

OFFICIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, September 28, 2015

Members Present:

Brad Bush, Chelsea
Mike Garvey, Kalamazoo
Paul Gaudard, Flint
Jim Haskins, Grand Rapids
Barry James, Marquette
Mike Knabusch, Monroe
Greg Lattig, Mason
Mark Mattson, Traverse City

Nick Nolde, Escanaba
Ron Nagy, Hazel Park
Greg Pilbeam, Kentwood
Keith Richardson, Burton
Lowell Winne, Fennville
John Young, Westland

Staff:

Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2015-16 MHSAA Officials Review Committee met to review topics involving high school officiating. After introductions were completed, the committee reviewed the terms of appointment to the Officials Review Committee, as well as the charge and mission of the group relative to the MHSAA decision making process.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Officials Recruitment & Retention: MHSAA staff reported historical data and current registration numbers in light of a renewed focus on recruiting new officials. Staff shared information relative to recruiting and retention efforts from a statewide and local perspective. This included the new “Be the Referee” campaign which includes multi-media spots on both television and radio. The committee also reviewed the program where member schools, Approved Associations and Registered Assigners are provided two complimentary registrations for any first-time official. A great deal of time was spent on discussing the issue of retaining newly registered officials, and there was strong consensus to strengthen the registration requirements of new officials.

MHSAA Officiating Contract Terms: A long discussion took place on current officials contract language that covers Act of God situations and officials compensation along with other instances where games or contests are being cancelled due to low numbers or schools having to drop programs altogether. The group supported currently policies which they believed are fair to both officials and member schools when cancellations take place.

Arbiter Sports Update: Staff provided an update on all the Arbiter products being used in partnership with Arbiter Sports such as Arbiter Game, Arbiter One and Arbiter 360. MHSAA staff continues to meet with groups of schools and assigners as the Arbiter Game product moves forward with additional features and functionality being added.

2015-16 Camps & Clinics: An update was given with the schedule for the low-cost officiating camps and clinics being offered during the current school and plans for next summer’s offerings in several sports. Discussion also took place on adding offerings

and building future requirements for clinic or camp attendance in a new official's first two to three years of registration.

Insurance Overview: Committee members were provided an overview of the MHSAA insurance coverages for an official that includes catastrophic medical accident insurance and general liability coverage, and a brief description of the new concussion care insurance program for students.

Additional Items: Brief updates were provided on the Midwest Officials Summit, ratings, regular season and MHSAA tournament game fee information and health & safety issues for officials.

Correspondence: The committee also reviewed two pieces of correspondence that included a proposal to include competitive cheer in the group of sports where being a member-in-good-standing of an approved officials association is a requirement for a tournament assignment and expanding the school rating program to allow schools to rate using a decimal system of 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5 and 5. The competitive cheer issue was referred to the MHSAA Competitive Cheer committee and the rating suggestion generated limited support.

Recommendations to the Representative Council:

To complete the registration process, a new official must complete the NFHS online course "Interscholastic Officiating" in addition to current requirements of the *MHSAA Officials Guidebook* exam and mechanics exams in football and basketball (14-0).