

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

East Lansing, May 7, 2015 9:30 am

Committee 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

Jeremy Napier, Belleville
Brian Parsons, Grandville
Don Roda, Harrison Twp. L'Anse Creuse
John Thompson, Brighton
Mike Roy, Vicksburg
Mike Van Antwerp, Holt
Mike Watson, Oxford

Staff Member

Cole Malatinsky
Tom Rashid (Recorder)

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

The agenda and minutes of the May 8, 2014 and January 15, 2015 meetings were presented in advance. On May 4, 2015 the Representative Council approved the lacrosse committee recommendation from the Jan. 2015 meeting to create a "play in" game among seeds 9-16 in each Region to be played three days earlier than previous years on the Monday-Wednesday, two weeks before Memorial Day. Those winners would then play seeds 5-8 at the traditional start of the MHSAA tournament – Friday, Saturday, and Monday. In addition the January lacrosse committee meeting will be moved to mid-October so schools will have earlier notice of their regional alignment. Teams likely to be seeded nine or lower should keep their schedule open on May 16-18, 2016 for tournament game.

2015 TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS

A committee member from the opposite division was assigned in advance to preliminarily seed each region and share their work with other members. The Friday prior to the meeting, MHSAA Staff sent an excel spread sheet with updated scores and lax power rankings to the 8 coaches doing preliminary seeding. These preliminary recommendations were submitted to the full committee which finalized the brackets based on the criteria. The committee discussed the value of laxpower ratings and head to head competition in their decisions this spring. The late season Regional alignments for Division 1, Regions 1-4 and Division 2, Regions 5-8 were set based upon the pre-determined criteria from #1 seed to #15 seed depending on the number of teams in each Region. The committee then looked at the matchups and made changes to four teams seeded between 9 and 16 to reduce travel. The committee made no changes to the preseason seeding criteria for 2015-16. The pairings were posted on MHSAA.com the afternoon of the meeting, are final and not subject to appeal. The 2015 Semifinal pairings determined by the committee are: Division 1- Region 1 at 2 and Region 4 at 3; Division 2 – Region 8 at 5 and Region 7 at 6.

A history of semifinal and final sites and contests since the start of the MHSAA tournament was given in advance to the committee. Six potential semifinal sites were also submitted and the policy reviewed that while not preferred, a host may also be a home team in the semifinal round. It was pointed out that while turf fields are preferred, geography and field locations may not permit all games to be on turf especially when a mid-way point is sought for west vs. east semifinals. The following sites have been secured and are holding their fields for a possible Semi Final on Wed. June 3, 2015: Ada-Forest Hills Eastern, Birmingham Seaholm, Grandville, Howell Parker Campus, Grosse Pointe South and Novi-Catholic Central.

The 2015 MHSAA Final doubleheader will be Saturday, June 6, 2015. Division 1 at 2 pm and Division 2 at 4:30 pm. Based on the geography of teams and MHSAA Staff discretion the final doubleheader will be at either East Grand Rapids H.S., Howell Parker Middle School Campus or Troy Athens.

Continued:

OFFICIALS

Since 2013, boys lacrosse officials must be members in good standing of an approved local officials association to work the MHSAA tournament. Since 2014, three officials are assigned to all rounds of the MHSAA Tournament; a fourth CBO is assigned at the semifinal and final games. Committee members were presented a list of 160 MHSAA registered officials. Of this number, 95 were members in good standing of an approved local officials association and had completed a rules meeting. Recommendations from Lacrosse Officials Associations and MHSAA registered assigners and officials' schedules for most of the current season were also presented. MHSAA Staff prepared recommendations for assignments based, in part, on officials who had accumulated sufficient numbers of ratings and had three or more years of MHSAA registration. The committee reviewed and adjusted some assignments subject to MHSAA Staff implementation for tournament games from Regional Semifinal through MHSAA Finals. MHSAA staff will assign selected officials and replacements to specific games. Officials for the Pre-Regional games and first round at the home site will be the responsibility of the home school, which will be the top team on the bracket.

As of April 14, 2015, a total of 307 boys lacrosse officials had registered with the MHSAA for the 2014-15 school year; a decrease of 14 officials; (321 officials in 2014). The shortage of lacrosse officials is a concern given the growth at the high school and middle school age levels. Using three officials has also stretched the available pool of officials. Coaches and ADs are urged to help recruit officials and to avoid changing games once scheduled.

2014-15 LACROSSE PLANNING AND PREPARATION

The number of teams, schools and cooperative agreements since 2006-07 was reviewed indicating that in 2014-15 there were 114 teams among 135 schools (18 cooperative programs-58 teams in Div. 1, 56 teams in Div. 2). The possibility of adding a district round in the foreseeable future was discussed when participation reaches close to 128 teams resulting in more than 16 teams in a region and a unmanageable tournament bracket.

The classification splits for 2015-16 are as follows Division 1 - 1,630 students and above, Div.2 – 1,629 students and below. In 2015-16 it was noted that Grosse Pointe South, Rochester Adams and Walled Lake Northern move down to Div. 2; Rochester High and Davison move up to Div. 1

2015-16 MEETING DATES

Thurs. Oct 15, 2015 (moved from January) and Wed. May 11, 2016 (one day earlier than previous years)

There were no recommendations to the Representative Council.