

**GIRLS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MHSAA Office - East Lansing**  
**October 26, 2011**

**Members Present:**

Cory Anderson, Ada  
Tim Erickson, Rockford  
David Feldman, Bloomfield Hills  
Rob Holder, Troy  
Sal Malek – MIAAA  
Ken Mohney, Mattawan  
Mike Pruchnicki, Flint

Mike Teagan, South Lyon  
Kim Vincent, Grand Haven

**Members Absent:**

Jeanne Woodbury, Saginaw

**Staff Member:**

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp (Recorder)

**GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE**

The 2012 Girls Lacrosse Committee met at the Michigan High School Athletic Association to review its responsibilities as a standing sports committee; review prior Representative Council action; consider proposals from the Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association; recommend to the Representative Council changes regarding US Lacrosse or MHSAA regulations relative to girls lacrosse; suggest points of emphasis for rules meetings; and evaluate current practices and procedures with MHSAA staff. The Girls Lacrosse Committee will also assist in the assignment of umpires to all levels of the MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Tournament. This Committee now meets in October because of the necessity to review US Lacrosse changes which often include rules of management rather than playing rules.

**PRIOR REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION**

The minutes of the January, 2011 Girls Lacrosse Committee were reviewed for the purpose of providing background regarding prior discussion and actions of the committee. In addition, the limitations of competition were reviewed for grades 9 – 12 as well as junior high/middle school.

**TOURNAMENT RECOMMENDATIONS/IMPORTANT DATES**

Girls lacrosse tournament dates and Participating School Information were reviewed by the committee as well as the dates regarding online rules meetings. The online rules meeting for girls lacrosse will be available on February 13, 2012 and end on April 19, 2012. All head coaches and officials who wish to work the MHSAA tournament must take an online rules meeting during the available dates. Head coaches who do not take an online rules meeting will not be able to coach in the MHSAA Tournament. Practice begins Monday, March 12, 2012 and the first contest date is Wednesday, March 21, 2012.

The 2010-11 Girls Lacrosse Tournament was reviewed for points of improvement. Each year the starting times are adjusted in Girls Lacrosse and in 2012, the Division 1 Girls Lacrosse Final will start at 2 p.m. and the Division 2 Final will start at 4:30 p.m. There was much discussion regarding rotating the Finals Tournament on a two year cycle from the east side to the west side of the state. The Committee indicated that they would like to start this rotation in 2012 with the Finals Tournament placed in a location on the west side of the state in 2012 and 2013 and again placed back on the east side in 2014 and 2015. Several Finals locations will be studied and reviewed for 2012. The tournament format was evaluated and there will be four regionals in Division 1 and four regionals in Division 2. Currently there are a few games that will be played as "pre-regional games" due to the increasing number of teams in girls lacrosse. Additionally, in the Division 1 semi-finals, Region 3 will play Region 1 and Region 4 will play Region 2. In Division 2, Region 7 plays Region 5 and Region 8 plays Region 6. There will be three field officials for each semi-final and each final. The committee indicated that either the surface of artificial turf or grass was acceptable for the semi-final sites. If the sites of Okemos and South Lyon are considered the most appropriate for travel, they will be the sites that will be selected for both semi-final games. Two additional semi-final sites will be contacted to assist in limiting travel when necessary. If only two semi-final sites are needed, Okemos would host Division 2 and South Lyon would host Division 1.

Additional discussion included desired Regional sites for tournament play. These host managers will be contacted and charged with the responsibility of hosting the Regional Semi-Finals and Finals at their site and, if desired, all levels of the Regional Tournament. The alternate site travel accommodation rule for lacrosse was reviewed which indicates that MHSAA staff may change the date, time and location of a previously scheduled tournament game if the originally scheduled game involves extensive travel for both teams and an acceptable site

can be secured. The determination includes consultation with both teams and the Tournament Manager and may require that the competing teams secure an acceptable field.

Division 1 and Division 2 enrollment numbers were also reviewed and 32 teams are presently in Division 1 (enrollment 1807 and above) and 33 teams are in Division 2 (enrollment 1807 and below). This is a two team increase from 2011 when the numbers were 30 in Division 1 and 33 in Division 2. There are 12 cooperative programs in girls lacrosse with 65 teams involving 82 schools. It was also noted that three teams have opted to play in Division 1 during the 2011-12 season. Schools participating in the MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Tournament have continued to increase in numbers throughout the years with the initial tournament in 2004-05 consisting of 39 teams (50 schools) to the current status indicated in the 2011-12 tournament. Committee members also provided the status of several other schools that were planning to offer girls lacrosse in the 2012. Overall each year, school participation numbers continue to increase in girls lacrosse.

### **PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

The Girls Lacrosse Participating School Tournament Information for 2012 was examined which includes the tournament format, opt-out due date, regional draw dates, and tournament date parameters. In addition, tournament procedures, time schedule, playing rules, media information, sportsmanship, and weather and spectator policies were provided.

### **REVIEW OF US LACROSSE RULES CHANGES PROPOSED FOR 2012**

Presently, the US Girls Lacrosse Rules are received very near to the start of the MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Season. A press release from the US Lacrosse Women's Game Rules Subcommittee has issued a set of rules change recommendations for the 2012 lacrosse season. A summary of the major changes and points of emphasis include a new rule in checking in which a player may not check towards the body; an emphasis that defensive players may not reach into the sphere to make a check and that offensive players will not be permitted to hold their crosses in the sphere so that a check cannot be made; an emphasis that the use of a player's shaft to hit, push or displace an opponent will not be permitted; carding changes which include an adjustment of the two yellow card rule to include suspension for the rest of the game only and the red card rule to allow a player to be at the next contest but not dressed in her game uniform; and a team foul for off-sides in which the defender closest to the ball will be awarded a free position at the spot.

### **UNIFORM REMINDERS**

Uniform specifications that begin in 2013 were provided for the Committee. Beginning in 2013, all shirts shall be of a single, solid color with the following trim specifications permitted:

Trim around the collar and waistband and at the cuff of the sleeve, or around the arm opening if sleeveless, may be of contrasting color(s), but shall not exceed 1 inch in width.

Side inserts (armpit to waistband) may be of contrasting color(s), but shall not exceed 3 inches in width. The inserts must be centered vertically below the armpit.

Piping of contrasting color is allowed, but only in areas where trim or side inserts are permitted. The combined piping and trim must meet the 1 inch or 3 inch allowable width.

Numbers shall be centered vertically and horizontally and must be a minimum of 8 inches tall on the back and a minimum of 6 inches tall on the front of the shirt.

Numbers must be of a solid color contrasting with the color of the shirt. The numbers may be trimmed in a contrasting color that shall not exceed 1 inch in width.

The Committee discussed the specifications which have been emphasized and printed for the last four years and it was discussed that these are varsity level specifications only. In addition to a review of these specifications, further conversation included a discussion on helmets in girls lacrosse and the philosophy on both sides of the helmet issue. Currently the rules of girls lacrosse do not allow for hard helmets.

### **GIRLS LACROSSE PENALTY ADMINISTRATION**

The new girls lacrosse rules of misconduct and suspension were reviewed which indicate again that the rules written are rules of management rather than playing rules. The Committee specifically reviewed three US Lacrosse rules which were in direct contradiction to MHSAA Rules. It is currently indicated that the yellow card rule has been changed by US Lacrosse and there is a sense that the red card may have been changed but, no specific information regarding the red card rule has been received. Additional discussion included current game interruption rules; national misconduct and suspension rules controlling the actions of spectators; and the red card

suspension rule in which anyone receiving a red card will be suspended from further participation in that game and will be prohibited from participating in the team's next two games. After much discussion regarding these rules, the Girls Lacrosse Committee provided several recommendations with the specific emphasis that the rules of suspension and management reflect Michigan High School Athletic Association policy. Several recommendations to the Representative Council are included.

### **RULES MEETING SCHEDULE & POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

The 2011-12 online rules meeting schedule was discussed and the Girls Lacrosse Committee requested a point of emphasis be given to coaches and officials regarding the time factors in girls lacrosse and that for all levels of play (sub-varsity and varsity), the maximum regulation playing time is 50 minutes – divided into two halves. Given the rule, 25 minute halves shall be the prescribed time used for varsity and sub-varsity teams and would only be reduced for the sub-varsity level when prescribed by the league and conference. Special emphasis in rules meetings should also involve continued reiteration of the uniform rule; the changes in penalty administration; and the overtime rules in girls lacrosse.

### **OFFICIALS**

Officials training continues and a session is scheduled on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at the MHSAA which will be held in conjunction with the Women in Sports Leadership Conference. It was further noted that the fees for regular season competition and assignment of officials are set by schools and that using an MHSAA registered assignor is voluntary. Official's selection for tournament assignments will be made for all levels of the Girls Lacrosse Tournament.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

1. Alter the US Women's Lacrosse game rules to permit a game that is interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible authorities to be continued from the point of interruption (whether on the day of suspension or on another day). Both teams would be permitted to make roster changes. (9-0)

*The US Women's Lacrosse game rule currently in place (if replayed on another day, it must be played from the beginning) has been problematic for state associations which have regulations in place that indicate if a game is continued from its point of suspension, it will not count as an additional game/day of competition. However, if it starts over from the beginning, it is to count. This change would be consistent with rules of other MHSAA sports and supports MHSAA Handbook Regulation II, Section 11(D).*

2. Modify Regulation II, Section 10 of the *MHSAA Handbook* to allow three games in girls lacrosse with not more than 20-minute running time halves to be played or two regulation games to not exceed 120 total minutes to be played. (9-0)

*In some of the Saturday multi-team tournaments, teams would prefer to play two regulation games rather than three shortened running time games. Since there are no overtimes permitted in multi-team tournaments, the games would not exceed 120 total minutes.*

3. Alter the US Women's Lacrosse game rules to follow the MHSAA disqualification rules which require when a student or coach is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct, that student or coach shall be withheld by his/her school for at least the next day of competition for that team. In essence, this means that the MHSAA rules of disqualification would be observed. (9-0)

*In 2011, the US Lacrosse Women's Rulebook indicated that anyone receiving a red card was suspended from further participating in that game and prohibited from participating in the team's next two games. The recommended disqualification rule of being withheld by his/her school for at least the next day of competition would be consistent with other MHSAA sports and the MHSAA rules of disqualification.*

4. Alter the US Women's Lacrosse misconduct and suspension rule controlling the actions of spectators to not include assessing a card to the head coach. (9-0)

*The US Lacrosse Women's game rule currently in place indicates that if spectators are unruly, the head coach will be assessed a card. This is not a playing rule. This is a rule of management and the rule as written potentially places the responsibility on the coach who may not have the authority to comply with the rule and/or may not know the spectator.*