

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

East Lansing, November 30, 2012

**Members Present:**

Jim Derocher, Negaunee  
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Bill Chilman, Beal City  
Ken Dietz, Watervliet  
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing  
Kris Isom, Adrian  
Carmen Kennedy, St. Clair Shores  
Maureen Klocke, Yale  
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake  
Jason Mellema, Pewamo-Westphalia  
Steve Newkirk, Clare  
Pete Ryan, Saginaw  
Fred Smith, Buchanan  
Paula Steele, Perry  
John Thompson, Brighton  
Al Unger, Kingsford  
Alvin Ward, Detroit  
Mark Woodson, Romulus

**Also Present:**

Dave Derocher, Reese  
Scott Eldridge, Lansing  
Mike Flanagan, Lansing  
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

**Staff Members Present:**

Randy Allen  
Tony Bihn  
Jordan Cobb  
Andy Frushour  
Nate Hampton  
John Johnson  
Geoff Kimmerly  
Gina Mazzolini  
Tom Rashid  
Jack Roberts (Recorder)  
Mark Uyl  
Kathy Vruggink Westdorp

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve the following accounts of meetings: Representative Council meeting of May 6-7, 2012; Executive Committee meetings of May 6, June 13, Aug. 8, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Oct. 3 and Nov. 7, 2012; and Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Sept. 20, 2012. Adopted.

**REPORTS**

Administration – Executive Director Jack Roberts provided an assessment of the MHSAA's rank among state high school associations across the US with respect to MHSAA standards and services, identifying areas of deficiencies in MHSAA policies, procedures and programs. He also provided an overview of the MHSAA's fall tournaments, fall rules meeting compliance, and a summary of requests to waive the maximum age rule.

Director of Information Services Tony Bihn reviewed progress for the MHSAA/ArbiterGame athletic department scheduling software; and he presented statistics demonstrating increasing visitors to the MHSAA family of websites, and that one-third of visitors to those sites are using mobile devices.

Director of Brand Management Andy Frushour reviewed MHSAA initiatives in student services, including the fall sportsmanship summits, winter and spring Captains Clinics and the Scholar-Athlete program. He reported that the Student Advisory Council was involved in both planning and presenting at the Sportsmanship Summits and will have an integral role in planning and executing Battle of the Fans – II and revising the "Captains 101" book.

Mr. Frushour also described the assistance of Michigan State University's Institute for the Study of Youth Sports in preparing curricula for MHSAA student programming and the role of the designated account, established with the Ruster Foundation assets, in supporting these activities.

The executive director reviewed the 2012 Update Meeting Opinion Poll, highlighting responses to questions related to discussion and action items on the Representative Council's agenda.

Legislation – Bill Zaagman presented the report of Governmental Consultant Services, Inc., discussing general, school and school sports issues before the Michigan Legislature. The Superintendent of Public Instruction added his insights about current educational reform initiatives and suggestions for having a positive influence on those shaping educational policy.

Litigation – Attorney Scott Eldridge reported to the Council on the status of three legal matters involving the MHSAA that have been dormant for an extended period.

National Federation – The executive director reported on activities of the National Federation of State High School Associations. He highlighted the helpful work of the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee particularly with respect to resources for educating players, parents, coaches and others regarding the prevention of head injuries and heat illness, as well as harassment, hazing and bullying. He reported that the NFHS has been less successful addressing international student issues and seven-on-seven football concerns, and has actually been counterproductive on issues involving girls competitive cheer. The NFHS will begin to publish girls lacrosse rules within two years.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Out-of-Season Coaching Rules – Associate Director Tom Rashid shared the history and rationale for out-of-season coaching limitations and he described the MHSAA's recent efforts reviewing and revising out-of-season coaching rules. He summarized discussions by athletic directors at fall 2012 meetings across the state focusing on additional flexibility in application of the rules for individual sports typically occurring at non-school venues. Suggested *Handbook* wording for bowling and golf was presented for discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

New Buffalo High School (Regulation I, Sections 4 & 5) – A request to waive the maximum enrollment and competition portions of the eligibility regulation was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose mother died of a drug overdose and whose father forced the student out of the home due to his own health issues. The student did poorly academically during several trimesters but attended school continuously for 12 trimesters, earning credits in 11. At its Aug. 28, 2012 meeting the Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

The school appealed to the full Council, including a presentation by the school district's superintendent who criticized the MHSAA's appellate process and advocated for the student, who is without either parent but is being supported by the small community of New Buffalo and its school district and has never played high school sports. He opined that the school was not seeking an extra year for the student but a first year of participation.

The Representative Council noted that the student had received the maximum opportunity permitted under the rules, and that he had eligibility to participate in soccer in two previous school years but did not do so. The focus of discussion was if deficient academic performance or progress caused at least in part by difficult domestic environment should be considered in this case or in general to develop compelling reason to provide any student additional terms of athletic eligibility.

Motion by John Thompson, supported by Bill Chilman, to not approve the request for waiver. Adopted.

Boys Basketball Finals – The Council considered a proposal to change the Saturday schedule of the Boys Basketball Finals to the same format used during the Girls Basketball Finals – two sessions, rather than three – and to increase ticket prices from \$8 to \$10 for each session of the Finals for each gender. The format change has been reviewed by and is supported by the facility, broadcasters, staff and the MHSAA Executive Committee. Even with the increase in ticket price, the loss of one session will result in a net decline in total revenue of approximately \$25,000.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Paula Steele to change the format of the Boys Finals and increase the per-session ticket price of both the Girls and Boys Finals as proposed, effective with the March 2013 Finals. Adopted.

Girls Gymnastics – Motion by John Thompson, supported by Al Unger, to approve the recommendation of the Girls Gymnastics Committee to combine both divisions of the Individual Meet into one session, starting at 12 Noon on Saturday, but retain separate awards for the two divisions, effective with the March 2013 Finals. Adopted.

Boys Lacrosse – The *MHSAA Officials Guidebook* states that the uniform for boys lacrosse officials requires white shorts and knee socks. During the summer, the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Committee changed the rule to recommend that either white or black shorts be worn. MHSAA staff surveyed MHSAA registered boys lacrosse officials who prefer black shorts by 82% to 18%.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Paula Steele that (1) black shorts and over-the-ankle black socks is the primary officials uniform for the 2013 season; (2) either black or white is allowed during the 2013 regular season (while over-the-ankle socks may be worn with white shorts); (3) black is required for MHSAA tournaments in 2013 and for both regular season and tournaments in 2014 and beyond; (4) the primary cold weather pant is solid black. Black pants with a 1 ¼ inch wide white stripe (similar to football) is an allowed option; and (5) in all cases, all officials at a contest shall match. Adopted.

Girls Lacrosse – Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Jason Mellema, to delay implementation of 2013 uniform standards for girls lacrosse players to 2014. Adopted.

Risk Minimization – The Representative Council reviewed a summary of sports safety ideas gathered during fall meetings, primarily intended to reduce head injuries and heat illness in sports sponsored by MHSAA member schools. It is intended that these ideas stimulate other ideas, that some ideas move directly to Council and others to the appropriate sport committee for consideration. Some ideas may develop into proposals to NFHS Rules Committees and programming suggestions for the MIAAA and coaches associations.

A “Four Thrusts for Four Years” strategy was outlined which will bring focus to (1) more initial and ongoing sports safety training for coaches; (2) published protocols for acclimatization of athletes as well as monitoring and managing extreme heat and humidity; (3) revising early season practice policies, especially in football; and (4) modifying playing rules to reduce the most dangerous game situations in several sports. A model policy for managing heat and humidity was presented and with small edits will be proposed for the Council’s action in March 2013. It would be published in the 2013-14 *Handbook* under MHSAA Guidelines and Recommendations.

Youth Protection Policies – Assistant Director Kathy Westdorp provided a status report of an internal audit of MHSAA policies and procedures regarding supervision of students at MHSAA tournaments and other events. Consistent with existing law and best practices, changes are being prepared for the MHSAA Staff Manual, PSTI’s, Manager’s Manuals and communications with media covering MHSAA events. Increased attention to bullying, hazing and harassment has been prepared for the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program and will be for MHSAA student leadership initiatives such as the Women in Sports Leadership Conference, Captains Clinics, Sportsmanship Summits and the Student Advisory Council.

Video Broadcasting – The executive director reported on video broadcasting problems and opportunities at the local and state association levels, describing the rationale for and details of both offensive and defensive strategies to assure MHSAA control of content while maximizing revenue from video broadcasting.

Future Funding – The executive director described a “Six Buckets” strategy for expanding funding for MHSAA operations and services without imposing membership dues or tournament entry fees or increasing tournament ticket prices.

Women in Sports Leadership Award – There were six candidates for the Women in Sports Leadership Award, reduced from ten nominees by the MHSAA Awards Committee. 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 Girls Basketball Finals on March 16, 2013.

Charles E. Forsythe Award – There were five candidates for the Charles E. Forsythe Award presented to the Representative Council for a ballot vote. The name(s) of the recipient(s) will be released at an appropriate time and the recipient(s) will be honored during the Boys Basketball Final Tournament on March 23, 2013.

Meeting Expenses – Expenses for this meeting were approved at the specified hotel rate for accommodations, the IRS-specified meal allowance and a 30¢ per mile mileage allowance round-trip.

Future Meetings – The next meeting of the Representative Council will be held on Friday, March 22, 2013, 8:15 a.m. at the MHSAA building in East Lansing. The spring meeting of the Representative Council will be held May 5-6, 2013, at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. The fall meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 6, 2013, at the MHSAA building in East Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned.