

MINUTES

Men's and Women's Tennis Coaches of the Southern Conference

Southern Conference Office

**Tuesday, August 20, 2019
11:00 AM ET**

Those participating were:

Chuck Kriese, The Citadel
Ricardo Rojas, ETSU
Adam Herendeen, Furman University
J.J. Whitlinger, Furman University
Ale Guerra, UNCG
Jeff Trivette, UNCG
Chad Camper, UTC
Chuck Merzbacher, UTC
Bret Beaver, Western Carolina
Krissy Hall, Wofford College
Rod Ray, Wofford College
Martin Stiegwardt, ETSU (via teleconference)
Eric Hayes, Mercer University (via teleconference)
David Vest, Samford University (via teleconference)
Sybil Blalock, Mercer University
Hannah Bradley, Southern Conference
Geoff Cabe, Southern Conference
Jim Schaus, Southern Conference
Jason Yaman, Southern Conference

1. Topic: Welcome and Introductions. Mr. Yaman called the meeting to order at 11:02 am
2. Topic: Previous Minutes
Issue: Review of the minutes for the 2018 coaches teleconference (August 28, 2018).
Action: Approved (RR,JT)
3. Topic: Compliance Review
Issue: Mr. Yaman informed the group that Mr. Doug King was out of the office but would be sending out a list of proposed NCAA legislation that may impact men's and women's tennis. Adam Herendeen asked for clarification on the four-day acclimation period to start the season and whether that was a conference rule or a guideline for the schools to follow. Sybil Blalock asked the group if they have had discussions on their campus regarding making student-athletes run as punishment. Krissy Hall indicated Wofford had discussed it and that all workouts had to be approved by the strength and conditioning staff, as well as the athletic trainers. Geoff Cabe clarified for the group that it is currently a guideline and not a conference rule.
Action: Informational – SoCon Associate Commissioner Doug King later confirmed the four-day acclimation period is not a conference rule.

3. Topic: Conference Championship
Issue: Mr. Herendeen inquired about the bid process and timing of the awarding for the conference championship. Mr. Yaman discussed bids that were awarded in October 2018 for 2020, 2021 and 2022. The group discussed the bid sheets that are sent out to the schools and what the current requirements are to host the tournament. The coaches discussed the challenges of playing indoors and asked for an extra day on the championship to be used as a potential "Rain Day."

ACTION: **It was VOTED (15-0): "To change the tennis championship to begin each year on Thursday and to end on Saturday, using Sunday as a rain date if needed."**

Mr. Yaman reviewed the 2020 brackets with the coaches. Additionally, he reviewed the sport committee and ex-officio committee that is in place in the event of lineup protests during the regular season or in advance of the tournament.

Mr. Yaman sought feedback on the group from the new championship officials coordinator, Reliford Sanders. The group was pleased with the performance of Reliford as well as the officials group in 2019.

Mr. Yaman asked the coaches about regular season officiating and the group expressed an interest in continuing the current policy of allowing the host school to hire their own match officials. Ale Guerra asked the group if there was any interest in increasing the required officials from two to three for conference matches. The group liked the idea of three officials, but felt it would be a challenge financially and logistically, having access to enough officials.

ACTION: **Discussion - No formal action taken**

4. Topic: Commissioner's Update
Issue: Commissioner Schaus addressed the group. He discussed his transition to the Southern Conference which will include visits to each of their campuses this fall. Mr. Schaus also discussed the forthcoming strategic plan which will be formulated during the 2019-20 academic year to be put in place during the summer of 2020. Mr. Schaus also reminded the group that the 2020-21 year will be the 100-year anniversary for the conference.
Action: Discussion

5. Topic: Match Scoring
Issue: Chuck Kriese discussed the no-ad scoring in men's tennis and sought a vote among the men's coaches to return to traditional scoring for men's league matches.
Action: **It was VOTED. "To play Southern Conference men's matches using traditional scoring." Motion failed; 2-Yes, 6-No**

Mr. Kriese then discussed the let court rule in men's tennis – noting that the women did not have the rule. He made a motion to remove the rule in men's conference matches. There was no second and the motion did not carry forward.

Mr. Kriese proposed returning to an 8-game pro-set doubles match in conference matches. There was no second and the motion did not carry forward

Men's and Women's Tennis Coaches Minutes

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Page 3

6. Topic: Conference Meeting
 Issue: Mr. Yaman asked the group if there was a preferred time of year to hold the annual coaches meeting. The group felt it should be held prior to the fall meetings so that any action items could be taken forward. Ultimately the coaches thought mid to late August was a good time and stated a preference to have the meeting prior to the start of school.
7. Topic: Fall Tournament
 Issue: The coaches discussed hosting a Southern Conference fall tournament beginning in 2020 that would feature individuals, doubles teams and possibly mixed doubles. There was support for the group for a date late in the fall season. The group discussed possible sites including Macon, Ga., and Rome, Ga.

 Action: Discussion
10. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 pm