

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 13, 2021

Members Present:

Craig Carmoney, Sanford
Hugh Clarke, Brimley
Aaron Crouse, Pontiac
Rob Dilday, Utica
Anika McEvans, Detroit
Kris Isom, Adrian
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Sophia Jordan, Saginaw
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Jody McKean, DeWitt
Jason Mensing, Ottawa Lake

Vic Michaels, Detroit
Matt Moffett, Wayland
Don Price, Marcellus
Mike Roy, Vicksburg (MIAAA)
Zac Stevenson, Traverse City
Kevin Wolma, Hudsonville

Staff Members Present:

Cody Inglis
Tom Rashid
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

INTRODUCTION

The Classification Committee began in the 1980s as a forum to discuss relationships between public and non-public schools. Eventually, two additional purposes were established: (1) to perform intermediate review (between sport committees and the Representative Council) of proposals related to MHSAA tournament classification for a sport; and (2) to review proposals related to the policies and procedures of counting students and collecting enrollment figures for school classification purposes as well as proposals affecting tournament classification generally. The Classification Committee is also asked to respond to subjects that are not directly related to classification. The Classification Committee has become the principal forum for reviewing policies and procedures related to cooperative programs.

Minutes of the 2020 meeting of the Classification Committee were reviewed along with subsequent Representative Council action.

SPORTS SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

An update was provided on current MHSAA membership demographics, which included current numbers of traditional public high schools, public school academies and non-public high schools. Statistics on school sponsorship by sport were provided, along with information on current opt-ups and classification ranges. It was noted that the Tennis Committee met the previous day and a recommendation is moving to the Representative Council requiring a reason and rationale to be provided when considering opt-ups in that sport.

UPDATE & COVID-19 SURVEY RESPONSES

Results from both the Fall 2020 Update Meeting survey and COVID-19 survey were shared with committee members. Valuable input was provided and this data will be shared with MHSAA sport committees over the coming days and weeks.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

For the purposes of reviewing MHSAA regulations and the approach to cooperative programs, a full report was given on all elements of cooperative programs – philosophy, the six types of programs, deadlines, student enrollment limits, renewals, dissolutions and current issues. Specifically, the committee focused on cooperative program challenges in ice hockey.

Ice hockey has a number of classification challenges, given the high number of cooperative programs that often are formed or renewed after divisions are established each March, along with teams that choose to opt up one or two divisions. This creates a disparity in the number of teams in each of the three divisions that is cause for concern among many hockey schools. The Classification Committee learned that staff will convene an ice hockey study group comprised of hockey coaches and hockey-minded administrators to meet and study this issue further with a possible recommendation to follow during 2021-22. This process has been delayed over the past eight months due to COVID-19.

ELIGIBILITY ISSUES

The committee reviewed a number of eligibility issues that included the current allowance for small schools to use 7th- and/or 8th-grade students at the high school level, 8th- and 9th-grade student placement and coursework for credit, the enrollment declaration process for 2021-22, and rural school membership issues. Many of these items will become future school survey questions as staff receives further membership input on these topics.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

It was reported that the concept of allowing the use of school transportation for summer activity will be shared with MASA (Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators) for further discussion, input and feedback from superintendents and central office staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

None