CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

The 2019 PIAA Team Tennis Championships shall be conducted pursuant to all applicable By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, and Rules and Regulations of PIAA. Additionally, it is important that the Principal, Athletic Director, and head tennis Coach of all Teams that will participate in the PIAA Team Tennis Championships and all persons who will have responsibilities involving these activities be fully informed of the policies and procedures described herein. It is also necessary that everyone associated with these championships comply with all policies and procedures, without exception. Failure to comply may result in removal from the PIAA Team Tennis Championships.

PIAA member schools are not required to enter PIAA championship events. Entry and participation in the PIAA Team Tennis Championships are voluntary. Entry into the PIAA Team Tennis Championships signifies that the member school accepts the fact that the PIAA Executive Director, or the Executive Director’s designee, reserves the right to make changes in the date and location of Contest sites, and management, operation, schedule, and site of the PIAA Team Tennis Championships if, in the judgment of the Executive Director, or the Executive Director’s designee, it becomes necessary to do so.

ENTRY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A representative of each school that qualifies a Team for the PIAA Team Tennis Championships must complete the electronic Team Information Form found on the PIAA website under the Tennis Championship page. In the form you will also be asked to submit a Team picture. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING THE ELECTRONIC TEAM INFORMATION FORM IS 4:00 P.M., MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019.

FIRST ROUND CONTESTS

Schools that qualify for the first round will be notified concerning their opponent, home/away Team, location, date, and starting time of Contest, and name and telephone number of the PIAA-Appointed Contest Manager BY THEIR PIAA DISTRICT TEAM TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.

Principals or Athletic Directors of competing member schools, upon notification of relevant information from their PIAA District Team Tennis Championships Tournament Director, should IMMEDIATELY contact the PIAA-Appointed Contest Manager of their respective Contests and (1) confirm the opponent, home/away Team, location of Contest, date and starting time of Contest; (2) arrange for a locker room, if needed; (3) obtain directions to the Contest site; (4) state the departure time of the Team and the approximate time of arrival at the Contest site; (5) state the anticipated number of spectators from the school and community that will attend the Contest; and (6) state a telephone number at which the Principal or the Athletic Director will be available, up to the announced departure time of the Team.

First round pairings of all qualifying Teams and first round sites will be posted on the PIAA website under the Tennis Championship page by 12:00 p.m., Monday, October 21, 2019.
LODGING AND MEALS

Lodging is not available at Hershey Racquet Club and will not be provided by PIAA. A representative of each participating school must make arrangements for lodging and for meals, as required, for the school’s Qualifiers and Coaches. For an abbreviated listing of hotels and motels in the area visit: www.piaa.org

Reservations are available through:
Hershey PA Reservations: 844-330-1811 or http://www.hersheypa.com/
Visit Hershey & Harrisburg: 877-727-8573 or www.visithersheyharrisburg.org/
Hershey-Harrisburg Welcome Center: http://www.hersheypa.com/stay-with-us/

REGISTRATION

Registration will be conducted at the Hershey Racquet Club on Friday, October 25 2019. All contestants and Coaches are required to register at the Tournament desk 30 min prior to the scheduled starting time of their preliminary match.

Registration packets will include: 1) Memo, 2) Brackets (Pairings), 3) Complimentary Program

ADMISSION FEES

Admission fees shall be charged for each day of competition, at all first round, quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals of the PIAA Team Tennis Championships. Only pre-kindergarten children are admitted free-of-charge.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

A Coach from each member school that has qualified a Team to the PIAA Tennis Championships must accompany and supervise those persons representing that member school. However, the member school may send a full-time professional employee of the school district in lieu of a Coach for purposes of accompanying and supervising the member school’s Team to the PIAA Tennis Championships. This full-time professional employee must be a properly designated representative of the member school’s Team, and that individual must be fully responsible for supervision of that Team.

COACH AND SPECTATOR DECORUM

Coaches will be limited to advising or instructing contestants during competition, as follows: The designated Coach per Team, per court may enter the court area 1) during the two-minute set break, as the set ends, and advise or instruct their player(s); and 2) during the five-minute off-the-court break, which is provided for between split sets.

Coaches and/or spectators who interfere with contestants’ play or attempt to Coach and/or advise, except as provided for herein, will be escorted from the playing/viewing area by the Tournament Director or the Tournament Director’s designee.

CONTESTANT ATTIRE

All tennis contestants are required to wear appropriate tennis attire (i.e. school-issued tennis shirt and tennis shorts.) No exceptions are permitted. T-shirts without school name/nickname, altered apparel, jeans, and advertisements (other than one visible logo/trademark not exceeding 2 ¼ square inches and 2 ¼ inches in any dimension on a cap, headband, visor, school issued tennis shirt, and tennis shorts or skirt and/or a school’s name/nickname) will not be permitted. The use of tape for the purpose of covering a logo that does not meet the aforementioned specifications WILL NOT BE PERMITTED. The school’s name/nickname and/or school’s logo are permitted on the front and/or back of the school-issued tennis shirt. Shoes with soles that leave discolored markings on competition surfaces are prohibited.
PRACTICE

Practices are permitted prior to Friday, October 25, 2019. To schedule Practice times at the Hershey Racquet Club, Coaches should submit a Practice Request Form located on the Tennis Championships page of the PIAA Website. **Teams ARE NOT PERMITTED to practice on the competition surface on Friday, October 25, and Saturday, October 26, 2019.** Teams will still be permitted a ten (10) minute warm-up period prior to their respective matches.

TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Each Team shall consist of three (3) Singles Players and two (2) Doubles teams. Players may only play one event (singles or doubles).

2. Each Team, listing students in order of ability, shall establish a strength ladder from 1 to 10. The strength ladder submitted for the Team shall represent the best player at that time at 1st singles, the next best at 2nd singles, and the next at 3rd singles, and so on. The first three (3) student-athletes shall play singles in the order that they are listed on the strength ladder. From the remaining members of the team, two doubles teams are to be selected with the stronger doubles combination playing 1st Doubles. Due to the difference in skill level among doubles players, the singles ladder is not the defining criteria for establishing doubles. No player shall be eligible for singles or doubles team unless they are listed on the team’s strength ladder.

3. Each team shall submit their strength ladder and lineup (1st, 2nd, & 3rd singles, 1st & 2nd doubles), at the beginning of their District Team Tennis Tournament. A team’s strength ladder and lineup **may not be changed** throughout the respective District and Inter-District Team Tennis Tournament.

4. Substitutions may be made only in cases of illness, injury, or severe personal hardship. (As determined appropriate by the Tournament Director). The school’s athletic administration and/or Head Tennis Coach shall provide supporting documentation for such substitutions. **A team may elect to substitute or not substitute when the above authorized substitution conditions are present.**

   a. An ill or injured player may be substituted for and then be reentered in the same position in the team’s strength ladder, upon documented authorization from a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine.

   i. Teams are prohibited from making substitutions that would allow an ill or injured player to be moved from playing singles to doubles, and then back to singles when the ill or injured player has recovered, even with a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine’s documented authorization.

   b. Singles substitution can be made from any of the remaining players on the team’s strength ladder, and shall result in the three singles players playing in order of their ability as determined by the strength ladder. **A Doubles Team does not have to be disrupted in order to replace a singles player. If a member of the team’s Double Team is designated the substitute for the singles position, then the resulting vacant doubles position should be replaced by a player on the team’s strength ladder who was not previously assigned to a doubles team.**

   c. Doubles Team substitutions, are direct-line substitutions only. Substitution of both doubles partners is prohibited, if only one of the two players experiences an illness, injury, or severe personal hardship.

     i. A team may not substitute a player from one of their established Doubles Teams to fill in a spot on the school’s other Doubles Team.

   d. Changing the strength order of the Doubles Teams after any direct-line substitution is prohibited.
5. Stacking is NOT Permissible.

Sports such as tennis, have unwritten codes of ethics that are traditional and inherent in the playing rules. Coaches and players have a responsibility to uphold the ethics of tennis as well as the game rules. In an effort to promote fair play and wholesome team competition, coaches shall submit legitimate lineups based on the skill ability of their participating players. Under no circumstances shall a coach stack a lineup. “Stacking” or moving players around with the intent of gaining a competitive advantage is prohibited. Individual matches (singles and/or doubles) will be subject to forfeiture for violation of this rule.

6. ALL matches will consist of the best of three (3), 7-point tiebreak sets.
   a. At the point a Team has secured three wins, the remaining matches will be conducted using no-add scoring effective with the next game regardless of set. This rule revision is for PIAA District and Inter-District play.
   b. The rationale is to encourage coaches to allow the remaining matches to finish and to have an outcome for every match position; whereas, now coaches often pull remaining matches after the team win is secured.
   c. If both coaches agree to pull remaining matches, then those matches would be scored as not completed. No point will be awarded to either team and the match ruled as “Did Not Finish”.
   d. If both coaches do not agree to pull the remaining matches, then the team removing the player from the match would receive a loss by default and the opponent would be awarded the win.
   e. At the point a Team has secured three wins, the Tournament Director reserves the right to use a 10-point match tie-break set, in lieu of no-add scoring, for the third set of play.

7. COACHING
   a. One (1) coach will be permitted at the edge of the court for two (2) minutes between set one and set two, or during the split (five (5) minutes).
   b. Only one coach per team per court is permitted.

8. “The Code” and the Rules of Tennis of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) shall govern all play. In addition, the USTA Point Penalty System (PIAA-Modified) shall be followed.
   a. The purposes of the USTA Point Penalty System (PIAA-Modified) are to: (a) deter unsportsmanlike conduct, (b) promote compliance by all contestants with the continuous play rule, and (c) promote on-time appearance for matches. The objective of the USTA Point Penalty System (PIAA-Modified) is not to punish but to promote equal compliance by all contestants with the Rules of Tennis.

**USTA POINT PENALTY SYSTEM (PIAA-MODIFIED)**

**Delay of Game**
For violations of delay of game:
(a) At 90-second changeover or other times, stalling, prolonging, argument over a decision, injury time-out.
(b) Failure to start play after expiration of ten-minute warm-up period.
Penalty: First offense, warning; second offense, point; third offense, game; fourth offense, default

**Unsportsmanlike Conduct**
(a) Profane or obscene language or gestures, when not directed at a person or persons: First offense, warning; second offense, point; third offense, game; fourth offense, default. When directed at an official, opponent, or spectator(s): First offense, point; second offense, game; third offense, default.
(b) Abuse of racquet, balls, equipment; such as hitting or kicking ball out-of-court: First offense, warning; second offense, point; third offense, game; fourth offense, default.

c) Major unsportsmanlike acts, such as hitting a ball at or near an official, ball boy, linesman, or spectator(s) or intentional racquet dropping to disconcert opponent: First offense, two points; second offense game; third offense, default.
(d) Single flagrant unsportsmanlike acts, such as physical attacks; injury to an official or player through an act of racket or ball abuse; spitting on a person; and racial, religious, and sexual orientation slurs. First offense, default.

**Tardiness**

A Team will be penalized one (1) game for each five (5) minutes, or fraction thereof, of tardiness from the time the match is called and both court and opponent are ready. This does not rule out liability to outright default for more than fifteen (15) minutes of unexcused lateness beyond the set deadline.

**CHAMPIONSHIP MERCHANDISE**

CR & A Designs is the official exclusive merchandise representative of PIAA. CR & A Designs will offer official PIAA merchandise, novelties and souvenir programs at the PIAA Team Tennis Championships. All items will be available inside the Hershey Racquet Club as well as the CR & A Designs online store. Anyone that would like to receive PIAA Championships merchandise after the event can visit the CR & A Designs online store by clicking “Store” at [www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org).

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**AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY**

Immediately following the conclusion of each championship (final) match, twelve (12) individual medals and a team trophy will be awarded to members of both the runner-up and championship Teams. The runner-up Team will receive its medals and trophy first, immediately followed by the championship Team. The head tennis Coaches will be asked to present the individual Team medals to the members of their respective Teams. To order additional medals please contact: Jostens/Union Emblem Co., 6130 Jonestown Rd. Suite C, Harrisburg, PA 17112 | 717-838-1311 | email: centralpa@jostens.com

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Jennifer S. Grassel, will serve as the PIAA Team Tennis Championships Tournament Director and David Long will serve as the PIAA Team Tennis Championships Tournament Referee and PIAA Assistant Executive Director. For further information access the PIAA website: [www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org)