

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING
February 2, 2009

Members Present:

Tom Barberi, MHSFCA
Larry Featherstone, Benton Harbor
Dan Flynn, Escanaba
Keith Froelich, Okemos
Denny Fulk, Laingsburg
Shawn Griffith, Constantine
Courtney Hawkins, Flint
Jeremy Macejewski, Carsonville
George Murphy, Hudsonville

Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Pete Stuursma, Grand Rapids
Tom Wilcher, Detroit
Mark Woodson, Romulus

Members Absent:

Antie Hardy, New Haven
Bill Wilhams, Adrian

Staff Present:

Nate Hampton (recorder)
Tom Minter
Mark Uyl

The Committee met for the purpose of reviewing playing rules, regulations and policies concerning High School Football and MHSAA Playoff procedures. Following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to MHSAA staff and for possible Representative Council action.

Calendar Concerns:

MHSAA staff provided the committee with a calendar revision that will be effective for the 2009 season. This revision will establish that practice may start the 16th Monday before Thanksgiving (August 10, 2009 and require 12 separate days of practice for teams-first 3 without pads) and no contest before 16 calendar days (Thursday, August 27, 2009 for Varsity teams, and Wednesday, August 26, 2009 for sub varsity teams).

Current regulations will still require 9 separate days of practice before a team is allowed to scrimmage.

2008 Playoff Review:

The committee members were given 2008 Football Playoff Tournament information and statistical data for all levels of the 2008 tournament. The data demonstrated the results of the 10 year expanded format were consistent with the previous years when comparing school's classification, enrollment breaks and numbers of automatic qualifying schools.

In 2005, 2006, and 2007 243 and 246 and 251 schools respectively qualified automatically based on regular season records. In 2008, 237 schools did the same. In 2007 and 2008 31 and 19 games respectively were subjected to the point differential rule.

Enrollment ranges for the eight 2008 divisions for finalist:

Division 1	2408-2564	Division 2	1637-1744
3	981-960	4	817-674
5	579-562	6	469-446
7	311-275	8	230-200

Classification by Division:

Division 1	32 A Schools	Division 2	32 A Schools
3	12 A & 20B Schools	4	32 B Schools
5	30 B & 2 C Schools	6	32 C Schools
7	32 C Schools	8	3 C & 29 D Schools

In the Final games at Ford Field, 13 finalists were #1 seeds at the Pre-District, 3 were #2 seeds and there were no #3 or #4 seeds.

2009-14 FOOTBALL DATES

Year	Earliest Practice	Earliest Game	Labor Day (Games Before)
2009	Aug 10	August 27	Sept. 7 (2)
2010	Aug. 9	August 26	Sept. 6 (2)
2011	Aug. 8	August 25	Sept. 5 (2)
2012	Aug. 6	August 23	Sept. 3 (2)
2013	Aug. 12	August 29	Sept. 2 (1)
2014	Aug. 11	August 28	Sept. 1 (1)

→ whether or not play 1st week

→ 1st 3 days without pads

→ could start later

→ could start later

Monday, August 10 - First allowable day of 3 day of conditioning period (no pads).

Thursday, August 13 - First date of official practice (with pads) (if 3 days of conditioning were completed during the week).

Thursday, August 27 - First game date.

Schools may not conduct inter-squad scrimmages until after nine separate days of practice.

Interscholastic games (all levels) cannot be played until teams have completed 12 separate days of practice over at least 17 calendar days.

General Discussion Included:

1. 2008 Committee Minutes and Representative Council Recommendations.
2. Facilities used for Semifinal sites, one grass field used, MSU Spartan Stadium.
3. Pre-season Down Time, Summer Dead Period and Out of Season Competition.
4. National Federation potential rule changes for 2009.
5. Ford Field review/competing school presale tickets and presale ticket share.
6. Health and Safety Issues; MRSA, Staph Infections, Heat and Humidity effects relating to practice and competition.
7. Football Coaches Association financial support for competing team field ice at Ford Field.
8. Online rules meeting will start in the Fall 2009; MHSAA staff will conduct up to 4 in person meetings geographically.
9. 2009 Official Tournament Ball will include any Rawlings ball that meets NFHS standards.
10. Final Site Field Phones; continue to use school owned equipment that meet Ford Field standards. And continue to provide Ford Field wired system for back up support.
11. Player/coach limits for Finals; continue to use current policies for player and coach limits for field and press box access.
12. Junior High/Middle School practice and start date.
13. NFHS rule books will be sent to schools and officials in 2009 as planned with the current alternate year policies.
14. Out of Season Competition and All Star events; one committee member broached the subject of allowing all star competition during the school year without loss of eligibility for participants.

Fewer than 11-Player Football:

The committee was informed of the three geographical meetings held to discuss and test the interest by member schools in sponsoring fewer than 11-player football.

57 Schools were represented

39 Reported having enrollments under 215 students

18 Schools reported having enrollments higher than 215 students.

Enrollment range of schools with under 215 students were 43-200
Enrollment range of schools with over 215 students were 216-504
Enrollment of 100 and under = 12
Enrollment of 100-106 = 27

Staff also reported on reasons schools were interested, the general survey results received during the meetings and general possibilities of how a new division with enrollment limits might fit in a regular season and MHSAA tournament format.

Michigan Points of Emphasis:

Health and safety issues; MRSA, Pre-season practice, Heat and Humidity, and legal thigh and knee pads.

Recommendation to the Representative Council:

Establish a committee to formulate regular season and tournament plans for a new division of fewer than 11-player football teams. (13-0)

The fewer than 11-player team format will be the eight player team version using the established NFHS rules published for the eight player team game. (13-0)