



## Higley Knights

Varsity/JV Tennis Season

Coach Angelo Pugnetti

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[higleytennis.com](http://higleytennis.com)

**Tryouts:** Tryouts will be February 10th-14th from 2:30pm-4:00pm. Players will compete in tennis activities and will be evaluated on their in-game strategy, strokes, results, etc. At the conclusion of tryouts on Friday, results will be posted on our website. **Players must be cleared through [registermyathlete.com](http://registermyathlete.com) prior to tryouts.**

Things you will be evaluated on:

Serves, Forehands, Backhands, Volleys, Overheads	Things that will be looked for..  The ability to <b><i>listen and apply</i></b> coach instruction on:  Placement, Power, Control, Consistency, Spin, etc.
Effort	Things that will be looked for..  ATTITUDE, Hustle, Determination, Motivation, Leadership, Energy etc.

*Tryouts will be based on 49% skill, experience, and performance. Are you talented and do you know how to win? This is important, but not the most important aspect of becoming a Knight.*

*The other 51% of making the team will be based on coaches' discretion. The Higley boy's tennis program has high standards and is based on "team first" philosophies. This is not a program for individuals or a program about individuals, just as the sport of tennis in high school is not individual, you rely on others to be successful as a school. We have quickly established ourselves as a program known for our abilities on the court as well as our respectful behavior towards one another and our opponents... Can you help add to this legacy?*

Character comes first. If you do not do these things, you will not be able to play for us, period.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Years playing tennis: \_\_\_\_\_

Years in the Higley Tennis Program: \_\_\_\_\_

How many USTA tournaments have you played in since April of 2023? \_\_\_\_\_

Your greatest strengths as a player:

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Your biggest weaknesses as a player:

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What are your goals this season?

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A fun fact about you:

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Is there anything else I should know?

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There are 6 starting spots on varsity and 6 starting spots on JV. What is your realistic expectation for your potential lineup spot (check one AND put the number in the lineup-- If you mark JV and put 1, that means there are only 6 people trying out that you think are better than you). Be honest with yourself while filling this out, honest self reflection goes a long way in having a healthy mindset.

Varsity [ ] \_\_\_\_\_

JV [ ] \_\_\_\_\_

I know it might not be in the top 12, but I am here to try! [ ]

# What It Takes To Be A Knight

To be a Knight is a privilege, not a right. Just as it is to coach them! Here is what it will take to be considered for the Higley Boys Tennis Team:

Tryouts will be based on 49% skill, experience, and challenge matches. Are you talented and do you know how to win? This is important, but not the most important aspect of becoming a Knight.

The other 51% of making the team will be based on coaches' discretion. The Higley boy's tennis program has high standards and is based on "team first" philosophies. This is not a program for individuals or a program about individuals, just as the sport of tennis in high school is not individual, but you rely on others to be successful as a school.

To be a Knight, a student-athlete must be:

- Grades will be looked at prior to making final cuts and poor performance in the classroom may lead to not making the team.
- A person of integrity. A Knight must be an honest and forthright person.
- Respectful. Do you treat yourself, the game, your coaches and your teammates with the utmost respect? This is a must to be considered for the team. This includes body language. In respect comes being a good teammate. You must treat your teammates with respect. Be helpful and supportive. Put your teammates clearly before yourself whenever possible.
- Hard working. A tremendous work ethic must be possessed in order to keep up and earn a position on the team. "Hard work doesn't guarantee success, but improves its chances" -B.J. Gupta
- Coachable. As coaches, we must be able to coach you in a way that is beneficial to the team and program. As a player, you must be open and receptive to coaching. For example, this means you are willing to listen, implement strategy, and play doubles as we see fit.
- Committed. Do you do all the little things? Are you enrolled in the boys tennis academy, did you participate in the summer program, do you come to open tennis and team workouts, are you proactive during team fundraisers, do you make time for the program outside of what you "have" to do. Higley boy's tennis is a year round program, *everything will be considered and you are always being evaluated.*
- Positive. Are you a positive thinker? Do you make positive statements? Do you have a contagious attitude worth catching? You must have a great energy about yourself
- Punctual. Attendance is VERY important. Be present, be on time, all the time. Tennis and your tennis team must be one of your priorities and this should be evident through your words and actions.

## **2025 Higley High School Tennis**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ pledge:

1. I must remember first and foremost that I am a student. I will always strive to do my best in the classroom. I will complete every assignment and maintain a passing grade in every class.
2. I will conduct myself as a model student at Higley High School treating every teacher, staff member, and student with respect.
3. I will treat both my competitors and my teammates with respect on and off the court. I will also treat my opponent and the spectators with respect by refraining from using vulgar language while representing Higley.
4. I will always follow the proper rules of tennis and keep score with both honesty and integrity.
5. I will demonstrate a positive attitude, positive body language, and positive behaviors both on and off the court. I will never stall, sulk, complain, or practice gamesmanship during a match; rather I will participate to the best of my ability while modeling good sportsmanship and great character.
6. I will attend every practice and diligently work to improve my game. If a situation comes up that requires me to miss practice, **I understand that it is my responsibility** (not my parents) to let Coach know of my absence before practice. I also understand that missing a practice or arriving late can result in extra conditioning to make up for lost time and **may result in lost playing time during an upcoming match.**
7. I will always give 100% during practice/matches and leave all distractions (i.e. cell phones, Air Pods, friends, etc.) off the courts.
8. I will take care of the Higley High School equipment I have been entrusted with and return it in the same condition in which I received it.

9. I will at all times and in all ways present myself as a positive reflection of Higley High School, and I understand that at all times the rules of the school handbook apply.
10. I will refrain from the use of tobacco (including all vape products), drugs, and alcohol while a member of the Higley Tennis team.
11. My parents and myself will follow the conflict resolution procedure:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> step: I will communicate with Coach Pugnetti any problems or concerns
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> step: If that doesn't work, my parent(s) will communicate with Coach Pugnetti.
  - c. 3<sup>rd</sup> step: If that doesn't work, my parent(s) will communicate with the AD.
12. I understand that the lineup will be determined through coaches discretion. Rankings can also be changed for missing practice, unsportsmanlike behavior, and failure to maintain grades. Challenge matches are not a right, but a tool used by coaches to help make decisions- no one is entitled to a challenge match at any given time.

I acknowledge with my signature on this pledge that my failure to adhere to any part of this pledge may result in my loss of playing time, practice time, or my complete removal from the Higley tennis team.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_