

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, March 21, 2014

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Dave Derocher, Reese
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing
Kris Isom, Adrian
Carmen Kennedy, St. Clair Shores
Maureen Klocke, Yale
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Orlando Medina, Harrison Township
Cheri Meier, Ionia
Jason Mellema, Pewamo-Westphalia
Chris Miller, Gobles
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Fred Smith, Buchanan
John Thompson, Brighton
Al Unger, Kingsford
Alvin Ward, Detroit

Also Present:

Scott Eldridge, Lansing
Chris Hartman, Iron Mountain
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

Jordan Cobb
Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton
Cody Inglis
John Johnson
Geoff Kimmerly
Gina Mazzolini
Andi Osters
Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)
Adam Ryder
Mark Uyl
Kathy Westdorp

Member Absent:

Pete Ryan, Saginaw

President Jim Derocher opened the meeting by welcoming new Council member Cheri Meier, Principal at Ionia Middle School, to her first meeting; and he welcomed a representative of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee whose members are invited to attend this meeting on an annual basis.

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Jason Mellema, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of Dec. 6, 2013; the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of Dec. 5, 2013, Jan. 8, 2014 and Feb. 19, 2014; and the minutes of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Jan. 12-13, 2014. Adopted.

REPORTS

Administration – The executive director provided a brief review of winter tournaments and the status of 2014-15 classifications of 749 member high schools for MHSAA tournament participation (seven fewer than for the previous year).

Andy Frushour provided an update of **student services**, including the 25th year of the Scholar-Athlete program and the third “Battle of the Fans.” John Johnson reported on today’s “Career Day” for students participating in the School Broadcasting Program.

Litigation – Attorney Scott Eldridge reported that the MHSAA is engaged in no active litigation.

Legislation – Bill Zaagman of Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. reviewed activities of the Michigan Legislature that could directly or indirectly affect member schools’ administration of interscholastic athletics.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Health & Safety – The Representative Council reviewed an updated “report card” on its efforts to reduce risks and improve health for the participants in school sports in Michigan through “Four Thrusts for Four Years,” and discussion centered on two initiatives that had been processed through the MHSAA’s constituents and readied for Council action.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Steve Newkirk, to require all persons hired for the first time as a varsity head coach of an MHSAA member high school team to begin those duties after July 31, 2016, to have completed Level 1 or 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program. Coaches who fail to meet the requirement may not coach in MHSAA tournaments. Adopted.

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Dave Derocher, to approve the Football Practice Policies proposed by the 2013 Football Task Force to begin with the 2014 season. Adopted. See Appendix “A.”

International Students – The Representative Council reviewed many issues relative to athletic eligibility of students from foreign countries, including the rapid expansion of F-1 visa students, the privileges they are afforded under Federal law at nonpublic schools that are fewer than at public schools, the expanding role of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel, and the changing policies and procedures of statewide high school associations across the US which are facing increased F-1 student enrollment and athletic issues attendant to that growth.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to modify Exception 4 of the transfer regulation to refer to **international** students, not merely “foreign exchange” students; reference both J-1 and F-1 visas; and require placement through an MHSAA “Approved International Student Program.” The changes also eliminate the 9th-grade (#10) exception but now explicitly include the residency exceptions (1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12 and 13) for international students who do not enroll through an Approved Student Exchange Program. Subvarsity eligibility is a local school option for international students who do not meet one of the residency exceptions and have not been enrolled through an Approved International Student Program. Adopted. See Appendix “B.”

All-Star Regulation – The Representative Council considered in May of 2013 a recommendation from the MHSAA Football Committee to eliminate or modify the penalty for students who participate in a high school all-star event prior to completion of the eligibility for all high school sports. The Council wanted all sports considered before change was contemplated for any one sport.

The Council discussed a proposal to make the all-star participation penalty more sport-specific by allowing students who have completed their 12th-grade season in a sport to participate in one all-star contest in that sport, subject to specified conditions, without loss of remaining interscholastic athletic eligibility in other sports.

Action was deferred until the Council’s May meeting to avoid creating confusion over events occurring during the next several months.

Scrimmages – The Representative Council considered in May of 2013 a recommendation from the MHSAA Soccer Committee to permit any of the four allowed scrimmages at any time during the season.

Motion by Maureen Klocke, supported by Alvin Ward, to revise Regulation II, Section 11(B) to permit any number of the allowed scrimmages to occur any time during the season in all sports. Adopted.

Junior High/Middle Schools – The Representative Council considered input from the MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee, Basketball Committee and Football Committee regarding the limitations on competition in junior high/middle school basketball, football and track & field.

Motion by John Thompson, supported by Steve Newkirk, to allow junior high/middle schools to increase the length of quarters in basketball from six minutes to a maximum of eight minutes and allow junior high/middle schools to increase the length of quarters in football from eight minutes to a maximum of ten minutes. Adopted.

Officials – The Representative Council reviewed issues that were negatively affecting officials' recruitment and retention that arise from schools' increased dependence on assignors.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Carmen Kennedy, to approve this new *MHSAA Handbook* Regulation II, Section 7(C): "High schools and others which sponsor competition for member high school teams, and utilize and pay for the services of a third-party, non-school assigner for high school officiating contests, shall use only those individuals who are registered as assignors with the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the current school year." Adopted. See Appendix "C."

NEW BUSINESS

Vern L. Norris Award – The Representative Council was presented with the seven 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 3, 2014.

Meetings – The Representative Council approved expenses for the March Council meeting and the schedule for the May 2014 Council meeting.

Audit and Finance Committee Report – The committee is responsible for reviewing past financial performance and future projections, reviewing and making revenue and expense recommendations for MHSAA programs, and finalizing the annual budget for the Council's approval in May.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Maureen Klocke, to revise the reimbursement policies for finalists in MHSAA team tournaments as follows:

- (1) Change girls volleyball housing to a \$500 per diem for teams traveling more than 75 miles one way when a hotel is necessary and utilized by a team.
- (2) Add #6 to NOTES: "In volleyball, there is a **\$300** bonus for travel over 200 miles one way at the Quarterfinal level." (\$400 to \$800 additional total expense each year.)
- (3) Add #7 to NOTES: "Meals are reimbursable to the established limits only when travel requires and only for the specific meals necessary."

Adopted.

Motion by Jason Mellema, supported by Orlando Medina, to revise host payments for MHSAA tournaments as follows:

- (1) Increase host payment for Ski Regionals and Finals to **\$600** minimum (\$2,400 total increased cost per year).
- (2) Reduce the UP Tennis Final host payment to **\$100** (\$800 total savings each year).

Adopted.

Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Karen Leinaar, to increase the ski referees fee to \$100 at both Regionals and Finals (\$560 total increased cost per year). Adopted.

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Dave Derocher, to increase the Lower Peninsula Swimming & Diving Preliminaries and Finals ticket price from \$8 to \$10 (\$20,000 additional gross revenue per year). Adopted. The Audit and Finance Committee will present to the Council in May recommendations for pricing of Finals tickets at other MHSAA tournaments.

Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Alvin Ward, to return to providing NFHS rules publications to officials every year in the sports for which they are registered. Adopted.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Steve Newkirk, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendation for National Federation Annual Meeting attendance by Council members, and to approve the specific reimbursement limits for the 2014 meeting in Boston. Adopted.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Alvin Ward, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendations regarding staff compensation for 2014-15. Adopted.

FOOTBALL PRACTICE POLICIES

A

Adopted March 21, 2014. Effective August 2014

1. During the first week of practice of the season, only helmets are allowed the first two days, only shoulder pads may be added on the third and fourth days, and full pads may not be worn until the fifth day of team practice.
2. Before the first regular season game, schools may not schedule more than one “collision” practice in a day.
 - A “collision” practice is one in which there is **live, game-speed, player-vs.-player** contact in pads (not walk-throughs) involving any number of players. This includes practices with scrimmages, drills and simulations where action is live, game-speed, player-vs.-player.
 - If any part of a drill or scrimmage involves live game-speed player-vs.-player contact in pads, it is a collision practice even if players do not execute full tackles at a competitive pace that takes players to the ground.
 - During any additional practice sessions that day, players may wear helmets and other pads (neither is mandatory). Blocking and tackling technique may be taught and practiced. However, full-speed contact is limited to players vs. pads, shields, sleds or dummies.
3. After the first regular season game, teams may conduct no more than two collision practice days in any week, Monday through Sunday. During other days of practice, players may wear helmets and other protective pads (neither is mandatory). Blocking and tackling technique may be taught and practiced. However, full-speed contact is limited to players vs. pads, shields, sleds or dummies.
4. No single practice may exceed three hours, and the total practice time for days with multiple practice sessions may not exceed five hours.
 - Warm-up, stretching, speed and agility drills and cool down are all considered part of practice. Neither strength/weight training activities nor video/classroom sessions are considered practice for the purposes of the three- or five-hour limits.

FOOTBALL PRACTICE Q & As

1. **Q** Would the proposals apply at both the high school and junior high/middle school levels?

A Yes.

2. **Q** Is the purpose of the proposals to improve student-athlete acclimatization or reduce head trauma?

A Both.

3. **Q** What is the Task Force position on “girdle pads” during the first week of practice?

A Girdle pads may be worn under or in place of shorts during the first four days of acclimatization practice that precede the first day in full pads.

4. **Q** Does the three-hour limit on single practices and the five-hour limit for multiple practices on the same day apply only to football?

A Yes. The Task Force recommends that the limits be added as soon as possible to the MHSAA “Model Policy for Managing Heat & Humidity” and apply to all sports.

5. **Q** How much time is required between sessions on days with multiple practices?

A Because practice venues differ greatly and some may raise questions regarding supervision and the possibility of injury risks as great off the field as on, the Task Force declined to set a maximum and minimum length of rest periods. However, one hour between practices when there is no physical activity is the minimum recommendation. Classroom sessions would be allowed during the period of physical rest.

To be clear, break time is **not** included in the five-hour limit.

6. **Q** Can a team have different collision days for different players?

A If varsity and subvarsity squads practice separately, their collision days may be different days. However, if the squads practice together, then their collision days must be the same.

MODIFIED INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RULES
Adopted March 21, 2014. Effective August 1, 2014



(Changes do not apply to students who were enrolled in an MHSAA member school during the 2013-14 school year.)

Regulation I, Section 9(A) – Modify Exception 4 (which permits immediate eligibility under the Transfer Regulation for a limited time) to read: “An international student on either a J-1 or F-1 visa is placed in a residence in a public high school district or school service area by an MHSAA Approved International Student Program (see Interpretation 82). Compliance with Interpretations 82-87 is required.”

Interpretations:

82. Approved International Student Programs are those which have been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel and the MHSAA for the current school year. Programs not listed by CSIET may be included after they have been reviewed and approved by the MHSAA (see MHSAA.com for criteria and forms).
83. To be immediately eligible for interscholastic athletics, an international student, including a 9th-grader enrolling for the first time, must either (a) qualify under Exception 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12 or 13, or (b) have a current J-1 or F-1 visa and be enrolled through an MHSAA Approved International Student Program, and in both cases be eligible under all MHSAA Regulations.
- a. Eligibility for an international student under Exception 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12 or 13 is immediate and not time-limited under Interpretation 83(b) or level-limited under Interpretation 85.
- b. Eligibility through an MHSAA Approved International Student Program is for a maximum of the first two consecutive semesters or three consecutive trimesters at any secondary school in the United States, after which the student is ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition at any MHSAA member school for the next academic year (next two consecutive semesters or next three consecutive trimesters). No exceptions to the Transfer Regulation apply during that academic year of ineligibility (Exception [4]).

Note: If, after or during the academic year of ineligibility, the student transfers to an MHSAA member school from another school, the Transfer Regulation applies. All other eligibility and contest regulations apply to these students.

84. International students who are not required by Federal law to have either a J-1 or F-1 visa are not subject to Interpretation 83 but are subject to all other aspects of the Transfer Regulation. Unless an exception and applicable interpretation are met, these students are not immediately eligible under Section 9. After a period of ineligibility, these students are eligible as any other transfer student would become.

(OVER)

85. Except as indicated in Interpretation 84, an international student who is not enrolled through an MHSAA Approved International Student Program is not eligible for interscholastic athletics at the varsity level or in MHSAA tournaments for the duration of his or her enrollment in an MHSAA member school. After complying with the period of ineligibility of Section 9(D), a member school may determine that an international student may participate at the subvarsity level only without meeting the elements of subvarsity waivers (9th or 10th grade and no prior athletic participation). After the period of ineligibility, that international student would be eligible by rule at the subvarsity level only; no waiver is necessary.
86. International students who are enrolled in a school under an agreement between that school's governing body and an entity in another country are not exempt from Interpretation 83.
87. International students who are provided housing free of charge or at a cost by a school or school district are not exempt from Interpretation 83 nor can they become eligible under Exception 13 unless their school of enrollment qualifies as a boarding school under Exception 13 and Interpretation 91 (to become 93) and an Educational Transfer Form is completed.

Regulations and Standards for MHSAA Registered Assigners

Adopted March 21, 2014. Effective August 2014



New Regulation II, Section 7(C):

High schools and others which sponsor competition for member high school teams, and utilize and pay for services of a third-party, non-school assigner for high school officiating contests, shall use only those assigners who are registered with the MHSAA for the current year.

Standards for Registered Assigners

It is expected that MHSAA Registered Assigners follow all published "Standards for Registered Assigners." Any violation of these standards will place the Registered Assigner at risk of losing his or her registered status after review by MHSAA staff, as outlined in the Disciplinary Procedures for MHSAA Officials and Registered Assigners on pages 4-5 of the *MHSAA Officials Guidebook*.

1. Registered Assigners shall be paid by:
 - a. a league or conference or school, or
 - b. the members of an approved association who elect or hire an individual to assign for them. Turn-back fees, paid to an assigner by an official, do not violate this concept.
2. Registered Assigners shall not collect fees for service from a school, league or conference and an individual official or an officials association.
3. Registered Assigners shall not require an official to be a member of a specific officials or sport association in order to be assigned games under the control of the assigner. Membership in any Approval Local Association is an acceptable requirement.
4. Registered Assigners shall not require an official to pay a fee to participate in a "specific" camp, clinic or training activity in order to be evaluated and considered for assignments under the control of any assigner. Involvements in free events, for the same reason, are permitted.
5. When schools secure the services of a Registered Assigner to arrange or contract officials for their contests, contracting of those officials ultimately remains the responsibility of the school even though a school or league/conference authorized the assigner to issue an Arbiter agreement or contract.
6. Registered Assigners must allow schools to contact and contract officials on their own and shall not intimidate or discourage officials from accepting games directly from schools at any time, either alone or in combination with games received from an assigner. MHSAA staff shall revoke the registration of the assigner if it is believed that such unprofessional conduct occurred.

(OVER)

7. Registered Assigners shall not intimidate or discourage officials from accepting games or assignments from other assigners, schools or leagues at any time. Any Registered Assigner engaging in this type of threatening or intimidating behavior, either directly or indirectly, will risk MHSAA staff revoking the registration of the assigner if it is believed that such unprofessional conduct occurred.
8. Contracts extended by a Registered Assigner may not be withdrawn or reassigned to another official, except in cases of personal emergency which will not permit an official to officiate any contest on the contest day once that sport season has begun, as prescribed by MHSAA Regulation II, Section 11(D).
9. In the event a Registered Assigner, school, league or conference does not utilize the MHSAA contract (paper or online Arbiter agreement) for officials, all comments, actual and implied, and all terms and conditions which appear on the published MHSAA contract, shall be acknowledged and will be applicable to any MHSAA registered official.
10. Assigners may not accept funds earmarked for officials game fees from a school, conference, league or facility and then pay officials directly for games worked. Payment to officials for contests worked shall come directly from the school or through the school via a third-party electronic payment service.