

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.
BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING
East Lansing, January 21, 2009

Members Present

Mike Campbell, Grand Rapids
Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids
(Advisory)
Bob Dowd, Troy (MIAAA)
Steve Emert, Walled Lake
Aaron Frank, Birmingham
Shawn Grady, Okemos (Coaches
Association)

Michelle Hicks, Grosse Pointe Woods
Mike Jolly, Warren De La Salle (Advisory)
Darren Millman, Ann Arbor
Dennis Noe, Farmington
Clark Udell, Grand Rapids
Dave Wilson, Novi

Staff Member

Tom Rashid

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The multiple functions of the committee, previous meeting minutes, Representative Council actions and committee processes were reviewed. The committee next meets May 7, 2009 in East Lansing.

UPDATE FROM BOYS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION

Sean Grady of Okemos High School, current President, reported on the following activities of the Boys Lacrosse Coaches Association: Three yearly meetings are held including a winter coach's clinic; status as the only group to select an all state team for its members. The association again indicated an interest in greater involvement with the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP) and will contact MHSAA staff directly.

2008-09 RULES MEETING SCHEDULE & POINTS OF EMPHASIS

All meetings will be online in 2009 from Feb. 23 through April 17, 2009 and remain required for head coaches and officials interested in working the MHSAA Tournament. One in-person, face to face meeting is scheduled on an advance registration basis for Wed., March 25, 2009 at the MHSAA Office in East Lansing. The committee did not recommend any additional points of emphasis for the 2009 meeting. Input for officials' leadership will also be included.

OFFICIALS

Two officials associations continue to operate: The Michigan Lacrosse Officials Association and the West Michigan Boys Lacrosse Officials Association. There are currently 188 MHSAA registered boys lacrosse officials. Several MHSAA New Officials Training sessions conducted by the officials association have been conducted in the Metro and Grand Rapids area and will continue through Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009 at Byron Center High School. Eight received training in October 2008, and 12 for January 24, 2009 with registration incoming for the two remaining sessions.

The committee discussed, but did not advance to the Representative Council a proposal that the MHSAA request the NFHS allow an experiment in 2009-10 with eliminating the "set" command in all face-offs starting with down, then a whistle when players were ready. The committee felt that face-offs should be consistent at all levels and many younger players still need the down, set and whistle commands as they learn face-off skills. (No change)

The 2009 tournament officials' assignments structure will continue to be three officials on the Regional Finals and beyond, only two officials in all games prior to the Regional Finals unless staff determines otherwise. A chief bench official will continue at Semifinal and Final games. Preregional and first round officials are hired by the home team from the approved list, all other rounds will be assigned by the Tournament Committee and MHSAA Staff.

DISCUSSIONS

Comments on the 2007-08 tournaments were solicited with consensus that it was generally well played and conducted. Discussions regarding out-of-season coaching proposals resulted in a general consensus opposed to allowing coaches to coordinate or organize (but not coach) out-of-season activities with more than 3 players. The committee reviewed modest changes to contest starting dates in 2009-10 and discussed proposals to a greater off set between boys and girls basketball tournaments which, if adopted, might affect some spring sports. Concern was expressed that mid-week MHSAA Final night games could harm attendance.

2009 BOYS LACROSSE TOURNAMENT

There are currently 83 teams participating (39 in Division 1 and 44 in Division 2) representing 103 member high schools which include 17 cooperative programs compared to 81 teams and 99 schools in January 2008. Preregional games will occur in all regions (7 games in Division 1 and 12 Preregional games in Division 2) played May 14-16 or 18, 2009 at the higher seeded team. The procedures for creating Regional team placements and seeding for the 2009 Tournament were reviewed and unchanged by the committee. Preliminary Regional alignments, maps and the 8 preseason seeded teams per division were presented. After discussion, the committee approved the 2009 Regional alignments pending finalization of sites by MHSAA staff. The regions will be posted in the weeks ahead on mhsaa.com. Multiple sites for Semifinals to accommodate the Alternate Site Policy for extensive travel by both teams adopted in 2007 were discussed. The committee affirmed that alternating travel from east to west every other year was best if an alternate site was not in place. The committee did not exclude a team playing on its own field for a Semifinal or Final game. Input was given on sites for the Semifinals and Finals to be finalized by staff.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LACROSSE LIMITATIONS ON COMPETITION

The committee discussed the previous action by the Representative Council in May 2008 to table a recommendation pending review by the girls lacrosse committee to increase the allowance for a multi-team tournament from 120 minutes to 150 running time minutes for multi-team tournaments at the junior high school level. Since May 2008 the recommendation was returned to the girls lacrosse committee which did not support the increase. The committee took no action to change the boys recommendation which remains tabled by the Representative Council noting that the rules for boys lacrosse can and do differ from girls lacrosse.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

There were no recommendations to the Representative Council.