

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE MINUTES
East Lansing, January 23, 2013

Members Present:

Randy Campana (MHSOCA)
Brent Case, St. Clair Shores (MASSP)
Jim Garofalo, Howell
Cody Inglis, Traverse City
Jim Murray, Portage
Pete Ryan, Saginaw (MIAAAA)

Doug Towler, Davison
Jamie Tuma, Marquette
Rob White, Saline

Staff Member:

Randy Allen (Recorder)

The 2013 Ice Hockey Committee met in the MHSAA office to review the MHSAA tournament, policies and procedures governing hockey, playing rules changes, make recommendations to the MHSAA Representative Council, and discuss topics concerning high school hockey in MHSAA member schools. After introductions the role of the committee was reviewed.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL REVIEW

The committee reviewed action by the Representative Council which approved a change in the season limits of competition to 25 games and one scrimmage for 2012-13, and use of the 17 minute period in the 2013 MHSAA Tournament.

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

The committee was given a review of the host assignment process for the MHSAA Tournament and how groups are determined at the initial Pre-Regional level. Many changes in co-op teams took place after initial Division assignments were posted in the spring of 2012 resulting in some unusual groupings for the 2013 tournament. It is anticipated there will be fewer changes for 2013-14 and more stability in the new Division list for the 2014 tournament. Yost Arena in Ann Arbor will be a new Quarterfinal site for the 2013 tournament with Saline acting as host school. Time schedules for the Semifinal and Final games at Compuware Arena were reviewed with no changes recommended.

A discussion took place regarding possible use of 4-person officiating crews at the MHSAA Semifinal and Final games. Several states have done so for their state championships and it is an approved system by the National Federation. Many positives of 4-person crews were identified including better game coverage and more opportunities to bring quality and deserving officials to the Semifinal and Final games. Added cost to the MHSAA would be approximately \$500. A proposal was approved for Council consideration to assign 4 official crews to each Semifinal and Final game in the 2014 tournament.

NATIONAL FEDERATION PLAYING RULES

National Federation rules changes were discussed at great length, specifically the change in wording and penalty for checks from behind. Committee members reported concern from coaches regarding the severity of the automatic DQ penalty for checks from behind into the boards inasmuch as MHSAA supplemental penalties require a two game suspension for game DQ's. Other concerns centered on players trying to draw such a penalty and coaches that may be encouraging players to do so and inconsistent enforcement of the penalty. It was reported that this would be a major agenda item at the national committee level and that there may be some consideration for a change in the penalty structure for checking from behind, i.e. a major penalty and game misconduct vs. automatic DQ. With Michigan being represented by two persons on the National Federation rules committee that meets in April, the committee gave its support for possible change in the penalty, clarification on enforcement and additional penalties for players who try and draw penalties that can result in exposure to risk of serious injury.

Also discussed was the national rules requirement for officials to wear half face shields effective in 2013-14. Reservations have been expressed from some officials about the requirement, citing effects on sight lines and additional cost. The committee supported a proposal to delay the requirement an additional year for MHSAA officials, and to explore a broader interpretation of the requirement that may allow the face shield protection to be made of material other than acrylic or plastic.

Continued efforts will be made by coaches and officials to enforce mouth guard requirements for players and the MHSAA requirement for approved neck guards during the game and warm-up periods.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The committee discussed the MHSAA Limited team Membership regulations that restricts participation on roller hockey teams during the school season, no change was recommended. Other review items included updates on MHSAA out of season coaching restrictions, the NASO officials summit in Grand Rapids in the summer of 2013, concussion protocols and an update from the coaches association on their August clinic and membership levels.

A draw was conducted for the 2014 Semifinal pairings as follows:

Division 1 - QF #2 vs. QF #4, QF #1 vs. QF #3
Division 2 - QF #8 vs. QF #7, QF #5 vs. QF #6
Division 3 - QF #12 vs. QF #11, QF #9 vs. QF #10

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Delay the National Federation requirement for officials to wear a half face shield until the 2014-2015 season. (6-3)
2. Use four person officiating crews for the MHSAA Semifinal and Finals games in 2014 to be assigned by the MHSAA. (9-0)