

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.
FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 29, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Tom Barberri, Dexter
John Dignan, Warren
Mike Evoy, Detroit
Morley Fraser, Bay City
Ed Greenman, Battle Creek
Courtney Hawkins, Flint
Tom Lawrence, Battle Creek
Kelly Luplow, Clare
Gerald Kulbertis, Gladstone
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Adam Schihl, Clawson
Jack Wallace, Okemos
Pat Watson, West Bloomfield
Brian Zdanowski, Greenville

Members Absent:

Eric Adams, Lawrence
Mike Burger, Pittsford
Terry Haas, Schoolcraft
Scot McVittie, Deckerville
Andrew Pratley, Holland
Rick Schmidt, Holt
Brian Southworth, Decatur
Jamie Thiede, Algonac
Thomas Wilcher, Detroit

MHSAA Staff:

Nate Hampton (Recorder)
Mark Uyl
John Johnson
Geoff Kimmerly

The committee met for the purpose of reviewing NFHS playing rules, MHSAA Regulations and Tournament procedures/policies concerning High School Football. Following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to MHSAA staff and for possible Representative Council consideration.

Calendar

MHSAA staff provided the committee a six-year calendar demonstrating the earliest practice date, the earliest game date and the number of contests prior to Labor Day. For 2015 season, the earliest practice date is August 10, and the earliest game date is August 27 allowing for one scheduled contests prior to Labor Day.

Tournament Review

The committee was provided 2014 Football Playoff Tournament information for both the 11-player format and the 8-player format, with statistical data for all levels of tournament competition. The data demonstrated consistency with previous years under the current format when comparing school classification, division enrollment breaks and the numbers of automatic qualifiers.

In 2012, 2013 and 2014, there were 237, 225 and 229 schools, respectively, which qualified automatically based on regular season records. In 2014 there were 59 11-Player and 10 8-Player games that were subject to the "Point Differential" procedure.

2014 Enrollment for Finalist

Division 1 2242*-1844
Division 2 1562*-1274
Division 3 1157*-1054
Division 4 652-623*
Division 5 515-438*
Division 6 417*-405
Division 7 278*-260
Division 8 194-183*
8-Player 94-191*

2014 Classification by Divisions

Division 1 32 Class A
Division 2 32 Class A
Division 3 25 Class A, 7 Class B
Division 4 32 Class B
Division 5 31 Class B, 1 Class C
Division 6 32 Class C
Division 7 32 Class C
Division 8 8 Class C, 24 Class D
8-Player 16 Class D

2014-2019 FOOTBALL DATES

Year	Earliest Practice	Earliest Game	Labor Day (Games Before)
2015	Aug. 10	Aug. 27	Sept. 7 (2)
2016	Aug. 8	Aug. 25	Sept. 5 (2)
2017	Aug. 7	Aug. 24	Sept. 4 (2)
2018	Aug. 6	Aug. 23	Sept. 3 (2)
2019	Aug. 5	Aug. 22	Sept. 2 (2)
2020	Aug. 10	Aug. 27	Sept. 7 (2)

→whether or not play 1st week

→1st 3 days without pads

→could start later

→ could start later

Monday, August 10 - First allowable day of 3 day of conditioning period (no pads). Subject to change.

Thursday, August 13 - First date of official practice (with pads) (if 3 days of conditioning were completed during the week).

Thursday, August 27 - First varsity game date.

- Schools may not conduct inter school 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

To date there are 39 school projected to participate in the 8-Player format for 2015. The committee reviewed the established policy approved by the Representative Council in May of 2009. The recommendation included for tournament expansion when 40-64 schools sponsored to become a 32 team five-week playoff format.

Staff suggested that expansion should not occur until 40 teams successfully complete a season.

General Discussion

1. 2014 Committee minutes and Representative Council Recommendations
2. Semifinal facilities
3. National Federation Rule changes for 2015
4. Finals venue review – Ford Field/Greenville HS
5. Health and Safety Issues; Concussion, Heat and Humidity , and Emergency Plans-AEDs CPR Requirement for High School Varsity Coaches in 201-16.
6. Online Rules Meetings - In 2014 all assistant and sub-varsity coaches at the high school level must complete annually the same rules and risk management meeting requirement as varsity head coaches or, in the alternative, must complete one of the free online health and safety courses designated on MHSAA.com for this purpose.

7. Wilson – Tournament football required
8. 7-Person Crews Semifinals and Finals – Committee received data supporting the use of 7-person crews. Positive comments and no increase in fouls called.
9. Targeting rules and player disqualification
10. Out of Season Coaching (Statewide discussion)
11. Preseason Guide – To be updated with the following.
 - A. Risk Minimization and football conditioning
 - B. Summer Coaching Regulations
 - C. Football Helmet Checklist
 - D. Reducing brain and spinal injuries in football
 - E. MHSAA Protocol for Concussions
 - F. MHSAA Return to Competition Form
 - G. MHSAA Model Policy for Managing Heat and Humidity
 - H. Heat Index FAQ
 - I. Emergency Plans and AED availability

Recommendations to MHSAA Staff

1. As Out of Season Coaching discussions continue, allow football coaches to have the same possible privileges as other coaches – remove the 7-player limits. (14-0 in favor)

Proposal for NFHS Rules Committee

1. Create language to allow the quarterback when attempting a pass to be out of the “tackle box” and intentionally throw the ball out of bounds without penalty. (12-2 in favor)