

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, December 9, 2010

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Daveda Colbert, Detroit
Ken Dietz, Watervliet
Dan Flynn, Escanaba
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing
Chip Hansen, East Jordan (morning only)
Kris Isom, Adrian
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Fred Smith, Buchanan
Paula Steele, East Lansing
John Thompson, Brighton
Mark Woodson, Romulus

Members Absent:

Arnetta Thompson, Grand Rapids
Wendy Zdeb, Rochester Hills

Also Present:

Mike Hawks, Lansing
Jim Thelen, Lansing
Bill Chilman, Beal City
Jason Mellema, Ravenna
Al Unger, Kingsford
Alvin Ward, Detroit

Staff Members Present:

Randy Allen
Tony Bihn
Jordan Cobb
Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton
John Johnson
Rob Kaminski
Gina Mazzolini
Tom Minter
Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)
Mark Uyl
Kathy Westdorp

Welcomed to their first meeting were newly elected Council members Alvin Ward of Detroit, Jason Mellema of Ravenna, William Chilman of Mt. Pleasant-Beal City and Al Unger of Kingsford who will audit the meeting until it reconvenes later in the day for the election of officers for 2011.

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Steve Newkirk, to approve the following accounts of meetings: Representative Council meeting of May 2-3, 2010; Executive Committee meetings of May 2, June 16, Aug. 10, Sept. 9, Oct. 4 and Nov 3, 2010; Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Sept. 15, 2010; and Board of Canvassers meetings of Sept. 20 and Oct. 5, 2010. Adopted.

REPORTS

Administration – The executive director provided highlights of fall tournaments.

Andy Frushour reviewed initiatives within student services, including four Sportsmanship Summits during the fall and the “Where are they now?” component of the Scholar-Athlete program that starts this winter.

Tony Bihn and John Johnson provided analysis of MHSAA.com and MHSAA.tv, respectively, and Jordan Cobb reviewed the new mobile website and mobile applications.

The executive director reviewed the 2010 Update Meeting Opinion Poll, highlighting responses to questions related to discussion and action items on the Representative Council’s agenda.

Legislation – Mike Hawks of Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. discussed general and educational issues before the Michigan Legislature.

Litigation – Attorney Jim Thelen updated the Council on the status of several legal issues, including a case involving the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association that could impact media rights issues nationwide.

National Federation – Karen Leinaar reported on the proposal to amend the Constitution of the National Federation of State High School Associations to permit it to conduct national high school championships in cross country and golf.

OLD BUSINESS

Preparticipation Physicals – Policies and procedures relative to preparticipation physical examinations were discussed by the Council at each of its three meetings during 2009-10, resulting in action last May to continue three initiatives: (1) development of a longer health history and clearance form that the MHSAA would post online for schools to consider for local use; (2) review of the popular physical examination/consent card which the MHSAA provides at no charge upon request of member schools; and (3) review of the required frequency (annual) and date (on or after April 15 for the following school year).

The longer form for online posting was developed with input from a consortium coordinated by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). The changes proposed for the short-form card reflect an effort to include in the card more of the items recommended by the MDCH consortium for the longer online form.

During discussions at 2010 Athletic Director In-Service programs during the fall, it was learned that 83 percent of attendees utilize the MHSAA-provided card. The 2010 Update Meeting Opinion Poll indicated 75 percent of attendees favor no change in the April 15 date.

Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Fred Smith, to approve for posting on MHSAA.com the proposed health history and clearance form based on the recommendations of the MDCH consortium for the voluntary use of MHSAA member schools; to authorize the staff to review with constituents at MHSAA meetings in early 2011 the proposed changes in format and content of the short-form card provided free to member schools, and to report back to the Council for action at its March meeting; and to reaffirm the requirement of an annual preparticipation physical exam on or after April 15 for the following school year (no change). Adopted.

Non-Traditional Draws – The Council reviewed the history of non-traditional draws (or alternative site draws) for MHSAA tournaments which intend to place more contests at the home site of one of the teams actually participating in the contest. This is the norm for District soccer and there has been slow growth in this approach for District tournaments in basketball and girls volleyball.

During 2009-10, the Representative Council allowed all District tournaments in basketball and volleyball to utilize “non-traditional” draws where all teams drawn to the top line of a bracket and called the home team actually host the game or match. The Council required that Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula Districts 12A, 63B, 64B and 91C utilize the non-traditional draw. In addition, the non-traditional draw was an option (1) for any other District where all competing schools agree before the draw (schools may elect to conduct a non-traditional draw and tournament competition schedule); and (2) for any two competing teams following the draw and during tournament competition with the approval of the MHSAA and host manager (e.g., when travel mileage is a concern, schools may opt for a non-traditional competition venue).

In May of 2010, the Representative Council took the following actions:

- (1) In addition to the four previously designated Districts, non-traditional draws were now required for the first-round games of all seven- and eight-team Districts and any other games where history or security is an issue and single games at multiple sites are preferred over multiple games at the same site. The District host site shall be placed on the top line of the bracket and a random draw take place for the bye of a seven-team District during the 2010-11 school year.
- (2) Before there is consideration of further expansion of non-traditional draws, a subcommittee of the Basketball and Volleyball Site Selection Committee was to meet to develop implementing policies and procedures for discussion at Athletic Director In-Service meetings in August and October, followed by refinement of those policies and submission to the Council in December 2010.

The subcommittee met May 18, 2010, and prepared eight recommendations related to non-traditional draws and a ninth recommendation for traditional draws.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Ken Dietz, to approve the eight recommendations for and to continue to monitor voluntary growth of non-traditional draws (see Appendix "A"). Adopted.

Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Steve Newkirk, to approve the subcommittee recommendation that for all traditional draw Districts, all schools (including the selected host) shall have the same opportunity to receive a bye beginning in 2011-12. Adopted.

Out-of-Season Coaching –

1. Competitive Cheer – In May of 2010, the Representative Council authorized MHSAA staff to work through the Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan and the MHSAA Competitive Cheer Committee to prepare for the Council's consideration additional policies to identify permissible involvement of schools and their personnel in out-of-season instruction. Discussions have occurred with these groups, and an online survey of athletic directors and coaches has tested three initial ideas. Assistant Director Kathy Westdorp briefed the Council on survey results and meeting discussions. It is likely that another online survey of administrators and coaches will be necessary to assess workable solutions to issues being identified.
2. Three- or Four-Player Rule – In May of 2010, the Representative Council did not approve a recommendation from the Girls Volleyball Committee to modify the three- (or four-)player rule so that the school coach (a) may facilitate and direct out-of-season volleyball activity, and (b) may coach three players in grades 7-12 of his/her district in one part of a facility even if there are more players in grades 7-12 of his/her district in another part of the facility who are not being coached by this person. While not approving the committee proposal, the Council recommended that these proposals be a part of staff discussions with constituents in volleyball especially, but in other sports as well during 2010-11. Associate Director Tom Rashid briefed the Council regarding discussions on this topic at Athletic Director In-Service meetings this fall, and he presented proposed 2011-12 *Handbook* language which was circulated throughout Athletic Director In-Service programs that was generally well accepted.

Two Teams in Same Sport/Same Day – In May of 2010, the Representative Council did not approve a recommendation from the MHSAA Wrestling Committee to modify *MHSAA Handbook* Regulation II, Section 10(C) to permit a student to participate on two different teams on the same date in the same sport, at least for the sport of wrestling. In not approving the recommendation for wrestling, some Council members thought there should be examination of all sports before an exception is made for just one sport.

The 2010 Update Meeting Opinion Poll reveals that of five options, 310 of 679 responses (45.7 percent) favored no change in the current rule. Associate Director Tom Rashid reported regarding discussions on this topic at Athletic Director In-Service meetings this fall. There was consensus that issues in wrestling make this change more appropriate for that sport than any other.

Scrimmages – In May of 2010, the Representative Council approved a MHSAA Tennis Committee recommendation, which grew out of a special inquiry into issues and answers related to stacking of lineups, to allow the four interscholastic scrimmages to occur at any time during the season (previously only two were allowed before the first contest). It was also suggested that MHSAA staff inquire about schools' interest in applying the new rule for tennis to all sports.

The 2010 Update Meeting Opinion Poll found that 363 of 708 respondents (51.3 percent) would favor the new tennis rule for all sports. Associate Director Tom Rashid reported on discussions about this topic at Athletic Director In-Service meetings during the fall.

Eight-Player Football – On May 3, 2009, the MHSAA Representative Council approved the provisions for establishing a new eight-player division of the MHSAA Football Playoffs. The conditions included the requirement that a minimum of 20 schools commit to an eight-player program and schedule signed by the school's superintendent, not later than April 1, 2010. Eighteen schools gave preliminary notice of sponsorship, and only 13 schools formally provided the superintendent letter.

In order to provide the Council with a sense of the current status of eight-player programs, MHSAA staff contacted Class D schools this fall to reassess schools' interest. As of Dec. 7, 2010, 21 schools had indicated favorable interest, but only five had provided the superintendent's letter of commitment.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Dan Flynn, to authorize the staff to proceed in 2011 as in 2010, with the same minimums and deadlines for establishment of an eight-player division in the MHSAA Football Playoffs. Adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Hudson High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 84 on behalf of a 10th-grade student who in 2009-10 had been a foreign exchange student from South Korea through a CSIET-approved program and who participated in athletics during his first two semesters of enrollment at Hudson High School. This student was adopted by his host parents on July 26, 2010, and sought continuing eligibility on that basis. MHSAA rules permit foreign exchange students immediate eligibility and for a maximum of one academic year, after which they are allowed no further participation under any provision of MHSAA rules. At its Sept. 9, 2010 meeting, the Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver. The school appealed this matter to the Representative Council.

Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Steve Newkirk, to not approve the request for waiver. Adopted.

Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee – The Upper Peninsula Athletic Directors Association has proposed that the UP Athletic Committee be authorized by the Representative Council to appoint an additional member from a geographical area lacking representation. At its Sept. 15, 2010 meeting, the UP Athletic Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Representative Council that the UP Athletic Committee be authorized to appoint to the committee one additional member for a one-year term when the outcome of the election results in a lack of representation from one of the three regions – eastern, central or western.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the recommendation, permitting the UP Athletic Committee, with the approval of the MHSAA Executive Committee, to provide for one voting member for any of the three geographic regions that is unrepresented as a result of the voting process. The one-year appointment(s) would occur in December and be for the following calendar year. Adopted.

Recognition – During a luncheon break, the executive director and President Jim Derocher honored five outgoing members of the Representative Council: appointed member Wendy Zdeb of Rochester, who served four years, Chip Hansen of East Jordan and Rudy Godefroidt of Hemlock, who each served three years, Daveda Colbert of Detroit who served one year, and Dan Flynn of Escanaba, who served 22 years on the Representative Council.

Bowling – The Council was provided information regarding the development of bowling as an MHSAA tournament sport beginning in 2003-04, and a review of issues that have created difficulties for member schools including concerns not only for limited team membership and out-of-season coaching rules, which are not problems that are unique to bowling, but also concerns for the environment in which bowling occurs, which has been showing improvement, as well as concerns for amateur/awards rules violations, which have been increasing. The attitude that prize money, which is not permitted, may be converted into legal college scholarships has made it difficult for local proprietors to operate legitimate scholarship programs for high school age bowlers in Michigan, especially when many were not motivated to do so.

MHSAA staff will continue to meet with bowling proprietors and others and monitor the situation, and will bring a recommendation to the Council in March or May regarding the future of bowling as an MHSAA tournament sport.

Ice Hockey – Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Pete Ryan, to conduct the Ice Hockey Committee in January rather than May. Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Mark Woodson, to move the 2011 start times for the Division 2 Thursday night Semifinals from 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. EST. Adopted.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Kris Isom, to use video replay at the MHSAA Semifinal and Final games at Compuware Arena beginning in 2011 for the exclusive purposes of determining if a goal is scored and if the puck crosses the line before time has expired. Adopted.

Recognitions at MHSAA Tournaments – MHSAA Tournament Managers Manuals have for many years stated: “Only awards to student-athletes and approved by the MHSAA are to be presented at MHSAA tournaments.” The Council discussed the pros and cons of this policy. There was no action to modify the policy.

Letters –

1. Ishpeming Public Schools requested the Council propose an amendment to the MHSAA Constitution to permit the Executive Committee and the Council to waive the maximum age limitation for one additional year for students with Down syndrome.

Council members discussed the practical and legal issues that would arise with such an exception.

Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Kris Isom, to not approve the request that the Council submit the proposed amendment to the MHSAA membership. Adopted.

2. The Wolverine Conference requested the Council consider mandating statewide reductions in season limitations.

Council members discussed various issues that this request raised, as well as the 2010 Update Meeting Opinion Poll results that indicated a general lack of support for the MHSAA to assume the role of mandating regular season program reductions. No action was taken by the Council.

Women in Sports Leadership Award – There were six candidates for the Women in Sports Leadership Award, reduced from 12 nominees by the MHSAA Awards Committee. These were presented to the Representative Council for a vote. The name(s) of the recipient(s) will be released at an appropriate time and the recipient(s) will be honored during the 2011 Girls Basketball Final Tournament in March.

Charles E. Forsythe Award – There were seven candidates for the Charles E. Forsythe Award, reduced from 12 nominees by the MHSAA Awards Committee. These were presented to the Representative Council for a ballot vote. The name(s) of the recipient(s) will be released at an appropriate time and the recipient(s) will be honored during the 2011 Boys Basketball Final Tournament in March.

Meeting Expenses – Expenses for this meeting were approved at the specified hotel rate for accommodations, the IRS-specified meal allowance and a 30¢ per mile mileage allowance round-trip.

Future Meetings – The next meeting of the Representative Council will be held on Friday, March 25, 2011, 8:15 a.m. at the MHSAA building in East Lansing. The spring meeting of the Representative Council will be held May 1-2, 2011, at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire. The fall meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, at the MHSAA building in East Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned.

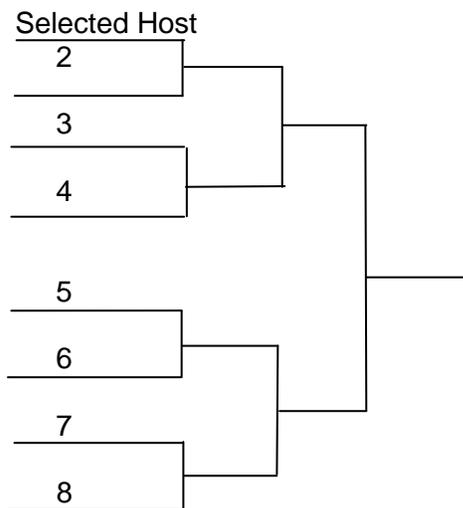


BASKETBALL & VOLLEYBALL DISTRICT DRAWS

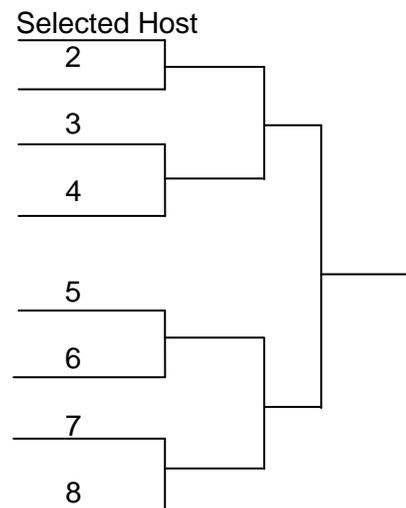
Adopted by the Representative Council, Dec. 9, 2010

1. Selected Host Opportunity – Guarantee the selected host at least one home game/match and also be eligible to receive a bye (see #6).
2. Seven Team Districts – Continue the Council's action to require first round games/matches to use the non-traditional draw format.
 - Place selected host on top line of the top bracket.
 - Place all other schools on separate draw slips, including one slip indicating bye.
 - Place all slips in the draw container.
 - First team (or bye) drawn will be written on line 2, next team drawn (or bye) will be written on line 3, etc. (Numbers show the order of the team or bye drawn.)
3. Eight Team Districts – Continue the Council's action to require first round games/matches to use non-traditional draw format.
 - Place selected host on top line of the top bracket.
 - Place all other schools on separate draw slips, no bye.
 - Place all other schools on separate slips in the draw container.
 - First team drawn will be written on line 2, next team drawn will be written on line 3, etc.

Seven (7) Team Bracket



Eight (8) Team Bracket



4. Manager Duties and Responsibilities – The committee recommends the selected host manager duties/expectations include:
 - Schedule and conduct the draw meeting (earlier than usual).
 - Distribute game tickets to top line host (BB only).
 - Assign officials to contest, as selected by the MHSAA (BB only).
 - Ensure that trophy and medals are received by the District final site.
 - Serve as host site if a top-line host facility is determined to be unsuitable. MHSAA must be involved in the final determination and discussion. There are three options available if the top-line host facility is determined to be unsuitable:

Option 1: The top-line host of that game may arrange for a suitable facility.

Option 2: The assigned opponent may host the game.

Option 3: The selected host may host the game.



Criteria for determining a facility is unsuitable:

- Consider use for regular season.
 - School not willing to host contest.
 - Spectator capacity or seating arrangement is not satisfactory.
 - Playing surface does not meet minimum regulation standards.
 - Other issues deemed sufficient to host contest.
- Provide at least one MHSAA tournament ball to the District final site (BB only).
Note: It is strongly recommended that alternative sites use the designated MHSAA tournament ball for all games.
5. Financial Arrangement – For volleyball, maintain current practices: alternative sites will retain the gate and pay all expenses. For basketball, each alternative site should be treated the same as the selected site and be responsible for conducting each game date using the existing financial forms for revenue sharing.
 6. Draw Dates –
 - Basketball: The committee recommends that the allowed dates for basketball start with the first practice (Nov. 8 – Girls, Nov. 15 – Boys) and end Friday, Dec. 24, 2010.
 - Volleyball: The committee recommends that the allowed dates for volleyball start with the first practice (Aug. 11, 2010) and end on the opt-out date (Oct. 5, 2010).
 7. Required Agreement – The committee did not recommend a change in the requirement that in those Districts where the non-traditional host is optional, it must be agreed to in advance by 100 percent of the teams assigned to that District.
 8. Expansion of Non-Traditional Draws – The Committee recommends that before the requirement of non-traditional draws is expanded to additional Districts, there be further discussion with member school administrators.