



## **2021 Special Considerations and Rules Modifications for Tennis**

The following are the "modifications" established by the GHSA for the 2020-21 tennis season. The modifications outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

### **1. ON COURT:**

- Players must keep social distance from each other during play and changeovers.
- Players should not touch other players' rackets or towels, even those of teammates.
- Players are not required to wear cloth face coverings while in play, but may do so if they desire. If worn, the mask may have a school logo and all masks on team members shall match. If a school logo is not used, the mask must be a single color, without logos or lettering.
- Face Shields are permitted and should be plastic shields, clear without tint.
- Coaches and others are encouraged to wear masks, especially when not able to maintain social distancing.
- Spectators, workers, and others are encouraged to wear masks and they are expected to follow social distancing guidelines.
- Masks and other social distancing guidelines may be required by certain tennis centers, especially inside clubhouses or restrooms.
- Anyone associated with Georgia high school tennis teams will adhere to all guidelines set forth by the host school or tennis center.

### **2. SPECTATORS AND MEDIA:**

- Spectators must remain at least six feet from the players. Spectators should practice social distancing between different household units and accept personal responsibility for public health guidelines.
- Media – All local social distancing and hygiene guidelines for spectators should be followed by any media members in attendance.
- Media members should contact host school administrators prior to arriving. Host schools shall determine how the media will have access to the players and/or coaches.
- Only essential personnel are permitted on the court. These are defined as players, coaches, athletic administrators, game managers and athletic trainers.
- All others, i.e., managers, video people, media photographers, etc. are considered non-essential personnel and are to be in the gallery remaining off the court and at least six feet from the players.

3. **SANITATION AND HYDRATION:**

- All players shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles should not be shared.
- Hydration stations (water fountains, etc.) should NOT be utilized.
- Players and coaches are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes.
- It is recommended that players use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) before and after each match. Additionally, emphasize to all to avoid touching their faces.

4. **PRE/POST MATCH:**

- Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing, chatting, or changing drills so that players remain spaced out, and no congregating of players while waiting to hit.
- Workouts or warmups should be conducted in “pods” of students, with the same 2-4 students always working out together. This ensures more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- No congratulatory handshakes - player to player, coach to player, etc. - touch rackets and/or tip caps instead.
- For tournaments, no gatherings for award presentation unless it is socially distanced.