

TENNIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 31, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Kevin Skillett. Members attending: Chad Jilek, Erin Seely, Jen Dovre and Shawn Petersen. Absent: Danielle Stubbs. Craig Ihnen represented the IGHSAU.

Members were introduced and a review of Committee purpose was given. Committee was reminded concerns should be forwarded to a Committee member or to the IGHSAU.

Under review of the 2018 season, Committee felt the state tournament was very competitive and had excellent play and great sportsmanship. The weather was favorable throughout the season.

Committee discussed playing first to five was a very positive change and worked well. It was acknowledged some matches can go into five hours, and this change eliminated that. The USTA has moved to this in the summer, primarily for a rest factor.

Pairings were briefly discussed. Ihnen stated there were a few new sites added this year, and the IGHSAU appreciates neutral sites that are willing to host.

Correspondence was reviewed from Brian Daoust, Shenandoah regarding players in singles and “intact” doubles teams that were the previous year’s champions or runners-up being separated in the early rounds of state play. Ihnen stated this happens often. Question was asked if this should be from the previous year only, or any previous years. **Motion by Jilek if singles and “intact” doubles were champions or runners-up in the previous year and finish as a runner-up in regional play, they could possibly be up for a seed. Motion second by Dovre and unanimously approved.**

Dave Will, Columbus Catholic shared a letter regarding the possibility of raising the number of playing dates due to some schools dropping matches because of quality of play. Skillett says this is not isolated to tennis, but other sports as well. The level of competition drops after the top 2-3 schools, and schools wanting to pick up quality competition. Currently the IGHSAU allows schools to add an additional date to help a school fill their schedule. Ihnen suggested the IGHSAU *could* allow this for two years. It is understood both schools must send a formal request and the reason an additional date is needed.

Discussion was held regarding voting of regional coaches. After discussion Committee agreed clarification of records and team play govern coaches voting at the regional play.

Petersen asked about the possibility of team tennis play being held at a central location. Ihnen stated some coaches like playing at the same site as singles and doubles play as they are used to the facilities, while others would prefer a central location due to travel/hotels/etc. Ihnen also stated the availability of indoor facilities is very important. Committee asked Ihnen to research the possibility of playing team tennis at a central location.

Seely expressed concern regarding coaches not addressing issues (line calls, players talking to parents, etc). If an opposing coach has an issue with this and have talked to the opposing coach, contact should be made with that school’s administration. Skillett agreed, stating administrators need to help mentor coaches. Ihnen stated this will be a point of emphasis in the rules meeting and in the pre-season memorandum. Ihnen will ask coaches to review the points of emphasis for a meet with players.

Ihnen informed Committee the sites for the 2019 State Tournament have not yet been decided, but the IGHSAU should be finalizing contracts within the next month or so.

Skillett offered the new Bettendorf courts as host of the state co-ed tournaments. Ihnen informed Committee the state co-ed tournament is usually held in central Iowa to help with schools coming from all areas of the state who want to make it a one-day event.

Ihnen informed Committee of the new awards that were presented to all state participants this year. The IGHSAU is also working on new awards that will be presented to the state championship coach. The “ticket punched” banners were well received.

Ihnen informed Committee the IGHSAU will start charging an entrance fee for all spectators at the State Tournament (with the exception of the first team tennis round) at the 2019 State Tennis Tournament.

Committee confirms the new format changes were met favorably. Coaches wish to use traditional or no-add, but to keep in the same format for the entire specific tournament as we have done at this time.

All concur having the one-day break between singles/doubles play and team play was a positive change. All agree it was important for players to rest. The break day made for a much better team tennis experience for competitors.

Seely stated the difficulty she had during the state seeding meeting trying to follow along with who was speaking, what school, and information on the players. Seely asked if it were possible to have information sent to coaches before the meeting to help alleviate some of these issues. Ihnen stated the difficulty he has in securing information from all the coaches ahead of time, so he would not have complete information to send out to all coaches. Jilek suggested to go onto QuikStats to get some of the information they were needing prior to the meeting. Ihnen suggested that all coaches should say their school and/or name prior to speaking, which should help clarify most of the issues. Ihnen stated he will inform coaches of this prior to the start of the meeting.

The State Co-Ed Meet was briefly discussed. Last year’s classification change regarding sharing agreements was a good change. Committee concurred it’s fun when teams get beat but stay and play other beaten teams-a very positive tournament experience for players. Ihnen gave numbers for participation at this year’s event and informed Committee for the first time there were more 1A teams represented than 2A teams. The IGHSAU will continue to look at playing sites for this event.

Committee extended its appreciation to Kevin Skillett for his years of service to the Tennis Advisory Committee.

The date for the 2019 Tennis Advisory meeting is undecided, but Committee prefers sometime after the school year starts.

There being no further business, **motion to adjourn by Jilek, Seely second and unanimously approved.**

Heidi Reed
Recorder