



Spartan Tennis Philosophy

- No cut policy but to stay on the team, athletes must adhere to the academic and behavioral expectations of the Spartan Tennis and NCISD athletic programs.
- Players are student athletes; not athletes that are students- academics will always come first.
- “Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard” Tim Notke

Why Join Spartan Tennis?

- Tennis teaches players to take ownership for all their successes and failures.
- Studies show that high school athletes are successful students. Much of what we teach on the court is directly translatable to school and life- hard work, practice, sportsmanship, honesty, diligence and patience.
- Great way to make life-long friends, be a part of a team, be a part of the Spartan family.
- High school sports participation is a great college resume builder.

Please join the following communication apps:

PHS Tennis ALL Remind: text to 81010 @d3de3a

Weekly practice schedules, updates on weather, tournament information, etc.

Twitter: phs_tennis

REMIND ATHLETIC PERIODS Parents and athletes should automatically be participants in the Remind for the athletic periods.

Parent/Coach Relationships

Communication Expectations

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance
- Notification of injury or illness in a timely manner

Parent-Coach Meeting Procedure

- Call or email the coach to request a phone call and/or meeting.
- If the coach is unavailable, call the Campus Athletic Coordinator Coach Russell or Assistant Campus Athletic Coordinator Coach Pierre and request a meeting to be arranged

Open Door Policy:

I want all parents and players to know that my door is always open to discuss problems or issues that you may have. I value a strong relationship with both the players and their parents as you are all vital to the success of this program. Please schedule an appropriate time to discuss any concerns.

Fall Team Tennis

- Is a dual team varsity match that is typically played after-school. Season is about a month and a half long and only one night a week.
- Consists of 19 lines (matches) of tennis. 3 lines of boys' doubles, 3 lines of girls' doubles, 1 line of mixed doubles followed by 6 lines of boys' singles and 6 lines of girls' singles.
- The 1st team to win 10 lines, wins the match.
- Players must participate in the athletic periods and after-school practice to play in the matches.
- Failure to attend athletics and after-school practice may lead to being replaced for the match.
- Home matches: All participating players are expected to stay and cheer on their teammates until all matches are completed.
- Away matches: The coaching staff encourages all athletes ride the bus to and from the match. We frequently have dinner, and this promotes team spirit, deepens player bond, and is a great way to make friends.

Spring Season

- Athletes play in tournaments and participate in individual events (very similar to high school track meets)
- There are 3 types of tournaments: Freshmen, JV and Varsity
- These tournaments are all day events, and the athlete will be excused from school
- Players should be prepared for a full day of tennis (See Spring Season Guide to Tennis)
- Athletes will play at different high school sites depending upon their event.
- You will be under the supervision of the site director if the coaches are not present, show them respect as you would your own coach.
- Do not leave a site without the site director or coach's permission and only with a NISD travel release which should be given to the coach the day before the tournament.

Line Up Policy

Singles

- The singles line up consists of the top six varsity players and will be determined by a compass draw and/or challenge matches.
- It should be noted that just because you earn your singles spot through challenge matches, this does not guarantee that you will remain in the starting line-up. The coaching staff reserves the right to remove anyone from the line-up for lack of effort, dedication, work ethic, attitude, grades, or lack of performance and not dressing out for athletics or attending after school practice.

Doubles

- Doubles teams and line-ups will be selected by the coaching staff
- While singles consist of the top six players who earn their spots through the tournament and compass draw, doubles teams will be decided by the coaching staff as doubles is very different from singles. It requires different strategies and skill sets, team chemistry, among other factors. The coaching staff reserves the right to remove anyone from the line-up for lack of effort, dedication, work ethic, attitude, grades, or lack of performance.

Team Captains

Team Captains are an integral part in the success of PHS Tennis. Captains will be selected during the beginning of the season and selection will be based on the following character traits:

- Leadership • Work ethic • Attitude • Appreciation • Accountability • Unselfishness • Competitiveness

Team Captains are expected to help in the management and preparation of the team. In the coach's absence, they carry the full responsibility of the team and are to be respected on the same level as the coaches. They will be responsible for warm-ups at the beginning of athletics and fall matches.

Athletic Period

- Athletes must dress out every athletic period regardless of weather
- Each player will be assigned a locker and strongly encouraged to put all belongings in it
- Players will need a racket, tennis (court) shoes, and **water jug**.

Athletics Attire

- Boys: Practice shirt, PHS spirit shirt, PHS hoodie, athletic shorts with pockets, warm-ups, sweats (No jeans) No wife-beater shirts
- Girls: Practice shirt, PHS spirit shirt, or PHS hoodie, athletic shorts with pockets, skorts, athletic leggings, warm-ups, sweats (No jeans, camisole tops)

Athletic Shoes

Only tennis court approved shoes. **ATHLETES will not be allowed to participate without approved footwear. No running shoes** as they can cause severe injuries to ligaments and ankles and are a trip hazard. If in doubt, please ask the coaching staff.

Communication- *is the key to our program's success.*

Your athlete is expected to inform the coach of upcoming doctor/dentist appointments, out of town travel, family events or anything that will result in missing a practice or a match.

Athletes that must leave during athletics or after school practice must bring their gear with them as the coaches are unable to leave the court to open locker rooms.

It is crucial that the athlete communicates with the coaches in a timely manner so that we may make adjustments to practices/match line-ups. Understandably emergencies can occur but under normal circumstances, notification on the day of the event is not enough time to make adjustments to the line-ups.

Expectations/Policies

Athletes

- Should display a high standard of social behavior and sportsmanship. Positive language and courtesy towards others are expected.
- While on or off the court, there will be no verbal or racket abuse.
- Should show respect for uniforms, equipment, and facilities.
- Follow all NCISD athletic and social media policies.

Parents

Your role as a tennis parent is just as crucial to the success of our Spartan tennis team as is the coach and/or player. You are the reinforcement at home, cheerleader in the stands and overall supporter of not only your athlete, but the team and coaches as well.

- Please follow all NCISD Spectator expectations and policies.

Before Match Expectations:

- Have athlete(s) at school at designated time. It will be sent through Remind.
- Ensure your athlete has proper equipment: Tennis bag, racket(s), shoes, water jug and sweat towel. Optional but recommended- hat/visor, sunscreen, sweat bands, extra over-grips, extra socks, power bank for cell phone.

During Match Expectations:

- Clap/cheer only after good shots. Do not cheer for double faults, unforced errors, etc.
- Let the players keep score and call their own lines.
- Parents are not allowed to give advice/coach during matches.
- Spectators and teammates must sit outside the fence during matches and are not allowed on the court.

After School Practice

- On Sundays, a weekly schedule will be sent through PHS Tennis ALL Remind
- After School practice is mandatory- athlete must notify coaches if they are unable to attend
- Will wear appropriate attire/shoes and have water jug/bottle
- Will attend practices prior to each match/tournament unless excused by the coaching staff.
- **No cell phones** during athletics and/or after school practice.

Academics

Players are student athletes and **ACADEMICS** comes first. Student athletes are responsible for maintaining passing grades in order to participate in UIL activities. One of the benefits of being a student athlete is learning time management skills. To maintain grades and participate in tennis, students must use their time wisely and communicate with both the coaching staff and teachers.

Practice generally ends @ 4:30-5pm, this allows the athlete time for dinner and complete any schoolwork.

The coaches will be checking grades on a regular basis. Any student with a failing grade will receive an email or a REMIND message that they must respond to. We need to know why the athlete is failing. Chronic academic issues or UIL ineligibility due to grades will be put on an academic success plan. Failure to achieve all passing grades by the established time period (i.e., being ineligible for two consecutive grading periods) will likely result in the player being removed from the team so that they can concentrate on their academics.

Letter Jackets

To be considered for a letter jacket you must:

- Complete the full year in tennis at the varsity level.
- Play in at least 4 district varsity matches in the fall and 4 varsity level tournaments in the spring, or a combination of 8 varsity level fall/spring matches/tournaments on the varsity level for two consecutive years.

Wrong choices could result in consequences of not lettering. The Head Coach also reserves the right to grant or refuse a letter award to any player.

Porter Travel Policy

1. Only Porter tennis uniforms or approved school attire will be worn.
2. All students will ride with the team to and from matches. Athletes must give a travel release to the coaches the day before the tournament/match. *NOTE: choosing to leave without approval could result in a suspension from future matches. This is a safety issue.*

NOTE: The coaches nor Porter HS/NCISD can provide a guideline for every situation that might occur throughout the year. Therefore, Porter coaching staff reserves the right to make decisions and institute new policies in accordance with NCISD District Policy that may or may not be covered in this manual.

Acknowledgement of Guidelines for Porter High School Tennis 2023 - 2024

I have read and acknowledge the guidelines set forth in the Porter Tennis Handbook.

Athlete's Print Name

Parent/Guardian Print Name

Athlete's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Date