

## **WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, January 23, 2013

### **Members Present:**

Steve Babbitt, Blissfield

Aaron Babicz, Novi

Todd Cheney, Hartland (MWA)

David Cooper, Romulus

Dave Dean, Lowell

Mike Garvey, Kalamazoo (MIAAA)

Jeff Goodwine, Saginaw

Dan Hutcheson, Howell

Tim Jones, Leroy

Dallas Linter, Owosso

Brian Martel, Mason

Russ McKenzie, Madison Hts

Ken Mohney, Mattawan

Casey Randolph, Tecumseh

Fred Smith, Buchanan

Vance Stratton, Niles

Josh Wallberg, Davison

Steve Wilson, Constantine

### **Staff:**

Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2012-13 MHSAA Wrestling committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics involving wrestling issues and the tournament series. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision making process, charge of the Wrestling committee and a review of Representative Council action from last year.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**National Federation Topics:** A lengthy conversation took place regarding NF wrestling weight classes. The committee, along with most of the input received from member school coaches, favored keeping the current weight classes used in Michigan (103-285). Members were hopeful the NF would revert back to the traditional weight classes after experiencing negative push-back from many other states. A brief discussion on concussion protocols then ensued, with committee members believing that current regulations were very effective. One suggestion from the committee was for staff to reemphasize the need for officials and medical staff to conduct skin checks prior to competition in a consistent manner from week to week.

**Weight Monitoring Program:** Members of the committee were given the annual summary data on hydrostatic appeals, descent plans and the NWCA online weight monitoring program. The committee supported the MHSAA allowing students that wish to make a final appeal to utilize either hydrostatic weighing (currently allowed) or use of the Bod Pod (new), a device that performs a similar body composition test to the underwater weighting. This additional option benefits schools and students as very few facilities continue to have a hydrostatic tank; most testing sites have moved to the Bod Pod process. Topics of the 1.5% rule and a revisit of the old 50% rule were also discussed at length with no consensus for change being reached on these two topics.

**Home Weigh In:** A long conversation took place regarding the positives and negatives of the home weigh-in allowance for regular season competition. The two main concerns

continue to be that principals are not taking an active role in the home weigh-in process and school coaches are not properly following the published protocols. The MWA leadership offered to convene a committee of member coaches to further discuss the home weigh-in procedure and will report back to the MHSAA Wrestling committee with any findings or recommendations next January.

Wrestling Schedule & Calendar: The committee discussed the changes that have been made over the past five years relative to the wrestling schedule in light of the 2013-14 wrestling calendar that is one week shorter than this year's calendar. The committee discussed possible solutions in years where the calendar is "shortened" with a late Thanksgiving and early end date with the first Saturday in March falling within the first few days of March.

Final Officials: Conversation took place on the need to recruit and retain more wrestling officials, allowing these officials to advance in the MHSAA tournament series as the skill levels continue to improve. Currently, wrestling officials can work a Final tournament year after year with no "sit out" or rotation system. While the committee was committed to having the best officiating possible at the Finals each year, the group acknowledged the need to balance that expectation with creating opportunities for new officials for the long-term health of wrestling officiating.

Final Venues and Formats: The committee reviewed the current Final venues in Battle Creek and Auburn Hills, along with the format that each event uses. The committee directed staff to create multiple models of an expanded Team Final tournament format in exploring ways of increasing the number of schools and students that get to enjoy this tournament experience. The models will then be shared with the MWA for feedback and conversation. A brief update on the EZ Flex Mat program was shared, also.

Transfer Issues and Wrestling: A draft copy of a proposed Athletic Related Transfer regulation was shared and discussed with many committee members offering positive support and constructive feedback on the proposed rule. The group understood that this regulation is at the first step in the rules process.

Girls-Only Wrestling: The committee again reviewed correspondence and data regarding girls-only wrestling. A handful of other state high school associations sponsor a girls-only wrestling tournament and conversation took place on the topic. While positive benefits were noted, committee members expressed concerns of how a change in this area could impact school budgets, coaching staff personnel, facilities and Title IX compliance. The committee directed staff to formally survey each member wrestling school on the following items:

- 1) Number of female wrestlers currently on your school's team that compete on a regular basis for the team.
- 2) If a school has female wrestlers on the school team, in what weight classes do these female students currently compete?

- 3) Number of schools that would support a MHSAA-sponsored tournament in girls-only wrestling in 8-12 weight classes.
- 4) Number of schools that would support regular season girls-only wrestling events.

Committee Correspondence: The committee reviewed three pieces of correspondence on topics including a proposed “pre District” meet for B-team or junior varsity wrestlers, the need for additional home team dual meets to generate more student body interest in wrestling and the concern of wrestler names appearing on the weigh-in sheet but some athletes not being physically present on the day of competition. While the committee noted the valid concerns expressed in each piece of correspondence, none of these items received enough support for further consideration.

### **WRESTLING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

1. In years where there are only 15 Saturdays on the calendar between the first day of practice and the Individual Finals (rather than the “traditional” 16 Saturdays), the days before the first competition shall be reduced from 23 to 19. In 2013-14, this would move the earliest day of competition from Wednesday, December 11 to Saturday, December 7 (19-0).
2. In Wrestling, once an official has worked four consecutive Final tournaments in a row, that official would “sit out” at least one Final tournament year before being eligible to receive additional Final assignments (maximum of four more in a row). This approach would be phased in over the next four MHSAA tournaments (19-0).
3. MHSAA staff will formally survey member wrestling schools on girls-only wrestling interest. The following questions will be asked:
  - a) Number of female wrestlers currently on your school’s team that compete on a regular basis for the team.
  - b) If a school has female wrestlers on the school team, in what weight classes do these female students currently compete?
  - c) Number of schools that would support a MHSAA-sponsored tournament in girls-only wrestling in 8-12 weight classes.
  - d) Number of schools that would support regular season girls-only wrestling events (19-0).