

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
**ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
East Lansing, January 22, 2014

**Members Present:**

Aaron Babicz, Novi  
Drew Denzin, Chelsea  
Brandon Kaleniecki, Dearborn  
Mike Kayner, Bay City  
Dave Mitchell, Livonia  
Brian Parsons, Grandville

Tony Schmitt, Muskegon  
Nick Scheible, Big Rapids

**Staff Members:**

Cody Inglis, Traverse City  
Randy Allen (Recorder)

The 2014 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 was given an update on plans for using four-man officiating crews at the 2014 MHSAA Semifinal and Final games as approved by the Council in 2013. The transition to the addition of a linesman is expected to be seamless.

**TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES**

Discussion of the MHSAA tournament focused on re-structuring the tournament dates to stretch over a three week period instead of the current two week time schedule, and consideration for a seeding plan. A three week tournament would allow for more weekend games and a less compressed time frame between the quarterfinal and semifinal round, but would move the dates for the semifinals and finals a week later. A seeding plan would need specific criteria, procedures for determining when and how seed meetings would take place, and if rinks can accommodate tentative ice reservations without incurring cancellation fees when matchups and hosts are not determined until late January. Both topics were referred to the coaches association for study and discussion before a plan with detail is advanced through a future committee and eventual Council consideration.

The committee supported a change in the Friday Semifinal time schedule at Compuware to 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. start times for Division 3 and 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. start times for Division 1.

**NATIONAL FEDERATION PLAYING RULES**

The committee voiced unanimous satisfaction with the National Federation playing rule change that made checking from behind into the boards a mandatory major and misconduct penalty, but allowing officials discretion in adding a game DQ to the penalty. The revision brings a better balance to the penalty structure and better compliance and enforcement. It was also agreed to make the penalty for a violation of the MHSAA neck guard requirement the same as the National Federation penalty for violation of the mouth guard requirement.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

As there are no school based JH/MS hockey programs, the committee did not have a position on the issues of 6<sup>th</sup> grade participation or game maximums, contest length. It was agreed that the one scrimmage hockey is allowed by used at any point during the season, not restricted to before the first contest.

In reviewing MHSAA out of season coaching regulations, there was no support from the committee to replace the 3 or 4 player rule with contact days in hockey. Instead, the committee strongly favors that the MHSAA staff develop an interpretation that can allow for a school coach to arrange for a non-school coach to handle voluntary fall and spring activity with students from his school program. The committee also supported MHSAA staff development of an interpretation that would allow a school to include out of season ice time in their school ice reservations when necessary to secure best pricing and available for practice and contests as long as such ice is only used for voluntary activity and open to all students for skating activity.

On the health and safety front, it was recommended that the subject of proper helmet and mask fit be emphasized with coaches and as a discussion item for the National Federation rules committee. Finally, a discussion took place on concussions in high school hockey and the increased vigilance upon the reporting of and the impact seen in games this season. The importance of emphasizing the new MHSAA concussion protocols and rules was reiterated.

A draw was conducted for the 2014 MHSAA Tournament Semifinal pairings as follows:

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

No proposals submitted for Council consideration