

OFFICIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, September 28, 2009

Members Present:

Bruce Arter, Stevensville
Steve Babbitt, Blissfield
Dave Bos, Hudsonville
Mike Cavender, Davisburg
Jim Corstange, Richland
Chris Hartman, Iron Mountain
Dave Jackson, Frankfort
Joe McCormick, Trenton
Kevin Murphy, Livonia
Bob Root, Flint

Bill Rubin, Brighton
Bryon Taylor, Bannister
Dan Ulrich, Charlevoix
Carl VanHeck, Kentwood
Bart Wegenke, Haslett

Staff:

Randy Allen
Tom Minter
Tom Rashid
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2009-10 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 2009 Representative Council Actions: The committee received an update from the May meeting of the Representative Council and February Audit and Finance Committee meetings. Approved items included an increase in tournament officiating fees, changes in registration fees, revised procedures for tournament selection and the addition of the member-in-good standing requirement for tournament officials in baseball and softball.

Officials Program Updates: MHSAA staff reported on increased registration numbers in light of the current economy, the new tournament assignment procedures, rules testing, online rules meetings and the sportsmanship feedback process started last year. Discussion also took place on the regular season official's fees survey and the increased tournament fees for officials in 2009-10.

Observation Program: Staff reported on the first "class" of observers that were trained at DeWitt High School on Saturday, August 1, 2009. There was further discussion on the future goals and objectives for this program.

Officials Ratings: The committee reviewed at length the current officials rating program and the problems of an increasing number of schools failing to rate officials each season. Many possible solutions to this problem were discussed, and the committee reached consensus on two items. First, there was a strong belief that ratings from schools should continue for tournament selection purposes. Second, there is support for a stronger, more consistent approach in getting rating compliance from coaches. Any penalties resulting from non-compliance should be directed to those specific coaches.

Sport Playing Rules and Risk Management: Staff member Tom Minter will be representing Michigan on the National Federation Sports Medicine Advisory Committee later in the fall of 2009. He received suggestions from the committee in various sports

regarding areas of concern regarding playing rules, participant safety and risk management.

Approved Association, Registered Assignor, Sport Trainers and Registered

Observer Program: The committee reviewed the current meeting requirements and renewal cycles of Approved Associations, Registered Assignors, Sport Trainers and Registered Observers. The committee discussed the value of the bi-annual online meetings for Approved Associations and Registered Assignors, and supported the Sport Trainer meetings taking place on a bi-annual basis, as well.

Correspondence: The committee discussed a letter of concern from a member school superintendent regarding the number of officials being hired for regular season contests in light of tight economic times (two basketball officials vs. three basketball officials, for example). The committee believed, and is supported by MHSAA policy, that local schools, leagues and conferences are best equipped to determine the appropriate number of officials used for regular season play in all sports.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. For an official to be eligible for selection at the Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final tournament rounds, that official must take and pass the optional 30-question rules test in those sports where it is offered with a minimum score of 80%. Previously the score was provided to the selection committee for information and officials were not excluded regardless of score or an attempt to take the test (15-0)
2. Require all member schools to provide officials ratings by the end of each sport's regular season. The coach and athletic director should receive a reminder email 25% into the season. If no ratings have been received by the half-way point of the season, the coach, athletic director and principal will receive another reminder email. If no ratings have been received after 75% of the regular season, the coach, athletic director, principal and superintendent will receive a final email notice. If no ratings are received by the deadline in each sport, that head coach cannot coach his or her team during the current year's MHSAA tournament in that sport (15-0).
3. Provide the train-the-trainer meetings on a bi-annual basis. Trainers will be certified for two years at a time (no change) and multiple trainer sessions will be held every other year so individuals can continue being a trainer in multiple sports (15-0).