

BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

East Lansing, January 19, 2012 9:30 am

Members Present

Jim Carl, Ann Arbor
Lorin Cartwright, Ann Arbor
Rob Dilday, Utica Schools
Greg Durham, Northville
Steve Hubbell, (Official) Detroit
Mike Jolly, Warren (Advisory)
Tony Quinn, Grand Rapids
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Marty Simmonds, Pontiac (MIAAA)
Brad Vredevoogd, Holland

Members Absent

Rick DeBlasio, Grand Rapids (Advisory)
Bob Dowd, Troy
Shawn Grady, Okemos (Coaches Association)
Colin Ripmaster, Mattawan (MASSP)

Staff Member

Tom Rashid (Recorder)

INTRODUCTION

All material was emailed to the committee several weeks prior to the meeting. The introduction included reference to the minutes of the 2011 committee meetings, information on official's assignments and training, statistics on participating schools, cooperative programs and tournament structure (brackets). The multiple committee functions (sport policy, tournament bracketing and officials selection) and process of recommendations to the Representative Council were reviewed. The committee will meet a second time on May 10, 2012.

BOYS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION

The Association has a new dues structure which includes discounts for multiple teams from a school or early registration which also includes liability insurance on members. Coaches should be dues paying members so their student-athletes receive post season recognition awards. Attendance at a December 2011 clinic was not as well as hoped for among high school coaches, but had strong middle school participation. The presentations were excellent and by 100% Michigan college coaches.

OFFICIALS

The committee noted that the presence of two official's associations, training efforts for new officials and MHSAA tournament assignments. Noting that there would be no increase in assignments or costs to schools in the regular season, the committee discussed and favored increasing the number of officials assigned to regional semi-final games from two to three (an increase of 16 officials in 2013 if approved). Three officials are assigned to the regional final, four to semi final and final games. While there is an overall increase in officials registration, a shortage of officials in three areas of the state remains (near north, mid and west Michigan). The committee encourages the assignment of newer officials with veterans.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Anticipated for 2011-12 are 99 teams, 117 schools (16 cooperative programs). At present there are 48 Div. 1 teams (enrollment of 1, 676 students and above) and 51 teams in Div 2 (1,675 students and below). New MHSAA teams in 2012 include a Division 1 reconfigured co-operative agreement including Sterling Heights and Warren Mott; Warren-Cousino is trying to sponsor its own team. Three new teams are planned for Division 2: Auburn Hills-Avondale, Grand Rapids-South Christian and Monroe-St. Mary Catholic Central.

TOURNAMENT REVIEW

The Committee reviewed the existing dates, brackets and structure of the tournament. Schools are reminded to save room on their schedule for pre-regional games which may be played May 17-19 and 22 or earlier. Games the day after Memorial Day and the condensed nature of the schedule were discussed with no recommendations for change. Future considerations as the number of teams increase include a possible district or quarter final round and starting the tournament one week earlier or ending one week later. Some interest was expressed in adding a third division; unlikely with 100 teams sponsoring. Suggestions for Participating School Tournament Information & Tournament Managers Manuals were solicited at this meeting and in the weeks ahead as the committee reviews.

OVER

ONLINE RULES MEETING

The online rules meetings will run from Mon. Feb. 6 to midnight April 12, 2012. One face-to-face rules meeting will take place on Feb. 16, 2012 at Birmingham Seaholm (6pm) in conjunction with the local officials association. Some NFHS rule changes and points of emphasis were reviewed, especially the new 10 second count, a player fouling out with five penalty minutes rather than five personal fouls, and the reinforcement of non-releasable penalties for hits to the head or neck. Suggestions were solicited for other MHSAA points of emphasis. There are numerous NFHS rule changes this year.

2011-12 REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS & TOURNAMENT

The Committee reviewed the seeding criteria and expressed concerns about how Lax Power will incorporate the scores of "B" teams who may play other varsity teams. Will Lax Power treat a "B" team as a JV team and not include them in their rankings? More information is needed. Possible adjustments to the May late season seeding may be necessary.

The committee reviewed and made adjustments to preliminary recommendations for seeding and geographic alignments for 2012 regionals. The top eight teams in each division were determined, two seeded teams were placed in each region and all region alignments were finalized. On May 10, 2012 the committee will meet a second time to place teams on the bracket based upon games played on or prior to Mon., May 7, 2012 and determine semifinal pairings. Potential regional sites were reviewed and will be finalized by staff. The MHSAA Finals will be at Birmingham Seaholm High School on Sat. June 9, 2012 with Division 1 at 4:30 pm and Division 2 at 2 pm.

ON LINE HEALTH AND SAFETY MEETINGS

Suggestions for possible required online meetings for head coaches included that they be separate from the online sport rules meetings, available all year long to coaches and the deadline for completion be the same as the online meeting or first game.

LIMITATIONS ON COMPETITION

No action to change the multi-team tournament provision was taken. This provision to play up to three 50 minute running time "mini-games" on a non school day is used by some junior varsity teams and occasionally for varsity teams who travel a long distance and will play multiple games. A multi team running time event counts the same as a single date of competition.

TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY: PLAYING MHSAA MEMBER SCHOOLS

A recent Update Meeting survey showed that nearly 84% of those surveyed favored requiring a school to play half its regular season contests against member schools. In lacrosse some teams are playing far more regular season contests against non-member schools than MHSAA member school teams, calling into question the validity of MHSAA tournament participation and possibly impacting the seeding of the tournament. Non-school teams will be encouraged to become MHSAA teams and provide for better regulation and improved competition. Stronger teams participating against member schools will tend to make other teams stronger and tend improve the sport. The committee considered that all teams from a school intending to enter the MHSAA tournament must play 50% or 67% of its regular season schedule against MHSAA member schools, and favored a 67% requirement for all teams.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. The MHSAA assign three officials to the regional semi-finals beginning in 2012-13. (9-0)
2. To be allowed to compete in the MHSAA boys lacrosse tournament a school and all its teams must play no fewer than 67% of its regular season games against other MHSAA member school teams (e.g. 12 of 18 games). (9-0)