

## **WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, January 22, 2014

### **Members Present:**

Todd Cheney, Hartland (MWA)

Chris Dunham, Battle Creek

Nate Ethridge, Remus

Bruce Foster, Wyoming

Mike Garvey, Kalamazoo (MIAAA)

Mike Goggins, Hastings

Dan Hutcheson, Howell

Tim Jones, Leroy

Martin Landes, Zeeland

Scott Marry, Hudson

Brian Martel, Mason

Chris Miller, Gobles

Ken Mohny, Mattawan

Don Pluta, Holly

James Richardson, Grand Haven

Vance Stratton, Niles

Josh Wallberg, Davison

### **Guest:**

Brent Harvey

### **Staff:**

Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2013-14 MHSAA Wrestling committee met in the MHSAA office 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 which included changes to the Wrestling calendar and Final officials assigning procedures.

## **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, continues to favor keeping the current weight classes used in Michigan (103-285). The consensus of the group was to continue using the Michigan weight classes moving forward and not adopt the NF weight classes. The committee also encouraged staff to provide feedback to the NF on skin checks in making sure that serious skin conditions were being addressed while others (ringworm in particular) could receive different treatment under current rules. Concerns were also expressed that the skin disease forms may only be completed by a MD or DO; the committee suggested that the same standard for those approving a physical form could be used when completing the skin disease forms.

**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 moving to use of the Bod Pod for the final appeal step in the 2014-15 school year rather than the hydrostatic weighing device which is only used by two facilities. This new approach in 2014-15 will benefit schools and students as more testing sites will become available. A lengthy discussion took

place on the 1.5% rule as a wrestler descends and when the rule is replaced with the 3-weight class window regulation. Pros and cons were discussed of following the 1.5% rule the entire season; following this discussion, the committee supported no change to the current regulations. A suggestion was made to add language to the weight monitoring summary publication to better highlight current applications of the rule.

Home Weigh In: The annual 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 MHSAA will continue to reinforce these procedures, encouraging schools to have a back-up plan when the primary administrator or non-coach designee is unavailable.

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 voiced strong support in particular for the location and venue of the Palace in Auburn Hills.

Transfer Issues and Wrestling: The group reviewed the new Athletic Related Transfer regulation and had a good discussion on transfer issues in wrestling. Concerns noted included the practice of some 8<sup>th</sup> grade students repeating that grade in order to delay high school enrollment by one year, maximizing the four years of eligibility in light of the current age rule. Some committee members strongly supported a regulation to address the issue. Others voiced the rising concern that transfer issues, with some of the new rules now in place, will simply move the issues from the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade into the junior high / middle school level.

Scrimmages: The committee strongly supported eliminating the current requirement that no more than two scrimmages could take place before the first contest. This group saw wisdom in simply allowing four scrimmages that could be used at any time during the season.

Middle School Issues: The committee was given an update on the Junior High Task Force scheduled to meet next month, along with some the issues that this group will address. There was strong support by this committee to allow 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to wrestle with and against 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as the sport is categorized by weight class. In addition, the committee believed the best way to attract more schools to become member junior high / middle schools was to offer some form of post-season competition. This approach would also serve to standardize a middle school season when tied to a tournament, which committee members supported.

Girls-Only Wrestling: Brent Harvey of Michigan Women's Wrestling provided an update on girls wrestling in the state of Michigan at the youth and collegiate levels. Two events for high school aged girls have been scheduled at two member schools this season (Manistee and Howell), in addition to the numerous non-school events available through the year. Mr. Harvey also reported on the growth of girls-only wrestling in other states

and Canada. He talked about the growth of the sport and the need for more opportunities. Staff provided data to committee members on the number of female wrestlers that were Alpha assessed this year (252), along with the high schools where those students attend. Committee members continued to express concerns of how a change or sponsorship in this area could impact school budgets, coaching staff personnel, facilities and Title IX compliance. The committee directed staff to provide an update at the next meeting of the Wrestling committee on the numbers of participants in the two school-sponsored regular season events this year, along with more data on current participation numbers in girls wrestling.

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

None