

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

Jerry Meter, Bloomfield Hills
Cody Smith, Macomb-L'Anse Creuse North
Peter Ryan, Saginaw
Mike Van Antwerp, Okemos

Member Absent

Pat Marsman, Holland West Ottawa

Staff Members Present

Cole Malatinsky
Tom Rashid (Recorder)

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

The agenda and minutes of the May 10, 2017 and Oct. 12, 2018 meetings were presented in advance. The Committee was informed of the Representative Council's approval on May 6, 2018 of two lacrosse committee recommendations from the October 2017 meeting.

- Beginning with the 2019 tournament, an MHSAA tournament game will end when an 18-goal margin is reached any time after the third quarter is completed. The 12-point goal point differential running clock in the second half continues.
- A revision of Regulation II, Section 6(A) regarding contests with out-of-state schools. All schools and teams must be 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 member state association does not sponsor a statewide 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.

2018 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 pairings were posted on MHSAA.com the afternoon of the meeting; all seeds and placement on the bracket were final and not subject to appeal. Quarterfinal and semifinal pairings were determined. Division 1: Regions 4 vs 7 and 8 vs 2, (winners play in semifinals), Regions 6 vs 3 and 1 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 1 or Sat. June 2, 2018 (quarterfinals) and Wed. June 6, 2018 (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 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.

Continued:

The 2018 MHSAA Final doubleheader will be at Howell Parker Middle School on Saturday, June 9, 2018 - Div. 1 at 4:30 pm; Div. 2 at 2:00 pm. The girls lacrosse finals will be at the opposite game times at Grand Ledge High School

2018 TOURNAMENT – FUTURE AGENDAS

Some larger concerns about the state of the sport were presented to the committee for consideration and discussion in October 2018.

- While there are several middle school age youth lacrosse teams in Michigan, a very small number of MHSAA member middle schools actually sponsor lacrosse. The costs to families, excessive competition, lack of oversight and educational athletic philosophy are among some of the detractors of non-school programs. The MHSAA recently increased the lacrosse limits from 12 to 15 contests and now permits four multi team middle school tournament dates that allow 20 minute running time halves. What can be done to increase middle **school** sponsorship?
- In the 13th year of MHSAA sponsorship only four schools have ever played in the Division 1 Final and only seven schools in the Division 2 Finals. Of these 11 teams, four have appeared one time in a final game. The MHSAA tournament structure changed in 2017 to increase the number of regional champions from four to eight in each division. What are the causes of this monopoly by a few teams? What can be done and by whom to improve the quality of play so more teams experience tournament success?
- The shortage of officials has long been a problem in lacrosse. The number of coaches and quality of coaching is also a significant problem that may be related to the other concerns expressed. Can more be done to increase the number, quality and retention of both officials and coaches?

TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

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 155 MHSAA registered officials who completed a rules meeting. Of this number, 85 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, 2018, a total of 281 boys lacrosse officials had registered with the MHSAA for the 2017-18 school year; a decrease of 32 officials; (313 officials in 2017).

2018-19 LACROSSE PLANNING AND PREPARATION

The number of teams, schools and cooperative agreements since 2006-07 was presented. In 2017-18, there were 129 teams among 160 schools (24 cooperative programs; 64 teams in Div. 1; 65 teams in Div. 2). The classification splits for 2018-19 is as follows: Division 1 – 1,482 students and above; Division 2 – 1,481 students and below. It was noted that moving up to Division 1 in 2019 will be Caledonia, and Haslett-Williamston; Muskegon Mona Shores (a cooperative program among Mona Shores, Muskegon Catholic Central, Muskegon Western Michigan Christian, and Fruitport), who sponsored a team in 2018, but did not participate in the MHSAA tournament, will be competing Division 1 tournament in 2019. Teams moving down to Division 2 will be Madison Heights Bishop Foley and Pinckney. South Lyon and South Lyon East will also both be competing in the Division 2 tournament as separate teams after the dissolving of the cooperative program between the two schools following the 2018 season.

2018-19 MEETING DATES

Thurs. Oct. 11, 2018 and Wed. May 8, 2019

There were no recommendations to the Representative Council.