

Tennis Advisory Committee – Meeting Summary
Held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at MSHSAA Office, Columbia, MO

- * 1 – Recommend that the MSHSAA Board of Directors consider and make an exception to BOARD POLICY ON ENROLLMENT, CLASSIFICATION, CHAMPIONSHIP FACTOR, AND DISTRICTS (Supplement to By-Law 5.1) to allow tennis to have 16 districts despite currently being below the required threshold of participating member schools in Class 1.
- *** 2 – (underlined verbiage designates amendment) Recommend that the MSHSAA Tennis Manual 2-O-3 - STACKING/RANK ORDERS/LINE-UP be revised as follows: Appeals challenging unfair line-ups: If a coach has evidence that the opponent's line-up based on the opposing teams rank order as presented is unfair, they **MUST** verbally notify the opposing coach of the challenge prior to the start of the match and must provide either verbally or in writing their evidence regarding the use of an unfair line-up. Additionally, the coach challenging the use of an unfair line-up must provide time and the opportunity for the opposing coach to defend the challenged line-up and rank order prior to the match beginning. Evidence that coaches must discuss, and the opposing coach should provide, include challenge matches, results of head-to-head competition, common opponent data, and coach observation. Challenge matches as a single data point are appropriate but must meet the definition as provided in the MSHSAA Tennis Manual. A correction in the challenged line-up and/or rank order may be made prior to the start of the match if both coaches agree. Rank order may only be corrected if it is prior to the rank order freeze date. Regardless, if both coaches agree or disagree the match or matches should proceed. The match must be played and not delayed due to disagreement. **If a coach does not verbally notify the opposing coach of their challenge of an unfair line-up prior to the start of the match and provide time and the opportunity for the opposing coach to defend their line-up, there can be no appeal.** In addition, once the match or matches are completed, any coach who wishes to submit an official written appeal must inform the opposing coach by email, with all school ADs and the MSHSAA Tennis Director copied on the communication with in 12 hours of the completion of the match. The full official written appeal may be included with this first communication or be a separate second communication to the MSHSAA Tennis Director requesting an appeal. The official appeal must be made within 48 hours after the match was played or 12 hours before the start of any time sensitive postseason match. The appeal must include all details related to the evidence submitted to the opposing coach at the time they verbally notified the opposing coach of their challenge. Once an official appeal is received the MSHSAA Tennis Director will notify all involved parties and proceed with an investigation. Final adjudication of the appeal will be done by a panel including the MSHSAA Tennis Director, MSHSAA Head Tennis Official, and ~~nine~~ three members of the MSHSAA Tennis Advisory Committee. Any coach directly involved in an appeal and is also a member of the advisory committee must abstain from the adjudication process. A majority vote from the ~~nine~~ three members of the MSHSAA Tennis Advisory Committee will determine the outcome. **All involved will work as quickly as possible to reach a determination but should an appeal challenging an unfair line-up occur during the post-season the MSHSAA Office and Tennis Director will work quickly to avoid delays or significant changes to required matches to determine district winners and state tennis tournament qualifiers.**
- 3 – Recommend that the MSHSAA Tennis Manual 2-N be revised to remove the 4/3 team tennis option during the MSHSAA regular tennis season.

4 – Recommend that the MSHSAA Tennis Manual 2-L be revised to add language that states, coaches must be seated while on court or may stand or sit half court away during play if on an adjacent court.

5 – Recommend that the MSHSAA Tennis Manual Section 2 be revised to include the definition and minimum standard of a “challenge match.” A challenge match is a tool used to aide a coach in determining a players position in their teams official rank order. A challenge match must be a Pro 6 Match at a minimum but an 8 Game Pro Set with Ad scoring is preferred.

*** 6 – (underlined verbiage designates amendment) Recommend that the MSHSAA Tennis Manual Section 4 be revised to add Letter M titled “State Tennis Individual Tournament Committee” and read each A MSHSAA State Tennis Individual Tournament Committee will be formed prior to the start of the individual tournament to provide input and guidance regarding the impact of weather, potential scoring alterations, and other matters as determined by the MSHSAA Tennis Director. The tournament committee will be chosen by the MSHSAA Tennis Director and the MSHSAA Tournament Manager and Head Official. The tournament committee will be comprised of up to six coaches, two from each class.

7 – Recommend that the MSHSAA Tennis Manual be revised to address Post Season Scoring in all required areas for team tennis scoring so that “With Ad” is used in singles and doubles matches and a “10 Point Tie Break in lieu of the 3rd Set” for singles matches. Additionally, scoring alterations will be adjusted to move “8 Game Pro Set” before “Short Sets.”

* 8 – Recommend that the MSHSAA Tennis Manual 4-I-2 be revised to allow the Tennis Advisory Committee to seed the individual and doubles tennis brackets in the same or similar fashion to the district individual tournament process. The top four players or doubles pairs would be seeded with Advisory committee members acting as proxies for the districts and regions coaches. The remaining positions on the bracket would be drawn by lot and the existing process as outlined in the MSHSAA Tennis Manual would be followed to complete the bracket.

9 – Recommend that the MSHSAA Tennis Manual 4-E-3 be revised to seed players and doubles teams at a 4 to 1 ratios. If there are 16 players or teams then 4 players or teams will be seeded on the bracket. If there are 20 player or teams then 5 players or teams will be seeded on the bracket. Revisions in the manual will be extended to the District Managers Manual.

10 – Recommend that MSHSAA Website as it relates to the Tennis Rank Order System be improved so that coaches must define and identify those players who are members of the varsity tennis team. Coaches will be able to add varsity players throughout the season as long as all players remain in rank order. Additionally, the improvement will require that a tennis coach must mark and justify any changes or additions to the varsity rank order that occur four weeks after the first allowable practice. These changes and justifications will be visible to all coaches who review rank order data. The justifications will include: “Challenge Match,” “Coach Observation,” and/or “Match Results.” A coach would be able to select a single reason or all criteria as reasons for the change in rank order. The system will not allow a change to the rank order unless a justification is marked.

11 – Recommend that the MSHSAA Tennis Manual 2-D – POSTING RANK ORDERS be revised to mandate that tennis coaches must identify their varsity team members in the rank order and must also identify justifications to their rank order four weeks after the first allowable practice

of the season. The justifications will include: “Challenge Match,” “Coach Observation,” and/or “Match Results.”

12 – Recommend that the MSHSAA Tennis Manual 4-E-5 be revised be adjusted to eliminate language that limits individual tournament district play to Saturday but instead be in a range of Thursday to Saturday with no MSHSAA permission required if a majority of school coaches are in agreement about the schedule. Additionally, District Managers will follow the will of the participating schools and if no clear date or dates can be set due to disagreement of district coaches the district manager will consult with the MSHSAA office. Any play date outside of the playable range must have approval from the MSHSAA Office.

- * 13. Recommend that the SMAC should commence a process to study and then consider, discuss, and potentially recommend Cold Weather Guidelines that could be adopted by sports or activities that are played primarily outside (such as tennis). They request that the guide contain temperatures and other factors such as wind chill when play should be suspended, postponed, or moved indoors.

- * **Denied**
- ** **Tabled**
- *** **Approved as Amended**
- **** **No Action**
- All Others Approved**