

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.
BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING
East Lansing, January 15, 2015 9:30 am

Members Present

Sue Calvo, Swartz Creek (MIAAA)
Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids (Advisory)
Mike Dungan, Rochester Hills-Stoney Creek
Steve Edgerly, (Official) Charlotte
Shawn Grady, Okemos (Coaches Assoc)
Dan Hutcheson, Howell
Mike Jolly, Warren De-LaSalle (Advisory)
Joe Koengeter, Chelsea
Mark Lardiere, Forest Hills Northern
Steve Maiorana, Flint Powers
Brian Parsons, Grandville
Don Roda, L'Anse Creuse North

Mike Roy, Vicksburg
John Thompson, Brighton
Mike Van Antwerp, Holt
Mike Watson, Oxford

Members Absent

Sue Calvo, Swartz Creek
Jeremy Napier, South Lyon East

Staff Member

Cole Malatinsky
Tom Rashid (Recorder)

INTRODUCTION

Several weeks prior to the meeting the committee was emailed the minutes of the two previous committee meetings, information on upcoming officials training, 2015 classification of teams, cooperative programs, tournament brackets and dates and 2015 NFHS rule changes. The committee received a chronology of NFHS Boys Lacrosse rule changes from 2004-05 through 2014-15 aimed at minimizing risk especially in the head and neck injury area. The multiple functions (sport, seeding, regional alignment and official's selection) were reviewed. In December 2014 the Representative Council acted on a past lacrosse committee recommendation regarding presentations at MHSAA Finals and determined that in limited situations recognition would be possible for awards to students.

BOYS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION

The Association has informal regional gatherings for coaches planned for the winter and would again sponsor a coaches and officials gathering on the first Sunday or March in the MHSAA Offices (March 1, 2015). This event would include an MHSAA Rules Meeting.

OFFICIALS

There are four local approved officials associations operating in boys lacrosse (Metro-Detroit area, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Grand Rapids). There will be three officials on all rounds of the MHSAA tournament; four on the semifinals and finals. Two training sessions for new officials are planned for this winter at East Lansing and Byron Center High Schools. Registration is presently very low so these sessions may be cancelled and replaced by interaction with local officials. Other training is ongoing by officials' leadership and resulting in new officials. On April 14, 2014 there was a total of 321 boys lacrosse officials registered with the MHSAA, an increase of 28 from the previous year's period.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

In 2014-15 there are 114 teams involving, 135 schools (18 cooperative programs). There are 58 Division 1 teams with enrollment of 1,600 students and above and 56 teams in Division 2 with enrollment below 1,600 students. Four teams have opted up to play in Division 1. Three teams involving five schools have added boys lacrosse for the 2014-15 season. A report of teams changing divisions due to enrollment or cooperative program adjustments was presented.

TOURNAMENT REVIEW

The Committee had no suggestions for change to the past policies including the alternative site policy for all games except the Final and the preference for artificial turf fields whenever possible. It was considered wise to relocate the 2014 finals from East Grand Rapids to Troy Athens when all final teams were from the Metro Detroit area. Three schools are willing to host the finals in 2015 on a "to be determined basis:" East Grand Rapids, Howell and Troy Athens, depending on the geography of teams. MHSAAA Staff will consult with managers and teams and make the final determination. The girls lacrosse finals will be at Rockford in 2015.

OVER

ONLINE RULES MEETING – POINTS OF EMPHASIS

There rules changes for 2015 were presented to the committee who felt that teams were well aware of the new head/neck and defenseless player rules begun last season. The MHSAA online rules meetings will run from Mon., Feb. 2 to midnight Thur., April 9, 2015. Two in person rules meetings are planned for Feb. 13, 2014 at Birmingham Seaholm (6 pm) in conjunction with the local officials association and also at the Coaches Clinic on March 1, 2015 in East Lansing. It was again suggested that the MHSAA supplement the NFHS points of emphasis on proper equipment with an alert on the use of mouth protectors that fully cover all teeth and attached to the face mask if at all possible. The most significant rule change this year is the official's mechanic that when the defense takes possession of the ball in the goal area, due to a violation by the offense, play will restart from that spot and not laterally. This restart would occur when the official signals a restart and no player is within five yards of the ball. It is intended to match other rule codes and move the game along.

2014-15 REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS & TOURNAMENT

The Committee made no changes to the preseason and late season seeding criteria making adjustments to the preliminary seeding of eight teams per division prepared in advance by committee members. The committee ranked the teams 1-8 based on the criteria and placed two seeded teams in each region (1 vs. 8, 2 vs.7, 3 vs.6, 4 vs. 5). The regions were finalized pending staff securing host sites. On May 7, 2015 the committee will reconvene and place each team on the bracket based upon the written criteria and current season competition played on or before Mon. May 4, 2015. New this spring the committee will review the bracket for seeds 9-16 and may change a team's opponent and seeding if travel is excessive. Each coach on the committee was assigned a region out of their division that they will be responsible for providing the preliminary seeding for the May 7, 2015 meeting.

TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE FOR 2015-16

It was proposed that to provide more equitable competition early in the tournament, the committee recommend to the Representative Council a plan that would have seeds 9-16 play among each other in a "play-in round." Beginning in 2015-16, teams 9-16 will play a first round pre-regional game at the home site of the higher seed on Mon.-Wed. May 16-18, 2016 prior to the traditional pre-regional start (three days earlier). Likely teams 9-16 must save two dates this week. The winners of the 9-16 games will play seeds 5-8 later that week - they must save on date (May 20, 21 or 23, 2016). The Lacrosse Committee and preseason seeding meeting will be moved from January to mid-October. The final seeding meeting will be held one day earlier on Wed May, 11, 2016 for games played through Mon. May 9, 2016.

OUT OF SEASON COACHING LIMITATIONS

The Committee discussed with interest statewide proposals for rule changes limiting the number of players (three or four player rule) to limiting the number of dates within a contact period that a coach could work with any number of players (no contact and contact periods). There were both positive and negative points expressed. Suggestions included having a contact period, keeping the three-four player rule and allowing two or three in days with a workout of no more than two hours where a coach could have contact with all players. This would be a level of contact that would not necessarily cause an athlete to stop playing another sport. Another suggestion was rather than permit unlimited players permit work with seven players so workouts could be more meaningful. It was noted that most non-school sports involve one activity a week out-of-season and those who have access to indoor facilities have a tremendous advantage out of season – would changes equalize this or increase the advantage. Many members were pleased that the MHSAA is reviewing these regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Create a "play in" game among seeds 9-16 in each region to be played three days earlier than previous years on the Mon.-Wed., two weeks before Memorial Day. Those winners would then play seeds 5-8 at the traditional start of the tournament - Fri., Sat., Mon (13-0).
2. Move the Boys Lacrosse Committee meeting from mid-January to mid-October beginning with the fall of 2015 (13-0).

2016 PROPOSED Boys Lacrosse: Division 1, Region 1

-- , Tournament Manager

Regions will be set in mid-October. Brackets Set - Seed Meeting Wed, May 11, 2016

Teams 9-16 must save 2 dates the week of May 16. Teams 5-8 play winners of games between 9-16 May 20-23, 2016.



