

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
SOFTBALL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

East Lansing, January 13, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Loraine Brinker, Dryden
Rob Dilday, Utica
Jared Hudson, Holton
Chad Klopf, Coleman
Charles LaClear, Flint
Ross Martin, Lansing
Paul Marwede, Alpena (MHSSCA)
Matt McLouth, Decatur
Meg Seng, Ann Arbor
Jasen Witt, Redford
Betty Wroubel, Pontiac (MIAAA)

Members Absent:

JoEllen Smith, Owosso
Robert Wright, Sand Creek

Others Present:

Martha Munsell, Fowlerville (MATS)

MHSAA Staff:

Andi Osters (Recorder)

The 2021-22 MHSAA Softball Committee met virtually on Jan. 13, 2022, via Zoom. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision making process and charge of the Softball Committee. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members and the softball coaches association.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

TOURNAMENT SITE SELECTION

The committee reviewed recently released District and Regional groupings and discussed the work of the MHSAA Baseball/Softball Site Selection Committee. Mirroring a proposal from the MHSAA Baseball Committee, the group agreed that the scope of work done by Site Selection Committee members could best be conducted if the two sports were convened separately. Emphasis on equal treatment of softball and baseball facilities will remain important.

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT CALENDAR DATES

Another proposal from the Baseball Committee was reviewed and discussed, related to pre-district tournament games being played before Memorial Day. Committee members agreed to advance an amended version of this proposal for softball, eliminating the option for Saturday contests. Additionally, the committee proposed that all participating teams in the district and the assigned host agree to the option to play on either Thursday OR Friday before the district draw is conducted. If agreement is not unanimous, the default pre-district date remains the Tuesday after Memorial Day.

TOURNAMENT OPT-OUTS vs. TOURNAMENT OPT-INS

During a review of results from the 2021 MHSAA Update Meeting Survey, the committee discussed the pros and cons of classifying softball teams based upon their participation in previous years' tournaments, rather than current year sponsorship. Deep discussion took place around recent MHSAA tournament opt-outs (64 of 614 softball teams opted out of the 2021 tournament) and how late drops adversely affect district brackets, umpire scheduling and remaining participants. The committee agreed that this change, while radical, could have a net positive effect. Questions remain about when Site Selection Committees will meet under the new "Opt In" concept, and how teams will be placed if they enter the tournament after maps are completed.

SEEDING & MPR

Committee members reviewed the current Michigan Power Ranking formula currently used for six MHSAA tournament sports and discussed the application of MPR for the sport of softball. Ultimately, with most geographic districts comprised of 4, 5, or 6 teams, the merits of district-level seeding of the top-two teams in softball are lacking. Additionally, most state-wide softball regular-season schedules and scores have not historically been entered into MHSAA ScoreCenter.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - NO ACTION

1. Umpire shortage
2. Coach/Player contact days
3. Summer Travel Restrictions
4. NFHS Rule Changes, Major Editorial Changes, and Points of Emphasis

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MHSAA REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. By default, "Pre-District" games are played on the Tuesday following Memorial Day. If all participating teams agree before the draw is held (and the host school, if applicable), teams may play "pre-district" games on the Thursday or Friday before Memorial Day. (11-0)
2. Separate the Baseball/Softball Site Selection Committee into individual Site Selection Committees. (11-0)