

GIRLS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING
MHSAA Office - East Lansing
October 24, 2012

Members Present:

Bob Bullock, Okemos
Mike Emery, Rockford
Sal Malek, Livonia
Ken Mohny, MIAAA
Teri Reyburn, DeWitt
Rick Schmidt, Holt
Scott Weis, Caledonia

Members Absent:

Erin Bendal, Swartz Creek
Zach Maghes, Ann Arbor
Mary Sheltroun, Farmington

Staff Member:

Kathy Vrugink Westdorp (Recorder)

GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The 2013 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 and are frequently altered between the time of the National Federation of High Schools Girls Lacrosse Committee Meeting and the US Lacrosse Committee Meeting.

PRIOR REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

The minutes of the October, 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 7 – 12. The Committee discussed at length the current MHSAA Out-of-Season Regulations as well as the need for girls lacrosse coaches and schools to be in compliance with the regulations. The current concern is universities who are offering spring five-on-five tournaments during the spring MHSAA Preseason Down Time and the need for member school coaches to adhere to the Preseason Down Time for spring sports which begins March 1, 2013. The Down Time Regulation includes language which states that no competition (intra-squad or inter-squad) between groups that resemble school teams (more than three [or four] students in grades 7-12 of the district) may occur in that sport at any school facility or any other location with any of that school district's personnel present. In addition, further discussion included the adherence to Interpretation 231(c) in which a coach may not arrange for a parent or other non-staff person to act as coach in an out-of-season coaching activity and that a coach may not arrange for a parent or non-staff person to do that which the coach is prohibited from doing under the regulation. Additional conversation included a concern for middle schools becoming MHSAA members and having a limitation of playing dates.

TOURNAMENT RECOMMENDATIONS/IMPORTANT DATES

Girls lacrosse tournament dates and Participating School Tournament 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 11, 2013 and end on April 18, 2013. 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 11, 2013 and the first contest date is Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

The 2011-12 Girls Lacrosse Tournament was reviewed for points of improvement. Each year the starting times are adjusted in Girls Lacrosse and in 2013, the Division 2 Girls Lacrosse Final will start at 2 p.m. and the Division 1 Final will start at 4:30 p.m. The Girls Lacrosse Committee members were delighted with having the MHSAA Tournament at Rockford High School again in 2013 and indicated that there should be a continuation of alternating this tournament on the east and west sides of the state. The Committee indicated that it would be appropriate to have the tournament on the west side after 2013 as it had been on the east side for the first seven years. The tournament format was evaluated and there will be four regionals in Division 1 and four regionals in Division 2. Currently there are several 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 1 will play Region 4 and Region 3 will play Region 2. In Division 2, Region 5 plays Region 8 and Region 7 plays Region 6. There

will be three field officials for each semi-final and each final. The committee indicated that a surface of artificial either turf or grass was acceptable for the semi-final sites. Several sites for the semi-finals will be considered with the priority of selection of sites in mid-Michigan. Okemos will be the Division 2 semi-final site, if considered the most appropriate for travel, for both semi-final games. Division 1 is still under consideration. Two additional semi-final sites will be contacted to assist in limiting travel when necessary.

Additional discussion included desired Regional sites for tournament play. All eight host managers have been contacted and have accepted 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 35 teams are presently in Division 1 (enrollment 1778 and above) and 34 teams are in Division 2 (enrollment 1777 and below). This is already a four team increase from 2012 when the numbers were 32 in Division 1 and 33 in Division 2. There are 13 cooperative programs in girls lacrosse with 69 teams involving 85 schools. It was also noted that four teams have opted up to play in Division 1 during the 2012-13 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 2012-13 tournament. Committee members also provided the status of several other schools that were planning to offer girls lacrosse in the 2013. Overall each year, school participation numbers have continued to increase in girls lacrosse.

GIRLS LACROSSE INJURY EPIDEMIOLOGY

Injury epidemiology information reported from the NFHS was reviewed for girls lacrosse and the review indicated the following: girls lacrosse injuries usually occurred in the sophomore year; 21 of 68 were to the head and face; 19 were head/face concussion; 15 of 68 to the ankle; most occurred during the regular season; and most injuries occurred during the last hour of practice, rather than during a game.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The Girls Lacrosse Participating School Tournament Information for 2013 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 2013

Presently, girls lacrosse has rules that are proposed with member state involvement to the National Federation of High Schools in which they review and vote on rules that are sent in by member schools. The NFHS endorses the US Lacrosse Women's Rules Book but US Lacrosse continues to write the rules. The rules that were discussed in the NFHS Girls Lacrosse Committee meeting and showed unanimous approval included: a delay of 2013 equipment and uniform standards; time out during live ball by team in possession of the ball; a suspended game continued from the point of interruption; maximum of three players between the restraining lines during the draw; and retention of clerical authority by umpires through the completion of any reports. This information from the NFHS was received in late July with the expectation that these would be the rules proposals by the NFHS Committee and would be in the US Women's Lacrosse Rules Book. However, at the end of September, a press release from the US Lacrosse Women's Game Rules Subcommittee issued a set of rules change recommendations for the 2013 lacrosse season which did not include several of the passed unanimous recommendations. A summary of the major changes and points of emphasis included some coaching area and equipment restrictions, clarity in some wording, misconduct penalty box and re-entry rules, and manufacturer's specification information. After perusal, it was revealed that two of the unanimous rule changes that were made in NFHS voting, were not adopted in the US Lacrosse Women's Game Rules. Hence, the MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Committee elected to request that these two proposals go the MHSAA Representative Council for consideration. One of these rules adoptions (implementation of new uniform standards) is a request to have 2012-13 review by the MHSAA Representative Council. This rule of delaying implementation of the 2013 uniform standards to 2014 already has the support of several other states.

Rule 6-1k (obstruction of the free space to goal – shooting space) was discussed by all Committee members. Conversation included that there have been many times when a goal is disallowed and the girl given a free shot because of the defense denying the opportunity to shoot.

Additional conversation included the possible consideration of a tier format in girls lacrosse to assist the emerging programs as well as review of middle school playing rules and regulations.

RULES MEETING SCHEDULE & POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The 2012-13 online rules meeting schedule was discussed and the Girls Lacrosse Committee requested a point of emphasis be given to coaches and officials regarding the out-of-season limitations that exist in girls lacrosse for all levels of play (7th through 12th grade). Further emphasis includes that middle school girls lacrosse teams are allowed to play in a maximum of three multi-team tournaments and if a student or team participates in a multi-team tournament, that student or team shall compete in no more than two regulation games or scrimmages that week, Monday through Sunday, in addition to the multi-team tournament.

OFFICIALS

Officials training continues and sessions are scheduled on Saturday, January 19, 2013 and February 2, 2013 at the MHSAA. 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 by the Girls Lacrosse Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Delay the implementation of the 2013 uniform standards for girls lacrosse to 2014 to provide schools additional time to become compliant within their programs. (7-0)

This delay was passed with a unanimous vote at the NFHS Girls Lacrosse Rules Meeting. In the current economic environment it has become increasingly challenging for the many non-funded girls lacrosse programs to pay for new uniforms, especially when many have already purchased non-compliant uniforms in the last year or two due to the inability to find vendors that were selling compliant uniforms. Not until 2010-11 did vendors start to comply with the uniform regulations; therefore the rotational structure has been less than three years to abide by the uniform requirement.

2. Starting in 2013-14, allow a maximum of three players from each team who may be between the restraining lines during the draw until the whistle blows. All other players must be below either restraining line and players would not be allowed to enter the circle or cross the restraining lines until the whistle blows. (7-0)

This rule was passed with a unanimous vote at the NFHS Girls Lacrosse Rules Meeting and is currently a NCAA rule utilized for safety. When the ball goes straight up on the draw, too many players are coming into the circle after the ball, creating a dangerous situation. Fewer players between the restraining lines would remedy this situation. (7-0)