

GIRLS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING
MHSAA Office - East Lansing
January 18, 2011

Members Present:

Cory Anderson, Ada
Tim Erickson, Rockford
David Feldman, Bloomfield Hills
Rob Holder, Troy
Carmen Kennedy, Grosse Pointe
Mike Pruchnicki, Flint
Jason Reck, Hartland
Kim Vincent, Grand Haven

Members Absent:

Ken Mohny, Mattawan
Mike Teagan, South Lyon
Jeanne Woodbury, Saginaw

Staff Member:

Kathy Vrugink Westdorp (Recorder)

GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The 2011 Girls Lacrosse Committee met at the Michigan High School Athletic Association to review its responsibilities as a standing sports committee; review prior Representative Council action; consider proposals from the Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association; recommend to the Representative Council changes regarding MHSAA regulations relative to girls lacrosse; suggest points of emphasis for rules meetings and evaluate current practices and procedures with MHSAA staff. The Girls Lacrosse Committee will also assist in the assignment of umpires to all levels of the MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Tournament.

PRIOR REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

The minutes of the January, 2010 Girls Lacrosse Committee were reviewed for the purpose of providing background regarding prior discussion and actions of the committee. In addition, the limitations of competition were reviewed for grades 9 – 12 as well as junior high/middle school. Practice begins Monday, March 14, 2011 and the first contest date is Wednesday, March 23, 2011.

TOURNAMENT RECOMMENDATIONS/IMPORTANT DATES

Girls lacrosse tournament dates were reviewed by the committee as well as the information regarding online rules meetings. The online rules meeting for girls lacrosse will be available on February 8, 2011 and end on April 12, 2011. All head coaches and officials who wish to work the MHSAA tournament must take an online rules meeting during the available dates. Head coaches who do not take an online rules meeting will not be able to coach in the MHSAA Tournament.

The 2010 Girls Lacrosse Tournament was reviewed for points of improvement. The separate but near sites with staggered times and divisions for boys and girls lacrosse were acceptable to both sport communities. In 2011, the Division 2 Girls Lacrosse Finals will start at 2 p.m. and the Division 1 Finals will start at 4:30 p.m. at Troy Athens High School.

The tournament format was reviewed and there will be four regionals in Division 1 and four regionals in Division 2. Additionally, in the Division 1 semi-finals, Region 1 will play Region 2 and Region 4 will play Region 3. In Division 2, Region 5 plays Region 6 and Region 8 plays Region 7. There will be three field officials for each semi-final and each final. The committee requested that four neutral semi-final sites be contacted to assist in limiting travel when necessary. The committee also indicated that either the surface of artificial turf or grass was acceptable for the semi-final sites. If the sites of Hartland and South Lyon are considered the most appropriate for travel, they will be the sites that will be selected for both semi-final games. If only two semi-final sites are needed, Hartland would host Division 2 and South Lyon would host Division 1.

As indicated by the alternate site travel accommodation rule for lacrosse, MHSAA staff may change the date, time and location of a previously scheduled tournament game if the originally scheduled game involves extensive travel for both teams and an acceptable site can be secured. The determination includes consultation with both teams and the Tournament Manager and may require that the competing teams secure an acceptable field. There was conversation regarding options to drawing a tournament as well as the review of the methodology of seeding a regional. The committee did not wish to change the tournament as currently scheduled which is similar to almost all other MHSAA tournaments. Additionally, it was recommended that the lacrosse scheduling meetings would be dissolved as they have not been relevant to scheduling and have sometimes added to duplicate scheduling between the athletic administrator and the coach.

Division 1 and Division 2 enrollment numbers were also reviewed and 30 teams are presently in Division 1 (enrollment 1829 and above) and 33 teams are in Division 2 (enrollment 1828 and below). This is an eight team increase from 2010 when the numbers were 27 in Division 1 and 28 in Division 2. There are 12 cooperative programs in girls lacrosse with 63 teams involving 78 schools. It was also noted that three teams have opted to play in Division 1 during the 2010-11 season.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The Girls Lacrosse Participating School Tournament Information for 2011 was also examined which includes the tournament format, opt-out due date, regional draw dates, and tournament date parameters. In addition tournament procedures, time schedule, playing rules, media information, sportsmanship, and weather and spectator policies were provided.

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION/PHYSICAL CARDS/CASTS

Tom Minter facilitated a discussion and responded to questions regarding a new full page physical form which includes clearance and consent forms. Questions were asked regarding the medical history of the student and who actually completes the information as well as who reviews the information. It was indicated that the completion of the information is by the parent and the physical card remains in the school athletic office. Additional discussion occurred regarding a physical for all four years of a student's high school eligibility as well as a two year rotation for the physical. The size of the physical card was discussed and the indication was that it would not pose a problem.

The new concussion rule was also discussed and the process of the role and responsibility of the coach, school and official. Additional information included "Impact" testing and establishing baseline data. A summary of Representative Council action was reviewed as well as conversation regarding revising scrimmage regulations to prevent post-season scrimmages after the final contest of the season for that team. The Committee concurred with the MHSAA Executive Committee's Jan. 13, 2011 action to continue the requirement that an MD or a DO written authorization be required to permit a player to wear a legally padded cast. This is consistent with the sports which continued this authorization even though the NFHS rules did not provide this provision.

GIRLS LACROSSE PENALTY ADMINISTRATION

The new girls lacrosse rules of misconduct and suspension were reviewed which indicate in 2011, anyone receiving two yellow cards in the game will be suspended from further participation in that game and will be prohibited from participating in the team's next game. Anyone receiving a red card will be suspended from further participation in that game and will be prohibited from participating in the team's next two games. After much discussion regarding this new rule, the Girls Lacrosse Committee recommended that starting in 2012, the red card rule become consistent with MHSAA rules for ejection which requires that when a student is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for at least the next contest/day of competition for that team.

RULES MEETING SCHEDULE & POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The 2010-11 online rules meeting schedule was discussed and the Girls Lacrosse Committee requested a point of emphasis be given to coaches and officials regarding unsportsmanlike behavior and the control of athlete behaviors on and off the field. All of the new rule changes were reviewed and it was also requested that these rules changes be emphasized with video when possible. Special emphasis should continue to be reiterated regarding the uniform rule; the changes in penalty administration; and the overtime rules in girls lacrosse.

OFFICIALS

Officials training continues and a session is scheduled on February 5, 2011 at the MHSAA. It was further noted that the fees for regular season competition and assignment of officials are set by schools and that using an MHSAA registered assignor is voluntary. Official's selection for tournament assignments will be for all levels of the Girls Lacrosse Tournament.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Starting in 2012 (and after a review of the 2011 season penalties), recommend that Girls Lacrosse follow the MHSAA disqualification rules which require that when a student is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for at least the next day of competition for that team. For this year, the 2011 Girls US Lacrosse rules indicate: *"Anyone receiving a red card will be suspended from further participating in that game and will be prohibited from participating in the team's next two games"*. The recommended disqualification of being withheld by his/her school for at least the next day of competition would be consistent with other MHSAA sports. (8-0)