



Tackett, Julian <jtackett@khsaa.org>

## Proposed state tennis changes

1 message

Bob Smith <rws714@yahoo.com>

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 2:59 PM

Reply-To: Bob Smith <rws714@yahoo.com>

To: jangolia@khsaa.org, "jtackett@khsaa.org" <jtackett@khsaa.org>

Hello gentlemen,

Just wanted to have my voice heard regarding the proposed state tennis changes. First, let me say the change about twenty years ago to make the field a full 64 player draw was the best thing done for our sport. It gave more kids the opportunity to play at state and increased the popularity of our sport. For that I thank you - the KHSAA state tennis tournament is in a league of its own. It's special, and other coaches that have coached previously in other states have told me that. A huge part of what makes it special is the opportunity to play at the UK tennis complex. For many tennis players, getting to play at the UK tennis complex is like playing in Rupp Arena for basketball players - it's that special.

With the proposed change to basically a sectional for the first day takes away that unique and special experience for the kids. It will also damage the integrity of the tournament by not being a true state tournament from the start. Three quarters of your field won't have the opportunity to play at UK with this format as the field goes from 64 to 16 after the first day.

I don't understand the lack of facilities argument for the change, either. We have more courts available to us this year than last year with the eight courts at Shillito Park. You could easily host boys at UK with 13 courts and girls at Shillito Park/LCA with 14 courts. That's not even counting the ten courts at Sayre Athletic Complex.

Last year with the rain was a rare event, but we got through it. That was one time in thirty years of coaching. We still have plenty of indoor courts available if needed.

Another option that I've always thought would be a good idea is to just add one more day to the tournament. That would help minimize the issue last year with rain, and you wouldn't need another playing site on the first day. It could ALL be played at UK and you wouldn't have to move another site. Boys first two rounds on Tuesday, girls first two rounds on Wednesday, round of 16 and quarters for both on Thursday, and semis and finals on Friday. That way EVERY boy and girl gets the special opportunity to play at UK tennis complex in a true state tournament.

In conclusion, I hope you will reconsider this drastic change and not pass this proposed change. I always look at what's best for our sport and what's best for our kids, and this proposed change is definitely not it. Every coach that I have asked opinion about this is strongly against it.

At worst, I hope you will at least table this and agree to talk to the coaches and hear more opinions and let us help you. All we want is what's best for our sport and best for the kids to make the state tournament experience a great memory they will never forget and always cherish.

Appreciate your time.

Bobby Smith  
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