



# Kentucky High School Athletic Association

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MEMO

TO: Julian Tackett, Commissioner  
FROM: Michael J. Barren  
DATE: January 7, 2013  
RE: Protocol for Tie Matches in Tennis

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During the Tennis Forum held at the National Federation Summer Meeting, it was brought to my attention that the United States Tennis Association (USTA) had just implemented a new "Recovery Rule" The recovery rule is a new part of USTA Regulation III-H. The purpose of the new rule is to ensure that a minimum rest period of two hours is *offered* by a tournament referee to a player who has just completed a singles match in which a match format of 2 out of 3 tiebreak sets is used (it does not apply to doubles matches). It does NOT apply to "short set matches", matches that play a tiebreak in lieu of a final third set, or to any match indoors that lasts less than 120 minutes.

Immediately following that meeting, when you and I visited on the issue, we contact Dr. Ben Kibler, a renowned orthopedist who has actually been in on the drafting of that policy. Upon his advice, we decided to discuss the issue with other states and with our key tennis contacts to determine if there were alternatives that would keep us from having to literally worry about the recommendation and at the same time, protect the health and safety of our student-athletes.

On the request of several state associations, the National Federation surveyed their membership to see how they planned to address this change with regard to their Tennis programs. Based on this survey, several state associations have decided to either continue their current policy as the recommendation does not affect their schedule, or look to their Sports Medicine Advisory for suggestions. A minimal number of states are choosing not to follow this rule altogether.

I would recommend to you that our Competition Rules be amended at this time to reflect that the KHSAA change from a Full third set tie break procedure to a "Super Tie Breaker". In this "Super Tie breaker", the first player or doubles team to 10 points, and ahead by 2, wins the match. It is scored as 1-0 with score in parenthesis --- 6-4, 4-6, 1-0 (10-7). This is an allowance within current tennis rules that we have not previously utilized, and I would recommend we make the change both in singles and doubles to ensure an ease of understanding and implementation by our teams.

Currently, the KHSAA rules for recovery time offer a standard one-hour rest period between matches. For Thursday matches, the rest period is nearly moot as there is already a minimum of 2 hours due to the number of matches that have to be played (round 1 is 64 matches for girls and 64 matches for boys).

The KHSAA level of play and competition has increased since going to the 64 player draw format. Almost half of all matches played in the first round on Thursday are totaling a **minimum** of 16 games played (6-2, 6-2) before advancing to the second round. As players advance, play is much more intense and competitive. The KHSAA should be proactive and follow suit with having policies that are in place maximizing the rest period between matches without unnecessarily prolonging the tournament. This change would address the safety and health concerns of overheating, heat exhaustion, dehydration, and cramping that may be caused by over play due to inadequate rest without implementing an arbitrary two-hour policy.