



# DRAGON TENNIS POLICY

## DRAGON COACHING STAFF PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The Dragon Tennis Coaching Staff believes that we can provide key life skills for our athletes in the areas of integrity, leadership, relationships, perseverance, and and passion by being role models in these areas and mentors to our athletes not only during the tennis season but throughout the years.

## PHILOSOPHY:

The philosophy of the Pine City tennis program is to provide any athlete who chooses to participate the opportunity to improve their fundamental skills, appreciate the values of sportsmanship and teamwork, and enjoy the game.

Sportsmanship is characterized by the ability to recognize and applaud the efforts and talents of others, both teammates and opponents. We stress good sportsmanship at all levels of competition and among all individuals: athletes, parents, coaches, officials, and fans.

Competition involves both winning and losing, and we hope to teach our athletes to be humble winners and gracious losers.

Teamwork consists of working together with others to reach a common goal. We hope to assist each of our athletes in understanding their individual role on the team and in recognizing the importance of that role, whether it is large or small.

Pine City student activities are considered co-curricular to the school's program of education, which provides experiences that will help to develop boys and girls physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally. The spirit of competition and winning is inevitable, but should be controlled to the point that it does not determine the nature of the program. We believe this philosophy is educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society.

## General Rules:

1. Players will be on time to all meetings and practices.
2. All Dragon Tennis players will be **STUDENTS** first. That means that you are required to meet the school's grade standards. If you do not, you are ineligible to play tennis. It also means you **represent** your team, and need to treat fellow students and teachers with respect at all times. Avoid getting in trouble in class, in the halls, and avoid detention. Excessive behavior problems could result in **removal** from the team.



3. Players are expected to be at practice everyday. It is impossible to be a good tennis player without practice. Be ready everyday to work as hard as you possibly can. Only reasons to miss practice:
  - Family matters (funeral, sickness, doctor)
    - or some other pre-arranged reason, check with the coach.
  - **Call Coach Engelstad if you will be missing practice: 629-4158**
  - You must be in school the entire day or you do not practice.
  - **BE IN CLASS/SCHOOL ON TIME!** Being late could cost you practice & match play.
  - If you miss practice without coaches' approval or an excused absence, you run the risk of **NOT** being in the line-up for the next match, regardless of your position on the team.
  - 3 unexcused absences = possible removal from the team.
  - Wednesday practices should end no later than 6:30 pm for grades 9-12.
    - 7th & 8th graders can leave at 5:00 pm for church activities.
  
4. Practice is to be taken extremely seriously. Players need to **listen** to coaches during practices. Excessive misbehavior will not be tolerated and players will be **removed**, first from the practice and then from the team. We have no time for people who create disruptions with the other team members.
  
5. **Court behavior: NO** swearing or racket throwing will be tolerated. You will be warned, and then disciplined. Missing matches may result.
  
6. **Van / Bus Behavior:** Players will follow school district bus rules. They must follow adult instructions and display proper conduct at all times. The use of profane language, pushing or fighting will not be tolerated. All garbage will go in garbage cans. Players who do not display proper behavior will be used for home matches only.
  
7. Be respectful and honest to all opposing players and coaches. You represent Pine City. We will not be embarrassed by your behavior.



## 8. Lettering Policy:

- Is a regular member of the varsity squad. Play in 50% of matches.
- Contributed at the end of our season going into the tournaments.
- Has prompt attendance at practices and matches.
- Abides by MSHSL eligibility rules. Anyone caught with a violation **DURING** the season may come back and play after serving the time, but will not earn a letter for that season.
- Is a 2nd year manager who has attended all home matches and 50% of practices.
- Senior who has positively contributed to the dragon tennis program.
- Coaches' discretion.

## 9. Criteria for playing time:

- Singles
  - Head to head results
  - Behavior at school and practices
  - Practice attendance
  - Coaches' discretion
- Doubles
  - Partner chemistry
  - Behavior at school and practices
  - Practice attendance
  - Coaches' discretion

## 10. Moving-up philosophy: Pine City Tennis is a Varsity / JV Program

- See rationale for criteria for playing time above

## 11. CAPTAINS:

- The role of captain is an honor bestowed upon select individuals for their outstanding leadership abilities.
- All senior team members who have not had any MSHSL violations are eligible for the role of captain.
- Captain(s) will be selected by coaches at the end or beginning of the season.
- Responsibilities of a captain include, but are not limited to:
  - Representing teammates in respectful ways to coaches and officials.
  - Organizing team activities.
  - Being a consistent encourager towards teammates
  - Positive role model for teammates and youth.



## **Athlete / Parent and Coach Communication Steps (per student / parent handbook)**

### **Step One:**

The participant themselves should first meet with the coach at an appropriate time to discuss the issue. These usually clear up informational misunderstandings.

### **Step Two:**

If this is not successful at resolving the issue, the parent should request a meeting with the coach. Please contact the coach via email or phone and set up an appointment.

These meetings must be prearranged. In attendance at this meeting will be the participant, the parent/guardian, the coach, and also an additional coach is highly suggested to act only as a witness. These meetings will be conducted with three limitations.

- 1) Playing time will not be discussed; how the participant can improve can be discussed.
- 2) Other students will not be discussed.
- 3) Unacceptable behavior/language will end the meeting.

### **Step Three:**

If the meeting is not successful at resolving the issue, the Activities Director will be contacted by the coach and a meeting will be set up which will include all those previously in attendance with now the Activities Director included as well. The coach is required, via email, to keep the Activities Director informed of all Step Two meetings with details on issues discussed and information given.

Coach Engelstad

email: [rengelstad@isd578.org](mailto:rengelstad@isd578.org)

cell number: 763-242-1451