

**To:** All Montana AA High School Tennis Head Coaches  
**From:** Steve Schwartz; Tournament Director  
**Subject:** Missoula AA High School Invite – 2019  
**Date:** March 21, 2019

COACHES:

As you probably know, on April 26 & 27, Missoula will be hosting a tournament for all 14 AA high schools in Montana. I am honored to have been chosen to be the tournament director for this event, and have been working in conjunction with Hellgate High School's head coach Brian Hanford and athletic director Nick Laatsch to create and organize the event. I thought you would all appreciate knowing the tournament's format and rules as early as possible, so you can plan for the event.

The tournament will consist of 14 separate brackets of 14 singles players or doubles teams each. There will be three (3) brackets for boys singles, 3 for girls singles, four (4) for boys doubles, and 4 for girls doubles. We had hoped to have brackets for your #4 singles players, but we don't have enough courts to accommodate the extra matches that would entail. Each bracket will utilize the "No-Elimination" format that has been used by the Garden City Tennis Association's "No-Elimination Tournaments" since 1987. With this format, each singles player and each doubles team will be scheduled to play four ("Count 'em, 4") matches, win or lose over the course of the two days. There will be two matches for each player or doubles team Friday, and two more Saturday.

The brackets will be designated for each high school's choice to represent its team as its #1 Boys Singles player, #2 Boys Singles Player, #3 Boys Singles Player, #1 Boys Doubles Team, #2 Boys Doubles Team, #3 Boys Doubles Team, #4 Boys Doubles Team, #1 Girls Singles Player, #2 Girls Singles Player, #3 Girls Singles Player, #1 Girls Doubles Team, #2 Girls Doubles Team, #3 Girls Doubles Team, and #4 Girls Doubles Team. The player or team that wins its bracket will earn 14 points for their school's team, the runners-up in each bracket will earn 13 points, third place finishers will earn 12 points, etc. all the way down to the last place finishers in each bracket earning 1 point for their teams, provided they play all four matches on the schedule.

It is our intention that all matches be best two out of three sets, with set tie-breakers played if any set reaches 6-all. We will use match tie-breakers (first to 10 points with a margin of two) instead of a full third set in any matches where the first two sets are split. If inclement weather becomes a problem, we will make appropriate decisions on how to shorten the remaining matches, using MHSAA rules.

As things stand now, all singles matches, both boys and girls, will be played on the Playfair Park 12 court complex just south of Sentinel High School. There will be 84 singles matches scheduled each day, for a total of 168 singles matches. All boys doubles matches will be played on the 9 court complex at the University of Montana, and all girls doubles matches will be played on the 8 court complex at Fort Missoula. There will be 56 doubles matches scheduled each day at each site, for a total of 112 doubles matches per site. That is a grand total of 196 tennis matches per day, or 392 matches for the event.

**Seeding each bracket will be determined based on the results of earlier, dual meet matches. For that reason, it is very important that we receive the results of all matches played prior to the tournament.** Since the No-Elimination format for a bracket of 14 participants is not a USTA sanctioned format (It is my own creation), we intend to seed the top eight (8) players/teams in each bracket. Knowing the results of previous matches played will be essential for us to seed the brackets with reasonable accuracy. Please email the results of all dual match results to me at [schwartz2622@outlook.com](mailto:schwartz2622@outlook.com) and/or to Nick Laatsch at [nalaatsch@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:nalaatsch@mcps.k12.mt.us). We also intend to separate players/teams from Eastern (Bozeman, Butte, CMR, Great Falls, Senior, Skyview, West) and Western (Big Sky, Capital, Flathead, Glacier, Helena, Hellgate, Sentinel) Montana schools as much as possible.

If you have any questions, you may call or text me at **406-240-5643**, or email me at [schwartz2622@outlook.com](mailto:schwartz2622@outlook.com). I will be travelling out-of-state from March 29 – April 15, but I will have my phone with me and can receive email on it, though I would prefer receiving texts as they use less data on my limited data plan. If you call and get my voice mail, leave a message. My wife and I will be hiking in some remote places of Utah and California, so I won't always be in cell tower range.

Thank you all. I am really stoked about this tournament. I think it will be the greatest Montana High School Tennis event ever. Your participation will ensure that. Good luck, and I'll see you and your players on the courts.

Steve Schwartz  
Missoula AA High School Invite – 2019 Tournament Director