

2023-24 MHSAA TENNIS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 9:30 a.m. – East Lansing

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gary Ellis, Allegan
Shane Finney, Macomb
Eric Gajar, Ann Arbor
Judy Hehs, Wixom
Nicole Norris, East Lansing
Andrew Shipp, Troy
John Streeter, Midland (MIAAA)

Robert Walker, West Bloomfield
Scott Szerlaut, Grant (MHSTeCA)

MHSAA STAFF

Dan Hutcheson (Recorder)
Laura Roberts

The MHSAA Tennis Committee met on Jan. 9, 2024, at the John E. “Jack Roberts building. The committee was reminded of its responsibility as well as the process for rule changes. The committee was provided the “Ten Basic Beliefs for Interscholastic Athletics in Michigan.” The following items were discussed and debated during the meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The group discussed the recent approval from the Representative Council regarding allowing Regional #1 Doubles Finalists to qualify for the State Finals.

The MHSTeCA “Claims Committee” continues to be recognized and thanked for its usefulness as an advisory group both prior to an issue as well as after an issue has been reported. Discussion was had regarding potentially expanding the claims committee's scope and authority.

The group discussed the importance of sportsmanship and steps that could and would be taken to promote appropriate sportsmanship as it pertains to all present at MHSAA tennis event. TennisReporting.com was again discussed, with the committee in full support of its continued use. Concussion information was provided regarding the 2022-2023 tennis season and compared with data from previous seasons. There are currently no known changes for 2024-2025 regarding USTA Rules.

2024-25 FINALS TOURNAMENT SITES (TENTATIVE)

The MHSTeCA, as well as the Tennis Committee, support the current system of rotating Final sites for Divisions 1, 2, 3, and 4. Sites would tentatively be the same for both boys and girls of the same Division as long as facilities are available. Tentative assignments for the 2024-2025 school year are as follows:

Division 1 – University of Michigan / Michigan State / Other

Division 2 – Kalamazoo College

Division 3 – Hope College

Division 4 – Midland Community Tennis Center

REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

The committee reviewed the Regional assignments for spring 2024. The assignments were posted on the MHSAA website following the date that would normally serve as the annual spring tennis coaches' clinic.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. #1 Doubles Finals Seed Provision

Both the Participating Schools Tournament Information document as well as the Tournament Managers Manual should include the following: “At the State Finals tournament, if there are (21) to (23) #1 singles players/#1 double teams in the draw, up to (7) may be seeded. If there are (24+), up to (8) may be seeded.” (9-0)

2. State Finals Match Tiebreak

At the State Finals, all round of 32 and round of 16 matches will play a best 2 out of 3 sets match with a match tiebreak (Super Tiebreaker: 1st to 10 pts, win by 2) in lieu of the 3rd Set. All quarterfinal, semifinal, and final matches will be played best 2 out of 3 full sets. (8-1)

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Lower Peninsula Regional School Participation Minimums

When the number of participating schools in tennis (lower peninsula) drops to 288 schools (72 schools per Division) or below, the MHSAA will conduct 6 Regionals in that sport. Teams in the top 3 in the Region would automatically qualify for the Finals. The existing point requirement to qualify as an additional team would remain in effect. The requirements for additional 1st Singles/1st Doubles Qualifiers would remain in effect. (9-0)