

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING
East Lansing, October 13, 2016

Members Present

Cory Anderson Forest Hills Northern & Eastern
Sue Calvo, Swartz Creek (MIAAA)
Jim Carl, Brighton, (Coaches Assoc.)
Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids (Advisory)
Brian Gordon, Novi
Ed Greenman, Battle Creek-Harper Creek
Mike Jolly, Warren-DeLaSalle (Advisory)
Brian Kaminskas, Clarkston
Rich Kimball, Lansing Catholic & Waverly
Pat Marsman, Holland-West Ottawa

Eugene Talbot, Lowell
Pat Watson, West Bloomfield
Mike Van Antwerp, Okemos
John Zajac, Tecumseh

Member Absent

Jack Robenalt, Ann Arbor-Skyline

Staff Members Present

Cole Malatinsky
Tom Rashid (Recorder)

INTRODUCTION

Well in advance of the meeting, the committee was emailed the minutes of the two previous committee meetings, 2017 classification of teams, cooperative programs, tournament brackets and dates, and 2017 NFHS rule changes. The committee received a chronology of NFHS Boys Lacrosse rule changes from 2004-05 through 2016-17 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 2016, a Boys Lacrosse Committee recommendation was approved by the Representative Council to change the Boys Lacrosse Tournament to an eight Regional format with four Quarterfinal and two Semifinal games in 2017. The Council did not approve beginning the tournament midweek before Memorial Day, with the Final on the third weekend following Memorial Day. The Regionals may start Thursday, May 18, in 2017 with no change in the Final date. The committee was reminded of the extensive process used to make this decision including the committee's discussion, a January 2017 conference call, February 2017 subcommittee meeting and a survey of all lacrosse schools which led to the change in format and calendar decision.

BOYS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION

Jim Carl of Brighton, President of the MHSLCA, reported on a meeting at the MHSAA on Oct. 2, 2016 where the player award process was revised. The coaches association will again host a coaches and officials forum at the MHSAA on the first Sunday of March (March 5, 2017) which will include an MHSAA rules meeting. The coaches association is also sponsoring a chartered bus to the US Lacrosse conference in January.

OFFICIALS

Four officials associations operated during the 2015-16 season: Michigan Lacrosse Officials (MichLoa), Grand Rapids Area Lacrosse Officials, Capital Area Officials, and the Kalamazoo Lacrosse Officials Association. 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 officials assignments were presented and no changes made for 2016-17. 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 11, 2016, there were 296 registered boys lacrosse officials, down from 307 at this same point in 2015.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

In 2016-17, there are 123 teams involving 142 schools (20 cooperative programs). There are 59 Division 1 teams with enrollments of 1,601 students and above and 64 teams in Division 2 with enrollments below 1,600 students. Two teams have opted up to play in Division 1. Seven teams involving five schools have added boys lacrosse for the 2016-17 season; two in each division. A report of all teams changing divisions due to enrollment or cooperative program adjustments was presented.

2016-17 TOURNAMENT REVIEW

The Committee had no suggestions for change to past policies, including the alternative site policy for all games except the Final and the preference for artificial turf fields whenever possible. The committee discussed Quarterfinal game assignments and indicated it was acceptable for a team to host its own Quarterfinal game, just as is the case for Regional games. The 2016 Finals will again be at Howell-Parker Campus.

ONLINE RULES MEETING – POINTS OF EMPHASIS

NFHS rule changes and points of emphasis for 2017 were presented to the committee with no additional points added. The MHSAA online rules meeting will run from Monday, Jan. 30 to midnight Thursday, April 13, 2017. Two in-person rules meetings are planned for Feb. 9, 2017 at Birmingham Seaholm (6 pm) in conjunction with the local officials association and at the MHSAA Coaches & Officials Forum on Sunday March 5, 2017 at the MHSAA office in East Lansing.

2016-17 REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS & TOURNAMENT

The Committee made no changes to the preseason and late season seeding criteria for the coming season. An edit was made to the layout of the preseason criteria for 2017-18 to be more in line with past practices. The performance from **two** years prior will be listed as an additional factor for seeding and not a headline factor.

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 10, 2017, 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 8, 2017. The committee clarified that if a 9th or 10th team were placed into a Region, the Preregional game would be between the lower seeds (e.g., 8 vs 9, 7 vs 10) with the winner advancing to play the higher seeds in the first round. In May 2017, the committee will review the bracket for seeds below the 5th spot and may change a team's opponent and seeding if travel is excessive. Each coach on the committee was 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 10, 2017 meeting.

LIMITATIONS ON COMPETITION

Because there is an inordinate number of middle school age boys lacrosse teams operating outside of MHSAA membership, the committee reviewed high school and middle school contest limits. While the number of games in a season, week and day generally played by non-school boys lacrosse teams was considered too high, MHSAA limits on competition may be so low as to discourage middle schools from sponsoring boys lacrosse, which exists in many communities but unattached from the school and often connected to for-profit entities. The committee recommended one change to the high school and middle school competition limitations to also allow multi-team events on a day not followed by school – Friday. Currently, multi-team events can only occur on non-school days. Without increasing the 13-week middle school season length, the committee recommended increasing the middle school number of allowed dates from 12 to 15 and from two to four the allowance for multi-team tournaments. It also recommended increasing the running time allowance for a multi-team tournament from 150 to 160 minutes, allowing four games of 20-minute running time halves to be played in a multi-team tournament.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Permit high school and junior high/middle school multi-team tournaments to be played on days not followed by school (generally a Friday). Increase the junior high/middle school maximum dates from 12 to 15 over the same number of weeks (13) and from two to four the allowed number of junior high/middle school multi-team tournaments. Increase the maximum running time minutes for a junior high/middle school multi-team event from 150 to 160 minutes, thus allowing four games with 20-minute halves. (Adopted 11-1).