

GIRLS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING
MHSAA Office - East Lansing
January 14, 2010

Members Present:

Keith Froelich, Okemos
Cindy Hill, Tecumseh
Christine Hite, Hartland
Timothy Hollern, Forest Hills
Carman Kennedy, Grosse Pointe
Betsy Kreston, Flint
Ken Mohney, Mattawan
Marty Simmonds, Pontiac

Members Absent:

Rob Holder, Troy
Mike Teagan, South Lyon

Staff Member:

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp (Recorder)

GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The 2010 Girls Lacrosse Committee met at the Michigan High School Athletic Association to review its responsibilities as a standing sports committee; review prior Representative Council action; consider proposals from the Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association; recommend to the Representative Council changes regarding MHSAA regulations relative to girls lacrosse; suggest points of emphasis for rules meetings and evaluate current practices and procedures with MHSAA staff. The Girls Lacrosse Committee will also assist in the assignment of officials to all levels of the MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Tournament.

PRIOR REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

The minutes of the January, 2009 Girls Lacrosse Committee were reviewed for the purpose of providing background regarding prior discussion and actions of the committee. Effective August 1, 2008, the Representative Council approved limitations on competition, contest maximums and season length for junior high/middle school girls lacrosse. These conditions include that the season shall be a maximum of thirteen consecutive weeks during which teams and individuals are limited to a maximum of twelve dates. Junior high/middle school teams and individuals may participate in a maximum of three games Monday through Sunday, but only two of the three games may occur on a day or night before a school day. Other provisions include a maximum of two multi-team tournaments in regular-season which may be scheduled and no more than 20 minute running time halves can be played. The allowable playing time for any team in a girls lacrosse multi-team tournament is no more than 120 running time minutes.

TOURNAMENT RECOMMENDATIONS/IMPORTANT DATES

Girls Lacrosse tournament dates were reviewed by the committee as well as the information regarding online rules meetings. The online rules meeting for girls lacrosse will be available on February 22, 2010 and end on April 1, 2010. There will be one face-to-face meeting at the MHSAA Office on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 6 p.m. All head coaches and officials who wish to work the MHSAA tournament must attend/take an online rules meeting during the available dates.

The 2009 Girls Lacrosse Tournament was reviewed for points of improvement. The separate but near sites with staggered times and divisions for boys and girls lacrosse were acceptable to both sport communities. In 2010, the Division 1 Girls Lacrosse Finals will start at 2 p.m. and the Division 2 Finals will start at 4:30 p.m. at Troy Athens High School.

The tournament format was reviewed and there will be four regionals in Division 1 and four regionals in Division 2. Additionally, semi-finals continue with the odd numbered regions playing against each other and the even numbered regions playing against each other. There would be three field officials for each semi-final and each final. The semi-final sites of Hartland and South Lyon were approved by the committee.

Division 1 and Division 2 enrollment numbers were also reviewed and 27 teams are presently in Division 1 (enrollment 1874 and above) and 28 teams are in Division 2 (enrollment 1873 and below). This is a six team increase from 2009 when the numbers were 24 in Division 1 and 25 in Division 2. There are 13 (increased by 4 from 2009) cooperative programs in girls lacrosse with 55 teams involving 71 schools (increase of 9). It was also noted that three teams have opted to play in Division 1 during the 2009-10 season.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The Girls Lacrosse Participating School Tournament Information for 2010 was also examined which includes the tournament format, opt-out due date, regional draw dates, and tournament date parameters. In addition tournament procedures, time schedule, playing rules, media information, sportsmanship, and weather and spectator policies were provided.

CALENDAR CHANGES/PROPOSALS

The 2009 - 2010 calendar changes by Representative Council were reviewed by the Girls Lacrosse Committee. Specific to lacrosse is that the starting date remains the same (March 15, 2010) however, it will be required that there are 7 separate days of practice for the team and competition will not be allowed before 9 calendar days (Wednesday, March 24, 2010).

Also reviewed by the committee were adopted rules revisions (effective August 1, 2009) regarding open gyms, school apparel, the limited player rule and summer rules.

RULES MEETING SCHEDULE & POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The 2009-10 online rules meeting schedule was discussed and the Girls Lacrosse Committee requested a point of emphasis be given to coaches and officials regarding unsportsmanlike behavior and the control of athlete behaviors on and off the field. All of the new rule changes were reviewed and it was also requested that these rules changes be emphasized with video when possible. Rules points of emphasis include cross-checking, charging, slashing and dangerous checks. Cross-checking will include an emphasis on a player not being able to use the shaft of the stick to hit, push, or displace an opponent.

OFFICIALS

The leaders in lacrosse officiating were commended for their strong role and mentorship in classroom training for additional officials during this past year. Officials training continues and a session scheduled on January 30, 2010 at the MHSAA has 29 registrants. It was further noted that the fees for regular season competition and assignment of officials are set by schools and that using an MHSAA registered assigner is voluntary. Official's selection for tournament assignments will be for all levels of the Girls Lacrosse Tournament.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Additional discussion included a reminder that allows the Girls Lacrosse Tournament Manager to increase the time of a weather delay during a postponed tournament contest. In addition, it was reiterated that Girls Lacrosse Regional Managers will conduct a blind draw to determine the order in which teams compete in regional competition.

The Committee also reviewed the alternative site travel accommodation recommendation which indicates that MHSAA staff may change the date, time and location of a previously scheduled tournament game if the originally scheduled game involves extensive travel for both teams and an acceptable site can be secured. The determination includes consultation with both teams and the Tournament Manager and may require that the competing teams secure an acceptable field. The financial responsibilities will fall to the original home team or host school and alternative site-travel accommodations would not apply to the MHSAA Final.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

There were no recommendations to the Representative Council.