

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE MINUTES
East Lansing, January 27, 2011

Members Present:

Dan Barry, Grosse Pointe (MHSACA)
Curt Ellis, Novi
Jim Garafalo, Allen Park
Tony Haller, Sault Ste. Marie
Ryan Portenga, Muskegon
Pete Ryan, Saginaw (MIAAAA)
Ed Van Portfleit, Rockford

Wayne Welton, Chelsea

Members Absent:

Todd Johnson, Detroit

Staff Member:

Randy Allen (Recorder)

The 2011 Ice Hockey Committee met in the MHSAA office to review the MHSAA tournament, policies and procedures governing hockey, playing rules changes, make recommendations to the MHSAA Representative Council, and discuss topics concerning high school hockey in MHSAA member schools. After introductions the role of the committee was reviewed.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL REVIEW

With the approval by the MHSAA Representative Council at its December meeting to conduct the hockey committee meeting in January instead of May, the committee reviewed minutes and proposals from the 2010 May meeting and additional Council action in December that approved a change in the Division 2 Semifinal time schedule and use of video replay goal review at the Semifinal and Final games. Language and procedures were approved for use of replay to determine if a goal was scored and if it was scored before time expires in any period. Visits will be made to OHL games at Compuware arena to observe the overhead camera replay system.

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

General tournament procedures were reviewed, including a proposal from last May that would have changed the MHSAA Tournament calendar to a three week plan, moving the quarterfinal games to a weekend date and seed the teams in each regional. At the January meeting the coaches association proposed a new seeding plan, causing the committee to re-evaluate the May proposal. Citing travel concerns, it was decided to advance a proposal to first apply a seeding plan to the existing three or four team Pre-Regionals for the 2012 tournament and to continue study a more comprehensive seeding plan for entire Regional groups and calendar changes to be discussed at the January 2012 meeting for possible 2013 implementation. In light of the new coaches association seeding recommendations, the original proposal from the May, 2010 meeting would be rescinded in favor of the aforementioned proposal.

A draw was conducted for the 2012 Semifinal pairings as follows:

Division 1 - QF #2 vs. QF #3, QF #1 vs. QF #4

Division 2 - QF #5 vs. QF #8, QF #6 vs. QF #7

Division 3 - QF #11 vs. QF #12, QF #9 vs. QF #10

PLAYING RULES

Playing rules changes for the National Federation rules committee to consider were discussed. Other questions regarding conduct penalties for players and coaches will be clarified in the on-line rules meetings for the 2011-12 season.

17 MINUTE PERIOD/SEASON LIMITS

Much time was spent by the committee discussing whether to approve the use of a 17 minute period for future MHSAA tournament games and the experience at the regular season level where it is optional, but used by many conferences. Although many coaches and the coaches association support a 17 minute period, concerns were expressed and discussed about the difficulties of conducting games with the longer

period in two hour time blocks and the difficulties experienced when schools exceed their ice time reservations. Officials have concerns about longer games and raise legitimate questions about higher pay for longer games. It was suggested that if more playing time is the goal of those who support 17 minute periods, hockey would be better served by allowing more regular season games and eliminating scrimmages, and keeping the MHSAA Tournament at 15 minute periods. With ice time already purchased, dropping scrimmages in favor of two additional games would reduce expenses and increase revenue for schools. A proposal to increase the maximum number of games to 26 and eliminate scrimmages was approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The committee reviewed the MHSAA requirement for all players to wear protective neck guards. It was agreed that the standard for the neck guards would be clarified to allow both separate neck guards and undergarments with neck guard extensions as long as either meet the BNQ laceration safety standard. The clarification will greatly improve compliance and reduce costs for athletes will be able to purchase a combination undergarment that will meet the MHSAA requirement and safety standard. The MHSAA will again ask the National Federation rules committee to make neck guards required equipment in the playing rules.

While reviewing regular season and tournament overtime procedures, it was suggested that for regular season games, leagues & conferences may adopt a shoot out procedure to break ties that would be more cost efficient than playing an entire OT period. It was agreed to adopt a proposal for Council consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Seed the MHSAA Pre-Regionals beginning in 2012. The MHSAA would determine groupings, host schools and facilities. A coaches' association committee would meet at the MHSAA on Feb. 10, 2012 and apply United States High School Hockey Online (USHSHO) rankings, overall records, league records and common opponents to determine first round pairings for the three and/or four team Pre-Regionals. (8-0)
2. Allow regular season games which end in a tie to use a shoot out procedure by prior league/conference adoption to break ties. (8-0) The shoot out procedures would be as follows:

A shootout may be conducted at the end of the regulation time in conference games by prior adoption or by mutual consent of both teams in non-conference games as follows:

At the end of regulation, the head official will instruct the timekeeper to put two minutes on the clock and immediately start the clock.

The other two officials will request a list of three shooters from each coach.

The head official will meet at center ice with the captains to explain the protocol during the two-minute period.

The goalkeepers remain in the same ends as the third period.

The home team has the option of shooting first or defending first in round one, with the order reversed in round two. Teams will have their three shooters alternate shots in each round. The shootout ends if a team scores more times in their round than the opponent does in their round. (1-0, 2-1, 3-2) Each team has an equal number of chances to shoot before a winner is declared.

If the shootout remains tied at the end of two rounds, each coach will select a different shooter, this time in a sudden death situation. Neither team may use a repeat shooter until each skater on the smallest team's roster has shot. For example, if Team A has 17 skaters but Team B has only 12 skaters, both may use repeat shooters on the 13th penalty shot but not before.

3. Eliminate the two pre-season scrimmages allowed for hockey, and allow a maximum of 26 games during the regular season. MHSAA Tournament games will continue to be conducted with 15 minute periods. (8-0)