

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, March 26, 2010

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Daveda Colbert, Detroit
Ken Dietz, Watervliet
Dan Flynn, Escanaba
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing
Chip Hansen, East Jordan
Kris Isom, Adrian
Karen Leinaar, Benzonia
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Fred Smith, Buchanan
Paula Steele, East Lansing
Arnetta Thompson, Grand Rapids
John Thompson, Brighton
Mark Woodson, Romulus
Wendy Zdeb, Rochester Hills

Member Absent:

Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock

Also Present:

Dave Duncan, Cedarville
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace
Joe Reddinger, Felch
Jim Thelen, Lansing
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

Tony Bihn
Jordan Cobb
Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton
John Johnson
Gina Mazzolini
Tom Minter
Andi Osters
Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)
Mark Uyl
Kathy Westdorp
Tricia Wieferich
Karen Yonkers

President Jim Derocher opened the meeting by welcoming Paula Steele, Principal at East Lansing High School, to her first meeting; and he welcomed three representatives of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee whose members are invited to attend this meeting on an annual basis. The president also commended Vic Michaels on his selection as Athletic Director of the Year by the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of Dec. 4, 2009; the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of Dec. 3, 2009, Jan. 13, 2010 and Feb. 24, 2010; and the minutes of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Jan. 10-11, 2010. Adopted.

REPORTS

Legislation – Bill Zaagman of Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. reviewed activities of the Michigan Legislature related to recreation, education and the State of Michigan budget.

Litigation – Attorney Jim Thelen reviewed the status of two pending cases involving the MHSAA.

Administration – The executive director provided a brief review of winter tournaments and the status of 2010-11 classifications of schools for MHSAA tournament participation. He discussed activities intended to increase the comprehensiveness and convenience of MHSAA.com; interaction with social media; and expansion of the MHSAA Network, emphasizing the MHSAA Digital Broadcasting Program for member schools.

(OVER)

OLD BUSINESS

MHSAA Constitution – As it was in December 2009, the Representative Council was again presented the package of proposed editorial and procedural amendments to the MHSAA Constitution. Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Steve Newkirk, to approve the mailing of these proposals to all MHSAA member junior high/middle schools and high schools. Adopted. The ballots will be sent by March 31, 2010 to principals of all member schools, with a return deadline of April 19, 2010; and if two-thirds of responding schools approve the package, all the revisions would become effective Aug. 1, 2010.

Amateur and Awards Rules – In December 2009, the Representative Council reviewed a revision of Regulation I, Sections 11 and 12, consolidated into a single Section with Interpretations grouped by subject. A single change had been made since that draft. Motion by Ken Dietz, supported by Chip Hansen, to approve these revisions for the 2010-11 *Handbook*, effective Aug. 1, 2010. Adopted.

Spring Sports Start – The Representative Council had been provided with a history of the rules governing the start of spring sports practice and the results of a recent Council-requested online survey. While more than 62 percent of 613 responses favored a one-week delay for the earliest start to spring season practices, some of those were conditional approvals; and many of the negative responses provided compelling rationale for no change. Motion by Dan Flynn, supported by Karen Leinaar, to move this topic to an action item at the May 2-4, 2010 Council meeting and to also examine reductions in contest limitations. Defeated.

Tennis –

1. Limited Team Membership – At its Dec. 4, 2009 meeting, the Representative Council discussed the repeated requests of the MHSAA Tennis Committee to make Regulation I, Section 13(A) more restrictive for tennis because of unethical practices by some schools. Following that meeting, a Council-requested online survey was conducted of all high schools sponsoring boys and/or girls tennis, which showed nearly 66 percent of 285 responding schools favoring the Tennis Committee proposal that the outside competition prohibition begin with the high school team's first day of allowed practice and apply to all students, including those who did not actually participate in practice. This is the unanimous recommendation of the Tennis Committee to the Council at its May 2-4, 2010 meeting.
2. Special Concerns- As a result of growing concerns over many years for stacking of lineups, unethical substitutions and poor adult sportsmanship, the MHSAA staff convened a group of coaches for two meetings under the guidance of a professional facilitator, the result of which was a "Spirit Agreement" containing five proposals. Two of those proposals (one modified in substance) are being advanced by the MHSAA Tennis Committee to the Council for action in May.

Football –

1. Eight-Player Football – It was reported that only nine of 18 schools that had expressed interest in eight-player football had provided the required commitment from the school superintendent to the 2010 season. This is 11 short of the 20 commitments necessary for the MHSAA to provide an eight-player division of the Football Playoffs in 2010.

2. Regular Season Scheduling – Reports were provided by both Council members and staff who have engaged in meetings about football scheduling since the Council last met Dec. 4, 2009. There was consensus that there is insufficient support by member schools at this time to pursue authority for the MHSAA to schedule all varsity football games, but that doing so may eventually be seen as a more direct and certain solution to schools' regular season scheduling difficulties and to preserving existing leagues and conferences than would occur as a result of any change in the Football Playoff format or qualifying.

School Finances – For a second meeting, the Representative Council discussed possible changes in *MHSAA Handbook* regulations and MHSAA tournament policies and procedures that could reduce member schools' costs for participating in MHSAA tournaments and/or expenses for their regular season program administration. The Council also reviewed progress by the MHSAA to create new revenues for schools through video streaming, ecommerce and a national licensing program.

NEW BUSINESS

Non-Traditional Draws – Council members discussed both the pros and cons of non-traditional draws (teams drawing top lines of brackets host the game) and the pace at which changes toward these draw procedures could be made in District basketball and volleyball tournaments, and perhaps ice hockey Regionals as well. Staff will consider if an understandable online survey of schools could be executed prior to the Council's next meeting; and staff will prepare for the Council's consideration in May a series of possible actions ranging from no change to complete change to the non-traditional draw, as well as policies, procedures and timelines for implementing any form of non-traditional draw that the Council may adopt.

Head Trauma – In October 2009, the National Federation Board of Directors adopted a policy that all National Federation rules codes would include the following language beginning in the 2010-11 school year: "Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional." Absent is who may clear the athlete, how and when. MHSAA staff recommendations were:

1. The medical personnel clearing an individual having a concussion will be only an MD or DO.
2. A written release from that MD/DO is required before the athlete may return to play/practice for the team. School personnel are responsible for this compliance.
3. No return to play on the date of the concussion.
4. The officials will have no role in determining concussion other than the obvious one where a player is either unconscious or apparently unconscious as is provided for under the current rule. Officials will merely point out to a coach that a player is injured and advise that the player should be examined by a health care provider for an exact determination of the extent of injury.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Chip Hansen, to approve this recommendation. Adopted. These policies and any additional guidance from the national Sports Medicine Advisory Committee will be included in MHSAA publications and sports rules meetings for 2010-11.

Pre-Participation Physicals – The Representative Council was provided a draft recommendation developed by a consortium of individuals and organizations in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Community Health for a more thorough physical examination form for interscholastic athletics, as well as letters of endorsement from the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians, the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants, the Michigan Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and The Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation. A recommendation from the American Heart Association and a report from the American Academy of Pediatrics were also provided.

MHSAA staff is providing this information to the national Sports Medicine Advisory Committee meeting in April, and the Representative Council will revisit the topic at its May 2-4, 2010 meetings. Consideration will be given to an additional form that is more comprehensive and made available online, as well as to the dates and duration (frequency) of exams, in both cases promoting enhanced participant safety without establishing hurdles to participation by special populations of students or adding to administrative burdens of schools at a time when personnel and resources are being reduced. It is anticipated that schools would have the option of utilizing the MHSAA-provided short form card, the lengthier online forms or any other locally adopted form that provides the information required by Regulation I, Section 3.

Handbook Recommendations – The Council was asked to review those portions of the 2009-10 *Handbook* that are labeled “Guidelines and Recommendations.” No changes were proposed.

Vern L. Norris Award – The Representative Council was presented with the four finalists for the Vern L. Norris Award who had been screened by the MHSAA Awards Committee from nine nominees. The Council selected the recipient of the award, which will be presented at the Officials’ Awards & Alumni Banquet on May 1, 2010.

Meetings – The Representative Council approved expenses for the March Council meeting and the schedule for the May 2010 Council meeting, and a new date (Dec. 9) for the Fall 2010 Council meeting.

Audit and Finance Committee Report – The executive director reviewed the financial reports of the MHSAA through February 2010 in comparison to 2009 and 2008, and then provided cautions for conditions that could undermine continuing financial improvements.

The Representative Council discussed a rotation and procedure to determine and limit National Federation summer conference attendance by Council members.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendations regarding staff compensation for 2010-11. Adopted.