

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, November 30, 2018

Members Present:

Dave Derocher, Reese
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vicky Groat, Battle Creek
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace
Courtney Hawkins, Mt. Morris
Kris Isom, Adrian
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Justin Jennings, Muskegon
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Chris Miller, Gobles
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Chris Riker, Portage
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
John Thompson, Brighton
Al Unger, Kingsford
Alvin Ward, Detroit
Pat Watson, West Bloomfield

Also Present:

Scott Eldridge, Lansing
Kamil Robakiewicz, Lansing
Adam Stefanski, Mackinaw City
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

Tony Bihn
Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton
Dan Hutcheson
Cody Inglis
John Johnson
Geoff Kimmerly
Andi Osters
Tom Rashid
Brent Rice
Adam Ryder
Mark Uyl (Recorder)
Kathy Westdorp

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Karen Leinaar, to approve the following accounts of meetings: Representative Council meeting of May 6-7, 2018; Executive Committee meetings of May 6, June 13, Aug. 2, Aug. 22, Sept. 5, Oct. 3 and Oct. 31, 2018; and Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Sept. 26, 2018. Adopted.

REPORTS

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

Litigation – Attorneys Scott Eldridge and Kamil Robakiewicz reported to the Council on the status of legal matters involving or of interest to the MHSAA.

Administration – Reports from several MHSAA staff included the following topics that generated discussion among Council members and staff:

- Update Meeting Survey Results
- Fall Sports Update, by Mark Uyl
- Concussion Reports, by Kathy Westdorp
- Event Security, by Mark Uyl
- Esports, by Andy Frushour
- Volleyball Summer Select Player Clinic with MHSAA and MIVCA, by Andi Osters
- Multi-Sport Task Force Update and Activity, by Cody Inglis

ONGOING BUSINESS

Basketball Tournaments Sites and Schedules – At its December meeting in 2017, the Representative Council approved the switch of the calendars for 2018-19 only so that boys basketball adopted the regular season and tournament schedules that had previously been in effect for girls, and girls basketball adopted the regular season and tournament schedules that had been in place for boys.

The Council discussed scheduling issues and possible solutions for the boys and girls tournaments in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years.

Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Steve Newkirk, to hold the Girls Basketball Semifinals and Finals for 2019-20 and 2020-21 at Van Noord Arena at Calvin College. Adopted.

Boarding School Update – At both the 2018 March and May Representative Council meetings, time was devoted to discuss the boarding school student exception to the transfer rule in light of recent concerns expressed by other member schools with respect to international students. The Council directed MHSAA staff to convene a meeting of boarding school administrators, and this meeting was held on Nov. 12, 2018. The goal for this meeting was to provide history and information on MHSAA boarding school regulations while allowing the boarding school representatives to provide thoughts and feedback relative their current issues, challenges and concerns. Staff provided a verbal report of this meeting.

Football Scheduling & Playoffs – During the 2018 Fall Update meeting tour, staff spent time discussing football issues and concerns for both 11-player and 8-player schools relative to regular season scheduling and the MHSAA tournament. Four Update meeting survey questions were posed to those in attendance, and the Council reviewed the results. These results will also be shared with the Football Committee in January.

The Council reviewed the results of an online survey that was sent to all 8-player football schools in late October. Issues in the 8-player game continue to center on the increase of 8-player teams, more Class C schools moving to the 8-player game and regular season scheduling challenges. The Council also reviewed a paper study conducted last spring.

Arbiter Game – In the early fall of 2011, the MHSAA and Arbiter Sports entered into an agreement to create and provide a suite of tools that would help and support athletic administrators and athletic office personnel. Essentially, the MHSAA and Arbiter were partners in creating a super scheduling system, Arbiter Game, that intended to not only integrate scheduling between schools but also would include officials, game workers, transportation and student records. One of the main objectives of this project was to have single entry where schedules and data would be entered only once but would be displayed within the school scheduling system, school websites and at mhsaa.com. The understanding from Arbiter Sports was that this software would be ready to use by spring of 2012. Over the past six years, the MHSAA has taken the lead in promoting, encouraging and providing the software free of charge to all member high schools. Over these six years, the MHSAA has also been criticized for the deficits and shortcomings of the product, which has improved over the years but is still viewed by many as inferior to other programs.

Schools were surveyed regarding their current usage, and future plans, of Arbiter Game. The Representative Council reviewed the results of the survey.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by John Thompson, to discontinue paying for Arbiter Game for all member high schools, effective with the end of the 2018-19 school year. The MHSAA will rely on member schools to choose and pay for the scheduling software they are most comfortable using. This will not change the current arrangement in continuing to purchase ArbiterOne for officials associations and assigners. Adopted.

Out-of-State Scrimmages – At its May meeting, the Representative Council did not approve a recommendation from the Baseball Committee to allow baseball schools which receive MHSAA approval to travel out of state to practice, to share facilities by practicing jointly and/or scrimmage (up to four days using allowed scrimmage dates) only with and against other approved MHSAA member schools, pending further discussion and survey results from other spring sports as well as baseball.

The Council reviewed results of both the Update meeting survey question and the online survey question from other spring sports.

Motion by John Thompson, supported by Dave Derocher, to allow spring sport teams that receive MHSAA approval to travel out of state to practice during Spring Break, and allow those approved schools to share facilities by practicing jointly and/or scrimmaging (up to four days using allowed scrimmage dates) only with and against other approved MHSAA member schools. This is approved beginning with the spring of 2020. Adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

“New” Transfer Rule Transitions & Waiver Process – At its May meeting, the Council approved the revised transfer rule that will result in high school transfer students having immediate eligibility in a sport not played the previous season and no eligibility (unless one of the 15 exceptions applies) for the upcoming season in a sport actually played the previous season (participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest).

Staff provided an update on the communication and notice that has taken place relative to the new transfer rule and also received input from the Council regarding potential Executive Committee waiver criteria and guidance in terms of the new transfer rule that goes into full effect in 2019-20.

“Presenting Sponsor” Program – The MHSAA is in its third year of the “Presenting Sponsor” program at the junior high/middle school level for area meets and invitationals in cross country and track & field. New this year, the MHSAA will be a presenting sponsor of team sports at the junior high/middle school level for events in volleyball and basketball. In 2018-19, the MHSAA will partner with the Michigan High School Powerlifting Association as a “Presenting Sponsor” of the MHSPLA Finals to be held on March 9-10, 2019, at Ionia High School. The MHSAA will also be a “Presenting Sponsor” of a Unified basketball invitational at Novi High School on Feb. 21, 2019. These will be the first such partnerships at the high school level.

Sports Medicine Advisory Committee – Historically, the MHSAA has followed the lead of the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee that meets twice each year in Indianapolis. An MHSAA sponsored Sports Medicine Advisory Committee would provide individuals in the Michigan medical community an opportunity for input and interaction with MHSAA member schools on sports medicine topics.

The Council discussed the possible makeup, merits, and shortcomings of an MHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee beginning in the 2019-20 school year. This item will be considered for action in March 2019.

Calendar Issues – Because four fall sports seasons are shorter by one week in 2019 than in previous years, the Representative Council discussed two changes to the 2019 fall calendar that would (1) begin boys and girls cross country, fall tennis, girls golf and boys soccer practices on Monday, Aug. 12, 2019, the same day football practice begins; and (2) change the required number of team practices before the first competition in these sports to read: “After three days of practice for the team and not before four calendar days (Friday, Aug. 16, 2019).” This will allow competition to begin on Friday, Aug. 16, 2019 in these four sports. The Council approved this same adjustment in future short years (2024, 2025 and beyond). Football, girls volleyball and girls swimming, whose season starting and ending dates are tied to Thanksgiving, are unchanged.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Dave Derocher, to approve the following additions to Section 11(E) and Section 11(F) to the 2019-20 calendar and *Handbook*:

SECTION 11(E)—For a school to be eligible to enter the MHSAA tournament for a particular sport, practice (including tryouts) may commence no earlier than:

- Boys Soccer, Cross Country, Tennis, Golf: In years where there are 12 Saturdays in a season (short years – 2019, 2024 and 2025): The 16th Monday before Thanksgiving (Aug. 12, 2019).

SECTION 11(F)—For a school to be eligible to enter the MHSAA tournament for a particular sport, contests may commence no earlier than:

- Boys Soccer, Cross Country, Tennis, Golf: In years where there are 12 Saturdays in a season (short years – 2019, 2024 and 2025): After 3 days of practice for the team and not before 4 calendar days (Friday, Aug. 16, 2019).

Adopted.

Mental Health Initiatives – During the fall Update meeting tour, staff sought input and received feedback from many attendees on the need for the MHSAA to become an engaged resource for member schools in this area. Staff will host a meeting of individuals with experience and interest in this area in December, and a report will be provided to the Council at its March meeting.

Officials Registration & NASO – Each year, the MHSAA registers nearly 10,000 officials. When those registered officials are working contests that involve at least one member school, the working officials have two insurance coverages in place – \$1,000,000 in general liability coverage as well as \$1,000,000 in medical coverage under the MHSAA catastrophic medical coverage (same coverage for students). When registered officials are working non-school events such as AAU, travel, club, community, recreation and church league play, none of the MHSAA-provided coverage is in effect.

The Council reviewed materials from the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) regarding possible future NASO membership being included with MHSAA registration. Liability coverage would be provided by NASO (eliminating the MHSAA from purchasing this coverage) and officials would now have liability coverage when working any game at any level, school and non-school. In addition, NASO membership brings about a number of professional development opportunities and resources including *Referee Magazine*, training manuals, books, online rule tests and video resources.

Staff will prepare multiple financial models for the Audit and Finance Committee in February that will illustrate different options and approaches for MHSAA registration including NASO membership. In addition, the Audit and Finance Committee will be given alternative options for MHSAA registration prices. One such concept is charging a flat fee to officials, regardless of the number of registered sports, to encourage more multi-sport officials. Currently, an official is charged a processing fee of \$35 plus \$15 per sport. All of these ideas and concepts will be presented to the Audit and Finance Committee and the Council will review a staff recommendation from this process in either March or May.

Cooperative Programs – Regulation I, Section 1(E-2) states: “The Executive Committee may approve a cooperative program agreement regardless of the combined student enrollment maximum in the sports of baseball, bowling, girls competitive cheer, cross country, golf, soccer, girls softball, tennis and wrestling for two or more schools of the same public school district (same governing board). There must be a demonstrated history of inadequate numbers of participants and will not be approved based on financial concerns. Note: This is an experiment for the 2016-17 through 2018-19 school years . . . These cooperative agreements may not extend beyond 2018-19 without additional Representative Council action.” The Council reviewed a list of the programs using this experiment, a cooperative program timeline, and the philosophy behind cooperative program regulations.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the continuation of these cooperative programs and others that may be approved for schools of the same public school district for two additional years – through the 2020-21 school year – at which time the allowance will again be reviewed by the Council. As with all other cooperative programs, these programs will require the same two-year renewal process. Adopted.

Women in Sports Leadership Award – There were five 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(s) of the recipient(s) will be released at an appropriate time and the recipient(s) will be honored during the Girls Basketball Finals on March 23, 2019.

Charles E. Forsythe Award – There were six 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 Boys Basketball Finals Tournament on March 16, 2019.

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 Friday, March 22, 2019, 8:15 a.m. at Van Noord Arena, Calvin College, in Grand Rapids. The spring meeting of the Representative Council will be held May 5-6, 2019, at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. The fall meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 6, 2019, at the MHSAA building in East Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned.