

## **OFFICIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, September 26, 2017

### **Members Present:**

Randy Allen, Mason  
Mark Barton, Flushing  
Brian Gordon, Novi  
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace  
Leroy Hackley, Muskegon  
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake  
Ross Martin, Portland  
Nick Nolde, Escanaba  
Steve Shutich, Kentwood  
Mark Stewart, Traverse City

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Gil Urban, St. Joseph  
Jeremy Valentine, Whitmore Lake  
Gary Wagenschutz, Warren

### **Staff:**

Sam Davis  
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2017-18 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**

**Officials Recruitment & Retention:** MHSAA staff provided handouts summarizing historical registration data with current registration numbers in light of the renewed focus on recruiting new officials (young and young at heart), along with demographic information of those currently registered. Staff shared information relative to recruiting and retention efforts from a national, statewide and local perspective. Data from the recently completed NASO national officiating survey was shared, and the group discussed new ideas and ways to engage more prospective officials. The committee also reviewed the most recently former official's survey data and discussed how this information can be used to improve the officiating experience in hopes of increasing retention rates. Finally, information was provided on the emphasis from the Representative Council on recruitment and retention, along with updated plans for recruitment "regional strike teams". The group also discussed concerns about safety for officials, and staff provided a brief preview of the SAFE campaign that will take place later in the early winter and its impact on retaining officials.

**Arbiter Usage and MHSAA Rating System:** Discussion took place on the increased use of Arbiter by the MHSAA for tournament assignments during the 2016-17 school year, and staff provided plans for increased usage during the current school year. The MHSAA is using ArbiterPay to pay tournament officials in multiple sports. Staff provided

an update on the great increase in the number of online ratings received from member schools last year with the new online rating system that interfaces directly with Arbiter.

**Officials Fee Update:** Information was distributed regarding the regular season pay survey, along with current MHSAA tournament game and mileage fees. Some members of the committee expressed concerns that far too many districts continue to “slow pay” officials during the regular season, with some waiting for several weeks for payment.

**MHSAA Officiating Contract Terms:** The committee reviewed current officials contract language that covers Act of God situations and officials compensation along with other instances where games or contests are being cancelled due to low numbers or schools having to drop programs altogether.

**MHSAA Insurance Overview & Health and Safety Updates:** Information was distributed regarding the liability and accident medical coverages the MHSAA has in place for all registered officials. The group had very positive feedback for staff regarding the amount of coverage in place for registered officials. Staff also provided an update of ongoing health and safety initiatives of the MHSAA, and how some of these will impact officials during their onsite duties.

**New Officials Apparel Vendor:** Staff provided a history of the relationships the MHSAA has had with official’s apparel vendors which included a recent change to Smitty and their Michigan-based distributor, Close Call Officiating Outfitters. The committee looked at various samples from the new vendor and the feedback was very positive regarding these new products and this new partnership for the MHSAA. The group also reviewed current uniform requirements in all sports.

**Additional Items:** A brief update was provided from the Midwest Officials Summit and the NASO Summit from July. At both meetings, the nationwide focus continues to be the recruitment and retention of officials at all levels. A preview was also given regarding the onsite summer officials meetings in 2018.

**Recommendation to the Representative Council:**

In the non-striped shirt officiating sports (Baseball, Softball, Swimming, Volleyball), allow officials to wear the approved MHSAA shirt and/or jacket with the horizontal logo as provided by the MHSAA apparel vendor. This would become a requirement in these four sports by the 2020-21 school year (15-0).