

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
Bowling Committee Meeting Minutes
East Lansing, March 26, 2014
9:30 a.m.

Members Present

Deb Alexander, Flint (MHSBCA)
Greg Ambrose, Westland
Kathy Bondsteel, Jonesville
Dave Derocher, Reese (MIAAA)
Eddie Greenleaf, Chelsea
Greg Gumtow, Clarkston (Finals Manager)
Susan Hutchings, Marshall
Tim Kluka, Allen Park
Tracy Long, New Lothrop (Finals Manager)

Jason Mellema, Westphalia
Dave Owens, Owosso
Eric Painter, Flat Rock
Robert Ploof, Flint
Ryan Portenga, Muskegon
Jim Valentine, Mason

Staff Members

Cody Inglis (recorder)
Randy Allen (retired)

The MHSAA Bowling Committee met at the MHSAA office to review policies and procedures for boys and girls bowling. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members and the Michigan HS Bowling Coaches Association. MHSAA retired staff member Randy Allen was asked to sit in on the meeting to provide historical knowledge and context on MHSAA rules, regulations and protocols.

TOURNAMENT REVIEW

The committee reviewed MHSAA Tournament policies and procedures in both the Regional and Finals venues. This included format, time schedules, sportsmanship, fee payments, entry materials deadlines and school divisions.

New clarifying language will be developed for the Bowling Coaches Manual and Tournament Managers Manual to address the following areas: maximum # of bowlers in each pair, lane rotation, school entry deadlines for rosters, eligibility and lineage payments, consistent and tougher uniform and dress code restrictions, sportsmanship issues as related to crowding the approach of opposing bowlers, specifically in team competition, restricting electronic devices for coaching purposes, and coaching privileges and restrictions. It was agreed that the penalty for violations of the dress code be a warning followed by loss of bowling privileges in the Regional or Finals tournament. The language updates will reflect clarification, penalty and procedure, not substantive change in existing policies and regulations.

Regional and Final Tournament formats were reviewed; no changes were proposed though discussion centered on reducing the size of a regional by using a district, regional and final tournament format. This would require at least a yearlong study by the coaches association and MHSAA staff. In addition, securing enough "houses" to host such a format would be a potential challenge along with the increased cost to schools and teams associated with adding a level of play.

It was agreed to maintain the Kegel "Middle Road" pattern as the lane condition for the 2015 MHSAA tournament. During the 2015 school year, there will be discussion on adjusting the oil pattern to a different Kegel Challenge pattern, most likely the Broadway oil pattern. In addition, a subcommittee of proprietors, coaches and MHSAA staff will work to set up a meeting with the Kegel Corporation to see if there is an option to develop a customized oil pattern for the MHSAA tournament that could be readily available to all "houses" that host an MHSAA regional or final.

The committee was updated on plans for Regional and Final sites for 2015.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS/UPDATES

Regular season issues were discussed including calendar and contest format. The contest recommended format sheet was reviewed with discussion on the 30 point system and options available to leagues and conferences within the dual meet format of two Baker games/two team games/30 point system. Season and tournament dates were reviewed, with no changes recommended. The out of season coaching regulations, athletic related transfer rule review and amateur status regulations were also reviewed by the committee.

A youth bowling ball program review and how it violated MHSAA policies and rules was shared with the committee. While this program and the company associated with it have adjusted their program to fit within existing MHSAA rules, there was discussion within the committee to be vigilant about other programs that may jeopardize student-athlete eligibility.

The committee expressed overall agreement that current tournament policies and procedures, format, management and administration of the MHSAA tournament was sufficient and worked well this tournament season. All agreed that a clarification and emphasis on better compliance and enforcement at the regular season and tournament level was necessary to keep MHSAA bowling strong at the high school level. The 2014 on-line rules meetings for coaches will emphasize subjects such as dress code, entry deadlines and sportsmanship.

The committee was updated on MHSAA CAP requirement starting in 2016-17 for all newly hired coaches and the impacts that this will have on the bowling programs in the state of Michigan. The Limited Team Membership rule restricting outside events during the school season was also analyzed by the committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

No proposals from the committee.