

# Missouri State High School Activities Association Tennis Advisory Committee Meeting

**October 31, 2023**

MSHSAA Office

10:00 a.m.

## **HISTORY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

The MSHSAA Board of Directors in the late 1950's was concerned with comments from coaches, music and speech directors indicating they had little voice in the administration and regulations of the respective activities they directed in their schools. To address this issue, the Board was to appoint advisory committees for music and speech to assist the Executive Director and Board of Directors in planning and administering the various activities.

The MSHSAA Constitution, after a vote of the member schools, included provisions for music and speech advisory committees. However, specific procedures for implementing the committee recommendations were not addressed. In 1959 the Music Advisory Committee was the first to become active and met with the executive director to review the regulations applied to music festivals and to make recommendations to the Board via the Executive Director for improvements in the program.

Shortly after the Music Advisory Committee became active the Speech Advisory Committee followed suit. The first significant recommendation was to include all speech activities, rather than debate only, under the jurisdiction of the MSHSAA.

The hard work and promising recommendations made by these two advisory committees prompted the Board of Directors to establish similar advisory committees in each activity under the MSHSAA jurisdiction. As new activities have been added or expanded, advisory committees have continued to be developed to meet this growth.

## **PURPOSE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

The advisory committees serve to provide increased communication from the "grass roots" level between the MSHSAA member schools and the MSHSAA Board of Directors. The committees shall act in an advisory capacity with the MSHSAA Board of Directors reserving the right to accept, reject or amend committee recommendations.

**2023 TENNIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA**  
**October 31, 2023**  
**MSHSAA Office**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**I. Welcome/Introductions**

- A. New Members: Donita Cox, Myron Diener (unable to attend), Nathan Rothdiener, Courtney Stufflebean (unable to attend), Daniel Mueller, and Jason Conley
- B. Outgoing Members: Ben Loeb, Kurt Miller, and Kelly Jones
- C. Review of Advisory Committee Role and Procedures

**II. Old Business**

- A. Approval of minutes from the November 1, 2022 meeting
- B. State Championship Report (Boys Spring 2022 & Girls Fall 2023 – **Melton**)

**III. New Business**

**REGULAR SEASON**

- A. Balance Classes 34/33/33 – **Mueller/Carrazono**
- B. Uniform Rule - **Loeb**
- C. Stacking Policy Clarification - **Berkland**
- D. Rank Order/Doubles (combined item) – **Loeb/Berkland**
- E. Coaches as Roving Officials – **Loeb**
- F. Warm Ups – **Diener**
- G. Girls Tennis Season Length – **Berkland**

**POST SEASON**

- H. Post-season Doubles Completion – **Jones**
- I. Seeding Criteria Clarification Re: Tied Teams – **Senor**
- J. Individual Tournament Alternates – **Reys**
- K. Tournament Order – **Berkland/Grubb**
- L. New Criteria Setting the Individual Tourn. Bracket - **Berkland/Cumberland**
- M. Line Up Changes in Post Season – **Senor/Kiley**
- N. Update Class 1 Team Tournament Language – **Melton/Bealke**

**GENERAL**

- O. National Anthem - **Loeb**
- P. Mobile Entry (Website Improvement) – **Berkland/Reece**
- Q. Full Historic Tournament Results Access – **Berkland/Cumberland**
- R. IB Program Accommodations – **Cox**
- S. Championship and Consolation Bracket Visibility – **Senor/Costley**

**IV. Discussion Topics**

- A. Class and District Assignments (application of board policy) - **Melton**

- B. Score Reporting Cards - **Melton**
- C. Check In, Roles, Responsibilities, and Timeliness – **Melton**
- D. Placement of Tennis Player in Rank Order (when out due to injury) - **Melton**

**V. Open Agenda**

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**"Anyone attending a meeting of the Missouri State High School Activities Association who requires auxiliary aids or services should request such services by contacting the Executive Director of the MSHSAA, telephone 573/875-4880, no later than 48 hours before the meeting. Thank you."**

## **ITEM A**

Agenda Item: **Balance Classes on 34/33/33 split**

Submitted by: Mauro Carrazono

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: Section 3 Part B  
Section 3 Part F

Rationale for Change: Class 1 is the only class with an individual sectional. By balance the classes there would be equal number of districts and a uniform state playoff. This would eliminated the need for individual sectionals and add some needed time into the schedule.

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## **ITEM B**

Agenda Item: **Uniform Rule**

I suggest we expand the rule to state the uniform rule applies any time a player is on the court at any time. Do we ever see a basketball player wear anything beyond the school uniforms any time they are on the court or even off the court at the facility? Add to the first sentence: Players must wear appropriate school tennis team attire at all times while on the courts at all times when on the court including warm-up, with or without their opponent, and in all interscholastic matches. Furthermore, players are encouraged to wear team attire off the court when at the facility.

Submitted by: Ben Loeb; Rock Bridge H S

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: See the Individual State Tournament Instructions Sheet #7 Uniforms

Rationale for Change: Promote your team just like they do in all other high school sports.

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## **ITEM C**

Agenda Item: **Stacking Policy Clarification**

Add additional verbiage or clarification to the Stacking Policy as it relates to the Singles Rank Order. We need to further define what "Matching Up" refers to in the policy. We need to clarify that rank order applies to your team ladder only, not applied to opponents ladders as well.

Submitted by: Daniel Berkland (Staley)

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: Tennis Manual > Section 2: Regular Season  
O. Stacking/Rank Orders/Line-ups  
1A - Singles Lineups

Rationale for Change: Additional verbiage or clarification could prevent coaches from moving players in a ladder based upon who the opponent will be on that day. Furthermore, we can stabilize the Singles Rank Order, it will lead to less manipulation (taking advantage) of the Doubles Rank Order Policy as well.

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## **ITEM D**

Agenda Item: **Rank Order/Doubles**

Proper rank order and sum of the digits should be used to determine the doubles line-up. Furthermore, the sum of the digits is not necessary to use when playing out-of-state teams. (Or phrase it as "sum of the digits is not necessary to use when playing out of state.")

Submitted by: Ben Loeb; Rock Bridge H S

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: My computer has frozen up, so I cannot access the Tennis Manual for the by-law.

Rationale for Change: It's unfair for Missouri teams to have to abide by a rule that out-of-state teams do not have to abide by.

## **And**

### **Agenda Item: Rand Order/Doubles**

Look closer at the policy for Doubles Rank Order. Currently the policy is based solely on the singles ranking ladder, which does not necessarily coincide with the double ability of a player. Rank Ability should still apply to Doubles just as it does to Singles. I suggest that Rank Ability becomes part of the verbiage for setting doubles lineups in concert with using the sum total protocol.

Submitted by: Daniel Berkland (Staley)

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: Tennis Manual > Section 2: Regular Season  
O. Stacking/Rank Orders/Line-ups  
1B - Doubles Lineups

Rationale for Change: There has been a lot of manipulation of this rule, with teams sacrificing their #1 Doubles spot by playing their #2/#3 and pairing their really good #1 player with a lower player to ensure a win at the #2 Doubles spot during dual matches. If the #1/#5 is a better doubles pairing than the #2/#3 and they are played as #2/#3 at one doubles and #1/#5 played at two doubles, then this is essentially allowing for legal stacking in the dual matches.

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## **ITEM E**

### **Agenda Item: Coaches as Roving Officials**

I suggest we allow players to appeal to a coach who has the right to overrule a call if they clearly see it in. An overrule by a coach that has not been called to umpire the match would result in a replay of the point. An overrule by a coach called to officiate a particular match would result in a loss of point.

Submitted by: Ben Loeb; Rock Bridge H S

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: I don't know where it fits in the by-laws or regular season play up until the state tennis tournament.

Rationale for Change: We have officials in all other sports except maybe golf which is probably similar to tennis with no officials in a regular season match. I saw a girl call a ball out that was a foot in on a critical no-ad point late in a match. There should be a way to overrule horrendous calls if a coach sees it and either player appeals the call.

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## **ITEM F**

### **Agenda Item: Warm Ups**

I am not sure if this is a by-law or just a suggestion, but players should be allowed at least a 5 minute warm-up prior to all matches played.

Submitted by: Harrisonville High School Girls Tennis - Diener

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: I do not know where / if this is stated anywhere; certainly not in the USTA. But this has been implemented in dual and tournament play over the last 2 years.

Rationale for Change: This have been a part of this sport for longer than the 50 years that I have been involved and is an integral part of preparation for the competitive event. The time required to complete a match is far more impacted by how closely matched the participants are. If there is a desire to eliminate unnecessary time on the court, a better place to look would be time between points (25 seconds) where some players exploit this as a means of gamesmanship, and this serves no useful purpose in enhancing the match event. It is know to be a poor management practice to go after the trivial many (Pareto Principle) in searching for a solution. The 5 minute pre-match warm-up is clearly part of the trivial many and should be left in as a component of the match event.

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## **ITEM G**

### **Agenda Item: Girls Tennis Season Length**

Extend the length of the Girls Tennis Season by one week

Submitted by: Daniel Berkland - Staley High School - on behalf of several coaches in the KC Area

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: Couldn't reference any By-Laws, but this would change the calendar in the MSHSAA Manual as well as the MSHSAA Tennis Manual

Rationale for Change: To be more equitable with the length of the Boys Tennis Season.

- Girls Season currently runs Aug 7 - Oct 2 (start of Team Districts) = 8 weeks

- Boys Season currently runs Feb 26 - May 6 (start of Team Districts) = 10 weeks

If the Girls Schedule maximizes the 20-contest dates, that only allows for 6 total practice days in the season, whereas the Boys Schedule allows for 16 total practice days on the season.

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## **ITEM H**

### **Agenda Item: Postseason Doubles Completion**

In the postseason team play scoring: please add that all doubles matches do not need to be finished before starting singles.

Submitted by: Kelly Jones - Savannah High School

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: MSHSAA handbook, page 15, F: 9 Scoring

Rationale for Change: There are some coaches that will not start singles play until all doubles are completed and I don't believe that is how it is supposed to be.

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## **ITEM I**

### **Agenda Item: Seeding Criteria Clarification**

Current Language in Tennis Manual, Page 10 under Seeding Criteria:

If a tie should occur in this seeding process, the tournament committee shall look at the tied teams only and their individual seeds from the other schools in the district to break the tie.

Based upon each ballot, the tied teams would be assigned one or two points based upon their relative seeds.

The team with the fewest points shall be awarded the higher seed. Should a tie still exist, the tournament committee shall determine the seeds of the tied teams. A tournament committee member whose team is involved in the tie shall abstain. The tournament committee shall have the authority to throw out a ballot that is obviously cast to negatively influence the seeding process. The committee shall reserve the right to accept or reject the coaches' recommendations. This specific procedure shall be followed by the district manager.

It is recommended to have a second vote after a tie. Only have the tied schools and send a vote out again. Also, simplify the language to make it easier for District Managers to follow the procedures when a tiebreaker occurs with Team Districts Seeding Procedure.

Submitted by: Tony Senior, Mexico High School

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: District and Sectional Manager Manual; Page 10: Seeding Criteria

Rationale for Change: To clarify the process when a vote for a tiebreaker occurs and to make the process more clear to the District Manager and Tournament Committee

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## **ITEM J**

### **Agenda Item: Individual Tournament Alternates**

Add to Section 4, Rule E, #8 "The 3rd place finisher in the individual singles and doubles brackets from each district will serve as alternates in the event that a higher finisher from their own district is unable to compete in the subsequent round."

Also, as a corollary, add this to Section 4, Rule G, #2 "For those classes with individual sectional play, the runner up in individual sectionals will serve as the alternate in the event that a higher finisher from their own section is unable to compete in a subsequent round." The wording of "subsequent round" is intended to include being an alternate of individual sectionals or individual state tournament, depending on the class

Submitted by: Rustin Reys

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: Section 4: Rule E which also overlaps with Rule G (individual sectionals for some classes)

Rationale for Change: The In the individual district tournament, the current rule does not allow a 3rd place finisher to be an alternate in the event that the 1st or 2nd place finisher is unable to attend the state tournament. In the past, this has resulted in a first-round bye when a player has a conflict or illness and cannot attend. Recommend: 3rd place finisher be installed as an alternate in the event a higher finisher from their district not be able to attend.

Last year in class 3 boys singles, one player knew in advance they could not attend the tournament. This rule would allow that player to be replaced and give another deserving finisher a chance to compete. The current reality is that the 3rd/4th matches in the individual district tournament are meaningless and are often shortened to pro-sets or defaulted entirely. There is no incentive for players to compete in this match currently. The cost of this change would be one phone call (or e-mail) in the event of an opening in the draw. MSHSAA office calls the school asks if their 3rd place finisher wants to fill out the bracket.

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#### **ITEM K**

Agenda Item: Post-Season **Tournament Order**

Change the Post-Season Schedule to allow for Team Districts to proceed Individual Districts  
- Tennis Manual > Postseason Competitions: Section 4, page 14

Submitted by: Daniel Berkland (Staley) and Jason Grubb (William Chrisman)

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: Tennis Manual > Postseason Competitions: Section 4, page 14

Rationale for Change: Starting with Team Districts allows for better team morale and culture to have players focused on team goals before individual goals. It will also give the opportunity for District Opponents to play matches for seeding purposes in the Individual Tournament. With the District Assignments not being released until long after schedules are set, many teams don't see each other during the season, making seeding very difficult for Individual Event.

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#### **ITEM L**

Agenda Item: **New Criteria for Setting the Individual State Tournament Bracket**

Create a NEW protocol for seeding OR setting the Individual State Tournament Brackets.

I have several options (that I have developed with other coaches) that could replace our current protocol. I would like a chance for this to be a discussion among the Advisory Board to see if we can re-invent the way our Individual State Tournament is played to better represent what MSHSAA wants and what would be best for the players involved.

Submitted by: Daniel Berkland (Staley) and Kyle Cumberland (North Kansas City)

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: Tennis Manual > Section 4 Postseason Entry Procedures

I. Individual State

## 2. Pairings (a-d)

Rationale for Change: The current protocol contradicts itself in that it begins by stating... "Competitors will not be seeded for the State Tournament". Then goes on to describe how players will be placed within the draw based upon results from the current AND prior season results.

Currently the brackets are "random" and does not allow for the best players to be represented and doesn't allow for regional representation from around the state. Essentially, we would be looking to eliminate the "luck-of-the-draw" factor from the Individual Tournament to setup a fair-play event to either represent the players ability OR the regional talent that we have from around the state.

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### **ITEM M**

Agenda Item: **Line Up Changes in Post Season**

Allow a team to change lineups between the two rounds of sectionals in the Team Sectionals for Class 1.

Submitted by: Kevin Kiley, Father Tolton

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: District/Sectional Manager Handbook page 14

Rationale for Change: Allow coaches the liberty to change their line ups between advancement in class 1 sectionals for teams. Clarify the rule and to allow coaches flexibility when needed

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### **ITEM N**

Agenda Item: **Update Class 1 Team Tournament Language**

Update language to make it clear how students qualify for the individual tournament through districts and sectionals.

Submitted by: William Bealke, Priory and Ursuline Academy

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: Section 3 of Tennis Manual Items F & G

Rational for Change: I find the explanation of the Class 1 tournaments in the tennis manual unclear. I have crafted language with an alternative explanation.

#### **Class 1 postseason play consists of three phases:**

- District play
- Sectional play
- State championship

#### **Individual**

District finalists all advance to sectional play.

Sectional play includes finalists from two districts. Each qualifier will play one sectional match: the first-place district singles and doubles teams will play the second-place finishing singles and doubles teams from the opposing district. The winners (two singles players and two doubles pairs) advance to the state championship.

#### **Team**

District winners advance to sectional play.

Sectional play features four district champions. Sectional winners advance to the state championship semifinals.

(explanation of state individual tournament for all classes)

The state individual championship features a bracket of 16, with four rounds of play determining the champion.



First-round losers are entered into the consolation bracket. Losers in the first consolation round are eliminated from medal contention. Players who win the first round of consolation and losers of the quarterfinals in the championship bracket compete for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> place medals. Semifinal losers in the championship bracket compete for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place.

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#### **ITEM O**

Agenda Item: **National Anthem**

I am hopeful we can add the national anthem to the beginning of the individual and to the team state tournament before the first matches are played.

Submitted by: Ben Loeb; Rock Bridge HS

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: N/A

Rationale for Change: To my knowledge, we do this in all other sports except maybe golf. I don't know about that one.

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#### **ITEM P**

Agenda Item: **Website Improvements: Mobile Entry**

Fix the current website design to allow for the entering of Lineups (Singles and Doubles) and results of the matches from a mobile device. Currently, it is not possible to use the mobile device to input Doubles Lineups via a mobile device.

Submitted by: Stu Reece (Lee's Summit North)

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: TECH ISSUE -- no By-Laws to be referenced for this agenda item.

Rationale for Change: Many coaches have expressed the interest in making the website mobile friendly so that they can quickly and efficiently update lineups and scores from the match (or on the bus ride home from the match). It would help eliminate forgetting to add doubles lineups on a computer when they finally have the access to the computer.

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#### **ITEM Q**

Agenda Item: **Full Historic Tournament Results Access**

Create a historical access link for past State Tournaments. With the current MSHSAA website setup, we can access only the current overall results via the Info Central icon at the bottom of the Girls/Boys Tennis page. Once the new season begins, those results are lost. Only results accessible is the front-side only results via the current bracket system.

Submitted by: Daniel Berkland (Staley) and Kyle Cumberland (North Kansas City)

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: TECH ISSUE -- no MSHSAA By-Law to reference... just a suggestion to keep a digital record of previous seasons for coach/player records, etc...

Rationale for Change: This would allow for a better historical catalog of our sport in the MSHSAA archives.

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#### **ITEM R**

Agenda Item: **IB Program Accommodations**

I would like to discuss and explain the special circumstances associated with International Baccalaureate Program (IB) exam schedules and how this interferes with the state tennis tournament. I would like to discuss a possible accommodation for IB players during the state tournament. Ultimately, I would like to see an appeal process for arrangements of playtime. (players being able to work around the test with court times)

Submitted by: Donita Cox

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: 5.1.7 Championship factor

Rationale for Change: The International Baccalaureate Program (at 10 HS in MO) is extremely regimented in exams. The exam is given once for an IB student at a given time internationally. There are no makeup times, there are no early leavers once the exam has begun, the location must be approved by IB and must meet several expectations (luckily, there is a testing location at Central HS-2 miles from state tennis). The exams are timed and no one can leave until time has been called. The procedures and rules for this international exam far exceed any state or national exam (ACT, SAT, etc.). If a student does not sit for the exam, the student will not get their diploma and will lose college credit and possible scholarships associated with the exam.

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#### **ITEM S**

Agenda Item: **Championship and Consolation Bracket Visibility**

Include the entire Bracket on the MSHSAA Website for Individual/Doubles State Tournament

Submitted by: Kim Costley, Mexico High School Girls

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item: No reference but on the MSHSAA website under the brackets for tennis

Rationale for Change: More transparency/visibility to the public and to parents/supporters of State Qualifiers. Also helps coaches with the next season to have record of all participants