

2023-2024 MHSAA MIDDLE SCHOOL / JUNIOR HIGH COMMITTEE MEETING #2 MINUTES
Thursday February 15, 2024- 9:30 a.m. Via Zoom

Committee Members:

Keith Cravotta	Dewitt	Fred Smith	Bangor
Garnett Kohler	Yale	Adam Stefanski	Boyne City
Jason Kemler	Manistee	JD Wheeler	Hartland
Jean LaClair	Bronson	Matt Windle	Boyne City
Jolinda Lucas	Grand Rapids (MIAAA)	Jon Zajac	Tecumseh
Jason Morris	Chelsea (MIAAA)		

MHSAA Staff:

Brad Bush
Cody Inglis

The MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee met to review topics identified for discussion by the MHSAA staff, Representative Council, and member schools. The committee reviewed the meeting minutes and recommendations from the first meeting of the 2023-2024 school year. A review of advancements in rules over the past 5-7 years related to middle school athletics was discussed.

The committee discussed several topics related to middle school athletics. There were no actionable items moved forward for the representative council.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

MHSAA WEBSITE WORK

The committee discussed the work being done to create a middle school section of the MHSAA website. The committee approved of creating a middle school section in the I AM section of the website. This will provide links specific for middle school ADs for area of the website that are used the most by administrators.

REGIONAL CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK UPDATES

A large discussion occurred regarding regional track. Discussion centered around the 70m dash. It was recommended that decisions made about the running of the 70m dash will be made at the league level. There was no proposal to change the format of regional track meets. There was discussion of looking at adding the discuss to the middle school track meet lineup. It is recommended that the SMAC committee look at the possible health risks related to adding the discus to the track lineup. The use of the power position only with middle school discus was also discussed if it was added in the future.

SURVEY RESULTS

Staff shared the results of the middle school survey that was taken regarding the use of 6th grade students and middle school sports. 428 schools responded to the survey. It was found that 92% of schools allow 6th grade students to participate in middle school athletics. Of that group, 51% have some restrictions on 6th grade students and do not allow them to participate on all teams. 49% of schools allowing 6th grade students allow them to participate in all sports. It was found that 8% of this group have 6th grade specific teams.

MHSAA RULES AND UPDATES

There was discussion of the impact the new social media policy has had on possible undue influence. The rule was seen as a positive step. There will be continued

feedback from committee members. A discussion of the current links rule, and the possibility in the future of including the links rule at the middle school level. There was support for the concept, but concern about enforcement of this at the middle school level. There was also discussion of a waiver for 7th and 8th grade students playing at the high school level in our schools under 125 and 100 students including league approval. There was general support for this concept. Lastly, there was a reminder about the upcoming CPR certification mandate for middle school head coaches in the 2024-2025 school year. The committee agreed there needs to be promotion of this new policy this summer.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

None