

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

**Boys Lacrosse Committee Meeting**

East Lansing, May 7, 2008

**Members Present:**

Chris Corteg, Shelby Township  
Rick DeBlasio, Grand Rapids (Advisory)  
Robert Dowd, Troy (MIAAA)  
Aaron Frank, Birmingham  
Shawn Grady, Okemos (Coaches Assoc.)  
Barry Hobrla, Lowell  
Tom Hunt, East Lansing  
Mike Jolly, Warren (Advisory)  
Dan Mills, Portage

Meg Seng, Ann Arbor  
Dave Wilson, Novi  
Mark Woodson, Romulus

**Member Absent:**

Ron Allen, Holland

**Staff Member:**

Tom Rashid (Recorder)

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION**

The minutes of the May 9, 2007 and January 23, 2008 meetings were presented. It was reported that a recommendation submitted to the Representative Council at its May 2008 meeting to allow three days of practice with helmets, crosses and balls prior the start of practices on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of March was not approved. The Representative Council tabled a recommendation to change the maximum time of a junior high/middle school multi-team tournament from 120 minutes to 150 minutes to allow input from the girls lacrosse committee who had not discussed the proposed increase.

**2008 TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS**

The late season regional alignments for Division 1, Regions 1-4 and Division 2, Regions 5-8 were seeded based upon the pre-determined criteria from #1 seed to #11 seed depending on the number of teams in each region. Preliminary recommendations were submitted and [laxpower.com](http://laxpower.com) consulted. The pairings will be emailed to tournament managers, posted on [mhsaa.com](http://mhsaa.com) within a few days, are final and not subject to appeal. The 2008 semifinal pairings determined by the committee are as follows: Division 1- Regional 1 vs. 4, 2 vs. 3; Division 2- Regional 6 vs. 7, 5 vs. 8.

**OFFICIALS**

Committee members were presented a list of 101 MHSAA registered officials who had attended a rules meeting and their schedules for most of the current season. The official ratings and number of ratings submitted for each official collected since 2004-05 were also presented. The committee also received a list of those officials who worked MHSAA Finals since the tournament first began in 2004-05. The committee selected 40 officials to work the regional semifinals and finals, 16 semifinal officials and eight final officials to the 2008 tournament. Two officials will be assigned to each regional semifinal and three to each regional final game. Three officials and an alternate official, who will also serve as the Chief Bench Official, will be assigned to the MHSAA Semifinal and Final games. MHSAA staff will assign selected officials and replacements to specific games. Officials for the pre-regional games and first round at the home site will be the responsibility of the home school, which will be the top team on the bracket.

MHSAA lacrosse officials training programs were conducted with 116 new officials attending six sessions throughout the school year at Byron Center, Birmingham Seaholm, East Grand Rapids High Schools and at the MHSAA office in East Lansing. A total of 212 boys lacrosse officials registered with the MHSAA for the 2007-08 school year, an increase of 52 officials.

**2008 TOURNAMENT PLANNING**

The lacrosse finals for both boys and girls will be played on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at separate sites within a few miles of each other in Oakland County. The boys finals will be at Troy Athens High School (Div. 2 at 2 p.m., Div 1 at 5 p.m.) The girls finals will be at Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School (Div. 2 at 5 p.m., Div 1 at 2 p.m.). Warrior Lacrosse will be the official ball supplier for both boys and girls lacrosse.

## **2008-09 PLANNING AND POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

The committee discussed the need for continuation of the efforts to assist with regular season scheduling and determined that a voluntary scheduling meeting takes place at the MHSAA on Friday, October 10, 2008 to assist with the completion of non-league schedules. Especially helpful to developing programs, athletic directors and boys and girls lacrosse coaches will be invited to this meeting in preparation for the 2009 lacrosse season. Leagues are again encouraged to have their league schedules completed prior to the meeting.

There were 65 teams in boys lacrosse in 2005-06; 69 teams in 2006-07, involving 88 schools; and 81 teams involving 99 schools in 2007-08 (15 cooperative programs). The increase in teams was due in part to five cooperative agreements splitting in over the past three seasons so as to conform to the 3500 student enrollment cap. Continued growth is expected and will result in more teams in each region which continues to increase the number of pre-regional games to be held May 14, 15, 16, or 18 2009.

All rules meetings in the spring of 2009 will be delivered online except for one in person meeting at the MHSAA offices in East Lansing on February 18, 2009.

Correspondence was reviewed from one school concerning the use of the 10 goal margin of victory factor used in the Lax Power rating. Concerns surfaced that not enough teams play each other during the regular season to provide head-to-head competition results so an independent assessment such as Lax Power is helpful to break ties. Generally the committee was satisfied with the seeding criteria and approach. Minimal concerns have surfaced from in four years from participating teams.

A discussion was held regarding of providing pre-season seeding and regional alignments earlier in the fall and moving the late season seeding May meeting back to include more regular season games. The current January schedule is consistent with most other MHSAA sports relative to the announcement of regions and may cause a problem with new teams adding. The May meeting should not be delayed more than one day (from Wednesday, May 8, to Thursday, May 9, 2008) to include games played the Tuesday night prior to the seeding rather than the Monday deadline as is currently used. The pre-regional games, of which there were seven in Division 1 and nine in Division 2, may be played eight days from the May meeting.

The tentative Lacrosse Committee Meeting dates are Wednesday, January 21, 2009 and Thursday, May 7, 2009.

The committee did not have any recommendations for the National Federation of State High School Associations Boys Lacrosse Rule Committee. Currently, there are three individuals from Michigan on this committee (one veteran lacrosse official, one high school athletic director with a collegiate lacrosse coaching background and one active coach).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

There were no recommendations to the Representative Council.