

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, December 3, 2021

Members Present:

Eric Albright, Midland
Jay Alexander, Detroit
Nicole Carter, Novi
Judy Cox, Auburn
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace
Kris Isom, Adrian
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Mark Mattson, Maple City
Jason Mensing, Ottawa Lake
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Chris Miller, Gobles
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Chris Riker, Portage
John Thompson, Brighton
Alex Tiseo, Marquette

Scott Eldridge, Lansing
Adam Stefanski, Boyne City
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

Tony Bihn
Jordan Cobb
Sam Davis
Andy Frushour
Dan Hutcheson
Cody Inglis
Geoff Kimmerly
Cole Malatinsky
Will McKoy
Andi Osters
Brent Rice
Jon Ross
Adam Ryder
Mark Uyl (Recorder)
Kathy Westdorp
Paige Winne

Also Present:

Brad Bush, Chelsea

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of May 3, 2021; the Executive Committee meetings of April 30, June 16, Aug. 4, Aug. 24, Sept. 9, Sept. 29, Nov. 3 and Dec. 2, 2021; and the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Sept. 29, 2021. Adopted.

REPORTS

Legislation – Bill Zaagman updated the Council on a variety of legislative issues which included a number of active bills at various stages in both the State House and Senate. Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. will continue to monitor these bills and will keep MHSAA staff and the Representative Council fully updated.

Litigation – Attorney Scott Eldridge reported to the Council that there is no active litigation involving the association. Mr. Eldridge gave a report regarding the ongoing process involving Upper Peninsula soccer schools, seasons and possible future tournament opportunities.

Administration – Reports from MHSAA staff included introductions of four new MHSAA staff members in the past 12 months, the fall AD In-Service meeting report by Dan Hutcheson and Cole Malatinsky and Update Meeting survey results by Mark Uyl. The survey data will be shared with appropriate sport committees in 2021. Mr. Uyl and Will McKoy also led a discussion of Council members regarding the football playoffs in light of the football survey data recently gathered from member school athletic directors and head varsity football coaches. Council members received updates on the MHSAA website project, delay of the biannual Women in Sports Leadership Conference and the upcoming work of the Track & Field Committee regarding a concern received from a member school.

The Council also discussed the tragedy at Oxford High School and possible ways for showing support for this community. Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by John Thompson, for the MHSAA to make a donation of support in memory of those lives lost to the Oxford High School athletic department at the appropriate time. Adopted.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Regulation I, Section 7 (Previous Academic Credit Record) – Mark Uyl reported that Regulation I, Section 7 had been suspended since May of 2020 due to the ongoing pandemic. Based on member school feedback and input, it appears that there is significant support from school administrators to return to the regulation as written.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by John Thompson, to reinstate Regulation I, Section 7 for all schools effective on Aug. 1, 2022. Adopted.

COVID-19 Update – Mr. Uyl reported that there continues to be no indication that any statewide COVID-19 mandates and requirements are imminent from either state government or MDHHS offices. All current COVID-19 requirements are being made by local county health departments and local member schools. MHSAA staff will continue to monitor the situation and will provide regular updates to Council members and school personnel.

Financial Update and Audit Review – The Council reviewed the positive audit report produced by Maner Costerian for the 2020-2021 fiscal year from Aug. 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021. It was noted that staff did an admirable job of keeping expenses low while member schools stepped up significantly in hosting team tournament events in the fall and winter of 2020-21 at no profit to the host site. The MHSAA was able to report a profit of \$877,564; it must be noted that this profit was a result of Federal government assistance in both the payroll protection program and employee retention credit program which turned a small operating deficit in 2020-21 into this reported profit. The MHSAA has also fully paid a line-of-credit loan from PNC that was necessary during the spring, summer and fall of calendar year 2020. After the audit report was reviewed, staff provided an update on current investment policies and provided a recommendation for change to that policy which had been last approved in 2011.

Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the updated investment policy. Adopted.

Preparticipation Physical/Health Questionnaire – Kathy Westdorp reported on discussions of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee regarding preparticipation physical exams, the health questionnaire process and tracking of those records by schools. The pros and cons of both approaches were discussed and concerns from schools regarding the tracking and recording process of physical exams have been heard. The MHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee will continue to study this issue and a recommendation will return to the Council in the spring.

NFHS Network – Jon Ross reported that Michigan (through Oct. 31, 2021) is a top three state in the country in terms of NFHS Partner Schools, Most Pixellots, and Total Events Streamed to the Network. He also provided a report of the number of fall tournament events that were streamed to the network. More than 72 percent of 11-player Football Playoff games were streamed, 83.3 percent of 8-player Football Playoff games were streamed, all volleyball matches from the Quarterfinals on were streamed, all eight Cross Country Final races were streamed, the Preliminaries and Finals from all three Swimming & Diving divisions were streamed, and 67 percent of the soccer matches from Regional Finals through Finals were streamed on the NFHS Network.

NEW BUSINESS

GoFan Ticketing – Andy Frushour reported on the advantages and disadvantages of using GoFan digital ticketing for MHSAA tournaments, as well as the costs and fees associated with it.

Motion by John Thompson, supported by Jason Mensing, to approve the staff recommendation to continue using GoFan for all future MHSAA tournaments in 2021-22 and increase all current **digital** ticket prices by \$1, with the service fees absorbed by the MHSAA. Adopted.

Regular Season Live Video Streaming – Jon Ross and Mark Uyl reported on the current regulations regarding live, regular season video streaming along with concerns and feedback received following the COVID-19 year with very little regulation. Issues of regular season video rights were discussed, along with the relationship of MHSAA regulations to the NFHS Network.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by John Thompson, to adopt the following changes to MHSAA Regulation II, Section 14 (B), effective immediately. Adopted.

SECTION 14 (B)—

1. Schools may distribute live REGULAR SEASON video – or grant on a complimentary or fee basis to either a profit or nonprofit entity the rights to distribute live REGULAR SEASON video – of any regular season interscholastic event in which any MHSAA member school is a participant in any MHSAA tournament sport as long as the live regular season event is also broadcast live on the NFHS Network.
2. Delayed video distribution of regular season or postseason events involving any MHSAA member school in any MHSAA tournament sport may begin immediately after the completion of the live event.
3. Video of MHSAA postseason tournament contests may be distributed according to policies and procedures established by the MHSAA for its tournaments, including restrictions on live video streaming through social media.

Coaching Contact Days Out of Season – Staff reported discussions of the task force that studied out-of-season voluntary coach/player contact days with an additional six contact days (eight in ice hockey) for all sports. This proposal will continue to be discussed by various sport committees and MHSAA staff with a possible recommendation returning to the Council in the spring.

Classification – Mark Uyl reported on concerns with current classification issues when schools continually fail to compete in MHSAA tournaments after stating that they would sponsor the sport. Examples from the fall sports of soccer and cross country were provided and the Council discussed a requirement that schools must have actually participated in the MHSAA tournament once in the prior two years to be included in the classification process. This item will move to the MHSAA Classification Committee in January 2022 and will return for consideration and action to the Representative Council in March of 2022.

Name, Image and Likeness Regulations – A brief report was provided on current MHSAA regulations in terms of NIL opportunities for students. This issue is being discussed nationally within the NFHS membership and staff will continue to monitor these developments. Possible changes in current regulations could come from the annual *MHSAA Handbook* review process.

Women in Sports Leadership Award – There were seven candidates for the Women in Sports Leadership Award. These were presented to the Representative Council for a vote. The name(s) of the recipient(s) will be released at an appropriate time and the recipient(s) will be honored during the next Women in Sports Leadership Conference to be held at a later date.

Charles E. Forsythe Award – There were four candidates for the Charles E. Forsythe Award presented to the Representative Council for a ballot vote. The name of the recipient will be released at an appropriate time and the recipient will be honored during the Boys Basketball Final Tournament on March 26, 2022.

Meeting Expenses – Expenses for this meeting were approved at the specified hotel rate for accommodations, the IRS-specified meal allowance and a 40¢ per mile mileage allowance round-trip.

Future Meetings – The next meeting of the Representative Council will be held on Friday, March 25, 2022, at 8:15 a.m. at the Jack Roberts Building in East Lansing. The spring meeting of the Representative Council will be held May 1-2, 2022, at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. The fall meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, at the Jack Roberts Building in East Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned.