

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Meeting of the Board of Directors – Agenda Item Submission

Name: Andrew Tuttle

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

Proposal – To extend the tennis postseason by a week, creating a four-week postseason calendar.

We propose that the tennis postseason be extended by one week, as follows:

Week 1 -

- **Monday – Pre-regional**
- **Wednesday – Dual-Team Round 1**
- **Friday-Saturday – Individual Regional Tournaments**

Week 2 -

- **Tuesday – Dual-Team Round 2**
- **Friday-Saturday – State Individual Tournaments**

Week 3 -

- **Monday – Dual-Team Round 3**
- **Wednesday – Dual-Team Round 4**

Week 4 -

- **Monday – Dual-Team Regional Finals**
- **Friday-Saturday – Dual-Team State Finals**

The graphics on the following page show the current and proposed schedules, with dates shown for the 2026-27 tennis seasons.

Three-Week Postseason (Current)							
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1 Oct 11 th - 17 th Apr 25 th - May 1 st		Dual-Team Round 1		Dual-Team Round 2		Individual Regional Tournaments	
Week 2 Oct 18 th - 24 th May 2 nd - 8 th		Dual-Team Round 3		Dual-Team Round 4		Individual State Tournaments	
Week 3 Oct 25 th - Nov 1 st May 9 th - 15 th			Dual-Team Round 5			Dual-Team Finals	
Week 4 Nov 2 nd - 8 th May 16 th - 22 nd							

Four-Week Postseason (Proposed)							
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1 Oct 11 th - 17 th Apr 25 th - May 1 st		Individual Pre-Regional Events		Dual-Team Round 1		Individual Regional Tournaments	
Week 2 Oct 18 th - 24 th May 2 nd - 8 th			Dual-Team Round 2			Individual State Tournaments	
Week 3 Oct 25 th - Nov 1 st May 9 th - 15 th		Dual-Team Round 3		Dual-Team Round 4			
Week 4 Nov 2 nd - 8 th May 16 th - 22 nd		Dual-Team Round 5				Dual-Team Finals**	Dual-Team Finals

**Friday of Week 4 is needed for dual-team finals only if all finals are held in one location. If two locations are available, all dual-team finals matches can be played on Saturday. This would be particularly helpful in the spring, when it is possible that the dual-team finals might conflict with a school's graduation, assuming a school calendar that ends prior to Memorial Day.

Rationale -

We have three basic critiques of the current three-week schedule.

First, it is exceptionally compact, and requires players to play, and coaches to coach, on five days in an eight-day period. This could include, for a singles player, as many as seven singles matches and three doubles matches within the first eight days of the postseason calendar.

That's a lot of tennis, a lot of travel time, and a lot of missed class, all within a very condensed period of time.

We do not believe the current schedule offers players sufficient recovery time, and that this schedule represents a health and safety hazard to our players.

Second, the current schedule requires the pre-regional to be held during the last week of the regular season, complicating the end of regular season play.

Plus, that date is a full eleven days before the beginning of the regional tournament.

Third, the current schedule provides very little flexibility to adjust for inclement weather. Even one rain day creates havoc in the schedule, forcing teams to play on back-to-back days.

This was demonstrated during the 2025 men's season, when rain forced multiple teams to play on successive days, and still required the postponement of the dual-team finals.

By contrast, our proposal creates more recovery time for student-athletes, protects the integrity of the regular season, and adds additional flexibility to deal with inclement weather.

First, there's an extra day of recovery for players following the regional tournaments. And, there's only one match in the week prior to the state individual tournaments. These provisions will help us keep our best players healthy and rested during the postseason.

Second, with four weeks to work with, we can schedule the pre-regional on the first Monday of the postseason, four days prior to the regional tournament. We think this is a more appropriate schedule, and frees the last week of the regular season, in its entirety, for the conclusion of regular season play.

Third, four weeks gives us many more opportunities to adjust for inclement weather. For instance, if the first round were rained out, those matches could move to the second week. And, there are three days in Week 4 that could be used if we had rainouts of earlier rounds.

We surveyed our coaches in February on this specific topic. Seventy-two coaches responded to our survey request. Of those, 44 coaches, representing 61% of the sample, voted for the four-week proposed schedule.

Finally, we note that the tennis calendar, even if this proposal is adopted, will still be shorter than the soccer and the football seasons in the fall, and the baseball and softball seasons in the spring.

For this reason, we want to stress that we are not recommending, nor are we in favor of, shortening the regular season by a week to accommodate a four-week postseason.

Budget Impact -

There is no appreciable financial impact on schools or the NCHSAA.

Educational Impact -

The proposed schedule will help student-athletes by spacing out the days on which they must miss class to participate in postseason play. This will help students better keep up with classwork during the postseason.

Gender Impact -

This schedule would apply to both the boys and the girls seasons.

Effective Date -

The proposal would take effect in the 2026-27 academic year.

Signature _____ Date_____