



**2018-19 TENNIS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
January 15, 2019

**Members Present:**

Mike Bakker; Fenton  
Shane Finney; Bloomfield Hills  
Jim Gagalis; Howell  
Judy Hehs; Bloomfield Hills  
Lori Hyman; Livonia  
Mike Roy; Vicksburg (MIAAA)  
Mark Sobieralski; Grosse Pointe (MHSTeCA)  
Lincoln Wirgau; Bloomfield Hills  
Scott Zerlaut; Grant

**Members Absent:**

Jennifer Andrich; Allegan  
Marc Bates; Harrison Township  
Darin Ferguson; Haslett  
Tim Johnston; Grand Rapids  
Nicole Norris; East Lansing  
Garrett Turner; Midland

**Advisory Present:**

Tiger Teusink; Holland

**MHSAA Staff Present:**

Dan Hutcheson (Recorder)

**INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE**

The MHSAA Tennis Committee met on Jan. 15, 2019 in the John E. "Jack" Roberts Building. The committee was reminded of its responsibility and the process for rule changes, and was provided the "Ten Basic Beliefs For Interscholastic Athletics In Michigan". The following items were discussed and debated during the meeting.

**MHSTeCA PROPOSAL NOT ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE**

The MHSTeCA proposed updated language in regards to Team Point Penalties. After discussion it was evident that the proposal needed additional clarification from the coaches association before potential committee consideration.

The coaches association also attempted to provide clarity in regards to the use of varsity "B" teams. After committee discussion, it was determined that the language provided by the MHSTeCA also needed more clarification.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The committee reviewed the Representative Council action as it pertains to the "Honors Qualifier to the Final Tournament" proposal. The proposal was not approved by the Representative Council in May of 2018.

Due to the shortened fall season the Representative Council implemented two changes to the 2019 fall calendar 1) Boys tennis (among other fall sports), may begin practice on Monday August 12, 2019; the same day as football practice begins and 2) The required number of team practices before the first competition will read: "Before three practices for the team and not before four calendar days (Friday, Aug 16, 2019)." This will allow completion to begin on Friday, August 16. The Council approved this same adjustment in future short years (2024 and 2025).

The committee discussed TennisReporting.com, its uses thus far, changes and support provided by the MHSTeCA moving forward.

The MHSTeCA "Claims Committee" was once again recognized and thanked for their usefulness as an advisory group both prior to an issue as well as after an issue has been reported.

The committee was provided the following: a) A draft survey generated by the MHSTeCA in regards to JH/MS participation as it pertains to tennis. b) Finals seed results confirming accuracy of the seed process as gathered by Tiger Tuesink. c) A handout explaining the new MHSAA transfer rule. d) Information in regards to declining participation numbers, specifically in boys tennis. Committee members were provided a marketing tool to promote participation. The MHSTeCA will also explore options in the event that participation continues to decline.

There are currently no apparent changes for 2019-2020 in regards to USTA Rules.

### **2019-20 FINALS TOURNAMENT SITES (TENTATIVE)**

The MHSTeCA, as well as the Tennis Committee, both support the current system of rotating Final sites for Divisions 2, 3 and 4. It was indicated that there will be future discussion by the MHSTeCA in regards to proposed changes that could include utilizing different days of the week, or potentially different venue options. The committee also asked the MHSTeCA to explore solutions when it comes to coach and spectator behavior at the Finals venue.

Division 1 – Midland Community Tennis Center  
Division 2 – Novi  
Division 3 – Kalamazoo College  
Division 4 – Holland

### **REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS**

The committee reviewed the Regional assignments for spring 2019. The assignments were approved for posting on the MHSAA website and subsequently posted prior to the annual spring tennis coaches' clinic.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Clarification of the Role of Roving Umpires at the Finals - The role of the roving official is to:

- Overturn calls on a court that the official is in direct observation when asked to do so by the players.
- Aid in resolving scoring and rules disputes.
- Call foot faults.
- Time the warm-up and changeovers.
- Give warnings and point penalties for inappropriate behaviors and report violations to tournament management.
- Ask players to remove smart watches that can receive calls or texts. (Approved: 9-0-0)

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

Coaches Texting at the Finals - Coaches that are allowed to be on court for coaching purposes during matches are allowed to text coaches or players not engaged in matches as long as it is not disruptive to play. Should it become a problem, the team will lose that privilege. (Approved: 8-1-0)

Substitution Deadline at Regionals and Finals - At Regional and Final tournaments, any substitution must be made before the end of the last scheduled coaches meeting prior to play. If there is a possibility of a seeded player not being able to play, the coach should notify the tournament manager in advance. If a substitution is made for any seeded player, the flight must be reseeded and redrawn. (Approved: 9-0-0)

Number of Allowable Coaches at the Finals - Each school is allowed three (3) coaches on the first day of the Final tournament. If additional sites are used, one coach may be added for each additional site. On the second day of the tournament, only two coaches are allowed. All coaches must meet all MHSAA requirements. (Approved: 8-1-0)

Coaching Rule for Subvarsity and Middle School Matches - In subvarsity and middle school matches a coach may offer coaching at any time during the match as long as he/she remains off court and does not disrupt the flow of the match. (Approved: 9-0-0)