

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE  
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**2026 CIAC Boys Tennis Packet**

**TOURNAMENT CO-DIRECTORS**

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**PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE PACKET: AD's and coaches are responsible for understanding the rules and regulations of the tournament. A failure to do so may jeopardize the eligibility of a player or team.**

The Boys State Tournament for 2026 follows the same format as last year. The **Class Tournament** will be a team vs team, single elimination event where teams are paired according to their records and power rating. Each division will recognize a team champion and runner-up. The divisions are as follows: Class LL, Class L, Class M, Class S. The second tournament, the **Boys State Tennis Invitational**, will be offered to a group of singles (64) and doubles (32) teams. The Invitational is described later in this document. The primary goal of the postseason tournaments is to provide a challenging and fair experience in a safe environment for players, coaches and spectators that identifies the best tennis teams and individual players in the state.

Please read and review the rules below and if you have questions, contact the tournament directors.

**Please note: Only coaches or school officials can contact the tournament director. Players and parents must go through the coach or school officials to contact the tournament directors.**

1. **Dates – 2026 Class Tournament**

Friday, May 29	Opening Round and First Round for teams with no Opening Round
Saturday, May 30	First Round (16) for those with Opening Round matches
Sunday, May 31	Rain Date or Make-up day due to scheduling conflicts
Monday, June 1	Quarter-finals
Tuesday, June 2	Semi-finals
Wednesday, June 3	Finals – Sites TBA
Thursday, June 4	Rain Date
Friday, June 5	Rain Date

Note: If rain cancels too many matches, two rounds may be scheduled on the same day. In the event of inclement weather, the affected teams have the option with mutual consent of scheduling the match at an indoor facility. The indoor court surface must be consistent with outdoor hard court surfaces, e.g., HarTru; carpeted and grass surfaces are not permitted. The cost is to be shared by the two competing teams.

2. **Qualification Standards**

- a. Only CIAC member schools may enter these tournaments.
- b. To be eligible for consideration a team must play a minimum of **ten (10)** matches and have won 40% or more of the total matches scheduled. **DURING THE REGULAR SEASON ALL COACHES MUST ENTER SCORES FOR EACH MATCH ON THE DAY THE MATCH IS COMPLETED ON THE**

**CIAC WEBSITE IN ADDITION TO THE OVERALL MATCH SCORE, DETAILED RESULTS MUST BE SUBMITTED.**

- c. All regular season match results must be entered online on the day of the match as soon as possible following the match's completion.
  - Scores must be entered on the new CIAC website at <https://ciac.fpsports.org/>
  - In the lefthand column select "Schedules – High School"
  - At the top of the page select the school and "Boys Tennis Varsity" as the sport, then the team's schedule will be displayed
  - Click on the green score entry button to make the entries
  - **Only logged in users with security permission** to enter scores for this sport will see the score entry button for their school's meets
  - The system will display a score entry screen that is specific for boys tennis
  - Enter the team scores
  - Enter details from match
- d. Only matches played with CIAC member schools or eligible out-of-state schools shall be considered. Out-of-state schools must be members of their state athletic association.
- e. Only the first two matches against the same opponent will be counted. No matches played after **Wednesday, May 27, 2026** will be counted.

3. **Pairings Information** – The pairings for each division will be:

<u>Upper Half</u>	<u>Lower Half</u>
1 vs 16	3 vs 14
9 vs 8	11 vs 6
5 vs 12	7 vs 10
13 vs 4	2 vs 15

- a. If more than sixteen teams qualify, pairings will begin with 16 vs 17; 15 vs 18, etc.
- b. **The ranking of teams will be determined by a new power rating system.** Ties will be determined by head-to-head results first, then by lot.

The new system will take a team's power points (explained below) and multiplies them by a league factor (explained below) to determine an overall number ***which will be used to seed the teams in each division. Teams still have to win 40% or more of the total matches scheduled to be eligible for the team tournament.***

Power Points – Each school earns power points based on the records of the school(s) that they beat. Schools receive one point in their power rating for each win of the opponents they have defeated during the season. The total number of wins of all the opponents you defeat will be your power rating.

For example: If Team A wins 10 games during the season and those 10 opponents have 13, 12, 11, 10, 10, 7, 7, 7, 6 and 4 wins, Team A's power rating would be 87.

League Factor – All leagues will be assigned a league factor which is based upon the success that league has had in the CIAC Boys Tennis Team Tournament over the last three years. The factors will range from 1-6.

## League Multiplier

FCIAC	5
CCC - North	1.75
CCC – Central	3.5
CCC – South	1
SCC	3
SWC	1.5
Berkshire	1.75
ECC	1.5
NCCC	2.5
Shoreline	1
CRAL	1
CTC	1
NVL	1

- c. Announcements of rankings and pairings will be made by **3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2026** via the CIAC web site – [www.ciacsports.com](http://www.ciacsports.com).
4. **Sites** – Matches will be located at the site of the higher ranked team (if that school has at least four (4) courts). The Team Tournament Class finals will be held at a neutral site to be determined. Host sites are reminded to have the Site Director greet competing teams at least thirty (30) minutes prior to scheduled match time. Host schools must provide adequate restroom facilities.
5. **Rules of Play** – Players will follow the rules of tennis as outlined by the USTA unless modified by the CIAC. This will include penalties for misconduct and poor sportsmanship as defined by the USTA (see Point Penalties for USTA Junior Tournaments) and in **Friend of the Court**. The penalty for first offense is the loss of point; loss of game for second offense, and default for third offense. A player that receives a default is subject to the CIAC ejection policy which would mean the player cannot participate in the next scheduled contest. Since officials will only be available in later rounds, it is imperative that players, coaches and spectators adhere to the highest standards of sportsmanship that are outlined later in this packet. Our sport has traditionally been a model of good sportsmanship.
6. **Formats and Forfeits** – A team match will consist of seven (7) points determined by playing four singles and three doubles matches. A team’s lineup must be configured in **order of strength**, meaning that the #1 singles player must be better than or equal to #2 and so forth and should reflect true positions where players have competed for the majority of the season (**8 matches or 50% of the team’s scheduled matches**). The doubles team must be arranged similarly. A singles player or doubles team that has been nominated for the Invitational Tournament must play in the Team tournament in that position (#1, #2 and #3 singles; #1 and #2 doubles). A team should keep its lineup configured the same way for the entire tournament unless a substitution is needed because of injury or for other approved reasons. Any alterations must keep the **order of strength** and must be brought to the attention of the site director and tournament director immediately and must be approved before the next match begins. **Stacking a lineup is unethical and may result in disqualification**. Please consult the site director or tournament directors if you have any questions about forming your lineup for the team tournament.

All singles and doubles matches will be two sets with a 12-point tie break at 6-6 in each set (first to 7 points, win by two) If players split the first two sets, a 10 point tiebreaker (first to win 10 points) will determine the winner. All individual matches must be played to their conclusion. A team not having personnel to contest each of the seven points will forfeit for each empty position starting with #4 singles and #3 doubles, then moving in reverse order if additional forfeits must occur. Please contact the site and tournament director (coaches or school officials only) for clarification.

7. **Breaks Between Sets** – A two (2) minute, on court break shall occur between the first and second set. Each player will be entitled to a forty-five (45) minute break between matches
8. **Coaching and Supervision** – Each team must be accompanied and supervised by its certified coach or a team representative appointed by the school principal or AD. Failure to comply with this regulation could result in a team forfeit. Coaching is allowed on 90 second changeovers (not after the first game of each set or during the tiebreaker), during the two minute on court set break, and during the ten minute break between second and third sets. Only the team’s certified coaches or school representative may coach a player on the team.
9. **Matches Per Day and Postponements** – Teams will be required to play no more than two team matches in one day. Teams will be required to play on consecutive days unless there is postponement due to weather or other unforeseen emergencies.
10. **Balls** – Each team will be required to bring seven (7) cans of yellow WILSON balls to the first round matches. The winning team will take the unopened cans into the next round. New balls for a third set are allowed if both coaches agree.
11. **Reporting Scores** – The coach of each advancing team must contact the Division Director, and the Tournament Director immediately at the conclusion of the match (7 p.m.) The scores of all individual matches will be reported at that time.
12. **Food and Beverages** – Teams must provide their own food and beverages at the sites. Don’t count on the availability of either food or beverages at the sites. Carry out what you carry in please – help pick up and do not leave the premises before the site is pristine.
13. **Appeal** – The decision of the Tournament Directors and the Boys Tennis Committee relative to the operation of the tournament shall be final. **Protest** – Protests involving “Tournament Regulations” and/or match play will be adjudicated by the Tournament Directors, the site director, the Committee Chair and a CIAC Executive staff member. **Remember that according to USTA rules, a match that has been played in “good faith” rarely has the result overturned.**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION AND CIAC POLICIES**

14. **Entry Fee** – There will be a \$150 entry fee for every school that enters a team in the tournament. Checks are to be made payable to CIAC and mailed to 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410.

#### **Entry Form Submission**

- a. **Team Roster Form** – Must be completed by Tuesday, May 26, 2026. You need an access log in from your athletic director to complete the form. To complete the Team Roster form:
  - Go to the CIAC website
  - In the lefthand column select “Eligibility Center”
  - Select “Team Roster/Tournament Roster”
  - Check off each player that is on your roster
  - Failure to file a roster/entry form by Noon, Tuesday, May 26, 2026 may result in disqualification
- b. Any match score not submitted by **Wednesday, May 27, 2026** may be counted as a loss. Any match played on May 27, 2026 must be reported immediately after the conclusion of the match. All matches to count toward qualifying must be submitted on the web site by Wednesday, May 27, 2026. Matches played after this date and time will not count toward qualifying.

- c. All matches to be considered for tournament ranking must be listed on the Team Schedule / Entry Form.
  - d. Member schools must make every effort to complete their season as scheduled, including make-up games. **Member schools may not cancel matches.** Any effort to gain an advantage in tournament play by not playing a game is unacceptable and is subject to action by the CIAC Board of Control. Cancellation of any regular season contest/make-up games to play in a league tournament will not be allowed.
15. **Forfeited Regular Season Matches** – A forfeited match shall not count for tournament qualification or rating unless the principals of the member schools submit a letter to the CIAC office and it is approved by the CIAC Executive Director or his/her appointee. Failure to do so will result in the match being declared “no contest”.
16. **Late Entry Policy**
- a. No tournament entries will be accepted after the established deadline except those approved by the CIAC Board of Control.
  - b. Corrections requested by a school to an entry form that was submitted by the established deadline but prior to seeding/pairing data being published on the web site, will be assessed a fee of \$50 per correction to a maximum of \$250.
  - c. All requests for corrections must be submitted to the Tournament Directors. A text, call or email should be made to the Tournament Directors to make sure late changes are approved.
17. **Tournament Regulations Violations** – If a school fails to comply with tournament regulations and such requires the CIAC tournament sports committee, central office staff, or the CIAC Board of Control to redo any portion of the tournament pairings or such non-compliance adversely impacts the management of the tournament, an administrative violation fee of \$500 will be imposed upon the school before entry into the tournament will be allowed.
18. **Students with Special Needs** – Coaches are reminded to inform contest officials prior to each competition of any student with special needs who could be competing in the contest when his/her disability could impact the individual’s performance or the conduct of the competition.
19. **Change of Division Request** – Any school wishing to participate in a higher division must submit a letter requesting to move up to the CIAC office by April 1, 2026. Teams cannot move down. Once a change of division has been made the school will be required to remain in that division for two (2) years.
20. **Testing Dates** – Coaches should inform players about SAT dates to avoid potential conflicts. All SAT players must be ready to compete at 1:00 p.m. unless granted extended time. Please be advised that because there are many options for student-athletes to take the SAT and ACT tests during the course of the school year, schools should make their teams aware of the CIAC tournament schedule that is posted two years in advance to avoid a conflict. Please plan ahead.

ACT Test Dates

April 11, 2026  
 June 13, 2026  
 July 11, 2026

SAT Test Dates

March 14, 2026  
 May 2, 2026  
 June 6, 2026

21. **Outside Competition** – Please review the rule about unattached competition. Players are allowed to compete in four outside events as individuals but must adhere to the three match per week rule and obtain advance permission from parents, the coach, the Athletic Director and the school principal. The starting date for this rule is the first day of the team’s schedule, its first match date.

22. **CIAC Tournament Site Media Policy** – The CIAC places tremendous value on the role the media plays in promoting and highlighting high school sports. To that purpose CIAC tournament venues and hosts should make every effort to provide a working environment conducive to all media (print, broadcast and internet based) covering our events. The following are minimum standards, developed in consultation with the CIAC Media Advisory Committee, which should be provided for working media at all CIAC tournament sites:

- 1) A minimum of one hour following the conclusion of post-game interviews to write in the press box, press area or a suitable facility in close proximity to the site of the event (i.e. office, classroom, etc.).
- 2) Access to electric power (shared power strip, etc.)
- 3) Access to wireless internet service.

Site directors should communicate these requirements to any staff person who may be responsible for the administration of the event. If for some reason a site will not be able to provide these items for a contest, a site representative should inform the CIAC in advance and work with the media on site before the game and work to provide a reasonable solution to the issue. Members of the media who will be covering events are directed to contact the appropriate site as far in advance as possible to inform them they will be at the event and discuss what arrangements will be made for working media at the site.

23. **Unmanned Aerial Systems at CIAC-Sanctioned Events** – The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any person(s) at all CIAC-sanctioned events. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium / field / arena structure. For the purposes of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.

24. **Sportsmanship** – Member schools are expected to conduct their relations with each other at all levels of competition in a spirit of sportsmanship. Everyone involved has an obligation to see clearly their influence and act accordingly. The CIAC acknowledges that the school administration is responsible for the athletic program, including the making of broad and specific policies and procedures relating to good sportsmanship and conduct of activities in the school. To that end, the CIAC urges each school principal to adopt the following sportsmanship procedures and standards for their school and to champion the “Class Act” sportsmanship program as these standards will be used in all CIAC post-season contests. The CIAC Standards for Sportsmanship as defined in the Class Act program are found at [http://ciacsports.com/site/?page\\_id=10438](http://ciacsports.com/site/?page_id=10438).

25. **The following dates are important for the Boys Team Tennis Tournament:**

- 1) Wednesday, April 1, 2026 – Request for Change of Division Form
- 2) Saturday, April 4, 2026 – Matches Cannot be Added After this Date
- 3) Tuesday, May 26, 2026 – 12:00 Noon – Team Entry/Roster Form Due via the online eligibility center
- 4) Wednesday, May 27, 2026 – **Scores of matches not reported may be counted as losses**
- 5) Thursday, May 28, 2026 – Committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. for tournament pairings
- 6) Thursday, May 28, 2026 – 3:00 p.m. – Team pairings and ranking information will be available on the CIAC website. Information will contain sites, dates and times of matches as well as opponents.
- 7) Friday, May 29, 2026 – Team tournament Opening Round and Round of 16 for teams with no Opening Round
- 8) Wednesday, June 3, 2026 – Team finals at site TBA. Rain dates – June 4 and June 5, 2026.
- 9) Sunday, June 7 – Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – State Invitational Tournament.

Site Directors:

LL Jim Solomon, CCC, Hall – (860) 716-7123 – [jim\\_solomon@whps.org](mailto:jim_solomon@whps.org)  
L Ben Young, FCIAC, New Canaan – (203) 524-4508 – [ben.young@ncps-k12.org](mailto:ben.young@ncps-k12.org)  
M Paul Gagliardi, SCC, Branford – (203) 804-3838 – [paulgagliardi1@gmail.com](mailto:paulgagliardi1@gmail.com)  
S Nick Sheikh, Berkshire, Nonnewaug – (203) 910-1502 – [nsheikh@ctreg14.org](mailto:nsheikh@ctreg14.org)

**2026 CIAC BOYS STATE TENNIS TOURNAMENT INVITATIONAL**

**Invitational Location:** Hall and Conard High School, West Hartford  
(Please refer to the website for the match schedule for each day as matches will be staggered.)

**Dates and Times:** Note: Rain Dates may cause adjustments in schedule

Sunday, June 7	10:00 a.m.	Round of 64 Singles, Round of 32 Doubles, Round of 32 Singles, Round of 16 Doubles - Hall
Monday, June 8	12:00 p.m.	Round of 16 Singles; Quarters Doubles; 8 Singles - Hall
Tuesday, June 9	3:30 p.m.	Semis Singles; Semis Doubles - Conard
Wednesday, June 10	3:30 p.m.	Finals, Singles and Doubles – Conard
Thursday, June 11		Rain Day

Tournament Co-Directors

Steve Jasulavic, Southington	(203) 565-7211	<a href="mailto:jasu32@hotmail.com">jasu32@hotmail.com</a>
Ryan Healey, East Catholic	(203) 915-5965	<a href="mailto:healeyr@echhs.com">healeyr@echhs.com</a>

**PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE PACKET: AD’s and coaches are responsible for understanding the rules and regulations of the tournament. A failure to do so may jeopardize the eligibility of a player.**

**Please note: Only coaches or school officials can contact the tournament director. Players and parents must go through the coach or school officials to contact the tournament director.**

The 2026 CIAC Boys State Tennis Tournament Invitational will showcase the top **64 singles players and top 32 doubles teams** in the state. A State Champion will be named in singles and doubles and the finalists in both events will also earn medals..

1. **Criteria for Selection** – The Invitational seeks the best players in the state with representation from all leagues, divisions and sizes of school. Coaches will nominate singles or doubles players for consideration. The top **three (3) singles** players and top **two (2) doubles teams** are eligible for nomination **if they have played a minimum of eight (8) matches or 50% of the team’s scheduled matches in that position unless an injury has limited the participation of the player.** An athlete who has played in less than 50% of the scheduled matches due to injury will be reviewed and decided upon by the Tournament Directors. The #1 Singles

position should have a winning record of 60% and the second position, 75% to be considered. #3 singles should be undefeated. #1 Doubles should also have a 60% winning record and #2 doubles, 75%. Remember, these records are with the same partner in the required 8 matches or 50% of the team's schedule. The winning percentages are guidelines to help coaches determine the appropriateness of a nomination. Consult with the Tournament Directors if you have any questions about whom to nominate.

**Please Note: the winning records do not result in an automatic entry to the tournament, as other factors like strength of schedule and league/district representation will also be considered.** The Boys Committee will ultimately determine the singles and doubles entries and reserves the right to invite a wild card entry as well as a substitute list. The Boys Committee will make the seedings and draws. In order to assist in the process, all coaches should enter individual scores for their regular season matches. Players will be selected on the basis of record, quality wins and losses, seniority and, in some cases, rankings. League representatives will also give input. **Note to coaches: please make sure that the players you nominate are available and willing to play the entire tournament, including rain days.**

2. **Nomination Process:** To repeat what was just stated – Coaches can nominate their #1, #2 and #3 singles players and #1 and #2 doubles teams to be considered for the Invitational Tournament. The #1 position **should** have a winning record of 60% and the second position, 75% to be considered. A #3 should be exceptional with an undefeated record. #1 doubles **should** have a 60% winning record and the #2 doubles, 75%. **Remember, the Committee is looking for the best players for this event, so a coach should not be nominating a lower ranked player over a high one from the same team.** The nomination form is located on the CIAC website with other tournament material. A nominee must have played a minimum of eight (8) matches or 50% of the team's scheduled matches in that position, with the same partner (doubles). Please include the players' names; their position on the team and, specifically, how many matches played at that position; their won and loss record at that position; significant wins and ALL LOSSES; additional information to consider. For doubles, the same winning percentages apply but they must be with the same partner. Please include the players' names; their position on the team, how many times they played in that position with the partner identified; their won/loss record at all positions (identified); significant wins and ALL LOSSES; additional information to consider. Nomination forms are due by **Wednesday, May 27, 2026. Please contact the Tournament Directors (coaches or school officials only) if you have any questions.**
3. **Format:** All matches will be 2 out of 3 sets. A twelve-point tiebreak will be played at 6-6. If the sets are split, a 10-point tiebreak will be played in lieu of a third, full set to determine the winner.
4. **Rules of Play:** Players will follow the rules of tennis as outlined by the USTA unless modified by the CIAC. This will include penalties for misconduct and poor sportsmanship as defined by the USTA (see Point Penalties for USTA Junior Tournaments) and in **Friend of the Court**. The penalty for first offense is the loss of point; loss of game for second offense, and default for third offense. A player that receives a default is subject to the CIAC ejection policy which would mean the player cannot participate in the next scheduled contest. Since officials will only be available in later rounds, it is imperative that players, coaches and spectators adhere to the highest standards of sportsmanship that are outlined later in this packet. Our sport has traditionally been a model of good sportsmanship.
5. **Coaching:** A singles player or doubles team may only be coached by the official, certified team coach(es) or their appointed designee. An appointed designee is assigned by the school's principal or athletic director. Coaching is allowed on changeovers (except for the first game of the set and during the tiebreak), and during the two-minute set break. Only the team's certified coaches or school representative may coach a player on the team.

6. **Supervision:** Each team **MUST** be accompanied by the team coach or school faculty member duly appointed by the school principal or athletic director. Failure to comply with this regulation could result in a team forfeit.
7. **Individual Invitational Nomination Form** must be submitted via the password-protected online eligibility center – no later than 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 27, 2026.
8. Matches played after Wednesday, May 27, 2026 will not count. Do not include them in the report or the calculations to determine the win record. However, Class tournament results will be used to seed the Invitational.
9. Only regular season play will be counted toward meeting the qualifying standard; however, league tournament results may be used for seeding.
10. If a nominee has played both singles and doubles, only the singles match counts toward the players' singles record and only the doubles matches count toward the doubles record.

**Entry Fee** – Fifteen dollars (\$15) for each singles player and/or \$30 for each doubles team entered must be sent to the CIAC, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410.

**Certifications / Coaching Certifications** – For a list of all coaching certification and links to forms go here:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KnzXy81GK9x88bY1-5JBSuP-8SY34sdc/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104830910406558409235&rtf=true&sd=true>

Volunteer Coaches – The state of Connecticut Department of Education does not distinguish between volunteer or paid coaches when considering certifications or responsibilities. All coaches who are responsible for or instruct students in any way must follow Connecticut State Law for certifications and responsibilities. Therefore, volunteer coaches are required to obtain the same certifications as all other coaches.