

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE MINUTES
East Lansing, December 15, 2022
In-person and Virtual meeting

Members Present:

Fred Bryant, Cadillac (virtual)
Joe Ford, Mason
Brian Gordon, Royal Oak
Bob Hayden, Temperance (Advisor,
NFHS)
Brady Lake, Byron Center
Ashley Mantha, Saline
Corey Markham, Houghton (virtual)
Frank Novack, Detroit

Ryan Ossenmacher, Northville
(MHSICA)
Amy Ream, Traverse City (MATS)
(virtual)
John Thompson, Brighton (MIAAA)
(virtual)
Steve Witt, Midland
Don Wright, Chelsea (MHSICA)
Chad Yager, Mattawan
Staff Member
Cody Inglis (Recorder)

The 2022-23 Ice Hockey Committee met in person and virtually to review the MHSAA tournament, policies and procedures governing hockey, playing rules changes, process to make recommendations to the Representative Council, and discuss topics concerning high school hockey in MHSAA member schools. After introductions, committee responsibilities were reviewed.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL REVIEW

The previous years' Ice Hockey Committee meeting minutes was reviewed, and the three major proposals that came out of the hockey committee were all approved and implemented for the 2022-23 hockey season. A review of those proposals and how they are being used in the MHSAA hockey season was done.

NATIONAL FEDERATION AND MHSAA PLAYING RULES

Committee members reviewed the new NFHS ice hockey rules changes and MHSAA adaptations. specifically the supplemental discipline penalty of two games for a disqualification penalty in ice hockey. The committee reviewed data on how many DQ's have occurred this season so far and for what violations. In addition, the new MHSAA policy of ejection review was shared including video clips of actual occurrences from this year's games. There was not support to reduce the 2-game supplemental discipline penalty. The committee felt the ejection review policy should be allowed to be used and see how it may impact this area in hockey.

MHSAA and NFHS points of emphasis for high school hockey were reviewed and emphasized including player safety and dangerous hits. There is still a need for continued teaching and coaching on the issue of player safety. Concussion recognition and management was also reviewed with the committee.

Given the change in MHSAA seeding at the semifinal level, there was discussion about the seeding committee, the protocols that will be used and the makeup of this committee. The MHSAA hockey semifinal seed online committee will be done after the MHSAA quarterfinals and comprised of 5 individuals, an MHSAA director, Coaches Association board member, an athletic director named by the hockey committee and two head coaches of teams not involved in Semifinal games and named by the hockey committee.

The approval of Minnesota to the travel rule for Michigan schools was covered. Adding the State of Minnesota to the MHSAA "border" states through the shared Maritime border which exists allows the potential to help some MHSAA hockey programs with scheduling in future.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

After a successful implementation of the Michigan Power Rating (MPR) system in hockey during the 2021-22 school year, the new seeding of the entire Regional was approved and will be implemented this season. The committee discussed the brackets and the draw dates for this process as this will determine the matchups in the entire Regional based upon the MPR from the regular season.

The new MHSAA hockey restructuring plan divided standalone hockey schools into thirds along with cooperative programs to have three “equal” divisions after classification is completed in the spring of each school year. This unique way of determining hockey divisions was supported by the hockey committee and determined divisions for the first time in hockey this season.

MHSHCA TOPICS

The Michigan HS Hockey Coaches Association brought forward three proposals that would potentially increase period length from 17 to 18 minutes, allow multiple games on a limited basis and increase the game count from 25 to 27. Committee discussion centered on the reasons and rationale about these proposals and after much discussion the committee favored more data, research and rationale including other states data on game counts before going forward with a proposal to the Representative Council.

Committee discussion also focused on what “we” can do in the high school athletic world and the desire of the committee is to start a reach out to schools, their AD’s and coaches to focus on how HS hockey successful programs are coached, administered and stay connected to their school’s athletic program. This will be an outreach program done by the MHSAA in conjunction with the MHSHCA and will be done geographically and in person in the fall of 2023 for all hockey programs.

Previously the MHSHCA developed a fall practice proposal and a desire to allow varsity coaches some connection to their programs in all on a practice only basis. This discussion developed in the hockey committee and was taken to all sport committees along with being presented to MHSAA athletic directors in the Fall Update meeting of 2021. This garnered support and the concept went to the Representative Council for their consideration but was not approved. The Representative Council asked each sport to push forward a proposal if this was a concept still deemed to be important for them to pursue. The MHSHCA will develop a plan and bring forward to this committee in the future.

Recommendations to the Representative Council

No recommendations to the Representative Council