

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, December 2, 2016

Members Present:

Dave Derocher, Reese
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace
Courtney Hawkins, Mt. Morris
Kris Isom, Adrian
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Orlando Medina, Harrison Township
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Cheri Meier, Okemos
Chris Miller, Gobles
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Fred Smith, Benton Harbor
John Thompson, Brighton
Al Unger, Kingsford
Alvin Ward, Detroit
Pat Watson, West Bloomfield

Also Present:

Scott Eldridge, Lansing
Kamil Robakiewicz, Lansing
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

Tony Bihn
Jordan Cobb
Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton
Dan Hutcheson
Cody Inglis
John Johnson
Geoff Kimmerly
Andi Osters
Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)
Adam Ryder
Mark Uyl
Kathy Vrugink Westdorp

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Al Unger, to approve the following accounts of meetings: Representative Council meeting of May 1-2, 2016; Executive Committee meetings of May 1, June 15, Aug. 3, Aug. 24, Sept. 7, Sept. 28 and Nov. 1, 2016; and Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Sept. 27, 2016. Adopted.

REPORTS

Legislation – Bill Zaagman presented the report of Governmental Consultant Services, Inc., discussing general, school and sports issues involving the Michigan Legislature.

Litigation – Attorney Scott Eldridge reported to the Council on the status of legal matters involving or of interest to the MHSAA.

Administration – The executive director provided a brief overview of the MHSAA's fall tournaments. He reported that, through Nate Hampton's leadership, the contract with Ford Field for MHSAA Football Playoff Finals has been extended through 2021.

Kathy Westdorp provided summary reports on each of the following topics:

1. Compliance by schools regarding (a) the health & safety course requirement for high school assistant and subvarsity coaches; (b) the CPR certification requirement for high school varsity head coaches; (c) the CAP Level 1 or 2 requirement for all persons hired for the first time after July 31, 2016 as a varsity head coach in an MHSAA member high school. Through the conscientious efforts of schools and relentless follow-up by MHSAA staff, more than 99 percent of schools are completing each of three requirements.
2. Concussion reports, including preliminary data for fall 2016 and follow-up to the final 2015-16 report. The number of concussions reported to date is down slightly for the fall of 2016 compared to the fall of 2015, with boys soccer and 11-player football demonstrating the largest decline.

3. Two Sideline Concussion Pilot Programs which are involving a smaller number of schools in 2016-17 but focusing more on the sports with the highest incidence of confirmed concussions according to the required concussion reporting by high schools during 2015-16.

Mark Uyl provided a summary report of the concussion care “gap” insurance provided without charge to all eligible student-athletes in all MHSAA member high schools and junior high/middle schools during 2015-16. Coverage begins with 6th-graders in MHSAA member schools in 2016-17.

Andy Frushour reported on several student services, including the yearly Sportsmanship Summits conducted at four locations during November, the upcoming (sixth) Battle of the Fans and the online Captains Course that was developed in Michigan and has been accessed by more than 21,000 students nationwide since it launched 16 months ago.

Tony Bihn reported that of the very many projects before the MHSAA’s information systems team, the following are highest priorities:

1. Infrastructure upgrades, which are often invisible to users but require two to four weeks of concentrated attention every six to twelve months to maintain system security and performance.
2. Completion of migration from Desktop Microsoft Access to MHSAA.com, which has been ongoing for several years, but requires another six to nine months of concentrated attention over the next two years. Until completed, staff efficiency will not be optimal.
3. Ongoing ArbiterGame integration; each improvement (such as officials ratings recently) creates efficiencies for local school athletic offices that will cause ArbiterGame to sell itself and secure its place as the safety net for athletic scheduling software when other products succumb to market forces.

The executive director reviewed the 2016 Update Meeting Opinion Poll, highlighting responses to questions related to discussion and action items on the Representative Council’s current meeting agenda.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Multi-Sport Participation – The executive director provided a report on the work and recommendations of the Task Force on Multi-Sport Participation. He emphasized how the work is connected to and will support MHSAA efforts to promote participant health and safety as well as serve and support junior high/middle school programs, and how the professional public relations experts which the Council authorized will assist in completing and implementing Task Force initiatives. He requested the Task Force continue into 2017 and be expanded in size, especially to address those initiatives targeted to younger students and their parents.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Pete Ryan, to permit the Task Force on Multi-Sport Participation to continue indefinitely beyond 2016 and expand in size when and how necessary to accomplish its purpose, which is “to prepare strategies and specific tactics for the MHSAA, allied organizations and local schools and conferences to promote multi-sport participation by student-athletes.” Adopted.

Junior High/Middle Schools – It was reported that there are currently 757 junior high/middle schools in the MHSAA’s membership, compared to 705 at the conclusion of the 2015-16 school year. Of the 757 junior high/middle school members, 498 (66 percent) have included 6th grade in their membership. There appears to be little difference in involvement of 6th-graders based on the classification of the associated high school (A, B, C, D).

Reasons for this significant growth in junior high/middle school membership may be (a) increased contest lengths approved for football and basketball; (b) greater awareness of MHSAA membership benefits, including free concussion care and catastrophic accident medical insurance; and especially (c) – the option to join the MHSAA at the 6th-grade level and have 6th-graders participate with and against 7th- and 8th-graders in some sports.

Cody Inglis provided a report from the first of two Junior High/Middle School Committee meetings scheduled for 2016-17. He highlighted the interconnectedness of this committee's work with that of the Task Force on Multi-Sport Participation. He detailed and added to the committee's discussions regarding (a) "Regional Strike Teams" and (b) the MHSAA as "Presenting Sponsor" at five junior high/middle school league track meets across Michigan in the spring of 2017.

Officials – The most recent survey of "retiring" officials was presented and discussed. Mark Uyl described recent efforts involving several MHSAA staff to recruit and retain officials. There was discussion of how "Regional Strike Teams" can and will supplement staff efforts.

Defining & Defending Educational Athletics – Mr. Frushour provided a report on the #MyReasonWhy initiative of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

Mr. Roberts described another NFHS effort called "The Essentials Initiative" which is an outgrowth of a July 2016 NFHS Summit on the essentials for enhancing participation, reducing injury risk and optimizing performance.

Mr. Roberts reported that staff has delayed action on the Representative Council's approval to secure the services of a professional public relations firm until there is an opportunity to assess the #MyReasonWhy initiative of the NFHS. Ultimately, the MHSAA may utilize the PR professionals to help the MHSAA define and defend educational athletics, to assist the MHSAA's efforts to increase attendance at high school events, and to promote positive messaging during controversies. In addition, the MHSAA may ask the PR professionals for assistance in implementing tasks identified by the Task Force on Multi-Sport Participation.

Scrimmages – Mr. Roberts provided a report on staff efforts to clarify *Handbook* language relative to "scrimmages," and he identified issues that may need Council action in March or May.

Sanctioning – Andi Osters described the process of revising the language (not substance) of *Handbook* Regulation II, Section 6 relative to interstate sanctioning for approval by the Council in March or May.

Upper Peninsula Golf – The Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee has continued a multi-year discussion of the UP Golf Tournament which is conducted in the spring for both boys and girls. Like cross country and track & field, the UP Golf Tournament has been conducted in three divisions. Sponsoring Class A, B and C schools are divided equally into two divisions; and all sponsoring Class D schools are placed in a third division, which has grown too large to conduct boys and girls at the same venue, which is important because it is customary for one person to coach both teams.

It is the proposal of the UP Athletic Committee that all the UP schools sponsoring golf be placed in three equal divisions, which increases the size of the Division 1 and 2 meets and reduces the size of the Division 3 meet. Presently, Division 1 has 11 schools, Division 2 has 12 schools and Division 3 has 20 schools. The change would result in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 having approximately 14 schools each.

It is the UP Athletic Committee's request that the proposal for three equal divisions in boys and girls golf be approved for the spring of 2017, without further discussion by the MHSAA Golf Committee and the MHSAA Classification Committee.

Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve the UP Athletic Committee recommendation to conduct the UP Girls and Boys Golf Finals in three equal divisions, beginning in 2017. Adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Baseball – Mr. Uyl presented the proposal of an MHSAA task force convened to consider modification in MHSAA policies and procedures that became necessary to comply with a change in pitching limitations of baseball rules for 2017, adopted by the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee in 2016, subsequent to the meeting of the MHSAA Baseball/Softball Committee. NFHS rules require state associations to adopt limits on the number of pitches an individual can make, rather than the number of outs.

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the proposal for MHSAA Baseball Pitch Count Limitations (see Appendix “A”). Adopted.

Eight-Player Football – Council members engaged in a lengthy discussion of the growth of 8-player football and the effect on 11-player football. This included various formats and schedules for the 8-player tournament and if it is possible to provide Class C or B 8-player teams with a tournament experience in football. There was no obvious consensus. Discussions will continue with the MHSAA Classification Committee and Football Committee and at the League Leadership meeting before returning to the Council's agenda.

Women in Sports Leadership Award – There were four candidates for the Women in Sports Leadership Award recommended by the MHSAA Awards Committee. These were presented to the Representative Council for a vote. The name of the recipient will be released at an appropriate time and the recipient will be honored during the MHSAA Girls Basketball Finals March 18, 2017.

Charles E. Forsythe Award – There were four candidates recommended by the Awards Committee, for the Charles E. Forsythe Award presented to the Representative Council for a ballot vote. The name of the recipient will be released at an appropriate time and the recipient will be honored during the Boys Basketball Finals Tournament on March 25, 2017.

Meeting Expenses – Expenses for this meeting were approved at the specified hotel rate for accommodations, the IRS-specified meal allowance and a 40¢ per mile mileage allowance round-trip.

Future Meetings – The next meeting of the Representative Council will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2017, 8:15 a.m. at the MHSAA building in East Lansing. The spring meeting of the Representative Council will be held May 7-8, 2017, at The Homestead Resort in Glen Arbor. The fall meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 1, 2017, at the MHSAA building in East Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned.



MHSAA High School (Grades 9-12) Baseball Pitch Count Limitations

Maximum Daily Pitches- 105	Required Rest
76-105 Pitches	3 Days of Rest
51-75 Pitches	2 Days of Rest
26-50 Pitches	1 Day of Rest
25 Pitches or Less	No Required Days of Rest

Definitions & Key Terms:

Day of Rest: A calendar day in which a student does not participate in any game on that day as a pitcher (starter or relief pitcher).

Counted Pitch: All regulation pitches that are thrown to a batter that result in a ball, strike (called or swinging), foul ball or fair batted ball put into play are considered a “counted pitch” for purposes of this rule. An illegal pitch, a pitch that follows a balk or timeout being called, warm-up pitches, throws when playing a batted or thrown ball and pick-off throws to a base are NOT counted under this rule.

Daily Pitches: These are all the counted pitches that are thrown on any given calendar day. If a pitcher participates in multiple games of a doubleheader or tournament on a given calendar day, those counted pitches must be added together in establishing that pitcher’s daily number of pitches.

APPROVED 12/2/2016

MHSAA High School Baseball Pitching Record Form (PRF)



School: _____
 Level: **Varsity** **JV** **Freshmen**
 Coach: _____

High School Regulation:	
Maximum Daily Pitches- 105	Required Rest
76-105 Pitches	3 Days of Rest
51-75 Pitches	2 Days of Rest
26-50 Pitches	1 Day of Rest
25 Pitches or Less	No Required Days of Rest

Date	Jersey #	Pitcher	Counted Pitches	Coach Signature	Opposing Coach Signature	First Day Eligible to Next Pitch Again

- * At the beginning of each day of competition, coaches MUST include a list of any ineligible pitchers on their line-up card who are required to rest on that day.
- * Violations of the Pitch Count Limitation rule are considered the same as a school using an ineligible player. The minimum penalty in this case is forfeiture of that game.
- * Failure to present the up-to-date PRF will require verification by the violating school athletic director the next school day.
- * If verification is not provided the penalty will be the same as for using an ineligible player or forfeiture.



MHSAA Middle School / Junior High (Grades 6-8) Baseball Pitch Count Limitations

Maximum Daily Pitches- 75	Required Rest
51-75	3 Days of Rest
26-50	2 Days of Rest
25 Pitches or Less	1 Day of Rest

Definitions & Key Terms:

Day of Rest: A calendar day in which a student does not participate in any game on that day as a pitcher (starter or relief pitcher).

Counted Pitch: All regulation pitches that are thrown to a batter that result in a ball, strike (called or swinging), foul ball or fair batted ball put into play are considered a “counted pitch” for purposes of this rule. An illegal pitch, a pitch that follows a balk or timeout being called, warm-up pitches, throws when playing a batted or thrown ball and pick-off throws to a base are NOT counted under this rule.

Daily Pitches: These are all the counted pitches that are thrown on any given calendar day. If a pitcher participates in multiple games of a doubleheader or tournament on a given calendar day, those counted pitches must be added together in establishing that pitcher’s daily number of pitches.

APPROVED 12/2/2016

MHSAA JR HS / MS Baseball Pitching Record Form (PRF)



School: _____

Coach: _____

<u>Jr. High / Middle School Regulation:</u>	
Maximum Daily Pitches- 75	Required Rest
51-75 Pitches	3 Days of Rest
26-50 Pitches	2 Days of Rest
25 Pitches or Less	1 Day of Rest

Date	Jersey #	Pitcher	Counted Pitches	Coach Signature	Opposing Coach Signature	First Day Eligible to Next Pitch Again

- * At the beginning of each day of competition, coaches MUST include a list of any ineligible pitchers on their line-up card who are required to rest on that day.
- * Violations of the Pitch Count Limitation rule are considered the same as a school using an ineligible player. The minimum penalty in this case is forfeiture of that game.
- * Failure to present the up-to-date PRF will require verification by the violating school athletic director the next school day.
- * If verification is not provided the penalty will be the same as for using an ineligible player or forfeiture.



MHSAA Baseball Pitch Count Limitations **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)**

1. What happens when a pitcher moves between the varsity and JV team?

The number of counted pitches for a pitcher “go” with that individual if the student plays on multiple team levels (varsity, JV, freshmen) during a period of days. For example, if a pitcher throws 77 counted pitches on Monday for the varsity team and moves to the JV team on Wednesday, that pitcher is ineligible to pitch for JV team (or any team for that matter) on Wednesday due to his required 3 days of rest following his 77 pitches on Monday. The first day this pitcher could again pitch for any team would be on Friday.

2. What happens if a pitcher starts an at-bat with 102 counted pitches? Does he have to leave the game once he throws his 105th pitch?

If a pitcher would reach the maximum of 105 while facing a batter (but started the at-bat with less than 105), the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occur:

- a. That batter reaches base.
- b. That batter is put out.
- c. The third out of the inning is made (pick off, caught stealing, etc.).

3. How does the rule work if a school has a pitcher that is ambidextrous?

If a pitcher is ambidextrous, the pitch count limitations apply to the individual pitcher, not to the individual arm.

4. Can a pitcher be moved to shortstop and then return to the mound two innings later? Can a pitcher throw in both games of a doubleheader or multiple games in a tournament on a Saturday?

A pitcher that remains in the game but moves to a different defensive position may again pitch in that game if allowed by the pitch count limitation, substitution and charged conference rules. A pitcher may throw in multiple games on a calendar day but all pitches thrown on that day must be added together in establishing that pitcher's daily number of pitches.

5. Once a pitcher reaches 105 pitches in a game, can the player continue to play at another position or is the player “done for the day”?

Yes, the player can continue to play at another position. Once a pitcher reaches the maximum number of allowed daily pitches, the pitcher may play one of the eight other defensive positions with no limitation.

6. Do the pitches thrown “count” if rain, darkness or other events halt or suspend a game? Are the pitches counted if it is not a regulation game?

If a game is started and then halted, suspended or not completed due to darkness, weather or any other reason, all counted pitches must be included on the Pitching Record Form (PRF) even if the interrupted game will not be made-up or completed. A counted pitch thrown in any game situation (regulation game, suspended game, halted game, game started but abandoned) must be recorded on the PRF for purposes of this rule.

7. Are pitches thrown in a scrimmage or practice counted on the PRF for purposes of this rule?

No. Only regulation pitches thrown in a game are counted and recorded on the PRF. Remember that all regulation pitches that are thrown to a batter that result in a ball, strike (called or swinging), foul ball or fair batted ball put into play are considered a "counted pitch" for purposes of this rule. An illegal pitch, a pitch that follows a balk or timeout being called, warm-up pitches, throws when playing a batted or thrown ball and pick-off throws to a base are NOT counted under this rule.

8. How will teams report to each other during the course of the game regarding the number of pitches thrown? How will disputes be settled?

The base coach that is moving to their position in front of the opposing team's bench/dugout will inform the opposing coach of the number of pitches thrown in the previous half inning. This method will be used in assuring that both teams are on the "same page" in terms of the number of pitches thrown by each pitcher. If the counts differ, the team who is tracking their pitcher will be considered the official count. Umpires will not become involved in any pitch count dispute between the two teams/coaches other than to facilitate the conversation.

9. Is this process any different for games played in the MHSAA tournament series (District-Finals)?

At all MHSAA tournament sites, the tournament manager must appoint a "pitch count recorder". If the counts differ at any MHSAA tournament site, the following will be used to determine the pitch count:

- If two of the three agree (pitch count recorder and one team), the majority will be considered official.
- If none of the three agree (pitch count recorder and both teams), the pitch count recorder will be considered official.

The MHSAA tournament process should be similar to the regular season in that the base coach that is moving to their position in front of the opposing team's bench/dugout will inform the opposing coach and pitch count recorder (who should be placed near the backstop) of the number of pitches thrown in the previous half inning. Umpires will not become involved in any pitch count dispute between the two teams/coaches and pitch count recorder other than to facilitate communication between the parties at any MHSAA tournament site.

10. How will teams track the number of pitches thrown in each game? What are the pre-game responsibilities for both coaches/teams? What must happen after each game?

Each school's team (varsity, JV and freshmen) must keep a season-long log of pitches thrown on the MHSAA Pitching Record Form (PRF). This log must be available for presentation at the pre-game plate meeting if requested by the opposing coach. Following each game, the PRF must be presented to the opposing coach for verification and a signature is required following the game or last game of the doubleheader. Each line-up card MUST include a list of any pitcher that is ineligible to pitch that day due to a required day of rest.

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