

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
**BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
East Lansing, May 10, 2017 9:30 am

**Committee 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 De-LaSalle (Advisory)  
Brian Kaminskis, Clarkston  
Dave Kransberger, Grand Rapids Christian  
Rich Kimball, Lansing Catholic & Waverly

Pat Marsman, Holland West Ottawa  
Jerry Meter, Bloomfield Hills  
Pat Watson, West Bloomfield  
Mike Van Antwerp, Okemos

**Members Absent**

John Zajac, Tecumseh

**Staff Members Present**

Cole Malatinsky  
Tom Rashid (Recorder)

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION**

The agenda and minutes of the May 11, 2016 and Oct. 13, 2016 meetings were presented in advance. The Committee was informed of the Representative Council's approval on May 8, 2017 of lacrosse committee recommendations from the Oct. 2016 meeting. The Council approved allowing high school and middle school games to also now be played on days not followed by school (generally Fridays). The also approved an increase of middle school dates of competition from 12 to 15 but within the 13 week season and increased the number of multi team tournaments, which count as one of the allowed 15 dates, from two to four. Middle school multi team tournament running time minutes was increased from 150 to 160 minutes allowing four games to be played with 20 minute running time halves. It was the hope of the committee that these reasonable yet increased limits on competition will encourage more middle school sponsorship of boys lacrosse.

**2017 TOURNAMENT AND PAIRINGS**

A committee member from the opposite division was assigned in advance to preliminarily seed two regions each and share their work with other members. The Monday prior to the meeting, MHSAA Staff sent an Excel spread sheet with updated scores and power rankings to the eight coaches doing preliminary seeding. The preliminary recommendations of each committee member were submitted to the full committee which finalized the brackets based on the criteria. The late season Regional alignments for Division 1, Regions 1-8 and Division 2, Regions 9-16 were set based upon the pre-determined criteria from #1 seed to #9 seed depending on the number of teams in each Region. The committee then looked at the matchups and did not find it necessary to change games between 5 and 9 seeds to reduce travel. The pairings were posted on MHSAA.com the afternoon of the meeting, are final and not subject to appeal. Quarterfinal and semifinal pairings were determined. Division 1: Regions 7 vs 3 and 1 vs 2, (winners play in semifinals), Regions 4 vs 6 and 8 vs 5 (winners play in semifinals). Division 2: Regions 11 vs 12 and 14 vs 16 (winners play in semifinals); Regions 9 vs 10 and 13 vs 15 (winners play in semifinals).

A history of semifinal and final sites and contests since the start of the MHSAA tournament was provided. Potential quarterfinal and semifinal sites were submitted for games on Fri. June 2 or Sat. June 3, 2017 (quarterfinals) and Wed. June 7, 2017 (semifinals). The policy was reviewed that a team may play at its own field in a quarterfinal game and, while not preferred, a host may also be a home team in the semifinal round. While turf fields are preferred, geography and field locations may not permit all games to be on turf especially when a mid-way point is sought for west vs. east semifinals. The committee emphasized its strong preference for turf fields at the semifinal level and that teams not play at their own field in a semifinal. Staff will make every effort to accommodate this preference.

The 2017 MHSAA Final doubleheader will be at Howell Parker Middle School on Saturday, June 10, 2017 - Div. 1 at 2 pm; Div. 2 at 4:30 pm. The girls lacrosse finals will be at the opposite game times at neighboring Brighton High School.

Continued:

### **2018 TOURNAMENT – FUTURE AGENDAS**

Because the 2017 tournament will be the first year of the expanded 16 region format, committee members will evaluate and make suggestions at the October 2017 meeting. Under consideration will be the following: Because several regional semifinals are set for Wednesday, consider expanding the allowable days for semifinal rounds at regional sites to be from the Tuesday to Friday, the week before Memorial Day. Consider if a one-year history for preseason seeding is appropriate and if in 2018, teams who win a regional the previous year (2017) be an automatic seeded team in a region as opposed to by committee review. Consider a rule that would prohibit an MHSAA lacrosse team from competing against non-sanctioned, out-of-state teams whose schools may be members of their state association but whose teams are not governed by state association rules (i.e. sport academies with unlimited travel, number of contests, etc.). Determine the impact on tournament seeding of contests against 2<sup>nd</sup> varsity or “B” teams. The Committee expressed concern that B teams who move players between two varsity teams may exceed the 18 days of competition in a season or three games allowed in a week and asked MHSAA Staff to inquire.

### **OFFICIALS**

The committee discussed that many regular season games in Southeast Michigan were canceled or not allowed to be scheduled on certain dates due to official's availability. This is due in part to the volume of games at all levels, the number of officials, the preference for three officials on a varsity game and the far too frequent changes to schedules by teams. MHSAA Staff and school staff will be meeting over the summer with official's leadership and assigners to discuss.

Boys lacrosse officials must be members in good standing of an approved local officials association to work the MHSAA tournament. Since 2014, three officials are assigned to all rounds; a fourth CBO is assigned at the semifinal and final games. Committee members were presented a list of 132 MHSAA registered officials who completed a rules meeting. Of this number, 90 were members in good standing of an approved local officials association and had completed a rules meeting. Recommendations from Lacrosse Officials Associations and MHSAA registered assigners and officials' schedules for most of the current season were received by staff. MHSAA Staff prepared recommendations for assignments based, in part, on officials who had accumulated sufficient numbers of ratings and had three or more years of MHSAA registration. The committee reviewed and approved assignments subject to MHSAA Staff implementation for tournament games from Regional Semifinal through MHSAA Finals. MHSAA Staff will assign selected officials and replacements to specific games. Officials for the regional first round at the home site will be the responsibility of the home school, which will be the top team on the bracket.

As of April 17, 2017, a total of 313 boys lacrosse officials had registered with the MHSAA for the 2016-17 school year; an increase of 17 officials; (296 officials in 2016).

### **2017-18 LACROSSE PLANNING AND PREPARATION**

The number of teams, schools and cooperative agreements since 2006-07 was presented. In 2016-17, there were 124 teams among 151 schools (23 cooperative programs; 59 teams in Div. 1; 65 teams in Div. 2). The classification splits for 2017-18 is as follows: Division 1 - 1,549 students and above, Div.2 – 1,548 students and below. It was noted that moving up to Division 1 in 2018 will be Ann Arbor Huron, Grosse Pointe South and Saginaw Heritage. After the 2017-18 division list was compiled, a cooperative program between Lake Fenton and Goodrich was added and will be participating in the 2018 tournament.

In preparation for the October 2017 meeting, returning members were asked to consider if the multi team tournament allowance at the high school level should give the option to play two full regular timed games (no overtimes) rather than three running time games with 25 minute halves (currently allowed in girls lacrosse).

### **2017-18 MEETING DATES**

Thurs. Oct. 12, 2017 and Wed. May 9, 2018

There were no recommendations to the Representative Council.