

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.
FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 2, 2012, 9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Tom Barbieri, Dexter	Wayne Karston, Posen
Fred Bryant, Newberry	Mike Messner, Constantine
Ken Diamond, Montague	Vic Michaels, Detroit
Mike Evoy, MIAAA	Ron Reed, Dearborn heights
Marj Fruge', Carsonville	Al Slamer, Holt
Jeff Gallup, Bronson	Jack Wallace, MHSFCA
Leroy Hackley, Jenison	Alvin Ward, Detroit
Elbert Hicks, Flint	Robert Williams, Redford
Terry Hessbrook, Ithaca	

MHSAA Staff:

Nate Hampton (Recorder)

The committee met for the purpose of reviewing NFHS playing rules, MHSAA Regulations and Tournament procedures/policies concerning High School Football. Following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to MHSAA staff and for possible Representative Council consideration.

Calendar Concerns

MHSAA staff provided the committee a six-year calendar demonstrating the earliest practice date, the earliest game date and the number of contest prior to Labor Day. For 2012, the earliest practice date is August 6, and the earliest game date is August 23 allowing for two scheduled contests prior to Labor Day.

Current MHSAA Regulations will still require 9 separate days of practice before a team is allowed to be involved in an inter-school scrimmage. Interscholastic games at all levels cannot be played until teams have completed 12 separate days of practice over a three week period. The first three practice days must be without pads. Helmets and football shoes are allowed.

2011 Football Review

The committee was provided 2011 Football Playoff Tournament information for both the 11-player format and the 8-player format, with statistical data for all levels of tournament competition. The data demonstrated consistency with previous years under the current format when comparing school classification, division enrollment breaks and the numbers of automatic qualifiers.

In 2008, 2009 and 2010, there were 237, 234 and 234 schools respectively qualified automatically based on regular season records. In 2011 there were 42 games were subject to the "Point Differential" procedure.

2011 Enrollment Ranges for Finalist

Division 1	2114-2046
Division 2	1366-1227
Division 3	1063-904
Division 4	741-715

2011 Classification by Divisions for Finalist

Division 1	32 Class A
Division 2	32 Class A
Division 3	15 Class A 17 Class B
Division 4	32 Class B

Division 5 537-477
 Division 6 400-381
 Division 7 339-319
 Division 8 242-188

Division 5 32 Class B
 Division 6 1 Class B 31 Class C
 Division 7 32 Class C
 Division 8 12 Class C 20 Class D

2011-2016 FOOTBALL DATES

Year	Earliest Practice	Earliest Game	Labor Day (Games Before)
2012	Aug. 6	August 23	Sept. 3 (2)
2013	Aug. 12	August 29	Sept. 2 (1)
2014	Aug. 11	August 28	Sept. 1 (1)
2015	Aug. 10	August 27	Sept. 7 (2)
2016	Aug. 8	August 25	Sept. 5 (2)
2017	Aug. 7	August 24	Sept. 4 (2)

- whether or not play 1st week
- 1st 3 days without pads
- could start later
- could start later

Monday, August 6 - First allowable day of 3 day of conditioning period (no pads).

Thursday, August 9 - First date of official practice (with pads) (if 3 days of conditioning were completed during the week).

Thursday, August 23 - First varsity game date.

Schools may not conduct inter school 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 a 3-week period.

8-Player Football

On May 3, 2009 the MHSAA Representative Council approved the provisions for establishing an eight-player division for the MHSAA Tournament. The primary condition mandated that a minimum of 20 schools commit to an eight-player program and schedule.

At its December 2010 meeting, the Representative Council authorized MHSAA staff to proceed with tournament arrangements. 22 schools elected to compete in the 8-player format with one of the 22 not being initially eligible for tournament participation because the schools cooperative enrollment was beyond the maximum of 215.

To date, 27 schools are in the initial plans for the 2012 8-player format.

General Discussion

1. 2011 Committee minutes and Representative Council Recommendations
2. Facilities used for Semifinal sites, no grass fields used in 2011.
3. National Federation Rule changes for 2012
4. Finals venue review – Ford Field/NMU
5. Health and Safety Issues; Concussion, Heat and Humidity , Pre-season practice, Perspectives on format, 2-a day rule, etc.
6. Online Rules Meetings; Approximately 95% of all head coaches and MHSAA registered officials completed the online version of the required rules meeting.
7. Required Health/Safety online meetings – it was general consensus of the committee that required online meetings for health and safety is a good idea.
8. Tournament Football: In 2012 only the schools qualifying for post-season tournament participation will receive a complimentary ball.
9. NFHS Rule Books will only be provided to newly registered officials in 2012.
10. Out of Season Competition and All Star events
11. NOCSAE helmet requirements and helmet reconditioning
12. Pre-season Practice Heat/Hydration – Following a review of practice standards for the NCAA/NJCAA and NFL the committee suggested that we continue to supply schools with the most up-to date information on all pre-season risk issues and to not mandate any new regulations at this time.
13. Official/coach communication discussion – Mr. Robert Williams presented to the committee and explained the early stages of discussion with the MHSFCA on creating a continuing dialog on this topic.
14. MHSAA Handbook Regulation II, Section 9, Interpretation 204
Regardless of the location or time of year, individual student(s) shall not participate in any out-of season football camp, competition, clinic or combine with equipment of more than football helmets and football shoes.

Proposal from the OK Conference

Committee member Leroy Hackley, Jenison, presented a football playoff proposal that was drafted by the OK Conference. Key components of the proposal include:

Reducing the number of regular season games from 9 to 8.

Expanding the playoff field from 256 to 512 teams in 8 divisions of 64 by enrollment

All teams will be scheduled a ninth date, but only the 512 teams with the highest playoff point totals will participate in tournament competition

All schools would be placed in regions prior to the start of the school year by enrollment and geography

Rationale:

Reduces the concern for scheduling superior teams and 6 wins to automatically qualify

Equity in gate receipts allowing for 4.5 home games

Allows teams with fewer wins to end the season against an opponent with a comparable record

Following a lengthy discussion, the committee made no recommendations.

Recommendations to Representative Council

1. Add shoulder pads to the allowed equipment that may be used out-of season during college summer camps operated by college staff at college facilities. (17-0)