

GIRLS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING
MHSAA Office - East Lansing
October 19, 2016

Members Present:

Steve Baker, Grand Ledge
Michael Emery, Rockford
Brian Gordon, Novi
Lindsey Hoyt, Farmington Hills
Tim Johnston, East Grand Rapids
Katie Kozlowski, Brighton
Zachary Maghes, Ann Arbor

Sal Malek, Bloomfield Hills (MIAAA)
Chris Riker, Portage

Members Absent:

Haley Crouse, Midland

Staff Member:

Kathy Vrugink Westdorp (Recorder)

GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The 2016-17 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 US Lacrosse or 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. This Committee meets in October because of the necessity to review US Lacrosse changes during the transitions that occur between the rules meeting and the NFHS publication of the Girls Lacrosse Rules Book.

MEETING MINUTES/OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING REGULATIONS

The minutes of the October, 2015 Girls Lacrosse Committee were reviewed for the purpose of providing background regarding prior discussion and actions of the committee. In addition, the limitations of competition were reviewed for grades 7 – 12. The Committee discussed the current MHSAA Out-of-Season Regulations as well as the need for girls lacrosse coaches and schools to be in compliance with the regulations. Concerns included both out-of-season and travel regulations with reminders that coaches are limited to providing coaching in their sport to four students in grades 7 – 12 of the school district in which they coach. The four player period runs from the Monday of the week when August 15 occurs through the Sunday after Memorial Day. The Down Time Regulation includes language which states that no competition (intra-squad or inter-squad) between groups that resemble school teams (more than four students in grades 7 – 12 of the district) may occur in that sport at any school facility or any other location with any of that school district's personnel present. In addition, further discussion included the adherence to Interpretation 236 in which a coach may not arrange for a parent or non-staff person to do that which the coach is prohibited from doing under the regulation.

COACHING REQUIREMENTS

Committee members reviewed information regarding coaching requirements for 2016-17 which include the need for high school athletic administrators to attest that all varsity head coaches have a valid current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate and that sub-varsity coaches have had a rules meeting or a health and safety course posted at mhsaa.com. Effective with the 2016-17 school year, each head coach of a varsity high school team, hired for the first time at that level by any MHSAA member high school after July 31, 2016, shall have completed either Level 1 or Level 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP).

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Additional health and safety issues were discussed including MHSAA protocol for implementation of National Federation sports playing rules for concussion and the MHSAA Model Policy for Managing Heat and Humidity. Concussion protocol was discussed as well as the concussion insurance and pilot programs available. In addition, epidemiology summary reports were provided from the Michigan High School Athletic Association Head Injury Reporting System for the 2015-16 school year as well as from the High School Sports-Related Injury Surveillance Study in terms of sport-specific injuries in girls lacrosse.

Committee members also received additional discussion points regarding the use of headgear in girls' and women's lacrosse. The use of headgear is optional in girls lacrosse and any headgear used after January 1, 2017 must meet the ASTM performance standard F3137. Rule 2, Section 10 of the Girls Lacrosse Rules Book allows for any field player choosing to wear headgear to be only allowed to wear headgear that meets the ASTM F3137 standard. Any headgear manufactured on or after 01/01/18, must be permanently labeled with the SEI certification mark.

Rule 2, Section 7 of the Girls Lacrosse Rules Book outlines the certification changes to eyewear protection in which all field players must properly wear eye protection which must meet the most current ASTM Specification Standard F3077 for women's lacrosse and must be listed on the US Lacrosse web site. As of 01/01/17, only the F3077 standard will be legal for play. Additional conversation regarding eyewear included that as of 01/01/18, eye protection must be SEI certified and be permanently labeled with the SEI certification mark to the most current ASTM Specification Standard F3077 for women's lacrosse eye protection. New information requested from US Lacrosse includes the qualifier that only ASTM eye protection manufactured on or after 01/01/18 must be SEI certified and be permanently labeled with the SEI certification mark. The coach will certify that the eyewear meets the qualifying standards.

The Girls Lacrosse Committee believes that the focus should be on the rules of the game and the responsibility of coaches to teach the game appropriately. Additional attention should be provided by officials who adhere to strict enforcement of the rules that prohibit rough and reckless checking and place a premium on participant safety. Over the past few years, there has been additional emphasis on major rules changes in the girl's game at all levels, which has included increasing penalties associated with fouls caused as a result of dangerous play. Most noteworthy is a new 2016-17 rule that players below the restraining lines on the draw may not cross until possession has been established.

OFFICIALS AND ASSIGNORS

The Girls Lacrosse Committee also provided input regarding officials and assignors of girls lacrosse where further emphasis must be placed on the level of competition, skill level of team and experience of the officials who are assigned to a regular-season contest. Additionally, girls lacrosse officials need to be especially observant when there is a conflict of interest and to make certain that they are indicating the conflict during the season and MHSAA Tournament.

Further discussion included the need for more officials in all sports and providing additional creative ways to invite officials into the profession. Some of the conversation included capturing more teachers through the MEA as well as working through community education programs to procure officials. Additional thoughts included the great opportunities for officials to mentor others within the sport; an "Each One – Reach One" mentoring approach was discussed.

Officials training continues and sessions are scheduled on Saturday, November 5, 2016 and Saturday, February 4, 2017 at the MHSAA. 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 assignor is voluntary. Official's selection for tournament assignments will be made for all levels of the Girls Lacrosse Tournament by the Girls Lacrosse Committee.

REVIEW OF GIRLS LACROSSE RULES CHANGES PROPOSED FOR 2016-17

Presently, girls lacrosse has rules that are proposed with member state involvement to the National Federation of High Schools in which they review and vote on rules that are sent in by member schools. Last year, the rule of "sudden victory" overtime was not adopted by the MHSAA Committee. The 2016-17 MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Committee affirmed that the previous overtime rule will be retained. This includes that when the score is tied at the end of regular playing time and overtime is to be played, both teams will have a 5-minute rest and toss a coin (visiting captain calls) for choice of ends. Two 3-minute halves of stop clock overtime (clock stops on every whistle) will be played. The clock will be stopped after 3 minutes of play in order for teams to change ends with no delay for coaching. The game will be restarted by a center draw. The team which is ahead at the end of six minutes wins the game. If the teams are still tied after six

minutes have elapsed, the teams will have a 3-minute rest and change ends. The winner will then be decided on a "sudden victory" stop-clock overtime of no more than six minutes in length with the teams changing ends after 3 minutes. The game will be restarted by a center draw. The team scoring the first goal wins the game. Play will continue with "sudden victory" stop-clock overtime periods of six minutes in length (two 3-minute halves) with 3 minutes in between and change of ends until a winning goal is scored.

Additional discussion included review of *MHSAA Handbook* Regulation II, Section 10 and whether middle school should have additional contest additions, limitations or adaptations. The Girls Lacrosse Committee discussed practice and game allowances at the middle school level in an effort in finding the right formula for a successful middle school experience. The consensus was that at this time there was not a willingness to increase the number of contests allowed at the middle school level (especially without further input from the Middle School Committee). However with additional conversation, there was a commitment to request the number of multi-team tournaments for middle school girls lacrosse to be increased from three to four.

The other allowance discussed was to allow high school and middle school multi-team tournaments to be held on days not followed by school or on non-school days. The current rule is to only allow multi-team tournaments to occur on non-school days. If desired, this provision would also permit a multi-team tournament to be played on a Friday late afternoon/evening or any other day not followed by school.

Additional discussion was a review of a proposal to replace the blind draw with an internal regional seeding process and to allow the first round playoff games to be played at the home field of the higher rated (through Lax Power) team. Committee members discussed the proposal and there were several concerns, including that with this arrangement, there could be many teams that never advance beyond entry level in the tournament (due to a low ranking). No action was taken on this proposal and the Committee felt confident that that the tournament draw was philosophically solid.

Girls Lacrosse held another participation record during 2016-17 with 2775 athletes participating in the spring of 2015-16. Girls Lacrosse has set a participation record every season since becoming a sponsored tournament sport in 2005.

TOURNAMENT RECOMMENDATIONS/IMPORTANT DATES

Girls lacrosse tournament dates and Participating School Tournament Information were reviewed by the committee as well as the dates regarding online rules meetings. The online rules meeting for girls lacrosse will be available on February 6, 2017 and ends on April 13, 2017. Practice for MHSAA Girls Lacrosse begins Monday, March 13, 2017 and the first available contest date is Wednesday, March 22, 2017. The 2016 Girls Lacrosse Tournament was reviewed for points of improvement. Each year the starting times are reversed in Girls Lacrosse and in 2017, the Division 2 Girls Lacrosse Final will start at 2:00 p.m. and the Division 1 Final will start at 4:30 p.m. Brighton High School will be the host for the MHSAA Girls Lacrosse tournament on Saturday, June 10, 2017.

The tournament format and expected regional/semi-final sites were evaluated and there will be four regionals in Division 1 and four regionals in Division 2. Currently there are several games that will be played as "pre-regional games" due to the increasing number of teams in girls lacrosse. Additionally, in the Division 1 semi-finals, Region 2 will play Region 1 and Region 4 will play Region 3. In Division 2, Region 6 plays Region 5 and Region 8 plays Region 7. There will be three field officials for each semi-final and final game. The committee indicated that a surface of either artificial turf or grass was acceptable for regional and semi-final sites. Several sites for the semi-finals will be considered.

Additional discussion included desired Regional sites for tournament play. Host managers who are contacted may host all levels of the Regional Tournament if necessary. The alternate site travel accommodation rule for lacrosse was reviewed 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.

Division 1 and Division 2 enrollment numbers were also reviewed and 39 teams are presently in Division 1 (enrollment 1739 and above) and 42 teams are in Division 2 (enrollment 1739 and below). This is already an increase from 2015-16. There are 18 cooperative programs in girls lacrosse with 81 teams involving 101 schools. It was also noted that two teams have opted up to play in Division 1 during the 2016-17 season. Schools participating in the MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Tournament have continued to increase in numbers throughout the years with the initial tournament in 2004-05 consisting of 39 teams (50 schools) to now more than double the status. Committee members also provided the status of several other schools that were possibly planning to offer girls lacrosse in the 2017. Overall each year, schools participating in the MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Tournament have continued to increase.

RULES MEETING SCHEDULE & POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The 2016-17 online rules meeting schedule was discussed and the Girls Lacrosse Committee requested a point of emphasis be given to coaches and officials regarding the out-of-season limitations that exist in girls lacrosse for all levels of play (7th through 12th grade). Further emphasis includes that coaches have a better understanding of their role and responsibility as leaders of an interscholastic team. Additionally, an emphasis will be provided on the responsibilities of coaches in treating the playing field as an educational setting. The Committee requested that an additional points of emphasis include the expected behavior for all game personnel on the sidelines and on the field.

Rules book points of emphasis will include dangerous follow-through, dangerous propelling, illegal defensive position, and game management.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MHSAA REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Include in *MHSAA Handbook* Regulation II, Section 10 as it pertains to Girls Lacrosse to also allow multi-team tournaments to be held on days not followed by school and non-school days (currently just on non-school days) for both the high school and middle school levels. (9-0)
2. Increase the number of multi-team tournaments allowed by Girls Lacrosse Middle School teams from three to four in its regular-season schedule with each tournament counting as one of the 12 games of allowed competition. (9-0)