

# Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.

## BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, October 15, 2015 9:30 am

### Members Present

Jim Carl, Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard  
(Coaches Assoc.)  
Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids (Advisory)  
Steve Edgerly, (Official) Charlotte  
Brian Gordon, Novi  
Dan Hutcheson, Howell  
Mike Jolly, Warren De-LaSalle (Advisory)  
Dave Kransberger, Grand Rapids Christian  
Mark Lardieri, Forest Hills Northern  
Jeremy Napier, Belleville  
Brian Parsons, Grandville

Jack Robenalt, Ann Arbor Skyline  
Don Roda, L'Anse Creuse  
Mike Roy, Vicksburg  
Andrew Tibbits, DeWitt  
Pat Watson, West Bloomfield

### Members Absent

Sue Calvo, Swartz Creek (MIAAA)

### Staff Member

Cole Malatinsky  
Tom Rashid (Recorder)

## INTRODUCTION

Two weeks prior to the meeting the committee was emailed the minutes of the two previous committee meetings, 2016 classification of teams, cooperative programs, tournament brackets and dates and 2016 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 and a 2014-15 Boys Lacrosse Injury Epidemiology prepared by the NFHS. The multiple functions (sport, seeding, regional alignment and official's selection) were reviewed. In May 2015 the Representative Council approved a lacrosse committee recommendation to 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., May 16-18, 2016 (two weeks before Memorial Day). Those winners would then play seeds 5-8 at the traditional start of the tournament - Fri., Sat., Mon. May 20-21, 23, 2016. The council also authorized the Lacrosse Committee meeting to move from January to October.

## BOYS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION

The Committee recognized the work our Shawn Grady, Head Coach of Okemos for his years of service as MHSACA President and welcomed Jim Carl of Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard as new President. The Coaches Association will be in transition and would like to continue a coaches and officials forum in the MHSAA on the first Sunday of March (March 6, 2016) including an MHSAA rules meeting. Plans will be developed further.

## OFFICIALS

Four officials associations operated during the 2014-15 season: Michigan Lacrosse Officials Assoc. (MichLoa), West Michigan Boys Lacrosse Officials Assoc., Capital Areas Officials Association and the Kalamazoo Lacrosse Officials Association. Two MHSAA training programs will be offered for new officials as in years past and many local association training opportunities continue as well. The criteria for selection and structure of tournament official assignments were presented and no changes made for 2016. At the May meeting the Committee will select tournament officials from those who are members in good standing of a local approved association, completed a rules meeting and met other criteria. As of April 13, 2015 there were 307 registered boys lacrosse officials, down from 321 at this same point in 2014.

## PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

In 2015-16 there are 118 teams involving 141 schools (20 cooperative programs). There are 59 Division 1 teams with enrollment of 1,630 students and above and 59 teams in Division 2 with enrollment below 1,629 students. Four teams have opted up to play in Division 1. Four teams involving five schools have added boys lacrosse for the 2015-16 season; two in each division. A report of all teams changing divisions due to enrollment or cooperative program adjustments was presented

## 2015 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. Continued:

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The committee discussed but did not change the policy that a team could play a statewide semifinal game on its own field. It is the committee's recommendation to the MHSAA staff to avoid this when possible. It was noted that the 2015 finals were held at Troy Athens when three of four final teams were from the Metro Detroit area. In 2015 three schools held the final date on a "to be determined basis:" East Grand Rapids, Howell and Troy Athens. The 2016 finals will be at Howell Parker Campus regardless of the opponents.

### **ONLINE RULES MEETING – POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

NFHS rule changes and points of emphasis for 2016 were presented to the committee with no additional points added. The committee suggested the MHSAA clarify the question of spectators being immediately behind the bench and table area and enforcement of new rules taking effect for 2016 regarding addition laces or V channels which must be located within 4" from the top of the crosse. The MHSAA online rules meetings will run from Mon., Feb. 1 to midnight Thur., April 14, 2016. Two in-person rules meetings are planned for Feb. 11, 2016 at Birmingham Seaholm (6 pm) in conjunction with the local officials association and also at the Coaches Clinic on March 6, 2016 in the MHSAA Office in East Lansing. The most significant rule change this year involves the face off mechanic where the official places the ball between the players' crosses once they are down and players and crosses are in the proper position. This is similar to the NCAA's face-off approach.

### **2015-16 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 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 Wed. May 11, 2016 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. 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 to review for the May meeting. That coach will be responsible for providing the preliminary seeding in advance of the May 11, 2016 meeting.

### **TOURNAMENT FORMAT AND CALENDAR FOR 2017**

When participation reaches 64 teams per division it will be difficult to continue the current tournament structure and calendar of four regional winners per division moving into an MHSAA semifinal. In 2015-16, with 59 teams in each division, three of eight regions are maxed out at 16 teams. Considerable discussion was given to adding a third statewide champion and while the committee did not recommend this at the present time it was strong consensus that when growth reached near 150 teams (similar to ice hockey) a third division would be added.

The committee was presented with two calendars that increased the number of regions from four to eight, with 6-8 teams per region and added four quarter final games in each of the two divisions. One calendar maintained the current final date (two Saturdays after Memorial Day - June 10, 2017) and another moved the start and final game back one week beginning on the Wednesday before Memorial Day and ending with the final on the third Saturday after Memorial Day - June 17, 2017. This is the same date as the baseball, softball and girls soccer final. One seeded team (as opposed to two in previous years) will be placed in each region in October. The late season seeding meeting in May will seed based on performance through games played the Monday prior to the seed meeting. As in the past, the committee will place teams on the bracket and determine quarter and semifinal pairings in May. The first round games only will be at the home field of the team on the top bracket. All other tournament games will be at the host site unless travel is excessive for both teams (alternative site policy). The committee discussed and recommended the eight regional format with the final game the third Saturday after Memorial Day. Attached are two 2017 Calendars: one that keeps the current start and finish dates and another which moves the start of the tournament and final one week later (finishing the third Saturday in June). Input from schools which sponsor lacrosse will be sought by staff before this is presented to the Representative Council. The committee was asked to save the date of Jan. 14, 2016 (9:30am) for a possible conference call to discuss this format and calendar further.

### **RECOMMENDATION TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

Change the boys lacrosse tournament to an eight regional format with four quarter final and two semifinal games. The tournament will begin mid-week, the week before Memorial Day, with the final on the third weekend following Memorial Day (June 17, 2017). Adopted (12-1)

**Proposed Boys Lax 2017      Similar Start and Same Final as Previous Years**

**Eight Regions Per Division - Four Quarterfinals - Two Semifinals**

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
May 7 - 13	7	8	9	10 MHSAA Seeding Meeting	11	12	13	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
May 14 - 20					Regional - 1st Round - Home Sites			
	21	22 Regional -1st Round Home Sites - Final Day <i>all games must be completed on or before this date</i>	23	24	25	26	27	
May 21 - 27				Regional Semifinal DH at Host Sites	or	Regional Semifinal DH at Host Sites	or	Regional Semifinal DH at Host Sites
	28	29 MEMORIAL DAY	30 Regional Final at Host Sites	31 Regional Final at Host Sites	1-Jun	2	3	
May 28 - Jun 3				or		Quarterfinals at Host Sites (4 games each division)	or	Quarterfinals at Host Sites (4 games each division)
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Jun 4 - 10				Semifinals			MHSAA Finals	
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Jun 11 - 17								

**Proposed Boys Lax 2017    One Week Later Start and Final Than Previous Years.**

**Eight Regions Per Division - Four Quarterfinals - Two Semifinals**

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 14 - 20	14-May	15	16	17	18	19	20
				MHSAA Seeding Meeting	MHSAA Seeding Meeting		
May 21 - 27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				Regional - 1st Round - Home Sites			
May 28 - Jun 3	28	29	30	31	1-Jun	2	3
		MEMORIAL DAY	Regional -1st Round Home Sites - Final Day <i>all games must be completed on or before this date</i>		Regional Semifinals Double Header at Host Sites	Regional Semifinals Double Header at Host Sites	Regional Semifinals Double Header at Host Sites
Jun 4 - 10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Regional Final at Host Sites	Regional Final at Host Sites			Quarterfinals at Host Sites (4 games each division)	Quarterfinals at Host Sites (4 games each division)
Jun 11 - 17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				Semifinals			MHSAA Finals