

OFFICIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, September 29, 2008

Members Present:

Dave Baldus, Fremont
Dave Bos, Hudsonville
Jim Corsage, Richland
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace
Bill Hartzell, Mayville
Dave Jackson, Frankfort
Steve Miller, Warren
Griff Mills, Tecumseh
Kevin Murphy, Livonia

Steve Tesler, Flint
Bill Rubin, Brighton
Carl Van Heck, Kentwood
Bart Wegenke, Haslett

Members Absent:

Steve Grinczel, Haslett
Robert Price, Battle Creek

Staff:

Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2008-2009 MHSAA Officials Review Committee met to review topics involving high school officiating. After introductions were completed, the committee reviewed the terms of appointment to the Officials Review Committee, as well as the charge and mission of the group relative to the MHSAA decision making process.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of 2008 Representative Council Actions: The committee received an update from the May meeting of the Representative Council. Approved items included the launch of the online Approved Association and Registered Assignors meeting on an every-other-year basis and a football crew being assigned a maximum of two games during the first three rounds of the MHSAA Football playoffs.

Officials Program Updates: MHSAA staff reported that over 19,000 criminal history checks had been completed of all registered officials. Every official will be subject to subsequent, random checks every three years. It was also noted that online registration numbers have increased in 2008-09, with over 80% of officials registering online this year which is up from 71% in 2007-08. A brief update was also given regarding online services, including tournament assignment notification, rules testing, online rules meetings and the sportsmanship feedback process. A discussion also took place on the rule book distribution schedule.

Observation Program: MHSAA staff will be working with local Approved Associations in the identification of observers for the MHSAA observation program. The first "class" of observers will be trained at DeWitt High School on Saturday, August 1, 2009.

Ratings & Tournament Selection:

The committee reviewed the officials rating program and its related data in terms of quartile statistics. Discussion took place on the rating categories, as well as the rating procedures for when a "5" is given. The tournament selection process was also discussed at length, along with reviewing data from the most recent official's fee survey.

Correspondence: The committee discussed, reviewed and took no action on three items of correspondence. The first dealt with current procedures of allowing District host managers in some sports to hire official from the approved list. The second issue centered around the placement of Finals patches on the uniform. Finally, the concern from a member school regarding an official's receiving only one or two ratings for a season was examined. The concern was that the official can know, or at least speculate with some certainty, which school gave an official that particular rating.

Committee Member Input: The committee suggested that football officials be reminded that rating cards must be issued for all games. In addition, a suggestion was made to increase the categories that schools can identify for improvement in the officials rating process.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. For an official to be eligible for selection at the Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final tournament rounds, that official must take and pass the optional 30-question rules test in those sports where it is offered with a minimum score of 80%. Previously the score was provided to the selection committee for information and officials were not excluded regardless of score or an attempt to take the test (13-0).
2. The member-in-good-standing requirement in an Approved Association shall be extended to Baseball and Softball officials who wish to be eligible to work the Regional level and beyond in the MHSAA tournament (13-0).