

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.
GIRLS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING
East Lansing, May 7, 2008

Members Present:

Jerry Cowan, Hartland
Timothy Hollern, Forest Hills
Larry Janes, South Lyon
Carmen Kennedy, Grosse Pointe
Ed Maloney, Ann Arbor
Mike Mehall, Farmington
Marty Simmonds, Pontiac

Members Absent:

Eve Claar, Bloomfield Hills
Dawn Coe, Holland
Jamie Francek, Brighton

Staff Member:

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp (Recorder)

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Girls Lacrosse Committee, which currently meets twice annually, reviewed its responsibilities as a standing sports committee and the process of making recommendations to MHSAA staff and the MHSAA Representative Council. The Girls Lacrosse Committee's function is to also assist with the assignment of tournament officials. Committee meeting minutes from the May 9, 2007 and January 24, 2008 Girls Lacrosse Meetings were reviewed as well as the posted Lacrosse Participating School Team Information and the Tournament Manager's Manual. The Committee adopted both documents for the 2008 season.

2008 GIRLS LACROSSE TOURNAMENT

Forty-eight teams (representing 62 schools) will participate in the Girls Lacrosse Tournament that concludes at Bloomfield Hills Lahser on Saturday, June 7, 2008 with twenty-five teams in Division 1 and twenty-three teams in Division 2. In an effort to allow spectators the option to attend both the boys and girls lacrosse contests, the girls Division 1 Finals are scheduled for 2 p.m. and Division 2 Finals are scheduled for 5 p.m. at Bloomfield Lahser High School. Boys lacrosse is scheduled at Troy Athens at 2 p.m. (Division 2) and 5 p.m. (Division 1). Additional information regarding the lacrosse tournament is found on www.mhsaa.com.

ASSIGNMENT OF TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

The committee's function over this transitional period is to assist with the assignment of tournament officials. Ratings of girls lacrosse officials were available to provide additional assistance. Currently there are 117 officials who are registered in girls lacrosse and great progress has been made in terms of the recruitment, registration and training of girls lacrosse officials. This continues to be a priority of the committee members and the MHSAA.

The Girls Lacrosse Committee members offered input on the selection of tournament officials for regional semifinals, regional finals, semifinals, and finals. Officials who are registered and were in attendance at a MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Rules Meetings are eligible for tournament assignment. Official's schedules were perused and officials were selected for tournament play. Girls lacrosse officials were notified of their assignment on Friday, May 9, 2008 by email and are expected to contact the MHSAA if they are unable to accept an assignment.

2008-09 PLANNING AND PREPARATION

The three-year provision for co-ops to exist over the 3500 cap concludes after the 2007-08 lacrosse season for schools that started lacrosse in 2005-06. Current cooperative programs were discussed as well as the schools that may be in their final year of the three year allowance and must comply with the enrollment cap prior to the 2009 season.

Emphasis remains in the necessity to give assistance to schools regarding the enforcement of regular season policies that leagues normally follow regarding schedules and the assignment of officials, as well as promoting lacrosse within existing local conferences. Committee members remain committed to providing assistance in establishing new local lacrosse leagues and local officials associations for the 2008-09 school year and indicated their awareness of additional schools offering girls lacrosse.

In addition, a review of the tournament schedule will be ongoing. With girls lacrosse an emerging sport, there will be many forthcoming changes that may occur with additional new teams becoming a part of the MHSAA Tournament. All members of the committee were charged with speaking with their own school personnel in an effort to assist them in their responses as to the format for future MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Tournaments.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GUIDELINES

The Girls Lacrosse Committee recommendation to establish limitations on junior high/middle school girls lacrosse was reviewed and the Committee was advised that these limitations would go into effect in the 2008-09 school year. The limitations (included in Regulation IV, Section 10) would consist of a 13 week junior high/middle school season with a 12 date limit including two-multi-team tournaments. The Committee reviewed additional information that came from the Junior High/Middle School Committee which requested an allowance of 150 running time minutes for multi-team tournaments at the junior high/middle school level be allowed. Since this amount of time supersedes that of high school girls lacrosse, the committee did not approve the request. (7-0)

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL FEDERATION

The rules of girls lacrosse were discussed by the Committee with the possibility of providing a proposal to the National Federation of State High School Associations for review by the Girls US Lacrosse Committee. It was determined that the proposal discussed would not be submitted. However, it was requested that emphasis be given to girls lacrosse shooting space parameters with assurances that this aspect of the game be a focus of safety and also reviewed for consistency within the rule. In addition, the Committee requested that this also be a point of emphasis at 2009 Girls Lacrosse Rules Meetings.

LACROSSE RULES AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR 2008-09

The lacrosse rules meeting schedule was discussed with the understanding that all spring rules meetings will be on-line next year except for one meeting which is scheduled at the MHSAA Offices on Wednesday, February 18, 2009.

Lacrosse Committee meeting dates will be Thursday, January 22, 2009 and Wednesday, May 6, 2009. With affirmation of the meeting dates, there was additional discussion as to how individuals are placed on MHSAA Committees and the two-year length of their term. The members who are now rotating off the committee were thanked for their service to the Girls Lacrosse Committee.

EDUCATION

Strong recommendations from the committee included the placement of a veteran official with a protégé official to assist with the rules and regulations of lacrosse. Several committee members expressed concern that they received late information from assignors which indicated officials were not available for a contest. This concern will be reviewed with registered assignors during the MHSAA Assignor's Meeting. Additionally, it was requested that it be reiterated with all assignors to be consistent in the placement of all officials and to follow MHSAA guidelines. Assignors are not to establish additional conditions for officials to be placed in regular season contests.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

The committee discussed additional ways to attract more schools and players to girls lacrosse. Conversation included what was presently occurring in leagues and conferences. Committee members will continue to work with schools for additional expansion.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

There were no recommendations to the Representative Council.