

## MINUTES OF THE 2020-21 IHSA BOYS/GIRLS TENNIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 27, 2021

The IHSA Boys/Girls Tennis Advisory Committee met virtually on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Committee Members present were: Division 1 – Dawuad Talib, Boys/Girls Coach, Chicago (U-High); Division 2 – Julia Barthel, Athletic Director, Hersey High School; Division 3 – Brian Ostrander, Boys/Girls Coach, Orland Park (Sandburg); Division 4 – Tracy Palmer, Boys/Girls Coach, Rockford (Auburn); Division 5 – Laura Lauterbach, Boys/Girls Coach, Bloomington (Central Catholic); 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, who conducted the meeting.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Item V. C. 2. Tournament Assignments and Seeding** - State Final Seeding Meeting

Recommendation: A draw of 64 96 will be used for both singles and doubles play in both 1A and 2A classifications.

**Rationale:** By increasing the number of participants, an expanded draw size can provide the opportunity to include more teams with four qualifiers thus determining trophy winners based on the overall team participation rather than the greater success of one or two participants who qualify from a school. More students will have the opportunity to participate in the State Final experience. (Note: The committee recommended using two nearby sites to run 1A and 2A and culminate in all the finalist at one site on Saturday)

Died for Lack of Motion

### ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. The committee reviewed the 2020 IHSA Tennis Advisory Committee Minutes.
2. Kevin Schrammel and Matt Norris provided a summary report on the IHSA Girls/Boys Tennis State Finals. Knoblauch recognized Buffalo Grove High School for going above and beyond to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> year of IHSA Girls Tennis and kicking off the 50<sup>th</sup> year celebration of Title IX.
3. Josh Leighton provided an update from the most recent Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association ([IHSTCA](#)) meeting. It was recommended to partner with the IHSTCA to provide educational on sectional meetings and seeding processes. Josh Leighton provided some starting educational documents on sectional seeding scenarios.
4. Knoblauch reviewed the use of [Tennis Reporting](#) as the official IHSA online scorebook and seeding tool. Knoblauch will coordinate a debriefing call for coaches and site managers to share feedback.

5. The committee discussed not cancelling the back draw during inclement weather at the State Final and examined how the process of securing indoor court space at the State Final works. The State Final managers shared that cancellation of the back draw is an absolute last resort and has only been done once in the 29 years collectively that Matt Norris and Kevin Schrammel have been the State Final managers.

6. The committee discussed a recommendation to allow on court coaching throughout the entire state series. Concerns regarding monitoring and distractions at the state series were considered. During regular season play, if conference bylaws permit, there could be allowances for on court coaching.

7. The committee moved forward a recommendation by a vote of 4-3 to expand the Tennis State Finals from 64 participants to 96 participants in both 1A & 2A singles and doubles. Currently the top 4 players from each sectional advance to state. This proposal will also advance 5th and 6th places from each sectional thus creating the additional field of 32 participants. Sectionals would seed up to 8 players. 32 of the advancing players would be seeded for the state final. An additional round of competition would be added to the state final with the addition of 96 entries. The 32 seeded players would receive a first round bye. Additional recommendations in this proposal outlined terms and condition changes necessary if passed. Discussion on advancing 96 participants included: a. The opportunity to advance more participants thus providing more with a state final experience. b. The expansion of team points values to spread out, thus limiting the opportunity for 1 or 2 players from a school to earn a team championship. c. The concern over logistics and management. d. The need for additional schools (tennis courts) to be available thus creating more personnel (site managers, athletic trainers) to be on site and away from school responsibilities. e. The management and costs associated with sectional awards and additional indoor courts needed due to inclement weather. f. Cost (transportation/housing) for member schools for more participants to attend. g. The percentage of participants advancing from sectionals to state.

8. The committee discussed [Intercollegiate Tennis Association](#) (ITA) collegiate events vs. National Governing Body (NGB) events sanctioned, governed and conducted by the [USTA](#).

9. The IHSA continues to look for great tennis sectional host sites. Knoblauch explained the host request process and the host availability survey.

10. The IHSA recognized and thanked outgoing committee members: Coach Brian Ostrander – Orland Park (Sandburg High School) – Division 3; Coach Sonthana Thongsithavong – Chatham (Glenwood High School) - Division 6; and Principal, Richard Mertens – Belleville (West High School) – Division 7 for their contributions and service on the IHSA tennis advisory committee. The Committee recognized and thanked Matt Norris for his 20 years of service as the IHSA Boys Tennis State Final Manager.