

JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

MHSAA, January 8, 2013

Members Present:

Damon Amey, Saginaw
Joe Alessandrini, Livonia
Maureen Klocke, Yale
Dave Mammel, Coleman
Jason Mellema, Pewamo-Westphalia
Mike Mesner, Constantine
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Jim Okler, Grosse Ile

Kevin Polston, Grand Haven
John Ray, Monroe
Tony Schmitt, Muskegon

Staff Member Present:

Randy Allen, Recorder

The MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics suggested for discussion by the MHSAA Staff and member schools.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

The committee reviewed the Representative Council action from May of 2012 in which committee proposals were approved to apply Eligibility Advancement provisions to students beginning in grade 6, and to allow schools to determine their own policies on dual sports participation during the same season.

HANDBOOK REGULATIONS

Several MHSAA Handbook regulations were reviewed. The committee took specific action in two areas. First, the committee recommended a change in the fall start date for JH/MS practices. Correspondence from several member schools was reviewed suggesting that the earliest fall date for practices be changed to the 14th Monday prior to Thanksgiving rather than the current date of the 4th Monday in August. The change would better accommodate JH/MS football scheduling and required practices and have a consistent calendar relationship with the start of football practice at the HS level. Over a long period of time the 4th Monday of August and the 14th Monday prior to Thanksgiving fall on the same date (8 of 23 years). Schools and conferences that prefer to start some or all sports later may do so.

The second Handbook regulation change recommended also dealt with season limits in Regulation IV, Section 10. Several JH/MS sports limit season length to 13 consecutive weeks. The committee proposed that the 13 consecutive week season length limit be added to all sports under MHSAA jurisdiction, adding football, cross country, baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, swimming and track and field to the list of sports that currently have the season length limit.

Also considered by the committee was the addition of a required number of practice days for all sports in addition to football. It was agreed that member schools at the JH/MS level universally have ample practice days prior to their first contest and that such a requirement is unnecessary.

The committee was updated on the age waiver language that now appears in Regulation III, Section 2 and how it applies to overage students in grades 7-8. Discussions took place on out of season coaching rules, academic credit from non-traditional sources and grade 7-8 semester limits. Although no changes were recommended, the committee supported continued study on all issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Change the earliest allowed start date for fall sports in Regulation IV, Section 10(B) to the 14th Monday before Thanksgiving. (12-0)
2. Establish the maximum season length for all sports as 13 consecutive weeks in Regulation IV, Section 10. The change adds football, cross country, baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, swimming and track and field to the list of sports that already have a 13 consecutive week maximum season length. (12-0)