

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING
East Lansing, October 9, 2018

Members Present

Jim Carl, Brighton (Coaches Assoc.)
Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids (Advisory)
Mike DeWitt, Rockford
Mike Jolly, Warren-DeLaSalle (Advisory)
Dave Kransberger, East Kentwood
Jerry Meter, Bloomfield Hills
Tim Ritsema, Jenison
Pete Ryan, Saginaw

Cody Smith, Romeo
Matt Wilson, Bloomfield Hills

Member Absent

Sue Calvo, Swartz Creek (MIAAA)

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, 2019 classification of teams and current cooperative programs. Members also received in advance preliminary Regional alignments, maps and a draft of the criteria for seeding the tournament. Correspondence received last spring from four schools was also sent in advance with the agenda.

Because LaxPower has closed, the committee was also sent a replacement ranking system developed by the MHSAA, the MPR – Michigan Power Ranking – for review. The committee was given a chronology of NFHS Boys Lacrosse rule changes from 2004-05 through 2018-19 aimed at minimizing risk, especially in the head and neck injury area, and reports from the NFHS on injuries nationwide in boys lacrosse. NFHS rule changes for the coming season were also distributed.

The committee's multiple functions (recommendations to the Representative Council, sport, seeding, Regional alignment and officials' selection) were reviewed. In May 2018, two Boys Lacrosse Committee recommendations were approved by the Representative Council, effective this season: (1) MHSAA tournament games will end when the score differential reaches 18 goals any time after three quarters, and (2) A regulation that prohibits games against unregulated teams from states that do not sponsor boys lacrosse (e.g., Indiana) was approved.

BOYS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION

Due to lower than expected attendance for the past several years, the coaches association will discontinue the coaches and officials forum held at the MHSAA on the first Sunday of March. The association will consider other opportunities for coaching improvement. The ease of the online rules meeting was another reason for low attendance.

OFFICIALS

Two MHSAA training programs will be offered for new officials as in years past, and many local association training opportunities continue as well. As of April 17, 2018, there were 281 registered boys lacrosse officials, a decrease of 32 officials at this same point in 2017.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

As of Oct. 15, 2018, there are 130 teams involving 166 schools (28 cooperative programs). There are 67 Division 1 teams with enrollments of 1,482 students and above and 63 teams in Division 2 with enrollments below 1,481 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 2019 include two cooperative programs: (1) Livonia-Stevenson (Churchill and Franklin), Muskegon-Mona Shores (Muskegon Catholic Central, Western Michigan Christian and Fruitport), and a new team from East Kentwood.

(OVER)

2018-19 TOURNAMENT SEEDING

Three MHSAA staff members (Andy Frushour, Tony Bihn and Adam Ryder) joined the meeting to discuss replacing LaxPower with an MHSAA ranking system, MPR – Michigan Power Ranking – for the 2019 season. The schedules, scores and MPR by Region will be visible on MHSAA.com. The MPR is only part of the overall criteria used to seed the tournament and is a common approach to seeding which involves 25 percent winning percentage, 50 percent opponents winning percentage and 25 percent opponent's opponents winning percentage. The seeding criteria for the MHSAA tournament is very similar to years past except that LaxPower is replaced with MPR. MPR does NOT include any score differential component (formerly up to ten goals). Varsity schedules will be submitted through MHSAA.com and updated as changes are made. During the season, varsity scores must be reported to MHSAA.com within 24 hours of the game being completed. This is required for the late season seeding done in May.

Eight of the coaches serving on the committee are assigned two Regions out of their Division to focus on in advance of the May 8, 2019 meeting. The committee determined that a note will be added to the seeding criteria that each of these committee members would email the coaches in the Regions they are focusing on the week before the May meeting, seeking input on the MPR ranking as posted and seeding of the tournament.

2018-19 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.

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 8, 2019, 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 6, 2018.

2020 MHSAA TOURNAMENT

The committee again discussed the concept of 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 teams across both Divisions play in the same tournament. The remaining members of the committee discussed increasing to three Divisions, and rather than dividing by enrollment, draw the Division lines based on the MPR raking. It was also suggested that the MPR be viewed for two Divisions. There was consensus that more study and discussion was needed on this topic if it was to be ready for Representative Council action in May 2019. The committee asked that the MHSAA convene a second meeting in the winter. A tentative meeting is scheduled in the MHSAA for the Lacrosse Committee on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Expand the MHSAA tournament to three Divisions for the 2020 season, based not on the enrollment of schools but on the Michigan Power Ranking. Also, explore a two-division tournament based on the MPR. An additional committee meeting will be held. (Adopted 7-0)