you can take to keep safe when playing tennis:

- Open two cans of tennis balls that do not share the same number on the ball.
- Take one set of numbered balls and have your playing partner take a set of balls from the other can.
- Proceed with play, making sure to pick up your set of numbered balls only.
- Should a ball with the other number wind up on your side of the court, do not touch the ball with your hands; use racquet, head or feet to advance the ball to the other side of the court.

Practice Considerations:

- Use “your” tennis balls (see Tennis Balls section).

Contest Warm-Up Considerations:

- Practice social distancing by staying on player side of the net.
- Continue to use racket spin method for determining side of court, first serve. Maintain social distancing.
- Avoid touching gates, fence, etc., if possible.

Competition Considerations (as allowed by USTA and KSHSAA Modifications):

- Play match as intended – players switch ends (go to opposite sides of the court); use “their chair” throughout the match (see Event Staff/Facilities Considerations).
- When/if players split sets, coaches may approach players but must maintain at least 6 feet distance.
- See Tennis Balls Considerations.

- If a ball from another court comes on court, send it back with a kick or with your racket.
- In absence of scoring devices, players will announce the set score at the beginning of each game and set.

End of Match Considerations:

- In lieu of handshakes, please develop and utilize an appropriate sign of respect and sportsmanship that does not include handshake or other physical contact; suggestions include head nod, chest thump, salute, racket clap, etc.