

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Wrestling Committee Meeting
East Lansing, January 26, 2011

Members Present:

Steve Babbitt, Blissfield
Aaron Babicz, Novi
Brian Bishop, Bay City
Todd Cheney, Hartland (MWA)
Dave Dean, Lowell
Joe Droski, Sparta
Mike Garvey, Otsego (MIAAA)
Mark Hagg, Onsted

Paul Johnson, Greenville
Tim Jones, Leroy
Greg Lattig, Mason
Randy Nesbit, Hart
Dennis Paquette, Bangor
Scott Warriner, Eaton Rapids

Staff Members Present:

Tom Minter
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2010-11 MHSAA Wrestling Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics involving wrestling issues and the tournament series. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision making process and charge of the Wrestling Committee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of Representative Council Action: The committee reviewed the action taken by the Representative Council in May that included an adjustment to the Team Finals seeding procedures (seeding a minimum of four teams per Division) and reduction of the maximum days of competition from 16 to 14 in 2011-12.

National Federation Topics: A conversation took place regarding NF wrestling rules and two suggestions for change. Staff will encourage the NF to look at prohibiting the far-side trip from a standing position with the arm trapped and will encourage further discussion on allowing the two-piece uniform. Discussion also took place on communicable skin disease issues and MRSA, with specific concerns regarding the spread of mat herpes in some parts of the state. Additional information with mat issues will be presented in next year's rules meeting presentation. Finally, the committee affirmed Michigan's opinion that no change should be made to the current 14 weight classes.

Weight Monitoring Program: Members of the committee were given the annual summary data on hydrostatic appeals, descent plans and the NWCA online weight monitoring program. There continues to be great support of the MHSAA-NWCA partnership, and additional study and conversation will take place regarding a move toward all match data being entered by schools into the NWCA online program. This data could generate all statistical report information that is required for Team and Individual seeding purposes, along with all statistics kept by local schools for future reference.

Tournament Issues: The committee continued the discussion of cost containment issues at tournament sites, starting and season ending dates for 2011-12 and Individual Final formats. There continues to be consensus that the current wrestling season is still too long and the current season maximums regarding number of allowed days of competition needs to be reduced, which will happen in the 2011-12 season. One suggestion was that the number of tournament dates should remain at 8

within the 14 total allowed days of competition. Format issues at the Individual District tournament were discussed, and there remains strong support for keeping the current format of the Individual Finals. A future conversation will take place on the suggestion of identifying weeks during the wrestling season where the statewide starting weight class would be set for all events on a rotating basis.

Home Weigh-In: Another annual discussion topic continues to be the allowance of the home weigh-in. The committee once again affirmed that the benefits of the home weigh-in option and allowance for wrestlers still outweighed the concerns of some schools not being forthright with data or some schools' administration being lax in following all published requirements of the current rule. MHSAA staff will continue to aggressively review all school requirements for the home weigh-in on an annual basis.

Final Venues and Formats: The committee reviewed the current Final venues in Battle Creek and Auburn Hills, along with the format that each event uses. One suggestion for change was to consider using new mats in Battle Creek that are larger and provide more space between the four dual meets.

MHSAA Regulations: A long conversation took place on MHSAA Handbook, Regulation II, Section 10 (C) regarding the current prohibition of an athlete participating on two different teams (varsity and JV) on the same date in light of the uniqueness of scholastic wrestling.

Physical Cards: Tom Minter led a discussion seeking input on the proposed physical card which will be larger in size and have more medical history data. The committee had no concerns with the proposed card.

Transfer Issues and Wrestling: A long and spirited debate took place around concerns of an increasing number of wrestlers moving from school to school during their high school careers. Many of these transfer wrestlers had been medal winners at the Individual Finals at one school only to change schools the following year to join with other high profile wrestlers. The committee was unanimous that this issue needs increased study and conversation in hopes of slowing and discouraging this troubling trend. Suggestions included extending the period of ineligibility for transfer students to one full year rather than just one semester as is being used in other states to dissuade this movement of high profile wrestlers in light of possible undue influence issues.

WRESTLING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Revise *MHSAA Handbook*, Regulation II, Section 10 (A) #18 (C): A student or team is limited to eight events in which a wrestler may participate in more than two matches (14-0). This would eliminate the 2011-12 change from eight events to seven events in which wrestlers may participate in more than 2 matches which would allow schools flexibility in tournament scheduling under the new 14 days of competition in 2011-12.
2. Add additional language to *MHSAA Handbook*, Regulation II, Section 10 (C) to state that a contestant in any sport shall not compete on two different teams on the same date in the same sport except in wrestling (14-0).