



TEAM WRESTLING FINALS SEEDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 21, 2016

In May of 2008, the MHSAA Representative Council passed the following seeding policy for the Team Finals in Battle Creek. In May of 2010, it was revised to allow more than four teams to be seeded based on the discretion of the committee.

“For the Team Final tournament, seed the top teams in each division and draw the remaining teams into the bracket (if any teams remain unseeded) for the Quarterfinal round of wrestling. This will be done by a seeding committee that will identify the top teams in each division. Each team will submit a required team season summary form (record, opponents, scores, etc) and the committee will assess each team. In resolving issues, the seeding will be based on the following criteria:

- 1) Head-to-head competition; if tied, the most recent winner prevails.
- 2) Record against common opponents.
- 3) A team with an exceptional record vs. acknowledged strong opposition.
- 4) Majority decision of the seeding committee.

If a coach or athletic director is on the seeding committee and their team advances to the Quarterfinal round, that coach or athletic director would be replaced on the committee for that year.”

The 2016 seeding committee met via conference call at 8:00 am on February 21. This year’s committee members included the following individuals:

Steve Babbitt, Blissfield
Chris Codden, Manistee
Del Craven, Sault Ste. Marie
Chris Dunham, Battle Creek
Tom Flynn, Birmingham
Mike Garvey, Kalamazoo
Martin Landes, Zeeland
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Brian Martel, Mason
Russ McKenzie, Madison Hts.
Major Mickens, Roseville
Shawn Murray, Sterling Heights
Dennis Paquette, Bangor
Adam Schihl, Clawson

Jay Sosinski, White Pigeon
Scott Strickler, Lapeer
Craig Zeerip, Fremont

All committee members had received the dual-by-dual data for all Team Finalists in advance of the conference call, and discussion took place using the published criteria in seeding the teams in each division. This year, the committee seeded all four divisions 1-8; no teams were drawn into the bracket. As the conversations took place, it was clear that the committee again looked favorably upon those teams that wrestled a quality schedule against acknowledged strong opposition. When there was no head to head competition or common opponents, and the schools being considered for seeds also had similar strength of schedule, the committee discussed other known data prior to making the final seeding determination through a vote of the committee members.

Since seeing first began in 2009, the committee members shared that this was the most challenging year in seeding the tournament.

Pairings for the 2016 Team Finals were posted at MHSAA.com following the conclusion of the conference call on Sunday, February 21.