



Woodward Academy Boys Tennis Program

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Character, Commitment, Competition

The Woodward Academy Boys Tennis Program will field championship quality teams on the Varsity level and develop these quality teams on the Junior Varsity and Middle School levels. The Boys Tennis Program will develop scholar-athletes that exhibit moral and ethical character, a firm commitment to the community and sport, and a fair and competitive attitude.

Policies and Procedures

I. Tryout Policy, Player Evaluation, and Player Selection

A. Tryouts

Tryouts will be held Monday through Friday after the GHSA Tennis Start date, but will be subject to change depending on the number of athletes trying out for the team and/or due to inclement weather. During the first week of tryouts, returning Varsity players may not be required to be in attendance based on the coach's discretion.

B. Player Evaluation for Tryouts

Players will be evaluated both objectively and subjectively based on a minimum of four (4) matches during tryouts. If a player is unable to attend the number of days necessary to complete a minimum of four (4) matches due to illness, scheduling conflicts, or other circumstances, then he will be evaluated based on the number of matches he was able to play. If the athlete is currently playing a winter sport, all reasonable efforts will be made to evaluate the player either during tryouts or after their winter sport season has been completed. A player participating in a winter sport will not be subject to any penalties when trying out for the Boys Tennis team.

1. Objective Evaluation

Players will play a minimum of four (4) matches during tryouts. Their record against other players trying out for the team will be taken into consideration to determine player selection for the Varsity and Junior Varsity Tennis teams.

2. Subjective Evaluation

Coaches will subjectively evaluate each player based on four (4) major components of the game:

1. Ground Strokes
2. Serve
3. Net Play and Movement
4. Mental - Knowledge of the game and composure on the court

C. Player Selection

Depending on the quantity and quality of players attending tryouts, one round of cuts may be sufficient to select the players necessary to field our teams. We may need additional cuts as necessary. Upon request and within 24 hours, an evaluation will be provided to all players that were not selected to the varsity or junior varsity teams.

II. Practice/Matches Attendance and Travel Policies

- A. Practices will be held afterschool beginning at 3:45 PM and ending at approximately 5:50 PM and will be announced in advance of each week. Matches will be held several times per week throughout the season and will begin between 4:00 PM and 4:30, typically.
- B. All practices and matches are mandatory. Players are expected to be present at all practices unless arrangements have been made and agreed upon by all parties (player, parents, and coaches) for a player to go to drills or lessons during scheduled practice times. Lessons and drills may NOT be scheduled on Monday as all players are required to practice with the team on Monday. *All players that attend lessons/drills are expected to attend a minimum of 1 team practice each week.*
- C. The tennis season begins in January and will end in April or May. Parents are reminded that while in season, please note practices and match schedules when scheduling appointments for doctors, dentists, hairstylist, counselors, driver license exams, etc. Some of these appointments may not be considered an excused absence from practice or match.
- D. If a player is ill or must miss practice or a match, it is the responsibility of the PLAYER, not a parent or teammate to notify the coach prior to the player's absence.
- E. Detention is NOT a valid excuse for being late to and/or missing practice/match. Violations of the practice/match attendance policy will be dealt with as described in the Discipline Policy section.
- F. All athletes are required to travel with the team on the bus unless prior arrangements have been made. Players are required to stay at the match for the duration of the match to support their teammates. Players may not ride home from matches or games via Uber/Lyft/etc.

G. Preseason/Offseason Workouts

1. At the discretion of the coaches, voluntary preseason workouts may be held throughout the fall. Attendance at preseason workouts is optional and will not influence decisions made during player selection. Participation in preseason workouts requires an up to date physical examination as filed with the School Nurse and the Athletic Trainers.

III. Playing Time and Lettering Policies

- A. Varsity – Coaches and athletes are committed to fielding the most competitive team possible during each match. The goal at the varsity level is to win championships. Playing time will be limited for those players that are not in the top seven seeds on the team. Efforts will be made when reasonably possible to ensure that each player selected for the varsity team plays in a minimum of three (3) matches required to earn a varsity letter. Players that attend all practices as well as all matches (regardless of match play) may also earn a letter without playing in three matches.
- B. Junior Varsity and Middle School – Coaches and athletes are committed to developing players. Coaches will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that playing time is awarded to all athletes that attend practice. The focus of the JV and Middle School teams is to train athletes at a high level so that they might become contributing members of the varsity team.

IV. Discipline Policy

We expect all players to hold themselves to a high standard of sportsmanship on and off the court. Throwing racquets, smashing racquets on the court, inappropriate language, or heckling opponents will not be tolerated. We represent not only our families, and ourselves, but also the entire Woodward Academy community and our behavior should reflect positively on all three.

- A. On the court – Inappropriate behavior on the courts will be dealt with immediately as described in the USTA Rules and Guidelines and as it pertains to the match in play. Additional penalties for inappropriate conduct on the tennis court include, but are not limited to: conditioning exercises, suspension, and/or dismissal from the team.
- B. Attendance Policy – Penalties for violating the Attendance Policy without a valid excuse include, but are not limited to: conditioning exercises, suspension, and/or dismissal from the team.
- C. Off the court – Misconduct off the court will not be tolerated and will be dealt accordingly with all appropriate Woodward Academy authorities.

V. Player/Parent/Spectator Conduct

- A. Parents, siblings, friends, or other party present as a spectator in support of a Woodward Academy student athlete are not permitted to talk to, harass, or come in contact with any player or coach from the opposing team. A spectator in violation will immediately be asked to vacate the premises and the match will be suspended until the spectator has been removed. Parents and other spectators may not coach any player during matches or practices.

- B. **Mobile Phones and other Electronic Devices:** Players should refrain from using technology during practices and matches. Focus should be on the court or supporting their teammates.

- C. In the event that a player or parent disagrees with the coach, I expect and insist that you contact the Head Coach directly with your questions or concerns, no sooner than 12 hours after the disagreement, so that we can resolve the dispute once both parties have had proper time review the situation.

VI. Captains

Team captains will be selected by the coaches, team, or both. Captains should represent the team and Woodward Academy. Captains will meet with the coaches weekly throughout the season. Captains may be removed by coaches, administration, or by the team. Captains must agree to lead the team in a way that represents our core values and vision.

VII. Individual and Team Goals

Players will identify, set, and discuss both athletic and personal goals with the head coach. These goals will evaluate the player's tennis game as well as their character. Coach Westlund will meet with each player at the beginning of the season to set their goals and throughout the season to discuss their progress and set new goals as applicable. Meetings may continue in the off-season per request. Team goals will be decided by the team.

Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

