

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 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 recommends a proposal to amend the schedule for bracketing and play in the dual-team tennis tournaments.

The recommendation is that the bracketing for the dual-team tournament take place on Friday of “Week 9” of the regular season, allowing two rounds of play during Week 10, and creating space in Week 12 for a raindate that could be used in the event inclement weather forces the postponement of dual-team or individual regional competition.

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

- **Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)**
- The current schedule calls for dual-team bracketing to take place on Monday of Week 10, and the first round to be played that Wednesday, as follows.
 - Week 10
 - Monday - Dual-Team bracketing
 - Wednesday - Dual-Team first round
 - Friday-Saturday - Individual Regionals
 - Week 11
 - Monday - Dual-Team second round
 - Wednesday - Dual-Team third round
 - Friday-Saturday - Individual State Tournament
 - Week 12
 - Monday - Dual-Team fourth round
 - Wednesday - Dual-Team semifinals
 - Saturday - Dual-Team finals
- The NCHSTCA Board expressed concern over the fact that there is very little flexibility in the event of inclement weather.
 - For instance, if rain prevents the completion of the regional tournament, moving to the following Monday would create a logjam with the completion of the regionals, two rounds of dual-team play, plus the state individuals, all taking place within six days.
 - Moreover, tennis is particularly susceptible to even small amounts of rain. A light drizzle that a soccer or baseball team might just play through will quickly render tennis courts dangerously unplayable, and take hours to dry.

- Our idea was to set the deadline for dual-team results to be posted to MaxPreps to be Thursday night of Week 9 (the week in which conference tournaments are usually played), freeze the RPI at midnight, and do the bracketing on Friday. This would allow two rounds of dual-team play to be scheduled during Week 10, and provide some flexibility to the schedule.
 - The proposed schedule also provides that the 1-A tournament begin at the same time as the other classifications, even though it is a five-round event as compared to the six rounds played by the other classifications. Again the goal is to provide flexibility in the event of inclement weather.
- The proposed schedule is as follows:
 - Week 9
 - Thursday - Dual Team results deadline
 - Friday - Dual-Team bracketing
 - Week 10
 - Monday - Dual-Team first round (all classifications)
 - Wednesday - Dual-Team second round (all classifications)
 - Friday-Saturday - Individual Regionals
 - Week 11
 - Monday - Dual-Team third round (all classifications)
 - Wednesday - Dual-Team fourth round (2-A, 3-A, 4-A)
 - Friday-Saturday - Individual State Tournament
 - Week 12
 - Tuesday - Dual-Team semifinals (all classifications)
 - Wednesday/Thursday - raindates available as needed
 - Saturday - Dual-Team finals (all classifications)
- So, if the regionals needed to be completed on Monday of Week 11, then the dual-team schedule could be bumped back, with the third round on Wednesday, and three rounds the following week (Monday/Wednesday/Saturday, just as we do now).
 - The same schedule modification could be used if rain disrupted the dual-team tournament.
 - If the state individual tournaments were disrupted by weather, then they could be completed on Monday of Week 12, and the semifinals could be pushed back to Wednesday or Thursday.
- Week 9 is generally used by schools for conference tournaments and regional qualifiers. Very few schools, if any at all, are playing dual-team matches on Friday or Saturday of Week 9, so there's no detriment to the regular season.
- NCHSAA staff concurs that having more palatable options to address the scheduling issues that might be caused by significant inclement weather during our postseason is desirable, and that conducting the bracketing on Friday of Week 9 would not be a problem.
- **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. The actual number of playing dates in the dual-team and individual tournaments is unchanged.
- **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?)**
 - We request that the effective date for this change would be for the fall 2024 women's tennis season.
 - We note that, given the implementation of the bylaw amendment regarding eight classifications is scheduled for 2025-26, we anticipate that the tennis postseason schedule will need to be revisited prior to the fall 2025 season. However, for 2024-25, we believe the proposed change is merited.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Victor Lamong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Date: March 20, 2024

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).