

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.  
FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
February 11, 2011, 9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Fred Bryant, Newberry  
Ken Diamond, Montague  
Mike Farley, Grand Haven  
Jeff Gallup, Bronson  
Leroy Hackley, Jenison

Ron Hart, New Buffalo  
Elbert Hicks, Flint  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Al Slamer, Holt  
Jack Wallace, Fowlerville

**Members Absent:**

Tom Barberi, MHSFCA  
Greg Carter, Inkster  
Keith Green, Hemlock  
Don Smeznik, Yale  
Alvin Ward, Detroit  
Robert Williams, Redford

**MHSAA Staff:**

Nate Hampton  
Tom Minter

The meeting date was a make-up date due to weather concerns that caused the original meeting date to be changed.

The committee met for the purpose of reviewing playing rules, regulations, and policies concerning High School Football and MHSAA Football Playoff procedures. Following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to MHSAA staff and for possible Representative Council action.

**Calendar Concerns**

MHSAA staff provided the committee a six-year calendar demonstrating the earliest practice date, the earliest game date and the number of contests before Labor Day. For 2011, the earliest practice date is August 8, and the earliest game date is August 25 and there may be two scheduled contests before Labor Day.

Current regulations will still require 9 separate days of practice before a team is allowed to be involved in an inter-school scrimmage. Interscholastic games at all levels cannot be played until teams have completed 12 separate days of practice over a three week period. The first three practice days must be without pads. Helmets and football shoes are allowed.

**Football Scheduling**

The committee had an extended discussion on the difficulty in filling football schedules. There are growing numbers of MHSAA member schools experiencing this difficulty for various reasons that include:

- Border states starting their season earlier
- Border states allowing fewer open dates
- MHSAA member schools becoming more selective in scheduling opponents
- League and conference re-alignments that may eliminate non-league dates
- Smaller schools moving toward 8-player competition

## 2010 Football Review

The committee was provided 2010 Football Playoff Tournament information with statistical data for all levels of tournament competition. The data demonstrated consistency with previous years under the current format when comparing school classification, division enrollment breaks and the numbers of automatic qualifiers.

In 2007, 2008 and 2009, there were 251, 237 and 234 schools respectively qualified automatically based on regular season records. In 2010 there were 238 schools which qualified. In 2009, 52 games used the "Point Differential" procedure and in 2010, 40 games were subject to the "Point Differential" procedure.

### 2010 Enrollment Ranges for Finalist

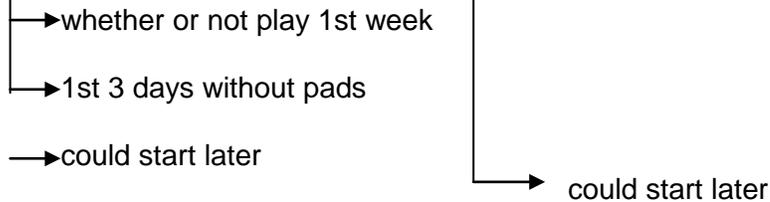
Division 1	2514-2072
Division 2	1257-1247
Division 3	996-919
Division 4	775-668
Division 5	577-480
Division 6	430-420
Division 7	306-248
Division 8	241-144

### 2010 Classification by Divisions for Finalist

Division 1	32 Class A
Division 2	32 Class A
Division 3	15 Class A 17 Class B
Division 4	32 Class B
Division 5	32 Class B
Division 6	32 Class C
Division 7	32 Class C
Division 8	7 Class C 25 Class D

## 2011-2016 FOOTBALL DATES

Year	Earliest Practice	Earliest Game	Labor Day (Games Before)
2011	Aug. 8	August 25	Sept. 5 (2)
2012	Aug. 6	August 23	Sept. 3 (2)
2013	Aug. 12	August 29	Sept. 2 (1)
2014	Aug. 11	August 28	Sept. 1 (1)
2015	Aug. 10	August 27	Sept. 7 (2)
2016	Aug. 8	August 25	Sept. 5 (2)



Monday, August 8 - First allowable day of 3 day of conditioning period (no pads).

Thursday, August 11 - First date of official practice (with pads) (if 3 days of conditioning were completed during the week).

Thursday, August 25 - First varsity game date. Sub varsity Wednesday, August 25

Schools may not conduct inter school scrimmages until after nine separate days of practice.

Interscholastic games (all levels) cannot be played until teams have completed 12 separate days of practice over a 3-week period.

## **8-Player Football**

The committee was apprised of the current status of the 8-player game. On May 3, 2009 the MHSAA Representative Council approved the provisions for establishing an eight-player division for the MHSAA Tournament. The primary condition mandated that a minimum of 20 schools commit to an eight-player program and schedule; and to submit a letter signed by the schools superintendent, not later than April 1, 2010. Eighteen schools provided initial notification however; only 13 schools formally submitted the superintendents letter.

At its December 2010 meeting, the Representative Council authorized MHSAA staff to proceed in 2011 as in 2010, with the same minimums and deadlines for establishing an eight-player division. To date 22 schools have provided the letter of interest (one school is above the allowed enrollment and 18 of those 22 schools have submitted the superintendents' required letter.

Current plans for a post season tournament will include (if there are 20-39 schools committed) 16 teams in a four week playoff with team selections based on playoff point averages.

## **General Discussion**

1. 2010 Committee minutes and Representative Council Recommendations
2. Facilities used for Semifinal sites, one grass field was used.
3. National Federation rule changes for 2011
4. Ford Field review and the involvement of the Football Coaches Association
5. Health and Safety Issues; Concussion, Heat and Humidity effects relating to practices sessions.
6. Online Rules Meetings; Approximately 90% of all head coaches and MHSAA registered officials completed the online rules meeting.
7. Tournament Football: In 2011 only school teams earning tournament positions will receive a complimentary ball.
8. NFHS Rule Books will be provided in 2011.
9. Out of Season Competition and All Star events
10. NOCSAZ: Facts about Football helmets

## **Proposal from the OK Conference**

Committee member Leroy Hackley, Jenison, presented a football playoff proposal that was drafted by the OK Conference. Key components of the proposal include:

Reducing the number of regular season games from 9 to 8.

Expanding the playoff field from 256 to 512 teams in 8 divisions of 64

All teams will be scheduled a ninth date, but only the 512 teams with the highest playoff point totals will participate in tournament competition

All schools would be placed in regions prior to the start of the school year by size and geography

Rationale:

Reduces the concern for scheduling superior teams and 6 wins to automatically qualify

Equity in gate receipts allowing for 4.5 home games

Allows teams with fewer wins to end the season against an opponent with a comparable record

Following a lengthy discussion, the committee suggested that the OK Conference refine a number of points in the proposal and continue the discussion with interested groups such as, the MHSFCA and the MIAAA.

## **Recommendations to Representative Council**

1. Remove the opportunity in football that will allow school teams to have inter-school scrimmages following the last scheduled game of the season. (11-0)
2. Add shoulder pads to the allowed equipment that may be used out of season but not for 7 on 7 competition or full contact camps, clinics or events. The listing would include helmets, shoulder pads and football shoes. (11-0)