

NORTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Matt Nielson, West Fargo, Girls East Rep. 2013 to 2017
Erik Hanson, Bismarck High School, Girls West Rep. 2010 to 2014
Chad Anderson, West Fargo, Boys East Rep. 2011 to 2015
Paul Christen, Mandan, Boys West Rep. 2012 to 2016

Coaches and Athletic Directors:

Boys Tennis: _____
Date: _____

Girls Tennis: X
Date: 5-23-14

Recommendations:

1. Recommendation was made to extend the girls' tennis season by one week at the end of the season.
 - a. Present for vote: Fargo Davies, West Fargo, Wahpeton, Century, Bismarck, Mandan, Minot, Fargo South, Valley City, Grand Forks Red River, Fargo Shanley, Grand Forks Central – Passed unanimously.
2. Offer a "tournament pass" for the region/state competitions at a reduced price.
 - a. Present for vote: Fargo Davies, West Fargo, Wahpeton, Century, Bismarck, Mandan, Minot, Fargo South, Valley City, Grand Forks Red River, Fargo Shanley, Grand Forks Central – Passed unanimously.

Rationale behind the recommendations:

1. The coaches felt that the significant weather complications that we have experienced over the last number of seasons has led to many undesirable situations, including:
 - a. Scheduling/makeup issues. The east region plays only on Tuesdays/Thursdays when possible, and avoids playing indoors unless time remaining in the season determines it to be a necessity. This season, many east conference matches had to be made up the weekend before region tournaments. Many players (and even entire

teams) felt the need to pull out of this tournament due to overplaying.

- b.** Saturday practices. Many teams hold Saturday practices, especially early in the season, to make sure players had the required number before beginning competition. This is partly due to the fact that our schedule begins the first day possible, anticipating reschedules along the way. Most west teams play matches on the first Friday or Saturday possible.
 - c.** Easter break. While the dates change from year to year, Easter presents a problem with scheduling. Teams do not hold contests on Good Friday or Easter Monday, and the private schools also avoid scheduling on Holy Thursday. We lose many contact days for this holiday.
 - d.** Cost. The amount of money spent playing matches inside is significant. This could be saved by having more opportunity to schedule makeup dates throughout a longer season.
 - e.** Contact days. The entire girls' tennis season is scheduled within a 4-week time span (minus two weeks at the beginning of the season for practice, minus regions and state). If teams utilized Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, this amounts to 20 days, provided Easter does not subtract opportunities. With the addition of new high school in the next two years, available days will be at a premium.
 - f.** Additional events: Many schools must avoid prom, senior banquets, music competitions/events, academic events that all occur in the last two months of school.
2. Many spectators view matches throughout the entire weekend. A reduced-price weekend pass would encourage spectators to attend. Many other sports offer a weekend pass for multiple-day events.

Minutes

-Extending the season by one week in the girls' season was discussed. The coaches discussed many pertinent reasons why the one-week extension would improve the option of rescheduling and reduce the potential of overplaying our athletes at the end of the season, which is such a critical time of the year. Entire list of reasoning is included in the above recommendations.

-The date of the West Fargo tournament was discussed. It is typically held the weekend before regions, which is a busy time for scheduling. It was decided that the tournament date will remain the same at this time.

-The rotation of the state tennis tournament was discussed. There was much discussion about having the tournament permanently in Grand Forks due to the facilities available versus rotating the tournament to give other communities the chance to host this tournament. It was decided that the tournament rotation will remain the same at this time, as scheduled.

-This year at the state tournament, all teams gathered at Capital Racquet and Fitness Center to participate in an opening ceremony which featured the presentation of team and the National Anthem. Coaches agreed that this was an appropriate way to begin the tournament, and would like to see this event expanded for future state tournaments. It was discussed that a sportsmanship pledge might be a proper addition to this ceremony since so much of the enforcement of rules in tennis relies on personal integrity.

-The coaches discussed the legitimacy of resting any player on the roster during rounds of the team tournament. After discussion, it was decided that the coaches act with honor and integrity in our state, and we will accept any player being left off the roster for various team rounds, no matter their position on the ranking ladder. Typically this would only happen due to injury of a player, or to allow players that are lower on the roster to experience a team tournament match.

-Kendra Pasco (Dickinson) was selected as the next West Region Girls' Tennis Advisory Representative, replacing Erik Hanson (Bismarck).

***Coaches, please forward the minutes to your Athletic Directors.**

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