

OFFICIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, September 27, 2010

Members Present:

Bruce Arter, Stevensville
Dave Bos, Hudsonville
Chris Hartman, Iron Mountain
Troy Hudson, Muskegon
Rich Kimball, Lansing
Brian Lamour, Monroe
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Bob Root, Flint

Scott Tallmadge, Port Huron
Bryon Taylor, Bannister
Dan Ulrich, Charlevoix
Staff:
Randy Allen
Tom Minter
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2010-11 MHSAA Officials Review Committee met to review topics involving high school officiating. After introductions were completed, the committee reviewed the terms of appointment to the Officials Review Committee, as well as the charge and mission of the group relative to the MHSAA decision making process.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of 2010 Representative Council Actions: The committee received an update from the May meeting of the Representative Council. The Council approved the recommendation that for an official to be eligible at the Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final tournament rounds, that official must take and pass the 30-question rules test in those sports where it is offered with a minimum score of 80%.

Officials Program Updates: MHSAA staff reported on increased registration numbers in light of the current economy, the revised tournament assignment procedures, officials video training program, MHSAA sponsored and supported officiating camps and clinics, rules testing, online rules meetings and online mechanics manuals.

Observation Program: Staff reported on the second "class" of observers that were trained in August of 2010. The number of registered observers for the 2010-11 school is right at 100.

Officials Ratings: The committee reviewed at length the current officials rating program in light of concerns that the categories for improvement required for a rating below a "3" were too numerous and provided little meaningful feedback to officials. The committee discussed a number of edits to the categories in hopes of having schools provide feedback in areas where they have sufficient knowledge and insight to provide more credibility to the system.

Ejection Protocols and Concerns: The Representative Council directed the Officials Review Committee to discuss concerns with some officials issuing "informal ejections" whereby the official would tell the coach to remove the player from the contest but would not formally eject the player, triggering the MHSAA next day of competition suspension. The committee directed staff to include information in rules meetings that these types of informal ejections were unacceptable as it puts everyone involved in a difficult position. Emphasis on the proper ejection protocols will be included in future rules meetings.

Concussion Protocols: Staff member Tom Minter provided an update on the concussion protocols approved by the Representative Council in light of the new concussion language added to all NF playing rule codes. The committee discussed these new protocols in light of the responsibilities of game officials. Mr. Minter currently serves on the National Federation Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

Additional Items: The committee discussed the proposed NF soccer officials signal chart and talked about MHSAA information technology topics dealing with PDF documents having a “zoom in” feature, having member-in-good-standing lists be available on a seasonal basis and having a coach-version and official-version of the online rules meetings. Discussion also took place on a proposal from the OK Conference asking that MHSAA official’s rating data be made available to local leagues, conferences and Registered Assignors for regular season assigning purposes. While the proposal was not without merit, the committee favored no change to the current procedures of keeping an official’s rating data confidential to that individual official.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Revise the available rating categories that schools utilize when providing feedback with ratings in general or rating an official a “3” or below. The new, four categories would replace the existing eight categories, eliminating duplication and streamlining the process for schools and officials alike.

Proposed Categories:

- a) Consistent Judgment and Application of Playing Rules
- b) Physical Appearance
- c) Contest Management and Communication Skills
- d) Professionalism

Current Categories:

- a) Knowledge of rules
- b) Proper positioning
- c) Consistent judgment
- d) Ability to prescribe proper fouls/penalties
- e) Proper mechanics
- f) Physical appearance
- g) Contest management
- h) Professionalism