Boys State Tennis Advisory Proposals
Meeting held on 11/24/2026 @ 7:45am
Members Present: Kayl Hamre (NDHSAA), Matt Neilson (East Girls Rep, Valley City), Paul Christen (West Boys Rep, Mandan), Scott DeLorme (West Girls Rep, Minot)

Regulations change proposals:

1. Regulation addition to Play: One 5-minute medical timeout is allowed for cramping. A second cramping stoppage for any cramp will result in a medical retire.

Rationale: Cramping is vague in the USTA regulations. After discussing throughout the year and our region and state coaches' meeting, this was agreed upon. It is tough as the opposing coach to not give in and just let the opposing player continue with cramping throughout a match without a clear rule in place.

Coaches Meeting Vote: 11-0

Notes: Advisory Committee advises this regulation change proposal to be sent on to Athletic Review

2. Regulation addition to Play: Coaches may coach between points on courts that they are directly next to. Coaching cannot decrease pace of play. If off court, coaches cannot go on the court. If on court, a coach must remain in the bench area. If a coach violates, follow the unsportsmanlike penalty system in Play #1.

Rationale: This would align us with the college rule on coaching. Also, a coach may be monitoring up to 6 courts. This ability would give that coach the opportunity to give a player information, guidance, or encouragement in the moment and the coach can then turn his/her attention to another match. Coaches are already coaching between points when they should not. This would codify that coaching is ok. Dissent rationale: Tennis is an individual sport. Players should be developing the mental and strategical strength to play without coaching between points.

Coaches Meeting Vote: 10-1

Notes: Advisory Committee advises this regulation change proposal to be sent on to Athletic Review

3. Change state individual placing from top 6 to top 8 at the state tournament.

Regulation replacement of Regional and State Tournaments 12a with the following two-part language:

a. The regional and state individuals tournament consist of one singles tournament and one doubles tournament where individual players can only play in one or the other. Tournaments are double elimination. Winners of the quarterfinals will play for 1st through 4th place. Winners of the consolation quarterfinals will play for 5th through 8th place.
b. All teams may enter three singles players and two doubles teams into the regional individuals tournament. Finishing in the top 8 at regionals qualifies the singles player or doubles team for the state individuals tournament.

Rationale: This was approved last year by the coaches and the athletic review. It was denied by the NDHSAA Board. As tennis has added Bismarck Legacy, Minot North, Fargo Davies, West Fargo Sheyenne, and West Fargo Horace – a 33% increase in boys teams and a 31% increase in girls teams, we believe that moving up 33% in state individual placers would be appropriate. We believe almost every other sport that has individual tournaments are placing 8. We believe tennis should match those other sports. In addition, if a player makes it to Saturday of play at state, they would be guaranteed two matches and a plaque. We would be adding six plaques, but believe more fans of the consolation players would attend if they knew that their player is guaranteed two matches and a plaque which could more than offset the cost to the NDHSAA. Adding in a 7th place match at State would not slow down the tournament as there is court space and this would add only two matches to the tournament.

Coaches Meeting Vote: 10-1

Notes: Advisory Committee advises this regulation change proposal to be sent on to Athletic Review- they are aware of the discussions being had on the changes to coaches advisory topics, but wanted to put this to vote one more time.

4. Regulation change to Administrative #5: In the first sentence after school/coop identifying uniforms add the language: to include school/coop color(s) and logo(s).

Rationale: Several players are wearing just a color. If wearing just black with no logo, a spectator, official, or tournament manager cannot tell if it is Mandan, Legacy, or Dickinson. If Navy blue, it could be Valley City, Fargo North, or Minot North. If Red, it could be Shanley, Century, or Red River. Also, several players are wearing just a logo. For the individuals tournament, some

players are wearing a different color (like pink) with a school logo. This rule would make it so that the color and logo would 100% identify a player's school/coop just by looking at the uniform.

Coaches Meeting Vote: 10-1

Notes: After discussion, the advisory members feel like this does not need to go to regulation. It will be mentioned as an emphasis to teams during pre-season.

5. Regulation: After the second sentence in Play #2 ending with (full sets), add the following sentence. All remaining matches in a clinched team match will play a super tiebreaker in lieu of the third set.

Rationale: This could speed up the regional and team tournament on Thursday of play. Also, the loser of the regional semifinal team match will play the winner of the consolation semifinals in a state qualifying match. The consolation bracket would have an advantage if the championship bracket had less rest time as a team and had players that played a full third set that does not impact the outcome of a team match. Dissent: Playing a full 3rd set is part of tennis. And, if that player plays the next round, the conditioning should matter of that player.

Coaches Meeting Vote: 11-1

Notes: Advisory Committee advises this regulation change proposal to be sent on to Athletic Review. Advisory members believed that this was once in regulations, but is no longer in the regulations. They would like this to be put back into regulation.

6. Regulation change: Replace 2ai, 2aii, and 2aiii under play with the following:

i. Championship bracket: Use a super tiebreaker in lieu of a third set.
ii. Consolation bracket: Use short sets with a super tiebreaker in lieu of a third set.
iii. Clinched team matches: Use short sets for remaining 1st and 2nd sets.
iv. Clinched team matches: Terminate remaining matches.
v. All matches: Use short sets with a super tiebreaker in lieu of a third set.
vi. Consolation bracket: Eliminate.

Rationale: The change is more concise for tournament managers and coaches. It still has all the components from the current regulation and does not add or subtract anything. The above is

the progression the coaches want. Because we believe we have the facilities and time even on days where all play must be indoors, we would like to only have i through iv in regulations. If the NDHSAA board wants to keep all parts from the original regulation, then v and vi need to be included.

Coaches Meeting Vote: 12-0

Notes: Advisory members felt like this was not an important item yet, as the language already in place seems to follow this format closely. Do not advance onto Athletic Review.

7. Regulation change: Eliminate #7 under Play: In case of ties in regional and state matches, a 12-point tie-breaker will be used.

Rationale: This is already in the USTA Regulations and is unnecessary.

Coaches Meeting Vote: 12-0

Notes: Advisory feels like this is fine to leave in regulations, no need to change. It is a rule already in UTSA regulations. Question on if NDHSAA Staff could strike from the regulations, or if it would need board action to strike. No action required by Athletic Review.

8. Regulation addition to Play:
Every feasible effort should be made to reschedule or play indoors when the air temperature is below 45, the windchill is below 40, air temperature on court is above 100, the heat index on court is above 105, or the sustained winds is above 30 mph. Formats of a regular season dual may change based on mutual agreement of the two coaches based on weather, light, or time.

Rationale: Player safety with heat and cold. Balls bounce differently below 45. Sustained winds of above 30 is a match against the wind, not an opponent. This is not a mandate to the Athletic Directors or to Tournament Managers, but guidance. We understand that because of scheduling, some matches may not be able to be rescheduled or played indoors. Also, some coaches are already changing format based on weather, light, or time. We wanted to codify that this practice is approved.

Coaches Meeting Vote: 12-0
Notes: Advisory members feel like this message could be communicated to area schools/AD's without regulation. No action required by Athletic Review.

9. Regulation addition to Regional and State Tournaments #4: Add the word Three in front of the regulation to read: Three new balls shall be provided for all matches at region and state tournaments.

Rationale: Three balls will speed up the pace of play. Many times a court must wait until an adjacent court finishes their point to be able to retrieve their second ball to start the next point. Also, if a server already has two balls, they would not need to take the time to retrieve another ball at the net or at the back fence before starting the next point. As this would increase each match from 2 balls to 3 balls, the total number of balls needed at a tournament would increase by 50%. Currently, we have the option for new balls for a full third set which impacts ball numbers as well.

Coaches Meeting Vote: 10-1

Notes: Advisory members are going to work with local schools/teams during the girls season to test out the idea of using three balls per court, not two, and gather feedback. There is no current regulations in place for amount of balls per court. No action required by Athletic Review.

Discussion and votes (if voted on):

Notes on Discussion items below: these discussions were held at the State Boys Tennis tournament at the coaches meeting. Items were not brought forward by Tennis Advisory Members.

1. Mandan hosting.
    a. Seating is a potential issue indoors.
    b. Coaches idea for the team tournament. Run the boys at 2 sites the first time. Run the girls at 4 sites. Coaches worried that the participants won't have the feel of a State Tournament if we are at 4 sites. It would just feel like two 3-2 matches during the regular season.

2. If two team matches are indoors for State, we discussed if both #1s should get the option of playing inside. We tabled this idea as we need to see how Mandan runs the tournament and what our state schedule is in the future.

3. Singles sticks. It is in USTA regulations. We don't use them. No one in ND uses them for summer tennis on their courts, no USTA events use them in the state, and we have never used them in ND High School Tennis. If the NDHSAA believes we should put in regulations that we don't use them, that is fine.

We voted on if we should use singles sticks. It was voted down.

Vote: 1-11

4. Calling of score. All teams and players, please call the score out loud, loud enough where your opponent, coaches, and spectators can hear it. Coaches enforce all season for their team.

Rationale: Most of the issues between players come about because the players don't agree on the score. Saying the set score out loud before serving the first point of the game and saying the game score out loud before each point would alleviate this issue.

5. Live scoring. Dan Gu from Sheyenne says his app can do it. NDHSAA can work with Dan if we wanted to do live scoring at regions and/or state.

6. Warm-up with team and no warm-up with your opponent for the regular season. (USTA says that a warm-up shall be up to 10 minutes on court with your opponent.) We arrive early enough that we are fully warmed up with our teammates so getting the match started makes sense.

Vote for no warm-up with opponent during the regular season: EDC 5-1. WDA 3-1.