

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, March 24, 2016

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Dave Derocher, Reese
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace
Kris Isom, Adrian
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Orlando Medina, Harrison Township
Cheri Meier, Ionia
Chris Miller, Gobles
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Fred Smith, Buchanan
John Thompson, Brighton
Alvin Ward, Detroit
Pat Watson, West Bloomfield

Members Absent:

Kyle Guerrant, Lansing
Courtney Hawkins, Mt. Morris
Al Unger, Kingsford

Also Present:

Mike Berutti, Iron River
Scott Eldridge, Lansing
Chris Hartman, Iron Mountain
Chris Iannuzzi, Lansing
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

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

President Scott Grimes welcomed Chris Hartman and Mike Berutti of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee whose members are invited to attend this meeting on an annual basis.

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Dave Derocher, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of Dec. 4, 2015; the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of Dec. 3, 2015, Jan. 13, 2016 and Feb. 17, 2016; and the minutes of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Jan. 14, 2016. Adopted.

Legislation – Bill Zaagman of Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. reviewed activities of the Michigan Legislature that could directly or indirectly affect member schools' administration of inter-scholastic athletics.

Litigation – Attorney Scott Eldridge reported on a legal issue in which the MHSAA has been engaged.

REPORTS

Administration – The executive director provided a brief review of winter tournaments and the status of 2016-17 classifications of member high schools for MHSAA tournament participation.

Andy Frushour provided an update of **student services**, including the Student Advisory Council, the Scholar-Athlete program and the fifth "Battle of the Fans." John Johnson reported on the previous "Career Day" for 80 students participating in the School Broadcasting Program.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Sixth-Grade Membership – The Representative Council reviewed a modification of the 2016-17 MHSAA Membership Resolution and all the *Handbook* changes necessary to implement the amendment to the MHSAA Constitution that allows school districts to join the MHSAA at the 6th-grade level and, for those schools which join the MHSAA at the 6th-grade level, allows 6th-graders to participate with MHSAA services and support and allows 6th-graders to participate with and against 7th- and 8th-graders without MHSAA Executive Committee approval.

Among the major outcomes of implementing the amendment are these:

1. Makes it easier for **small schools** to include 6th-graders in their **counts** and on their 7th- and 8th-grade **teams**.
2. Makes it easier for districts where 6th-graders are in buildings with 7th- and 8th-graders to participate on those junior high/middle school teams.
3. **Allows all** districts, but **requires no** districts, to provide athletic opportunities for 6th-graders under the auspices of the MHSAA (on separate teams or with 7th- and 8th-graders).
4. Exempts 6th-graders from out-of-season coaching rules for high school coaches. Out-of-season restrictions apply to grades 7-12, not 6-12. No new coaching barrier.
5. Exempts 6th-graders from previous academic record considerations. A first-time 7th-grader may compete without regard to his or her academic record during the previous academic term. No new academic barrier.

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Dave Derocher, to approve the *Handbook* changes and the revised 2016-17 MHSAA Membership Resolution. Adopted.

The Council was informed of staff's current and future efforts to gather more precise data regarding sport sponsorship among MHSAA member junior high/middle schools.

Health & Safety – The Representative Council reviewed a status report regarding health and safety initiatives of the past seven years and current issues. After a review of progress with respect to heads, heat and hearts, the Council focused on the processes required annually prior to participation and a new process following removal from play for a suspected concussion.

Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Karen Leinaar, to approve PRIVIT for a two-year trial basis as the MHSAA-designated electronic alternative to written communications and forms that accompany the preparticipation physical examination. Adopted.

Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Don Gustafson, to require, beginning in 2016-17, a "Post-Concussion Consent Form" to be signed by student/parent prior to return to activity following a concussion. Adopted. See Appendix "1."

The Council discussed proposed changes in the MHSAA Physical Exam/Clearance/Consent forms to be more explicit regarding student/parent acknowledgement and assumption of risk. While there was favorable consensus, action was delayed until the Council's May meeting so that the staff could prepare sample forms that also include the annual requirement that the student/parent acknowledge reading concussion education information consistent with the requirements of Public Acts 342 and 343 of 2012.

The executive director presented for discussion (and action in May) revised policies and procedures for the health and safety component of MHSAA rules/risk management meetings for coaches, including (1) that concussion education would be the focus topic every other year, with other health and safety topics alternating in the off years (e.g., overuse injuries, sudden cardiac arrest, heat illness, etc.); and (2) that assistant/subvarsity coaches would no longer have several options but would be required to complete the same rules/risk management meeting as head coaches. The MHSAA would continue to track compliance of all head coaches, and schools would continue to attest that all subvarsity and assistant coaches have met the requirement; and in all cases, non-compliant coaches would be unable to coach in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season. (Ultimately, when there is more certainty that assistant and subvarsity coaches are entered into the MHSAA database, the MHSAA could track compliance of assistant and subvarsity coaches in the same way high school head coaches are monitored.)

While Council members reacted very favorably to these changes, several members spoke to the need to require coaches at the junior high/middle school level to meet the same requirements as high school coaches, as well as the need for all coaches, not just high school head coaches, to have valid certification in CPR.

NEW BUSINESS

Indemnification Policy – Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Fred Smith, to approve revisions in *Handbook* pages 23 and 24 as presented by legal counsel which sets forth the policy of the MHSAA to indemnify persons who serve the MHSAA as officers, Executive Committee members, Representative Council members, employees, committee members and agents. Adopted.

Junior High/Middle Schools – Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Chris Miller, to not approve the proposal of the Junior High/Middle School Committee to start football practice on the Wednesday prior to the fourth Monday in August. Schools or leagues with four-season sports calendars should request from the Executive Committee a waiver of the current starting date. Adopted.

Officials – Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve this Officials Review Committee recommendation: “In addition to the current requirements that all new officials must complete the *MHSAA Officials Guidebook* exam and also the mechanics exams for new football and basketball officials, require all new officials to complete the NFHS online course “Interscholastic Officiating” to complete the first-year registration.” Adopted.

Track & Field – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to approve two Cross Country/Track & Field Committee recommendations:

1. Beginning in 2016, eliminate in all Lower Peninsula Regionals that use FAT one round of the boys 110m hurdles, girls 100m hurdles, boys and girls 100m and 200m dashes (as recommended by Site Selection Committee).
2. Beginning in 2017, require that all Lower Peninsula Regional sites use FAT (as recommended by Site Selection Committee).

Adopted. (It is the consensus of the Audit and Finance Committee that the MHSAA eliminate pay to timers and prescribe a flat fee reimbursement to sites that must rent FAT.)

East Kentwood High School (Regulation I, Section 9[F]) – At the Executive Committee’s Jan. 13, 2016 meeting, a request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to set aside the decision of the executive director to not permit eligibility in track & field on Jan. 18, 2016 (MLK). A review by the director confirmed a 180-school-day period of ineligibility in track & field under the athletic-related section of the transfer regulation whose decision was based on the Executive Committee’s precedent to not grant waiver based on the alleged differences in academic offerings of MHSAA member schools.

The student is a resident of Middleville and attended Thornapple Kellogg for the 9th grade in 2014-15. The student enrolled at East Kentwood to begin the 2015-16 school year, preferring the number of advanced placement classes and medical field curriculum. The student has friends from her church who attend East Kentwood and prefers the larger school and diversity. The student is a thrower on the girls track & field team, and over the summer of 2015 she joined the East Kentwood Track Club whose throwing coaches also coach at East Kentwood High School. The student had no communication with the school coaches regarding enrollment at East Kentwood but made the decision to change schools based on academics and her friends from church and the track club members that attended East Kentwood High School.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request to overturn the decision of the executive director. The student is eligible in sports other than track & field on Jan. 18, 2016.

The matter was appealed to the full Representative Council, and additional information was provided by the school and student. The issue posed: Is this a case where the executive director or, if not, the Executive Committee should have made an exception to the "links law" and not required the 180-school-day period of ineligibility for the sport involved?

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Pat Watson, to uphold the previous decisions and apply the 180-school-day period of ineligibility in track & field. Adopted.

Vern L. Norris Award – The Representative Council was presented with the four finalists for the Vern L. Norris Award who had been screened by the MHSAA Awards Committee from nine nominees. The Council selected the recipient of the award, which will be presented at the Officials' Awards & Alumni Banquet on April 30, 2016.

Meetings – The Representative Council approved expenses for the March Council meeting and the schedule for the May 2016 Council meeting.

Audit and Finance Committee Report – The committee is responsible for reviewing past financial performance and future projections, reviewing and making revenue and expense recommendations for MHSAA programs, and finalizing the annual budget for the Council's approval in May.

Motion by Cheri Meier, supported by John Thompson, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendations for (1) fees to MHSAA tournament officials, and (2) registration and sport fees, in both cases beginning in 2016-17. There is no net effect on the 2016-17 budget. Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendation for National Federation Annual Meeting attendance by Council members, and to approve the specific reimbursement limits for the 2016 meeting in Reno, Nevada. Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Steve Newkirk, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendations regarding staff compensation for 2016-17. Adopted.

SCHOOL CONCUSSION REPORTING

Schools must report concussion events online while logged into MHSAA.com. Report any concussion event in all levels of all MHSAA sports where a student is withheld from activity. This is a separate process from the Return to Activity and Post-Concussion Consent Form on the reverse side.

MHSAA CONCUSSION CARE INSURANCE

The Michigan High School Athletic Association is providing athletic participants at each MHSAA member junior high/middle school and high school with additional insurance that is intended to pay accident medical expense benefits resulting from a suspected concussion. The injury must be sustained while the athlete is participating in-season at an MHSAA covered activity. Policy limit is \$25,000 for each accident. Covered students, sports and situations follow the catastrophic accident medical insurance.

This new program intends to assure that all eligible student-athletes in MHSAA member schools in grades 6 through 12, male and female, in all levels of all sports under the jurisdiction of the MHSAA, receive prompt and professional attention for head injury events even if the child is uninsured or under-insured. Accident medical deductibles and co-pays left unpaid by other policies are reimbursed under this program to the limits of the policy.

The Concussion Care Insurance corresponds with the MHSAA Catastrophic Accident Medical Insurance Policy which pays up to \$500,000 for medical expenses left unpaid by other insurance after a deductible of \$25,000 per claim in paid medical expenses has been met. All students enrolled in grades 6 through 12 at MHSAA member schools who are eligible under MHSAA rules and participating in practices or competition in sports under the MHSAA's jurisdiction are covered by this policy for injuries related to their athletic participation.

CONCUSSION INSURANCE CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Claim Forms can be found on MHSAA.com, Health & Safety (upper right corner). See Concussion Insurance Benefits Information and Forms