

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, March 27, 2015

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Dave Derocher, Reese
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing
Kris Isom, Adrian
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Maureen Klocke, Yale
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Orlando Medina, Harrison Township
Cheri Meier, Ionia
Jason Mellema, Pewamo-Westphalia
Chris Miller, Gobles
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Fred Smith, Buchanan
John Thompson, Brighton
Al Unger, Kingsford
Alvin Ward, Detroit
Pat Watson, West Bloomfield

Also Present:

Brad Chase, Lansing
Scott Eldridge, Lansing
Michael Flanagan, Lansing
Chris Hartman, Iron Mountain
Chris Iannuzzi, Lansing
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

Tony Bihn
Jordan Cobb
Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton
Cody Inglis
John Johnson
Geoff Kimmerly
Gina Mazzolini
Andi Osters
Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)
Adam Ryder
Mark Uyl
Kathy Westdorp

President Scott Grimes welcomed new Council member Pat Watson, Principal at West Bloomfield High School, to his first meeting; and he welcomed Chris Hartman, a representative 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 Karen Leinaar, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of Dec. 5, 2014; the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of Dec. 4, 2014, Jan. 14, 2015 and Feb. 18, 2015; and the minutes of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Jan. 11, 2015. Adopted.

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.

Litigation – Attorney Scott Eldridge reported that the MHSAA is engaged in no active litigation, but reported on developments in other states or on other levels of sports that could impact school sports in Michigan.

REPORTS

Administration – The executive director provided a brief review of fall and winter tournaments and the status of 2015-16 classifications of 754 member high schools for MHSAA tournament participation (five more than for the previous year).

Andy Frushour provided an update of **student services**, including the Student Advisory Council, the Scholar-Athlete program, the fourth “Battle of the Fans,” and the online team captain leadership course being developed by the MHSAA with assistance from Michigan State University’s Institute for the Study of Youth Sports and the Student Advisory Council. John Johnson reported on today’s “Career Day” for students participating in the School Broadcasting Program.

Brad Chase provided an update of MHSAA corporate sponsorship successes and current efforts. Andi Osters reported on the first of many initiatives to increase attendance and enhance spectator experience at MHSAA tournaments, and she provided a forecast of future priorities.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Junior High/Middle School Issues – At its December meeting, the Representative Council received a final report of the Junior High/Middle School Task Force which met four times during 2014. In March, the Task Force lent a supportive voice to the MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee recommendations to allow MHSAA member junior high/middle schools to increase the length of quarters in basketball from six minutes to a maximum of eight and to increase the length of quarters in football from eight minutes to a maximum of ten. Those changes were approved by the Representative Council in March.

In September, the Task Force prepared a recommendation to the Junior High/Middle School Committee in January and to the Representative Council in March to propose to the MHSAA membership a formal amendment to Section 1 of Article II of the MHSAA Constitution that changes to 6th grade the lowest grade which MHSAA member junior high/middle schools may include in their enrollment, and to modify Regulation III, Section 1(C) to allow these schools to permit 6th-graders’ participation with and against 7th- and 8th-graders in all sports except football and ice hockey without the necessity of seeking specific annual waiver from the MHSAA. The Representative Council raised several important issues for the Junior High/Middle School Committee must address as it considered in January the Task Force proposal to revise the Constitution and *Handbook* regulations and interpretations.

In January, the Junior High/Middle School Committee adopted the following recommendation to the Representative Council:

With additional clarifying language, education and interpretations to MHSAA member schools, the Representative Council should approve the following Junior High/Middle School Task Force recommendations that would allow MHSAA member schools the option to include 6th-graders with and against 7th- and 8th-graders without the requirement of specific MHSAA Executive Committee approval:

1. Approve for submission to the membership the proposal to amend Article II, Section 1 of the MHSAA Constitution to allow school membership in the MHSAA beginning at the 6th grade.
2. Replace Regulation III, Section 1(C) with the following:
 - “a. Schools have the option to include 6th-graders with and against 7th- and 8th-graders in track, cross country, swimming, bowling, golf, tennis and wrestling.
 - “b. Except in football and ice hockey, with league or conference approval, schools may include 6th-graders in team competition at their junior high/middle school.”
 - (1) *Handbook* Interpretations 263, 264 and 265 would be deleted.
 - (2) If a school does not belong to a league or conference (independent), individual schools would have the option to include 6th-grade students in team competition except for football and ice hockey.

3. Edit Regulation III, Section 1(D) to address grades 6 to 8.
4. Adopt a new Regulation III, Section 2(A) (using dates for 2015-16 school year):

SECTION 2(A)—A 6th-grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest limited to 6th-graders must be under thirteen (13) years of age, except that a student whose (13th) birthday occurs on or after Sept. 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year. Any 6th-grade student born before Sept. 1, 2001, is ineligible for interscholastic athletics in Michigan except that he or she may play on the 7th- or 8th-grade squad of that junior high/middle school, or on a team of combined 7th- and 8th-grade students. In each case, all other regulations pertaining to eligibility must be met.

5. Add 6th grade references under Sections covering: Maximum Enrollment, Maximum Competition, Undergraduate Standing, Previous Academic Credit Record, Current Academic Record, Transfers, Undue Influence, Amateur Status, Limited Team Membership, All-Star/National Championships and Out-of-Season Coaching.

The Representative Council reviewed the staff's efforts to provide guidance for the answers and educational process that the Junior High/Middle School Committee recommends occur prior to sending the proposed Constitutional amendment to the membership for vote, which staff recommends should be in late October following the regularly scheduled fall meetings with MHSAA constituents, provided the Council votes in May to send the amendment proposal to all schools for their vote.

The Council also discussed the staff's recommendation that the proposed restrictions regarding member schools' sponsorship of football and ice hockey at the 6th-grade level be deleted and left to a local decision and league matter, as is the case with all other team sports.

International Students – At the conclusion of a lengthy report on this topic in December, the Representative Council was advised that, at this meeting, the Council would have to decide if the MHSAA's process for reviewing school-operated international student programs should continue for an additional year, given schools' confusion over CSIET's new policies and procedures and a January deadline for applications to CSIET that many schools would be likely to miss. It has since been learned that CSIET will only review programs that are already in operation, not new programs proposed to begin the next school year. The MHSAA's application and approval process could fill that gap.

Motion by Jason Mellema, supported by Kris Isom, to continue the MHSAA's process for reviewing school-operated international students programs until such time as the Council determines that the process is unnecessary. Adopted.

Out-of-Season Coaching – Results of surveys and meetings since the Representative Council's December meeting, and next steps, were presented to and discussed by the Council. Support for replacing the "3 or 4 Player Rule" for out-of-season sports with periods of no contact with any players and contact periods with any number of players has gradually decreased among MHSAA constituents from first impressions last fall to the present time. However, there has been consistently strong and widespread support for these three changes in current rules which will be voted on by the Council in May:

1. Removing the phrase "under one roof" from Regulation II, Section 11(H) 2 a (p. 66). This would allow coaches of non-school teams to provide coaching in non-school competition at a facility to three students of that coach's school while in another part of the facility or on the same court, other students from that same school can be receiving coaching from another coach (even one of the same school).

2. Removing the portion of Interpretation 235 (p. 70) that prohibits rotations of three or four players from one activity to another (e.g., from conditioning to weightlifting to open gym to a sport-specific activity).
3. Changing the rule that permits coaches to work with either 3 or 4 players, depending on the circumstances, to a 4-player rule in all those circumstances.

Discussion of other concepts and proposals will occur at subsequent Council meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Team Wrestling Finals – In 2008, an agreement was made with the Battle Creek/Calhoun County CVB to commit MHSAA Team Wrestling and Girls Volleyball Tournaments to Battle Creek during calendar years 2009 through 2013, subject to certain conditions, and then permit the MHSAA to exercise two one-year options. On May 28, 2014, the MHSAA exercised the second one-year option for Team Wrestling and Girls Volleyball Tournaments (through 2015). At the same time, the MHSAA notified Battle Creek that the MHSAA was intending to consider proposals to relocate one or both of these events in 2016.

Mark Uyl provided a review of the MHSAA's long and generally positive experience in Battle Creek and proposals from other sites to host the MHSAA Team Wrestling Finals.

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by John Thompson, to approve the staff's recommendation to relocate the Quarterfinals through Finals to McQuirk Arena at Central Michigan University for at least the 2016 and 2017 tournaments. Adopted.

Documents Policy – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Chris Miller, to approve an update of the MHSAA "Document Retention & Destruction" Policy first approved by the Representative Council on March 24, 2006. The revisions modify coverage related to electronic files. 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 2, 2015.

Meetings – The Representative Council approved expenses for the March Council meeting and the schedule for the May 2015 Council meeting.

Audit and Finance Committee Report – The 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.

Motion by Jason Mellema, supported by Kris Isom, 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 2015 meeting in New Orleans. Adopted.

Motion by Maureen Klocke, supported by Alvin Ward, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendations regarding staff compensation for 2015-16. Adopted.