

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Video Conference Meeting, December 4, 2020

Members Present:

Eric Albright, Midland
Jay Alexander, Detroit
Nicole Carter, Novi
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vicky Groat, Battle Creek
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace
Kris Isom, Adrian
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Mark Mattson, Maple City
Will McKoy, Romulus
Jason Mensing, Ottawa Lake
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Chris Miller, Gobles
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Chris Riker, Portage
John Thompson, Brighton
Alex Tiseo, Marquette

Also Present:

Scott Eldridge, Lansing
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

Tony Bihn
Jordan Cobb
Sam Davis
Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton
Dan Hutcheson
Cody Inglis
John Johnson
Geoff Kimmerly
Cole Malatinsky
Andi Osters
Tom Rashid
Brent Rice
Jon Ross
Adam Ryder
Mark Uyl (Recorder)
Kathy Westdorp
Karen Yonkers

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of Nov. 18, 2020; the Executive Committee meetings of May 1, June 10, Aug. 5, Aug. 25, Sept. 10, Sept. 30, Nov. 4 and Dec. 3, 2020; and the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Aug. 18, 2020. Adopted.

REPORTS

Legislation – Bill Zaagman updated the Council on the status of current emergency orders and gave a brief summary on state politics following the election. Mr. Zaagman is monitoring active bills regarding athletes' for-profit use of their name, image and likeness. He reminded the Council that all bills not passed die at the end of this year's session later in December.

Litigation – Attorney Scott Eldridge reported to the Council that there is no active litigation involving the association. Mr. Eldridge gave a brief summary of the legal issues in the challenges of the Governor's Executive Orders and the differences in more recent challenges to the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services emergency orders.

Administration – Reports from MHSAA staff included a fall AD In-Service meeting report by Tom Rashid and Update Meeting survey results by Mark Uyl. The survey data will be shared with appropriate sport committees in 2021.

ONGOING BUSINESS

COVID-19 Update – The Council discussed the Nov. 18 letter to the governor and MDHHS, as well as the fall tournament status and budget recap. The letter to Governor Whitmer, Dr. Khaldun and MDHHS Director Robert Gordon outlined a proposed plan to complete unfinished fall tournaments in December, allow winter practices to restart on Dec. 9 and delay the start of winter competition until Jan 4. Since that letter was sent, the MHSAA executive director and Council member Vic Michaels held a virtual meeting with the Governor’s office to discuss the proposed plan and answer questions.

The Representative Council and staff are beyond grateful to all member schools that conducted tournaments this fall with only the officials fees being reimbursed. This has allowed the association to dig out of the COVID financial hole that had been deepening since last March.

Junior High/Middle School Seasons – A long discussion took place regarding middle school sports in terms of the resumption of practice dates along with competition dates. A majority of the Council wanted consistency for all winter sports at both the high school and junior high/middle school level in terms of the first allowed date of competition.

Motion by Kris Isom, supported by John Thompson, to adopt a plan that would allow the resumption of all competitive seasons on Dec. 9 (for those schools that had played a game prior to the pause). Middle school seasons may be no longer than 13 calendar weeks but there would not be a requirement in 2020-21 that these weeks be consecutive due to COVID pauses or holiday breaks. No spectators would be allowed at the resumption of competitions. Defeated.

Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Karen Leinaar, to adopt a plan that would allow the resumption of all competitive seasons on Jan. 4, 2021, providing government orders permit. Middle school seasons may be no longer than 13 calendar weeks but there is not a requirement in 2020-21 that these weeks be consecutive due to COVID pauses or holiday breaks. Adopted.

Winter Sport Clarifications – The Council also reviewed a revised competition proposal from the Ice Hockey Coaches Association along with reminders that all winter sports weekly competition limits will remain in place with no adjustment or reduction in the total number of allowed games or days of competition. The current plan is for all winter tournament dates to remain as published with the possible exception of wrestling based on events and circumstances over the next month. It was noted that if the current pause is extended and no activity can take place until Jan. 4 for fall or winter sports, the Council will meet again to address these new challenges.

Girls Gymnastics – Motion by John Thompson, supported by Chris Riker, to adopt the Girls Gymnastics Committee recommendation to allow, for the 2020-21 season only, the number of qualifying scores to be reduced from four to three scores. Adopted.

COVID-19 Survey – The Council reviewed the survey sent to schools regarding COVID-19 adjustments that may result in long-term changes, and these results, along with the Update meeting survey results, will be shared with numerous sport committees in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

Athletic Equity Committee Report – The council reviewed correspondence from the National Congress of American Indians regarding native-themed school mascots. The Council will take up this topic at its May 2021 meeting, along with long-range goals of the Equity Committee of addressing issues of race, diversity and inclusion within school sports.

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 Girls Basketball Tournament Finals on March 20, 2021.

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 27, 2021.

Future Meetings – The next meeting of the Representative Council will be held on Friday, March 26, 2021, at 8:15 a.m. at the Jack Roberts Building in East Lansing. The spring meeting of the Representative Council will be held May 2-3, 2021, at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. The fall meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 3, 2021, at the Jack Roberts Building in East Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned.