

2020 GIRLS TENNIS CONSIDERATIONS

Revised August 12, 2020

KSHSAA RETURN TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES – ACTIVITY SPECIFIC RISK MITIGATION STRATEGIES

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 2020 GIRLS TENNIS season. The considerations outlined are meant 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. With the considerations the KSHSAA believes these reasonable accommodations will help with risk mitigation for the upcoming GIRLS TENNIS season.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Follow screening recommendations (See General Guidelines).
- Social distancing is to be practiced by players, spectators, officials, etc. Individuals unable to be 6 feet apart are to wear a mask.
- Players should wash hands and wear a mask before and after each match.

OFFICIAL/ROVING UMPIRE: USTA Officials used at State Tournaments.

- Will practice social distancing, sanitize hands regularly and wear a mask.
- Will not be expected to monitor social distancing of players and coaches.

EVENT STAFF/MANAGER:

- Wear a facial mask throughout the event.
- Emphasize that everyone (coaches, players and spectators) are expected to practice social distancing and are encouraged to wear a mask.
- When reporting results after a match, practice social distancing at score table & wear a mask.
- Provide signage about social distancing, wearing masks and other COVID-19 protocols.

COACHES, ATHLETIC TRAINERS:

- Practice social distancing. Wear a mask and avoid contact with players unless injured.

EQUIPMENT/FACILITY:

- 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, wearing masks by spectators, coaches, players not playing, etc.
- Provide hand sanitizer and wipes at score table for players to use after reporting match score.

TENNIS BALLS:

- **USE THREE BALLS OR SIX BALLS – NOTE: ADDITIONAL TENNIS BALLS MAY BE NEEDED FOR EVENT.**

Although unlikely, it's possible that a tennis ball can transmit the COVID-19 virus, as virtually any hard surface can transmit the disease. Take extra precautions to keep safe:

- Open two cans of tennis balls that do not share the same number on the ball. NOTE: If they do, re-mark one set with a different number or letter.
- Each player/doubles pair will take one set of numbered balls.
- Proceed with play, making sure to pick up your set of numbered tennis 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.

NOTE: Because 2 cans of tennis balls will be used per match, it is expected that the tennis balls can be used in more than 1 match. Coaches are reminded to have extra cans of tennis balls on hand.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

- Players should disinfect their racket handles after each match.
- Players should bring their own water containers and towels and avoid sharing with others. Make sure they are CLEARLY MARKED.
- Players should clean /wash clothing, braces, etc. after each practice/competition.

MASKS

- Players may wear masks in competition but are not required to do so.
- Masks should be appropriate/school approved and solid color is preferred.
- When players and coaches are not able to remain 6' apart (exception: doubles pair during competition), the wearing of a mask is strongly recommended.

PRACTICE:

- Practice social distancing by staying on player side of the net
- Use "your tennis balls" (see Tennis Balls section).

CONTEST WARM UP:

- See "Practice".
- Continue to use racket spin method for determining side of court, first serve. Maintain social distancing.
- Avoid touching gates, fence, etc. if possible.

COMPETITION (AS ALLOWED BY USTA & KSHSAA MODIFICATIONS):

- Tennis not an NFHS rules writing sport. We follow USTA rules with KSHSAA modifications.
- Avoid participation in large tournaments. Schedule quads or smaller sized groupings with area schools.
- Play match as intended – players switch ends (go to opposite sides of the court), use "their chair" throughout the match (see equipment).
- When/if players split sets, coaches may approach players but must maintain at least 6 feet.
- See Tennis Balls
- 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.

KSHSAA PROTOCOL MODIFICATIONS:

- Possible modifications at postseason tournaments-introductions, awards, etc.

END OF MATCH:

- 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, hand pat on heart, high 5 gesture, salute, racket clap, etc.
- Winning player/pair will take tennis balls to score table and provide match score.