

# MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

## REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, March 22, 2013

### Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee  
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Dave Derocher, Reese  
Ken Dietz, Watervliet  
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing  
Kris Isom, Adrian  
Maureen Klocke, Yale  
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake  
Orlando Medina, Harrison Township  
Jason Mellema, Pewamo-Westphalia  
Steve Newkirk, Clare  
Pete Ryan, Saginaw  
Fred Smith, Buchanan  
Paula Steele, Perry  
John Thompson, Brighton  
Al Unger, Kingsford  
Alvin Ward, Detroit

### Also Present:

Dave Duncan, Cedarville  
Scott Eldridge, Lansing  
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace  
Chris Hartman, Iron Mountain  
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

### Staff Members Present:

Randy Allen  
Tony Bihn  
Jordan Cobb  
Andy Frushour  
Nate Hampton  
John Johnson  
Gina Mazzolini  
Tom Rashid  
Jack Roberts (Recorder)  
Mark Uyl  
Kathy Westdorp

### Member Absent:

Carmen Kennedy, St. Clair Shores

President Jim Derocher opened the meeting by welcoming new Council member Orlando Medina, Athletic Director at Harrison Township-L'Anse Creuse High School, to his first meeting; and he welcomed representatives of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee whose members are invited to attend this meeting on an annual basis.

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Steve Newkirk, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of Nov. 30, 2012; the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of Nov. 29, 2012, Jan. 9, 2013 and Feb. 20, 2013; and the minutes of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Jan. 13-14, 2013. Adopted.

## REPORTS

Administration – The executive director provided a brief review of winter tournaments and the status of 2013-14 classifications of 756 member high schools for MHSAA tournament participation.

Tony Bihn updated the Council on the progress of **ArbiterGame** and the multiple training opportunities provided at the recent MIAAA Conference in Traverse City and the additional sessions scheduled across Michigan in April.

Andy Frushour provided an update of **student services**, including the Scholar-Athlete program and the second "Battle of the Fans."

The executive director continued an effort that was begun at the Council's Nov. 30, 2012 meeting to raise up large, long-term issues that will require the Council to think strategically. The three topics brought forth for discussion only at this time were (1) athletic-related transfers; (2) issues related to all-star events; and (3) issues related to students with disabilities. The first topic included a proposal that has been discussed with many constituent groups and is being prepared for the Council's vote in May.

Litigation – Attorney Scott Eldridge reviewed the status of one pending matter.

Legislation – Bill Zaagman of Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. reviewed activities of the Michigan Legislature that could directly or indirectly affect member schools' administration of interscholastic athletics.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

Risk Minimization – For the past four school years the MHSAA has been focusing on Heads, Hearts, Heat and Health Histories. Among noteworthy progress has been the development of return-to-play protocols to support the tougher and more comprehensive language of the National Federation playing rules and a more comprehensive preparticipation physical examination, with an emphasis on each student's health history, that was developed with cooperation of a multi-professional task force coordinated by the Michigan Department of Community Health.

To maintain momentum and make it more likely to do the most good most quickly for the most student-athletes, the MHSAA has identified four health and safety thrusts for the next four years:

1. Implementing policies for the management of heat and humidity.
2. Enhancing the initial and ongoing sports safety education of coaches.
3. Improving practice policies, especially early in the fall season.
4. Modifying contest rules to reduce each sport's most dangerous play situations and to reduce head trauma.

Progress and plans regarding each thrust were discussed, with special attention to the possibilities for more initial and ongoing health and safety education for coaches.

The Council was provided the report of the first meeting and the agenda for the second meeting of the Football Task Force which is working on the third and fourth thrusts with respect to the sport of football. Its policy initiatives will flow through the MHSAA Football Committee to the Representative Council, while its ideas for promotional initiatives will go directly to staff.

The "Model Policy for Managing Heat & Humidity," which the Council reviewed at its November meeting and constituents have been reviewing ever since, was presented for vote. Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by John Thompson, to approve this model policy for inclusion in the 2013-14 *MHSAA Handbook* with the recommendation that member schools adopt it, or something substantially similar, to govern all interscholastic athletics. The policy will be mandatory for all MHSAA tournaments, effective with the 2013-14 school year. Adopted.

Youth Protection Policies – At its Nov. 30, 2012 meeting, the Council was provided drafts of MHSAA documents being revised to assure the MHSAA is in compliance with all laws and best practices with respect to protection of youth from abuse, bullying, hazing and harassment at MHSAA tournaments and other events. Further revisions have been made in those documents pursuant to input of legal counsel. As MHSAA internal and external documents are revised for 2013-14 and beyond, the appropriate changes will be incorporated.

Video Broadcasting – The executive director described an initiative of the National Federation to create a nationwide video broadcasting network that has the potential of involving all state high school associations and providing them a means to video broadcast all their tournament finals as well as some earlier rounds and to derive more revenue through this cooperative effort than has been possible on a state-by-state basis.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Boys Lacrosse – Motion by Paula Steele, supported by Pete Ryan, to adopt the May 2012 Boys Lacrosse Committee recommendation that, in addition to existing requirements, to be eligible to officiate MHSAA tournaments, an official is required to be a member in good standing of an approved local boys lacrosse officials association. Adopted.

Wrestling – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Maureen Klocke, to adopt the Wrestling Committee recommendation that in years where there are only 15 Saturdays on the calendar between the first day of practice and the Individual Finals (rather than the “traditional” 16 Saturdays), the days of practice before the first competition shall be reduced from 23 to 19. In 2013-14, this would move the earliest day of allowed competition from Wednesday, Dec. 11, to Saturday, Dec. 7. Adopted.

Vern L. Norris Award – The Representative Council was presented with the four finalists for the Vern L. Norris Award who had been screened by the MHSAA Awards Committee from nine nominees. The Council selected the recipient of the award, which will be presented at the Officials’ Awards & Alumni Banquet on May 4, 2013.

Meetings – The Representative Council approved expenses for the March Council meeting and the schedule for the May 2013 Council meeting.

Audit and Finance Committee Report – Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendation to increase the mileage reimbursement for committee members from 30¢ to 40¢ per mile. Adopted.

Motion by Jason Mellema, supported by Fred Smith, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendation for National Federation Annual Meeting attendance by Council members, and to approve the specific reimbursement limits for the 2013 meeting in Denver. Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Alvin Ward, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendations regarding staff compensation for 2013-14. Adopted.