



Kentucky High School Athletic Association

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MEMO

TO: Julian Tackett, Commissioner

FROM: Michael J. Barren & Butch Cope

DATE: November 16, 2015

RE: Possible Changes to Postseason Tennis Tournaments

At your direction, we met with the Tennis Advisory Committee on two separate occasions (January 30th and November 12th) to discuss concerns that had been expressed by individuals with a connection to Sports Medicine and Tennis and the current KHSAA tournament schedule. As you were in attendance at the November 12 meeting, you are aware of the issues discussed at this time.

Much of the discussion centered on the postseason play and possible new parameters that could affect the tournament structure. We also discussed the discrepancy between the process to declare a regional Team Champion and a State Team Champion. At the present time, the regional champion is determined by the aggregate points earned in singles and doubles play while the state champion awards are given based on a seven-player team vs. team competition.

In 2009, when we moved from a State Team Champion decided by the aggregation of points gathered by the singles and doubles competitors for the same school, to a head to head team play format. It is the Advisory Committee's consensus to continue decided the state team title by team head to head competition and extend that format to the regional tournaments.

With the prioritization of continuing a team title decided by team play, we need to adjust our tournament schedule. As you have noted, the Kentucky Medical Association Sports Medicine Committee, acting on a report from the USTA, the governing body for Youth and Adult Tennis in the US, is recommending that youth players play no more than two full set matches in a day. This recommendation being made compels us to consider schedule revisions to ensure that team and individual singles and doubles play are not conducted simultaneously during our event. With team play held in the evening during the singles and doubles tournaments, it is possible that a player could be asked to play three matches in one day. The advisory committee recommends that we adjust the tournament format to allow for the team play to be on separate dates.

Based on this discussion, we would like to request the Board to approve a separate set of consecutive days (2) on which to play the team vs. team state tournament. These dates would be set by mutual agreement with a host venue (likely the University of Kentucky and additional Lexington sites due to the number of available courts) and then we would continue to hold the state singles and doubles individual competitions on the current schedule. This change would impact only a minimal number of schools relative to travel, and in fact, may have little to no impact at all as we would be replacing a previous travel weekend when Sectional team tournaments are now being played. This change has no impact at all on schools that do not have enough players to field a complete team for team vs. team play.

We are confident following discussion with the Advisory Committee that the integration of required regional level team vs. team matches could be handled at the local level with minimal intrusion on the current schedule and believe the tennis community is finally in majority support of completing the transition to a team vs. team region and state title concept, beginning in the spring of 2016.