

**MINUTES OF THE 2020-21 IHSA BOYS/GIRLS TENNIS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 28, 2020**

The IHSA Boys/Girls Tennis Advisory Committee met in the IHSA Office in Bloomington on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee Members present were: Division 1 - Alexander Hughes, Boys/Girls Coach, Chicago (Northside); Division 2 – Steve Schoenfelder, Athletic Director, Antioch; Division 3 – Brian Ostrander, Boys/Girls Coach, Orland Park (Sandburg); Division 4 – Tracy Palmer, Boys/Girls Coach, Rockford (Auburn).; Division 6 – Sonthana Thongsithavong, Boys/Girls Coach, Chatham (Glenwood); and Division 7 – Richard Mertens, Principal, Belleville (West). Also, in attendance were Boys State Tennis Tournament Manager Matt Norris, Arlington Heights (Hersey); Girls State Tournament Manager Kevin Schrammel, Buffalo Grove (H.S.); IHSTCA Representative Josh Leighton, Deerfield H. S.; and Assistant Executive Director Susie Knoblauch. Division 5 – Laura Ballard, Boys Coach, Bloomington (Central Catholic) was unable to attend.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Item V. B 2. - Sectional Seeding Meeting

Recommendation: At the Sectional, the #4 and #5 seed will be placed in the top of the draw while the #3 and #6 seed are placed in the bottom of a draw. For a 17 or more entry draw, the lines of the seeds will be as follows: #1 (line 1), #2 (line 32), #3 (line 24), #4 (line 9), #5 (line 13) and #6 (line 20). For a 16 or less entry draw, the lines of the seeds will be as follows: #1 (line 1), #2 (line 16), #3 (line 12), #4 (line 5), #5 (line 7) and #6 (line 10).

Rationale: In some sectionals, the level of a skill between a player(s) is significantly different. With this seeding process system in place, a stronger player has a fairer route to qualify for the state final. Sectional winners will be determined in an equitable manner rather than the luck of the draw (coin flip). This recommendation was submitted and supported on behalf of the IHSTCA.

Note: This seeding process was implemented in the past, however, reverted back because there were concerns regarding the length of seed meetings, strategic manipulation, and creating a placement of a player rather than a draw.

Approved by Consent

2. Item V. B. - Tournament Rules - Sectional Seeding Meeting

Recommendation: At the discretion of the sectional manager, a virtual option may be used to conduct the sectional seed meeting.

Rationale: With the availability of so many virtual platforms to conduct meetings, this option will assist sectional managers and coaches and provide them a format to have the opportunity to conduct inclusive, efficient, and effective meetings.

Approved by Consent

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. The committee reviewed the 2019 IHSA Tennis Advisory Committee Minutes.
2. Kevin Schrammel and Matt Norris provided a summary report on the IHSA Girls/Boys Tennis State Finals. Knoblauch reviewed all of the Fall 2020 sectional host sites and recognized them for going above and beyond to host a sectional during difficult times.
3. Josh Leighton provided an update from the Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association (IHSTCA).
4. Knoblauch reviewed the use of tennis reporting as an online scorebook and seeding tool. Steve Matuszewski from Tennisreporting.com joined the meeting and shared feedback regarding the continued improvements with the online scoring and seeding platform.
5. Knoblauch will continue to work with Tennisreporting.com and the IHSA technology administrator to minimize the redundancy of information being put into each program and streamline the winners report process.
6. It was recommended to continue to conduct a conference call with sectional hosts prior to their event to address questions and to provide consistency.
7. It was recommended to partner with the IHSTCA to provide brief educational videos on best practices on how to conduct a seed meeting and how to complete the draw sheet.
8. The committee discussed the process of conducting a state series during a pandemic.
9. The committee discussed the process of substituting players from the roster to the line and recommended making this a point of emphasis during the online rules video.
10. The IHSA recognized and thanked IHSA Division 1 Representative – Alexander Hughes, Boys Coach at Chicago (Northside) and Division 2 Representative – Steve Schoenfelder, Athletic Director from Antioch for their contributions and service on the IHSA tennis advisory committee.