

# MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

## REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Grand Rapids, March 22, 2019

### Members Present:

Nicole Carter, Novi  
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Vicky Groat, Battle Creek  
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  
Adam Stefanski, Mackinaw City  
John Thompson, Brighton  
Al Unger, Kingsford  
Alvin Ward, Detroit

### Member Absent:

Kyle Guarrant, Lansing

### Also Present:

Mike Berutti, Iron River

### Staff Members Present:

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

President Scott Grimes welcomed newly appointed Council member Nicole Carter to her first meeting and he also welcomed members of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee who are invited to attend this meeting on an annual basis.

**Accounts of Meetings** – Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Don Gustafson, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of Nov. 30, 2018; the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of Nov. 29, 2018, Jan. 9, 2019 and Feb. 20, 2019; and the minutes of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Jan. 17, 2019. Adopted.

## REPORTS

**Legislation** – The Council reviewed a report from Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. reviewed activities of the Michigan Legislature that could directly or indirectly affect member schools' administration of interscholastic athletics.

**Litigation** – The Council received a report on legal issues in which the MHSAA has been engaged.

**Administration** – The executive director provided a brief review of the status of 2019-20 classifications of member high schools for MHSAA tournament participation, as well as providing an update on winter tournaments.

Andy Frushour provided an update of student services that focused on the Scholar-Athlete program. He reported that moving many elements of the application and judging process online this year went very well.

John Johnson provided an overview on winter sports and the great increases in NFHS Network viewership. Video and audio streaming statistics for MHSAA.TV (video) and MHSAANetwork.com (audio) were presented. The current year's video numbers, compared on a year over year basis, were up over 130 percent from the previous year, a reflection of organic growth, a combination of NFHS Network and MHSAA promotion efforts, and a general acceptance of video subscription services. At the same time, audio streaming numbers continue to grow at a smaller, but substantial rate.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

**Sport Medicine Advisory Committee** – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the MHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee as a regular standing committee for the 2019-20 school year. Adopted.

**Football Scheduling & Playoffs** – The Council reviewed results of the online survey of head varsity coaches conducted in December regarding regular season 11-player scheduling challenges and tournament eligibility. A preview of the Football Committee recommendation was reviewed, as well as the Strength of Schedule Proposal with 2016-2018 data provided. This subject will be an action item for the Council's meeting in May.

**Transfer Rule Update** – The Council discussed tentative changes to the new sport-specific transfer rule for a more thorough examination prior to finalization in May of 2019. Special attention and focus was spent on Interpretation 77 and the possible need for setting a window of time for residential changes which result in immediate sport-specific eligibility.

**Esports** – The staff provided an update on Esports which included current and future plans of various other state associations as well as dynamics between the two current Esports providers, PlayVS and Legacy/HSEL.

**Mental Health Initiatives** – Staff has hosted two meetings of individuals with experience and interest in this area. The Representative Council heard a verbal report of both of those meetings and potential next steps.

**Event Security** – A near-final draft of an Athletic Activities Emergency Preparedness Manual was presented to the Council. Staff sought input and suggestions for improvement of the finished product, which will be reviewed in May.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Seeding Plan Update** – As a preview for the May Council meeting, the staff presented a summary of current seeding policy (boys lacrosse and team wrestling) along with the variations of proposed seeding plans from the Basketball and Soccer Committees.

**Ice Hockey** – Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Karen Leinaar, to approve the Ice Hockey Committee recommendation that, beginning with the 2019-20 season, the Ice Hockey Tournament will start three Mondays before the current date of the Finals (Feb. 24, 2020). The Finals will remain on the same date, the second Saturday in March (March 14, 2020). The regular season will begin on the same date as in the past, but end one week earlier (Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020). Adopted.

**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 eight nominees. The Council selected the recipient of the award, which will be presented at the Officials' Awards & Alumni Banquet on May 4, 2019.

**Meetings** – The Representative Council approved expenses for the March Council meeting and reviewed the schedule for the May 2019 Council meeting.

**Audit and Finance Committee Report** – This 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. The Council reviewed the minutes of the committee's Feb. 20 meeting, giving attention to large financial obligations that the MHSAA has assumed for its member schools on an annual basis and challenges the MHSAA is facing to maintain tournament and sponsorship revenues at levels necessary to support increasing services to schools and venue expenses for MHSAA tournaments.

Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Don Gustafson, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendation for a modest increase in officials registration fees, and in tournament fees and mileage paid to officials, beginning with the 2019-20 school year. Adopted.

Motion by Kris Isom, 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 2019 meeting in Indianapolis. Reimbursement will be after the meeting and based on the actual length of stay and require receipts. Adopted.

Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Steve Newkirk, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendations regarding staff compensation for 2019-20. Adopted.