

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.
2016-17 BASKETBALL COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 7, 2016

Members Present:

Tim Baker, Constantine
Andy Barr, Ionia
Tim Conley, Saginaw
Jeremy Denha, West Bloomfield
Tim Erickson, Rockford
Mike Evoy, Detroit
Keith Guy, Muskegon
Don Gustafson, St Ignace
Dennis Hopkins, Auburn Hills
Kevin Murphy, Livonia
Rich Moffit, Grayling

Mike Mohn, Delton
Bob Wellman, Ypsilanti
Mark Werley, Zeeland
Mark Werley, Zeeland
Christian Wilson, Gaylord
Tom Hursey, BCAM

Guest:

Jay Green, Kingston
Kevin Pauga, East Lansing

Members Absent:

Ken Flowers, Detroit
Courtney Hawkins, Mt Morris
Joseph Pontbriand, Powers
Kacee Reed, Lansing
Jen Walkington, Mason

Recorder:

Nate Hampton, MHSAA

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am. After the welcome and introductions, the committee reviewed its responsibility and relationship to the Representative Council.

In 2015 the committee had no recommendations to the Representative Council.

16 Minute Halve Experiment: The 2015-16 season saw the availability for schools to augment its game schedules by using an alternative timing scheme, 16 minute halves. In 2014 the MHSAA made a request to the NFHS to experiment with 18 minute halves.

Requirements: All games played in halves must have been approved by the MHSAA and each participating school must complete a game report.

At season end, 25 girls games and 44 boys games participated in this opportunity.

The average length of contest was 1:22 for both girls and boys. Three overtime games for girls and two overtime games for boys.

Game Reports included:

Were more substitutions used?

Girls: 35 responses – 20 Yes (57%), 15 No (43%)

Boys: 66 responses - _____

Did the lack of the two period breaks affect coaching decisions?

Girls: 35 responses – 19 Yes (54%), 16 No (43%)

Boys: 64 responses – 33 Yes (50%), 31 No (47%)

Did the lack of the two period breaks affect the flow of the game?

Girls: 35 responses – 16 Yes (46%), 19 No (54%)

Boys: 63 responses – 22 Yes (33%), 41 No (62%)

Following a Representative Council review of statistics, comments by coaches and what seemingly is an unwillingness on behalf of the NFHS to grant 18 minute halves experiment, no request for continuing the experiment was made.

General Discussion

1. NFHS Basketball – The committee received the survey tool used by the NFHS Basketball Committee when discussing new rules changes and suggested rules changes.
2. Hoopfest – Supported and cosponsored by the Lansing Sport Authority will again be presented at Jenison Field House on the weekend of the Boys Basketball Finals.
3. MHSAA Participating School Tournament Information – The Committee reviewed the current content and supported MHSAA staff semifinal and final participating team ticket purchase policy of 600 lower bowl available seats.
4. Reaching Higher – MHSAA staff and event directors, Tim Conley and Rich Moffitt, reviewed the event with comment on the increasing challenges presented by the NCAA in complying with new event certification requirements and the additional cost for coaches' registration and certification.
5. Tournament Basketballs – Rawlings Compnich will again be the MHSAA Tournament ball.
6. Girls and Boys Finals site – MSU Breslin Student Events Center will again be the 2016-17 event site.
7. Out of Season Coaching – Four player out of season workouts.
8. Sixth grade participation – The committee reviewed MHSAA regulations that now allow for sixth grade participation in Member Junior High/Middle Schools.
9. Middle School Competition Limits – The committee discussed and agreed with the proposal to increase competition days from 12 to 15 days and from two tournament days to four tournament days.
10. Sanctioning – The committee was advised of the event sanctioning requirements and the challenges the MHSAA has faced in event compliance.
11. CPR Certification – THE committee favored CPR certification for Junior High/Middle School Head Coaches.
12. Scrimmages – The committee did not favor reducing scrimmages from four to two, nor counting scrimmages and contest in Monday –Sunday.
13. The committee did favor the online course requirement for coaches disqualified more than once during a season.

Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan (BCAM)

At the request of BCAM, the committee received a presentation on two matters.

1. MHSAA Basketball Classification – Mr. Jay Green, Assistant Principal and Basketball Coach of Kingston High School, presented BCAM's recommendation that Girls and Boys Basketball and Volleyball be classified in equal divisions.

The request made is based on a belief that Girls/Boys Basketball and Volleyball should be classified in four equal divisions as are other MHSAA tournament sports. While the current class designations are nearly equal with the following:

Girls Class A 184, Class B 184, Class C 182, Class D 167

Boys Class A 185, Class B 187, Class C 183, Class D 173

It was further discussed that prior to the tournament start more class D schools opt-out of tournament participation which further lowers Class D team numbers.

Following a lengthy discussion, the committee voted to recommend to the Classification Committee to adopt equal classification for all MHSAA sports tournaments.

2. Seeding the MHSAA Basketball Tournament - Following an introduction by BCAM Executive Director, Tom Hursey, the presentation was made by Kevin Pauga, Assistant Athletic Director MSU and creator of KPI, a computer ranking system that is used by the NCAA. Each of the current four classes (A, B, C and D) for Girls and Boys Basketball schools would be pre-assigned to one of eight geographical regions.

Each region would have four pre-selected district host. Schools could play at any one of the four district sites, though geography would be prioritized on each seeded line. Approximately 20-28 schools would be assigned to a Regional.

KPI would rank all teams following each regular season game up to the pre-determined selection date where all tournament positions be assigned.

The first of four seeded teams in a regional would become the number 1 seed, the second four the number 2 seed, etc. Host schools would play at their site and other schools would then be assigned to the geographically closest district.

District match-ups would be based on district seeds (3 vs 6, 4 vs 5 on Monday, 1 vs 4/5, 2 vs 3/6 on Wednesday).

Computerized rankings would be published as determined by the MHSAA.

Non-traditional districts can be maintained, especially in the Northern parts of our State. KPI ranks teams on a game by game basis by assigning a value to every game played. The range in values for a particular game will range from approximately -1.0 (for a bad loss), to 0.0 (a virtual tie), to +1.0 (for the best of wins). Quantified factors include quality of opponent and game location.

IT was reported that in mock tournament design for the boys 2016 Class A Regional, the average mileage for district games increased from 14.9 miles to 18.4 miles per team. 122 teams would have played in the same pre-determined original district while 48 teams would have further travel and 16 teams would have played in a closer district.

Following a lengthy and intense discussion the committee voted to recommend to the Representative Council to utilize KPI Flex seeding to determine MHSAA Girls and Boys Basketball District and Regional Tournament Brackets/Pairings while maintaining geographic principles.

The committee acknowledged that there are several negotiating factors yet to be determined as well as the more intricate points of MHSAA Management.

While the majority of the committee members are enthusiastic with this idea and plan for seeding, MHSAA staff pointed to several concerns:

1. There will need to be extended vetting and discovery of the unforeseen and unintended consequences.
2. There will have to be determinations on cost, ownership, management along with other MHSAA concerns, including collection of regular season results.
3. Determinations will need to be considered as to when and how the seeding protocols will end and pairings are announced for both the girls and boys tournament.

Recommendations to the Representative Council

1. Recommend to the MHSAA Classification Committee that the Boys and Girls Basketball Tournaments and Girls Volleyball Tournament be conducted in four equal divisions. (10-3 with 3 abstentions)
2. Adopt the KPI Flex Seeding Plan for determining District and Regional Brackets and Pairings while maintaining geographical principles for the Boys and Girls Basketball Tournaments. (14-1)