

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

East Lansing, March 22, 2024

**Council Members:**

Chris Adams, Camden  
Eric Albright, Midland  
Jay Alexander, Detroit  
Judy Cox, Auburn  
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Sean Jacques, Calumet  
Jeff Kline, Mt. Morris  
Jason Malloy, Westland  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Chris Miller, Gobles  
Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs  
Chris Riker, Portage  
Fred Smith, Bangor  
Adam Stefanski, Boyne City  
Dr. Arnetta Thompson, Wyoming  
John Thompson, Brighton  
Jennifer Thunberg, Freeland  
Alex Tiseo, Marquette

**Also Present:**

Scott Eldridge, Lansing  
Ashley Higginson, 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

President Scott Grimes welcomed all Council members and staff, including new Council members Jennifer Thunberg and Dr. Arnetta Thompson.

**Accounts of Meetings** – Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Jay Alexander, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of Dec. 1, 2023; the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of Nov. 30, 2023, Jan. 10, 2024 and Feb. 14, 2024; and the minutes of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Feb. 19, 2024. Adopted.

**REPORTS**

**Legislation** – The Council reviewed a report from Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. regarding activities of the Michigan Legislature that could directly or indirectly affect member schools' administration of interscholastic athletics.

**Litigation** – The Council received a report on legal issues in which the MHSAA has been engaged.

**Administration** – MHSAA staff provided a series of brief reports on winter tournaments, the MIAAA Conference, the WISL Conference, building renovations and Bally Sports Detroit.

## ONGOING BUSINESS

**Football Committee** – A long discussion took place on the football enrollment numbers prepared for the fall of 2024 which included eight equal divisions along with models of Division 8 with a cap of 250 students and 230 students. Good conversation took place on the concerns for small school 11-player teams along with discussion on the numbers of 8-player schools. This topic will be revisited at the May Council meeting for possible consideration in future years, but the Council was clear that no change would be made to the football classification process for the upcoming fall season and playoffs.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Alex Tiseo, to not approve the Football Committee recommendation to establish a cap of 250 students or less for 11-player teams to be eligible for the Division 8 football playoffs for the 2024 season and playoffs. Adopted (no change for 2024).

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Eric Albright, to further discuss the Football Committee recommendation to establish a cap of 250 students or less for 11-player teams to be eligible for the Division 8 football playoffs for 2025 at the earliest. Adopted. This topic will move to the May Council meeting for further discussion and study.

**Winter Calendar Proposals** – Andy Frushour provided an update on discussions and concepts regarding winter calendars beginning with the 2025-26 school year and beyond. A recent survey was completed by member schools following the staff presentation at the MIAAA Conference, and these results were shared with the Council. Discussion will be ongoing with this topic leading up to the May Council meeting for possible action.

**New & Emerging Sports** – Staff once again reviewed current MHSAA policy regarding tournament sport sponsorship and the threshold for emerging sports. An update was provided on the conversations that occurred at the MIAAA Conference in light of discussions that took place at the December Council meeting. The Council discussed proposals that have been received from the water polo, girls field hockey and boys volleyball communities, which currently operate these sports through the coaches association (water polo) and an executive board (field hockey and boys volleyball). An update was given on flag football and indoor track & field, as well. The Council took no action, and the topic will be revisited at the May meeting.

**School Sports & Event Security** – Staff provided a brief report on the partnership between the MHSAA and Secure Education Consultants (SEC), who currently work with hundreds of Michigan school districts in providing guidance and consulting on school security matters. The Council was given a tentative timeline for upcoming training sessions by the MHSAA and SEC for athletic administrators, event staff and volunteers.

**NIL Update and Amateur Status Discussion** – A brief discussion took place on the current Michigan NIL bill that passed the House but has received no action by the Senate and Governor as of March 2024. The Council also reviewed draft revisions to current MHSAA Amateur Status regulations.

**Track & Field Committee** – Motion by John Thompson, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve the following:

For the past two years, the MHSAA has provided a pilot program that included MHSAA tournament experiences for adaptive (wheelchair) track & field athletes at the Regional and Final levels. Staff and the Track & Field Committee propose that this pilot program

becomes permanent, beginning with the 2024 MHSAA Track & Field tournament at all LP and UP sites. Adopted.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Softball Committee** – Motion by Adam Stefanski, supported by Eric Albright, to approve the Softball Committee recommendation to permit schools to play District softball tournament Semifinal and Final games on either Thursday or Friday if all participating teams agree effective with the 2024 tournament. If one school dissents, the default tournament date will remain Saturday. Adopted.

**Meetings** – The Representative Council reviewed expenses for this meeting and the schedule for the May 2024 Council meeting. Motion by Jason Malloy, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve expenses for the March Council meeting. Adopted.

**Audit & Finance Committee Report** – This committee is responsible for reviewing past financial performance and future projections, reviewing and making revenue and expense recommendations for MHSAA programs, and finalizing the annual budget for the Council's approval in May. The Council reviewed the minutes of the committee's Feb. 7 meeting. The Council also was provided the proposed tournament officiating fees, along with other areas that will be discussed by the Audit & Finance Committee at the April meeting which included host school shares, Final team tournament reimbursements and manager's honorariums.

Motion by Chris Adams, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the recommended tournament officials fees for 2024-25 thru 2027-28. Adopted.

The Council approved the Audit & Finance Committee recommendation for National Federation Annual Meeting attendance by Council members, and to approve the specific reimbursement limits for those attending the 2024 meeting in Boston. Reimbursement will be after the meeting and based on actual length of stay and required paperwork. Adopted.

Motion by Jay Alexander, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the Audit & Finance Committee recommendations regarding staff compensation for 2024-25. Adopted.