

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.  
FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
February 4, 2010, 9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Tom Barbieri, Liason –MHSFCA,  
Dan Flynn, Escanaba  
Keith Froelich, Okemos  
Denny Fulk, Laingsburg  
Shawn Griffith, Constantine  
Ron Hart, New Buffalo  
Courtney Hawkins, Flint  
Jeremy Macejewski, Montrose

Vic Michaels, Detroit  
George Murphy, Hudsonville  
Pete Ryan, Saginaw  
Pete Stuursma, Grand Rapids  
Jack Wallace, Fowlerville  
Tom Wilcher, Detroit  
Robert Williams, Redford  
Mark Woodson, Romulus

**Members Absent:**

Larry Featherstone, Benton Harbor  
Greg Carter, Inkster  
Antie Hardy, New Haven

The committee met for the purpose of reviewing playing rules, regulations, and policies concerning High School Football and MHSAA Football Playoff procedures. Following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to MHSAA staff and for possible Representative Council action. The committee was asked by MHSAA staff to consider, for any recommendations that may come forth, to be mindful of any financial impact the recommendation may have for member schools and the MSHAA, intended or unintended.

**Calendar Concerns**

MHSAA staff provided the committee a review of calendar changes that was in effect for the 2009 season. The revision established that practice may start the 16<sup>th</sup> Monday before Thanksgiving (August 9, 2010) and require 12 separate days of practice for teams-first three without pads-and no contest before 16 calendar days (Thursday, August 26, 2010 for varsity teams and Wednesday, August 25, 2010 for sub-varsity teams).

Current regulations will still require 9 separate days of practice before a team is allowed to scrimmage.

**Football Scheduling**

MHSAA Executive Director, Jack Roberts engaged the committee in an extended discussion on the difficulty in completing football schedules for a small, but growing number of schools and of the movement toward “closed border” scheduling of some Midwestern states where the state high school association has assumed responsibility for scheduling football games for their member schools. Concern was expressed for the effect on leagues, and for the MHSAA authority to direct regular season football schedules.

Some committee members favored the MHSAA assuming the responsibility for scheduling all varsity football games, but the majority thought that the discussions should continue even on a broader stage while reviewing current football tournament policies with different tournament models that may ease scheduling difficulties.

**2009 Football Review**

The committee members were given 2009 Football Playoff Tournament information and statistical data for all levels of the 2009 tournament. The data demonstrated that results of the 11 year expanded format were consistent with the previous years when comparing school’s classification, enrollment breaks and numbers of automatic qualifying schools.

In 2006, 2007 and 2008, 246, 251 and 237 schools respectively qualified automatically based on regular season records. In 2009 234 schools did the same. In 2008 and 2009 21 and 52 games respectively were subjected to the point differential rule.

**2009 Enrollment Ranges and Classification by Divisions for Finalist**

Division 1	2094-2789	32 Class A	
Division 2	1133-1297	32 Class A	
Division 3	930-986	7 Class A	25 Class B
Division 4	771-777	32 Class B	
Division 5	468-532	24 Class B	8 Class C
Division 6	423-438	32 Class C	
Division 7	309-341	32 Class C	
Division 8	195-212	5 Class C	27 Class D

**2010-2015 FOOTBALL DATES**

Year	Earliest Practice	Earliest Game	Labor Day (Games Before)
2010	Aug. 9	August 26	Sept. 6 (2)
2011	Aug. 8	August 25	Sept. 5 (2)
2012	Aug. 6	August 23	Sept. 3 (2)
2013	Aug. 12	August 29	Sept. 2 (1)
2014	Aug. 11	August 28	Sept. 1 (1)
2015	Aug. 10	August 27	Sept. 7 (2)



Monday, August 9 - First allowable day of 3 day of conditioning period (no pads).

Thursday, August 12 - First date of official practice (with pads) (if 3 days of conditioning were completed during the week).

Thursday, August 26 - First varsity game date. Sub varsity Wednesday, August 25

Schools may not conduct inter squad scrimmages until after nine separate days of practice.

Interscholastic games (all levels) cannot be played until teams have completed 12 separate days of practice over a 3-week period.

**8-Player Football**

The committee was appraised of the current status of the newly developed 8-player game. Eighteen schools have made the initial commitment to sponsor 8-player football in 2010. The final and official commitment date is April 1, 2010. At that time if there are 20 schools committed to sponsoring teams, the MHSAA will plan for a post season tournament.

Current plans for a post season tournament will include if there are 20-39 schools committed: 16 teams, four week playoff format (Note) The 16 teams will be selected based on playoff point averages.

It should be noted that of the 18 schools currently planning for 8-player football in 2010, six of those schools did not sponsor any football in 2009.

### **General Discussion**

1. 2009 Committee minutes and Representative Council Recommendations
2. Facilities used for Semifinal sites, two grass fields were used.
3. Pre-season Downtime, Summer Dead Period and Out of Season competition.
4. National Federation potential rule changes for 2010
5. Ford Field review and the involvement of the Football Coaches Association in providing reimbursement for the cost of ice for competing teams.
6. Health and Safety Issues; Heat and Humidity effects relating to practices and games. New NFHS/MHSAA standards for competitors identified as having concussions.
7. Online Rules Meetings; Approximately 90% of all coaches and officials completed the online rules meeting as opposed to face-to-face meetings.
8. 2009-10 Tournament Ball requirement. In 2010 only school teams earning tournament positions will receive complimentary game balls of their choice. The committee mentioned several areas of concern that will be passed on to the ball provider.
9. Junior High/Middle School practice and start dates.
10. NFHS Rule Books will not be provided in 2010.
11. Out of Season Competition and All Star events: Several committee members broached the subject of allowing All Star Competition for athletes without loss of eligibility for participants. It was the consensus of the committee that perhaps the Football Coaches Association might consider discussions on this topic.

### **Michigan Points of Emphasis**

1. Coaching expectation during point differential games.
2. Continue discussions and provide information to member schools on identifying and responding to athletes with concussions.
3. 7 on 7 competitions: only allow for 7 players on the field for each team. No matter the formation used for offense. The 8<sup>th</sup> on field participant is in violation of the current rule.

### **Recommendations to MHSAA Staff**

1. Regarding Football Scheduling Issues; Ask MHSAA staff to pull together data comparing the current posting of schools making the post season tournament with a listing of schools by play-off point average and by division without the six win element.

### **Recommendations to Representative Council**

1. NFHS Rule Change 3.1.2 Regarding MHSAA Point Differential Rules: Maintain current policy of a 35 point differential and establishing a running clock anytime in the second half. Additionally, should the point margin increase to a 50 point differential anytime in the second half the clock will run continuously except for official time outs for injured player. 15-0
2. MHSAA Tournament Rules and Regulations: Teams are now required to be on the field for the playing of the National Anthem. (MHSAA staff will adjust timing schedule for anthem presentation) MHSAA will also recommend similar adoption for leagues and conferences. 15-0
3. MHSAA Tournament Rules and Regulations-Regional Game Host: Remove the current expectation for neutral sites at the Regional level, should one competing school exceed 200 miles one way. 15-0
4. MHSAA Tournament Rules and Regulations-Video Taping and Filming Competing Schools: Rewrite current language regarding end zone filming. End zone filming is permitted by competing teams during the MHSAA Tournament. Equipment must be easily transported and specifically designed for end zone filming. 15-0

5. MHSAA Handbook: Allow school coaches to work with school football teams one week (7days) during the spring. Allow the use of helmets, footballs and football shoes, hand shields and cones. 9-2
6. NFHS Rule Change 1.5.3e: Maintain current medical authorizations for allowing football players to compete while wearing a legally padded cast. Authorization: Written notice must be signed by MD or DO. 14-1