

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**2018-19 VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**December 6, 2018**

Members Present:

Debbie Dewyse, Engadine  
Kris Ernst, Fowler  
Steve Evans, Beaverton  
Mary Gray, Lansing  
Jean LaClair, Bronson (MIAAA)  
John O’Neill, Melvindale  
John Pace, Garden City  
Paige Paulsen, Grant  
Chris Riker, Portage  
Heather Sawyer, Battle Creek (MIVCA)  
Jennifer Thunberg, Bay City  
Robert Tobey, Caro

Members Absent:

Matt Windle, Canton  
Jon Zajac, Tecumseh

Others Present:

Mitch Smelis, MATS

MHSAA Staff:

Andi Osters (recorder)

**INTRODUCTION**

The 2018-19 MHSAA Volleyball Committee met on Dec. 6, 2018 at the MHSAA office in East Lansing. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision making process and charge of the Volleyball Committee. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members and the coaches’ association. The committee was reminded that the scope of their work was to focus on growing the game of volleyball, protecting the health & safety of participants and maintaining the proper philosophy of educational, school-based athletics.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**MIVCA “PLAYING WITH PASSION” EVENT**

The committee heard from the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association and their intent to begin a new, one-day event in the summer of 2019, designed to benefit Michigan volleyball players, parents, coaches and officials. This event will mirror the BCAM/MHSAA basketball “[Reaching Higher](#)” program and will employ many of the same features: skill and drill development, educational components, officiating clinics and seminars for parents.

**TOURNAMENT SEEDING**

For the second year, committee members entertained deep discussion on the topic of seeding the MHSAA volleyball tournament. Results from the 2018 Update Meeting Survey were shared, specific to seeding concepts at the District and ‘final four’ levels of team sport tournaments. While there was sentiment shared among the group that seeding may be on the horizon, logistical concerns remained. Among the group, no consensus was reached on potential plans for 2019. MIVCA members in the room agreed that a survey of their membership could inform further discussion.

### **SEASON/GAME LIMITATIONS**

Committee members debated the pros and cons of the current high school contest limitation (18 days of competition). Counting days of competition makes comparison of teams difficult, because some play far more tournaments (and thus more matches) than others. Most agreed that the daily limitation of 21 sets could be decreased to 17 sets with little effect on most volleyball teams. No action was taken on this issue at this time.

### **MULTI-SPORT PARTICIPATION**

An agenda item dedicated to “Out-of-Season Coaching” quickly morphed into the wider topic of multi-sport participation, and how volleyball coaches can encourage their players to explore options outside of volleyball in the winter and spring seasons. The majority of coaches present shared that their players feel specialization pressure primarily from their own parents and non-school coaches.

### **REGULAR-SEASON WEEKEND TOURNAMENTS**

The committee reviewed correspondence from a Local Approved Official’s Association detailing concerns about tournament lengths and inadequate fees being paid to working officials. Multiple reports of inconsistent pay for weekend tournaments have been received in 2018. The committee recommends that a document describing “Best Practices” for hosting multi-team volleyball tournaments be created and shared on the MHSAA website and that the topic be addressed in the 2018 MHSAA Volleyball Rules Meeting. The “Best Practices” document should include recommendations for tournament hosts with respect to official’s contracts and pay, on-site management, game schedule, and suggested match format(s).

### **BOYS VOLLEYBALL**

Participation surveys from the past two years indicate that approximately 30 MHSAA member schools are currently sponsoring boys volleyball at some level (varsity, club, intramural, etc.). The committee reviewed the MHSAA Handbook regulation regarding tournament sponsorship, and agreed to monitor sport growth in the spring of 2019.

### **NFHS PROPOSED RULE CHANGES**

Members of the committee were provided the 30 proposed rules changes for the NFHS Volleyball Committee, as well as 2018 Questionnaire results from the NFHS. Rules discussion centered on net play, standing substitutes at the end of the bench, wearable scoring devices for R2, and a litany of uniform requirements.

### **NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MHSAA REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**