



# TENNIS 2014

16–19 October 2013

hosted by Senri & Osaka International Schools  
Minoh City, Osaka, Japan

[www.senri.ed.jp](http://www.senri.ed.jp)

[sabers.senri.ed.jp](http://sabers.senri.ed.jp)



## **4 Participant Schools**

Korea International School  
Senri and Osaka International Schools  
Seoul International School  
Yokohama International School

## **Outline of Schedule**

Thursday mid-afternoon: YIS arrival; SOIS and YIS begin play  
Thursday late afternoon/early evening: KIS, SIS arrival  
Thursday evening: dinner with host families  
Friday: tournament play  
Saturday: tournament play  
Saturday evening: banquet, awards ceremony  
Sunday morning: team departures

8 September 2014

## **Greetings, AISA activities directors and tennis coaches.**

Please consider this letter of preliminary information as your official invitation to the 2014 AISA tennis tournament hosted by Senri & Osaka International Schools ([SOIS](#)).

### **Dates**

2014 October 16–19 (Thursday–Sunday)

### **Facility**

[Senri AQUA Tennis Courts](#) (“Aqua”: 20-minute walk from school, outdoor courts, sandy surface)



### **Arrival times**

***Please provide travel details as soon as possible.***

We at SOIS will accommodate your travel arrangements as best we can. Below is an ideal situation.

1. Overseas teams arrive at KIX (Kansai International Airport) at similar times between 3:00 and 4:00 PM (in the past, SIS and KIS have arrived on the same flight OZ114 at 3:50 PM, which is perfect). Then clear immigration, pick up bags, clear customs, **exchange money**, **rent cell phones**, buy a snack for the bus ride, and get on the bus.
2. A **90-minute bus ride** puts you at school between 6:00 and 7:00 PM, a good time for our host families to meet their guests and get them home at a decent time for dinner. (Long bus ride to the school; be prepared. Most – though not all – host families live close to school.)
3. If you arrive earlier at the school during the school day, you might have to wait a bit in the school library if our host students are not ready to take your students home.
4. If you arrive later in the evening it becomes a late night for your students with matches starting early the next morning.

### **Departure times**

Please schedule your flight departure from KIX for about noon on Sunday, if possible. A noon flight means you should check in at 10:00 AM, which means you would depart the school on a bus at 8:15 AM. (In the past, KIS and SIS have departed on flight OZ111 at 12:50 PM, which meant a very reasonable 9:00 AM bus departure from the school.)

### **Visas**

Visitors of most nationalities enter Japan on a tourist visa. (Forms are handed out on the airplane and are also available at immigration.) **Please check your visa requirements.**

### **Tournament entry fee**

US\$200 for AISA member schools. (US dollars preferred from KIS and SIS. YIS can pay 21,000 yen if it prefers.)

## **Rosters, team photos, t-shirt orders, homestay preferences, coaches hotel**

Please e-mail ([pheimer@senri.ed.jp](mailto:pheimer@senri.ed.jp)) the separate form with all information as soon as possible.

### **Rosters**

Tennis: 7 female players, 7 male players, 2 coaches (14 students total).

Please indicate 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> players, and singles and doubles.

### **Format of play:**

As outlined in section 27 (pages 18-20) of the AISA handbook. Match schedule to follow.

### **Weather:**

Autumn weather in Japan is temperate – warm during the day, cooler in the evening – usually dry but with some possibility of rain. We will play on outdoor courts with little shelter. Light windbreakers or rain jackets are advised.

### **Water, food**

Each team will be provided with one case of bottled water each day. More water and drinks can be purchased from drink machines at the courts. Tap water in Osaka is safe if you want to fill up your own water bottles. Snacks, energy drinks, and food can be purchased at nearby shops and convenience stores. There are many restaurants and shops near the courts and near the school. Coaches will be provided food and drink throughout the tournament.

Friday night: coaches dinner. Saturday night: banquet meal.

### **Currency, costs**

Prices in Japan are higher than those in South Korea. There is no place near the school to exchange money; please exchange currency at KIX airport upon arrival, or before at your departing airport. A typical fast food restaurant meal costs 800 yen (about US\$8). Taxi fare from the school to the nearest shopping center (10-minute drive) is approximately 1600 yen (US\$16). Starbucks coffee, 500 yen (US\$5). Visiting students will need money for some meals, shopping, and perhaps taxis and public transportation (which can cost up to 500 yen (US\$5) one-way – please budget accordingly).

### **Personal safety**

Theft and threats to personal safety are rare in Japan. Still, please protect your valuables. SOIS is located in a very safe suburban area in the city of [Minoh](#). Minoh is 45 minutes from central Osaka City by public transportation.

### **Medical care**

The SOIS school nurse will be on duty. Quality hospitals and clinics are nearby.

## Transportation

Public transportation in Japan is extensive and convenient. Visiting players and coaches will be provided with a set of directions to the school for use with taxi drivers. Players will have little time to venture far from the school or courts during the day other than to walk to nearby restaurants and food shops. Students will travel to and from school with their homestay buddies, usually by car or on foot, or by public transportation.

## Homestays

SOIS families look forward to hosting visiting students from overseas. Our families live in small houses or apartments. Visiting students can expect a clean, comfortable, welcoming homestay experience, though in homes a bit smaller and less private than they might be used to. For example, visiting students might sleep on the floor on Japanese-style futons, sharing a room with a teammate or host buddy. Usually, there will be only one shower used by all members of the household. SOIS homestay host students are fluent or very capable English speakers as are most – though not all – parents. Most families – though not all – are able to provide private vehicle transportation to school. Some visiting students will travel via public transportation with homestay buddies (which can cost up to 500 yen (US\$5) one-way – please budget accordingly). The SOIS community is spread far and wide; we will try to house students near the school, but this might not always be possible.

Visiting students should:

- be respectful and helpful to the host family;
- communicate clearly with the family, especially about schedules, meeting places, meals;
- show appreciation of the host family's support, without which the event would not run.

## Showers, laundry

Showers and changing rooms are at the school (and at the host family's home, of course), but not at the tennis facility. Host families will provide towels, soap and shampoo, and will help with laundry.

## Tournament t-shirts

Tournament t-shirts must be ordered in advance at a cost of approximately 1800 yen (US\$18 – apologies for the higher costs in Japan). Please order the exact number and sizes on the team roster. Sizes in Japan are similar to US sizes, perhaps about a half-size smaller.

## Coaches hotel

Coaches will stay at the [Senri Hankyu Hotel](#), located near the large [Senri-Chuo train station](#), a 10-minute taxi ride (1600 yen) from the school. Reservations will be made by SOIS. It is assumed that all coaches will need single rooms (non-smoking; breakfast included). Please advise if there is a change.

### **Curfew**

As with all AISA events, curfew is set at 10:00 PM. Each coach is responsible each night for calling the host families' residences (not student cell phones) to ensure that students have arrived home safely and on time.

### **Cell phone**

Coaches will need at least one cell phone to make curfew calls and communicate in cases of emergency. Coaches must rent cell phones at KIX airport and share the telephone number with their students and the SOIS AD.



### **Coaches meetings**

1. First meeting: Thursday evening, soon after arrival at SOIS
2. Second meeting: upon completion of Friday's matches
3. Post-tournament meeting: immediately upon completion of Saturday's matches

### **Coaches dinner**

SOIS will host a coaches dinner Friday evening at [a restaurant](#) near the coaches hotel. We hope everyone can attend as it is a good way to spend friendly, non-competitive time together. As indicated on the roster form, it is assumed that all coaches will attend the coaches dinner; please advise otherwise, and please advise if a vegetarian meal is needed.

### **Banquet**

The banquet will be held after the completion of play Saturday evening in the SOIS cafeteria.

### **Awards**

Awards will be presented in the SOIS theater immediately after the banquet.

The entire SOIS Sabers community looks forward to hosting you for this event. Please contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

***Peter Heimer***

SOIS activities director, Senri & Osaka International Schools, [pheimer@senri.ed.jp](mailto:pheimer@senri.ed.jp)

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**SOIS school websites**

[www.senri.ed.jp](http://www.senri.ed.jp)

[sabers.senri.ed.jp](http://sabers.senri.ed.jp)



**SOIS school administrators**

Senri International School head: Mr. Kazunori Masago

Osaka International School head: Mr. Bill Kralovec

SIS MS/HS principal: Ms. Mayumi Ito

OIS MS/HS principal: Mr. Kurt Mecklem