

UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE
Escanaba, September 29, 2015

Members Present

Mike Berutti, Iron River
Gary Brayak, Rock-Mid Peninsula
Don Gustafson, St Ignace
Chris Hartman, Iron Mountain
Matthew Houle, Gladstone
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Jeff Markham, Baraga

Members Absent

Al Unger, Kingsford

Staff Member

Nate Hampton

The meeting began at 8:30 a.m. with Mr. Sean Jacques, Calumet as Chair. After the welcome and review of meeting materials, the following business was conducted.

Discussion

The committee discussed the following:

- Tournament seeding for Basketball, Volleyball and Ice-Hockey – There was a general discussion with committee sharing their thoughts on this ongoing topic.
- Officials – Dr. Thomas Smith, Gladstone Football/Basketball official was invited to share his concerns on a variety of official related topics.
 1. Number of officials – There is concern that there are not enough officials in the Upper Peninsula. Many basketball officials are working 4 and 5 nights a week. There are very few new officials to take the place of veteran officials. There are also concerns that the lack of qualified and trained basketball officials causes inconsistencies in how officials are scheduled by local schools in either 2 or 3 person crews, creating issues with game coverage.
 2. Number of games per night – We are now experiencing a new phenomenon, three people doing two games of basketball. AD's are hiring 1 crew for 2 games, as it assists with scheduling and not having to find officials for two games. For officials, it is economically enticing to do both games as long as you are traveling to the school anyway, but this will likely result in officials staying close to home so that they can get to the first game after a day's work. If there is an issue in the first game the same coaches are still on the bench for the second game. The potential for further problems increase. When veteran officials are doing two games at a site (even if by necessity), we are missing an opportunity and failing to get new younger officials a chance to break into the ranks via the JV game. This likely will cause a big problem in the future.
 3. Pay – Inconsistent and not confirmed prior to contest for those officials that have to travel a good distance to a game will severely limit the take home dollars when travel time, gas and other expenses are factored in. Officials are going to work more games in their immediate vicinity, because two games with limited travel will maximize the take-home dollars. This will also make the problem of using hometown officials even worse and make finding officials in rural areas very difficult and expensive. Negatives for recruiting new officials - Who will want to give up valuable family time for limited compensation. When demand exceeds supply – the price goes up
- Upper Peninsula Golf – Committee member Gary Brayak, Rock-Mid Peninsula and longtime host to the Division 3 Finals Tournament prepared a proposal that would change the divisional make-up for UP Golf. There have been lengthy discussions and several other proposals that included;
 1. No change to current divisional alignments (Div. 1 = All UP class A & B schools, D2=All UP class C schools and Div. 3= All UP class D schools)
 2. Four equal divisions
 3. Divide UP class D schools into 2 Divisions and
 4. Divide all classes into 3 equal divisions

Competitive Cheer

Districts – Feb. 19 or 20, 2016

Regionals – Feb. 27, 2016

Finals – DeltaPlex, Grand Rapids, March 4-5, 2016

Cross Country

UP Finals – Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015 at Gladstone

Golf

UP Boys and Girls Finals – June 1-4, 2016

Gymnastics

Three UP schools participate– Marquette, Escanaba and Negaunee

Regionals – March 5, 2016

Finals – Rockford HS – March 11-12, 2016

Hockey

Regionals –Feb. 29, 2016

Quarterfinals – March 8-9, 2016

Semifinals – March 10-11, 2016 – Compuware Arena, Canton

Finals –March 12, 2016 – Compuware Arena, Canton

Skiing

Regionals – Feb. 15-19, 2016

Finals – Feb., 29, 2016

Swimming

UP Boys and Girls Finals – Feb. 20, 2016 – Marquette (Qualifying times are required)

Tennis

UP Finals – Girls – Sept. 30, 2015

UP Finals – Boys – June 1-4, 2016

Track and Field

UP Regionals – May 18-20, 2016

UP Finals – June 4, 2016

Wrestling

Individual Wrestling

Districts – Feb. 13, 2016

Regionals – Feb. 20, 2016

Finals –March 3-5, 2016

Team Wrestling

Districts

Divisions 1 and 3 – Feb. 10, 2016

Divisions 2 and 4 – Feb. 11, 2016

Regionals – Feb. 17, 2016

Finals – Feb. 26-27, 2016

Volleyball

Districts – Nov. 2-4, 5 and 6 or 7, 2015

Regionals – Nov. 10 and 12, 2015

Quarterfinals – Nov. 17, 2015

Semifinals – Nov. 19-20, 2015

Finals – Nov. 21, 2015

The committee recommended invitations to be extended to 12 approved officials for the assignment to the MHSAA Post Season Tournament.

Football

The committee recommended invitations to approved Football officials in the following levels of the 2015 MHSAA Football Postseason Tournament.

Ten crews for the First Round of the 11-Player Tournament.

Four crews for the First Round of the 8-Player Tournament.

Five crews for the Second Round of the 11-Player Tournament.

Two crews for the Second Round of the 8-Player Tournament.

Three crews for the Third Round of the 11-Player Tournament.

Eight individuals for the Semifinal Round of the 8-Player Tournament.

Eight individuals for the Semifinal Round of the 11-Player Tournament.

Two individuals (Referee and Umpire) for the Finals of the 8-Player Tournament.

Four individuals (BJ, FJ and LJ) for the Finals of the 11-Player Tournament.

11-Player

Pre-Districts – Oct. 30 or 31, 2015

Districts – Nov. 6 or 7, 2015

Regionals – Nov. 13 or 14, 2015

Semifinals – Nov. 21, 2015

Finals – Nov. 27 & 28, 2015 – Ford Field, Detroit

8-Player

Regional Semifinals – Oct. 30 or 31, 2015

Regional Finals – Nov. 6 or 7, 2015

Semifinals – Nov. 14, 2015

Finals – Nov. 20, 2015 – Greenville HS

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2016 in Escanaba.

Committee Recommendations to MHSAA staff and the Representative Council

Create three equal divisions in Boys and Girls UP Golf by placing the current 41 schools into three equal divisions. (7-1 in favor)