

**MINUTES OF THE 2009-10 IHSA BOYS/GIRLS TENNIS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING
November 4, 2009**

The IHSA Boys/Girls Tennis Advisory Committee met in the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee Members present were: Division 2 - Connie Rahn, Athletic Director Schaumburg (H.S.); Division 3 - Patti Clousing, Girls Coach Wheaton Warrenville South; Division 4 - Matt Gross, Boys Coach Ottawa; Division 5 - Yale Reynolds, Girls Coach Effingham (St. Anthony); Division 6 - Monica Hinkamper, Boys Coach Quincy (Notre Dame); and David Kniepkamp, Principal Belleville (East). Also in attendance were Girls State Tennis Tournament Director, Jean Rezny, Mt. Prospect (Prospect); Boys State Tennis Tournament Director Matt Norris, Arlington Heights (Hersey); and Assistant Executive Director Susan Knoblauch. Division 1 – Jon Hall-Bryant, Boys/Girls Coach Chicago (Morgan Park) was unable to attend.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Item VIII-A-2-c - Tournament Rules

Recommendation: If the tournament is taken indoors, “No-Add” scoring shall be used except for Quarter Final, Semi Final and Final round matches in which regular scoring shall be used. *Exception: “No-Add” scoring may be used at the discretion of the state final manager if circumstances would not permit the tournament to be completed.*

Rationale: This recommendation would allow some flexibility for the state final manager to use “No-Add” scoring for the entire tournament if taken indoors and court space availability was limited.

Approved

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Jean Rezny, girls’ tennis state final manager, reported on the girls’ state final tournament. Items of discussion included the inclement weather and indoor court space. This was the second time in 38 years that the Girls’ Tennis State Final had to go indoors for all three days of play. Jean complimented Center Courts in Hanover Park and area clubs that assisted in providing space. Rates for indoor courts to accommodate rounds of 128 singles and doubles for three days ran from \$15.00 to \$22.00 an hour. As unfortunate as it is to cancel the back draw it is the only manageable way to conduct the tournament once moved indoors. Jean also complimented the tireless and selfless work of all the site director volunteers.
2. Matt Norris reported on the boys’ state finals. Items of discussion included: weather, indoor space, and USTA Officials.

3. Susie and the committee commend the efforts of both Jean and Matt for such excellent management of the state final events. Districts 211, 214 and 220 are also acknowledged for allowing the state tournament to be held on their sites. Susie will work with Center Courts in Hanover Park to create a facility use plan for future indoor play due to inclement weather.
4. Matt, Jean, Susie and the committee also acknowledged the volunteers used during the state finals. Volunteers/site managers are crucial in making this state final event run efficiently.
5. State final managers stressed the importance of sectional managers finishing their sectional on Saturday and reporting their results in an efficient and timely manner so the state final committee can begin preparing for the seed meeting. Inclement weather created some unique situations with some sectionals finishing late on Monday night. The committee recommends that sectional sites begin Friday at the earliest time possible and continue play throughout Saturday until completed. Susie will work on a weather protocol for managers to follow so sites will have some consistency. This will be outlined in the manual for managers' document.
6. The committee reviewed the process for allowing players to warm up with a pro. When the tournament is taken indoors, due to the limitations and cost of court space, the IHSA will not allow pros to warm up with a participant. When the tournament is outdoors the logistical situation is different and this may be allowed if space is available.
7. The committee discussed the use of the USTA officials. It was suggested to create a process that has a neutral party/USTA official at every sectional. The philosophy of the IHSA is that students make their own calls all season and can continue to do so during sectionals. The feasibility of providing USTA officials to every sectional would not be cost effective. It was recommended to have sectionals create a games committee to address any rule interpretation or disputes. For example, this neutral party can assist in interpreting breaks between matches.
8. The committee discussed the sequence for the sectional draw. For consistency once seeded players are placed the draw should be randomly completed from the top down. It came to our attention that sectional sites were using different formats for placing the random draw. A top down process is consistent with the random computerized program used by the IHSA for the state final.
9. The committee also reviewed a concern regarding roving officials at the state final. Roving official, if used, will be instructed to make calls courtside not in passing.
10. Discussion continued regarding USTA officials being available to settle scoring disputes. Until the final round of play, site directors will be used to settle scoring disputes. Members of the games committee may assist in this capacity as well.
11. The committee agreed that when the tournament is outdoors a full officiating crew is used for the finals (chair and lines). In this case, the USTA chair and line official, if used, will call every line. When a solo chair is used they should only give line calls if a player asks. The solo officials should not overrule a player's call.

12. When indoors where chairs are not available the players will continue to call their own lines. If a student requests a line judge the site manager can place a neutral member of the games committee at net post.
13. The IHSA will work with state final managers to review with the USTA officials director the rules and protocol for the IHSA tennis state final. The protocol to be used for the state series will cover pre-meeting information, point penalties, tie break process, code of conduct and making calls. The single chair official will only overrule gross mistakes. The USTA official will not overrule line calls made by the players until the final rounds of play. A solo chair only gives line calls is a player asked. Until the finals, the officials should not over rule a call.
14. The committee discussed the substitution of injured/ill players once the sectionals have been completed. A doubles player can always be replaced from the list of participants. Injured/ill singles players can not be replaced. No line up changes can be made after the sectional (ex: replace a doubles player with a singles qualifier). If a seeded player is injured/ill and unable to play between the sectional seed meeting and the start of sectional competition, the entire draw should be redone. If the player is not seeded, the substitution should be place in the bracket accordingly.
15. The first year of the online IHSA tennis rules interpretation meetings for coaches was successful. Schools/coaches were appreciative of the savings of resources (time & travel). The IHSA will still continue to stress several points of emphasis focusing on uniforms and sportsmanship in future online rules meetings.
16. Matt Gross reported on the IHSTCA reviewing the team tournament format and membership. The IHSTCA summer team tennis tournaments will be held again this year. Additional information can be found on the IHSTCA website.
17. Susie reviewed a tennis By-law proposal that was submitted regarding scheduling individual players. This By-law will be voted on by IHSA member school principals next month after the completion of the IHSA town hall meeting. A full text of the By-laws can be found at the following link:
<http://www.ihsa.org/announce/2009-10/09-10%20proposals.pdf>.
18. The IHSA thanked Patti Clousing, Matt Gross, and David Kniepkamp for their terms on the tennis advisory committee. Individuals interested in serving on the tennis advisory committee in the future can submit a request to serve in writing or online to the IHSA office.
19. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 3rd, 2010.