



***REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 3-4, 2015***

ATTENTION! Please make copies of this and share with your Board of Education and staff. These minutes will be published on MHSAA.com. Unless otherwise indicated, changes made by the Representative Council take effect on Aug. 1, 2015.

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Glen Arbor, May 3-4, 2015

Members Present:

Dave Derocher, Reese
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Kris Isom, Adrian
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Maureen Klocke, Yale
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Orlando Medina, Harrison Township
Cheri Meier, Ionia
Jason Mellema, Pewamo-Westphalia
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Chris Miller, Gobles
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Fred Smith, Buchanan
John Thompson, Brighton
Al Unger, Kingsford
Pat Watson, West Bloomfield

Members Absent:

Kyle Guerrant, Lansing
Alvin Ward, Detroit

Staff Members Present:

Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton
Cody Inglis
John Johnson
Geoff Kimmerly
Gina Mazzolini
Andi Osters
Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)
Mark Uyl
Kathy Westdorp
Karen Yonkers

Presentation – For the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association, Steve Linn (Deckerville), Mike Dennisuk (Brownstown-Woodhaven), Derek Gonzales (Ypsilanti-Lincoln).

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of March 27, 2015; and the Executive Committee meeting minutes of March 26 and April 22, 2015. Adopted. An oral report of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of April 17, 2015 was presented by Al Unger who identified three major topics: (1) the adoption of qualifying times for the MHSAA UP Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving Meet; (2) the possibility of going to three equal divisions in the MHSAA UP Boys and Girls Golf Tournament and the effect of that decision on UP cross country and track & field; and (3) concerns for seeding the MHSAA Boys and Girls Basketball Tournaments.

REPORTS

Administration – MHSAA membership during the 2014-15 school year was 754 high schools and 703 junior high/middle schools as of April 1, 2015. This compares to 752 and 725, respectively, as of April 1, 2014.

As of April 7, 2015, there were 245 **cooperative program agreements** for high schools for 425 teams (an increase of one program and five teams over the previous year). There were 83 cooperative program agreements for 306 teams for junior high/middle schools (an increase of 14 teams). The most frequent sports involved in cooperative programs at the high school level are (in order) ice hockey, girls swimming & diving, boys swimming & diving and football. At the junior high/middle school level, the sports most frequently involved in cooperative programs are football, boys and girls track & field, girls volleyball and wrestling.

Eligibility advancement applications were received and approved for 4 students during the 2014-15 school year, which was the lowest number since the eligibility advancement provision was begun during the 1987-88 school year. This compares with 14 during 2013-14, 15 during 2012-13, 9 during 2011-12, 15 during 2010-11, 2009-10 and 2008-09, and 7 during 2007-08. The highest number of applications was 94 during the 1991-92 school year.

It was reported that 244 **Educational Transfer Forms** were processed for the 2014-15 school year through April 13, 2015, compared to 247 for the 2013-14 school year. Public to public school transfers continue to be the most common (164), and the divorce exception (#8) continues to be the most frequent reason (107) for the Educational Transfer Form to be used.

It was reported that there were 62 **“Travel Forms for Out-of-State Practice”** filed during 2014-15, compared to 72 during the year before. The highest number filed was 113 during the 2007-08 school year. The lowest was 40 during the 2003-04 school year. The requirement began in 1994-95.

A listing of **violations** by schools and officials between April 10, 2014 and April 9, 2015 indicated that the total number of violations for the year was nearly the same as the previous year and below the 13-year average for both schools and officials. Failure of schools to rate officials continues to be the most frequent school violation.

Associate Director Tom Rashid described the **Athletic Director In-Service** programs conducted by the MHSAA during 2014-15 which demonstrated increasing attendance. The schedule for the fall of 2015 was presented. Topics for those meetings were identified throughout this meeting. For the fifth year an in-service program for athletic department secretaries is being planned for September.

Assistant Director Kathy Westdorp reported on the MHSAA **Coaches Advancement Program (CAP)** during the 2014-15 school year. Level-by-level, site-by-site and instructor-by-instructor listings were provided. CAP programs offered by Michigan secondary schools, colleges and universities were identified. June 22 is the date for the annual review of curriculum and CAP trainers in-service. Ms. Westdorp outlined the procedures the MHSAA will employ to encourage, facilitate and track compliance with the requirement that all individuals hired after July 31, 2016 to be a high school varsity level head coach for the first time at an MHSAA member school complete CAP Level 1 or 2.

Assistant Director Mark Uyl reported that **officials’ registrations** declined for the seventh consecutive year, down only slightly this year but more than 2,400 registrants since 2007-08. The high number of registrants in 2007-08 and 2008-09 was caused in large part by two factors: (1) a poor economy, and (2) a temporary policy to allow registered officials in basketball or volleyball to add the other sport at no additional fee. Officials registration is down across most states in the Midwest. The MHSAA will be surveying all first-year officials during May.

Mr. Uyl outlined officials clinics or camps in baseball/softball, basketball and football involving the MHSAA in 2015. Inexpensive camps for less experienced officials is one of the MHSAA’s key tactics for addressing declining registrations. He also described the development of a four-hour turnkey program for leagues to utilize for recruiting new officials. In addition, each MHSAA officiating zone is identifying recruitment teams or task forces.

It was suggested that the MHSAA use its growing number of student leadership events to promote sports officiating among a demographic of students who may be most interested in and well-fitted for this avocation.

MHSAA rules/risk management meeting attendance during 2014-15 was up more than 7,000 from the previous years for school representatives because of the new requirement that assistant and subvarsity coaches at the high school level complete the same requirement as high school head coaches or, in the alternative, complete one of the free online programs provided on MHSAA.com. Beginning in 2014-15, in order to increase efficiency and communication, rule/risk management meetings had some content in common for both officials and coaches and other content that was provided separately to coaches and officials. The risk management component of the 2015-16 and 2016-17 meetings will be sudden cardiac arrest and emergency action plans, after two consecutive years focusing on heat and humidity acclimatization and, before that, two consecutive years focusing on prevention, recognition and management of concussions.

Officials Reports for the spring 2014, fall 2014 and winter 2014-15 seasons were reviewed. The reports were broken down not only by sport but also by level: varsity, junior varsity, and sometimes also freshman and 7th- and 8th-grade levels. The frequency of sportsmanship problems is statistically rare in sports conducted by MHSAA member schools.

For spring 2014 sports compared to the previous spring, girls soccer had a significant increase in player ejections, while baseball and boys lacrosse had significant decreases. For fall 2014 sports compared to the previous fall, varsity football had an increase of just nine player ejections in spite of new requirements to eject players for targeting. For winter 2014-15 sports compared to the previous winter, boys basketball, girls basketball and ice hockey had significant increases in player ejections.

National Federation – The executive director, who serves as President of the **NFHS Network** Board of Directors, provided an update of network operations. Content is being provided from more than 40 states and the first anchor sponsor has been secured. The second round of investor funding has been secured pending extension of the media rights agreement by a sufficient number of participating state associations so that ending dates of financing instruments and most media rights agreements coincide. During the network's first year of operation (2013-14), MHSAA.tv produced more subscriptions than any other state portal in the NFHS Network.

Council members had been provided the agenda for the April meeting of the **NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee**. Assistant Director Cody Inglis attended the majority of the meeting in order to obtain quick, firsthand knowledge of the committee's discussion on topics of greatest interest to Michigan. The MHSAA has not found it necessary to appoint and support a separate medical advisory committee because the NFHS committee is nationally constituted with representation from diverse medical disciplines and has direct input to NFHS playing rules committees. The agenda for the three-day meeting, its second such meeting this school year, demonstrates great breadth and depth of research, input and discussions. Copies of the committee's five most recent position statements were included in the Council's meeting materials. The revised "Sports Medicine Handbook" of the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee will be sent to all MHSAA member high schools this summer. MHSAA staff will highlight portions of the Handbook during 2015-16 to help assure the manual is a frequently referenced resource.

The executive director reviewed the diverse medical groups within Michigan with which the MHSAA has consulted recently and highlighted several groups with which the MHSAA interacts regularly, especially the Michigan Department of Community Health (recently renamed Michigan Department of Health and Human Services).

Litigation – The executive director reported that the April 16-17, 2015 Summit and Legal meeting of the National Federation of State High School Associations was heavily weighted to concussion-related topics. While the MHSAA continues to enjoy an extended period without active litigation on any subject, the Office for Civil Rights of the US Department of Education has recently opened an inquiry relative to the rule that prohibits males from participating on teams designated for females in MHSAA tournaments.

ONGOING BUSINESS

International Students – Since the Council’s action in March, the MHSAA has sent an email to all member high schools which has also been posted on MHSAA.com along with the 2015-16 application for “Approved International Student Program” status, pursuant to the Council’s action in March. Separate communications have been sent to the five schools approved for AISP status in 2014-15, with parameters for their approval for 2015-16. At its June 10 meeting, the Executive Committee will determine the MHSAA’s complete list of Approved International Student Programs, including the programs listed by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel which will receive the MHSAA’s AISP status.

Out-of-Season Coaching – After eight months of membership-wide discussion about new approaches to regulating out-of-season contact between school coaches with their students in athletic settings, it was clear that consensus had not been sustained for those new approaches but that almost universal support was being expressed for three more modest but not unimportant changes that would allow school coaches additional and more flexible contact with their student-athletes out of season during the school year.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the following three changes:

1. Change the rule that permits coaches to work with either three or four players out of season, depending on the circumstances, to a four-player maximum in all of those circumstances.
2. Remove the phrase “under one roof” from Regulation II, Section 11(H) 2 a.
3. Allow coaches of non-school teams to provide coaching in non-school competition to four students of that coach’s school district while, in another part of the facility or on the same court, other students from that same school district are receiving coaching from another coach, even one of the same school, provided the competition is the result of a tournament draw or progression.
4. Remove the portion of 2014-15 *Handbook* Interpretation 235 that prohibits rotations, provided only one station of the rotation provides sport-specific training.

Adopted.

Junior High/Middle School – The Council was once again provided the complete recommendation of the Junior High/Middle School Committee and the comprehensive *Handbook* review that would implement the recommendation, all of which will require Council action only if the membership approves the proposed amendment to the MHSAA Constitution that would allow schools to join the MHSAA beginning at grade 6 (currently 7).

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Jason Mellema, to approve for membership vote in late October 2015, the proposal to amend the MHSAA Constitution to allow school membership in the MHSAA beginning with the 6th grade. Adopted.

Tournament Promotion – Andi Osters previewed additional promotional efforts for the Baseball, Girls Softball and Girls Soccer Finals at Michigan State University June 11, 12 and 13, 2015; and she provided themes for increasing attendance and improving spectator experience at MHSAA tournaments in other sports and other levels during 2015-16.

Health & Safety “4-H’s” – The Council was informed of an electronic system that could become an alternative to or substitute for the current paper-based preparticipation physical examination forms which the MHSAA provides without charge to all MHSAA member schools which seek to utilize the MHSAA model form. This initiative will help to return focus on **Health Histories** as the essential first step in effectively promoting participant health and safety, and improve injury reporting and recordkeeping and the research which this data could assist.

The Council reviewed the ANYONE CAN SAVE A LIFE – Emergency Action Planning Guide for after-school practices and events which will be provided at no cost to every high school in Michigan by late summer. This initiative continues the MHSAA’s focus on **Heat** (acclimatization) during 2013-14 and 2014-15, and helps to launch the focus on **Hearts** (sudden cardiac arrest/death) for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

The MHSAA is also supporting with human and financial resources the MI HEARTSafe School initiative of the Michigan Department of Community Health (now Michigan Department of Health and Human Services) which on May 13 will announce 128 schools and/or districts which have earned the MI HEARTSafe School Award for cardiac emergency preparedness.

The Council discussed at great length suggested strategies for improving the environment for student-athletes of both genders and all sports with respect to **Heads** (concussion prevention, recognition and aftercare). The primary areas addressed were:

1. The goal of more objectivity and consistency in the decision-making regarding removal of players from activity. The Council reviewed several existing systems and others in development.

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Dave Derocher, to authorize the MHSAA to conduct one or more of the following pilot programs with volunteering member schools: (a) to test a simple sideline detection product with integrated electronic reporting and recordkeeping capabilities; (b) to test a more comprehensive digital recognition/reporting/recovery system; and (c) to test a telemedicine approach to provide the service of specially trained medical professionals to schools, sports and venues which are underserved by such medical professionals. The pilot programs are intended to be tests, not endorsements of any particular product or system, which are not intended to

replace trained medical professionals or to be used as the sole determinant for removal-from-play decisions. The products or systems are intended to assist decision-making, and these tests are intended to be learning experiences for the MHSAA, schools and vendors while increasing awareness of the need for improved sideline concussion recognition, reporting and recordkeeping. Adopted.

Several Council members volunteered their schools for a pilot program and indicated they would attempt to recruit another school from their league to serve as a test school.

2. The goal of more immediate reporting and permanent recordkeeping of head injury events at practices and contests. The Council discussed how this can be encouraged through sideline detection systems as well as insurance programs, and the Council reviewed a draft of a web-based form to facilitate a reporting requirement for MHSAA member schools.

Motion by Al Unger, supported by Maureen Klocke, to require all MHSAA member schools to complete and submit reports of all head injury events for all levels of all sports utilizing a web-based system on MHSAA.com. This requirement is for practices and competition, grades 7 through 12. Adopted.

3. The goal to provide families which have no other applicable insurance a safety net that promotes prompt and professional medical attention for head injuries and pays for otherwise unreimbursed medical expenses up to the deductible of the MHSAA purchased catastrophic accident medical policy for all member schools.

Motion by John Thompson, supported by Karen Leinaar, to provide at no charge to member schools a no-deductible, no-exclusion insurance program for all levels of all sports under MHSAA jurisdiction conducted by MHSAA member high schools and junior high/middle schools that reimburses for concussion-related medical expenses left unpaid by other insurance up to the \$25,000 deductible of the catastrophic accident medical policy already purchased by the MHSAA for all member schools' student-athletes. The injury must be sustained while the athlete is eligible under all MHSAA regulations and is participating in an MHSAA covered activity (practice and competition). Adopted.

The Council reviewed three plans to revise the "Protocol for Implementation of National Federation Sports Playing Rules for Concussions" (2014-15 *Handbook* p. 111). The favored plan would help assure that each student's recovery is complete and that each student is approved by an MD, DO, NP or PA at the completion of the recovery and before the student is returned to practice or competition, and require schools (not officials) to report head injury events.

Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Chris Miller, to approve several changes in *Handbook* page 111 relative to "MHSAA Protocol for Implementation of National Federation Sports Playing Rules for Concussions," including: (a) to require the written release by the MD, DO, NP or PA for return to play to be unconditional (unrestricted) at the completion of the recovery and before the student is returned to practice or competition; and (b) to require schools to complete and submit forms designated by the MHSAA to record and track head injury events in all levels of all sports (7th grade through 12th grade, practices and competition). Adopted.

REGULATIONS

Regulations I through V of the *MHSAA Handbook* and their interpretations were submitted for review by the Representative Council.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve the consent package of miscellaneous changes for the purpose of organization, clarity or updating and to incorporate changes or interpretations previously adopted by the Representative Council. Adopted.

Regulation I, Sections 4 & 5 – Motion by Orlando Medina, supported by Vic Michaels, to approve the addition of a Note between Sections 4 and 5 to describe the high standard and detailed process required for waiver of these Sections, as is also the case for Section 2 (Age). Adopted.

Regulation I, Section 9(B) – Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Fred Smith, to add the following to this Section:

“Note: Subvarsity eligibility under this Section or Interpretation 86 permits participation in the following scrimmages or contests (but not in MHSAA tournaments):

“1. **Non-varsity team sports:** Teams consisting primarily of 9th- and/or 10th-graders and against other teams primarily of 9th- and/or 10th-graders.

“2. **Individual sports subvarsity level:** Races or heats, designated as **subvarsity** for all participants in that heat or race and **not scoring** within a varsity meet.

“3. **Individual sports without a subvarsity level:** On a **non-scoring** basis in the same events and even in the same heats/foursomes/rotations of those events designated as varsity level competition. Participation in relays would not be permitted if it is intended that the relay score within a varsity contest.

“4. In 1, 2 and 3 above:

“a. This is not an opportunity for ineligible students to participate; it is only for those students who are eligible by rule or by MHSAA Executive Committee action.

“b. This does not require schools to conduct non-scoring events or subvarsity competition.

“c. This does not create opportunities for ‘exhibitions’ in sports where such is not permitted.”

Adopted.

Regulation I, Section 9(F) – Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Orlando Medina, to approve edits, the primary purpose of which is to apply the rule to activities coordinated and directed by administrators and parents as well as to coaches. Adopted.

Regulation II, Section 11(H) – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Cheri Meier, to revise the first sentence of part (4)a to read as follows: “No open gyms which involve that sport and no sport-specific camps or clinics shall occur at the school or be sponsored or conducted elsewhere by the school, regardless of that school’s sponsorship of the sport.” Adopted.

Regulation II, Section 15(F) – Motion by John Thompson, supported by Steve Newkirk, to add to ice hockey and soccer the same requirement that exists for alpine ski to prohibit very late additions to school teams just prior to MHSAA tournaments (the student must have competed in that sport in at least four meets or games with his/her school team against other MHSAA school teams). Staff will also develop a waiver procedure, similar to what is utilized in alpine skiing, to be approved by the Executive Committee not later than August 2015. Adopted. Staff will study other states' policies and possibly recommend at a later meeting a rule that would apply to all sports.

CLASSIFICATION

The Summary of MHSAA Tournament Classification for 2015-16 was provided to Council members. The sports with the greatest increase from the previous year are girls soccer (+11), girls competitive cheer (+8), wrestling (+7) and boys bowling (+6). The sports with the greatest decline in school sponsorship compared to the previous year are girls softball (-8), girls skiing (-6) and boys skiing (-5).

Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Jason Mellema, to approve the Classification Committee recommendation to authorize the Executive Committee to approve a cooperative program agreement in excess of the 3,500-student enrollment maximum for up to three years in sports sponsored by 250 or fewer schools if, during the previous year, the school or the cooperative program in which the school was a part dropped the sport because of a demonstrated lack of participation. Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Al Unger, to approve revisions in the various forms used in the application, approval and dissolution procedures for cooperative programs, as well as the corresponding *Handbook* changes. Adopted.

COMMITTEES

The Council was supplied with a description of MHSAA committees, a copy of the MHSAA Sport Committee Guide, a review of the committee appointment procedures adopted by the Representative Council in May of 1987 and modified in December 2007, a list of those who had identified themselves as candidates for committees in 2015-16, a list of schools not represented on any committees for the past five years, and a list of those who had declined committee appointments in 2013-14. Council members were encouraged to submit nominations for committees, making special efforts to provide nominations from principals, small schools, females and minorities, and any school which has not been represented in recent years. The staff will compile the suggestions and submit them to the Executive Committee for review and appointment.

Names of committee members selected to serve during the 2015-16 school year will be published in *benchmarks*. The only exceptions are those committees involving the selection of tournament officials and award recipients. Some committees were identified as having converted to online and email or conference call formats.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Basketball – Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve the Basketball Committee recommendation to seek NFHS permission to allow MHSAA member schools to experiment with 18-minute halves in a limited number of selected varsity contests. Schools must obtain permission prior to events and provide a report to the MHSAA after the events at which the experiment is conducted. Adopted.

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Pete Ryan, to not approve the Basketball Committee recommendation to conduct the MHSAA Basketball Tournament in five equal divisions. Adopted (no change).

Bowling – It was announced that Kegel is developing a bowling lane oil pattern for high school bowling called the “Allen Pattern,” named after former MHSAA Assistant Director Randy Allen who administered the MHSAA bowling program from its inception in the 2003-04 school year to 2013. Michigan now has the largest number of schools in the US sponsoring interscholastic bowling. The Allen Pattern is being specifically designed for the high school level and will be utilized for the 2016 MHSAA Bowling Tournament.

Girls Competitive Cheer – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Girls Competitive Cheer Committee recommendation of the following technical requirements:

1. Only allow choreography for one-legged extensions (OLEs) that originate and fully extend unbraced.
2. Provide an exception for the inverted exit to allow a forward roll from a face-down prone position.
3. Allow forward suspended rolls to begin in any position at shoulder height and below – except an inverted position.

Adopted.

Motion by Cheri Meier, supported by Maureen Klocke, to approve the Girls Competitive Cheer Committee recommendation to add a four-person differential for middle schools with a ten-point penalty if the four-person differential is not met. Adopted.

Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Karen Leinaar, to approve the Girls Competitive Cheer Committee recommendation to require subvarsity (not middle school) teams follow the rules of the varsity teams in the requirements for mandated numbers in Round 2 and identical number of participants in Rounds 1 and 3. If competing with less than the mandated number in Round 2, teams in Rounds 1 and 3 are not allowed to exceed the number of competitors placed in Round 2. Adopted.

Cross Country/Track & Field – Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Karen Leinaar, to not approve the MITCA recommendation, to establish early qualifier meets for Lower Peninsula track & field, utilizing meets that have been approved by the MHSAA (during a two-week period starting three weeks prior to the Regional competition) where athletes may qualify to the Final tournament by meeting a standard that is the average of the 4th place finishes from previous Regional competitions. Adopted (no change).

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Kris Isom, to not approve the MITCA recommendation to create a District level of the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Track & Field Meet. In the alternative, the MHSAA staff is to appoint and administer a task force of coaches and athletic administrators to address the issue of incomplete teams and unbalanced Lower Peninsula Cross Country Regionals and to prepare an update for the MITCA Cross Country Conference in November 2015 and eventually for Representative Council action in May 2016. Adopted (no change).

Football – Communications Director John Johnson updated the Council on the MHSAA’s latest promotional video for school-sponsored football, this one being produced with the assistance of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association.

Assistant Director Nate Hampton led a discussion of trends in eight-player football. There were 31 Class D schools that completed a varsity schedule in eight-player football during the 2014 season, while 40 Class D schools indicate the likelihood of a varsity eight-player schedule of seven or more games in 2015.

Girls Gymnastics – Assistant Director Kathy Westdorp led a discussion regarding the timing of the girls gymnastics season.

Ice Hockey – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Steve Newkirk, to approve four-person officiating crews for the MHSAA Quarterfinal games in 2016 to be assigned by the MHSAA. This recommendation follows the Council’s decision to approve the use of four-person officiating crews in the 2014 season at the Semifinal and Final games of the MHSAA Ice Hockey Tournament. Adopted.

Boys Lacrosse – Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Boys Lacrosse Committee recommendation to create a “play in” game among seeds 9-16 in each Region to be played three days earlier than previous years on the Monday-Wednesday, two weeks before Memorial Day. Those winners would then play seeds 5-8 at the traditional start of the MHSAA tournament – Friday, Saturday, Monday. Adopted.

Girls Lacrosse – Assistant Director Kathy Westdorp provided a report regarding head protection in girls lacrosse.

Alpine Skiing – Assistant Director Gina Mazzolini reported that interscholastic skiing is very often under-supervised by member schools’ administrators; and she described isolated concerns for Regional assignments.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to continue to assign teams to Regionals on the basis of geography without consideration to schools’ home (regular season) facilities. Adopted.

Tennis – Assistant Director Gina Mazzolini provided a “State of the State” relative to the chronic but improving issue of stacking.

Wrestling – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by John Thompson, to approve the Wrestling Committee recommendation to require schools to enter all regular season match data online via TrackWrestling for seeding and tournament administration for all levels of the Individual tournament series. TrackWrestling would be used to automatically seed each level at the District, Regional and Final tournament rounds, eliminating seed meetings at the District level and replacing the formulas currently used at the Regional and Final levels. Adopted.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Pete Ryan, to not approve the Wrestling Committee recommendation to allow the 5th place wrestler at each Individual Regional site to advance to the Individual Final meet, expanding each Final bracket from 16 wrestlers to 20 wrestlers. Top seeded wrestlers would receive first round byes. Adopted (no change).

Motion by Al Unger, supported by Pat Watson, to approve the Wrestling Committee recommendation, based on the new NFHS Wrestling Rule 11-1-4 note, to eliminate the second weigh-in at the Team Final tournament. The recent MHSAA addition of the second weigh-in becomes moot with the new NFHS Wrestling Rule note in 11-1-4. The one weigh-in on Friday would be used for all three rounds of competition at the Team Finals. Adopted.

OPERATIONS

Calendar – Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Dave Derocher, to approve the seven-year calendar of MHSAA events reflecting changes required by other Representative Council action. Adopted.

The Council discussed the potential impact of the MHSAA calendar on schools which adopt the “balanced calendar” that shortens summer vacations and lengthens school year breaks, as well as the impact on the MHSAA calendar caused by changes in testing dates and the longer school year that is required in 2016-17.

Allen W. Bush Award – Council members were invited to vote for up to four candidates from the eight presented. The one or more who receives the most votes will be notified in May and honored at events important to them during the fall of 2015 or early in 2016. The recipients will be featured in the Fall issue of *benchmarks*.

Meeting Expenses – Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve the expenses for this meeting as follows: the specified hotel rate, the IRS-stipulated amounts for meals, and a 40¢ per mile mileage allowance, round trip. Adopted.

Future Meetings – The next meeting of the Representative Council is Dec. 4, 2015, at the MHSAA office in East Lansing, with a full-day schedule anticipated. The March meeting of the Representative Council will be the morning of Thursday, March 24, 2016 at the MHSAA office.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Vic Michaels, to conduct the spring meeting of the Representative Council on May 1-2, 2016 at The Homestead in Glen Arbor. Adopted.

Motion by Pat Watson, supported by Jason Mellema, to approve the 2015-16 revenue and expense budgets, and a capital improvement budget that would result in additions to cash of \$29. Adopted.