2026 Player & Parent Handbook

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Communication & Schedule

- Packer Tennis update -Emailed on Sunday evenings with a schedule for the upcoming week

2026 Team Goals

1. **Grow as a team & be better together**
2. **Represent ourselves, our school & our community with positive attitudes, full-effort & good sportsmanship**
3. **Support one another from the beginning to the end of the season**
4. **Persevere on the court, in the classroom, & in life**

Coaching Philosophy: We coach to help student athletes learn the life skills of teamwork, integrity, and perseverance through the game of tennis. Our goal is to find the position on the team where each player and the team can have the best chance for success. Each player has different strengths and abilities, and we try our best to utilize these abilities for team and individual success. We strive to help our players to succeed in tennis and life.

Junior Varsity Philosophy: The junior varsity is the stepping-stone to the varsity team. This team will provide an opportunity for players to gain experience, improve their strokes, their tennis strategies, their footwork, and the mental game of tennis.

Varsity Team Selection: Try-outs will occur during the first few days of practice. The top 10-12 players at that time will be named to the varsity. We want everyone to get the opportunity to play (and are not allowed to substitute during matches), so the top 10-12 players on each date will travel with the varsity and other players will travel with the junior varsity. We may rotate the bottom positions until we find the best fit for the team.

Varsity Selection and Line-ups will be based on the following:

- Ability/willingness to uphold our team principles.
- Work ethic in practice
- Commitment to team.
- Current tennis abilities, overall athletic ability, and potential
- Knowledge and execution of singles and doubles strategy and movement
- Ability to hit, control, place, and execute advanced tennis strokes
- Match performance at the varsity level
- Positive attitude, full- effort & good sportsmanship

Lettering Criteria

- A player must play in one-third of all varsity tennis matches and must complete the entire varsity season.
- Seniors who have completed their entire junior and senior seasons and have shown exemplary leadership, attitude, and dedication may letter.
- The coaching staff may use their discretion in determining all letter winners.

Player Eligibility & Code of Conduct

- In conjunction with South St. Paul High School, the Packer tennis team follows the MSHSL guidelines for student athlete conduct and eligibility. This can be found at: https://www.mshsl.org/mshsl-handbook-governance-documents

Social Media Policy

Playing and competing for the South St Paul Boys Tennis Team is a privilege. Student-athletes are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. As leaders you have the responsibility to portray your team, your school and yourselves in a positive manner at all times. Sometimes this means doing things that are an inconvenience to you but benefit the whole team.

Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally and are used by many student-athletes at South St Paul High School in one form or another. Student-athletes should be aware that third parties - including the media, teachers, and future employers - could easily access their profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments and more. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student-athlete, our team and our school.

THINK before you post:

T = is it TRUE?
H = is it HELPFUL?
I = is it INSPIRING?
N = is it NECESSARY?
K = is it KIND?

1. It is acceptable to disagree with someone else's opinions. However, always do it in a respectful way.

2. Be safe online. Never give out personal information, including, but not limited to, last names, phone numbers, addresses, and exact birth dates. Do not share your passwords.

3. Set your security settings so that only your friends can view your profile.

4. How you represent yourself online is an extension of yourself. Do not misrepresent yourself by using someone else's identity.

5. If you run across inappropriate material that makes you feel uncomfortable, or is not respectful, tell your coach, parent, or teacher right away.

6. Students who do not abide by these terms and conditions may lose their opportunity to take part in our team.

2026 Player & Parent Agreement

The 2026 handbook is available for download on South St. Paul website (www.sspps.org).

PLAYERS:
Please sign below and return to one of the coaches

I acknowledge that I have read the 2026 SSP Boys Tennis Team Handbook and Policies. I understand what is written and have asked questions regarding anything that is not clear. I have a choice whether I want to be on this team or not, and I have chosen to be a member of this team with full knowledge of the guidelines and expectations set forth by my teammates, coaches, and South St. Paul High School.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS:
Please sign below and return to one of the coaches.

I have read the 2026 Team Handbook and will help the SSP Boys' Tennis Coaches develop the characteristics needed for my son to succeed in tennis and life. I will bring any questions I have about team expectations, line-up determination, or coaching philosophy to the coaches in a timely manner. I will trust that my child's coaches will work hard to do what is best for both him and for the team. As a parent, I will support my child and South St. Paul Packer Tennis.

Player Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____