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WHS Boys' Tennis 2021

Practice schedule: General timing is 2:45-4:45 on WHS courts. See website page WHS Boys' Tennis on whsroets.weebly.com for weekly practice and match schedules. Coaches will use RemindMe for any changes (weather issues or location changes).

COVID RULES FOR 2021: While on the court actively practicing and playing, masks will **not** be required, and social distancing will be encouraged as possible. Anytime you are on the sidelines, off the courts, or on the bus near teammates, fans, or opponents, **social distancing and mask wearing will be required**. Rather than shaking hands with each other, we will "tap racquets" (with each other and with opponents). Protocol for team introductions will be developed ASAP.

RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

All rules found in the student and student athlete handbooks apply. Penalties for infractions go up in scale from verbal warnings, to dismissal from practice, to match ineligibility (number to be determined by coaches as necessary) and finally dismissal from the team.

- **Basic rule of thumb: respect the game, respect your teammates, and respect your opponents. The USTA *Friend at Court* is our defacto rule book for tennis – there is a link on the website. Read Part 2 – The Code!**

Respect the game:

- Racquet and ball abuse is NOT allowed -racquet abuse includes throwing your racquet, smashing it into the net, fence or ground; ball abuse includes any unnecessary smashes of the ball into the net or fence – over the fence and you're really in trouble; in matches you will receive **one warning**, do it again and you **forfeit the point**, do it again and you **forfeit the match**.
- The most important rule of self-officiating – "If you aren't sure a ball is OUT, then you MUST assume it is IN." In most cases, ignore bad line calls from an opponent; if you get hot about it, he gets a mental advantage. If there is a serious problem (four or five egregiously bad calls) ask for the coaches to come observe.
- No matter how far behind you are or how lousy you are playing, DO NOT TANK! Tanking is an insult to the game, yourself and your opponent.
- Wear your uniform for matches – it shows your respect for your team, your school and the game.

Respect your teammates:

- be on time for practices and meets - you have the schedule in plenty of time to be aware of conflicts (anyone tardy will be expected to make up conditioning time after practice). If you are unable to attend a practice or match you **MUST** tell the coaches ahead of time. Missing a practice or match without such notice will result in at least one match ineligibility.
- come ready to play – mentally, physically and with the proper equipment (see equipment list) Cell phones are not allowed on the courts. Practice attire includes shorts with pockets, tennis shoes, and a t-shirt.
- support your teammates - when you have finished your own match, or if you are not playing, I expect you to be watching and giving support to your teammates – all of them!
- Captains' requests are to be treated as coaches' requests – assuming the captain is asked to relay a concern, message, or order by the coach
- any inter-squad conflicts are to be handled by talking things out, arbitrated by captains and coaches – this is a team sport and we can ill afford any dissension

Respect your opponents:

- shake hands/touch racquets before and after a match with opposing coach and opponent – and do it right; look him in the eye
- do NOT swear or use abusive language – mumbling and shouting at *yourself* once in a while can be a constructive way to blow off steam, but NEVER direct it at an opponent, **to do so means an automatic forfeit of the match**
- win with class and lose with class – do not crow or whine, do not bad mouth an opponent's skills, and whenever possible, congratulate an opponent on a match well played