


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

**INFORMATION**

Minutes of the Tennis Workgroup Meeting  
November 7, 2017

**Refer Questions:**  Mr. Jeffrey Sullivan, Director, Systemwide Athletics

 Ms. E. Kathy Green, Athletics Specialist

**Present:**

Alan Goodwin	Principal, Walt Whitman HS
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, Sherwood HS

**Not Present:**

Student-Athlete Boys' Tennis, Winston Churchill HS

**Materials Distributed:**

1. MCPS Athletics Vision, Mission, Purpose, and Core Values
2. Coach Survey Summary
3. MCPS Tennis Courts Summary
4. MCPS Tennis Participation Questionnaire

**Minutes**

1. Workgroup members introduced themselves and stated their affiliations with MCPS tennis. Mr. Sullivan reminded members of the workgroup's outcome to provide a recommendation to transition MCPS girls' tennis competition from the fall season to the spring season that reflects the MCPS Athletics core values of equity, access, and spirited competition.
2. The MCPS Athletics Core Values were reviewed.
3. The three models under consideration from the first workgroup meeting were reviewed:
  - 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

4. The workgroup unanimously agreed that corollary tennis is a separate discussion and recommended that this model be removed from consideration as a result of the workgroup's charge. Corollary tennis would be a potential consideration in the future for MCPS, if additions/modifications were made to the offerings of corollary sports.
5. The workgroup reviewed the results of the coach survey, which included questions generated from the workgroup and was administered at the postseason coaches' meeting. Workgroup members were given a few minutes to review the data, discuss with another workgroup member, and shared their thoughts with the entire workgroup. The workgroup noted that coaches strongly supported two separate varsity teams – boys' and girls' varsity – similar to the current format.
6. A five year summary of participation in boys' and girls' tennis was reviewed. The average roster size for boys' tennis was 16 and girls' tennis was 15 over the past five seasons.
7. A summary of tennis courts at MCPS high schools and middle schools was analyzed. The workgroup agreed that there are enough courts to support two varsity teams competing during the spring season.
8. Following discussion, the workgroup unanimously agreed to recommend the model featuring two varsity teams – boys' and girls'. Additionally, the workgroup recommended that MCPS move girls' tennis to the spring and keep the current structure/model for tennis. The rationale offered for this decision included:
  - For 50 years, the MCPS tennis community has been happy with the current structure of MCPS tennis – 4 singles and 3 doubles teams per gender.
  - Workgroup members have heard from community members from all angles. Simply keeping the current structure and moving girls' tennis to the spring has the least amount of impact on student-athletes, while allowing both genders to participate in region and state competition.
  - Coaches were surveyed and strongly supported separate gender teams (data below).
    - Thirteen coaches listed separate varsity teams as their #1 preference (including seven coaches that currently coach both genders)
    - Two coaches listed coed varsity and coed JV as their #1 preference
    - Five coaches listed coed varsity and corollary varsity as their #1 preference
    - Three no response
  - This recommendation will allow exactly the same number of varsity participation opportunities.
  - There are enough courts to support two teams between the high school campuses and 40 middle schools and local parks.
  - The same county tournaments can be conducted as have been in the past.
  - Divisions and opponents will be formulated using the existing MCPS process, which includes collecting preferences from schools, conducting a scheduling committee, and providing a recommendation to schools for consideration.

9. The workgroup's recommendations will be shared with athletic directors for consideration. Athletic directors will take action, followed by principals, the chief operating officer, and the superintendent.
10. Mr. Sullivan expressed appreciation for participation of the workgroup members and the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 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