

# MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

## REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, December 1, 2023

### **Members Present:**

Chris Adams, Camden  
Eric Albright, Midland  
Jay Alexander, Detroit  
Ross Fort, Lansing  
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Kris Isom, Adrian  
Sean Jacques, Calumet  
Jeff Kline, Mt. Morris  
Jason Malloy, Westland  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Chris Miller, Gobles  
Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs  
Chris Riker, Portage  
Meg Seng, Ann Arbor  
Fred Smith, Bangor  
Adam Stefanski, Boyne City  
John Thompson, Brighton  
Alex Tiseo, Marquette

### **Members Absent:**

Judy Cox, Auburn

### **Also Present:**

Scott Eldridge, Lansing  
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

### **Staff Members Present:**

Tony Bihn  
Brad Bush  
Jordan Cobb  
Sam Davis  
Andy Frushour  
Dan Hutcheson  
Cody Inglis  
Geoff Kimmerly  
Cole Malatinsky  
Will McKoy  
Andi Osters  
Jon Ross  
Adam Ryder  
Mark Uyl (Recorder)  
Kathy Westdorp  
Paige Winne

**Accounts of Meetings** – Motion by Jason Malloy, supported by Eric Albright, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of May 7-8, the Executive Committee meetings of May 5, June 15, Aug. 7, Aug. 22, Sept. 6, Oct. 5 and Nov. 1 and the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Sept. 27. Adopted.

## **REPORTS**

**Legislation** – Bill Zaagman provided an update on a variety of legislative issues, in particular the solution to Public Act 184 which impacted recently retired public school employees. Mr. Zaagman also provided a recap of the status of bills that did not pass given the 2023 legislative session has already adjourned. Many of these bills, such as the high school NIL bill, will be reintroduced in 2024. Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. will continue to monitor all bills in the upcoming 2024 session and will keep MHSAA staff and the Representative Council updated.

**Litigation** – Attorney Scott Eldridge reported to the Council on the status of legal matters involving or of interest to the MHSAA.

**Administration** – Reports from MHSAA staff included highlights from the just-completed fall season, status report on the MHSAA building renovation project and information on current and future challenges with broadcast television media agreements. The fall AD In-Service meeting report was provided by Dan Hutcheson, followed by an update on the new AD Connection program and officials recruitment progress by Brad Bush. Andy Frushour reported a successful fall program of Sportsmanship Summits and Jon Ross provided a positive update on growth and improved service from the NFHS Network. Kathy Westdorp reported on plans

for the 2024 Women in Sports Leadership Conference along with an update on the MHSAA's Coaches Advancement Program. The Update Meeting survey results were presented, and this data will drive discussion with appropriate sport committees during the 2023-24 meeting cycle.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

**Financial Update and Audit Review** – The Council reviewed the highly positive audit report produced by Maner Costerian for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Positive revenue was reported in 22-23 for the second consecutive year. The MHSAA was able to report another budget surplus during 22-23 which will allow further discussions with the Audit & Finance Committee on future priorities which will include increased host school shares, officials fees, tournament manager honorariums and Semifinal and Final team reimbursements.

**New and Emerging Sports** – Staff reviewed current MHSAA policy regarding tournament sport sponsorship and the threshold for emerging sports. An update was provided on the conversations that have occurred the past two years at the MIAAA Conference, Camp Mid and the fall Update Meeting tour regarding possible new and emerging sports. The Council discussed proposals that have been received from the water polo and girls' field hockey communities, which currently operate these sports through the coaches' association (water polo) and an executive board (field hockey). The Council discussed the issues about tournament sponsorship and provided staff with input and direction. It was noted that a proposal for boys volleyball will be introduced to the MHSAA Volleyball Committee next week. The Council took no action, and the topic will be discussed by the 2024 Classification Committee, with a report returning to the Council at the March meeting.

**Calendar Issues** – Staff led a discussion on three calendar issues which included LP Boys Tennis in the fall of 2024, LP Boys Swimming & Diving for the winter 2024-25 and a general concept about start and end dates for future winter seasons. The Council provided feedback and took action on both the tennis and swimming & diving issues for next year. Staff provided Update Meeting Opinion Poll data on the broader issue of future winter dates and staff will prepare a formal recommendation for Council review at a future meeting for the 2025-26 school year and beyond.

Motion by John Thompson, supported by Fred Smith, to approve the LP Boys Tennis Final dates of October 21-22, 2024, for the Division 4 Finals. Adopted.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the amended LP Boys Swimming & Diving dates which include the first day of practice (Nov. 25), first contest (Dec. 7), Diving Regionals (Mar. 6) and LP Finals (March 14-15). Adopted.

**Coaches Advancement Program** – Kathy Westdorp provided an update on the reach and delivery of the CAP program for the 2023-24 school year. The MHSAA continues to report strong numbers in this important coaching education program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Recognition of Service** – Outgoing Council members Meg Seng and Kris Isom were recognized for their years of dedicated service during the lunch break.

**Transfer Rule Discussion** – Staff provided an update on a variety of transfer rule issues that have been identified in the past 12 months. These scenarios included multi-high school districts with both boundary and non-boundary schools, along with possible transfer exceptions for military family transfers, fulltime school employee transfers and students returning to an

MHSAA member school from a sports academy or prep school (Exception #2). Discussion also took place on Exception #5 of the transfer rule which is now null and void given the recent change in state law (marriage exception). The feedback received from the Council will assist staff in the *MHSAA Handbook* meetings that start the regulation review process for 2024-25.

Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Jason Malloy, to approve the following additional note to Regulation I, Section 9 of the *MHSAA Handbook*:

“Note: For a school district with at least three high schools comprised of both boundary and non-boundary schools, a transfer student (who meets an exception) is eligible immediately at the boundary school (attendance area of residence). If a student is accepted and enrolls at a non-boundary school, the student is eligible at the closest non-boundary school to the new residence. In this case, that student is no longer eligible at the boundary school of residence once enrolled at the closest non-boundary school.”

Adopted.

**Football** – An update was provided on the work of the Football Task Force which met in person last winter and met again virtually in the fall of 2023. The staff recommendation is that further discussion take place in the Football Committee on the 250-student cap for Division 8 in 11-player football along with further discussion on regular season scheduling issues and the playoff format. Staff noted that there is a real value in the current system given the attention on social media of the “watch” gatherings in nearly 300 football communities received on Selection Sunday.

**Finances with Officials, Host Schools, Manager Honorariums and Team Final Reimbursements** – In light of the audit report earlier in the meeting, staff identified four areas of focus for the Audit & Finance Committee which will meet in February to begin the budget process for 2024-25. There was consensus within the Council that increases must be made in all four areas for the next school year and beyond. The information provided and subsequent discussion helped lay the groundwork for the 24-25 budget planning process.

**Name, Image and Likeness (NIL)** – A brief discussion took place on the current Michigan NIL bill that passed the House but received no action by the Senate and Governor. This issue will reappear in the 2024 legislative session and Council members were provided a summary of what the MHSAA will, and will not, support as this issue moves forward.

**Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)** – Staff reported that two recommendations from the MHSAA SMAC will come to the Council for action in March. These two proposals will address emergency action plans and AEDs at MHSAA tournament sites. Information was also shared on the recent TUFFS meeting and other health and safety-related work by staff and member school personnel.

**MHSAA Awards** – Final candidates for the Forsythe, Bush, Norris and WISL awards were presented to the Council for voting, along with the addition of the new Nate Hampton Champion of Progress Award. Votes will be tabulated, and winners announced during the 2024 calendar year. It was noted that staff member Kathy Westdorp has done an exceptional job of reorganizing the awards program with more candidates available this year for consideration than ever before.

**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** – Regularly scheduled meetings of the Council are March 22, 2024 (MHSAA headquarters), May 5-6, 2024 (Gaylord) and December 6, 2024 (MHSAA headquarters).

The meeting was adjourned.