

IHSA Boys & Girls Tennis Advisory Committee Meeting

October 26, 2022

10:00 a.m.

The IHSA Boys & Girls Tennis Advisory Committee met on October 26, 2022, at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Julia Barthel, Arlington Heights (Hersey); Tracy Palmer, Rockford (Auburn); Zoe Murray, Pekin; and Steve Stuart, Edwardsville. Laura Lauterbach, Bloomington (Central Catholic), was in attendance virtually from 10:00 a.m. until 11:50 a.m. Also in attendance were Jim Lange, Boys State Final Tournament Manager; Kevin Schrammel, Girls State Final Tournament Manager; Jon Betts, Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association (IHSTCA) President; and Dan Le, IHSA Assistant Executive Director. Absent from the meeting were: Dawuad Talib, Chicago (University) and Brian Johnson, Palos Heights (Chicago Christian).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

NONE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

NONE

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of the October 27, 2021, meeting.
2. Dan Le recognized the champions in Class 1A and 2A of the boys and girls' state finals.
3. Jim Lange and Kevin Schrammel provided a summary of the respective tennis state finals that they each manage.
4. Jon Betts provided updates and feedback from the IHSTCA, including positive reviews for the use of the Remind app during the girls' state finals and the addition of the online nomination form for the IHSTCA Pitchford Sportsmanship Award. Topics presented on behalf of the IHSTCA included the length of breaks in between matches and the 8:00 a.m. start time at the state finals. The committee discussed allowing a break longer than 30 minutes in between the 2nd and 3rd round main draw matches on the Thursday of the state finals. The committee also discussed the challenges for some coaches to transport players to various sites for an 8:00 a.m. start time as well as early morning temperatures during the fall season. Advantages of starting at 8:00 a.m. include more daylight to complete matches during the fall season and avoiding morning traffic and parking issues at schools when schools are in session.
5. The Chicago Tennis Umpires Council asked the committee to consider aligning the rules regarding overturned calls with the rules followed by the USTA and ITA. The USTA and ITA no longer use the appeal rule, which is used during the state series, and instead, give officials the right to overrule calls on-the-spot without appeal. The committee discussed that because players make line calls and out calls during the entire regular season, this practice should be continued during the state series, and calls should only be overturned by officials upon appeal.

6. The committee discussed the variety in team formats (i.e. 6 singles/3 doubles, 2 singles/3 doubles, 3 singles/4 doubles, etc.) used by different conferences during the regular season and the misalignment this can cause when playing non-conference teams.
7. The committee discussed adjusting the girls' tennis calendar by moving the state series earlier by one week. Sectionals would move from Week 15 to Week 14, and the state finals would move from Week 16 to Week 15. The first date of competition would also be moved from the Thursday of Week 7 to the Saturday of Week 6. This would impact the current fall acclimatization policy that requires players to have 7 days of practice before competing, and it was agreed that this be brought to the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee for review.
8. The members of the committee present voted 2-2 on expanding the tennis state finals from 64 qualifiers to 96 qualifiers in Class 1A and 2A singles and doubles, which would result in 2 additional singles players and 2 additional doubles teams from each sectional to qualify for the state finals. The committee discussed this topic at length. The IHSTCA board and coaches from around the state support the recommendation to expand the tournament. This would provide opportunities for schools to advance their entire teams to the state finals and compete for the team awards. Expanding would also allow more students to participate in the state finals. The discussion on expansion also included concerns related to additional sites and staffing (i.e. site directors and athletic trainers), scheduling and quantity of available indoor courts in the event of inclement weather, availability of indoor courts when needed, effect on the consolation bracket in the event of inclement weather, additional costs and resources, and conflict with football games at school sites during the fall. Expanding the tournament to 96 qualifiers in each draw would result in 256 more matches to be played during the state finals, and the committee discussed modifying scoring formats in specific rounds to assist with the completion of the tournament over the course of three days.
9. The committee reviewed some terms and conditions language, including coaching prior to the start of a 3rd set tiebreak. Currently, the terms and conditions note a maximum of a 3-minute break in between the 2nd set and a match tiebreak, but no language exists regarding coaching during the 3-minute break.
10. The IHSA recognized and thanked outgoing committee members: Coach Tracy Palmer of Rockford (Auburn), Division 3, and coach Laura Lauterbach of Bloomington (Central Catholic), Division 5.
11. The meeting adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th, 2023.