

2013 SOCCER COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, February 4, 2013, 9:30 a.m.

(rescheduled from January 28)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Campbell, Midland
Chris Corteg, Shelby Township
Ken Erny, Fruitport
Ann Lowney, Clarkston
Zack Jonker, Petoskey (MHSSCA)
Meg Seng, Ann Arbor
Brent Sorg, Williamston
Paula Steele, Perry (Rep Council)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Van Dickerson, Kalamazoo (MIAAA)
Mike Evoy, Detroit
Brian O'Leary, Novi
Chris Riker, Portage
Mike Vondette, Hemlock

MHSAA STAFF

Andy Frushour

The 2012-13 MHSAA Soccer Committee met in the MHSAA office to review topics involving soccer issues and the tournament series. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision making process and charge of the Soccer Committee. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members and the coaches association.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

SECOND YELLOW CARD

In 2012-13 the national rule changed to force teams to play shorthanded when a player received a second yellow card (and thus a red card). This rule was not implemented in Michigan as the 2012 committee wanted time to discuss if the new rule would complement Michigan's current 10-minute yellow card substitution penalty. The committee understands playing shorthanded is a significant penalty, but it commented that it wanted yellow cards to have "more teeth". The committee wishes to follow the NFHS rules book.

10-MINUTE SUBSTITUTION

In concert with the national second yellow card rule, the committee discussed if this was the appropriate time to eliminate the 10-minute substitution for a yellow card. Only two other states have a 10-minute rule, while another has a 5-minute rule. The national rule dictates a cautioned player be removed from the game, and then the coach can re-enter the player at the next substitution opportunity; in essence, an automatic, yet shorter, cool down time is already written into the rule. The committee hopes by eliminating the 10-minute penalty officials will feel more freedom to appropriately caution players (even in the last 10 minutes of a game), and that coaches will take the responsibility to re-enter a player only after he/she has cooled down. If the 10-minute substitution is taken away, the MHSAA should emphasize to officials to use the yellow cards, and emphasize to coaches the heightened responsibility to allow the cautioned players to cool down.

YELLOW CARD ACCUMULATION

The committee discussed adding a yellow card accumulation rule that would force players to miss a game after receiving a certain number of yellows in a season. This system is already used in the Macomb Area Conference. Staff will research accumulation rules of other state associations, and present the findings at the 2014 committee meeting.

MULTI-GAME TOURNAMENTS

Schools are allowed to play two multi-team tournament per season where no half is longer than 30 minutes, and the total time played is no longer than 180 minutes. Each tournament counts as one game against its total contest count. To add some scheduling flexibility, the committee discussed adding the option of playing two games in one day, where the half is up to 40 minutes. This format allows for up to 160 minutes (instead of 180).

GAME OFFICIALS

The MHSAA still uses the old expanded set of officials signals, instead of the 9 signals listed in the NFHS rules book. It is not only a deviation from the rule book, but in practice the vast majority of officials are not using the expanded set of signals. Additionally, the expanded signals are not being taught to new officials, and aren't being used in other levels of soccer.

FOUR FINALS, ONE SITE

In May 2012 the Representative Council approved the soccer committee recommendation to research the possibility of hosting all four championship games at one site. In the past year, staff has discussed the pros and cons of a system internally, as well as with coaches association leadership and past Finals event administrators. The host would rotate around the state, and the format could be run one of two ways: all four games on one day, or one game Friday night followed by three on Saturday. After discussion, the committee suggested a two-year trial run to see if the format would be viable for years to come.

CALENDAR

In the Fall of 2013 and 2014, the Boys Soccer season will be one week shorter (due to the number of weeks in November), and it was also noted that the season is four days shorter than it was the last time the calendar called for a short season (because of the Wednesday start and requirement of nine calendar days before the first game). The committee suggested moving from a fixed first Saturday in November Finals date, to a date three Saturdays before Thanksgiving (effective Nov. 2014). In the shortened calendar years this would put the Finals on the second Saturday of November.

SCRIMMAGES

In the spring season, many teams – particularly northern teams – don't start games until after Spring Break because of weather. This is often multiple weeks after the first practice date. On the chance that there is nice weather, teams would like have the opportunity to schedule a last-minute scrimmage – even if it has already used its two

prior to its first game. Typically teams use the two scrimmages before the first game, but do not use the other two after games have started.

OTHER ITEMS

A number of other items were also discussed, including: the state of the Development Academy system and its effect on MHSAA teams; the elimination of obsolete three-whistle system language from our managers manual; and the rising concern for safety in soccer, specifically with concussions.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Implement the national second yellow card rule. If a player receives a second yellow, the player is ejected and the team must play shorthanded. (7-1)
2. Eliminate Michigan's 10-minute yellow card substitution penalty. (8-0)
3. At a multi-team tournament, allow a team to play no more than two games with halves longer than 30 minutes (max of 40 minutes). These two games count as one date against the 18-contest limit. (8-0)
4. In the fall of 2014, select one site to host all four Finals games, with a format to be determined (possible one game on Friday, and three on Saturday). Switch location each season. Use this format on a two year trial basis. (8-0)
5. Use the NFHS Official Soccer Signals, not the expanded set of signals used in Michigan the last two years. (8-0)
6. Eliminate the option of a three-whistle system in the MHSAA tournament. (8-0)
7. In 2014-15 and beyond, schedule the Boys Soccer Finals during the 13th week of the season. (6-0, 2 abstain)
8. Allow the four scrimmages to be held at any time in the season (8-0)