Tennis Boys

Sport Handbook – Spring 2026

Section 1: Rules

A. All contests under the jurisdiction of the RIIL shall be played according to the National Federation of State High School Association Rules, except for any special rulings adopted by the RIIL and listed in this handbook below.

B. The RIIL strongly recommends head coaches/officials obtain a copy of the most recent NFHS Rulebook.

Section 2: Mandatory Coaches Certification & Continuing Education

A. ALL Coaches must be appointed by their School Administration and upload their valid certificates to the Coaches' Certification website below. A coach is any adult with access to student-athletes through an education-based athletic program.
   a. Including, but not limited to: Volunteer Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Head Coaches.

B. Coaching Requirements: Article 13

C. Coaching Out of Season Rules: Article 7, Section 8

D. Rules on Recruitment: Article 3, Section 11

E. Sportsmanship Expectations for Coaches: Article 12, Section 3

Section 3: Medical Coverage/Emergency Action Plans

A. Medical Coverage should be provided by the host school, be in attendance and on duty for the duration of all interscholastic scrimmages and games during the regular season and all tournament round games. The medical personnel must introduce themself to both coaches and referee prior to the start of the game.
   a. Pre-Game Safety Checklist

B. Schools are responsible for providing Medical Coverage for their team throughout the playoffs, including the Semis and Finals/Championships.

C. Home team medical coverage shall be responsible for both teams unless the visiting school provides its own medical coverage.

D. Levels of Medical Coverage:

Medical Professional Legal Limitations
A. Education/Schooling/Training & Licensure *B. Scope of Practice* *C. Able to Return to Play*
Medical Doctors-MD/DO or Advanced Practice Provider-NP/PA
A. Advanced degree (Medical School/Successfully passed the licensing board, and RI Licensed) B. Preventative Care, On field Evaluation, Immediate Care, Diagnosis C. Can they Return to Play – Yes
Athletic Trainer (RI Licensed)
A. Minimum Bachelor's Degree (Successfully pass the BOC exam, and RI licensed B. Preventative Care, On field Evaluation, Immediate Care, Assessment of injury, referral for further diagnosis C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? – YES
Physical Therapist (RI Licensed)
A. Degree varies from BS, MS to DPT (Successfully pass the board exam, and RI licensed.) B. Preventative Care, Rehabilitation, Orthopedic exam evaluation C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? – NO
Physical Therapist w/ Orthopedic Clinical Specialist (OCS) credential (RI Licensed)
A. Advanced Certification (Successfully pass the board exam, successfully complete requirements for and pass the OCS exam, and RI licensed) B. Rehabilitation, Orthopedic exam evaluation. On the field coverage - not qualified, no emergency training incorporated into initial certification or required to be annually updated. C. Can they Return to Play – NO (During a Game/Contest), Yes (In Clinical Setting)
Physical Therapists w/ Sports Certified Specialist (SCS) credential (RI Licensed)
A. Advanced Certification (Successfully pass the board exam, successfully complete requirements for and pass the SCS exam, and RI licensed) B. Rehabilitation, Orthopedic exam evaluation. On-the-field coverage – Qualified C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? – YES
EMT - Basic, Intermediate & Paramedic
A. Successfully complete the EMT program, pass the board exam, and RI licensed) B. Emergency care C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? - NO, per RI EMS laws/regulations/protocols
School Nurse (RN)
A. Successful completion of a nursing program (Successfully pass the board exam, and RI licensed) B. Emergency care, referral for further treatment/diagnosis C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? – NO

E. The judgment of the medical person will be final with regard to the medical condition of a player. No player may continue to play against the medical person's advice under any circumstance.
F. An Emergency Action Plan with clearly defined written and practice protocols as required by RI General Laws must be developed and in place at every high school.
    a. When possible, an athletic trainer should be present at all practices and games. An athletic trainer is a key component in any strategy to minimize injury risk and optimize safety for all participants.
    b. *Rationale*: An effective emergency action plan (EAP) must be in place as a prompt and appropriate response to any emergency situation that can save a life. The EAP should be designed and practiced to address all teams (freshman, junior varsity, and varsity) and all practice and game sites.

Section 4: General Regulations for all Sports

A. Heat Acclimatization: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 3
B. Definition of a Game/Scrimmage: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 2
C. Coaching Out of Season Rules: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 8
D. Use of Equipment During the Summer: RIIL R&R Article 6, Section 13
E. Sportsmanship Expectations for Coaches, Student-Athletes, & Spectators: RIIL R&R Art. 12, Sect. 3
F. Loyalty to Home School: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 7
G. National Events: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 11
H. Penalties for Ejections: RIIL R&R Article 6, Section 7
I. Protest Procedure: RIIL R&R Article 5

Section 5: Sport Advisory Committee

A. Each Sport Advisory Committee is comprised of Member School Administrators, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Officials, and other relevant individuals who work with and report to the RIIL on all matters concerning their sport.

B. Boys Tennis Sport Advisory Committee Membership:

Committee Role	Member	School
Sport Director	Frank Laliberte	Pawtucket Assistant Athletic Director
Co-Director (RIIAAA)	Geoff Keegan	Davies Athletic Director
Athletic Director	AJ Kizekai	Moses Brown
Athletic Director	Erika Paiva	St. Rays
Head Coach	Drew Hochman	Cranston East
Head Coach	Karin Morse	Moses Brown
Head Coach	Tom Martin	La Salle

C. The 2024-25 and 2025-26 Alignment received the following endorsements & approvals:

a. Sport Committee Approval: 08/06/24
b. Survey of all Member Schools: 08/16/24
c. RIIAAA Executive Board Endorsement: 09/20/24
d. Principal's Committee on Athletics Approval: 11/18/24

Section 6: Regular Season:

A. Important Dates:

School Year	2025-26
Season	Spring of 2026
Sport	**Tennis**
Gender	Boys
Start Date	Monday, March 16, 2026
Games Can Begin	Thursday, March 26, 2026
Week #1 Begins On	Monday, March 30, 2026
Week #2 Begins On	Monday, April 6, 2026
Week #3 Begins On	Monday, April 13, 2026
Week #4 Begins On	Monday, April 20, 2026
Week #5 Begins On	Monday, April 27, 2026
Week #6 Begins On	Monday, May 4, 2026
Last Day of the Regular Season	Friday, May 15, 2026
RIIL Championships Concluded By	Sunday, May 31, 2026

a. Main Draw Singles & Doubles Championship Tournament

i. **Division Qualifying Tournaments are scheduled on the seventh (7th) weekend after the start date, beginning on Friday, May 1st**

- Locations: High School Facilities volunteered by the membership
- Division 1 will qualify 16 singles and 8 doubles teams to the Main Draw
- Div. 2 & 3 will each qualify 8 singles and 4 doubles teams to the Main Draw
- The Div. 2 and Div. 3 Tournaments will be contested to completion

ii. **Main Draw is scheduled on the ninth (9th) weekend after the start date, from Friday, May 8th to Sunday, May 10th**

- Location: Slater Park Tennis Courts in Pawtucket
  a. Format: Singles: 32 individuals / Doubles: 16 pairs
- Schedule:
  a. Friday:
    i. Singles: Round of 32 & Round of 16

ii. Doubles: Round of 16

b. Saturday:

i. Singles & Doubles: Quarterfinals and Semifinals

c. Sunday:

i. Singles & Doubles: Finals

b. Postseason:

i. There is no requirement for a lighted facility in the spring tennis season due to daylight savings time and the availability of daylight in late May.

ii. Preliminary Games: Monday, May 18th & Tuesday, May 19th

iii. Quarterfinals: Thursday, May 21st & Friday, May 22rd

iv. Semifinals: Tuesday, May 26th & Wednesday, May 27th

v. Championships: Saturday, May 30th at Slater Park, Pawtucket

B. Divisions:

a. Boys Tennis utilizes Three (3) Divisions

State Championship Division (Div.1)	**Division 2**	**Division 3**
10 Teams	**10 Teams**	**12 Teams**
Barrington	Chariho	Burrillville
Bishop Hendricken	Classical	Central
Cumberland	Cranston West	Coventry
East Greenwich	East Providence	Cranston East
La Salle	Narragansett	North Providence
Lincoln	North Smithfield	Portsmouth
Middletown/Rogers Co-op	St. Rays/Ponaganset Co-op	Providence Country Day
Moses Brown	Prout	Pawtucket Co-op
North Kingstown	Smithfield	Toll Gate/Pilgrim Co-op
South Kingstown/EWG Co-op	Tiverton	Scituate
		West Warwick
		Woonsocket

C. Game Cap: 18 Regular Season Games prior to the start of the playoffs

D. Home teams shall set a date/time for all contests.

a. If there is a conflict in the date/time of the contest with the visiting team(s) and mutual agreement cannot be reached, the visiting school Principal/Athletic Director shall submit ***a***

written request to the RIIL to review the circumstances of the disagreement and render a decision. **This must be done prior to the submission of the Home Confirmation Schedule.**

b. Once the Home Confirmation Schedule is submitted, *changes will not be allowed unless there are extenuating circumstances*.

E. Score Reporting for all Regular Season and Postseason League Games: In accordance with Article 6, Section 14, all contest scores are to be reported on-line on the RIIL Website. Coaches obtain access to the system through their Athletic Director.

F. It shall be the responsibility of school officials/administrators/supervisors to provide a safe and secure environment for the teams and officials by ensuring the playing field and sidelines are continuously cleared of **everyone** except certified & appointed coaches, team managers/scorers, student-athletes, medical personnel, and school designated personnel. Media are allowed with prior permission of the host school.

G. Home teams shall set a date/time for all contests.

a. If there is a conflict in the date/time of the contest with the visiting team(s) and mutual agreement cannot be reached, the visiting school Principal/Athletic Director shall submit ***a written request*** to the RIIL to review the circumstances of the disagreement and render a decision. **This must be done prior to the submission of the Home Confirmation Schedule.**

b. Once the Home Confirmation Schedule is submitted, *changes will not be allowed unless there are extenuating circumstances*.

F. Postponement of Regular Season Varsity Games after the confirmation deadline:

a. Where unusual circumstances prevail or where weather conditions are unfavorable, a game may be postponed by mutual consent of the Principals and/or Athletic Directors

b. Postponed games shall be rescheduled to the next day when the teams, facility, and officials are available.

i. Includes weekends and/or school vacations.

ii. League games must take precedent over non-league games or lesser events

iii. Rescheduled games must be within all other guidelines contained in this handbook and the RIIL Rules & Regulations.

c. Additional Officials Fees for Games Changed within Two Weeks of original date/time: Article 6, Section 5

G. Practice Limitations:

a. Preseason Practice Limitations are also located in Heat Acclimatization: Article 7, Section 3

b. Scrimmages allowed after 5 days of practice

c. Games allowed after 10 days

Section 7: Postseason Qualification & Format:

A. League Games Required to Qualify for the Postseason:
    a. Div. 1, Div. 2, & Div. 3: 14 league games

B. Format:
    a. Teams will be ranked according to their RPI in all league games
    b. Single Elimination throughout the playoffs
    c. Straight Bracket, no reseeding
    d. Postseason Qualification:
        i. Division 1: Top-8 Teams ranked by RPI qualify for the playoffs.
            1. Quarterfinals – Semifinals – Finals
        ii. Division 2: Top-8 Teams ranked by RPI qualify for the playoffs.
            1. Quarterfinals – Semifinals – Finals
        iii. Division 3: Top-8 Teams ranked by RPI qualify for the playoffs.
            1. Quarterfinals – Semifinals – Finals

E. Postseason Tiebreaker
    a. Playoff Seeding will the determined by a team's RPI as calculated on the RIIL website.
    b. RPI Tiebreaker:
        1) Head-to-Head result(s) in League Games between the tied teams
        2) Winning Percentage in all League Games vs teams in your division
        3) Total Wins in all League Games vs teams in a higher division
        4) Highest-rated win in Division (according to the final RPI standings)
        5) Next-highest-rated win (exhaust all possibilities)
        6) Coin Toss

Section 8: RIIL Rules & Regulations Specific to Tennis

A. **Rosters** shall be completed via the RIIL website and made available to the public no later than 10 days after the start of practice. Rosters must be updated when students are added/removed from the team. Rosters must include: full name, grade, and jersey number.

B. **Uniforms**:
    c. Schools shall consult the NFHS Rulebook for specific regulations pertaining to uniforms

C. **RI Interscholastic Injury Fund**:
    a. The Injury Fund is a non-profit organization separate from the RIIL.
        i. Additional information can be found at: http://www.injuryfund.org/
    b. The purpose of the nonprofit Injury Fund is to establish, raise, maintain and distribute funds to the athletic departments of high schools participating in the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Distributions will be made to assist athletes, coaches or officials injured in sanctioned interscholastic competitions and practices with their medical expenses that

exceed the amount paid by the injured party's primary, required medical insurance. Any and all financial assistance rendered by the RI Injury Fund to RIIL Member Schools shall be given purely on a voluntary basis and in such amounts and in such manner as the Board of Directors in its sole discretion shall determine.

c. Non-League competitions scheduled to spread awareness of and benefit the Injury Fund are allowed by RIIL Rules in addition to any stated game caps contained herein.
d. Students, Coaches, and Officials whose teams participate in an Injury Fund event in a given sport are covered by the Injury Fund

D. **Injury Fund Format:** Teams will schedule one regulation Tennis match in the pre-season to provide schools the opportunity to participate.
E. **Game Ball**: The official game ball shall be Wilson through the 2027-28 school year.
F. In the event a "playoff game" must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue to play, the game will be rescheduled and restarted from the time of the suspension of play.
G. **Playoff Warmup**: Teams must be allowed no less than 20 minutes to warm up on the field prior to the start of any playoff game unless specific warmup procedures are contained elsewhere in this handbook.
H. **Sub-Varsity**
    a. Sub-Varsity shall be scheduled at the discretion of each Athletic Director/Head Coach.
    b. Sub-varsity games will not be allowed after the final day of the varsity regular season.
I. All individuals and team match play will be the best of three (3) sets, boys and girls play no ad scoring with a 12 point Coman Tie Break.
    a. Coman Tie Break Procedure: This requires the tiebreaker to be played with the players changing ends after the 1st point and thereafter every 4 points.
    b. Cracks in Courts: Any ball that hits a crack in the playing surface must be played, there are no Lets.
J. An athlete may participate on only one (1) tennis team during a school year.
K. League Matches will consist of four (4) singles and three (3) double matches. No Singles player may enter Doubles.
L. The sites for all tournaments will be decided by the Director of Tennis. All sites may be subject to change due to availability and weather conditions.
M. Match Rules
    a. Team uniforms must be worn for all matches and tournaments. Players will not be allowed to play if this is not followed.
    b. All teams must have scoring devices, center straps and a minimum of four (4) courts.
    c. In League matches, each team must supply at least two brand-new tennis balls per match. Each singles player or doubles team must bring a new can of balls to the qualifier

and main draw, winner of match gets new can, lower gets used one. In team tourneys, each team must bring seven (7) new cans of balls.

d. A Home Team representative must read the NFHS/RIIL Rule Card (White Card) before the start of the team match.

N. Late Arrival to Regular Season Matches, Postseason Matches, and Tournaments

a. League Matches: Per RIIL Rules and Regulations, all RIIL League scheduled matches are to be played – no forfeits are allowed (see Article 6, Section 10).

b. Individual Tourney:

1. The coach and player(s) are responsible for knowing the site and times of tournament matches.
2. The Coach and player(s) must be present 15 minutes prior to the posted start time as stated on the Interscholastic League website. If the player is running late, the coach must call the Director/Designee as well as to the Coach/Athletic Director of the school to be played.
3. Lateness for match penalties (page 3, FAC)
    1. 5:00 minutes or less: Loss of Toss, plus one game
    2. 5:01-10:00 minutes: Loss of Toss, 2 games
    3. 10:00-15:00 minutes: Loss of Toss, 3 games
    4. More than 15 minutes: Default
4. This rule will be enforced by the Tournament Director and/or Director of Tennis. All communications will be to the Director of Tennis via the coaches.

c. Team Tournaments

5. A coach is responsible for knowing the site and times of all-tournament team matches.
6. Coach and players should be present fifteen (15) minutes prior to the posted start time as stated on the RI Interscholastic League website.
7. If a team is running late, the coach must call the Director/Designee as well as the coach and/or athletic director of the school to be played.
8. All team tournament team matches are to be played.

O. Ladder Reporting

a. Each Team shall declare the ranking of their Singles players and Doubles teams in order of ability for their First RIIL Match.

9. Coaches must enter all Match Results to Universal Tennis, establishing their ladder
10. After the first RIIL Match, Coaches must enter all Ladder Challenge Matches which result in a change to Universal Tennis
11. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit.

b. Re-ranking of players will be permitted during the season under these conditions:
    12. Pre-season rankings – To arrive at this Ladder, all returning Players are already ranked based upon the team's ending ladder from the previous year. New players can challenge at the placement the coach deems appropriate, based on their ability.
    13. A Single Player or Doubles Team can only move up or down <u>one position</u> on the ladder between League matches said change being based on a challenge match.
    14. No change of ranking is allowed when back-to-back matches take place.
c. Each school must submit a ranking list before the start of the playoffs. No change in this line-up will be allowed after the start of the playoffs. <u>RANKINGS WILL BE LOCKED. THERE WILL BE NO MORE CHALLENGES</u>.
d. Before play starts coaches will exchange a copy of the present team ladder with players arranged according to their known ability in Singles and Doubles.
e. A coach MUST play the best 4 singles players and the best 3 doubles teams according to their ranked ability. Any combination of players may be used in Doubles, provided that #1 has proven that it beats #2 and #2 beats #3 and #3 beats #4.
f. In case of illness, injury or absence from a match, the coach must move their players up <u>one rank</u> i.e., two to one, three to two, four to three, five to four. Doubles must be played in the same manner; again the best must play #1.
g. If a team cannot provide sufficient players for a match, it will forfeit the third doubles match.

P. <u>Regular Season Matches</u>
a. Team scoring – The team winning four (4) of seven (7) matches will be the winner.
b. EXCEPTION: If a team cannot supply a 3rd doubles team in regular season or playoffs, they will forfeit that match. If both teams do not have a 3rd doubles team, there is a chance that the match could end in a tie. If this should happen then the team that wins the most games will be declared the winner of the match.
c. All matches must be completed. By mutual agreement, coaches may waive this right.
    15. Exception: If a Regular Season Match has been decided (a team has won 4 points) and it starts raining or darkness occurs, the match is over. If the Regular Season Match has not been decided (a team has not won 4 points) and rain or darkness occur, the match must be completed at a later date.
d. Super tie-breaker: If the team match has been decided and remaining matches on court have split sets, a super tie-breaker should be played instead of the 3rd set. If the score in the 3rd set is 1-1, 2-2, etc., the above should be played. The winner of a super tie-breakers is the player who wins ten points and leads a by a margin of two points. If the match is

decided and the players are in the 1st set an 8 game pro-set should be played (tie breaker at 8 all).

Q. Coaching: When coaches may talk to players:

a. Guidelines from USTA Rules - (coaching is considered to be communication, advice or instruction of any kind, audible or visible to a player.)
b. A coach may coach a player at any time during the match so long as they do not interfere with play, and also after the third game and any subsequent change over (rest period) they may coach for 1 minute. At the end of each set they may coach for 1 minute and thirty seconds.
c. Coaches allowed on Court – All Divisions
d. Where coaches may coach: A coach must site (or stand if the facilities dictate) near the net post. A coach may change courts when his movements will not interrupt play. Coaching is permitted outside the fence perimeter. On an empty adjacent court, the coach may stand at the doubles sideline on the same side as his own player. On the opponent's side, he must remain at mid-court. Coaches may coach within the lines of the Court only during a changeover or set break.
e. This is to clarity the above Rule: Use Common Sense. Coaches must not change courts between 1st and 2nd serve, or between points and should do so only at the end of the game or a change-over, so as not to interrupt play. In addition to the below mentioned places, coaches may stand in the space between courts inside the fence perimeter.
f. If a coach cannot be at a match, an assistant coach, athletic director or principal are the only authorized personnel allowed to coach. <u>Spectator parents and players not on the court for their match – may not coach at any time.</u>
g. If a coach and assistant coach are present, they both may coach players, but not the same player at the same time.
h. Head coaches should introduce their assistant at matches to avoid any problems that may occur with other coaches during the match.
i. Guidelines for Spectators: It is the coaches' responsibility to remind spectators of the guidelines.

R. Main Draw/Qualifying Tournaments/Individual Tournament:

a. The Individual Tournament will be conducted under the direction of the Director of Tennis.
b. The coach or a representative of the team <u>MUST</u> be present at the seeding meeting in order for their players to be placed in the draw. If extenuating circumstances prevent the coach from being present at the meeting, they must contact the Director of Tennis ahead of time and provide a list of players they wish to be entered into the draw. If the above is not followed, their player(s) <u>will not</u> be placed in the draw.

c. In order to qualify for the individual tennis tournament, each student must participate in a minimum of three (3) League Matches prior to the individual tournament seeding meeting. Note: If an extenuating circumstance exists, the school Principal may request a waiver of the three (3) League match requirement through the RIIL office.
d. Coaches who want to have a singles player or doubles team seeded MUST submit their names at the seeding meeting. The names of all seeded players will be listed on draw sheets. Seeded players must play or they will be defaulted. Seeded players may not substitute for other seeded players or unseeded players. Unseeded players may not substitute for seeded players, but may substitute for other unseeded players provided they are of lower ability.
e. There will be a Division 1, 2 and 3 Qualifying Tournament.
f. No coaching in the Division 1 Singles and Doubles Qualifying Tourney. No coaching until the round of 16 in the Division 2 and 3 singles. In regard to Doubles, no coaching until the Quarterfinals of Division 2 and 3.
g. A coach or a bona fide representative must be present at the Qualifier/and Main Draw for the players from their school to compete.
h. The "round of 32" winners in Division 1, "round of 16" winners in Division 2 and 3, singles will compete in the State Singles Tournament to be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in May. In doubles, Division "round of 16" winners and "round "of 8 winners will compete in the Doubles Tournament.
i. Lucky Loser – If a player or team is unable to go to the main draw, the player or team they beat will take their place.
j. Reseeding – Players who upset seeds will be reseeded according to where the coaches originally placed them prior to the main draw. In singles Division 1 will have 16 slots; Division 2 – 8 slots; Division 3 and 4 – 8 slots. In Doubles: Division 1 (8) – Division 2 (4) – and Division 3 (4).
k. Time between matches should be up to 30 minutes after a 2-set victory and up to 60 minutes for a 3-set victory. This should be at the discretion of the Director ONLY.
l. All Divisions may use an 8 game pro-set leading up to the Qualifying Round. In the qualifying round, the format will be 2 of 3 sets. In Division I, the qualifying round will consist of 32 singles players and 16 doubles teams. In Division II and Division III, the qualifying round will consist of 16 singles players and 8 doubles teams.
m. Individuals in the absence of a team are not allowed to participate in the individual tournament.
n. Seeding in the Main Draw from the Division Qualifying Tournaments shall follow the chart below. Exception: Returning Main Draw State Champion(s) earn the #1 Seed if they are undefeated throughout the current season's division qualifier.

RIIL Tennis Main Draw Seeding

Singles

Seed	Division Qualifier Slot	Opponent Seed	Opponent Slot
1	A-1	32	C-8
2	A-2	31	C-7
3	A-3	30	B-8
4	A-4	29	B-7
5	A-5	28	C-6
6	B-1	27	C-5
7	A-6	26	B-6
8	A-7	25	B-5
9	A-8	24	A-16
10	C-1	23	A-15
11	B-2	22	A-14
12	C-2	21	A-13
13	B-3	20	A-12
14	B-4	19	A-11
15	C-3	18	A-10
16	C-4	17	A-9

Doubles

Seed	Division Qualifier Slot	Opponent Seed	Opponent Slot
1	A-1	16	C-4
2	A-2	15	B-4
3	B-1	14	C-3
4	A-3	13	B-3
5	A-4	12	A-8
6	C-1	11	A-7
7	B-2	10	A-6
8	C-2	9	A-5

S. Team State Championships:

o. There shall be a Champion in each Division during the regular season. Co-Championship award will be given in case of ties.

p. The Postseason and State Team Championship will be conducted under the direction of the RIIL.

q. Playoffs - All Playoff Matches should be played only until a Decision (Winner) then matches in progress are abandoned.

Section 9: Officials

A. Officials – RIIL assigned officials shall have supervision of the playing court from the start of the match until finish. In the absence of the Director of Tennis or an RIIL appointed supervisor, the coaches of the respective teams shall act as the officials of the RIIL tennis match and shall supervise said matches in accordance with these rules. A coach must observe all their matches and should not wander from the immediate court area.

B. Sportsmanship/Point Penalty System
   a. Point penalties will be imposed against a player for unsportsmanlike conduct during a RIIL match and/or tournament such as:
      1. Unreasonable delays after the warm-up period between points and when changing ends and otherwise unreasonably delaying a match
      2. Audible obscenity
      3. Visible obscenity
      4. Violently or with anger hitting (i.e., hitting the racket against any type of surface), kicking or throwing a tennis ball, racket or other equipment
      5. Verbal or physical abuse of any official, opponent, spectator or other person
      6. Disruptive behavior
   b. Following are the penalties for the above violations:
      1. First offense – point
      2. Second offense – game
      3. Third offense – default
   c. The imposition of penalties during a League match is primarily a function of the coaches, although the Director of Tennis or his/her delegate may impose penalties on the basis of his/her observations. A penalty to be imposed by a coach against an opposing player should be preceded by a courtside conference of the coach involved. If no mutual agreement can be reached, a report must be made to the Director of Tennis or his/her delegate. If the Director of Tennis or his/her delegate deems it necessary, a penalty may be imposed on a future match.

C. While normally the imposition of penalties will be in accordance with the basic table, a flagrantly unsportsmanlike act may result in the imposition of an immediate penalty, even a default for a first offense.