

WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE QUARTERLY UPDATE.



The intention of this series is to update our stakeholders on both the progress of this committee and the current state of High School tennis from across the country. In this first edition we summarized the project teams' progress and spotlighted four outstanding no-cut coaches.

MARCH 2018 HIGH SCHOOL SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Schools Connection Subcommittee (Delaine Mast, Jackie Clark and Calvin Davis):

This group was tasked with creating tactics to connect a high school coach and team with middle/elementary school PE Teachers who are utilizing the Net Generation School Curriculum.

The team has been actively assisting high school coaches to understand the benefits of participating in Net Generation by showing them how to use the platform and build their programs. As an example, coaches can connect their middle and elementary schools to Net Generation, get them free equipment/training aids and get students playing the sport for a lifetime!

A highlight of the quarter was the Mid-Atlantic High School Coaches Workshop in Vienna, Va. on Sunday, Feb. 4. Over 50 coaches from all over the region participated in the workshop and enjoyed networking with the group. Coaches had the opportunity to start and/or complete the Net Generation registration process. They also shared successful strategies, coaching tips, program and event ideas that could create a "feeder system" of players for years to come. Many of the coaches in attendance were no-cut coaches and most were involved in tennis outside their high school season. The energy and commitment to tennis and their student-athletes was obvious as this event was held on Super Bowl Sunday!

In addition, the subcommittee collected and compiled a 2018 spreadsheet of workshops and meetings for high school coaches. More information on dates and locations is available upon request.





Communication Subcommittee (Laurie Martin, Perren Wong and Bill Riddle):

This team was originally tasked with reviewing the USTA High School website and successful programs such as the Wilson Blast and Friday Night Lights. The team completed the website assessment (suggestions implemented by the marketing department), reviewed state associations' social media sites and completed a successful program review. In addition, a letter was sent to all state associations with the most current high school tennis information.

One of the highlights this past quarter was the Arizona Tennis Coaches Association 1st Annual Conference. Over 80 coaches attended and received printed copies of the USTA resources and Net Generation promotions. In addition, resources were distributed at the NMHSCA convention this past summer and a presentation was done on running a No-Cut program. The ATCA was started with a grant from the SWUSTA with ongoing collaboration and support has been given from the Section and District offices.

This subcommittee will now focus on improving communication with all high school stakeholders including coaches, players, parents and section staff. This quarterly update is the first step.

State Associations Subcommittee (Lindsey Atkinson, Bobby Kleinecke and Manny Moreno):

The team gathered all 50 state association bylaws, extracted the specific rules related to out-of-season play, translated the rules into common language and categorized the states' rules by the following four categories: 1) During Season Outside Participation, 2) Coaching Outside Season During School Year, 3) Summer Practice and 4) Camps/Summer Camps. The next step will be to group states based on bylaws.

In addition, the subcommittee presented the USTA High School Committee goals to the State Association Tennis Administrators at the 2017 USTA Breakfast at the NFHS Annual Summer Meeting. It was here, that they introduced the concept of working within the confines of each State Association bylaws when developing programming for high school athletes.

After High School Subcommittee (Denny Schackter, Dave Neuhart, and Gina Pileggi):

This subcommittee was originally focused on connecting high schools to clubs, facilities and CTAs. The team spent a great deal of time over the last half-year ensuring high school tennis was a focus for clubs and facilities. In addition, the High School Committee has shared best practices with tennis associations such as high school coaches associations and CTAs to encourage them to continue making progress.

The subcommittee's new remit is to educate players on the various options for play after their high school career. The team will partner with other USTA Committees such as Tennis on Campus to be sure that high school players are aware of all the avenues available as they begin college. These include Varsity, Tennis on Campus, Adult League and even giving strong consideration to starting a career in the tennis industry by enrolling in a Professional Tennis Management program.

MARCH 2018 NO-CUT COACH RECOGNITION

Chad Tsuda- Intermountain, Fairview High School, Co.

My father started coaching me in tennis and it became a family sport for life. The passion grew within our family and my brother and I competed together allowing us to enjoy competition. Competition within a large team creates comradeship between everyone and I just wanted everyone to be able to experience it. We have 93 players on average. Everyone has a role from our coaching staff to each individual to make everyone feel a part of our bigger team goals.. One goal is to get everyone on the team a match. So far in my 10 years of coaching it has worked out! I just received an individual story from a past player about how he has taken up tennis after college and is now playing more competitively because he had the chance in high school to see the positive benefits tennis has to offer. My advice for a coach would be to set the team goals out early on and let them know we are encouraging tennis as a lifetime sport!

Thomas Arbuckle- Northern California, Pittsburg High School

Sport, and tennis in particular, is a wonderful vehicle to teach not simply technical aspects, but also and especially the lessons of character, integrity, perseverance, patience and sportsmanship. This spring I should have well over 40 boys participating. My girls' team started with around 15 and has grown to 52, 65, and 60 girls completing the season the last three years. Practice is very organized. I have varsity singles working together, varsity doubles working together, and have all the JV players form doubles teams. Running a no-cut team is grueling at times. But I have found the more you give to the kids the more you get back in return, whether in the classroom or on the tennis court.

Kevin McElroy- Texas, Kingwood High School

I started a no-cut program because I believe every child that wishes to play tennis should have the opportunity to try! I just wanted to expose as many kids to tennis as I could because it is a lifetime sport. We currently have 90 kids in our high school program here at Kingwood High School. On Mondays and Wednesdays, our freshmen and JV kids come to practice for an hour and half in addition to going to drills/lessons on their own time. Our goal is to give every player at least one opportunity to play one tournament. Give every kid a chance... you never know what that child can become until you put a racket in his or her hand!

Shelly Connors- Eastern, Auburn Junior High School, N.Y.

My first reason for having a no-cut program was that we had enough girls to start a JV tennis team. We give kids the opportunity to play a high school sport and learn a lifetime activity when some of them thought they had no athletic ability at all. In our high school girls' program, we have averaged about 30 girls in the past 17 years. I have just taken over the boys' program and we are usually around 18. Not all athletes are able to play in the scoring part of the match, but we try to get everyone in at least one exhibition match during the season. Having a no-cut program has made it possible to for student-athletes to apply for more scholarships and grants because of their involvement.

We hope you enjoyed the update. We look forward to your comments and suggestions to help advance high school tennis. Please email Mark Faber at faberm10s@aol.com for any comments or questions.