

HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE SECOND QUARTER 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 second edition we summarized the project teams' progress and spotlighted four outstanding no-cut coaches.

SECOND QUARTER 2018 HIGH SCHOOL SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

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

The team continued to assist high school coaches in understanding the benefits of being involved in Net Generation and showing them how they can use this to build their high school program.

A highlight of the quarter from the USTA Middle States section was the High School Spring Finale hosted by Tennis Central. This was a one-day event open to all high school boys that did not qualify for the League Championships. The Section provided the balls and a local business donated food for all the participants. The kids and parents were so excited that they got to play in something where the top players were not there and they get to be the top players for a day.

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

The subcommittee continued to get the word out and increased the flow of information to all high school stakeholders including coaches, high school players, parents and section staff. The inaugural quarterly update was debuted at the USTA Annual Meeting and Conference in Carlsbad, Calif. It was subsequently delivered in electronic form to 22 active state tennis coach associations, all 51 National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) member state associations, all 17 USTA sections and associated districts.

This second edition continues to focus on no-cut coaches by highlighting four exceptional coaches from the New England, Midwest, Southwest and Southern USTA sections.





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

The team has completed the research on out-of-season bylaws for all 51 National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) member state associations. In doing so, it has discovered both the vast difference in state bylaws regarding facility and equipment usage, coach participation, duration of training, content of training (skill development vs. strength and endurance training) and calendar restrictions. In addition to these differences, the committee recognized the evolution of these bylaws as state board of directors reevaluate all bylaws on an annual basis.

As for next steps, the committee intends to organize the states based on common bylaws and provide access to these rules with the understanding all bylaws are subject to change and that interpretation of all bylaws is the sole responsibility of the state association.

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

The subcommittee continues its grass roots effort to enhance the high school experience with the intent to bridge students to after high school products such as varsity, Tennis On Campus, adult league and Professional Tennis Management programs.

On the high school coaches front, USTA Georgia gives all coaches in the state a free membership to an online high school coaches guide. Don Paitrick, President of USTA Mid-Atlantic, will be a speaker at the 2019 Illinois high school coaches conference.

An innovative idea from the CORTA CTA introduces students to tennis management. The CTA created a teen council that has a board with officers and specific responsibilities. The officers volunteer and help with tournaments to groom and line clay courts as well as help with other tournament duties. Their next endeavor is to help with adaptive and wheelchair tennis. In addition, the students learn governance first hand by attending CTA board meetings to see how they are run.

Lastly in March, the Chicago district held a family tennis clinic before a college match between Chicago State and the University of Illinois-Chicago. The intent was to give high school students a view into varsity tennis. The team hopes to do more of these with the Chicago-area colleges.

JUNE 2018 NO-CUT COACH RECOGNITION

Across the country, there are over 500 USTA No-Cut coaches registered. These coaches are going above and beyond to keep students involved in sports in high school and this month we are continuing our journey across the USTA sections to recognize 4 more coaches who run No-Cut. If you are thinking about running a No-Cut program, check out [“Tips for Organizing a Successful No-Cut High School Tennis Team”](#) on the USTA website.



Ryan Galindo - Carlsbad Municipal Schools: USTA Southwest

I got into tennis accidentally by seeing a friend and his family playing at a local city park. They invited me to play and encouraged me to come out for the high school tennis team. In high school I had an excellent role model as a coach and he always encouraged us to be our best. I have coached other sports that had cuts and I really didn't like the feeling of telling a kid that she or he wasn't good enough. This, I believe, is where my passion for having a no-cut program began. I typically have 30 to 40 players come out each season. I coach both boys and girls so each team varies in size from year to year. My best advice would be to not stress over the number of kids. An extra few kids doesn't make running the program more difficult. If you are going to plan for one kid, then it is just as easy to plan for 10 kids.



Phil Parrish - James River High School: USTA New England

I started out playing for a small high school in Georgia and we kept everyone and really did not cut anyone. We all found a way to practice, have fun and be part of a team. We have six courts at our high school. We practice every other week early (3:45 p.m. - 5 p.m.) and late the other week (5 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.). The players have to be on time since courts are limited and we have middle school, JV and varsity boys and girls tennis. If you run a no-cut program, organize your practices and keep the drills and formats familiar to the kids so you do not have to talk too much. It is about hitting balls. Finish the practice with an upbeat game or fitness drill.



Steve Tier - Mount Vernon High School: USTA Midwest

While I never advanced beyond being a member of my high school tennis team, I continued to play after high school and that opened many positive opportunities for me in my life. Recognizing that fact, I have never felt comfortable turning away anyone who wants to play tennis. I don't want to be the one who shuts doors of opportunity that tennis may open for these players. We have had an average of 15-20 players participate each of the five years that I have been the head coach for the girls' team at Mount Vernon High School. Try to remember how the lives of your players could be forever changed because of the opportunity you can offer them to learn this great game.



Tony Cherone - Collierville High School: USTA Southern

I have been the Tennis Director for the town of Collierville for seven years with my primary objective to truly grow the game. Eight years ago, I started the first public middle school tennis team in the West Tennessee area. It now has four teams participating and its own end-of-year county championship. The middle school team is also the largest in the West Tennessee area, maybe even in the state, as it runs a no-cut team that also has had more than 50 players for the last three years, often getting 30 or more players to participate in many of our dual matches. In my third year as head coach of the Collierville High School boys and girls teams, I have increased program participating by more than 100 percent. I have previously been the recipient of industry awards such as Tennessee Pro of the Year, High School Coach of the Year, Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Coordinator of the Year and has served as president of the JTT for the state of Tennessee along with serving on the USTA Southern committee for JTT.

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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.