

The Women's Committee took a wait and see approach this year, watching and observing the developments and decisions of the Men's Committee pertaining to changes within the NRT and Grand Prix tournaments.

Our stance has been, don't fix something that is not broken. We are always up for tweaking issues for the betterment of the entire women's player tour and its participants.

The following are discussions we had during the season.

1) Grand Prix formats-

The majority of players did not like the one day Grand Prix format (After the Short Hills tournament there was a huge discussion concerning playing 5 and 6 matches in one day)

Most players preferred:

- 1) 3 matches the 1st day and 2 the following day
- 2) 4 matches (if byes for seeded players) the first day and finals the following day.
- 3) 2 matches the first day and 3 matches the following day.

Most agreed that if there was travel involved, it will still be a 3-day commitment regardless of which format is played.

The majority of players did NOT like the Elite format that was created and carried out during the Short Hills Men's Tournament for these reasons.

- 1) Women's draws are typically not big enough for this to be successful
- 2) The spirit and tradition of the game would be compromised with this format.
- 3) Camaraderie with all level players is why most participate.
- 4) The APTA should not be modeled after the tennis tour - to compare our top players to a Federer and Williams is ridiculous.

*There were a few top ranked players who were in favor of the ELITE format - reasons given were :

- 1) Did not want to play easy 1st round matches
- 2) Some were starting families and the format would take less time away from work and home.

Presidents Cup

After the Nationals this year in Pittsburgh, the Region captains made these suggestions for future competitions.

- 1) Change the format to one more like the men. The competition is always too long and play extends to far into the evening.
- 2) Keeping teams together at 1 venue is a must to make the communication easier, team spirit a priority, and the day go smoother.
- 3) With a shortened competition, players could get to the awards dinner and enjoy with their teams much more than they did this year.
- 4) Although all regions had a blast at playing in Pcup, the length of the competition handicapped many for the next day of grueling matches.

The Women's Committee will discuss these issues and come up with a format that will address these concerns.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Prop