

OFFICIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, September 29, 2014

Members Present:

Mike Garvey, Kalamazoo
Jim Haskins, Grand Rapids
Barry James, Marquette
Mike Knabusch, Monroe
Greg Lattig, Mason
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Phil Long, Swartz Creek
Bruce Moore, Essexville
Bruce Moss, Alma
Ron Nagy, Hazel Park

Greg Pilbeam, Kentwood
Rob White, Saline
Gil Urban, St. Joseph
John Young, Westland

Absent:

Al Unger, Kingsford

Staff:

Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2014-15 MHSAA Officials Review Committee met to review topics involving high school officiating. After introductions were completed, the committee reviewed the terms of appointment to the Officials Review Committee, as well as the charge and mission of the group relative to the MHSAA decision making process.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of 2013-14 Action: The committee reviewed the minutes from last year's Officials Review committee and March 2014 Representative Council meetings. Discussion took place on the ten "Standards for Assigners" with special emphasis being given to how officials must be paid directly by the host school or an online payment service (Arbiter Pay, for example).

Disqualifications and Next Day of Competition Suspension Policy: The committee reviewed Regulation V, Section 3, Interpretation 295 that prohibits the appeal or review of ejections or the next day of competition penalty. There was strong consensus among this group of officials and school administrations to keep the current policy as currently written to allow no use of video or other means to appeal these penalties.

Officials Recruitment & Retention: MHSAA staff reported historical data and current registration numbers in light of a renewed focus on recruiting new officials. Staff shared information relative to recruiting and retention efforts from a statewide and local perspective. This included the new "Be the Referee" campaign which includes multi-media spots on both television and radio. The committee also reviewed the program where member schools, Approved Associations and Registered Assigners are provided two complimentary registrations for any first-time official. Committee members provided several suggestions and ideas on this topic.

Arbiter Sports Update: Staff provided an update on all the Arbiter products being used in partnership with Arbiter Sports such as Arbiter Game, Arbiter One and Arbiter 360. MHSAA staff continues to meet with groups of schools and assigners as the

Arbiter Game product moves forward with additional features and functionality being added every week.

2014-15 Camps & Clinics: An update was given with the schedule for the low-cost officiating camps and clinics being offered during the current school and plans for next summer's offerings in football, basketball, baseball and softball.

Insurance Overview: Committee members were provided an overview of the MHSAA insurance coverages for an official that includes catastrophic medical accident insurance and general liability coverage. Discussion took place on additional coverage options for Approved Associations and Registered Assigners under the NASO programs.

Additional Items: Brief updates were provided on the Midwest Officials Summit, ratings, regular season and MHSAA tournament game fee information and health & safety issues for officials.

Committee Member Topics: Multiple members noted that some parts of the state are using fewer number of officials in sub-varsity contests (one official in baseball/softball/volleyball, four officials in football, etc) which makes recruiting, retaining and training officials more difficult with fewer available slots for newer officials and altered mechanics and coverages. Other topics brought forth by committee members included policies on spectators rushing the court/field following games, running clock issues in football and soccer, having secure dressing areas for all officials in all sports, HUDL video access and tournament assignment procedures.

There were no recommendations to the Representative Council.