

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE MINUTES

East Lansing, May 19, 2010

Members Present:

Dan Barry, Grosse Pointe (MHSICA)
Steve Baker, Gaylord
Todd Bell, East Kentwood
Jim Garafalo, Allen Park
Todd Johnson, Detroit
J.D. Kalleward, Portage
Pete Ryan, Saginaw (MIAAA)

John Thompson, Brighton
Sean Zaborowski, St. Clair Shores

Members Absent:

Tony Haller, Sault Ste. Marie

Staff Member:

Randy Allen (Recorder)

The 2010 Ice Hockey Committee met in the MHSAA office to review the MHSAA tournament, policies and procedures governing hockey, playing rules changes, make recommendations to the MHSAA Representative Council, and discuss topics concerning high school hockey in MHSAA member schools. After introductions the role of the committee was reviewed.

17 MINUTE PERIODS

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the use of 17 minute periods by several leagues and conferences during the 2009-10 season. Data supplied by conferences and schools indicated that games were still played under two hours in most cases where 17 minute periods were used. In some cases there were reductions of warm-up time, elimination of lineups, fewer ice cuts and other time saving efforts. Coaches generally support the 17 minute period, but there is still concern of longer games requiring more ice rental and additional school costs.

After the first year of experience with 17 minute periods it is expected that officials may feel justified in asking for increased game fees. Several conferences are waiting to see if the MHSAA will adopt the 17 minute period in tournament games before they consider making the switch. It was generally agreed that another season of experience is needed before a decision should be made regarding the status of 17 minute periods in the MHSAA Tournament.

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

The committee reviewed the 2010 MHSAA Hockey Tournament. It was suggested to state as a required procedure in the 2011 Managers Manual that all coin flips to determine home team in tournament games be done in advance by the tournament manager with home team designations communicated to teams prior to game day. A draw was conducted for the 2011 Semifinal pairings as follows:

Division 1 - QF #3 vs. QF #2, QF #1 vs. QF #4

Division 2 - QF #7 vs. QF #6, QF #8 vs. QF #5

Division 3 - QF #11 vs. QF #10, QF #9 vs. QF #12

Time schedules for the Semifinals and Finals were discussed. It was agreed that the Division 2 Thursday schedule should be changed to conduct games one-half hour earlier at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the current calendar dates for the MHSAA Tournament. It was suggested that conducting the tournament over three weeks instead of the current two week period has many benefits to schools and officials, such as better spacing of games and less weeknight/school day travel. A proposal was made to advance a plan for Pre-Regional games to be played on Friday-Saturday, with the Regional Final and Quarterfinal the following Friday-Saturday and the Semifinals and Finals the following Thursday through Saturday beginning in 2012. The existing season start and end dates and length of season would not be changed. Although the season would be shortened by three days, it was agreed that the current season length is adequate and that regular season games would be played up until the first tournament game. It was recommended that under this plan Regional Final and Quarterfinal games be at the same site when possible.

PLAYING RULES

The committee was updated on National Federation playing rules changes for the 2010-11 season. Most notable was the allowance for states to use video replay for goal scoring questions. The committee supported use of video replay in the MHSAA Tournament for Semifinal and Final games only at Compuware Arena. Only when officials elect to review whether a puck has crossed the line and if it did so before time expired would video replay be used.

The National Rules committee continues to move closer to adopting the MHSAA requirement for mandatory neck guards for all players. It is being studied by the NF Sports Medicine Committee, then again by the NF Hockey Committee for possible adoption in April of 2011. Enforcement of and compliance with the MHSAA requirement for neck guards as well as the dental guard requirement will be a special emphasis for coaches and officials during the 2010 on-line and in person rules meetings along with all rules changes, tournament matters and points of emphasis.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The committee was apprised of the change in MHSAA procedures for assigning tournament officials with the initial Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Finals assignments prepared by MHSAA staff, then reviewed by the officials selection committee for comment and input. The process also involved more input and nominations from assignors and conferences.

A proposal was made for seeding teams in the eight Regionals in each Division for the MHSAA Tournament beginning in 2012 with the coaches association to determine seed criteria and procedures. The committee also approved a recommendation to have the MHSAA Ice Hockey Committee meeting moved to late January in 2011 so that future recommendations will receive review and approval in a more timely fashion. Other discussions and topics included the following:

MHSAA Tournament assignments for 2011 were shared with the committee. Changes in sponsorship and co-op teams will mean potential modifications in initial Pre-regional groups before final posting. Host school and facility assignments will be communicated to schools in June for confirmation and ice reservations.

The committee was updated on the use of Ticket Leap for advance ticket sales at the Semifinals and Finals. About 1400 advance tickets were purchased which reduced ticket line waits and congestion and greatly helped manage the large crowds on Friday and Saturday evening.

MHSAA supplemental rules for coach/player game disqualifications were reviewed. The MHSAA will continue to emphasize to coaches and officials that abusive language cannot be tolerated and must be penalized. The officials' role and procedures in separating players during altercations will be codified.

Season contest limits and regular season overtime regulations were reviewed, but no proposals made or changes suggested.

Committee members were invited to submit suggestions for additions or clarifications to the MHSAA Tournament Managers Manual. A conference call for managers will again be held in January of 2011.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Conduct the MHSAA Tournament over three weeks beginning in 2011-12. Pre-Regional games will be scheduled on a Friday/Saturday with Regional Final games and Quarterfinal games the following Friday/Saturday at one location and the Semifinal and Final games the following Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Maintain existing start and end of season dates and allow regular season games to be played through the last date of the MHSAA Final. The dates for 2012 would be February 24 & 25 for Pre-Regional games, March 2 for Regional Final games, March 3 for Quarterfinal games, March 8, 9 for Semifinal games and March 10 for Championship games. (9-0)

Rationale: Conducting the tournament over more days spaces games better and reduces weeknight games and late night travel on school days. Officials benefit from fewer weekday games as it relates to job requirements with better access to officials on Friday night and Saturday. The three week schedule also allows more preparation and planning for schools and the MHSAA between the Quarterfinal and Semifinal round. Although it shortens the regular season by three days there is still ample time to play the 24 allowed games.

2. Move the 2011 start times for the Division 2 Thursday night Semifinals to 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Request Representative Council consideration for the change at its December, 2010 meeting. (9-0)

3. Use video replay at the MHSAA Semifinal and Final games only to determine if a goal is scored and if the puck crossed the line before time has expired. On-ice officials and an MHSAA assigned replay official will consult at the next whistle regarding validity and timing of goals. (9-0)

Rationale: Use of video replay is now allowed by National Federation rules only for these two instances in tournament games. Compuware has the overhead camera/replay equipment available at no extra cost for use at Semifinal and Final games only.

4. Institute a seeding plan involving 7 or 8 team Regional groups as determined by the MHSAA for the 2012 tournament. The Michigan HS Hockey Coaches Association will create seeding criteria and procedures for Representative Council consideration and approval. The MHSAA will continue to assign tournament host and locations, higher seeded teams will not automatically be awarded home ice. (9-0)

5. Move the date for the MHSAA Hockey Committee meeting to the last week in January. Have the Representative Council consider this change at its December, 2010 meeting. (9-0)

Rationale: The current May meeting is two weeks after the Representative Council May meeting. Proposals wait nearly a year for the next May meeting and approved changes do not take effect until the second school year after the original committee meeting. A January meeting would allow for review of proposals by both the MHSAA League & Conference meeting in February and the MIAAA Conference in March with Representative Council action in May and implementation the following school year. As in the case of the wrestling committee, a January meeting also gains experiences from the current season which will be past its midway point by the end of January.