

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

**REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

East Lansing, March 24, 2017

**Members Present:**

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Dave Derocher, Reese  
Vicky Groat, Battle Creek  
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace  
Courtney Hawkins, Mt. Morris  
Kris Isom, Adrian  
Sean Jacques, Calumet  
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake  
Cheri Meier, Okemos  
Chris Miller, Gobles  
Steve Newkirk, Clare  
Pete Ryan, Saginaw  
Fred Smith, Benton Harbor  
John Thompson, Brighton  
Al Unger, Kingsford  
Alvin Ward, Detroit  
Pat Watson, West Bloomfield

**Member Absent:**

Kyle Guerrant, Lansing

**Also Present:**

Mike Berutti, Iron River  
Gary Brayak, Rock  
Bob De Vries, Lansing  
Scott Eldridge, Lansing  
Chris Hartman, Iron Mountain  
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

**Staff Members Present:**

Tony Bihn  
Jordan Cobb  
Andy Frushour  
Nate Hampton  
Dan Hutcheson  
Cody Inglis  
Geoff Kimmerly  
Andi Osters  
Tom Rashid  
Jack Roberts (Recorder)  
Adam Ryder  
Jeremy Sampson  
Mark Uyl  
Kathy Westdorp

President Scott Grimes welcomed newly appointed Council member Vicky Groat to her first meeting and he also welcomed members of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee who are invited to attend this meeting on an annual basis.

**Accounts of Meetings** – Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of Dec. 2, 2016; the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of Dec. 1, 2016, Jan. 11, 2017 and Feb. 22, 2017; and the minutes of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Jan. 12, 2017. Adopted.

**REPORTS**

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

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

**Administration** – The executive director provided a brief review of the status of 2017-18 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 sixth "Battle of the Fans." The executive director reported on activities during the Girls and Boys Basketball Tournaments for students participating in the School Broadcasting Program.

Jeremy Sampson highlighted recent initiatives to market and promote MHSAA tournaments. The emphasis is on helping local schools build loyal support for regular season events and continuing to make MHSAA events engaging for students and families.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

**Eight-Player Football** – Following the Council’s lengthy discussion at its last meeting regarding the future of 8-player football and its effect on the 11-player game in Michigan schools, the topic was discussed at length by the Classification Committee, UP Athletic Committee and Football Committee, and it was a briefer topic of the League Leadership meeting. The Council was given synopses of the three committee meetings, a current listing of declared 8-player teams in 2017 (currently 61 Class D schools), and an outline of the most commonly expressed concerns and most popular options.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Karen Leinaar, to conduct the 2017 MHSAA 8-Player Football Tournament in two divisions of 16 teams each. Adopted.

At its May meeting the Council will review qualification criteria, enrollment limits and finals venues.

**Concussion Reporting** – The most prominent finding of schools’ concussion reporting during 2015-16 was the greater number of reports of concussions for females than males in the same sport (e.g., basketball and soccer). At the request of the MHSAA, the Institute for the Study of Youth Sports at MSU prepared a paper entitled “Gender Differences in Youth Sport Concussion” to compare MHSAA findings with those of other organizations and researchers and to suggest what this might mean for MHSAA services and support to school sports. The Council discussed the paper and an executive summary prepared by MHSAA staff.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Baseball/Softball** – Motion by John Thompson, supported by Steve Newkirk, to approve the Baseball/Softball Committee recommendation that, effective with 2017-18, schools for the Baseball and Softball Tournaments will be classified independently. The two sport committees with separate membership and site selection committees with common members will continue to meet on the same dates as in previous years at the MHSAA offices to allow time for each group to meet independently and/or jointly, depending on the topics and issues that would impact each sport on its own or both sports together. Adopted.

**Football** – Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve the Football Committee recommendation that the MHSAA seek permission from the National Federation of State High School Associations to continue the 40-second clock experiment for the 2017 season. Adopted.

**Wrestling Finals Venues** – MHSAA staff described the status of current sites for the MHSAA Individual and Team Wrestling Finals. Additional information is required before staff can make recommendations to the Council for these tournaments in 2018 and beyond.

**Basketball Finals Venues** – MHSAA staff described factors affecting the availability of Michigan State University’s Breslin Center to host the Semifinals and Finals of the MHSAA Girls and Boys Basketball Tournaments. The Council focused on emergency measures for 2018 and 2019 involving alternative venues and/or schedules, as well as potential long-term solutions related to tournament scheduling.

During April, MHSAA staff will (1) review and refine proposals received in response to distribution of the “Request for Proposal” to host MHSAA Semifinals and Finals for girls, boys or both; (2) refine ideas for alternative dates and/or sites on an emergency basis for 2017-18 and 2018-19; and (3) alert schools, leagues and officials assigners of possible changes in practice, game and tournament dates in 2017-18 and 2018-19. Longer term remedies to reduce or eliminate future conflicts at NCAA Division I institutions could be determined by the Representative Council as early as its May meeting and not later than its December meeting of 2017.

**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 eight nominees. The Council selected the recipient of the award, which will be presented at the Officials' Awards & Alumni Banquet on May 6, 2017.

**Meetings** – The Representative Council approved expenses for the March Council meeting and the schedule for the May 2017 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. Staff and committee members provided updates on anticipated additional expenses for trophies and medals, insurance and broadcasting.

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Kris Isom, 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 2017 meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendations regarding staff compensation for 2017-18. Adopted.