

TENNIS Q & A:

#1 Was mixed doubles added to 4A and 5A. Why or why not?

Mixed doubles was not added to Tennis for the 2008-2009 school year per section 182 of the TAPPS By-Laws as posted on the TAPPS website. TAPPS has some schools which are single gender institutions and cannot field both a boys and girls team, and therefore not a mixed doubles as the opposite gender does not attend that school and schools cannot combine teams for competition. At all levels of TAPPS, there are schools which cannot fill the doubles and singles requirements and much less add an additional entry. Therefore, the opportunity for some schools to gain points in an event which others cannot field is not in the best interest of all classifications and schools.

#2 Is Regionals format going to be used again? Why or why not?

Regionals were only used at the 5A level last year. Through combination of districts, this was not necessary for the 2008-2009 school year. This format in 2008-2009 did not significantly alter who advanced to state and had little or no impact on the overall winners. As an aside, the 5A draw was also the most controversial as the "District" winners were not automatically seeded and questions arose regarding each regional as to the seeding therein and how it affected the outcome of the state tournament.

#3 With the new district alignments was there any consideration given to making one district much stronger than the others? (ex. How many state champions have come out of a certain district the last 10 years)

TAPPS does not consider strength of competition in ***any*** sport when arranging districts or competition. Each year is a new year and not based on previous performance or there would be little need to compete as we would already know the winner.

#4 Is there anyway that we can get the playing 8th graders rule to be universal across all programs? It is difficult to find opponents if you do not have a team of 8 boys and 8 girls and we need to fill in on JV with those athletes.

8th grade students are allowed to participate in team sports only. If they were not available, the "team" could not begin play as outlined by the rules of each sport. However, in tennis as in all individual sports, players may play as singles or doubles and a full team is not necessary. While it may be difficult to schedule, the high school students may be afforded the opportunity to play without assistance from the 8th grade students in duel matches, triangle matches and tournaments.

#5 Is there any way that we can have a special session with the TAPPS board about the tennis decisions to express concerns before it is too late for this season?

At this time, there is no need to meet with the board as the By Laws reflect their present position. However, if you have ideas that you feel would enhance the sport of tennis as offered by TAPPS for all schools throughout all classifications, then you may present a written recommendation for the Athletic Executive Committee to review. Upon their review, a recommendation may be made to the board or returned to you for further development. Any such

proposal should outline the changes, how classifications will be affected, how any negatives will be addressed and most importantly why the change should be made and how it will advance the sport of Tennis in TAPPS.

TAPPS appreciates the efforts of all coaches in TAPPS who work with students daily to achieve beyond what they thought possible. As an organization, we are five classifications and almost 35,000 students enrolled in 231 member schools. Each group has unique qualities and definition, but at the end of the day we are one body and the TAPPS office, Executive Board and Executive Committees continue to strive for what is best for all. We welcome your ideas and any presentation for review.