

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 – Handbook language to govern the participation of teams with three or fewer players.

We propose that the following language be added to the handbook as follows:

4.11.1 General

(i) Participation of teams with fewer than three players on its MaxPreps roster shall be governed by the following provisions:

(1) Conferences are encouraged to accommodate such teams by arranging for regular season match opportunities.

(2) Players from such teams are eligible to participate in all phases of the state individual tournament.

(3) Teams with three or fewer players shall count as one half a team when the division of pre-regional berths is calculated.

(4) Teams with three or fewer players are not eligible for the dual-team tournament.

Rationale -

Four players are required to field a team that is capable, mathematically, of winning a dual-team match. The current handbook does not address how a team with three or fewer can participate in high school tennis.

Concerning the specific provisions we recommend:

1. We want to encourage the participation of players who find themselves on very small teams. This year's team of three may be next year's team of eight or more. When a school suspends its program due to a small number of players, it is very hard to get that program restarted.

For these reasons, we want to support very small teams, and encourage conferences to accommodate them during the regular season.

2. There is no reason that individuals on these teams cannot participate in the individual tournament. In our postseason survey, coaches overwhelmingly approve of these players participating in the individual tournament.

Allowed to Participate in Individual Tournament		
Yes	68	64.2%
No	18	17.0%
No opinion	20	18.9%
Total	106	100.0%

3. Currently, all teams count as a full team when pre-regional berths are calculated. But, a very small team can only contest for half of the berths, a maximum of one singles player and one doubles team.

For this reason, we suggested in our postseason survey that these schools count as 0.5 in those calculations. Coaches were in favor of this proposal, which appears to be a reasonable compromise that everyone can support.

Impact on Regional Berth Calculations		
Count as full team (1)	26	26.3%
Count as half team (0.5)	53	53.5%
Not count at all (0)	20	20.2%
Total	99	100.0%

4. Since it is mathematically impossible for very small teams, those with three or fewer players, to win a dual-team match, we believe it is inappropriate for these teams to take a spot in the dual-team tournament. Our coaches agree.

Compete in Dual-Team Tournament		
Yes	17	16.2%
No	76	72.4%
No opinion	12	11.4%
Total	105	100.0%

Budget Impact -

There is no financial impact associated with this proposal.

Educational Impact -

There is no educational impact associated with this proposal.

Gender Impact -

This proposal would apply equally to both the men's and the women's programs.

Effective Date -

This proposal, if adopted, would take effect for the 2026-27 women's and men's seasons.

Signature _____ Date _____