

# NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## Meeting of the Board of Directors – Agenda Item Submission

**Name(s) :** Vic Ramsey, Lee Matthews, Andrew Tuttle, Donald Clark

**School/LEA/Conference/Group:** NC High School Tennis Coaches Association

We/I request that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the NCHSAA Board of Directors:

The NCHSTCA Board of Directors, at its October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, approved a proposal to authorize alternate match formats for dual-team matches during the regular season.

The recommendation is that coaches, upon mutual agreement, may conduct a regular season match using 8- or 10-game pro sets in singles, and/or use no-ad scoring in singles and in doubles.

Please see the explanation of this proposal attached to this form for complete details and examples.

### **Recommendation/Proposal: (State in detail the recommendation/proposal)**

- **Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)**
  - Currently, the handbook calls for a regular season match to be played with a “best two-of-two sets” format in singles, with a 10-point match tiebreak in the event the players split sets. While this format is used in most matches, on some occasions, coaches agree to shorten the match by playing pro sets in singles.
  - There are several reasons why shortening the format might be in the best interest of the student-athletes participating in a given situation:
    - limited court space and time
    - approaching inclement weather
    - excessive heat
    - scheduling conflicts with other school activities
  - Moreover, a number of coaches have expressed to us that they are concerned about the length of high school tennis matches and would like an option to play them in a more condensed fashion.
  - The recommended change would keep the format described in the handbook as the “default” format, but allow the coaches to agree to an alternate format if they wish. If there’s no agreement between the coaches, then the default match format would be used.
- **Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school’s/athletic department’s finances?)**
  - No budget impact is anticipated.
- **Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)**

- No adverse educational impact is anticipated. On those occasions when an alternate match format is used, the student-athletes would be returning home at an earlier time.
- **Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)**
  - The same process would be used for both the men's and women's tennis season.
- **Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)**
  - Given that using these alternate match formats is common, and that the only real change contemplated is bringing the handbook in line with that common practice, we would request that this change be made effective starting with the Spring 2024 Men's Tennis season.
  - If this is not approved, then we would anticipate an effective date beginning with the Fall 2024 Women's Tennis season.

Signature R. Victor Lamy Date 10/30/23

## **Summary**

The proposed amendment offers alternate formats that may be used in NCHSAA regular season matches.

If adopted, this amendment to regular season rules would allow teams to use alternate match formats if both coaches agree. Absent an agreement between the coaches to the contrary, the default format must be used.

No change is recommended with regard to the match format during the dual-team playoffs.

## **Justification**

A strict reading of the rules for a regular season match, found in 4.11.2(c) of the NCHSAA handbook, does not permit coaches to use alternate match formats, even if both coaches agree to do so.

There are circumstances where an alternate match format is in the best interest of student-athletes, such as excessive heat, approaching inclement weather, limited court space, and scheduling conflicts with other school activities.

Moreover, using 8-game pro sets in singles is a common practice, and NCHSAA staff lacks the resources to police this matter. Historically, these matches have been included in teams' records, and counted toward playoff selection and seeding.

Finally, in tennis, there is a principle that "points played in good faith stand". If the coaches agree on a format that both teams consider fair and reasonable, then they've accepted the format as a condition of play, and the "points" are played in good faith.

## **Amendment to Handbook Regulations**

### **Current Reading**

#### **4.11.2(c) Format**

- (1) Singles - Two out of three sets in singles. If players split sets in singles, a 10-point tiebreaker (first to 10, win by two) will be played to decide the outcome of that match. A three-minute break is allowed before the tiebreaker, and player(s) may NOT leave the court during this time to confer with their coach.
- (2) Doubles - Doubles matches are played after singles competition and a 15-minute break [See 4.11.2 (a)] and the format is an 8-game pro set. In a tie at the end of the doubles pro set, the set tiebreaker (first to seven and win by two) will be played.
- (3) If mutually agreed, the match may conclude as soon as one team wins by five points.

## **Proposed Reading**

4.11.2(c) Default Match Format – Unless agreed to by both head coaches, a regular season dual-team match will be played in the following format.

(1) Singles - Two out of three sets in singles, using standard scoring. If players split sets in singles, a 10-point tiebreaker (first to 10, win by two) will be played to decide the outcome of that match. A three-minute break is allowed before the tiebreaker, and player(s) may NOT leave the court during this time to confer with their coach.

(2) Doubles - Doubles matches are played after singles competition and a 15-minute break [See 4.11.2 (a)] and the format is an 8-game pro set, using standard scoring. ~~In a tie at the end of the doubles pro set,~~ At 8-all, the set tiebreaker (first to seven and win by two) will be played.

(3) If mutually agreed, the match may conclude as soon as one team wins by achieving five points.

4.11.2(d) Alternate Regular Season Match Formats – If both head coaches agree, any of the following modifications may be used in a regular season dual-team match.

(1) The use of 8-game pro sets in singles, with a 7-point tiebreak at 8-all.

(2) The use of 10-game pro sets in singles, with a 7-point tiebreak at 10-all.

(3) The use of no-ad scoring in singles and/or doubles. (No-ad scoring may be used in conjunction with the default format described in 4.11.2(c), or in conjunction with the use of pro sets described in 4.11.2(d)(1) and 4.11.2(d)(2) above.)

*Renumber remaining paragraphs of 4.11.2 as (e), (f), and (g).*