

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, March 23, 2012

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Bill Chilman, Beal City
Ken Dietz, Watervliet
Kris Isom, Adrian
Maureen Klocke, Yale
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
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
Mark Woodson, Romulus

Also Present:

Dave Duncan, Cedarville
Scott Eldridge, Lansing
Chris Hartman, Iron Mountain
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

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

Member Absent:

Kyle Guerrant, Lansing
Carmen Kennedy, St. Clair Shores

President Jim Derocher opened the meeting by welcoming new Council member Maureen Klocke, Athletic Director at Yale High School, to her first meeting; and he welcomed two representatives of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee whose members are invited to attend this meeting on an annual basis.

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of Dec. 2, 2011; the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of Dec. 1, 2011, Jan. 11, 2012 and Feb. 22, 2012; and the minutes of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Jan. 15-16, 2012. Adopted.

REPORTS

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

Litigation – Attorney Scott Eldridge reviewed the status of two pending matters.

Administration – The executive director provided a brief review of winter tournaments and the status of 2012-13 classifications of 760 member high schools for MHSAA tournament participation.

Tony Bihn updated the Council on the progress of the electronic athletic management tools which the MHSAA and ArbiterSports will begin to release on May 23, 2012. A grid identifying the release date for additional features and a schedule of training opportunities for league leaders, athletic directors and secretaries was provided. Mark Uyl explained the officials component and how athletic directors, assignors and officials will all benefit when Arbiter is utilized.

Andy Frushour described recent activities related to Student Services, including eight Team Captains programs involving approximately 1,200 students, the Scholar-Athlete program with approximately 1,700 applicants and the Student Advisory Council whose idea for the “Battle of the Fans” was successful for engaging people in MHSAA.com and in discussion of sportsmanship.

Tony Bihn provided metrics for MHSAA.com which reflect increasing page views and a growing percentage of users from mobile devices.

The executive director provided a summary of concerns that MHSAA staff has been addressing related to content on websites streaming MHSAA events and the merger of two entities with which the MHSAA has had separate contracts for video-related services.

A brief update on National Federation activities was provided by Karen Leinaar who serves on that organization’s Board of Directors. She indicated that some of the intellectual property concerns about which the executive director had been speaking will be on the agenda of the NFHS Board and NFHS membership meetings in April.

OLD BUSINESS

Junior High/Middle School Academic Standards – The proposal of the Junior High/Middle School Committee in 2011 to raise the junior high/middle school academic requirement (passing 50 percent of enrolled course work) to match the high school requirement (passing 66 percent of full credit load potential for full-time student) failed to receive the committee’s support in 2012. While not all Council members are satisfied with the current standard, there was no proposal presented to the Council that had earned sufficient support of the membership and committee.

Foreign Exchange Students – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to modify the 2012-13 *MHSAA Handbook*, Interpretation 84, to read (underscored is new):

“To be immediately eligible for interscholastic athletics, a resident alien must either ~~move~~ be enrolling in the ninth grade for the first time or be moving with the persons with whom he or she is living or be enrolled through a CSIET or MHSAA listed student exchange program, and in ~~either case~~ all cases, be eligible under all MHSAA Regulations. Eligibility through student exchange programs is for a maximum of the first two consecutive semesters or three consecutive trimesters at any secondary school in the United States, after which the student is ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition at any MHSAA member school for the next academic year (next two consecutive semesters or next three consecutive trimesters). No ~~other~~ exceptions to the Transfer Regulation ~~may be applied~~ apply during that academic year of ineligibility. (Exception [4])

“Note: If, after or during the academic year of ineligibility, the student transfers to an MHSAA member school from another school, the Transfer Regulation applies. All other eligibility and contest regulations apply to these students.”

Adopted.

Online Health & Safety Meetings – The 2011 Update Meeting Opinion Poll had strong support for a proposal which stated that, in addition to the MHSAA sport rules meeting, head coaches be required to complete a free online course focusing on health and safety.

- The content would rotate over a four-year period – e.g., concussions one year, heat illness the next, use of AEDs and CPR the next, and a new topic to be determined every fourth year.
- The penalty for head coaches who fail to complete this requirement would be the same as for failure to complete the rules meeting requirement.

This led to Representative Council discussion at its December meeting and then to the staff's discussions with the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Board of Directors in December, the presidents of Michigan coaches associations in January and league leadership in February where sentiment for facilitating more training for all coaches in health and safety topics was widely supported. Nevertheless, issues of actual implementation of additional mandates raised many concerns of MHSAA staff, which presented the Council an action plan that included numerous recommendations. Staff requested action on the following nine proposals:

1. The MHSAA will embed health and safety content within the online rules meeting, as is occurring during 2011-12 regarding concussions, and link to an additional online course that MHSAA has vetted and/or endorsed (like the NFHS, University of Michigan and CDC courses to which MHSAA.com links).
2. The content will be embedded only in the meetings for the sports where the featured health and safety topic is an issue (e.g., the concussion content would no longer be included in golf and tennis meetings).
3. The online meetings will permit viewers to download succinct printed resources without exiting the meeting; and additional resources should automatically be printed out with the certificate of meeting completion.
4. The MHSAA will do an email to all coaches in each season – fall, winter and spring – which provides key health and safety information and links to additional resources.
5. The embedded health and safety content of the online rules meeting will continue to be made available online for assistant coaches to view (this could be required by local schools), as well as for students and parents to view.
6. The featured health and safety topic for 2012-13 will again be concussions.
7. The featured topic for 2013-14 will be hydration and heat illness.
8. The return-to-play protocol for concussions will remain embedded in the 2013-14 meeting and the full 2012-13 topic (concussions) should remain viewable by coaches outside of the rules meeting during 2013-14 and for as long as the content remains accurate.
9. As more time is spent on health and safety issues, less time is available to focus on important MHSAA rules and regulations, and it may already be apparent that this has resulted in more problems with, for example, out-of-season coaching and amateur/awards infractions. The seasonal emails to coaches, with downloads, may be one tool to combat this drift; but this concern will require ongoing attention and innovation.

Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Fred Smith, to approve these nine recommendations. Adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Baseball/Softball – Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Paula Steele, to approve the Baseball/Softball Committee recommendation to the Representative Council to utilize a softball bat compression machine by staff in addition to traditional bat inspection by umpires during the MHSAA Softball Semifinals and Finals, beginning in 2012.

Adopted.

Soccer – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the following Soccer Committee recommendations to the Representative Council:

1. Permanently delay implementation of the National Federation rule requiring the home team to wear a solid white jersey (which would otherwise begin in the fall of 2014).
2. Permanently delay implementation of the National Federation rule requiring goalkeeper uniforms to use Arabic numbers (which would otherwise begin in the fall of 2012).

Not adopted.

Policy Proposals – Three matters scheduled for action in May were presented to determine if there were questions or concerns the Council would like staff to address before the May meeting.

Vern L. Norris Award – The Representative Council was presented with the six finalists for the Vern L. Norris Award who had been screened by the MHSAA Awards Committee from ten nominees. The Council selected the recipient of the award, which will be presented at the Officials' Awards & Alumni Banquet on May 5, 2012.

Meetings – The Representative Council approved expenses for the March Council meeting and the schedule for the May 2012 Council meeting.

Audit and Finance Committee Report – At its February 22, 2012 meeting, the MHSAA Audit and Finance Committee devoted the major portion of the meeting to discussing those tournament financial policies which the Representative Council had previously identified as highest priorities for review – volleyball District host shares, District and Regional football playoff host shares, and host expenses generally. The committee had no recommendations for changes at the present time.

Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Karen Leinaar, 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 2012 meeting in Nashville. Adopted.

Motion by Jason Mellema, supported by Mark Woodson, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendations regarding staff compensation and benefits for 2012-13. Adopted.