

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
**Boys Lacrosse Committee Meeting**  
East Lansing, Jan. 20, 2010

**Members Present :**

Mike Campbell, Grand Rapids  
Mike Costello, Ann Arbor  
Bob Dowd, Troy (MIAAA)  
Steve Emert, Walled Lake  
Shawn Grady, Okemos (Coaches Association)  
Michelle Hicks, Grosse Pointe Woods  
Mike Jolly, Warren (Advisory)  
Dennis Noe, Farmington  
Clark Udell, Grand Rapids

Mike Van Antwerp, Holt  
Mark Woodson, Romulus

**Staff Member**

Tom Rashid

**Members Absent:**

Aaron Frank, Birmingham  
Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids

**INTRODUCTION**

All agenda items and appendices were provided to the committee via email attachment several days prior to the meeting. Background and introductory items included the following: committee functions, previous recommendations to the Representative Council and the minutes of the Jan. 21 and May 7, 2009 Boys Lacrosse Committee.

**BOYS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION**

It was reported that Hall of Fame plaques are now on display in the MHSAA and a permanent wall plaque matching other sports' displays will be acquired shortly by the Coaches Association. The Coaches Association has taken steps toward better use of technology with its website and email to coaches.

**OFFICIALS**

The Committee was apprised of training opportunities and existing official associations. Discussion, but no action, occurred to reduce or increase the number of officials assigned to the MHSAA tournament. Two officials are assigned prior to the Regional Final where three officials are assigned. Four officials will continue to be assigned at MHSAA Semifinal and Final rounds. The process for selecting officials for the tournament was reviewed. The committee will select from staff recommendations based on official ratings and recommendations from leagues, assigners and local officials associations. The committee requested to see the information on all available officials and the recommendations from staff. The committee felt strongly that due to the financial issues and availability of officials, schools should not use more than two officials in regular season competition.

**PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS**

It was reported that 89 teams representing 118 schools will participate in the 2009-10 boys lacrosse tournament and include 15 cooperative agreements. Forty-four teams in Division 1, 45 teams in Division 2. Five new teams were added in 2009-10.

**TOURNAMENT REVIEW**

The Committee reviewed the existing dates, brackets and structure of the tournament and made no recommendations for change. The future growth of lacrosse and possibility of expanding to a District, Quarter final round or three Divisions was discussed. The Alternate Site Travel Accommodation policy (changing any game site except the Final when extensive travel is involved) approved in January 2008 was discussed. The committee emphasized that unless a home team is also a predetermined possible host or both teams agree, a neutral site should be used when a game site is changed. It was also suggested that schools be reminded in advance to save space on their schedule for Pre-regional games which must be played prior to May 24, 2010.

**2009-10 REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS & TOURNAMENT**

The Committee reviewed and slightly edited for clarity the predetermined seeding criteria and adjusted preliminary recommendations for seeding and geographic alignments. The top eight teams in each Division were determined, two seeded teams were placed in each region and all region alignments were finalized. On May 13, 2010 the committee will meet a second time to place teams on the bracket

based upon games played prior to Mon., May 10, 2010 and determine Semifinal pairings. Potential Regional, Semifinal and Final sites were reviewed and finalized by staff.

### **ONLINE RULES MEETING, RULE CHANGES**

The committee reviewed NFHS rule changes and had no additional points of emphasis. As no one attended the 2009 in-person meeting, all boys lacrosse rules meetings will be online in 2010-11.

### **LIMITATIONS ON COMPETITION**

The committee discussed, but did not change, the number of days of competition (18) or multi-team running clock tournaments allowed per season (2). Only one other game in a week is allowed when a multi-team tournament is held. Subvarsity teams who play in a multi-team tournament would have difficulty not scheduling two other dates of competition that week as JV and varsity teams most often have double headers. Soccer and girls lacrosse changed their rules recently to treat multi-team tournaments as another day of completion toward the maximum of three allowed in a week. The boys lacrosse committee recommended to the Representative Council that Section 10 of both Regulations II and IV be changed to delete the line that only one other game is allowed in the week when a multi-team tournament is held.

### **COST REDUCTION, REVENUE ENHANCEMENT**

The committee discussed and attempted to reduce travel for teams while still maintaining the tournament seeding. The boys lacrosse Alternative Travel Accommodation Policy will help to reduce travel and may increase attendance. The committee also reviewed the number of officials assigned to each round, did not recommend any change but emphasized that regular season contests should only use two officials.

### **START TO SPRING PRACTICES**

The committee was strong that there should be no later start of spring sports practices. Because of weather and facility limits, each of several spring sports teams have a limited number of lesser quality indoor practices. Starting practices later would decrease the dates available in an already strained time frame to select a team and prepare for the season. Lacrosse does not have the weather restrictions of other spring sports; it can be played in the rain. Decreasing the number of weeks in the spring season would make it even more difficult to schedule a full season.

### **OTHER**

The committee discussed 6<sup>th</sup> graders inclusion in MHSAA sports and the recent statewide review in light of the present school finance.

### **RECOMMENDATION TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

Delete portions of Section 10 of both Regulations II and IV similar to soccer and girls lacrosse: Multi-team tournaments would count as one of three allowed dates of competition in a week (Monday – Sunday). Two other dates of competition would be allowed in a week when a multi-team tournament is played (10-0).

