

Unified Tennis



2022-2023 Bulletin

Coach Responsibilities:

1. Know and follow all AACPS policies, procedures, rules and regulations as described throughout the AACPS Athletic Handbook.
2. Know and follow the sport bulletins of the specific sport.
3. Know and follow the "Bylaws" and "Rules and Interpretation" sections of the MPSSAA handbook.
4. Follow Special Olympics Maryland procedures and guidelines, as appropriate.

Contact Information:

1. Questions should initially be directed to local school athletic directors.
2. Then, question should be directed to:
 - a. County sport commissioner - Tim Stedman, Crofton High School, tstedman@aacps.org, 410-271-5580,
3. Special Olympics Regional Sports Director -
 - a. Zach Cintron- zcintron@somd.org
 - b. Katie Gleason- gleason.somd@gmail.com

Important Dates:

August

- Monday, August 8- 4:00 pm - Fall Coaches Meeting, Glen Burnie High School
- Wednesday August 10 - First day of tryouts
- Tuesday August 16 - First scrimmage day
- Friday, August 26, 2022 - Academic assistance sessions start date
- Saturday, August 27, 2022- SAT Testing - No Mandatory Practice or Contests before 2:00 PM

September

- Friday, September 2, 2022 - MPSSAA start date for contests (except golf)
- Monday, September 5, 2022 - Labor Day- All Schools Closed- Practices still allowed
- Thursday, September 15, 2022 - Academic assistance sessions end date and **Grade Check**
- Monday, September 26 - Rosh Hashanah- All schools closed- No practices or contests

October

- Saturday, October 1- SAT testing - No mandatory practice or contests before 2:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 4, 2022 - Yom Kippur, No practices or Contests after Sundown
- Wednesday, October 5, 2022 - Yom Kippur, No practices or Contests
- Wednesday, October 19, 2022 - Two-hour early dismissal for all students
- Thursday, October 20, 2022 - Two-hour early dismissal for all students

November

- Thursday, November 3, 2022 - Two-hour early dismissal for all students
- Friday, November 4, 2022 - Two-hour early dismissal for all students
- Saturday, November 5, 2022 - SAT testing- No mandatory practices or contests before 2pm
- Tuesday, November 8, 2022 - Election Day- Schools Closed- No Practices Allowed
- Thursday, November 17, 2022 - Check Ineligibility Lists
- Monday-Friday, November 21-25 - No School, only football allowed to practice on Thanksgiving

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Paperwork:

- Pre-participation Physical Form
- Guide for Student Athletes & Parents
- Concussion Awareness
- Application for Special Olympics Maryland

Definitions:

- Athlete - A student athlete with a disability.
- Unified Partner - A student-athletes without a disability.
- Non-declared member - A member on the team that has scored slightly higher than any athletes, or currently does not have a declared double partner on the roster.

Team Makeup:

- All players will be rated using USTA rating system a minimum of once at the beginning and once at the end of the season.
- All matches played will be doubles.
- Only individual match scores will be kept.
- Ideally, one student with disability (the athlete) and one student without a disability (unified partner).
- Coaches should take into consideration peer dynamics, gender, need of the students, and ability levels in making decisions on partners.
- Doubles partners must be paired within one rating point of each other on the USTA rating system.
- Eligibility-Spring tennis players that represented a high school in an official match are not eligible for this program. Other spring tennis players may join the unified team if their rating is within one rating point of their declared partners rating.

Tennis Options:

- Unified tennis provides three court options to accommodate a wide range of ability levels.
 - Service Box Tennis
 - Use just the service box of a regular court
 - Full Court Tennis
 - Regulation tennis court

Scoring for Full and Service Box Tennis:

- **Game** - the first team to reach four points wins the game.
 - No-Advantage scoring is a scoring method in which the first player to reach four points wins the game. No-Advantage scoring eliminates the requirement that a player must win by two points. Therefore, if the game is tied at deuce or 3, the next player to win a point wins the game.
- **Set** - the first team to reach four games wins the set, provided a team wins by two.
 - Games tied at 4-4 will play a 7 point tiebreak.
- **Match** - consists of the best two out of three sets.
 - If a 3rd set is needed, the match will be decided by a tiebreak.
- **Tiebreak**
 - First team to 7 points
 - Must win by two points

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Coaches Training: Monday, August 8, 2022- 4:30 at Glen Burnie HS.

Playday/Rating:

- Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 4:00-6:00 PM at Crofton
 - Teams- Annapolis, Broadneck, Central Special, Crofton, Southern, South River
- Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 4:00-6:00 PM at Arundel
 - Teams- Arundel, Meade, Old Mill, Ruth Eason, Severna Park
- Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 4:00-6:00 PM at Northeast
 - Teams- Chesapeake, Glen Burnie, Northeast, North County

County Championship and Awards:

- Tuesday/Thursday, October 18 & 20, 2022, 4:30 pm at Annapolis High School
- Special Olympics will provide medals
- County Championship Plaque/Head Coach Plaque

State Tournament Information:

Special Olympics States - Tuesday, November 1, 2022 – JTCC Tennis Center at College Park