

GIRLS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING
MHSAA Office - East Lansing
January 15, 2009

Members Present:

Jerry Cowan, Hartland
Keith Froelich, Okemos
Cindy Hill, Tecumseh
Timothy Hollern, Forest Hills
Carman Kennedy, Grosse Pointe
Betsy Kreston, Flint
Mike Mehall, Farmington
Ken Mohney, Mattawan

Members Absent:

Deanna Radcliffe, South Lyon
Marty Simmonds, Pontiac

Staff Member:

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp (Recorder)

GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The 2009 Girls Lacrosse Committee met at the Michigan High School Athletic Association to review its responsibilities as a standing sports committee; review Representative Council action from 2007-08; 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 meets two times per school year to review information as well as assign officials to the MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Tournament.

PRIOR REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

The minutes of the 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 meetings for girls lacrosse start on February 23, 2009 and end on April 17, 2009. There will be one face-to-face meeting at the MHSAA Office on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 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 2008 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 2009, the Division 1 Finals will start at 5 p.m. and the Division 2 Finals will start at 2 p.m. at the finals site of Bloomfield Hills Lahser 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. The need for a bench official at both the semi-finals and finals was discussed and determined that at both of these events, a bench official was not necessary; however there would be three field officials for each semi-final and each final.

Division 1 and Division 2 enrollment numbers were also reviewed and 24 schools are presently in Division 1 (enrollment 1912 and above) and 24 schools are in Division 2 (enrollment 1911 and below).

There are nine cooperative programs in girls lacrosse with 49 teams involving 62 schools. It was also noted that three teams have opted to play in Division 1 during the 2008-09 season.

CALENDAR CHANGES/PROPOSALS

2009 - 2010 calendar changes which were revised December 5, 2008 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 proposals that are being considered to modify out-of-season rules. These proposals, which are being reviewed by all sport committees, include open gyms, preseason "down time", the limited player rule, and summer rules.

GIRLS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION

A proposal was discussed to change the regional selection so skilled teams that were geographically close to each other would be distributed elsewhere. The committee did not advance the proposal. In addition, there was a request that it would be beneficial if the Coaches Association would provide more frequent correspondence as to how to join the association and to also allow sub-varsity coaches to become members.

RULES MEETING SCHEDULE & POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The 2008-09 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. In addition, it was also requested that the new card system for girls lacrosse be re-emphasized.

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 with a session scheduled for January 24, 2009 at the MHSAA which currently has 35 registrants. With MHSAA total registrations still incomplete, there are 104 officials currently registered. This number indicates that there are 21 more officials registered at this time than in 2008 and 38 more than in 2007. 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. Officials selection for tournament assignments will occur at the May 6, 2009 Lacrosse Committee Meeting.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Additional discussion included information that allowed 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.

The October Lacrosse Scheduling Meeting was also discussed to determine if it was still a necessity because of the increase of girls lacrosse teams who are participating in leagues and conference. The committee indicated that they would like to see the meeting continue for one more year.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

There were no recommendations to the Representative Council.