

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
ATHLETIC EQUITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
East Lansing, September 30, 2010

Members Present:

Ken Diamond, Montague  
Carmen Kennedy, Grosse Pointe  
Leroy Hackley, Jenison  
Barry Hobla, Lowell

Elizabeth Kreston, Flint  
John Malatinsky, Holt  
Meg Seng, Ann Arbor  
Greg Weatherspoon, Cassopolis

Members Absent:

Sandy Glenn, Newberry  
Paula Waterhouse, Highland Park

MHSAA Staff:

Nate Hampton, Recorder  
Gina Mazzolini

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am. Following the welcome and introductions the committee reviewed the Equity Committee Authority and Responsibility along with a synopsis of the committee recommendations from past years.

### **EQUITY COMMITTEE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

The Equity Committee, as with any other MHSAA Standing Committee, has the duty and responsibility to discuss matters of specific interest relating to equity opportunities for women and minority men and women and to then make recommendations of action to the Representative Council that involves all levels and positions within the governance of the MHSAA.

Goals are to include, but are not limited to:

1. Gather statewide data to define equity problems, direct actions and to monitor progress.
2. Promote through motivation, support and training competent coaches, officials, athletic directors, and governing board members regardless of race, ethnicity, or sex.
3. Sensitize and encourage organizations and employers to affirmatively seek women and minorities for athletic leadership training, placement, and promotion.
4. Promote the benefits of athletics and athletic leadership to students, educators, parents, and community.
5. Improve communication between the school districts, the Michigan High School Athletic Association, governing boards, professional associations, and higher education regarding the need for balanced staffing of athletic programs.

### **SPORT OFFICIALS**

Assistant Director Mark Uyl provided the committee with information relating to officials registration, new tournament procedures and current requirements for criminal history background checks.

Nearly 13,000 officials registered for 2009-10 school year. All registered officials have gone through at least one background check. There is an approximate 2 ½ year period before a new background check is made.

Collaborative efforts with MSU Womens Basketball and Reaching Higher are providing additional avenues for officials training for the newly registered and to the 2-5 year experienced official.

## **LITIGATION**

Currently no new litigations.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSIONS**

1. 2009 Equity Committee Minutes
2. 2010 National Federation Equity Committee /Citizenship Committee Minutes
3. 2010AD In-Service Agenda
4. 2010 May Representative Council Minutes
5. Cooperative Programs
6. Racial Sensitivity, Gender Insensitivity
7. Football Scheduling
8. Reducing Season Maximum Contest
  - a) The committee discussed the issues of reducing season maximum contest. While these conversations will continue in other forums, the committee was concerned that fewer contests in school sports will drive students to outside organizations.
  - b) The committee also discussed the possible benefits of a shorter winter season for basketball that would drive more Tuesday competitions. Start basketball the week following Thanksgiving and ending with the current March Finals.
9. Athletic Director Inservice
10. Increasing Acts that Lack Civility
  - a) The committee discussed the growing displays of unsporting conduct. Teams toward other teams, team members toward one another, spectators toward opponents and to opposing fans. It was suggested that we are living in a time where there is an all time high tension, tension with families, tension within schools and tensions being acted out in unsporting conduct. These unsporting acts/lack of civility is displayed not only in our scholastic games, but are a real source of concern in the various means of social media. Student to student, adults towards students, etc.
11. Social Media

## **SPORT CUTS AND SCHOOL BUDGETS**

The committee was asked if any member experienced or have evidence that girls sports or sport levels were being cut to assist in balancing schools budgets, while boys sports or sport levels are not cut. On this specific question, no committee member had experience or evidence to support girls sports or sport levels are being cut while boys sports or sport levels are not.

Committee members do have concerns that student interest in sport participation is getting lower, that even when a sport or sport level is offered, low participation/interest becomes the driving force to eliminate the sport or sport level. The committee noted that this was not a single gender issue, but affects both genders.