

CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE
MHSAA Office – East Lansing
Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Committee Members

David Chrisinke, Allendale
Diana Davis, Buchanan
Van Dickerson, Kalamazoo
Keith Eldred, Williamston
Chris Ervin, St. Johns
Dan Flynn, Escanaba
Greg Gallas, Wyoming
John Hoeft, Pittsford
Tim Jenkins, Tekonsha
Dale Kasza, Kalkaska

Vic Michaels, Detroit
Al Miller, Battle Creek
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Mike Shibler, Rockford
Jim Weidman, Lake Orion

Staff

Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton
Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)

INTRODUCTION

The history and purpose of the Classification Committee was reviewed and participants introduced themselves. Minutes of the 2009 Classification Committee meeting were provided.

OLD BUSINESS

Eight-Player Football – Developments regarding eight-player football were reviewed, and committee members offered positive and negative effects on local schools, leagues and the MHSAA Football Playoffs.

Additional Tournament Classifications – The committee discussed the arguments for and against additional classifications in the MHSAA Tournaments, with particular, but not exclusive, focus on the requests for such in basketball by the MHSAA's very smallest member schools. The committee was advised that the MHSAA Basketball Committee is advancing a recommendation to the Representative Council to establish a study committee to consider more than four classes for MHSAA basketball tournaments.

NEW BUSINESS

Transfer Regulation – Taking advantage of the diverse make-up and great experience of the Classification Committee, the MHSAA staff requested review of Handbook Regulation I, Section 9(B) which allows (with Executive Committee action) that 9th and 10th graders who have never participated in high school athletics may participate at the subvarsity level only, even if their circumstances do not fit one of the 15 stated exceptions to the transfer regulation.

While there was no consensus for any one change to the subvarsity provision, and in fact there were several reasons given that the provision should not be substantially modified, committee members provided ideas which might be the seed of a future proposal for modest change in this Section.

Football Scheduling – The committee was apprised of the difficulty completing football schedules for a small, but growing number of schools and of the movement toward "closed border" scheduling of some Midwest 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, although it could be positive, and for the “rights” of schools. Some committee members favored the MHSAA’s assuming responsibility for scheduling all varsity football games, but more members were more cautious or strongly opposed.

School Finance – Committee members talked about modifications of MHSAA Handbook regulations or changes in tournament structures, policies or procedures that might have the effect of increasing revenues or lowering costs at the local level for participating in MHSAA tournaments and/or administering regular season programs. There was some interest in relaxing rules related to cooperative programs; but it was observed by some members that doing so for financial savings may actually create additional financial pressures in some circumstances.

Whether Handbook regulation or tournament policy, each proposed revision for financial reasons must be examined carefully for unintended negative consequences; and in each case there needs to be an analysis of the history and rationale of the rule or policy and a conscious decision made that the reason for having the rule or policy is outweighed by the financial benefits of modifying or eliminating the rule or policy.

No recommendations to the Representative Council.