

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
2022-23 VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 8, 2022

Members Present:

Fred Bryant, Cadillac
Tony Burton, Brown City
Nicole Carter, Novi
Steve Humm, Alma
D.J. Kellogg, Canton
David Kool, Grand Rapids
Jean LaClair, Bronson (MIAAA)
Penny McDonald, Cadillac
Luke Reynolds, North Branch

Tiffany Roberts, Flint
Heather Sawyer, Battle Creek (MIVCA)
Tracy Sterling, Sturgis
Ed Uhrik, Fenton
Jason Vogel, Kent City
Mike Watson, Birmingham
Lauren Wetmore, Gladwin

MHSAA Staff:

Andi Osters (Recorder)

INTRODUCTION

The 2022-23 MHSAA Volleyball Committee met at the John E. “Jack” Roberts building in East Lansing on Dec. 8, 2022. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision making process and charge of the Volleyball Committee. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members and the coaches’ association. The committee was reminded that the scope of their work was to focus on growing the game of volleyball, protecting the health & safety of participants, and maintaining the proper philosophy of educational, school-based athletics.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

SEASON REVIEW

The committee spent time discussing the 2022 regular and postseason, with special attention given to both the growth and stability of volleyball in Michigan. Volleyball continues to lead the MHSAA participation survey as the most-played sport among female high school athletes. Discussion surrounding Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek as the culminating event host was overall positive; with great feedback about the newly installed sport court in 2022 and excitement over the prospect of the attached hotel property re-opening in the fall of 2023.

DISTRICT SEEDING

For the third consecutive year, members of the committee expressed interest in adoption of a seeding process for the MHSAA tournament. Citing successful implementation of MPR-based seeding at the district level of both boys and girls basketball, the committee advanced a proposal that would separate the top two teams within each volleyball district, determined by the Michigan Power Rating (MPR). To provide a longer runway for execution of the proposal, the committee suggested a start year of 2024-25 for district seeding. As such, 2023-24 will be an important year to promote and prepare for schedule and score entry on MHSAA.com within the high school volleyball coaching community.

MAXIMUM COMPETITION LIMITATIONS

The “5th Quarter” concept in basketball (allowing a player to compete on more than one level in the same sport on the same day) was explored and discussed. Lengthy dialogue relating to the philosophy and practical application of the rule led to several conclusions; (1) small schools struggling to field sub-varsity teams would benefit, while (2) elite players could be made more impactful across a program if used improperly. Volleyball set numbers vary drastically from match to match, which creates challenges when considering a reasonable limit for additional play on another level on the same day. Ultimately, no consensus was reached, and the conversation was tabled.

Two registered officials in the room expressed concern about lengthy weekend multi-team tournaments (11+ hours for insufficient pay) driving registered officials away from the high school game. This concern was shared by Athletic Directors in the room, stating that their regular-season contest assignments are becoming more difficult to fill, even at the varsity level. Committee members strongly considered establishing further limits on (a) the number of sets allowed in a day and (b) the number of multi-team events permitted on a team schedule. Should multi-team weekend tournaments continue to drive officials away from the profession, the committee agreed that decreased in contest limits would be necessary to prevent further problems.

NFHS PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

Members of the committee were provided the 30 proposed rules changes for the NFHS Volleyball Committee. Rules discussion centered on jewelry prohibitions, several uniform requirements, and standing allowances for both coaches and non-playing team members. Staff will provide feedback to the Section 4 Representative on the NFHS Volleyball Committee in the coming weeks.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS (NO ACTION)

1. Team Benches
2. Scoring Table Best Practices
3. R1 & R2 Electronic Communication Devices
4. Boys Volleyball
5. GoFan Digital Ticketing
6. Hudl Video Sharing

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MHSAA STAFF

1. Adjust the MHSAA Semifinal schedule to swap Division 4 & 1 and Divisions 3 & 2 on Thursday and Fridays, alternating each year.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MHSAA REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Beginning in 2024-25, separate the top two seeds in each district using the Michigan Power Rating formula (MPR), mirroring the draw model currently used in Boys and Girls Basketball. (15-1)
2. Permit the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association a 3-minute on-court presentation for the Miss Volleyball Recipient during the MHSAA Division 1 Championship, to be conducted between the 2nd and 3rd sets of that match. (16-0)