

2013 Boys' Tennis Advisory Notes

Recommendations:

Change number of practices required for the boys' and girls' tennis seasons from 9 to 7 before the first competition.

Tennis Coaches' Reason: Tennis has exactly 9 week days before the first competition where any student/athlete with a conflict or illness will not be able to compete in the first contest.

Why the Board Should Vote for the Change: 9 practices does not increase safety of the players over 7 practices. Tennis, like golf, is not a contact sport. Being on the tennis court without 9 practices does not increase the chance of injury like football, basketball, wrestling, gymnastics, etc. Yes, tennis is a cardio sport, but most practices are more intense than a match. This means that the likelihood of 'exhaustion' is less in a match than at practice.

Change the number of officials for the regional tournament from two to four.

Reasoning: With four officials, we can have one official per court site. Currently, one official needs to cover two court sites at the same time. When an official is needed, the official needs to be notified and then drive over to the match where they are needed or needs to make a rules clarification over the phone.

Discussion:

1. Coaches know our sport and our players and the recommendations we make are for the betterment of our sport. Currently, if a player were not ready by 9 practices, the coach would not let that athlete play. If the recommendation gets approved, the coaches would evaluate if a player were ready by 7 practices. If not, they coach would hold that player out until the player is ready.
2. We discussed the format of the regional tournament of possibly adding a singles or a doubles. Discussion ended with our current format being the best option.
3. We are short on officials for tennis. Coaches need to recruit the club teams and members of the community to become officials so we can have a full arsenal at regionals and state.
4. Reminder about the rotating schedule. Next year, all teams should rotate their schedule one match later. If they had the bye on the Tuesday after Labor Day, next year they should have it on that Thursday. A coach mentioned that it is Fargo North's AD that does the scheduling.

5. If our schools would pay for officials for regular season matches, this would help with getting new officials. To never officiate and then do a regional/state tournament would be overwhelming. We do not think there is a set rate for a regular season match, so we believe the school could set a rate for a conference match. Maybe, as coaches, we could get our school to have an official for one home match per season.
6. If we are going to charge for regionals and state, seating is a must for paying consumers. The NDHSAA would not charge for a grandparent to attend the state hockey tournament and tell them its standing room only. The host site for the regional and state tournament need to find a way to make viewing the best possible at the outdoor and indoor facilities.
7. We discussed why the west and east do all-EDC and all-WDA differently. Also, the point came up that why do the EDC and WDA both have 15 all-conference, but there are 9 EDC teams and 7 WDA teams. The discussion was should the all-conference awards be proportional to the number of teams. This is something we need to talk to our AD's about as it's a conference award.
8. Discussed the officials' roles and responsibilities. As coaches, we do not want discussion or warnings. If it's a rule violation, call it. If it's a code violation, call it. If its an overrule, overrule it. Athletes should not ask questions of the officials or look to the officials for guidance. The athlete makes the call on the court and the official confirms the call or overrules it. If we as coaches want an explanation, we will professionally discuss the call on a changeover with the official.