

IHSTCA Newsletter

-- Cross Court --

August

2022

My Fellow IHSTCA Members:

On this, the eve of the 2022-2023 IHSA Fall Opening Day, I hope you have all been able to spend time with those you care about this summer and are looking ahead to the season and school year with excitement and eager anticipation. Tomorrow will be the start of my 18th year as a head coach and I feel just as nervous now as I did way back in 2005. I'm sure many of you, like me, are a bundle of anxiety as the season nears; hoping you've done enough to help your players prepare in the offseason and hoping you're ready to help provide them all with the outstanding interscholastic experience they deserve.

Having had the opportunity to see and speak with so many of you this summer, meet with our IHSTCA Board recently, and follow the incredible work our members are doing with their programs through social media, I know that our athletes are in great hands. The passion and care I see Illinois High School Tennis Coaches pour into their teams is inspiring and continues to motivate me to challenge myself to do better. For those of you apprehensive, who are doubting yourself, and questioning your experience, know that there is nothing more important to your student-athletes than the genuine care you extend towards them. Also know that our association is full of incredible world-class professionals when it comes to teaching and coaching tennis. Their generosity and professionalism provides us all with a wealth of resources to tap and I hope you do.

I wish you all a smooth first day and a rewarding, memorable fall season. I hope to cross paths with you all on the courts in the coming months.

All the best,

Jon

Jon Betts (Jacobs HS)

IHSTCA President

Jonathan.Betts@D300.org

IHSTCA Board of Directors

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Newsletter

Jon Betts

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Carrie Watson (Registration)

Publicity/Webpage

Jon Betts

State Format

Josh Leighton (Chair)
Jack Carmody
Mike Hand
Kelly Willard

IMPORTANT DATES

Girls Season:

Sectionals	October 14 th -15 th
Pitchford Nominations Due	October 17 th
State Finals Seeding Meeting	October 18 th
State Finals	October 20 th -22 nd
Season Ends	October 29 th

On the Horizon:

2023 IHSTCA Winter Workshop	Feb. 3, 2023
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Helpful Resources

[2022 USTA Friend at Court](#)
[IHSTCA Website](#)

Join the “National High School Tennis Coaches Hub” on Facebook

Updates & Reminders

- >The 2023 Winter Workshop is moving to 5 Star Tennis Center!
- >Renewing your TennisReporting account? Apply the discount code: *tennisreporting*
- >New coaches should email TennisReporting@gmail.com to be added to the system.
- >We want to continue to stress the importance of promoting outstanding sportsmanship to our athletes. It is our hope that every coach in the state will seriously consider nominating a deserving player for the prestigious Pitchford Sportsmanship Award. Please email mgross@ottawahigh.com with questions or nominees.
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Carrie's Corner

Carrie Watson shared this outstanding [article](#) about Transformational Coaching. This really speaks to the core of the important role we all have to play in the lives of the young people we're responsible for.

Please keep in mind the power you have every day to have a transformational impact on those you work with.

Passing of the Torch

Thank you Susie! Welcome Dan!

As most of you are aware, Susie Knoblauch recently transitioned out of her role as the IHSA administrator for tennis. I'm sure you'll all agree that her efforts have had a substantial positive impact on Illinois High School Tennis. We are sad to see her go, but are excited to have the opportunity to now work with Dan Le, who has stepped into that role. Please join me in thanking Susie and welcoming Dan. We're excited to continue to build on the great relationship our coaches enjoy with the IHSA on behalf of our student-athletes.

Dan hit the ground running in Bloomington and has already been a great resource for us. I'd like to share this letter from him with you all:

Greetings IHSTCA,

My name is Dan Le, and I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new IHSA assistant executive director, who will serve as the IHSA administrator for boys and girls' tennis. I am a 2002 graduate of Ottawa Township High School, where I played tennis for my high school coach and current IHSTCA Board member, Matt Gross. I worked as a tennis instructor for several summers and ultimately, returned to Ottawa as a math teacher, tennis coach, and basketball coach before serving as the athletic director at La Salle-Peru Township High School for the last three years. As someone who has run a tennis sectional and made numerous trips to the IHSA state tournament for boys and girls' tennis, I am excited to serve the IHSA and its member schools in this capacity. Susie Knoblauch has done a great job as the IHSA tennis administrator, and I will certainly be using her as a resource during this transition.

As we prepare for the 2022-2023 school year, I wanted to share a few tennis updates from our office. The tennis rules video will be available for girls' head coaches in August, so be on the lookout for that in the IHSA Schools Center. Susie and I will be working with Jim Lange as we transition to Palatine High School being the new tournament headquarters for the boys' state tennis tournament. We understand the work that goes into hosting a tennis sectional, and we certainly appreciate the time and effort. With that said, we are always looking for hosts. Please have your athletic director update your host facilities survey in the IHSA Schools Center or email me at dle@ihsa.org to indicate your willingness to host a sectional. As it seems to be a trend in several sports, tennis is no different as we are beginning to see a shortage of officials for tennis. We will continue to work with our USTA contacts to recruit more officials.

Lastly, I have also been assigned to oversee the IHSA sportsmanship program, which will continue to be a priority. We all know that tennis is different from other sports in terms of etiquette, and it requires consistent effort from all coaches, tournament managers, site directors, and administrators to manage behaviors and ensure that proper etiquette and conduct is maintained at all contests during the regular season and the state series. Again, I am thrilled to have this opportunity, and I look forward to working with the IHSTCA to continue to improve the sport and provide quality experiences for our students across the state.

*Sincerely,
Dan Le*

Open Dates

Girls Fall 2022

>IC Catholic Prep is looking to host or travel and has multiple August & September dates available. Email mfahey@iccatholicprep.org if open and interested.

>Elgin Academy is looking to host a varsity dual on 9/24 at 11am. Email cpinson@elginacademy.org if interested.

>Morton has an opening in their Potter Tennis Invite on 8/20 (2s/2d). Strong 1A field. Email scott.jones@mcusd709.org with interest.

>Morton (Berwyn-Cicero) is looking to add more duals and tournaments at the Varsity, JV, & JV2 levels and can travel or host. Contact head coach Mike Hasler at mhasler@jasmorton.org

> Rock Island is looking for additional matches this fall. We are interested in dual meets, quads, or tournaments. If you are in need of a team to play let me know. jon.catterton@rimsd41.org

Boys Spring 2023

> Crystal Lake Central is looking to start a Varsity Boys Tennis Invite on May 6th, 2023. This would be an annual event. We need two more teams. Schools already committed are: Grayslake Central, Hampshire, Woodstock North, Wheaton St Francis, Marian Central, and CLC. Please contact Jeff Aldridge if interested. (jaldridge@d155.org)

Tax Notification

The Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association's 990-PF annual tax return for the year 2021 has been filed and can be inspected (along with our exemption application) by contacting Dan Brown at danbrowntennis@gmail.com

Newsletter

Have any interesting articles, drills, or interesting items you'd like to share with your fellow coaches? Email jonathan.betts@d300.org to have it included in the next IHSTCA newsletter.



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