

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING
East Lansing, October 12, 2017

Members Present

Cory Anderson Forest Hills Northern
Sue Calvo, Swartz Creek (MIAAA)
Jim Carl, Brighton, (Coaches Assoc.)
Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids (Advisory)
Ed Greenman, Battle Creek Harper Creek
Jeremy Hawkins, Grosse Pointe South
Brian Kaminskis, Clarkston
Dave Kransberger, Grand Rapids Christian
Rich Kimball, Lansing Catholic & Waverley
Pat Marsman, Holland West Ottawa

Jerry Meter, Bloomfield Hills
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Mike Van Antwerp, Okemos

Member Absent

Mike Jolly, Warren De-LaSalle (Advisory)

Staff Members Present

Cole Malatinsky
Tom Rashid (Recorder)

INTRODUCTION

Weeks prior to the meeting, the committee was emailed the minutes of the two previous committee meetings, 2018 classification of teams, cooperative programs, tournament brackets and dates, and 2018 NFHS rule changes. The committee received a chronology of NFHS Boys Lacrosse rule changes from 2004-05 through 2017-18 aimed at minimizing risk, especially in the head and neck injury area. The committee's multiple functions (sport, seeding, Regional alignment and officials selection) were reviewed. In May 2017, a Boys Lacrosse Committee recommendation was approved by the Representative Council to increase from 12 to 15 the number of allowed middle school dates of competition. A recommendation was also approved to increase from two to four the number of allowed middle school multi team tournament events and to increase from 150 to 160 the running time minutes allowed at these events. Multi team tournament events count as one of the allowed 15 dates of competition. 2016-17 was the first year of the new high school tournament format involving eight regions per division.

BOYS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION

Jim Carl of Brighton, President of the MHSLCA, reported that the association has changed and streamlined its all-state award process effective with the 2018 season. The coaches association will again host a coaches and officials forum at the MHSAA on the first Sunday of March (March 4, 2018) which will include an MHSAA rules meeting.

OFFICIALS

Two MHSAA training programs will be offered for new officials as in years past, and many local association training opportunities continue as well. The criteria for selection and structure of tournament official's assignments were presented and no changes made for 2017-18. At the May meeting, the Committee will select tournament officials from those who are members in good standing of a local approved association, have completed a rules meeting and have met other criteria. As of April 17, 2017, there were 311 registered boys lacrosse officials, an increase of 17 officials at this same point in 2016.

The Committee discussed concerns over cancellation of games, especially in southeast Michigan due to a shortage of officials. MHSAA Staff will be meeting with the assigner in the area and league representatives this fall to discuss solutions. The Committee put forth the following points for staff and assigner action regarding cancelling contests due to official availability:

- Publicize the dates of the mega middle school tournaments that tend to take away many officials from high school games.
- Schools must be more flexible in setting game dates and times. For example, all teams cannot play at noon on Saturdays.
- Teams who change an originally scheduled game go to the back of the line and may be first to receive less than three officials and more likely to be cancelled.
- Before a game is cancelled, an official shall be changed from a three person game to provide two officials on a game rather than cancel a contest.

(OVER)

- Two person crews will be assigned based on the judgement of the assigner and the geographic availability of officials beginning with changed games and games involving B Teams.
- Officials who will not work a two-man game to avoid cancellation will be excluded from the MHSAA tournament.
- Joint communication will come from the MHSAA and assigner to all schools and officials later this fall and include specifics as established by the Committee and after discussion with assigners.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

As of Oct. 17, 2017 there are 127 teams involving 155 schools (25 cooperative programs). There are 63 Division 1 teams with enrollments of 1,549 students and above and 64 teams in Division 2 with enrollments below 1,548 students. Two teams have opted up to play in Division 1. A report of all teams changing divisions due to enrollment or cooperative program adjustments was presented. New teams for 2018 include a cooperative agreement in process between Traverse City Central and West, Petoskey and Lake Fenton.

2016-17 TOURNAMENT REVIEW

Correspondence from three schools was submitted in advance of the meeting and copied for committee members regarding the 2017 season and tournament. Topics included a seeding disagreement, a 1st year team playing the highest seed in the region and the number of weeks of regular season play before the MHSAA tournament. The Committee confirmed that staff responses were correct and had no suggestions for change to past tournament policies.

The committee discussed the concept of returning to a Tier 2 tournament option for new or weaker teams as was presented when the MHSAA first sponsored lacrosse in 2004-05. No schools were interested in the Tier 2 option at that time. Also discussed was an option of a "Super Division" where the top 16-20 teams across both divisions play in the same tournament.

The committee discussed at length the score differential during tournament games. MHSAA Staff Cole Malatinsky provided a two-year study that showed a slight increase (4%) in games in 2017 with a 12 goal or greater margin. More egregious one-sided scores were of great concern especially when coaches were not instructing players to not shoot and hold the ball. The Committee urged the MHSAA Staff continue to communicate with coaches and administrators both verbally and in writing who may not be doing enough to prevent lopsided scores. Concerns were expressed that player misconduct occurs by players whose teams are way behind in the score that results in ejections of players from both teams – one whose season ends, the other continues minus an ejected player. The committee discussed and approved a motion to implement a policy beginning with the 2019 tournament where an MHSAA tournament game will end when an 18-goal margin is reached any time after the 3rd quarter. teams wlt was the preference that the 2018 Finals again be at Howell-Parker Campus.

2017-18 REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS & TOURNAMENT

The Committee made no changes to the preseason and late season seeding criteria for the coming season. The performance from **two** years prior will remain an additional factor for seeding, not a headline factor but of assistance as the committee makes close calls. It was confirmed that regional semifinals games may be played on Tues. May 22, 2018 with permission of the MHSAA Staff. Consideration was given to rotating highest seeded teams who are displaced geographically into different regions over two or three years.

The committee ranked teams 1-8 based on the criteria and placed one seeded team in each Region. The regions were finalized pending staff securing host sites. On Wednesday, May 9, 2018, the committee will reconvene and place each team on the bracket based on the written criteria and current season competition played on or before Monday, May 7, 2018.

In May 2018, the committee will review the bracket for seeds below the fifth spot and may change a team's opponent and seeding if travel is excessive. Each coach on the committee will be assigned a Region out of their division to review for the May meeting. That coach will be responsible for providing the preliminary seeding in advance of the May 9, 2018 meeting.

OUT OF STATE OPPONENTS AND B TEAMS

The committee discussed and approved a recommendation that the MHSAA Staff develop a recommendation for Representative Council consideration that would not permit competition against out-of-state teams who may be within the 600-mile round trip travel allowance but who do not follow their state high school association rules. Some states do not sponsor lacrosse and consequently member school teams play an inordinate number of games, travel in excess of other sports in their state, do not use NFHS playing rules and may not adhere to other state association rules such as anti-recruiting (sports academies). The committee discussed if this may be applicable to all sports or just to lacrosse.

The committee discussed the presence of varsity B teams whose games are not counted toward MHSAA tournament seeding for either team. The consensus was that the impact on power rankings and overall seeding was minor and the practice, while uncommon, does increase participation and keeps teams from cutting students. A team that does not lock its roster and move players between two varsity teams was more a concern. When a school does move students between teams, it requires careful record keeping and vigilance to be certain a player does not exceed 18 dates of completion between the two teams.

FUTURE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

The Committee briefly discussed a four-day later start to the MHSAA tournament in 2019 that would permit regular season games to be played two weekends prior to Memorial Day. Currently the first round games at home sites are the Thurs-Mon, one week before Memorial Day. The suggestion was to start the first round games on the Monday before Memorial Day and narrow the window of dates available to play throughout the tournament. The final remains on the same date, 2nd Saturday of June. A subcommittee of three members and MHSAA Staff will convene and make suggestions to the full lacrosse committee who will possibly make a recommendation to the Representative Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Implement a policy beginning with the 2019 tournament where an MHSAA tournament game will end when an 18-goal margin is reached any time after the 3rd quarter is completed. The 12-goal point differential running clock in the 2nd half continues.

(Adopted 12-0).

Section 6 (A) Contests With Out-of-State Schools: 2. All schools and teams are in good standing with their respective National Federation member high school association (if eligible). In boys lacrosse, a school may not participate in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest against an out-of-state opponent from a state whose NFHS state association does not sponsor a state wide boys lacrosse tournament, unless that team follows comparable regulations of other spring sport teams in that state. Comparable rules include but are not limited to practice and contest limits, travel, use of NFHS playing rules, and undue influence (recruiting). It will be for the MHSAA member school to collect and submit information to the MHSAA Staff 30 days in advance of the season for approval to play teams in states where high school associations do not govern boys lacrosse.

(Adopted 12-1)

Possible recommendation coming after subcommittee study: Start the first round of the MHSAA tournament four days later (from Thursday to the Monday the week before Memorial Day) and condense allowable tournament playing dates of MHSAA Tournament in 2019.