

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, December 6, 2019

Members Present:

Nicole Carter, Novi
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vicky Groat, Battle Creek
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace
Courtney Hawkins, Mt. Morris
Kris Isom, Adrian
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Chris Miller, Gobles
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Chris Riker, Portage
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Adam Stefanski, Boyne City
John Thompson, Brighton
Al Unger, Kingsford
Alvin Ward, Detroit

Member Absent:

Justin Jennings, Muskegon

Also Present:

Eric Albright, Midland
Jay Alexander, Detroit
Scott Eldridge, Lansing
Mark Mattson, Maple City
Jason Mensing, Ottawa Lake
Kamil Robakiewicz, Lansing
Alex Tiseo, Marquette
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

Tony Bihn
Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton
Dan Hutcheson
Cody Inglis
John Johnson
Geoff Kimmerly
Andi Osters
Tom Rashid
Brent Rice
Adam Ryder
Mark Uyl (Recorder)
Kathy Westdorp

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Al Unger, to approve the following accounts of meetings: Representative Council meeting of May 5-6, 2019; Executive Committee meetings of May 5, June 12, Aug. 1, Aug. 22, Sept. 4, Oct. 2 and Nov. 6, 2019; and Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Sept. 25, 2019. Adopted.

REPORTS

Legislation – Bill Zaagman presented the report of Governmental Consultant Services, Inc., discussing general, school and sports issues involving the Michigan Legislature.

Litigation – Attorneys Scott Eldridge and Kamil Robakiewicz reported to the Council on the status of legal matters involving or of interest to the MHSAA.

Administration – Reports from several MHSAA staff included the following topics that generated discussion among Council members and staff:

- Executive Director Update, by Mark Uyl
- Multi-Sport Task Force, by Cody Inglis
- Fall In-Service Meeting Report, by Tom Rashid
- Concussion Reports, by Kathy Westdorp
- Fall Attesting Report, by Kathy Westdorp
- Update Meeting Survey Results

ONGOING BUSINESS

Boys Lacrosse – In May, the Representative Council delayed action on a recommendation from the Boys Lacrosse Committee to move to three divisions in the Boys Lacrosse Tournament. When the Boys Lacrosse Committee met in October, there was not support at this time to move to three tournament divisions. No action was taken.

Esports Update – Over the past two years, many state associations have spent significant time discussing and studying Esports. The NFHS Network has partnered with an Esports provider, PlayVS, and some states are sponsoring esports with a tournament series. Staff provided a status report nationally and led a Michigan discussion in light of Update meeting survey question #11.

Football – Staff provided a report on the upcoming Youth Football Summit to be held on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in partnership with USA Football and the MHSFCA. Participation numbers continue to be a concern nationally and one ongoing effort locally is to encourage more schools to use the items of the Youth Football Position Statement to bring more sanity and common sense to youth football programs in Michigan. Staff previewed Football Committee agenda items that reflect the feedback received in Update survey questions 1, 2 and 6 in our ongoing efforts to promote and grow the game.

Non-Traditional Draws – In May of 2018, the Representative Council approved a policy for non-traditional draws in basketball and volleyball tournaments for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years. For 2020-21 and beyond, the staff recommended continuing the policy adopted in May of 2018 for basketball and volleyball. This will be posted in the tournament managers' material and participating school tournament information.

Motion by Al Unger, supported by Steve Newkirk, to approve the District and Regional draw/host policy for basketball and volleyball for non-traditional groupings. Adopted.

Review of Limits – In May of 2019, the Representative Council directed staff to seek data and membership input on a number of topics including amateur status, out-of-season coaching issues, use of football equipment in out-of-season activities and the MHSAA travel limitation in the summer and in-season.

Regarding **amateur status**, staff provided a report on current regulations in light of proposed changes at the NCAA level and in various states regarding amateur athletes being permitted to benefit from the use of their name, image and likeness.

Regarding **out-of-season coaching**, staff provided a preview of *Handbook* meeting topics to discuss out-of-season issues in ice hockey and other sports in general in light of Update survey questions 10 and 14. Any future changes must be done with the foundational concept that every limitation placed on school coaches encourages students to spend more time with non-school coaches.

Regarding the use of **football equipment** out of season, survey results were discussed, and this item will be on the agenda for Football Committee discussion.

Regarding the **travel rule**, staff provided a summary on Update survey questions 3, 4 and 5 in light of the summer and in-season travel rule, along with a preview of possible regulation updates to the summer regulations.

Football Playoffs – Staff provided a brief report which showed four years of football game results, including the most recent 2019 season, using the Enhanced Strength of Schedule formula. Staff also recommended that beginning with the 2020 tournament, both 8-player divisions adopt all elements of the Enhanced Strength of Schedule formula which will include establishing divisions in March, not allowing opt-ups and using the ESOS formula to identify the playoff teams.

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Kris Isom, to use the ESOS formula for 8-player tournament qualification beginning with the 2020 season. Adopted.

Soccer Seeding Report – Staff provided a brief report on the positive first experiences with seeding the #1 and #2 District teams using MPR from boys soccer.

“New” Transfer Rule Update- Staff provided a report on the first sports season that was completed fully under the sport-specific transfer rule. Questions from the Update tour were shared regarding the topics of a timeframe connected to a student using Exception 1, a student who returns to his/her original school after transferring but not playing in a sport at that new school, and possible limits to students who change schools more than once to play a sport not previously played. Consensus was that another year of experience under the rule was necessary before considering any substantive adjustments.

NEW BUSINESS

Mental Health Initiatives- The staff provided a report on current mental health initiatives that included the work of the Mental Health Focus Group, the MASSP Summit, rules meeting partnership with BeNice, along with future goals and next steps.

Sports Medicine Advisory Committee – The first meeting of the MHSAA SMAC was held on Oct. 21, 2019. A verbal summary of this meeting was provided to the Council.

Officials Registration Update – The staff provided an update on current registration numbers along with recruitment and retention strategies as attracting, and keeping, new and returning officials alike remains one of the MHSAA’s highest priorities.

Women in Sports Leadership Award – There were six candidates for the Women in Sports Leadership Award. These were presented to the Representative Council for a vote. The name(s) of the recipient(s) will be released at an appropriate time and the recipient(s) will be honored during the Women in Sports Leadership Conference on Feb. 2, 2020.

Charles E. Forsythe Award – There were six candidates for the Charles E. Forsythe Award presented to the Representative Council for a ballot vote. The name(s) of the recipient(s) will be released at an appropriate time and the recipient(s) will be honored during the Boys Basketball Final Tournament on March 28, 2020.

Meeting Expenses – Expenses for this meeting were approved at the specified hotel rate for accommodations, the IRS-specified meal allowance and a 40¢ per mile mileage allowance round-trip.

Future Meetings – The next meeting of the Representative Council will be held on Friday, March 27, 2020, 8:15 a.m. at the Jack Roberts building in East Lansing. The spring meeting of the Representative Council will be held May 3-4, 2020, at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. The fall meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020, at the Jack Roberts building in East Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned.