

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, March 25, 2011

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Bill Chilman, Beal City
Ken Dietz, Watervliet
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing
Kris Isom, Adrian
Carmen Kennedy, Grosse Pointe
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Jason Mellema, Ravenna
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Fred Smith, Buchanan
Paula Steele, East Lansing
Arnetta Thompson, Grand Rapids
John Thompson, Brighton
Al Unger, Kingsford
Alvin Ward, Detroit
Mark Woodson, Romulus

Also Present:

Dave Duncan, Cedarville
Scott Eldridge, Lansing
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

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

President Jim Derocher opened the meeting by welcoming new Council member Carmen Kennedy, Athletic Director at Grosse Pointe North 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; and attorney Scott Eldridge attending his first meeting representing Miller Canfield, PLC.

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Karen Leinaar, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of Dec. 9, 2010; the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of Dec. 8, 2010, Jan. 12, 2011 and Feb. 23, 2011; and the minutes of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Jan. 10-11, 2011. 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 broadcast rights litigation involving the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. Other topics on which the firm of Miller Canfield has provided recent assistance to MHSAA management were listed.

Administration – The executive director provided a brief review of winter tournaments and the status of 2011-12 classifications of schools for MHSAA tournament participation.

Andy Frushour described recent activities related to Student Services, including the Student Advisory Council, Team Captains programs and the Scholar-Athlete program.

Tom Rashid reported that, in spite of changes in National Federation rules, the MHSAA has retained the requirement that students have the written approval of an MD or DO before being allowed to participate in a contest with a legal protective cast. The MHSAA has not accepted the more relaxed rules of the National Federation in football, soccer, boys lacrosse or girls lacrosse.

Nate Hampton reported that the official commitment to participate in eight-player football in 2011 has been received from the superintendents of 20 schools, meeting the Council established threshold to continue with planning in the fall of 2011 for a four-week playoff of the 16 Class D teams with the highest playoff point averages, concluding on the fourth Saturday following the ninth regular season play date. The total number of schools sponsoring football as of this date is 630, five more than at this time in 2010.

A brief update on National Federation activities was provided by Karen Leinaar who serves on that organization's Board of Directors.

OLD BUSINESS

Preparticipation Physicals – Since the December meeting of the Council, staff has shared with several hundred coaches and administrators a proposed change in the size and content of the hard copy preparticipation physical examination form which the MHSAA provides free of charge to MHSAA member schools. Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Mark Woodson, to approve the changes with the intention that it will be available to schools by April 15, 2011 (schools may use other forms, including the comprehensive health history/physical examination clearance form online at MHSAA.com). Adopted.

Bowling – The Council reviewed correspondence from the United States Bowling Congress outlining new policies and procedures for its handling of scholarship funds from Michigan and two documents from leaders of bowling in Michigan who understand and support changes in the planning and promotion of youth bowling in Michigan that are necessary if the MHSAA is to continue to serve the sport and sponsor a tournament series for high school bowling teams. Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, that . . .

- a. the MHSAA continue to sponsor bowling as an MHSAA tournament sport on a one-year "conditional" basis. All compliance issues will be reviewed after the 2011-12 season with a report to the Council in March of 2012 to determine the sport's status for subsequent years;

and

- b. in addition to bringing scholarship programs into compliance with MHSAA Amateur Status rules, there must also be strict compliance with out-of-season coaching restrictions and the Limited Team Membership rule and unequivocal support from the coaches association, proprietor organizations and youth leaders in Michigan. To help further this objective, the MHSAA will communicate to schools regarding the need for an adequate level of supervision to assure compliance on these issues. The schools that conduct bowling (and other sports) for which they do not provide any school funding must realize that MHSAA compliance is as important in these sports as any other sport and must be treated accordingly.

Adopted.

Competitive Cheer – MHSAA girls competitive cheer has been determined to be a sport in Michigan because it was intended to be administered in all respects like other interscholastic athletic programs. Because competitive cheer coexists in many schools with sideline cheerleading activities, questions have been raised about how much involvement schools and competitive cheer team members and their coach may have in tumbling instruction, stunting and tryouts outside the girls competitive cheer season under the pretext of sideline cheerleading.

MHSAA regulations apply to all sports for which the MHSAA provides postseason tournaments, as well as member schools' involvement in activities so closely related to any of these sports that, if unregulated, could lead to competitive inequities in one or more sports.

Since the Council's Dec. 9 meeting, a second online survey was administered with athletic directors and competitive cheer coaches. Those results were reviewed, reflecting much more support from athletic directors than coaches for brighter lines between what is and is not permissible out of season.

Of the three proposals surveyed, only the following received a positive response from both athletic directors (85 percent) and coaches (56 percent):

Do you favor a common time period (e.g., Sunday after Competitive Cheer Finals through May 31) in which all cheer activities (sideline and competitive) should be prohibited for any athletes and coaches (sideline or competitive cheer) except as allowed by the four-player rule? In essence, there would be a common start day for all sideline cheer activities.

There was opinion that this proposal could be improved for the Council's action in May by starting the restricted period on the Monday after the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals in March, and starting sideline activities either (a) in mid-May to allow for sideline cheerleading tryouts before school adjourns for summer vacation, or (b) the Monday after the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Track & Field Finals in June, which is the date on which the school year coaching restrictions end and summer coaching allowances begin for all sports. There would be no restriction on sideline cheer activities at schools which do not sponsor competitive cheer. These ideas will be discussed further in May.

NEW BUSINESS

Classification – The Council reviewed the evaluation process in 1999 that led to the decision that only soccer would utilize for MHSAA tournaments the modification of the equal divisions concept that places only 20 percent of soccer sponsoring schools in Division 4. Since 1999, the enrollment range of the smallest 25 percent of soccer schools has decreased significantly. The largest Division 4 school utilizing equal divisions in 1999 was 489 for boys and 643 for girls. In 2010, the largest would have been 409 for boys and 465 for girls. In 2011, the largest would be 389 for boys and 422 for girls.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Jason Mellema, to approve the Soccer Committee recommendation, supported by the Classification Committee, to return the Lower Peninsula Boys and Girls Soccer Tournaments to four equal divisions, effective with the 2011-12 school year. Adopted.

Motion by Bill Chilman, supported by Paula Steele, to approve the Classification Committee recommendation to establish a fixed number – 1,000 students – as the maximum enrollment for cooperative programs in Regulation I, Section 1(E). (The maximum was 966 in 2010-11 and would have been 951 in 2011-12.) Adopted.

Wrestling - Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Arnetta Thompson, to approve the Wrestling Committee recommendation to revise Regulation II, Section 10(A), #18(c), to limit a student or team to eight events in which a wrestler may participate in more than two matches. Adopted. (This eliminates the 2011-12 change from eight events to seven events in which wrestlers may participate in more than two matches, which will allow schools flexibility in tournament scheduling under the new 14 days of competition in 2011-12.)

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Pete Ryan, to make an exception for wrestling in Regulation II, Section 10(C) and Interpretation 208. Adopted. (In wrestling only may a student compete on two different teams on the same date in the same sport.)

Rules Meeting Requirement – The Council reviewed the 25-year history of the rules meeting requirement for schools and head coaches, and the 2010 Update Meeting Opinion Poll that had 91.4 percent of respondents opposing the proposal that the requirement with penalty for violation be changed to a voluntary opportunity for coaches. The Council also reviewed the lists of schools whose head coaches could not coach in MHSAA tournaments last fall (30) and this winter (33). Ideas for different penalties were considered.

Sixth Grade Eligibility – At its February 2011 meeting the Executive Committee declined to approve a school's request to permit a sixth-grade student to participate in the seventh-/eighth-grade wrestling program even though the student had been retained in school and will be too old for junior high/middle school competition as an eighth grader. In that year, however, the student may become eligible for his first of four years of high school competition through *Handbook* Regulation III, Section 2(C) with a completed "Eligibility Advancement Application."

The Executive Committee requested Council discussion of establishing a provision similar to Interpretation 258 that would allow sixth graders who will be too old for competition as eighth graders to become eligible for seventh-/eighth-grade teams while enrolled in sixth grade.

After Council discussion, there was consensus that this topic be discussed by the MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee at its next meeting.

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 April 30, 2011.

Meetings – The Representative Council approved expenses for the March Council meeting and the schedule for the May 2011 Council meeting.

Audit and Finance Committee Report – The executive director reviewed the financial performance of the MHSAA in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years, as well as 2010-11 year to date; and he outlined the MHSAA's long-term, mid-term and short-term needs and goals.

At its February 23, 2011 meeting, the MHSAA Audit and Finance Committee was presented all the existing MHSAA Tournament Financial Policies, and several staff recommendations for change, three of which the committee advanced to the Council. Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Bill Chilman, to approve three Audit and Finance Committee recommendations:

- To increase the ticket price for Lower Peninsula Swimming & Diving Preliminaries and Finals to \$8.
- To increase the fee paid to line judges at the Girls Volleyball Regional Tournament and beyond to \$35 per match.
- To increase the fee paid to soccer officials at the Lower Peninsula Semifinals to \$65 per game.

Adopted.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Jason Mellema, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendation to revise the Investment Policy of the MHSAA of March 23, 2007, so that the maximum percentage of investments in stocks is reduced. Adopted.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Scott Grimes, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendation to limit National Federation Annual Meeting attendance to six Council members, and to approve the specific reimbursement limits for the 2011 meeting in Philadelphia. Adopted.

Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Karen Leinaar, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendations regarding staff compensation and benefits for 2011-12. Adopted.