

**TENNIS COMMITTEE MEETING
MHSAA OFFICE
JANUARY 12, 2010**

Committee Members

Sue Bailey, DeWitt
Jim Cummins, Battle Creek (Advisory)
Gary Ellis, Allegan
Barry Hobrla, Lowell
Tom Hunt, East Lansing
Peter Meltzer, Portage

Pam Porter, Stevensville
Mark Randolph, Ann Arbor
Pete Riley, Pontiac
Tiger Teusink, Holland (Advisory)

Staff

Gina Mazzolini

The MHSAA Tennis Committee met on Jan. 12, 2010 in the MHSAA Office. The committee was reminded of its responsibility and of the process for rule changes. The following action was taken.

PROPOSALS BY MHSTeCA

1. Request that tennis be exempt from the "dead period" provision of the MHSAA.
2. Adopt the provision that states..."After the first day for team practices established by the MHSAA, regardless of when a player joins the team, a player is limited to two outside competitions during that team's season."
3. Eliminate the following guideline in the Tournament Manager's Manual under Additional Procedure for Drawing Brackets (Final Tournament): "Individuals who are winners must not play other winners in the first round matches. If an individual player is on the winning team, but did not win his/her flight, no special consideration is to be given."

ITEMS FROM THE TENNIS STUDY CIRCLE

The MHSAA staff convened a Tennis Study Circle to discuss recurring issues in the sport of tennis. The overarching issues were: why is it important to follow the MHSAA rules and what rules are most often violated? What emerged was a general theme on line-up issues: stacking, substitution and challenge matches. After much discussion, but not unanimous agreement, the Tennis Study Circle determined five proposals to send to the MHSAA Tennis Committee. The Tennis Committee agreed in concept to two of the proposals and did not support three of the proposals. (See Appendix "1" for entire "Spirit Agreement.")

1. Request that the MHSAA select coaches to serve on an Ethics Committee – to serve as a resource for dealing with allegations of stacking or rule violations.
2. Allow the four interscholastic scrimmages to happen any time during the season.

DISCUSSION – NO ACTION

1. Adopt the provision that states..."Girls are not allowed to participate on boys teams when a corresponding girl's team is available.
2. The color of on-court apparel may not be "tennis ball yellow" (optic yellow).

(over)

3. For substitution, use a direct substitution for MHSAA Regionals, non-conference meets and conference meets if no conference rule exists. For injury or illness within two weeks of the MHSAA Regional Tournament, a direct substitution shall be used.
4. A team's lineup in rank order must be set and posted on the MHSAA website not later than three weeks before the Regional tournament entry deadline.
5. A player must play 51% of the individual matches in the flight where he or she will play at the Regional tournament.
6. Move the spring season later; start practice one week later and move Regionals and Finals two weeks later than currently held.

RULES MEETINGS POINT OF EMPHASIS

Coach must adopt a consistent method for challenge matches and record results for all such matches.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Request that Tennis be exempt from the "dead period" provision of the MHSAA (9-0).
2. Adopt the provision that states..."After the first day for team practices established by the MHSAA, regardless of when a player joins the team, a player is limited to two outside competitions during that team's season" (9-0).
3. Eliminate the following guideline in the Tournament Manager's Manual under Additional Procedure for Drawing Brackets (Final Tournament): "Individuals who are winners must not play other winners in the first round matches. If an individual player is on the winning team, but did not win his/her flight, no special consideration is to be given." (9-0).
4. Request that the MHSAA select coaches to serve on an Ethics Committee – to serve as a resource for dealing with allegations of stacking or rule violations (9-0).
5. Allow the four interscholastic scrimmages to happen any time during the season (9-0).

TENNIS STUDY CIRCLE

A Tennis Study Circle met on Oct. 1, 2009 and Nov. 5, 2009 (9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) to discuss the state of tennis – both strengths and struggles; to brainstorm fortifying strategies of current policies, procedures and penalties and to select actions to pilot to see if the ideas solve perceived problems.

The participants in the Tennis Study Circle are listed below.

Coaches:

Dan Bittner, Bloomfield Hills

Tim Coleman, Woodhaven

Keith Cullen, Bloomfield Hills

Gary Ellis, Allegan

Jan Esper, Bloomfield Hills

Bonnie Koch, West Bloomfield

Nancy Martin, Portage

Pam Porter, Stevensville

Tom Pullen, Ann Arbor

Lisa Semerly, East Lansing

Joe Stafford, Novi

Ken Stocker, Farmington

Dave Sukup, Forest Hills Northern

Tiger Teusink, Holland

Dave Wollerman, East Grand Rapids

Michelle Napier-Dunnings, Facilitator

Gina Mazzolini, Assistant Director

Jack Roberts, Executive Director

The following Spirit Agreement is the result of the two days of meetings.

A SPIRIT AGREEMENT OF MHSAA TENNIS COACHES

Eliminating Stacking

STACKING is having players NOT in ranked order as defined by the MHSAA rules. Any lineup changes must be verified by current challenge matches.

Proposal A

For MHSAA Regionals, a direct substitution shall be used.

For conference meets, conference rules apply; if no conference rule, the MHSAA rule applies.

For non-conference meets, direct substitution shall be used.

For illness or injury likely to last more than two weeks, a direct substitution is not allowed. The lineup must be moved to rank order.

For injury or illness within two weeks of the MHSAA Regional tournament, a direct substitution shall be used.

Proposal B

A team's lineup in rank order must be set and posted on MHSAA website not later than three weeks before the MHSAA Regional tournament entry deadline.

A player must play 51 percent of the individual matches in the flight where he or she will play at the Regional tournament.

Proposal C

Allow the four interscholastic scrimmages to happen any time during the season.

Proposal D

A coach must have written verification to explain his/her lineup, demonstrating a consistent format throughout the year for that team.

Proposal E

The Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association shall appoint an Ethics Committee to serve as an advisory committee to support MHSAA regulations and serve as a resource for dealing with local issues and grievances as needed.