

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Boys Lacrosse Committee Meeting

East Lansing, May 7, 2009

Members Present :

Mike Campbell, Grand Rapids
Mike Costello, Canton
Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids (Advisory)
Bob Dowd, Troy (MIAAA)
Steve Emert, Walled Lake
Aaron Frank, Birmingham
Shawn Grady, Okemos (Coaches Association)
Michelle Hicks, Grosse Pointe Woods

Mike Jolly, Warren (Advisory)
Dennis Noe, Farmington
Clark Udell, Grand Rapids
Dave Wilson, Novi

Staff Member

Tom Rashid

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

The minutes of the May 7, 2008 and January 21, 2009 meetings were presented in advance to the committee. It was reported that on May 4, 2009 the Representative Council removed from the table and approved a recommendation to change the maximum time of a junior high/middle school multi-team tournament from 120 minutes to 150 minutes for boys lacrosse only.

2009 TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS

The late season regional alignments for Division 1, Regions 1-4 and Division 2, Regions 5-8 were seeded based upon the pre-determined criteria from #1 seed to #12 seed depending on the number of teams in each region. Preliminary recommendations were submitted and laxpower.com consulted. The pairings will be emailed to tournament managers, posted on mhsaa.com on May 7, 2009, are final and not subject to appeal. The 2009 semifinal pairings determined by the committee are as follows: Division 1- Regional 1 vs. 4, 3 vs. 2; Division 2 - Regional 5 vs. 7, 8 vs. 6.

OFFICIALS

Committee members were presented a list of 117 MHSAA registered officials who had completed a rules meeting. Schedules for most of the current season were made available. The official ratings and number of ratings submitted for each official collected since 2004-05 were also presented. The committee also received a list of those officials who worked MHSAA Finals since the tournament first began in 2004-05. The committee selected 32 officials to work the Regional Semifinals and Finals, 16 Semifinal officials and eight Finals officials to the 2009 tournament. Two officials will be assigned to each Regional Semifinal and three to each Regional Finals game. Three officials and an alternate official, who will also serve as the Chief Bench Official, will be assigned to the MHSAA Semifinal and Finals games. MHSAA staff will assign selected officials and replacements to specific games. Officials for the Pre-Regional games and first round at the home site will be the responsibility of the home school, which will be the top team on the bracket.

MHSAA lacrosse officials training programs were conducted with 96 new officials attending five sessions throughout the school year at Byron Center, Birmingham Seaholm, East Lansing High School and the Traverse City YMCA. A total of 266 boys lacrosse officials registered with the MHSAA for the 2008-09 school year, an increase of 54 officials.

2009 TOURNAMENT PLANNING

The lacrosse Finals for both boys and girls will be played on Saturday, June 6, 2009 at separate sites within a few miles of each other in Oakland County. The boys Finals will be at Troy Athens High School (Div. 1 at 2 p.m., Div 2 at 5 p.m.) The girls Finals will be at Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School (Div. 1 at 5 p.m., Div 2 at 2 p.m.).

2009-10 PLANNING

Correspondence regarding the use of lax power as the second criteria for the late season seeding was provided members and generated a spirited and thorough review of the criteria and approach used to seed the lacrosse tournament. The committee reaffirmed the existing process and criteria including the use of lax power as an objective, independent comparison of teams. Because lacrosse continues to grow, is new to school sponsorship and its committee serves multiple functions (seeding, sport and tournament recommendations and official's selection) the committee should meet twice in 2010 as in years previous; tentatively Jan. 20 and May 12, 2010. The committee requested that the staff provide a list of recommended officials that could be finalized by the committee at the May meeting.

As boys lacrosse becomes a league-sponsored sport in more leagues, there were less head to head competitions to compare teams for seeding. Providing the Regional alignments earlier than January would have little impact as schedules of seeded teams are set well in advance of the fall and would have minimal impact.

There were 65 teams in boys lacrosse in 2005-06; 69 teams in 2006-07, involving 88 schools; 81 teams involving 99 schools in 2007-08; and 83 teams involving 99 schools in 2008-09 (17 cooperative programs). Continued growth is expected and will again result in more teams in each region increasing the number of Pre-Regional games to be held May 20, 21, 22 and 24, 2010.

It was general consensus that the online rules meetings were a success and inasmuch as no one attended a face-to-face meeting, it was agreed all boys lacrosse rules meetings will be conducted online in 2009-10.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The MHSAA explore and discuss ways to combat spring trips which include unacceptable and unhealthy behavior by students by changing the current out-of-state travel limitation to allow school supported teams one educational travel allowance greater than 600 miles round trip for limited competition within the continental United States. Adopted (10-0)