



***REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 1-2, 2016***

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MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Glen Arbor, May 1-2, 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
Cheri Meier, Ionia
Vic Michaels, Detroit
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

Staff Members Present:

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

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of March 24, 2016; and the Executive Committee meeting minutes of March 23 and April 20, 2016. Adopted. An oral report of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of April 22, 2016 was presented by Al Unger.

REPORTS

Administration – MHSAA membership during the 2015-16 school year was 755 high schools and 705 junior high/middle schools as of April 1, 2016. This compares to 754 and 703, respectively, as of April 1, 2015.

As of April 7, 2016, there were 260 **cooperative program agreements** for high schools for 450 teams (an increase of 15 programs and 25 teams over the previous year). There were 88 cooperative program agreements for 331 teams for junior high/middle schools (an increase of five programs and 25 teams). The most frequent sports involved in cooperative programs at the high school level are (in order) ice hockey, girls swimming & diving, boys swimming & diving and football. At the junior high/middle school level, the sports most frequently involved in cooperative programs are football, boys and girls track & field, girls cross country and boys cross country.

Eligibility advancement applications were received and approved for 5 students during the 2015-16 school year, which was the second lowest number since the eligibility advancement provision was begun during the 1987-88 school year. This compares with 4 during 2014-15, 14 during 2013-14, 15 during 2012-13, 9 during 2011-12, 15 during 2010-11, 2009-10 and 2008-09, and 7 during 2007-08. The highest number of applications was 94 during the 1991-92 school year.

It was reported that 258 **Educational Transfer Forms** were processed for the 2015-16 school year through April 6, 2016, compared to 253 for the 2014-15 school year. Public to public school transfers continue to be the most common (189), and the divorce exception (#8) continues to be the most frequent reason (113) for the Educational Transfer Form to be used.

It was reported that there were 71 “**Travel Forms for Out-of-State Practice**” filed during 2015-16, compared to 62 the year before. The highest number filed was 113 during the 2007-08 school year. The lowest was 40 during the 2003-04 school year. The requirement began in 1994-95.

A listing of **violations** by schools and officials between April 8, 2015 and April 7, 2016 indicated that the total number of violations for the year was slightly lower than the previous year and significantly below the 13-year average for both schools and officials. Failure of schools to rate officials continues to be the most frequent school violation.

Associate Director Tom Rashid described the **Athletic Director In-Service** programs conducted by the MHSAA that attracted more than 900 attendees for the second consecutive year. The schedule for the fall of 2016 was presented. Topics for those meetings were identified throughout this meeting. For the sixth year an in-service program for athletic department secretaries is being planned for September.

MHSAA staff is aware of the Council’s desire for more training opportunities for athletic directors using a variety of delivery systems and learning styles; and this is among the MHSAA’s highest priorities for constituent services.

Assistant Director Kathy Westdorp reported on the MHSAA **Coaches Advancement Program (CAP)** during the 2015-16 school year. Level-by-level, site-by-site and instructor-by-instructor listings were provided. CAP programs offered by Michigan secondary schools, colleges and universities were identified. June 27 is the date for the annual review of curriculum and CAP trainers in-service. Ms. Westdorp outlined the procedures the MHSAA will employ to encourage, facilitate and track compliance with the requirement that all individuals hired after July 31, 2016 to be a high school varsity level head coach for the first time at an MHSAA member school complete CAP Level 1 or 2.

Coaches education is the foundation upon which the values and benefits of school sports are taught and learned. More than 20,000 individuals have completed one or more levels of CAP during the past decade.

Assistant Director Mark Uyl reported that **officials’ registrations** declined for the eighth consecutive year. The high number of registrants in 2007-08 and 2008-09 was caused in large part by two factors: (1) a poor economy, and (2) a temporary policy to allow registered officials in basketball or volleyball to add the other sport at no additional fee. Officials registration is down across most states in the Midwest.

Mr. Uyl described the staff’s activities to recruit new officials, including attendance by MHSAA staff at seven college/university job fairs this school year. Recent MHSAA staffing changes will allow even more time and attention to recruiting, training and retaining officials; and the MHSAA’s proposed 2016-17 budget reinforces the importance of this work.

MHSAA rules/risk management meeting attendance during 2015-16 was down slightly compared to the previous year, with more than 90 percent of coaches and 93 percent of officials completing the requirement online. Beginning in 2014-15, in order to increase efficiency and communication, rule/risk management meetings had some content in common for both officials and coaches and other content that was provided separately to coaches and officials. The risk management component of the 2015-16 and 2016-17 meetings is sudden cardiac arrest and emergency action plans, after two consecutive years focusing on heat and humidity acclimatization and, before that, two consecutive years focusing on prevention, recognition and management of concussions.

(Later in the meeting the Council approved a modified approach to the scheduling of the feature health and safety topic of MHSAA rules/risk management meetings.)

Officials Reports for the spring 2015, fall 2015 and winter 2015-16 seasons were reviewed. The reports were broken down not only by sport but also by level: varsity, junior varsity, and sometimes also freshman and 7th- and 8th-grade levels. The frequency of sportsmanship problems is statistically rare in sports conducted by MHSAA member schools.

For spring 2015 compared to the previous spring, player ejections increased significantly in baseball but declined significantly in boys lacrosse. For fall 2015, player ejections were up in boys soccer but down in football. For winter 2015-16, there was a significant increase in player ejections in boys basketball and a decline in ice hockey.

National Federation – The MHSAA executive director, who serves as President of the **NFHS Network** Board of Directors, provided an update of network operations. Content is being provided from more than 40 states and two anchor sponsors have been secured. More than 15,000 live events have been broadcast and over \$7 million in rights fees paid to Network states during the first 32 months of operation..

Changes in production strategies have reduced the number of events that generated few subscribers, and the trajectory toward Network profitability has accelerated. Michigan remains one of the top performing states both in terms of the number of events and number of viewers. MHSAA Communications Director John Johnson does more to promote Network events and the School Broadcast Program than any state association staff person in the U.S.

The Network has proven its ability to produce events, and its focus is now on means to increase awareness of the Network and of specific Network events. Gathering, mining and exploiting data from subscribers with target emails and social media to inform them of Network events is a primary strategy. The Network is also investigating strategies for aggregating the digital ticketing rights of state high school associations and their member schools as a means to increase awareness of the Network on the part of potential subscribers and sponsors.

The Network Board is also facilitating discussions with PlayOn Sports, the NFHS and participating associations regarding other means to quicker profitability for the Network, some of which could affect the various parties' equity stake in the Network. It is the opinion of MHSAA leadership that a digital broadcasting network branded and owned by the NFHS family of associations is essential for managing the message of educational athletics for the foreseeable future and will also diversify state high school association funding.

Council members had been provided the agenda for the April meeting of the **NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee**. The MHSAA has not found it necessary to appoint and support a separate medical advisory committee because the NFHS committee is nationally constituted with representation from diverse medical disciplines and has direct input to NFHS playing rules committees. The agenda for the three-day meeting, its second such meeting this school year, demonstrates great breadth and depth of research, input and discussions. Copies of the committee's most recent position statements are always provided to the Council as they are made available.

In a presentation to state high school association staff and attorneys on April 15, the chair of the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee put concerns for head trauma, sudden cardiac arrest and heat illness in the perspective of all risks to high school age students. He noted that accidents away from competitive sports, particularly those involving motor vehicles, pose far greater risks to students than participation in organized school athletics. He and others discussed what the proper role is for the NFHS, state associations, schools and coaches to address the other threats that do far more to place adolescents at risk than school sports.

Legislation – Michigan House of Representatives Resolution No. 271 was distributed. It declares April 2016 as Michigan Student Athlete Cardiac Awareness Month in the State of Michigan, making positive reference by organizations including the MHSAA for creating awareness of sudden cardiac arrest and the need for automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

Litigation – The executive director reported that the April 14-15, 2016 Summit and Legal meeting of the National Federation of State High School Associations demonstrates a sometimes contentious climate between state legislatures and schools, as well as between public schools and nonpublic schools, as well as between small schools and large. There is unhealthy disrespect for those who try to promote safety and competitive equity through rules and their enforcement. The Council was informed that the MHSAA is one of six defendants in litigation resulting from an injury during a football practice in September 2015.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Health & Safety – Kathy Westdorp presented a short summary of winter season concussion reports from schools. More than 99 percent of high schools have been in compliance with this new requirement through the fall and winter seasons. Status of the concussion care gap insurance program through April 14 was reported by Mark Uyl. This benefit is new for all MHSAA member junior high/middle schools and senior high schools and provided to them free of charge by the MHSAA.

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the release of preliminary data accumulated during the winter season as a result of required head injury reports. More comprehensive data is to be reserved for the complete 2015-16 school year report in late summer or early fall of 2016. Adopted.

The executive director outlined plans for the second year of two sideline concussion detection pilot programs which will be focused on a reduced number of schools and on those sports which the MHSAA's mandated concussion reporting requirement has identified have higher rates of head injury in MHSAA member high schools. Face-to-face training sessions will be earlier and longer, followed by webinars.

Many of the goals of the pilot programs are being realized, including (1) a demonstration to the industry of what is practical and affordable at the high school level, and (2) a demonstration to schools of the importance of the removal-from-play step in the concussion care continuum. Data from the pilot programs as well as the MHSAA's mandated concussion reporting requirement suggests strongly that pilot schools reported more concussions and withheld students from competition longer than other MHSAA member schools.

Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Vic Michaels, to approve the enhancements to the MHSAA Physical Exam/Clearance/Consent Forms to be more explicit regarding student/parent annual acknowledgement and assumption of risk and to include the annual requirement that the student/parent acknowledge reading concussion education information consistent with requirements of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and MHSAA, effective with the 2017-18 school year. Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Don Gustafson, to approve edits to Regulation I, Section 3(A) and Interpretation 17 to reflect the changes made in these forms and the Post-Concussion Consent Form approved March 24, 2016. Adopted.

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve edits to the Concussion Protocols (*Handbook* page 115) to reflect the changes made here and with respect to the Post-Concussion Consent Form approved in March. Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Chris Miller, to approve changes in MHSAA policies and procedures regarding rules meeting requirements for coaches beginning in 2017-18, including:

1. Concussion education will be the focus topic every other year, with other health and safety topics alternating in the off years (overuse injuries, sudden cardiac arrest, heat illness).
2. High school assistant and subvarsity coaches will no longer have several options but will be required to complete the same rules/risk management meeting as high school head coaches.
3. The MHSAA office will continue to track compliance of all high school head coaches and schools will continue to attest that all high school subvarsity and assistant coaches have met this and other requirements, including CPR certification of high school head coaches. In all cases, non-compliant coaches would be unable to coach in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season.

Adopted.

The executive director provided a report on the April 13, 2016 meeting of the Task Force on Multi-Sport Participation. He predicts that the task force will be generating many ideas that the MHSAA will be able to implement quickly and inexpensively to promote and to help equip its constituents to promote multi-sport participation by student-athletes, and that there will also be suggested initiatives of larger scope that will be presented for Representative Council consideration at its December meeting. The next meeting is June 2.

International Students – The MHSAA has sent an email to all member high schools which has also been posted on MHSAA.com along with the 2016-17 application for “Approved International Student Program” status, pursuant to the Council’s action in March 2015. Separate communications have been sent to the five schools approved for AISP status in 2015-16, with parameters for their approval for 2016-17. At its June meeting, the Executive Committee will determine the MHSAA’s complete list of Approved International Student Programs, including the programs listed by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel which will receive the MHSAA’s AISP status. There is one additional school which has made an application for AISP status for 2016-17.

REGULATIONS

Regulations I through V of the *MHSAA Handbook* and their interpretations were submitted for review by the Representative Council.

Motion by Dave Derocher, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the consent package of miscellaneous changes for the purpose of organization, clarity or updating and to incorporate changes or interpretations previously adopted by the Representative Council. Adopted.

Regulation I, Section 1(E) – Motion by Al Unger, supported by Alvin Ward, to add a subsection to increase opportunities for cooperative programs in **all** sports at the **sub**varsity level. Adopted. See Appendix “A.”

Regulation I, Sections 11 & 12 – Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Pat Watson, to add Special Olympics events to Interpretations 153-a and 157-a. Neither the amateur/awards rule nor limited team membership rule would apply to events under the auspices of the Special Olympics. Adopted.

Regulation I, Section 12 – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Chris Miller, to revise Interpretation 169 to more thoroughly define national tournament participation that adversely affects students’ interscholastic eligibility. Adopted. See Appendix “B.”

Regulation II, Section 6(A) – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Al Unger, to prohibit MHSAA schools from participating in events involving teams from other states unless all teams at the event are bona fide school teams (not a sports academy, club or community team). All school teams must be members of their respective NFHS member high school associations, if eligible. Adopted.

The staff intends to draft a revised presentation of Section 6 (Sanctioning) for review by the Council at a later date.

Regulation II, Section 11 – Motion by Cheri Meier, supported by John Thompson, to modify Interpretation 235-b to allow two separate four-player skill groups to practice with coaches at the same facility or campus when it is out of season during the school year for both genders in that sport and to further clarify out-of-season activities. Adopted. See Appendix “C.”

Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Pete Ryan, to modify Interpretation 236-b-2 to allow more than four students of the same school district in grades 7 through 12 to be present at a large athletic complex with their school coach, even for practice and even if that school coach who is present is not employed at this facility, provided the students beyond the four with whom the coach is working have assembled elsewhere at the facility and without any involvement by any coach of that school district. Adopted.

Regulation IV, Section 10(D) – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to make the minimum number of days between football games the same for the junior high/middle school level as the high school level (no more than one game during five consecutive calendar days). Adopted.

Scrimmages – The *MHSAA Handbook* describes a scrimmage as a practice session but generally treats scrimmages like competition (e.g., only eligible students may participate; however, unlike contests, scrimmages cannot be forfeited for use of an ineligible student). To prepare for a substantive discussion of scrimmages at the Council's December meeting, MHSAA staff will (a) undertake a comprehensive review of the *MHSAA Handbook* for references to "scrimmages" and "practices and scrimmages" and "scrimmages and competitions," etc.; (b) make recommendations for increased consistency; and (c) make a recommendation regarding the participation of ineligible students in scrimmages.

CLASSIFICATION

The Summary of MHSAA Tournament Classification for 2016-17 was provided to Council members. With just one more member school in 2016-17 than the current year, there is a significant increase anticipated in tournament teams, led by Lower Peninsula track & field (+16 teams for boys, +12 teams for girls) and bowling (+15 teams for boys, +11 teams for girls). The sport with the greatest decline in school sponsorship compared to the previous year is Lower Peninsula boys tennis (-9).

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Vic Michaels, to approve on a three-year experimental basis the Classification Committee recommendation to provide relief from any maximum enrollment limit for some sports in cooperative programs between schools of the same public school district and governing body. Adopted for the sports of baseball, bowling, competitive cheer, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis and wrestling. The April 15 and Aug. 15, 2016 deadlines for fall and winter 2016-17 will not apply for these applications. See Appendix "A."

ATHLETIC EQUITY

Motion by Pat Watson, supported by Cheri Meier, to support the efforts of the Ross initiative in Sports for Equity (RISE) with member schools and constituent organizations; and create a statement encouraging athletic directors to schedule cross-cultural events before or after contests to allow players, coaches and families to greet and better appreciate one another. Adopted.

Motion by Al Unger, supported by Steve Newkirk, to not approve a position statement and recommendation to member schools regarding choice of school mascot and logo. Adopted (no change).

COMMITTEES

The Council was supplied with a description of MHSAA committees, a copy of the MHSAA Sport Committee Guide, a review of the committee appointment procedures adopted by the Representative Council in May of 1987 and modified in December 2007, a list of those who had identified themselves as candidates for committees in 2016-17, a list of schools not represented on any committees for the past five years, and a list of those who had declined committee appointments in 2015-16. Council members were encouraged to submit nominations for committees, making special efforts to provide nominations from principals, small schools, females and minorities, and any school which has not been represented in recent years. The staff will compile the suggestions and submit them to the Executive Committee for review and appointment.

Names of committee members selected to serve during the 2016-17 school year will be published in *benchmarks*. The only exceptions are those committees involving the selection of tournament officials and award recipients. Some committees were identified as having converted to online and email or conference call formats.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Baseball/Softball – Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Pete Ryan, to not approve the following Baseball/Softball Committee recommendation: For the Baseball Tournament only, change the Regional to three rounds of play (instead of two) starting with Tuesday single games at 64 sites for all District champions (Regional Quarterfinal) followed by the Saturday Regional Semifinals and Finals. This would eliminate the traditional Tuesday Quarterfinal round for baseball and the four Regional champions would advance directly to the Semifinals. Softball would keep the current schedule with Saturday Regional play followed by the Tuesday Quarterfinal played at 16 sites. The net effect would be baseball playing on its own the Tuesday/Wednesday following Districts, baseball and softball being played together at Saturday Regional sites, and softball playing on its own at Tuesday Quarterfinal sites before both sports come together again for all Semifinal and Final games. Adopted (no change).

Mark Uyl reported on the review of baseball pitching limitations that is occurring at state and national levels. An ad hoc committee will be meeting on behalf of the MHSAA to advance this topic in Michigan.

Basketball – Nate Hampton provided a report on quarters vs. halves in basketball. There was no action to request from the National Federation a second year of experimentation.

Bowling – Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Cheri Meier, to approve the Bowling Committee recommendation to reduce the MHSAA Regionals and Finals roster for the team portion from a maximum of eight to no more than seven total bowlers. This still allows teams to have two extra substitutes while reducing the amount of extra bowlers (five are bowling per team). The extra student-athletes are rarely being used in the Finals. This reduction would also have an impact on the space at the Finals in the bowling centers that are used. Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Chris Miller, to not approve the Bowling Committee recommendation to modify the substitution rule to a reentry rule similar to baseball in that a bowler on the roster can be replaced with a substitute and that any time after the substitute bowls one complete frame, the original bowler (starter) may come back in to replace the substitute during that game.

Girls Competitive Cheer – Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Dave Derocher, to approve the following technical recommendations of the Competitive Cheer Committee:

1. Allow middle school teams to perform a double-braced hitch or double-braced liberty to liberty (tic-toc) at the extension level with a front and back spot.
2. Require that middle school teams list the first skill on the Round 3 description sheet as their required jump.

Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Cheri Meier, to approve, effective in 2017-18, the Competitive Cheer Committee recommendation to adhere to the same language for hair bows as is currently in the manual regarding briefs, which is as follows: Hair bows must be one solid color and not include any adornments. Adopted.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Al Unger, to approve the Competitive Cheer Committee recommendation to make the uniform of competitive cheer more consistent for all schools and other sports, require that additional requirements are in place beginning Aug. 1, 2019, in which all competitive cheer uniforms are free from any cutouts or adornments (including sequins, rhinestones, studs, glitter, etc.). Adopted.

Cross Country – Cody Inglis provided a report on the study of Cross Country Regional issues and solutions. The task force does not have a unanimous recommendation and the consensus recommendation may face opposition from Division 4 schools and establish precedents that could influence several other sports. Therefore, the ideas presented will require further discussion by the cross country community and the MHSAA Classification Committee before being considered for action by the Representative Council.

Football – Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Don Gustafson, to approve the Football Committee recommendation to recommend that after the first game, no more than 90 minutes total of collision practices be allowed in a week. “After the first regular-season game, teams may conduct no more than two collision practice days in any week, Monday through Sunday. **It is recommended that not more than 90 total minutes of collision practice occur in a week.** 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.” Adopted.

Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Sean Jacques, to table the Football Committee recommendation to select neutral sites for eight-player Semifinal contests rather than the current practice of allowing teams with the higher Playoff percentage to host. Adopted (no change).

Motion by John Thompson, supported by Dave Derocher, to allow MHSAA staff to request NFHS permission to experiment with the 40-second play clock in 2016. If granted, individual schools, with agreement of opponents and/or league, may request MHSAA permission to conduct the contest using this timing option. Currently, there is inconsistency among referees in terms of when they mark the ball ready for play after the previous play ends. The 40-second play clock provides more consistency as the ball must be snapped within 40 seconds of the end of the previous play and is not dependent on the referee’s subjective signal. In the case where

play is continuing with no stoppage or interruption, the offense will have 40 seconds from the end of the previous play to snap the ball. If play has been stopped (timeout or penalty), the offense will have 25 seconds from the time the referee sets the ball and starts the play clock following the administration of the timeout or penalty. Adopted.

Golf – Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the Golf Committee recommendation to add a sixth Regional tournament to the current five held in each division and in each gender beginning in 2016-17. This additional Regional would advance three more individual players and three more teams to the Finals for a 108-player field. Additionally, eliminate boys Districts from the current MHSAA boys tournament. Adopted.

Ice Hockey – Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve the Ice Hockey Committee recommendation to add an option to the MHSAA hockey overtime procedures for the unusual situation of a regular season two-game total goal series. The MHSAA shootout procedure can be used to break a tie if the total goals are tied at the end of the two-game series, with prior written MHSAA approval. Adopted.

Cody Inglis provided a task force report on the tournament format and seeding.

Boys Lacrosse – Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by John Thompson, to approve the Boys Lacrosse Committee recommendation to change the Boys Lacrosse Tournament to an eight Regional format with four Quarterfinal and two Semifinal games in 2017, but to **not** approve beginning the tournament mid-week before Memorial Day, with the Final on the third weekend following Memorial Day. Adopted. (Regionals may start Thursday, May 18 in 2017; no change in Final date.)

Alpine Skiing – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Pete Ryan, to not approve the Ski Committee recommendation to allow each individual/team a maximum of 15 meets. The schedule may include school competition, CUSAA and other non-school meets. This change would allow each skier and/or school team to ski in school meets, CUSSA meets and, if approved, any other non-school meets for a maximum of 15 competitions for team/individual. The responsibility to ensure teams or individuals do not exceed contest limitations will rest with the athletic director. Adopted (no change).

Tennis – Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Kris Isom, to not approve the Tennis Committee recommendation to adopt the following MHSAA tournament policies and procedures:

- a. Remind coaches in the prematch meeting that only two coaches are allowed from any school at any site and that trading badges from additional sites to exceed two is not allowed.
- b. If the tournament management observes a coach trading badges or that a school has more than two persons with coaches badges, that team loses one point.
- c. If the tournament management observes a second occurrence, the head coach loses his/her coaching privileges (may not be present at the site) for the remainder of the tournament.

Adopted (no change).

Girls Volleyball – Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Orlando Medina, to not approve the Girls Volleyball Committee recommendation to modify the schedule at the MHSAA Finals to rotate all four classes through the time slots, not just flip days of competition but also the early and late time slots. Adopted (no change).

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Girls Volleyball Committee recommendation to modify the current policy for a Quarterfinal site change. Instead of changing a site for inordinate travel . . .

- In even years, a UP Class C team will play the Quarterfinal below the bridge. In odd years, the match will be played in the UP.
- In odd years, a UP Class D team will play the Quarterfinal match in the LP. In even years, the match will be played in the UP.

This is only the case if the Quarterfinal match involves a UP and an LP team. (If both Quarterfinals are from the same peninsula, that's where the game is played.) Rationale for change is that in even years, the Class C Semifinals are played on Thursday afternoon (odd years, the Class D Semifinals are Thursday afternoon) so the UP teams continue traveling to the Final site.

Adopted.

Motion by Al Unger, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve the Girls Volleyball Committee recommendation to allow an intermission between the second and the third set of regular season contests for a promotional or special recognition event for a maximum of five minutes (three minutes between all sets plus two additional minutes). Adopted.

Wrestling – Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Kris Isom, to not approve the Wrestling Committee recommendation to allow schools that use only seven tournament dates (one less than the maximum of eight) to add one additional dual or double dual event to their schedules. Schools scheduling eight tournament dates would continue to have 14 days of competition while schools scheduling seven tournament dates would get one additional date of competition with a maximum of 15 total dates of seven tournaments and eight dual or double duals. Adopted (no change).

OPERATIONS

Calendar – Motion by Courtney Hawkins, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve the seven-year calendar of MHSAA events reflecting changes required by other Representative Council action. Adopted.

Allen W. Bush Award – Council members were invited to vote for up to three candidates from the six presented. The one or more who receives the most votes will be notified in May and honored at events important to them during the fall of 2016 or early in 2017. The recipients will be featured in the Fall issue of *benchmarks*.

Meeting Expenses – Motion by Dave Derocher, supported by Alvin Ward, to approve the expenses for this meeting as follows: the specified hotel rate, the IRS-stipulated amounts for meals, and a 40¢ per mile mileage allowance, round trip. Adopted.

Future Meetings – The next meeting of the Representative Council is Dec. 2, 2016, at the MHSAA office in East Lansing, with a full-day schedule anticipated. The March meeting of the Representative Council will be the morning of Friday, March 24, 2017 at the MHSAA office.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Don Gustafson, to conduct the spring meeting of the Representative Council on May 7-8, 2017 at The Homestead Resort in Glen Arbor. Adopted.

Motion by Dave Derocher, supported by Alvin Ward, to modify MHSAA tournament financial policies so that scorers and timers are paid the same amount (not a reduced amount) for second and third games or matches as for the first game or match on the same day. The total additional annual cost would be approximately \$20,000 for the sports involved (basketball, boys and girls lacrosse, team wrestling and girls volleyball). Adopted.

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Dave Derocher, to approve the 2016-17 revenue and expense budgets, and a capital improvement budget that would result in additions to cash of \$12,920. Adopted.

The approved budget is “mission driven” more than “bottom line driven.” It continues increased levels of spending for participant health and safety initiatives, and it includes new spending to (a) help the MHSAA define and defend educational athletics; (b) increase service and support to the junior high/middle school level and earlier; and (c) increase efforts to recruit, train and retain officials.

ADDITIONAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

SUBVARSITY

SECTION 1(E)—In any sport, two or more member high schools whose combined enrollment does not exceed 1,000 students may conduct, with the approval of the Executive Committee, a Cooperative Program in the specific sports for which application has been made and approval has been granted.

1. The Executive Committee may approve a cooperative program agreement at the **subvarsity level only** in any sport for two or more member high schools, regardless of student enrollment. There must be a demonstrated history of inadequate numbers of participants and will not be approved based on financial concerns. Students who participate in these programs would have varsity eligibility only with their school of actual enrollment should they be brought up to a varsity team. A student who participates in a subvarsity cooperative program and transfers into another school involved in that program may not be subject of a waiver request under Regulation I, Section 9(C.) Deadlines for high school cooperative programs and the two-year minimum length for operating do **not** apply.

MULTI-HIGH-SCHOOL DISTRICTS

2. 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 2019-20 school years. This experiment does not apply to public school academies. Approval by the Executive Committee is on a case-by-case basis and, as with all cooperative program applications, requires league or conference approval. Deadlines for high school cooperative programs apply. These cooperative agreements may not extend beyond 2019-20 without additional Representative Council action.

SECTION 1 (F)— No change

1. Two or more member high schools whose combined enrollment does not exceed 3,500 students may conduct, with the approval of the Executive Committee, a Cooperative Program in the following specific sports (sponsored by 250 or fewer schools) for which application has been made and approval has been granted: girls gymnastics, ice hockey, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys alpine skiing, girls alpine skiing, boys swimming & diving, and girls swimming & diving.
2. For the eight sports listed in No. 1, if none of the schools involved in a proposed cooperative agreement sponsored the sport at any level on an interscholastic basis during the previous school year, then the 3,500-student maximum enrollment may be waived by the Executive Committee. However, the cooperative agreement may not exist beyond three school years.
3. The Executive Committee may approve a cooperative program agreement in excess of the 3,500-student enrollment maximum for up to three years in sports sponsored by 250 or fewer schools if, during the previous year, the school or the cooperative program in which a school was a part dropped the sport because of a demonstrated lack of participation. The cooperative agreement in excess of 3,500 students may not exist beyond three school years.

INTERPRETATION 169

National High School Championships or National Scope Events

A national high school championship includes, but is not limited to, any athletic event, **regardless of title**, which attempts to draw to its qualifying rounds or final event only the top winner or winners or place finishers from more than one state high school association championship meet or is based on the high school regular season or postseason tournament performances. A student may not participate in such an event or in any other national scope event or qualifying event thereto unless ALL the following conditions are met:

- a. **The event is not called or promoted or conducted as a national high school tournament or championship, or the qualification thereto.** The decision as to what events are permissible for students' participation is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the MHSAA executive director which schools must obtain by written request 30 days in advance of participation to determine future MHSAA eligibility.

- b. **The event is open to all legitimate non-school teams as defined below (with competitors from more than one member school) or individuals who qualify directly through one or more non-school events, or the event is open without qualifying to any non-school team (as defined) or individual who pays the entry fee. Qualification for the event, as well as placement or seeding in qualification rounds, shall not be based on performances in the high school season or on state high school association tournament results.**

It is generally required in team sports that a national scope tournament be preceded by a non-school "regular season" and a season-ending tournament, the qualification to which is entirely unrelated to the high school season and state high school association tournament. Exceptions to this general rule are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the MHSAA executive director which schools must obtain by written request 30 days in advance of participation to determine future MHSAA eligibility.

- c. **Non-school teams and individuals do not represent an MHSAA member school including, but not limited to, that school uniforms, transportation and school or booster club funds are not utilized and school coaches are not involved.**

Non-school teams which compete in national scope tournaments or the qualifying rounds thereto, either of which is within 45 days of the last date of the MHSAA tournament in that sport for that gender, must be made up of actual participants from more than a single MHSAA member school. Exceptions to this general rule are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the MHSAA executive director which schools must obtain by written request 30 days in advance of participation to determine future MHSAA eligibility.

INTERPRETATION 235

Out-of-Season Coaching Rotations During the School Year (Underscored is New)

235. a. The regulation which permits a coach to coach a maximum of four students from the same school out of season during the school year (four-player rule) does not allow two coaches to coach ~~six or~~ eight students from the same school. No matter how many coaches are present, no more than four players from the same school district may receive coaching ~~in or~~ sport-specific ~~activity or~~ instruction at the same time ~~on~~ at the same facility or campus out of season during the school year.
- b. Voluntary structured and scheduled practice rotations throughout a facility of four-player groups moving from conditioning programs or weight training or open gyms to skill development sessions (e.g., hitting, throwing, running, lifting) are permitted at the same time on the same campus or facility provided no more than one of the four-player groups involves sport-specific ~~activity or~~ instruction. Two gyms does not permit two four-player skill groups.

Within a voluntary practice rotation as above, when sport-specific equipment is used separate from the coaching instruction allowed in a four-player skill group, it is considered an activity of an open gym:

- Student-conducted; students choose from offered activities.
- Any coach of a sport under MHSAA jurisdiction who is present shall not coach, instruct, critique, direct, evaluate or participate in a sport he/she coaches.
- **Recreational emphasis; not an organized program of instruction and/or competition.**
- **There must not be any organized drills, practice structure and no instruction by any person, including team captains and parents.**

During the school year, when it is out of season for both the boys and girls teams in the same sport, four-player skill groups may take place separately for each gender in that sport at the same time with separate coaches at the same facility or campus. If the same person is a school's coach for both the boys and girls teams in a sport during the school year, then four students of each gender may receive coaching at the same time and place, but the four-player groups may not interact in any activity. It is also intended that the four-player rule apply to Internet-based or other digital presentations. See Interpretation 245.

- c. School coaches of non-school teams are allowed to provide coaching in non-school **competition** to four students of that coach's school district while, in another part of the facility or on the same court, other students from that same school district are receiving coaching from another coach, even one of the same school, **provided the competition is the result of a tournament draw or progression.** (*Boldface emphasis added*)