

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE MINUTES
East Lansing, January 21, 2015

Members Present:

Drew Denzin, Saline
Jim Garofalo, New Boston
Brandon Kaleniecki, Dearborn
Mike Kayner, Bay City
David Mitchell, Livonia
Brian Parsons, Grandville
George Porritt, Orchard Lake
Pete Ryan, Saginaw (MIAAA)
Nick Schieble, Big Rapids
Tony Schmitt, Muskegon

Craig Staskowski, Rochester
Rodney Wakeham, Trenton
Tim Wedge, Petoskey
Don Wright, Chelsea (MHSICA)

Guest:

Bob Hayden, Monroe (NFHS Ice Hockey
Rules Chair)

Staff Member

Cody Inglis (Recorder)

The 2015 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 the four-man officiating crews used for the first time at the 2014 MHSAA Semifinal and Final games as approved by the Council in 2013. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive from coaches, officials and players that the game was better officiating, allowed more deserving and quality officials to experience the Finals and focused the officials' attention to their specific jobs, either lining or refereeing the games. The focus on continued training for officials in the four-person system, as well as making sure that the additional costs were being considered. The desire to continue with the use of the four-officiating system at that quarterfinal level of the tournament in the 2015-16 season was expressed and a recommendation will be forwarded to the Council for their review.

NATIONAL FEDERATION PLAYING RULES

The committee voiced satisfaction while emphasizing needed player, official and coach adjustments to the new NFHS rules on boarding and checking from behind. While the rule increases the mandatory minimum call for these penalties to a 5 minute major, officials still have the discretion to call further 10 minute and/or disqualification penalties if the hits are violent or flagrant. The committee's initial feedback to the penalties, was that while a severe penalty to the player and team, the increased penalty structure has taken some of the along the board hits out of the game. This enhances player health and safety in the game. 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. Bob Hayden, NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Chair provided an update on the NFHS Ice Hockey Rules book reformatting project and committee.

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

Updates on the MHSAA tournament were discussed including tournament structure, time schedule and a review of the 2014 tournament. Discussion of the MHSAA tournament focused on consideration for a seeding plan. The MHSICA presented three seeding plans based upon both hockey coaches feedback, survey results and seeding committee work over the past year by coaches and MHSAA staff. Feedback and criteria used in other state athletic associations was also presented. The committee will recommend to the Representative Council that a seeding plan be adopted for the 2015-16 season that would incorporate initial seeding at the Regional round of play, as well as a reseeding plan at the Semifinal level. Specific

criteria, procedures and protocol were presented for this plan and will be shared with the Council and MHSAA staff will ensure that the plan fits within existing MHSAA tournament structure and format.

Discussion around 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. There is strong support from the committee on a three week tournament, but it is understood that other factors like the site of the semifinals and finals may dictate further action. Internal staff discussion will continue on the issue and committee members desired to move forward the seeding plan first for Council consideration.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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. The importance of emphasizing the new MHSAA concussion protocols and rules was reiterated. The committee reviewed several informational items including helmet certification and fitting, all-star events regulations and rules, the MHSAA goal differential rule, prep leagues, video replay usage at the semifinals and finals, video review of officials' calls, the MHSAA supplemental discipline and the MAHA split season rule change. Additionally, historical context and discussion on the MHSAA "next game disqualification" rule standard being two subsequent games was given as questioned arose. While no recommendations were made there was good feedback and discussion.

The committee discussed the MHSAA postseason overtime rules and recommended a change in format to have teams change goals starting at the first overtime period. This will change for the 2015-16 tournament.

The committee was updated on the change in ownership of Compuware Arena and potential impact upon the MHSAA Semifinals and Finals. The MHSAA has a contract that runs through the 2015-16 season and while the MHSAA expects to fulfill this contract several contingency plans have been discussed to protect the MHSAA and its' member schools. Committee discussion on other potential sites was conducted and MHSAA staff will continue to meet with all parties to ensure a proper transition if needed in the future.

A draw was conducted for the 2015 MHSAA Tournament Semifinal pairings as follows:

Division 1 - QF #4 vs. QF #3, QF #2 vs. QF #1

Division 2 - QF #5 vs. QF #8, QF #7 vs. QF #6

Division 3 - QF #11 vs. QF #12, QF #10 vs. QF #9

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Institute a seeding plan involving 7 or 8 team Regional groups as determined by the MHSAA for the 2015-6 tournament. The Michigan HS Hockey Coaches Association and MHSAA will standardize seeding criteria, protocols and procedures for Representative Council consideration and approval. The MHSAA will continue to assign tournament host and locations and travel will be a consideration in matchups involving teams which would travel 100 miles one way to a tournament site. (14-0)

NOTE: Before any plan for seeding the MHSAA tournament in a particular sport can be presented to the Representative Council, that plan must be presented to MHSAA staff with specific details for all policies and procedures, and it must be demonstrated that the proposal has been reviewed by and is well supported by MHSAA member school coaches and administrators for that sport.

2. Use four person officiating crews for the MHSAA Quarterfinal games in 2016 to be assigned by the MHSAA. This recommendation follows the Council's decision to approve the use of four person officiating crews in the 2014 season at the Semifinal and Finals games of the MHSAA Ice Hockey tournament. (14-0)