

Activity Advisory Committee Recommendation to the MSHSL Board of Directors

Submitted on Thu, 10/13/2022 - 2:46 PM

Activity/Activities (Check all that apply)

Tennis, Boys, Tennis, Girls

Indicate the category of the proposed recommendation

State Tournament Recommendations regarding Format and Non-NFHS Rules or NFHS Experiments

Authors of the Proposal

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* Class A ** Class AA

Current Rule/Policy

State the rule/policy as it appears in the current MSHSL Handbook or Activity/Sport Specific Rules and Policies.

Tennis Rules and Policies under "Projected Team Pairings": Girls' Class A + Boys' Class A (pgs. 7-8) ... through 2026

Proposed Recommendation

Submit your proposed change to the above-stated rule/policy.

Tennis Advisory proposes to seed Class A Team in BOTH Girls + Boys

Include any other policies that are impacted by this proposal.

No other policies should be impacted.

Rationale

What is the history of the proposal?

Consistent with other MSHSL activities' moves toward seeding, in around 2011 tennis made the change to seeding Class AA Team + Class A and Class AA Individuals.

At the time, the decision was made, with the Tennis Advisory's recommendation, to NOT seed Class A Team. There was apprehension around public school advancement in the tournament due to private school dominance in Class A Team.

As we move forward to establish consistency and uniformity in tennis classification, including between Girls' and Boys' tennis, the Tennis Advisory recognizes the need to seed Class A Team.

How does your proposal benefit education-based opportunities and MSHSL Mission and Beliefs for all Minnesota students?

Part of the MSHSL mission includes: "To establish uniform and equitable rules for students in extra-curricular activities." This – seeding Class A Team – is the last step for tennis to be 'uniform' in its

policy as Class AA Team + AA and A Individuals have been seeded for approx. 10 years. If it is consistent, fair, and equitable for some teams (AA) and all individuals (AA + A), then it should be the same for Class A Team.

The goal of 'equability' will be reached matching Class AA and Class A Team.

What other policies are significant in this proposal?

No other policies should be impacted. [Seeding for Class AA Team + AA and A Individuals has been in place for approx. 10 years.]

Provide evidence of support for the proposal from other groups

The MTCA membership was surveyed, resulting in 75% (127 of 169 responses either in favor or neutral) on seeding Class A Team.

Impact

How does your proposal affect this activity, including its impact on all classes, areas of the state, and variety of schools

Clearly, seeding Class A Team will have an impact. To begin, it should eliminate/minimize the chance for the highest ranked teams to meet in the first round – something that has taken place as a result of 'projected (section) pairings'. This allows for the opportunity for the best (highest ranked) teams to meet in the later rounds, including the championship.

The strength of the team draw will no longer be the outcome of a random or projected pairings. That is, one side of a draw may not be 'loaded' with the best/better teams as a result of predetermined section pairings. Rather, the team brackets should be more justly balanced based on the seeding process.

Administration

How does your proposal impact section and state tournaments?

No change. The Tennis Advisory currently seeds Class AA Team + AA and A Individuals. The same process – utilizing Tennisreporting.com and rankings (same as currently used) – will be used for Class A.

Length of Tournament

How does your proposal impact the needed competition time for section and state tournaments?

No impact on the length of the State Tournament.

Participants

How does your proposal impact the number of participants/teams?

No change in # of participants.

How does your proposal impact the percentage of participants/teams that would qualify for the state tournament?

No change.

Facilities

How does your proposal impact the facilities needed to accommodate your recommendation at both the section and state level?

Does not apply.

Awards

How does your proposal impact the number of awards at both section and state?

Does not apply.

Other

Provide any other pertinent information not included in this proposal

The practice of seeding State Tennis has shown, with results across both classes (team AA + individuals AA and A), to be fair and accurate. It has produced the most competitive matches in both team (AA) and individuals (AA + A) at the right time, typically in the later rounds (semis and/or finals). And the upsets along the way equally add to the excitement of the competition.

We recognize this may make it more challenging for some programs to reach a State final, specifically since the possibility of top teams playing by chance in the quarter or semi finals, predetermined by section pairings, won't be the case. But now is the time to be consistent and uniform in our policies across all classes and genders in MN high school tennis. It no longer makes sense to hold out on seeding Class A Team.

Primary Author and Contact for Proposal

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