

OFFICIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, October 3, 2011

Members Present:

Jim Corstange, Richland
Jim Haskins, Grand Rapids
Troy Hudson, Muskegon
Cody Inglis, Traverse City
Rich Kimball, Lansing
John Kirk, Flushing
Brian Lamour, Monroe
Vic Michaels, Detroit

Dave Muylaert, Mt. Clemens
Robert Nelson, Cadillac
Nick Nolde, Escanaba
Dar Peska, Alma
Scott Tallmadge, Port Huron

Staff:

Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2011-12 MHSAA Officials Review Committee met to review topics involving high school officiating. After introductions were completed, the committee reviewed the terms of appointment to the Officials Review Committee, as well as the charge and mission of the group relative to the MHSAA decision making process.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of 2011 Representative Council Actions: The committee received an update from the May meeting of the Representative Council. The Council approved the changes in categories for improvement in the school rating system.

Officials Program Updates: MHSAA staff reported on current registration numbers in light of the current economy, updates on criminal history checks, officials video training program, MHSAA sponsored and supported officiating camps and clinics, Officials Report forms / online submission, and online mechanics manuals. The committee reviewed correspondence of concern regarding online Officials Reports and the information not being able to be easily shared with local league and / or official's association leadership. An update was also provided on the MHSAA's new partnership with Arbiter Sports for the 2012-13 school year.

Officials Ratings: The committee reviewed at length the current officials rating program in light of concerns from leagues and conferences that many of them currently have to submit ratings twice; once to the MHSAA, and again to the local league / conference. Many local leagues and conferences use the ratings submitted by schools to determine future regular officiating assignments. The committee believed that the current ratings being submitted by schools could be done more efficiently and that data submitted to the MHSAA should be shared with Registered Assignors on a limited basis.

Ejection Protocols and Concerns: A brief discussion took place on the current ejection protocols and next day of competition suspension. Specific conversation took place on the equity of the penalties in various sports, and the issue of the next day of suspension falling on a date where a game is started but does not become a full, regulation game.

Concussion Protocols: The committee received an update on current concussion protocols and procedures. A few committee members shared personal experiences with the concussion procedures over the past school year.

Final Ring Program: The committee received information regarding a championship ring program for Final contest officials. Officials that work a Final contest would have the option of purchasing a "MHSAA Final Official" ring from a vendor identified by the MHSAA. Many members supported this concept and encouraged staff to accept proposals from various vendors in finding the best deal possible.

Additional Items: The committee discussed the 2013 NASO Summit and MHSAA Officials Summer meeting being held in Grand Rapids. Additional items for discussion included adding further language in the Code for Athletic Officials for social media issues, concerns with Registered Observer communication skills, pregame meetings not being held by all officials prior to contests, concerns that some officials are not addressing and penalizing inappropriate behavior consistently enough from coaches / players and adding an additional line in football to control the sideline area within the team box.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. MHSAA Registered Assignors would have access to rating data for officials by zone and by sport that would indicate if an official's rating places him/her in the top 1/3, middle 1/3 or bottom 1/3. This information could be used for regular season assigning and would eliminate the need for local schools/leagues/conferences to require additional ratings other than those already submitted to the MHSAA (13-0).