

MHSAA

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

(6/17/10)

This summary does not include all Council action. Minutes of the Dec. 4, 2009 and March 26, 2010 meetings were published on MHSAA.com. Minutes of the May 2-3, 2010 meeting have been sent to all superintendents; and all high school and junior high/middle school principals, athletic directors and citywide athletic directors have been emailed a link to a download location on mhsaa.com. **Changes take effect Aug. 1, 2010, unless otherwise indicated.**

December 4, 2009

- I. Eight-Player Football – Timelines and procedures were adopted for adding eight-player football to the MHSAA Football Playoffs. (Because fewer than 20 schools committed to the eight-player division by April 1, there will not be an eight-player division in the 2010 MHSAA Football Playoffs.)

March 26, 2010

- I. MHSAA Constitution – A package of editorial and procedural changes to the MHSAA Constitution was approved for submission to all member high schools and junior high/middle schools. (The package of proposals was approved, taking effect Aug. 1, 2010.)
- II. Amateur & Awards Rules – A comprehensive restatement and consolidation of Regulation I, Sections 11 and 12 was approved for the 2010-11 *Handbook*.

May 2-3, 2010

- I. Handbook Change –
 - A. Regulation I, Section 7 – All references to a “full” day of classes in 2009-10 *Handbook* Interpretation 40 have been deleted, meaning that eligibility, insofar as the academic record regulation is concerned, may commence on the first scheduled day of classes for students, regardless of the length of the classes or day, and even if that scheduled day is actually cancelled.
- II. Health & Safety –
 - A. Concussion Protocols – See ① attached for procedures that apply to all levels of all sports beginning in 2010-11.
 - B. Pre-Participation Physicals – Three initiatives continue:
 1. To Approve “Long Form” Sample(s) – MHSAA staff will finalize for Council approval in December 2010 one or more samples of a Health History and Clearance Form to post on MHSAA.com for schools to consider for their local programs.
 2. To Amend “Short Form” Card – MHSAA staff, in consultation with school personnel, will review the current physical examination/consent card which the MHSAA supplies upon request to schools and prepare recommendations for any changes for the Council’s consideration in December 2010.

3. To Review Timing Elements – MHSAA staff, in consultation with school personnel, will review the current requirements of Regulation I, Section 3 regarding the date (on or after April 15 for the following school year) and frequency (annual), and prepare recommendations for the Council's consideration in December 2010.

III. “Non-Traditional” Basketball & Volleyball District Draws (Team which draws to the top line of a bracket actually hosts) –

- A. In addition to the four previously designated Districts, non-traditional draws are now required for the first-round games of all seven- and eight-team Districts and any other games where history or security is an issue and single games at multiple sites are preferred over multiple games at the same site. The District host site shall be placed on the top line of the bracket and a random draw take place for the bye of a seven-team District in 2011.
- B. Before there is consideration of further expansion of non-traditional draws, a sub-committee of the Basketball and Volleyball Site Selection Committee is developing policies and procedures for discussion at Athletic Director In-Service meetings in August and October, followed by refinement of those policies and submission to the Council in December 2010.

IV. Sports Changes –

- A. Basketball (Regulation IV, Section 10) – Junior high/middle school boys and girls basketball teams may play two games in one day if it is not followed by a school day for either team. The limits of five games over 14 days and three games in a week are eliminated.
- B. Bowling – The Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final matches of the Final Meet will be shortened from four Baker games and one regular game to two Baker games and one regular game.
- C. Girls Competitive Cheer – The Division 1 Final moves to 6 p.m. Friday (March 4, 2011) with three separate sessions on Saturday: Division 2 at 10 a.m., Division 4 at 2 p.m. and Division 3 at 6 p.m.
- D. Football –
 1. If the point differential grows to 50 points in the second half, the clock will run continuously except for officials' time-outs for injured players.
 2. It will be required that teams be on the field for the playing of the National Anthem before MHSAA tournament games, and the same will be recommended for leagues and conferences, with the understanding that the National Anthem will be played when the pre-contest clock governing warm-ups shows no time remaining. See Appendix ②.
- E. Golf – The procedure of requiring observers within each group of the MHSAA District, Regional and Final tournaments has been eliminated.
- F. Girls Gymnastics – Friday's MHSAA team tournament competition will commence at 2 p.m.
- G. Ice Hockey – With written requests approved by the MHSAA, leagues and conferences may adopt for any regular season single game the MHSAA tournament overtime procedure, and may do so after either two or four regular eight-minute overtime periods.
- H. Boys Lacrosse – Similar to girls lacrosse and soccer, boys lacrosse teams may have two other dates of competition in any week when a multi-team tournament is played.

- I. Soccer – The overtime procedure for MHSAA tournaments has been changed to two full ten-minute overtimes (regardless of any scoring) and, if still tied, the current penalty kick process is to be used. During the regular season, leagues and conferences may use any lesser combination of time or shootouts, with or without “golden goals.”
- J. Tennis –
 - 1. The limited team membership rule has been modified so a player is limited to two outside competitions during that team’s season, commencing with the first day of allowed practice under MHSAA regulations, regardless of when that team begins practice or the player joins the team.
 - 2. Any number of the four scrimmages in tennis may occur before or after the first competition.
- K. Wrestling – In 2011-12, the start of the wrestling season will be delayed one week, the maximum days of competition reduced from 16 to 14, and the maximum days when teams or individuals may participate in more than two matches reduced from eight to seven.
- V. 2010-11 Studies –
 - A. Application of 3 or 4 player rule under one roof in non-school competition (volleyball and generally).
 - B. Out-of-season instruction for competitive cheer.
 - C. Participation on two teams in the same sport on the same day (wrestling and generally).
 - D. Soccer tournament classification (retain 20 percent modification?).
- VI. To avoid or delay additional program costs, the Representative Council . . .
 - A. Declined to establish a committee to study Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament expansion beyond four classes.
 - B. Declined to set a goal of 2014 for using only fully automated timing for MHSAA Boys and Girls Regional Track Meets.
 - C. Declined to permit one week of football practice in the spring.
 - D. Declined to permit teams one out-of-state trip beyond 600 miles round-trip.
 - E. Declined to seed District Boys and Girls Soccer Tournaments.
 - F. Did not approve resumption on another day of MHSAA tournament soccer games that are suspended before 80 percent of the game is completed (currently 50 percent).
 - G. Delayed from 2010 to 2012 the request that all levels of the MHSAA Girls Volleyball Tournament use the gray, white and blue panel volleyball.
 - H. Declined to seed District Girls Volleyball Tournaments.
 - I. Accepted the Soccer Committee recommendation to delay from 2012 to 2014 the national requirement that home teams wear white jerseys and socks in boys and girls soccer.

**MHSAA PROTOCOL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL
FEDERATION SPORTS PLAYING RULES FOR CONCUSSIONS**

“Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional.”

The language above, which will appear in all National Federation sports rule books for the 2010-11 school year, reflects a strengthening of rules regarding the safety of athletes suspected of having a concussion. For 2009-10, some sports rules required officials to remove from play any athlete who was “unconscious or apparently unconscious.” This new language reflects an increasing focus on safety, given that the vast majority of concussions do not involve a loss of consciousness.

This protocol is intended to provide the mechanics to follow during the course of contests when an athlete sustains an apparent concussion.

- 1) The officials will have no role in determining concussion other than the obvious one where a player is either unconscious or apparently unconscious as is provided for under the current rule. Officials will merely point out to a coach that a player is apparently injured and advise that the player should be examined by a health care provider for an exact determination of the extent of injury.
- 2) If it is confirmed by the school’s designated health care professional that the student did not sustain a concussion, the head coach may so advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may reenter competition pursuant to the contest rules.
- 3) Otherwise, if competition continues while the athlete is withheld for an apparent concussion, that athlete may not be returned to competition that day but is subject to the return to play protocol.
 - a) Only an MD or DO may clear the individual to return to competition.
 - b) The clearance must be in writing.
 - c) The clearance may not be on the same date on which the athlete was removed from play.
- 4) Following the contest, an Officials Report shall be filed with a removed player’s school and the MHSAA.
- 5) In cases where an assigned MHSAA tournament physician (MD/DO) is present, his or her decision to not allow an athlete to return to competition may not be overruled.

(OVER)

**SANCTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH
CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Following are the consequences for not complying with National Federation and MHSAA rules when players are removed from play for exhibiting concussion-like symptoms and are not cleared by the school's designated medical authority to return to that contest:

If a student is returned to competition in a subsequent meet or contest (on the same day* or a subsequent day) without the written authorization of an MD or DO –

That student is considered an ineligible player and any meet or contest in which that student has participated without the proper authorization is forfeited.

In addition, that program is placed on probation through that sport season of the following school year.

For a second offense in that sport during the probationary period – that program is continued on probation through that sport season of the following school year and not permitted to participate in the MHSAA tournament in that sport during the original and extended probationary period.

* **Note:** This means that a student who is removed from the first game of a multi-game day (e.g., baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer, volleyball) may not under any circumstances return to a subsequent game that day.

REVISION OF SAMPLE FORM
RETURN TO COMPETITION

This form is to be used after an athlete is removed from and not returned to competition after exhibiting concussion symptoms. MHSAA rules require written authorization from a physician (MD/DO) before an athlete may return to play after exhibiting concussion symptoms that caused that athlete to be removed for the duration of a contest.

In cases where an assigned MHSAA Tournament physician (MD/DO) is present, his or her decision to not allow a student to return to competition may not be overruled.

Athlete: _____ **School:** _____

Event/Sport: _____ **Date of Injury:** _____

REASON FOR ATHLETE'S INCAPACITY

PHYSICIAN'S ACTION

I have examined the named student-athlete following this episode and determined the following:

Permission is granted for the athlete to return to competition (may **not** return to practice or competition on the same day as the injury).

COMMENT: _____

_____ **DATE** _____

PHYSICIAN'S SIGNATURE (MUST BE MD OR DO)

PHYSICIAN'S NAME (Printed): _____

Copies to: Team Coach, Athletic Director, MHSAA

Duplicate as Needed

RESPECTING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AT MHSAA FOOTBALL EVENTS

In an effort to serve good sporting conduct and to consciously and consistently demonstrate respect for our National Anthem, **the MHSAA for all its football tournament rounds will require that the two competing teams (in total) be on the field and on their respective sidelines for the playing of the National Anthem or other recognized national observances.**

Pregame Timing – MHSAA Tournament

- Pregame clock starts at least 20 minutes before kickoff. Clock should be set so time is at 0:00 five minutes prior to kickoff time (for example: 7 p.m. game time, place 55 minutes on clock at 6 p.m. – clock will be at 0:00 at 6:55 p.m. anthem start).
- Coin toss at 20-minute mark.
- Welcome and Team Introductions at five-minute mark (teams not required to be on their respective sidelines).
- Playing of the National Anthem with 0:00 on clock (teams required to be on sidelines; bands either in the stands or in either end zone, no further than the 25 yard line).
- Kickoff promptly after the National Anthem observance.

Penalty: 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalty if the team (in total) is not on its sideline for the start of the National Anthem when played as specified. Additional five-yard penalty for delay of game will be assessed on the offending team if still not in place and ready to start the first half.

It is strongly recommended that this pregame procedure be adopted by all leagues and conferences.