

2026 Tennis

Classification - based on grades 9-12

6A	1400 and over
5A	1399-700
4A	699 and under

2026 Tennis Season

First day of practice	February 27
First match	March 11
District Tournament completion	May 9
State Tournament	May 15-16

**All individual and team scores from the regular season and tournaments shall be reported on TennisReporting.com.*

Representation to District Tournament

Three boys singles, players, three girls singles players, two boys doubles teams, two girls doubles teams, and two mixed doubles teams from each school may enter the district tournament.

Match Limitations

No team or individual shall play more than 18 regular season dates. A contestant who exceeds the limitations of regular season participation will become ineligible for district, state or any other additional IHSA-sponsored tennis competition. Friday after 1:00 p.m. and Saturday counts as one of the allowed dates. A two-day tournament starting prior to 1:00 p.m. on Friday will be counted as two of the allowed dates.

Participation in Special Events

Competing in outside non-high school events during the IHSA season is prohibited. See Outside Competition Rule 8-11. Exceptional student-athletes may participate in special events (Rule 12) without loss of eligibility provided approval of the high school principal and the IHSA is obtained at least 30 days prior to the event. Participation will count towards the individual's allowed number of dates, but will not count towards the team's allowed number of dates.

2026 State Tournament

Date	May 15-16
Sites	6A: Appleton Tennis Complex, BSU
	5A: Boise Racquet & Swim Club, Boise
	4A: Ridgevue High School, Nampa

2026 Representation

<u>6A</u>		<u>5A</u>		<u>4A</u> (13-team draw)	
Dist I	2	Dist I-II	2	Dist I-II	5
Dist III	10	Dist III	4	Dist III	5
Dist IV-V-VI	4	Dist IV	4	Dist IV-V-VI	3
		Dist V	2		
		Dist VI	4		

State Tournament Rules

- The state tournament consists of five events: Boys and Girls Singles, Boys and Girls Doubles, Mixed Doubles. A player may enter only one event.
- USTA rules of play will be followed, except as modified by IHSA rules and regulations. Single Sticks will be used when available at state facilities.
- Tournament management and USTA officials are responsible for ensuring that matches are played under conditions which are consistent and fair to all players. USTA officials will monitor play at each site if possible.

- Matches will be assigned approximate times. Players shall report at least 30 minutes prior to the assigned match time, and are responsible for checking the tournament's progress before leaving the site during a break.
- Two new balls will be provided for all matches. If supply is sufficient, new balls will be provided for third sets.
- Coaching is permitted by an official school coach (as designated by the local Board of Trustees) during allowable side changes (max time: 1 ½ minutes) and during the interim of split sets. Coaches are not permitted inside the fence at outside courts unless requested for monitoring line calls. One official school coach may sit courtside at indoor facilities.
- Spectators (including other players) shall remain outside the fence at outdoor sites and may not sit courtside at indoor sites. Spectators must observe etiquette rules and exhibit respectful behavior to all officials, coaches and players.

Playing Procedures

- Winners shall report score and return balls to the tournament desk immediately following the match.
- The server shall call out score prior to serving each point.
- Players should not touch a ball that appears to be going out of bounds until it has touched the court or fence.
- Players should be prompt and obvious indicating to their opponents when the ball is long or wide either verbally or by gesturing.
- Officials or line call monitors will be provided if requested by a player. Coaches must be available to monitor line calls upon request if an officials in not available.

Time Limits

- 15 minutes Report for match (after first call)
 - 10 minutes Warm-up (including serves)
 - 3 minutes Interim for split sets
 - 30 minutes Minimum time between matches
 - 45 minutes Maximum time between matches (2 Sets)
 - 1 hour Following a 3rd Set Tie-Break (Per Coaches Request)
 - 10 minutes Correct improper dress
- Medical timeouts and Bleeding Timeouts will be monitored and regulated according to USTA Standards

- In case of delays from inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the tournament format and time limits may be adjusted

Penalties for Unsportsmanlike Behavior

Blatant disregard of tournament rules or egregious behavior by a player, coach or spectator may result in disqualification from the tournament. Violation of the following behaviors may result in disqualification (default).

- Repeated displays of poor sportsmanship
- Racquet, court or ball abuse
- Being disrespectful to or uncooperative with a tournament official
- Using profane language and/or gestures
- Persistent intentional distraction, taunting and/or disrespect of an opponent

The USTA Point Penalty System (PPS) will be used for penalizing unsportsmanlike conduct.

- 1st offense – loss of point
- 2nd offense – loss of game
- 3rd offense – loss of match

Forfeiture of Match

Forfeiture of a match will result from the following:

1. Failure to arrive at the designated time to compete
2. Failure to correct improper dress within time limit
3. Failure to resume after injury within time limit

Uniforms

Uniform requirements are in effect for district and state tennis. Uniforms must be tennis issued or authorized by the school.

Shirts/Tops

1. School name, school initials, or mascot name must be affixed to the shirt/top in a permanent/semi-permanent manner. These items cannot be made out of tape or paper, nor be taped or glued. Names or description of sports other than tennis are not permitted.
2. Sleeveless shirts, scoop necks, t-backs, etc. are permitted. Tank tops that are overly loose with unusually large, loose armholes are not permitted.
3. Shirts/tops must be of sufficient length to cover midriff when standing.
4. Shirts/tops may not have commercial advertising with the exception of a 2 1/4" x 2 1/4" manufacture's logo.

Shorts/Skirts

Shorts/Skirts must be tennis-style and of solid color; nominal trim is allowed.

Dresses

Tennis dresses are permitted provided the top meets shirt requirement and the bottom meets skirt requirement.

Shoes

Standard tennis/court shoes with non-marking soles must be worn.

Hats

Standard baseball caps or visors may be worn.

1. Hats must be solid color; nominal trim is allowed
2. School name, initials, mascot or small mfg. logo are allowed.

Headbands/Wristbands

1. Headbands and wristbands must be of soft material and fit snugly.
2. Scarves are not allowed.
3. Bandannas may be worn only as an appropriate headband.

Sweats/Warm-ups

1. Sweats/warm-ups may be worn in inclement weather.
2. Advertising shall not be displayed with the exception of a 2 1/4 x 2/14 manufacturer's logo.

Undergarments

1. Visible garments worn under the shirt or shorts must be a solid color. (includes sleeves, sports bras, compression shorts, etc.
2. If compression shorts are worn, they must be under the regular shorts.

State Tournament Brackets

All tournaments will be seeded. See "Seeding Guidelines" adopted by the IHSA (www.idhsaa.org).

Deadline for drops is the Wednesday prior to the tournament at noon. Any drops reported after the deadline will result in a first-round bye and no district alternates will be added.

In the event that a qualifier is unable to participate in the state tournament due to circumstances beyond the player's control, the following guidelines will be followed when substituting the district alternate:

1. If seeded player drops:
 - a. Take the 6 seeds, and remove student who is unable to play.
 - b. Move the other seeds up one spot and pull up the #7 player into the #6 seed spot.
 - c. Place district alternate into the group that will be drawn for spots #7-#16 (#7-#13 for 3A).
 - d. Re-draw the bracket.
2. If non-seeded player drops:
 - a. The district alternate will be directly substituted into the draw.
 - b. The alternate will take the same place in the draw as the player who became unable to play. The bracket will not be re-drawn.
3. If one member of a doubles team is unable to participate, an alternate from that same school will be allowed to substitute on the doubles team, regardless of the district tournament results. The bracket will not be re-drawn.
4. If both members of a doubles team are unable to participate, procedures 1. and 2. (above) will be followed.

Scoring

1. Matches will be the best of three tie-break sets, regular scoring; 7-points tie-break at 6 games all. All matches except the finals will be played with a 10-point tie-break in lieu of a third set. The Consolation and Championship Finals (Matches 27 and 28) will be full third set matches.
2. Points for team scoring shall be awarded as follows:
 - a. Two (2) team points shall be scored for each match won in the championship bracket except for the final first-place match. If a bye is received in the first round, the points will be awarded only if the player(s) win the next match.
 - b. One (1) team point shall be scored for each match won in the consolation bracket except for the final third place match. If a bye is received in the first consolation round, the point will be awarded only if the player(s) win the next match.
 - c. Point(s) shall be scored for each match won by default, disqualification, or forfeit throughout the tournament.
 - d. The winner of each championship semifinal shall be awarded ten place points and the winner of each championship final shall be awarded four additional points. The winner of each consolation semifinal shall receive four place points and the winner of third place shall receive three additional points.
3. Ties in team scores shall be broken by the most number of entries that play in the championship finals. If still tied, the number of entries that play in the consolation finals will be used.
4. Separate Boys and Girls Championships will be given. Points for mixed doubles will be split.

Summary of Scoring

Advancement Points

Championship Bracket	2 points
Consolation Bracket	1 point

Placement Points

1 st Place	14 points
2 nd Place	10 points
3 rd Place	7 points
4 th Place	4 points