

To: 2021 Boys Tennis Players and Families  
From: Coach Solomon ("Coach Sol") and staff  
RE: Upcoming season, court conditions and COVID protocols

Greetings Hall Boys Tennis Families,

Although I speak for myself, I'm sure it is true for all of us that the excitement of spring and a new tennis season is higher than ever. With two classes of new players, we are planning for a wonderful reentry into the world of scholastic tennis. The good news is that we are back but, no surprise, this won't be a typical year!

**Court Conditions:** A recent examination of our courts revealed that existing cracks have expanded and new ones have emerged to make 8 out of the 12 courts dangerous and unplayable. The courts are slated for repair by the end of April break, which means that boys and girls must share the 4 available courts until that work is completed. That means for at least 2-3 weeks (maybe longer) we will need to adapt to circumstances the best we can. One option was to limit the number of players on our team, at least until repairs were done. The 4 head coaches at Hall and Conard (similar problems) and the Athletic Director rejected that idea because it is a departure from our No Cut program. For Hall, our Athletic Director was able to procure 5 additional courts at the Carmen Arace Middle School in Bloomfield, from 3-6 pm during the week and 8-12 on Saturdays that will be shared between boys and girls varsity teams (except for Saturday, March 27). However, transportation will not be supplied by the school and student-athletes must get there on their own, either by driving themselves (a transportation waiver is necessary, found on the athletic department website) or by family/ family approved means.

**Opening Day:** On opening day, Saturday, March 27, everyone will be at Carmen Arace in Bloomfield. We will split into 2 groups, one from 8:00-10:15, and the second from 9:45-12:00. Tentatively, freshman and sophomores will come at 8:00 and Team 1 players from 2020, Juniors and Seniors at 9:45 (some balancing may need to be done). Practice will not be

held if courts are unplayable, so please check Classroom, the website and join the chat. Make sure players are dressed warmly and bring plenty of water as no communal water will be available (for the season). Also make sure you read the COVID protocols below.

**Practice Times from 3/29-4/3:** Team 1 players will be at Carmen Arace from 2:45-4:45. Team 2 will be at Hall from 4:00-6:00. Good Friday and Saturday, April 3 will be announced later.

**Practice Times from 4/05-4/10:** Team 1 players will be at Carmen Arace from 4:15-6:15, except for a scrimmage on 4/7 at Wethersfield (rain date Thursday, 4/8), and Friday, April 9 scrimmage at Manchester. Team 2 players will be at Hall from 2:30-4:30. Saturday, 4/10 TBA.

**Practice Times from 4/12-17:** Vacation week. Team 1 has a home match on **4/13** and an away match on **4/16**. Other practices will be held from but the site and time may vary according to court construction. Carmen Arace will probably be the location.

**COVID Instructions:** Please review the enclosed document to help insure the safety and well being of everyone! We will enforce the COVID rules, including social distancing.

Here is the link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1J7nV8e2DZn2ohdHUorx7LR6fecGmzBzapU7yuYrGkac/edit>

**Additional Information:** Please check the Hall website and Google Classroom for information as it becomes available. I will be emailing parents through the Sports Registration System and Google Classroom on a weekly basis. Please do not hesitate to email me with any questions or concerns at [Jim\\_Solomon@whps.org](mailto:Jim_Solomon@whps.org).

Flexibility and patience--two essential mental toughness skills--will assist us right from the start this year. Let's hope for great weather and timely repairs to our facility so that we can have a wonderful comeback season.

