

2021 MHSAA SOCCER COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, January 14, 2021, 10:30 a.m. – held via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathy Bondsteel, Jonesville
Ken Delaney, Coldwater (MHSSCA)
Jeff Engbers, Hudsonville
Kevin Guzzo, St. Joseph (MIAAA)
Gary Kinzer, Novi
Chris Riker, Portage

Allison Sartorious, Waterford
Kevin Schwedler, Frankenmuth
Paige Mielke, Novi (Guest/MATS)

MHSAA STAFF

Andy Frushour (Recorder)

The 2020-21 MHSAA Soccer Committee met via Zoom to review topics involving soccer and the tournament series. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision-making process and the charge of the Soccer Committee. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members and the soccer coaches association.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

SAFETY

The results of the annual NFHS RIO report were provided. Instances of head injury remains stable, while a higher incidence of concussion continues to be reported among females. Member schools continue to do a great job of educating coaches on health and safety issues in school sports.

FALL SURVEY REVIEW

In fall 2020 the MHSAA surveyed members schools about potential future Handbook changes, as well collected feedback on COVID-19 related rules changes made in the fall. CPR certification for all head coaches (not just varsity coaches) and a common start date for all for fall sports are preferred. There were mixed reviews on out-of-season contact days, as boys already use the summer before the season and winter contact days instead of fall would be better for girls (if any).

SOCCER ITEMS

The soccer committee reviewed the new “five quarter” rule in football and basketball. There is no push for this in soccer as the committee wants to see another year of sample data. Even then, there are questions on whether this would be a limit of three halves, or possibly allowing just a single half in a JV and Varsity game on one day.

This fall was the second season of the MPR seeding system, after missing the girls season in the spring. The committee did not push for changes – such as guaranteeing seeded teams home games or seeding more than two teams – citing the limited use of the system to date. More importantly, the committee is happy that the current seeding is accomplishing the goal of separating the two seeded teams to opposite sides of the bracket.

Finally, the committee discussed an exhausting fall season of enforcing mask-wearing at games with both players and fans alike. Inconsistencies in the way the order was applied from school-to-school made a tough situation even more difficult. Masks may still be required during the spring season, and there was discussion about game officials enforcing masks as part of a legal uniform.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

None.