

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE MINUTES
East Lansing, January 25, 2012

Members Present:

Dan Barry, Grosse Pointe (MHSACA)
Brent Case, St. Clair Shores (MASSP)
Jim Garafalo, Allen Park
Cody Inglis, Traverse City
Jim Murray, Portage
Pete Ryan, Saginaw (MIAAAA)

Doug Towler, Davison
Jamie Tuma, Marquette
Ed Van Portfleit, Rockford
Rob White, Saline

Staff Member:

Randy Allen (Recorder)

The 2012 Ice Hockey Committee met in the MHSAA office to review the MHSAA tournament, policies and procedures governing hockey, playing rules changes, make recommendations to the MHSAA Representative Council, and discuss topics concerning high school hockey in MHSAA member schools. After introductions the role of the committee was reviewed.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL REVIEW

The committee reviewed the action by the Representative Council in which an added overtime shootout option was approved, but proposals to add regular season games and a coaches association seeding plan were not approved. The coaches association may submit a modified seeding plan for committee and Council consideration in 2013.

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

Much discussion took place on the question of the 17 minute period option allowed by state association adoption in the National Federation playing rules and whether or not to adopt the longer period for the MHSAA Tournament. Many conferences have used the 17 minute period for regular season games while others await the status of its use by the MHSAA in tournament games. With over two years of experience at the regular season level and discussing the benefits of longer periods for greater participation opportunities, a motion was approved to adopt the 17 minute period for the MHSAA Tournament.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Also reviewed was the question of adding games and eliminating scrimmages. Although a proposal from the 2011 committee to eliminate scrimmages and add two games to the regular season was denied by the Council, strong support still exists for continued consideration due to the significant costs associated with scrimmages such as ice rental and travel that are unique to hockey. A motion to add one game and eliminated one scrimmage was approved.

A request from a member school coach to change the goal differential rule was reviewed but no action taken. The experience with a better defined requirement for neck guards was discussed with general comments that the more specific language was beneficial to safety and enforcement. Information on membership discussions regarding adoption of a requirement for expanded health and safety education for coaches was shared with the committee with support for continued consideration. The current MHSAA regulation requiring that a school conduct 50% of its schedule against other school teams was discussed. It was agreed that the rule for hockey should remain as is, not adding "MHSAA Member school teams" to the language as many border schools would have difficulty complying.

The committee was given updates on the MHSAA tournament planning process for establishing tournament groups and hosts, and the tournament officials assigning process. Supplemental conduct policies, overtime options and Semifinal and Final time schedules were reviewed with no changes suggested. A Minnesota experiment with making certain illegal contact such as checking from behind, hits to the head and boarding an automatic major penalty was discussed. It is likely that the change will be recommended to the National Federation rules committee in April at which time opinion from Michigan coaches and officials will be solicited. The MHSAA will again submit a request to the committee for neck guards to be required equipment as a nation rule.

A draw was conducted for the 2013 Semifinal pairings as follows:

Division 1 - QF #1 vs. QF #4, QF #2 vs. QF #3
Division 2 - QF #7 vs. QF #6, QF #5 vs. QF #8
Division 3 - QF #11 vs. QF #12, QF #9 vs. QF #10

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Adopt use of the 17 minute period as allowed by National Federation playing rules for all games in the MHSAA Tournament. (10-0)
2. Eliminate one pre-season scrimmage and allow 25 games for the regular season. Rationale: This change represents a significant financial savings for schools and while preserving one scrimmage for purposes of player evaluation during the tryout period. (10-0)