

KHSAA Tennis State Tournament

Team Championship History

In 1982, the KHSAA awarded the first team state championships in Boys and Girls tennis. Starting that year, the Regional “Team” Champion was decided by total points (matches) won. Each team could enter 2 singles and 2 doubles teams in the regional tournament and the finalists of each draw would advance to the State Tournament. Once the regional champion was determined, any player from the Regional Team Champion that did not advance to the finals of the singles or doubles draw would also automatically advance to the State Tournament, based on the advancement of their team. Starting in 1982, every regional champion for boys and girls would advance their **entire** team to the State Tournament to compete for the “Team” Championship.

Although the growth of High School tennis accounted for some growth in the number of competing Regions, the format remained the same for 23 years. In July of 2004, the Board of Control approved a change of regional alignment and change in State Tournament format as advised by the Tennis Advisory Committee. This change included a move from 13 Regions to 16 Regions. It also included a change to 64 State qualifiers in singles and doubles. Each regional team champion would automatically qualify their full complement of players in singles (2) and doubles (2 teams). Each region would send their next two highest qualifiers in singles and doubles. This would sometimes require a “playoff” between players who lost in the semi-finals of the Regional tournament to see who would advance to the State Tournament. Despite many changes, each Regional Team champion would still sent their full complement of players to the State Tournament.

In 2011, the tournament format underwent major changes. The regional remained unchanged. Teams could enter 2 singles players and 2 doubles teams in the Regional Tournament, and the tournament champion was decided by total points. Once the Regional Champion teams were decided, each team advanced to a Sectional Team Tournament. Each Sectional Tournament had 4 teams, and the winner would advance to the Team State Tournament. The team format included 3 singles and 2 doubles matches in a head-to-head manner. All matches were concurrently. Teams had to submit a “strength roster” and singles players and doubles teams had to play in order of “strength” according to that roster. The 4 sectional winners were paired in a blind draw, and the semi-finals and finals were played during the Individual State Tournament weekend to decide the Team State Champion. Again this was played in a head-to-head manner. Matches were abandoned once 1 team clinched the match with 3 wins. This format was used from 2011-2015.

In 2016, the Sectional format was eliminated, and the Regional Champion was no longer to be decided by a points based format but rather a team vs. team format at the Regional level. Coaches were made aware of this change in Jan.-Feb. of 2016 and had very little time to prepare for the changes and some problems were experienced from the Regional to the State level. All 16 Regional winners advanced to a “Sweet Sixteen” in Lexington the weekend before the State Individual Tournaments for a two day tournament to decide the Team Champion.

In 2017, the KHSAA made the decision to return to a points based format to decide both the Regional Team Champion and the State Champion. However, unlike the first 29 years of the tournament, the Regional Team Champion did not automatically advance its entire team to the State Tournament. This was the first time in the history of the team tournament that a Regional Champion was prevented from competing for a State Championship without their entire team represented.

Historical Highlights

- 1982 - Team competition begins (Regional winner sends 2 singles 2 doubles to State)
- 1982-2004 - State competitors includes Regional Finalists and non-finalists from Regional Team Champion
- 2005 - Tennis switches from 13-16 Regions and to 64 Draw for both Singles and Doubles
- 2005-2010 - State competitors in singles/doubles include top 2 finishers in each Region plus 2 reps from Regional Team Champions
(the BOC notes leaves this out)
- 2011 - Sectional Team competition begins. Individual draw still 64 with top 4 finishers from each region.
- 2011-2015 - Regional Team champion decided by individual points. Champion advances to Sectional
- 2016 - Sectional is replaced by "Sweet Sixteen". Play is weekend before Individual State Tournaments.
- 2017 - Team play is removed in favor of return to points based system.
- 2017-2018 - Regional Team Champion no longer fully represented at State Tournament
(Full representation from 1982-2016)

- This is the moment the team tournament died (from BOC minutes Sep. 2016):

(Notes by the KYHSTCA)

*Tennis Format, Team Tennis Discussion The Commissioner and Staff provided information for discussion concerning the state Tennis tournament in respect to the change from a team-oriented and structured tournament to a points-based title. With recent changes and competition limitations necessitated by Sports Medicine advocates and researchers, the overlapping of the individual and team events was changed to separate events for the 2016 season to keep any athlete from participating in more than two full matches per day. (1. **Matches are not "full matches" at the State tournament. A full match would be best 2 of 3 sets. We now play 2 sets and play a tie-breaker in lieu of 3rd set. 2. USTA, tennis' governing body, allows 3 singles matches (with tie-breakers) plus 1 doubles match per day of competition.**) Significant feedback was gathered from the membership on this change. Staff spent a great deal of its summer planning retreat reviewing all issues related to this change. Team tennis has expanded over the eight years of play with more schools participating. However, because the event necessitated at least seven players per school, many schools were left out of the opportunity to win a school-based title. (In our proposal, a team could compete with just 3 members.) Staff felt that more schools and students benefited from a match-based and point-based tournament than from a seven player required team scoring tournament. (Tennis is played the entire year in a team format, then changed to a point system for the most important event) Motion Passed: That the official championship tournament for tennis returned to a format where advancement points are awarded in the singles and doubles c-ompetition, and the additive points determine the winner. Staff would be directed to assist as feasible with the development of a coaches association conducted team-based event, which would be held on different dates and at different times, than the KHSAA State Tournament. (The KYHSTCA volunteered to run the team-based tourney, putting no stress on the KHSAA. Also, the KYHSTCA is interested in running a team-based tourney only if it's tourney will recognized as the State Team Championship. In other words, no points-based system is used.) It passed with a motion by Debbie Beichler and a second by Mark Evans. John Barnes Yes, Debbie Beichler Yes, Darrell Billings Absent, Carrell Boyd Yes, Donna Bumps Yes, Mike Clines Absent, Mike Deaton Yes, Mark Evans Yes, Pete Galloway Yes, Scott Hawkins Yes, Scott Lewis*

Yes, Marlon Miller Yes, Chris O'Hearn Yes, Kim Parker-Brown Yes, Gwen Saylor Yes, Jeff Saylor No, Henry Webb Yes, Jerry Wyman Yes