

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, December 2, 2011

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Bill Chilman, Beal City
Ken Dietz, Watervliet
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing (AM Only)
Kris Isom, Adrian
Carmen Kennedy, St. Clair Shores (AM Only)
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Jason Mellema, Pewamo-Westphalia
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Fred Smith, Buchanan
Paula Steele, Perry
Arnetta Thompson, Grand Rapids
John Thompson, Brighton
Al Unger, Kingsford
Alvin Ward, Detroit
Mark Woodson, Romulus

Also Present:

Scott Eldridge, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

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

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve the following accounts of meetings: Representative Council meeting of May 1-2, 2011; Executive Committee meetings of May 1, June 15, Aug. 10, Aug. 30, Sept. 13, Oct. 3 and Nov. 2, 2011; and Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Sept. 22, 2011. Adopted.

REPORTS

Administration – The executive director provided highlights of the MHSAA's fall tournaments.

John Johnson reported that the field of broadcasting is rapidly changing and will require Council, staff and member school attention. The most obvious enhancements of MHSAA programming so far in 2011-12 was the Football Friday Overtime covering 12 to 15 games each week during the regular season and the online Prep Zone simultaneously covering four games during each of the first four weeks of the Football Playoffs, both produced by FSDetroit with excellent viewership and reaction. The Digital Broadcasting Program is in 65 schools and nearly doubled the student-produced content this past fall compared to the fall of 2010.

Tony Bihn reviewed plans and progress for the MHSAA/Arbiter Sports athletic department electronic management tools, and he presented statistics demonstrating the increasing popularity of MHSAA.com generally.

The executive director reviewed the 2011 Update Meeting Opinion Poll, highlighting responses to questions related to discussion and action items on the Representative Council's agenda. The Council discussed two other questions which received better than an 80 percent affirmative response:

7. "Would you favor the requirement that all head coaches complete each year, in addition to the MHSAA sport rules meeting, a free online course focusing on student health and safety (the content would rotate over a four-year period – e.g., concussions one year, heat illness the next, use of AEDs and CPR the next, and a new topic to be determined every fourth year)? Assume the penalty for head coaches who fail to complete this requirement would be the same as for the failure to complete the rules meeting requirement."

It was the Council's consensus that staff prepare a proposed action plan to begin implementing these additional online programs during 2012-13.

8. "Currently, to participate in the MHSAA tournament, a bona fide school team must participate against other MHSAA member school teams in four or more contests, seven in football due to playoff structure. Ice hockey requires that half of its games be against high schools. Would you favor that, to be eligible for MHSAA tournaments in all sports, a bona fide school-sponsored team must play at least half of the contests allowed under the rules against MHSAA member high schools? (Football would continue to require a minimum of seven games total.)"

This item will be referred to several MHSAA sport committees for discussion or action appropriate for those specific sports.

Legislation – The executive director presented the report of Governmental Consultant Services, Inc., discussing general, school and school sports issues before the Michigan Legislature.

Litigation – Attorney Scott Eldridge reported to the Council about the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals favorable decision regarding state high school association video streaming rights and broadcast regulations, and he updated the Council on the status of two legal actions involving the MHSAA.

National Federation – Karen Leinaar reported on activities of the National Federation of State High School Associations.

OLD BUSINESS

Waiver of Maximum Age Limits – The Representative Council reviewed the most recent communication from a member school requesting that the Council prepare a proposal for schools to vote on to amend the MHSAA Constitution to permit the Executive Committee or Representative Council to waive the maximum age rule for one year for students with Down Syndrome (or in the alternative, for students with certain "disabling criteria"). The Council also reviewed materials prepared for MHSAA Athletic Director In-Service and Update Meetings and results of the Update Meeting Opinion Poll.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Arnetta Thompson, to not prepare a proposal to amend the MHSAA Constitution to permit waiver of the maximum age rule. Adopted (no change).

Penalty for Coach Failure to Complete Rules Meeting – The Representative Council reviewed the MHSAA's extensive communication efforts, the very small but chronic number of compliance problems and the lack of membership enthusiasm for either a different rules meeting requirement or a different penalty.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Steve Newkirk, to retain the current penalty for failure of head coaches to attend the required rules meeting: they may not coach or be present at the facility where the MHSAA tournament involving that coach's team is being held for that sport that school year. Adopted (no change).

International Students – The Representative Council reviewed action by the U.S. Congress in 1996 that has become more problematic as increasing numbers of international students enroll in increasing numbers at nonpublic schools, and the Council was updated on activities of the MHSAA and National Federation of State High School Associations to seek a remedy through the Federal Legislature so that visas enabling attendance for international students at public and nonpublic schools would be treated equally under Federal law.

Discussion protected by attorney-client privilege with Counsel Scott Eldridge ensued.

Junior High/Middle School Academic Standards – The Representative Council reviewed the recommendation of the 2011 MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee to raise the minimum academic standard for the junior high/middle school level to match the MHSAA minimum standard for grade 9-12 competition, and the conflicting input from fall meetings. While the Update survey supported the change, most comment at Athletic Director In-Service meetings did not. The MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee will discuss this topic again in January, and a vote on this matter may be scheduled for the Council's March meeting.

Bowling Issues – The Representative Council reviewed correspondence to member schools that sponsor interscholastic bowling and received Randy Allen's report of responses from schools and bowling organizations related especially to amateur/awards rules but also limited team membership rules, out-of-season coaching rules, and the environment for bowling practices and competition. The role of bowling within the MHSAA is scheduled as an action item for the Council at its March meeting.

Shoulder Pads at Selected Out-of-Season Football Activities – The Representative Council reviewed the source and rationale of the proposal of the Football Committee to allow for shoulder pads at limited types of out-of-season football activities. Support for this change was lacking at fall constituent meetings.

Applications of Three-Player Rule Under One Roof in Non-School Competition – The Representative Council reviewed applications of the current rule, several ideas for modification and input received during constituent meetings during August, September and October.

NEW BUSINESS

Girls Lacrosse – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Jason Mellema, to approve the following MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Committee recommendations for the 2012 season:

1. Alter national playing rules to permit a game that is interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible authorities to be continued from the point of interruption (whether on the day of suspension or on another day). Both teams would be permitted to make roster changes.
2. Modify Regulation II, Section 10 of the *MHSAA Handbook* to allow three games in girls lacrosse with not more than 20-minute running time halves to be played or two regulation games to not exceed 120 total minutes to be played (allowed three times during a season).
3. Alter the US Women's Lacrosse game rule to follow the MHSAA disqualification rules which require that when a student or coach is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct, that student or coach shall be withheld by his/her school for at least the next day of competition for that team. In essence, this means that the MHSAA rules of disqualification would be observed.
4. Alter the US Lacrosse national misconduct and suspension rule controlling the actions of spectators to not include assessing a card to the head coach.

Adopted.

Officials – Motion by Ken Dietz, supported by Fred Smith, to approve staff's completion of an agreement with ArbiterSports that will allow all MHSAA registered officials to pay through the MHSAA a single, reduced fee to register with Arbiter for all high school contests involving MHSAA member schools in Michigan, no matter how many sports they work or local associations or assignors they work through. The MHSAA registration fee will be increased \$5 for 2012-13. Adopted.

Boarding Schools – The Representative Council reviewed the history of the boarding school student exception to the transfer regulation and the number of resident students, including international students, at each of the four schools that meet the MHSAA definition of a boarding school.

Women in Sports Leadership Award – There were six candidates for the Women in Sports Leadership Award, reduced from 11 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 2012 Women in Sports Leadership Conference in February.

Charles E. Forsythe Award – There were eight candidates for the Charles E. Forsythe Award 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 2012 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 23, 2012, 8:15 a.m. at the MHSAA building in East Lansing. The spring meeting of the Representative Council will be held May 6-7, 2012, at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. The fall meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 7, 2012, at the MHSAA building in East Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned.