

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Format

Each men's and women's tennis program participating in the Conference may schedule other members at its discretion during the regular season.

Regular Season Services

1. A publicity release naming both a Men's Tennis Player of the Month and Women's Tennis Player of the Month is compiled and distributed by the Conference Staff during the months of September and October. A publicity release naming both a Men's Tennis Player of the Week and Women's Tennis Player of the Week is compiled and distributed by the Conference Staff once 50 percent of BIG EAST teams begin competition.
2. The BIG EAST Conference Men's and Women's Tennis Coaches Association holds its official annual meeting each September. These meetings are held at the Conference office headquarters in odd years and via conference call in even years. Attendance is mandatory for all head coaches. In extreme situations where the head coach cannot attend, the institution's sport administrator or Director will determine the substitution.

Regular Season Policies & Regulations

Not applicable

Regular Season Awards

1. Men's Player of the Year *
2. Women's Player of the Year *
3. Men's Freshman of the Year *
4. Women's Freshman of the Year *
5. Men's All-Conference Team * (12 members; each team limited to six (6) nominees, which are submitted in rank order by the head coach)
6. Women's All-Conference Team * (12 members; each team limited to six (6) nominees, which are submitted in rank order by the head coach)
7. Men's Coach of the Year * (a vote of all head coaches, with final approval by the Conference staff, determines the award recipient)
8. Women's Coach of the Year * (a vote of all head coaches, with final approval by the Conference staff, determines the award recipient)

* Voted after the Championship (inclusive of regular season and Championship results)

Selection Process

- Coaches nominate up to six (6) of his/her own players in preferential order for All-Conference consideration on the Monday following the conclusion of the Championship.
- Online voting begins on the Tuesday following the conclusion of the Championship. Voting closes the following Wednesday.
- Nominees are forwarded to each coach on a ballot with supporting information (i.e. significant wins, number of match-clinching wins, consecutive weeks ranked, etc.
- Coaches submit choices (to the Conference's Communications staff) from the nominee list, but cannot select their own players. (**Note:** All head coaches are required to vote for the Regular Season Awards.)
- Conference staff approves final selections.

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Format

1. Men's and women's play will mirror existing NCAA format.

Men's and Women's Format:

Nine (9) men's and 15 women's squads compete in a team championship format to determine a men's and a women's champion. Both the men's and women's tournaments are conducted in four (4) days and utilize a championship and consolation bracket for a minimum of two matches; once a team loses twice, they are eliminated from the Tournament. The exception is the #8 versus #9 men's match, which is single elimination. The Tournament Referee determines the match schedule to aid those coaches who oversee both the men's and women's programs. The rain date is on Monday.

- Each team match is a best-of-seven format; eight-game pro sets; 12 point tie at eight all.
- Each team match begins with doubles competition. The team that wins two of three matches earns one point (play is stopped after a team wins two of three).
- Singles competition starts 10 minutes after a team has won two of the three doubles matches.
- Singles competition follows with each match winner earning one team point.
- The team that totals four of the possible seven points wins the team match and advances in the bracket. When a team reaches the four-point total, play is stopped.

Format	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
(# Men's Team Matches) Match Times	Practice	(1) 9 am plus practice	(4) 9 am/Noon	(4) 9 am/Noon	(3) 9 am/Noon	Rain Date
(# Women's Team Matches) Match Times	Practice	(7) 9 am/Noon plus practice	(7) 9 am/Noon/3 pm	(6) 9 am/Noon/3 pm	(4) 9 am/Noon	Rain Date

2. Each men's and women's team has six (6) singles players and three (3) doubles teams.
3. A tournament meeting is conducted for **all** participating head coaches on the Wednesday evening preceding the start of the Championships.
4. A social for the nine (9) men's and 15 women's participating teams will be held after Thursday's competition is concluded.
5. The men's and women's tournament champions earn the Conference's automatic bids to the NCAA Tournaments. Should the tournaments not be completed, the highest-seeded teams remaining in the tournaments at the point of cessation will represent the Conference at the NCAA events. In the event that the Championship (Men's and/or Women's) is not completed, no champion(s) will be declared.

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Seeding Requirements/Procedures

1. Team Lineup Form/Entry Form, listing 15 singles players and seven (7) doubles teams in rank order of ability, will be submitted to the Conference staff by Noon (EDT), Tuesday, April 9. Coaches shall list only players in their lineup who are physically capable of competing in the Championship. Coaches are also required to submit an ITA Dual Match Record Form (NOTE: Coaches should keep their dual match records complete and up-to-date on the ITA web site).

Team Lineup Form/Entry Form, which will be included in the Championship Handbook, requires the submission of singles players and doubles teams dual match won-lost record at each position. Coaches are reminded that Fall results are not to be included in players' won-lost records or listed on the ITA Dual Match Record Form.

2. Seeding process for Men's and Women's programs will occur on the Monday prior to the Championships.
 - a. The Seeding Committee will be composed of the following persons:
 - 1) Four (4) Sport Committee Members
 - 2) Six (6) Head Coaches in an advisory capacity - three (3) to advise for men; three (3) to advise for women
 - b. Process for Seeding and Lineup Challenges is as follows:
 - 1) All head coaches must submit their Team Lineup Form/Entry Form and ITA Dual Match Record Form to the Conference staff by Noon (EDT), Tuesday, April 9. The Conference staff will coordinate and distribute submitted materials to the Men's/Women's Selection & Seeding Committee.
 - 2) Submitted singles and doubles lineups with corresponding position records will be posted on the Conference website no later than 5:00 p.m. (EDT), Wednesday, April 10.
 - 3) Challenges to officially entered and posted lineups must be received in writing from the head coach initiating the challenge(s) no later than Noon (EDT), Friday, April 12. (NOTE: Institutional administrators MUST sign off on/agree upon the challenge(s) before they are submitted to the Conference staff. Challenges that are not signed off by institutional administrators WILL NOT be accepted under any circumstance.) Conference staff will provide a copy of any submitted challenges to the head coach and administrator of the team(s) in question.
 - 4) Challenges will be reviewed without input from the advisory coaches, unless otherwise requested by the Sport Committee Chair, on the seeding conference call that will be conducted on the afternoon of Monday, April 15. All head coaches must make themselves available during the time of their respective seeding call.
 - 5) The advisory coaches will provide input/recommendations to the Sport Committee, relative to seeding.
 - 6) Advising coaches will excuse themselves after the Sport Committee has sufficient information/feedback regarding the teams.
 - 7) The Sport Committee will make final determinations relative to seeding.

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Seeding Requirements/Procedures (continued)

Seeding process for Men's and Women's programs (continued)

Process for Seeding and Lineup Challenges (continued)

- 8) Lineups for the nine (9) men's and 15 women's teams who will be participating in the Championships will be posted on the Conference website no later than 5:00 p.m. (EDT), Monday, April 15.
 - 9) Final lineups of eight (8) singles players and three (3) doubles teams must be submitted at the beginning of the Technical Meeting on Wednesday, April 17. Changes to the active roster are permitted after the second day of competition; however, order of strength must be maintained from the initial lineup of 15 student-athletes.
- c. The following Seeding Criteria will be used to determine the nine (9) participating men's teams:
- 1) ITA rankings: The ITA rankings, based on all team results during the regular spring season, will be used to represent a combination of four categories (won-lost record or percentage, strength of schedule, road wins, significant wins and significant losses). Higher-ranked teams will be awarded a specific number of points based on their percentage difference (using the rankings' average point-per-match formula) over the team they are being compared with in the seeding process. Points will be awarded on the following scale:
 - 1 point If higher ranked team's average is 1-10 percent greater than the lower-ranked team's average
 - 2 points If higher-ranked team's average is 10.1-20 percent greater than the lower-ranked team's average
 - 3 points If higher-ranked team's average is 20.1 percent greater than the lower-ranked team's average
 - 2) Head-to-head competition: This is a one-on-one direct comparison between two teams. The committee will award a maximum of two points for defeating the same opponent two or more times.
 - 3) Results versus common opponents: Other than in cases in which the common opponent analysis is clear cut (each team has played a common opponent with one team winning and one team losing), the committee will look very closely at the comparison before deciding whether one team has demonstrated a higher level of play versus a common opponent.
 - 4) Wins versus teams already selected at the time of selection: A one-point margin is sufficient enough to win the category. The committee will award a maximum of two points for defeating the same opponent multiple times.
 - 5) Tiebreakers: If, after the analysis described above, two teams are still tied, the committee will break the tie by using the following criteria (in order): head-to-head competition, ITA ranking.

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Seeding Requirements/Procedures (continued)

Seeding process for Men's and Women's programs (continued)

- d. The following Criteria will be used to seed the 15 participating women's teams. Level 1 and Level 2 will be reviewed in priority order; however, criteria within each level will not be prioritized.
 - 1) Level 1 seeding criteria:
 - Head-to-head competition
 - Results versus common opponents
 - ITA Rankings 1-75
 - 2) Level 2 seeding criteria:
 - Winning percentage
 - Strength of schedule
 - Significant wins and losses
 - Late season play
 - ITA rankings 76-125

Championship Policies & Regulations (ITA and/or NCAA rules apply)

1. All men's and women's matches must be played with the official ball, Wilson U.S. Open Extra Duty.
2. During Championship competition, balls shall be changed at the start of each set. Each participating institution must provide its own practice balls.
3. Practice at the host facility, if requested, will be scheduled by the host institution on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the Championships, weather permitting.
4. Any change in the match schedule because of inclement weather will be determined by the Conference staff, the Tournament Referee and the Men's and Women's Tennis Committee.
5. Regular scoring (best of three sets) will be utilized during singles play and eight-game pro sets during doubles play.
6. All NCAA rules, in lieu of ITA rules, will be utilized relative to the entry/lineup process.
7. Changes in the lineup for reasons other than injury or illness should be requested one hour before the scheduled start of the match to the chair of the Sport Committee. The Sport Committee has the right to review and, if necessary, overrule a coach's decision regarding a lineup change based on the ability of the players and the matches during the last half of the season.
8. Once a match is underway (i.e. once doubles teams/players have begun their warm-up on the court), a player cannot be replaced.
9. Head coaches are required to inform the referee of any changes in the lineups. In the case of injury, illness or extenuating circumstances (as determined by the coach, to be approved by the Sport Committee), a replacement can be made in the lineup. A replacement for an injured or ill player must be made 30 minutes prior to the start of the match. In such cases, the lineup must remain in order of strength, with student-athletes moving up one place in singles and the new player placed in the No. 6 singles position.

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Policies & Regulations (continued)

10. For doubles competition, any replacement is a straight-line replacement. The three doubles teams must remain in order of strength as determined by their respective competition records. The Sport Committee has the right to review and, if necessary, overrule a coach's decision regarding a lineup change, based on the ability of the players and matches during the season.
11. In team competition, if a player is injured during the pro set doubles and that player is in the singles lineup, substitutions may be made for singles play but the lineup must follow the order of strength submitted on the lineup.
12. There are no service lets in Men's Division I Team competition. If the serve hits the net and goes into the service box, the ball is in play.
13. Women are allowed three (3) sideline coaches, who must be identified to the Tournament Referee or Deputy Referee.

Men are allowed three (3) sideline coaches, who must be identified to the Tournament Referee or Deputy Referee.
14. As contracted by the Conference staff, the following will officiate the tournaments:
 - a. One Tournament Referee and one Deputy Referee (one at each site).
 - b. All main draw matches will be chaired. Roving umpires will be utilized for backdraw matches. Only the Tournament Referee and Deputy Referee have the authority to default athletes.
 - c. One (1) roving umpire per court for Championship matches; three (3) roving umpires for consolation matches (9 total).
15. The ITA carry-over rule will be in effect for the entire Championships. Penalties may be carried over to the institution's next match.
16. If a post-match code violation is given after a match in the team competition and cannot be applied during the team match, then:
 - a. Any post-match code is carried over to the offending student-athlete's next opportunity during that Championship.
 - b. If the offending student-athlete has completed play in the Championship, any post match code will be assessed at the first opportunity to the offending student-athlete's teammate(s) playing/continuing in the Championships.
 - c. The assessment will be applied at the start of the next game or, if in a tiebreaker, then immediately (per ITA Friend at Court).
17. Fans may not display signs or banners deemed as being offensive or inappropriate to particular institutions, players or coaches in the facility. These banners should be identified and removed by security personnel.

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Policies & Regulations (continued)

18. Spectator Etiquette:

Tennis is a social game, a game involving simple politeness and consideration. In order to create an enjoyable experience for the spectator, as well as the student-athletes and coaches, the Conference asks that spectators follow these simple guidelines:

- Do Not** applaud before a point has ended,
- Do Not** talk during a point (if it is necessary, talk quietly),
- Do Not** walk along side/behind a court in a distracting manner during a point,
- Do Not** offer coaching tips,
- Do Not** yell during the service toss,
- Do Not** use electronic sound devices or artificial noise makers during play,
- Do Not** mock a student-athlete's/player's grunts or other sounds, AND
- Never** heckle a student-athlete/player,
- Never** offer opinions on line calls,
- Never** comment on race, age or country of origin,
- Never** "boo"

Please note, that the Tournament Manager, in concert with the Meet Referee and the Sport Committee, reserve the right to remove anyone displaying unacceptable conduct or behavior (as detailed in, but not limited to, the above conditions) from the area and may temporarily suspend play, if necessary.

Championship Awards, Gifts & Services

1. The men's and women's Championship teams receive a trophy and individual awards on site.
2. The men's and women's runner-up teams receive a trophy on site.
3. A Men's Most Outstanding Tournament Performer is selected at the Championship by the Games Committee/Conference Staff.
4. A Women's Most Outstanding Tournament Performer is selected at the Championship by the Games Committee/Conference Staff.
5. The Conference staff produces a Championship program. A press release previewing the event is distributed prior to the Championships.
6. Each Men's & Women's Tennis student-athlete competing in the Championship receives a gift from the Conference office, which will be provided at the Tennis Championships.