

## **2023-24 MHSAA OFFICIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – East Lansing

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Buffy Barnaby, Ithaca  
Barb Beckett, Traverse City  
John Carideo, Akron  
James Early, Grass Lake  
Tom Flynn, Beverly Hills  
Leroy Hackley, Muskegon  
John Hartley, St. Clair Shores  
Sharonda Hurd, Lansing  
Jill Lansky, Kalamazoo

Nicole Martin, St Ignace  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Terry Myers St. Joseph  
John Sanregret, Houghton  
Fred Smith, Bangor  
Justin Terry, Lansing

### **MHSAA STAFF**

Sam Davis  
Jeff Spedoske  
Ryan Wieferich (Recorder)

The 2023-24 Officials Review Committee met at the MHSAA office to review topics involving new initiatives for the 2023-24 school year, as well as ideas for improvement moving forward. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision-making process and the charge of the Official's Review Committee.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **REPLAY REVIEW OF EJECTIONS**

Staff explained the framework for replay review in MHSAA contests and provided an update regarding ejections reviews during the 2023-24 school year. At the time of the meeting, the MHSAA had received 25 total appeals in 23-24, with 14 of the 25 being overturned.

#### **NON-ACT OF GOD CANCELLATION POLICY**

Staff reviewed the changes to the non-act of God cancellation policy for the 2023-24 school year. Good discussion between committee members took place regarding further changes that should be implemented. Some support was evident for reducing further from 5 days to 48 hours prior to a contest. Committee members requested that staff compile data regarding the number of officials receiving payment for cancelled contests and how often this is taking place.

#### **POST-CONTEST EJECTION**

The committee reviewed the post-contest ejection rules. There was confusion about if the ejected party in a post-game ejection should be notified by the official, the same day. Staff clarified that if it is within the official's jurisdiction, they must inform the coach at that time. If the ejection is post-jurisdiction, they are not required to tell the coach.

#### **NASO SUMMIT REPORT**

Staff members shared information with the committee about the 2023 NASO Summit and provided the committee with data and slides from the NASO national officiating survey.

## **ASSIGNERS AND ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP MEETING**

Committee members received an update on the Assigner and Association Leadership meeting that took place in July 2023 at DeWitt Junior High School and provided the date for the 2024 meeting.

## **FUTURE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

The committee reviewed and then discussed policy changes regarding intentional/flagrant contact with officials during MHSAA contests. Support from the group to punish the athlete/coach immediately, rather than wait until the postseason under our current policy. Some committee members supported having different lengths of suspensions depending on the sport. The committee also discussed having stricter penalties for coaches than athletes.

Spectator ejections were also another topic of conversation. The committee discussed adding requirements for spectators that are ejected from MHSAA contests. These requirements could be a sportsmanship test or a ban from future contests. Concerns were raised by the committee regarding the difficulties with enforcement on a statewide level. Instead, the MHSAA should encourage each school/league to put their own individual policy in place regarding unruly spectators.

The committee also discussed policy changes regarding officials working shorthanded. There is concern among AD's that assigners are intentionally assigning officials shorthanded to receive more compensation. There was support from the AD's to continue paying the extra game fee to officials who work shorthanded as long as a full crew was originally assigned.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

1. The committee tasked MHSAA staff with drafting an intentional or flagrant contact with an official proposal. Within the proposal there would be no elimination of postseason competition for student athletes. However, coaches would still be subject to a postseason ban. The proposal should include immediate punishment for the student athlete/coach. The committee supported MHSAA staff drafting a document for implementation that addressed the concern. (15-0)
2. That the MHSAA set a minimum number of officials required to work an event for each sport to assist with issues regarding officials working shorthanded. (15-0)