

JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

MHSAA, January 5, 2010

Members Present:

Bob Bullock, Okemos
Terri Clock, Muskegon
Lloyd Dozeman, Holland
Al Gulick, Warren
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock
Bob Guse, Cassopolis
Kay Johnson, Morenci
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Tony Petkus, Fennville

Jeff Phillips, Owosso
John Robinson, Macomb
Bill Taylor, South Haven

Members Absent:

Michelle Noble, Saginaw

Staff Member Present:

Randy Allen, Recorder

The MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics suggested for discussion by the MHSAA Staff and member schools.

CALENDAR ISSUES

The committee reviewed the change in fall season start dates approved by the Representative Council. Committee member feedback was that the change to the 4th Monday in August effective in 2009 was well received by schools and conferences who wished to use the earlier date in order to complete two seasons prior to the holiday break.

HANDBOOK REGULATIONS

Several MHSAA Handbook regulations were reviewed including basic standards of eligibility relative to home school students, academic standards, out-of-season coaching restrictions, amateur status rules and practice restrictions for 6th grade students with grade 7-8 teams. Transfer situations in which students move between schools with different seasons and gain additional participation and non-school community football programs were also discussed. It was determined that current regulations and interpretations were deemed satisfactory and appropriate with no new language or changes recommended.

Current season limits in basketball were reviewed, with support for changing the current rule limiting teams and individuals to one game per day. It was agreed that a change to allow two games in one day on Saturday or other non-school days not followed by a day of school will have the benefit of reducing expenses and maximizing efficiencies in transportation, facility use and scheduling. A recommendation was approved to allow two games to be played on one day with certain restrictions, and to eliminate the current limit of five games over 14 days to accommodate the change, with the weekly limit of three games a satisfactory control. Several topics were identified for emphasis at the Junior High/Middle school sessions during the MIAAA Traverse City Conference.

GENERAL TOPICS

Committee members all expressed concerns that budget pressures are creating considerations to eliminate school based Junior High/Middle school athletic programs, and the difficulty in attracting and keeping quality coaches.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Allow Junior High/Middle school boys & girls basketball teams/individuals in MHSAA member schools to play two games in one day on a Saturday or on a day not followed by a day of school. The two games must be on the same gender team and on the same level. Eliminate the current restriction of a maximum of 5 games played over a 14 day period for teams and individuals, with the current limit of three games in a week, with no more than two of the three games to occur on a day or night before a school day to govern weekly limits. (12-0)
2. Establish the maximum pitching distance at 40 feet for MHSAA member school fast pitch softball for grade 7-8 teams. (12-0)