

## 2025-26 MHSAA TENNIS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – East Lansing

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Eric Gajar, Ann Arbor  
Brian Hammer, Middleville (MIAAA)  
Judy Hehs, Novi  
Nolan Hubbard, Ada  
Brady Lake, Byron Center  
Cody Liverance, Muskegon  
Dave Pietrangelo, Rochester Hills  
Andrew Shipp, Troy (MHSTeCA)

Scott Zerlaut, Grant

### GUEST

Mitch Smelis, Fenton (MATS)

### MHSAA STAFF

Kiersten Anstead  
Dan Hutcheson (Recorder)

The MHSAA Tennis Committee met on Jan. 6, 2026, 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 Continuous Coaching, MHSAA Finals Qualifications, as well as the move to host all four L.P. Finals at the Greater Midland Tennis Center.

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. The coaches association will assist in developing tools to help with sportsmanship and continue to define what is acceptable as it pertains to continuous coaching from a coach, player, and spectator perspective. TennisReporting.com and its benefits were reinforced by the group, with the committee in full support of its continued use. Concussion information was provided regarding the 2024-2025 tennis season and compared with data from previous seasons. There are currently no known changes for 2026-2027 regarding USTA rules.

### 2026-27 FINALS TOURNAMENT SITES

The MHSTeCA and the Tennis Committee discussed the new format which allows all four Division to compete at the Midland Tennis Center. The proposed schedule for the 26-27 MHSAA L.P. Finals will be as follows:

L.P. BOYS: <b>D1</b> : 10-14 & 15, 2026	<b>D3</b> : 10-16 & 17, 2026	<b>D4</b> : 10-21 & 22, 2026	<b>D2</b> : 10-23 & 24, 2026
L.P. GIRLS: <b>D4</b> : 6-2 & 3, 2027	<b>D3</b> : 6-4 & 5, 2027	<b>D1</b> : 6-9 & 10, 2027	<b>D2</b> : 6-11 & 12, 2027

### REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

The committee reviewed the Regional assignments for spring 2026. The assignments were posted on the MHSAA website following the date that would normally serve as the annual spring tennis coaches’ clinic.

### RECOMMENDATION TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Change when contests may commence in golf and tennis to be after 3 days of practice for the team and not before 4 calendar days after the first practice is permitted, removing the separate language for short years. (8-0)