

**2024-25 MHSAA TENNIS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – East Lansing

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Matt Baleja; Paw Paw  
Eric Gajar; Ann Arbor  
Brady Lake; Byron Center  
Keith Levinthal; Bloomfield Hills  
Cody Liverance; Muskegon  
Jed Mulder; Zeeland  
Nicole Norris; East Lansing  
Mark Randolph; Ann Arbor  
Andrew Shipp; Troy

John Streeter; Midland (MIAAA)  
Scott Zerlaut; Grant (MHSTeCA)

**GUEST**

Jesse Brinks, Marshall (MATS)

**MHSAA STAFF**

Dan Hutcheson (Recorder)  
Laura Roberts

The MHSAA Tennis Committee met on Jan. 7, 2025, at the John E. “Jack Roberts building. The committee was reminded of its responsibility and the process for rule changes. The committee was also provided with 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 Lower Peninsula regional school participation minimums, which reduce regions from 8 to 6 when a decrease in sponsoring schools fall below 288 schools.

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.

The group again 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 events. TennisReporting.com and its benefits were again discussed, with the committee in full support of its continued use. Concussion information was provided regarding the 2023-24 tennis season and compared with data from previous seasons. There are currently no known changes for 2025-26 regarding USTA Rules.

**2025-26 FINALS TOURNAMENT SITES (PROPOSED)**

The MHSTeCA and 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. Proposed assignments for the 2025-26 school year are as follows unless the Final hosting item that will be sent to the Representative Council is approved.

Division 1 – Kalamazoo College  
Division 2 – Hope College  
Division 3 – Midland Community Tennis Center  
Division 4 – University of Michigan / Michigan State / Other

**REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS**

The committee reviewed the Regional assignments for spring 2025. The assignments are posted on MHSAA.com once hosts have been confirmed.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Direct Default:  
Allow coaches the option of defaulting a flight if both coaches agree to the direct default. (10-0)
2. Regional Doubles Disqualification:  
In doubles at the Regional Level ONLY, if one of the doubles players in a flight is assessed a flagrant penalty, the school administration may request a direct substitution for the player to participate in the state finals. This request must be approved by MHSAA staff. (10-0)
3. Regional Match Tiebreak:  
At the Regional Tournament, all Round of 16 matches will play a match tiebreaker (10-point tiebreaker) in lieu of a full 3<sup>rd</sup> Set. (10-0)

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

1. Continuous Coaching:  
For all varsity, subvarsity, and middle school matches, continuous coaching would be allowed between points and between non-changeover games (25 sec) as long as it does not hinder the current pace of play. (9-0)
2. MHSAA Finals Qualification:  
When the MHSAA determines that 6 Regionals per division are required, all team 3<sup>rd</sup>-place ties at the Regional will advance to the MHSAA Finals. (9-1)
3. L.P. Finals Hosting Recommendation:  
Recommend hosting all Boys and Girls L.P. Tennis Finals at the Midland Tennis Center. This would put all four divisions at the same location, with each Division taking place over 2 days during a 2-week period. (10-0)