


Office of the Chief Operating Officer
Interscholastic Athletics
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

INFORMATION

Minutes of the Tennis Workgroup Meeting
October 11, 2017

Refer Questions:  Mr. Jeffrey Sullivan, Director of Systemwide Athletics
Ms. Kathy Green, Athletics Specialist

Present:

Marco Fuggitti	Athletic Director, Northwood HS
Donna Considine	Athletic Director, Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS
Judy Rothstein	Sport Director and State Rep for Tennis, Paint Branch HS
Nia Cresham	Boys' & Girls' Tennis Coach, Thomas S. Wootton HS
David Ngbea	Boys' & Girls' Tennis Coach, Montgomery Blair HS
Linda Akli	Girls' Tennis Parent, Wheaton HS
John Slaughter	Boys' Tennis Parent, Northwest HS
Student-Athlete	Girls' Tennis, Wheaton HS
Student-Athlete	Girls' Tennis, Sherwood HS
Student-Athlete	Boys' Tennis, Winston Churchill HS

Not Present: Alan Goodwin Principal, Walt Whitman HS

Materials Distributed:

1. MCPS Athletics Vision, Mission, Purpose, and Core Values
2. MCPS Tennis Update – Letter and FAQs
3. State Questionnaire – Other Counties
4. State Questionnaire Summary Points
5. MCPS Tennis Transition Worksheet

Minutes

1. Workgroup members introduced themselves and stated their affiliations with MCPS tennis. Mr. Sullivan briefly discussed representation on the workgroup. Schools in all four Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) tennis divisions are represented by workgroup members to ensure diverse representation of the entire county.
2. Mr. Sullivan provided an overview of the vision, mission, purpose, and core values of the MCPS Athletics program. MCPS Athletics Core Values and the integration of core values are focus points for discussions on the transition of girls' tennis to the spring. Special emphasis will be placed on maximizing the participation opportunities for MCPS student-athletes.

3. Mr. Sullivan provided a detailed history of the events and actions that led to the new MPSSAA regulation which, as a result, will require MCPS to make a seasonal adjustment for girls' tennis in order for student-athletes to participate in regional and state competition. Additional clarification was provided regarding an online petition that circulated calling for girls' tennis to remain in the fall. Mr. Sullivan provided the rationale for MCPS moving forward with the seasonal adjustment including Title IX, sport equity, and opportunities to participate in region and state competition. The *MCPS Tennis Update Letter and FAQs* were referenced.
4. The State Questionnaire was reviewed. Workgroup members were given a few minutes to review the data, discuss with another workgroup member, and share these discussions with the entire workgroup. The workgroup focused attention on the structure of the current MCPS tennis program versus the structure in other Maryland counties. The following points were discussed during the "share out":
 - Model utilized in surrounding counties
 - Roster size and number of starters
 - Spring weather and number of matches
 - Spring break and scheduling practices and matches
 - Sunset times on schools that dismiss past 2:30 p.m.
 - Maximizing participation for student-athletes
 - Transportation
 - Number of courts at each high school
5. Mr. Sullivan addressed implications regarding facilities and sunset times. MCPS has 40 middle schools which, along with various park facilities, could be utilized for practices. Additionally, in many cases, schools would be able to host two practices back-to-back on campus similar to other sports sharing one facility like baseball, softball, and basketball. Later practice times and off-campus facilities are required to administer other sports in the MCPS athletics program.
6. Mr. Sullivan shared that students-athletes may have opportunities to participate in intramural tennis and possibly corollary tennis in the fall in the future.
7. Mr. Sullivan distributed the *MCPS Tennis Transition Worksheet* and requested feedback and suggestions from workgroup members regarding potential models to structure to MCPS tennis program. Following a brainstorm session, the workgroup suggested the following three models for consideration:
 - Varsity Boys / Varsity Girls – two separate teams in the spring
 - Varsity Coed / JV Coed – two teams in the spring
 - Varsity Coed in the spring / Corollary in the fall
8. The workgroup members discussed the advantages and challenges of each of the three models.

9. The workgroup generated a list of key questions for a coach survey that will be administered at the upcoming girls' tennis coaches' meeting, so feedback from coaches can be utilized to guide further decisions on the most effective model for MCPS. The questions were summarized and the survey was subsequently created and administered.
10. Mr. Sullivan shared with workgroup members the process and timeline for the approval process, along with outcomes for the next workgroup meeting. The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2017.
11. Mr. Sullivan expressed appreciation for participation of the workgroup members and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

JKS:rtm

Copy to:

Dr. Zuckerman
Ms. Green
High School Athletic Directors
High School Principals
MCPS Boys' and Girls' Tennis Coaches
Ms. Rothstein
Workgroup Members