

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
ATHLETIC EQUITY COMMITTEE MEETING
East Lansing, October 3, 2013

Members Present:

Andrew Burnette, Negaunee
Van Dickerson, Kalamazoo
Leroy Hackley, Grant
Suzanne Heinzman, Canton

Denise Kerrigan, Whitmore Lake
John Malatinsky, Holt
Cathy North, Linden
Maureen Whidden, Pontiac

MHSAA Staff:

Nate Hampton, Recorder
Gina Mazzolini

Members Absent:

Courtney Hawkins, Flint
Carmen Kennedy, St Clair Shores
John Tafelski, Dearborn Heights

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am. Following the welcome and introductions the committee reviewed the Equity Committee Authority and Responsibility along with a synopsis of the committee recommendations from previous years.

EQUITY COMMITTEE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

The Equity Committee, as with any other MHSAA Standing Committee, has the duty and responsibility to discuss matters of specific interest relating to equity opportunities for women and minority men and women and to then make recommendations of action to the Representative Council that involves all levels and positions within the governance of the MHSAA.

Goals are to include, but are not limited to:

1. Gather statewide data to define equity problems, direct actions and to monitor progress.
2. Promote through motivation, support and training competent coaches, officials, athletic directors, and governing board members regardless of race, ethnicity, or sex.
3. Sensitize and encourage organizations and employers to affirmatively seek women and minorities for athletic leadership training, placement, and promotion.
4. Promote the benefits of athletics and athletic leadership to students, educators, parents, and community.
5. Improve communication between the school districts, the Michigan High School Athletic Association, governing boards, professional associations, and higher education regarding the need for balanced staffing of athletic programs.

SPORT OFFICIALS

Assistant Director Mark Uyl provided the committee with information relating to officials registration and current plans for recruitment and retention.

Nearly 11,000 officials registered for 2012-13 school year. Collaborative efforts with officials associations, Reaching Higher, MSU Women's Basketball and all 2-4 year College/Universities are proving additional venues of officials training.

It was noted that in 2012-13 approximately 11% of registered officials are minority and approximately 12% are female. The average age of all registered officials is 48 years.

Mr. Uyl stated that approximately 1800 new officials register each year but within a three year span only 300-400 of the original 1800 remain registered.

Also noted was an effort to recruit High School Seniors. Each member school athletic director will receive two free registrations to give to students whom the athletic director might think will become an official.

GENERAL DISCUSSIONS

1. 2012 Equity Committee Minutes
2. 2013 National Federation Equity Committee /Citizenship Committee Minutes
3. 2013 AD In-Service Agenda
4. 2013 May Representative Council Minutes
5. 2013-14 Cooperative Program List
6. 2012 NFHS Participation Survey
7. 2012 MHSAA Participation Survey
8. 2013 Women in Sport Leadership – Conference to be held at the Lansing Lexington Hotel
9. MHSAA Hoopfest – The Greater Lansing Sport Authority/MHSAA supported Hoopfest will again be presented during the Boys Finals weekend at the Jenison Fieldhouse. The Greater Lansing Sport Authority/MHSAA will continue fan involved games during period breaks and provide historical displays on the concourse.
10. The Reaching Higher Events were again well received with the girls and boys event achieving record attendance for those invited.
11. Gender/Racial Sensitivity
12. Special Needs students and Events – The committee discussed information received from OCR and the perception that Public Schools must accommodate students with multiple levels of disabilities. The committee had no recommendations.
13. Return to play from concussion – The committee discussed the idea that a nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant may also sign a return to competition form for a student following a diagnosis of concussion. No recommendation for change.

NOTE: MHSAA staff shared with the committee a number of articles that aligned with the subjects presented.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. MHSAA Handbook – Rewrite current Interpretation #250 Boys ~~may~~ shall not participate on a girls’ team in MHSAA sponsored ~~post-season meets and tournament~~ sports. Also, add same rewrite as new Regulation 11, Section 1B.

NOTE: The committee’s discussion of boys on girls teams lead the committee to want a stronger statement for member schools to use when questioned.