

KHSAA Tennis Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2015

The Tennis Advisory Committee met at the KHSAA office in Lexington on November 12, 2015. Members present were: Michael Kinney, Tim Smith, Glen Zale, and Chad Williams. KHSAA representatives present were: Commissioner Julian Tackett, Assistant Commissioner Mike Barren, Associate Commissioner Butch Cope, Tournament Director Kathy Johnston and Administrative Staff Support Jeanie Molloy.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mike Barren followed by introductions by all attendees.

A review of the procedural items such as expense forms, committee membership updates and an overview of the agenda handouts was conducted.

USTA currently has an available opening for Director as Sharon Rahman is no longer with them. Anyone interested in filling this position should contact USTA immediately.

After the 2014 state tournament there were some concerns expressed, elevated and brought to the attention of The Sports Medicine Committee of the Kentucky Medical Association. They are allowing KHSAA to initiate some change concerning play limits. There most likely will be a recommendation of a limit of 2 full matches in one day. USTA will come out with the determination of "Match" at a later date with no loopholes. The restriction is primarily due to shoulder injury issues. This brings a discussion about a concern of the overlap of state team and individual tournaments as the team and individual/doubles tournaments need to be separated. One option would be to have two separate championship dates. The discussion continued into how to best format the team play. The singles and doubles format will remain the same for 2016, keeping in mind the rule of no more than 2 matches in a day.

There was a concern expressed for the out of class time during postseason tournament sessions with AP Testing, End of Course Testing and making up snow days. There was a suggestion that Team Tennis be moved to the fall and keep Singles and Doubles in the spring. Another suggestion is to use the sectional weekend for team play, there by having two weekends of championships.

A lengthy discussion on the importance of having 64 participants as the committee does not want to cut any athletes, despite Kentucky's uniqueness in that area.

A request was made to eliminate a points-based championship in an attempt to provide consistency of how region and state champions are decided. This would follow with the thoughts of having regional play deciding team championship as is done at state.

Consensus preference was to have a blind draw of the 16 teams competing in the state tournament and to play a Sweet 16® team championship on May 14 and 15, here in Lexington.

The option on whether to enter as a team or as an individual would be an option for the school in regional play or vice versa.

All regions will cover the cost of their regional trophies (\$176.98 per Gender). This will have to be settled by the schools as to how those costs are divided up.

The Regional Site Application is available if anyone knows of a school that would be interested in hosting or have any recommendations. The form GE72 and can be found on our website, printed and returned to KHSAA.

The USTA has mentioned they would like to do the Regional Sportsmanship Award Program again, but until a new Director is in place, this is on hold.

There will be a schedule formulated by staff to declare to play the regional team or not and also a new date when team regional results are done.

There was discussion on whether or not there should be a fine or other penalty for a school declaring to play as a team in regionals then withdrawing. Many agreed there should be some sort of financial penalty and/or default-forfeit. This information will be presented to the Board of Control for a final decision. The final wording will be in the tournament instructions.

Further discussion was held about having an official at the regional and sectional tournaments. It was suggested that the region continue to decide whether or not to have a USTA official on site. There was discussion of cost issues, since USTA officials are sometimes \$250 plus travel. The official would be there on site in case there were any issues. The regional host in conjunction with schools, would decide when an official is needed.

Mr. Barren received a letter from a high school tennis player about her concern for regional managers. Among the contents he shared was her request that the players not be discouraged from taking water breaks. She felt she was denied the opportunity to rehydrate and this was a concern. Discussion was continued with the importance of all athletes being well hydrated and this will be emphasized to coached and tournament managers.

Mr. Barren reminded the committee that any requests for changes will be presented to the KHSAA Board of Control for approval and would be released by the KHSAA for public knowledge at a later date.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:37

