

**2009
SOCCER COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 3, 2009, 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Jim Brown, Adrian
Ken Erny, Fruitport
Aaron Dean, Grand Haven(MSCA)
Bob Dowd, Troy
Kevin Fiebernitz, Linden
Jim Flore, Williamston
Jason Heerema, Wyoming
Tom Laskarides, Marcellus
Stacy Punzal, Farmington
Amy Rossow, Grosse Ile

John Thompson, Brighton (MIAAA)
Diane Thompson, Grant
Jerry Weesies, Kalamazoo

Absent:

Kevin Green, Pigeon
Andy Homer, Brooklyn

Staff Members Present:

Tom Minter (Recorder)

The committee members introduced themselves and were reminded of the functions of the various MHSAA committees and of their relationship to the MHSAA. The committee expense form that requires agreement of the committee member on committee work product issues and on disclosure of individual committee member conflict of interest from committee work was explained.

CALENDAR CHANGES & REQUIRED NUMBER OF PRACTICES BEFORE COMPETITION

The importance of having enough training days before competition was stated. Having the minimum number of practices at 7 was viewed as a good requirement. Some ADs commented that now having uniform start dates for all fall sports except one was a good thing.

2008 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The Representative Council's decisions on last year's committee's recommendations were reviewed.

SCHEDULE REDUCTION FROM 18 TO 16 GAMES MAXIMUM

Although having 18 games currently allowed can pose scheduling problems and multiple weeks wherein 3 games are played, no support for reducing the maximum to 16 was expressed. Several members spoke that individual schools now can choose to have fewer than 16 if needed and games can and have been cancelled where administrators felt the need to do so.

ALLOW COACHES TO HAVE OUT OF SEASON COACHING WITH 4 PLAYERS

Although some felt that keeping coaches involved with more of their students out of season was good, the majority of the committee members did **NOT** favor an increase from the current 3 allowed. Several stated that no or even more reduced time was better for the student athlete. Mention of increasing the dead time in the summer was made. There was support for further examination of the concept of an allowance for a limited number of days of contact between the coach and an unlimited number of students in any sport. The problems of such an approach were also discussed.

ALLOWING OPEN GYMS AT NON-SCHOOL OFF-SITE FACILITIES

While most agreed that the current open gym regulations are abused by some, others felt that what control was now being exercised needed to be done at on-site school facilities so that an AD would not have to travel off campus to check on these off-site open gyms.

ALLOWING A COACH TO ORGANIZE, SCHEDULE AND PROMOTE OUT OF SEASON SPORT EVENTS

Most opposed allowing any coach to undertake the events above. Concern was for the pressure students would feel to attend those involving the coach in any way and what was stated as voluntary would actually be viewed as mandatory. Statements about the proposal being “a can of worms” and “beware of the slippery slope” were made. Some supported organizing and scheduling but not promoting.

INCREASING INTERVAL BETWEEN GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL FINALS

ADs felt that the schedule now is tight but workable. To increase the interval would cause more regular winter season sports scheduling problems but no problems with spring sports could be thought of. Several wanted the MHSAA to wait while the effects of the sports seasons switches were still being worked out.

PLAYERS SUSPECTED OF CONCUSSION NOT ALLOWED TO RETURN TO GAME WITHOUT MEDICAL RELEASE

Because of the problems with determining when a concussion has taken place without qualified medical personnel doing so, it was felt that increased coaches’ education would help ensure that athletes suffering a concussion would not be allowed to return to play that day and that further evaluation by medical personnel would take place.

SIXTH GRADERS COMPETING IN MHSAA SANCTIONED ATHLETICS

The committee felt that the current regulations provide for local school districts to adequately seek remedies when their particular situations need more students available for 7th and 8th grade teams. If such involvement were to be extended to 6th grade students as a use by right upon local school district decision, those 6th graders should only be allowed to play on existing 7th or 8th grade teams not on newly created 6th grade teams. This would eliminate the pressure to have a separate 6th grade sports program resulting in a new financial burden on middle schools.

2009-10 NATIONAL FEDERATION SOCCER RULES CHANGES

National Federation Soccer Rules Committee member Amy Rossow led the committee in a review of the high school soccer rules and editorial changes made at the recent NF Soccer Rules Committee January 2009 meeting. Only 4 revisions were made and those were of a minor nature or editorial in content.

ABILITY OF A COACH IN SUMMER TO TRAVEL MORE THAN 300 MILES WITH THEIR TEAM

In response to a communication from a coach, the committee discussed allowing the coach of that member school more than 300 miles from a clinic or camp site to still go to that camp or clinic if any of that school’s league or conference members were eligible to and attending that same camp or clinic. The committee had no recommendation at this time.

MIAAA PROPOSAL TO HAVE ONE TIMEOUT PER SOCCER GAME

The committee discussed the merits of the request. Although receiving much support, it did not receive majority support to recommend proposing such a rule change to the Representative Council for submission to the National Federation.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

NONE