

# Welcome to the Sossaman Tennis Program

## Meet The Coach:

### Coach Angelo:

I started coaching at 16 years old through the ATA (Arizona Tennis Association), at 17 I was hired by Seville Golf and Country Club's tennis staff where I was the Assistant Tennis Pro for the next 4 years. When Casteel opened, I joined the Colt coaching staff and led the inaugural tennis teams during the 2016/2017 school year. Over the next 8 years I was a 4X coach of the year recipient, was on the AIA tennis committee, wrote 3 bylaws for high school tennis in Arizona, and founded the EVC's tennis league. In my first year coaching at Higley High School, I took the Men's tennis team to just their second playoff appearance in the past 20 years. I have been running my own private tennis club for the past 4 years along with being a teacher at Higley for the last 5 years. I am married to my wife McKenna who runs district's foreign exchange program.

## GOALS:

- Develop a deep understanding of the sport
- Set a solid foundation to build on in high school
  
- Know your child
- Know yourself
- Know the mission of the program
- A survey of hundreds of college athletes asked "What is your worst memory from youth & high school school sports"
  - The overwhelming response "The car ride home with my parents".
- Avoid the dreaded "post game analysis"
- Adopt a "Tell me more" attitude
- Resist the urge to "fix it". Just let them talk

## EXPECTATIONS of Parents:

1. Positively support your kid
  2. Positively support the Higley Tennis program
    - a. Be careful what you say to them about **their** tennis program
    - b. When you badmouth **their** program, you're essentially bad mouthing them.
  3. **The kids make the calls, not you.**
  4. Please respect our boundaries, encourage your kid to be with their teammates after a match, not secluded with you.
  5. No parents on the court for any reason during matches or practices.
  6. No coaching of any players from the sidelines. Only the head coach is allowed to speak to the players during the match. Do not criticize, comment, AND DONT REACT to bad calls by our opponents. We all saw the same thing, let our players handle it. All you are doing is making it harder for the coaches to defend our own players.
- *Know your child*
  - *Know the mission of the program*
  - *A survey of hundreds of college athletes asked "What is your worst memory from youth & high school school sports"*
    - *The overwhelming response "The car ride home with my parents".*
  - *Avoid the dreaded "post game analysis"*
  - *Adopt a "Tell me more" attitude*

*Resist the urge to "fix it". Just let them talk*

## Of Players:

- a. To Compete
- b. Be Great
- c. Courage- Character- **Commitment**
- d. Communicate- I want to hear from you, not your parents
- e. 100% Effort
- f. Treat your teammates with the utmost respect.
- g. Appropriate practice attire
- h. **Cheer for each other when you aren't playing!**

## Parents with problems:

1. Let's solve the problem
  - a. Encourage your son to meet with me- you might get the answer you are looking for.
  - b. Contact the Head Coach 1<sup>st</sup> (not AD, Principal, Superintendent)
    1. Face to face – your kid MUST be present
    2. Not much gets accomplished with phone calls and emails
  - c. Consider when to approach coach after a match or practice when you are upset
    1. Do not let fresh emotions affect the message.

### Team Attendance Policy

1. Either he is there or not there. If he's not there, the next in line is.
2. Miss practice? You will probably miss the next match.
3. Ultimately, playing time will be missed at the Head Coach's discretion. Coaches will be fair and consistent.

### V. Playing Time, lineups and match strategy

1. Will never be discussed – we will go round and round and get nothing accomplished
  - a. Coach sees more than you do.
2. This is Higley District! We expect to win.
3. Challenge matches will be used as a tool for my judgment, nothing more.

### VI. Drugs, alcohol, etc....

1. All school and husd policies will be upheld
2. Discipline could be up to and including removal from the program
3. Your actions in your free time still represent this team.
4. Coach always finds out. You can't hide it forever.

### VII. Social media

1. Players are expected to be extremely careful how they use social media. Any negative posts or feeds regarding any part of HHS or Higley Tennis will be grounds for removal from our team. Players are expected to use social media responsibly, and taunting opponents online will also be grounds for discipline.

2. Our official team media accounts are school accounts. Do not engage these accounts in inappropriate ways. School rules apply outside the classroom and campus. Be careful.

### VIII. Disclaimer

1. A player is subject to suspension or removal from a team at any time by a coach for behavior that we feel is detrimental to our school or program. School administration will be consulted before any decisions like that are made.

## **Important Highlights**

- Communication should primarily be player-coach. The student athlete is responsible for their own success and needs to take responsibility in their communication of any questions, concerns, or comments they may have. I do not want a text from mom/dad about their son not being at practice.
- We will build a culture of excellence. We are expected to win, that is our mission. If you do not play and practice with the intention of winning, you aren't building life skills.

## **Spring and Fall break:**

*In High School, we may play matches over spring break. Schedule your vacations at other times. If you leave over spring break, your son could be missing up to 25% of their possible matches. Their spot will NOT be waiting for them when they get back. I will do my best to accommodate around the break, their practice schedule has the days they NEED to be in town, plan accordingly.*

## **How To Help:**

- Tax Credit donations are appreciated! This goes into our school account
- Fundraisers
  - Participate!
- DONATE BALLS! A case of tennis balls cost you much less than it costs the school to go through our distributor.

**About our program:** Information and events can also be found at:

- Twitter: @higleytennis and Instagram: @higleymenstennis
- On our team website: [higleytennis.com](http://higleytennis.com)