

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING
East Lansing, October 8, 2019

Members Present

Steve Ayre, Tecumseh
Jim Carl, Brighton, (Coaches Assoc.)
Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids (Advisory)
Mike DeWitt, Rockford
Robert Dowd, Troy Athens
Mike Jolly, Warren De-LaSalle (Advisory)
Nicole Norris, East Lansing (MIAAA)
Chris Riker, Portage Northern

Matt Wilson, Bloomfield Hills
Kevin Wolma, Hudsonville

Member Absent

Cody Smith, Romeo

Staff Members Present

Cole Malatinsky
Tom Rashid (Recorder)

INTRODUCTION

Weeks prior to the meeting, the committee was emailed the link to minutes of three previous committee meetings, 2020 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 from coaches and officials was also sent in advance with the agenda.

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 oversight, seeding, Regional alignment and officials' selection) were reviewed. In May 2019, one Boys Lacrosse Committee recommendations was approved by the Representative Council that permits a team to play two full games with one overtime as one of its two multi-team events in a season. At this same meeting, the Council deferred to its December 2019 meeting a decision on expanding the boys lacrosse tournament to three divisions in 2020-21. The three division proposal was referred to both the boys and girls lacrosse committee for any further comment.

BOYS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION

The Michigan High School Lacrosse Coaches Association (MHSLCA) is sponsoring a free Coaching Clinic on Tues. Oct. 29, 2019 (6-8 pm) at Catholic Central H.S. in Novi. The MHSLCA is discussing internally its honor team selections. A second meeting is scheduled for Jan. 25, 2020 to finalize the process for this spring.

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 16, 2019, a total of 267 boys lacrosse officials had registered with the MHSAA for the 2017-18 school year; a decrease of 14 officials (281 officials in 2018). The Committee discussed correspondence from one official who resigned from lacrosse due in part to the abuse encountered in youth lacrosse. It was pointed out that while high school lacrosse has room for improvement regarding the treatment of officials, the youth lacrosse problems appear much worse. The Committee instructed staff to make this a 2019-20 Rules Meeting Point of Emphasis to ask high school coaches to use their influence over non-school youth lacrosse programs to improve the sportsmanship and respect for officials among players and in particular parents and coaches.

DEFENDING ONES OWN GOAL IN 2ND & 4TH QUARTERS

After discussion, the committee did not adopt a motion to require teams to defend their own goals as above in MHSAA tournament games to prevent players from contacting each other post game as they rush to meet their goaltender. Coaches should have the option to select their goal after the coin toss based on several factors and not be forced to defend any one goal. The Committee instructed MHSAA Staff to include as a Point of Emphasis beginning this spring in both regular season and MHSAA tournament games a protocol that the losing coach hold his players back and allow the winning team to reach their goaltender first. The winning team shall take the field first at games end.

Continued

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

As of Oct. 9, 2019, there are 134 teams involving 169 schools (26 cooperative programs). There are 66 Division 1 teams with enrollments of 1,512 students and above and 68 teams in Division 2 with enrollments below 1,511 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 2020 include two cooperative programs: Bay City John Glenn and St. Clair Shores Lake Shore. A new cooperative program among the three Warren Consolidated Schools is in process that will result in one less team in Division 2 as Warren Cousino, Warren Mott and Sterling Heights form one team for a four-year period. This team will continue in Division 1. This four-year over 3,500 student allowance is due to the Mott-Sterling Heights cooperative team dropping Lacrosse in 2018-19.

2018-19 TOURNAMENT SEEDING

The coming 2020 season represents the second year the Michigan Power Rating will be used as one of the criteria in MHSAA Seeding. The Committee clarified recent past practice regarding pre-season seeding that relies primarily on the immediate past year's performance as opposed to a two-year performance. The bulleted criteria remained the same. If a tie exists, the criteria will be used to break the tie and may include reviewing the year prior to the most recent past season. These changes will be reflected in the seeding for the current 2019-20 season. The published criteria posted online will be updated to reflect this clarification.

The committee discussed and concluded that games played under the multi-team tournament allowance will count in MPR seeding but the Lacrosse Committee should be made aware of games played in less than 25-minute halves.

Eight of the coaches serving on the committee will be assigned two Regions out of their Division to focus on in advance of the May 6, 2020 meeting. Again this spring, each of these committee members are to 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.

2019-20 REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS & TOURNAMENT

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. Regions, without hosts designated, will be posted on MHSAA.com in the days ahead. On Wednesday, May 6, 2020, 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 4, 2020.

The committee reaffirmed two points regarding the 2019-20 tournament: 1) An alternate site and game location may be sought for games at a Regional host site with an option for a mutually agreed site and date change when both teams have extensive travel. 2) Regional semifinals may be scheduled on the Tuesday preceding Memorial Day (generally semifinals are on the Wednesday and Thursday of this week).

2021 MHSAA TOURNAMENT - THREE DIVISION PROPOSAL

MHSAA Staff member Cole Malatinsky provided the committee in advance of the meeting a theoretical three-division tournament based on 2019-20 enrollments and 2018-19 MPR. The committee reviewed a 2021 tournament calendar, three divisions based on enrollment, regional alignments and brackets through the final games based on MPR. Having viewed the material for three division in 2021, the following points were raised by committee members: 1) uncertain if three divisions accomplishes what is intended, 2) past finalists populated Divisions 1 and 3, none in division 2, 3) what of teams who opt up to avoid competition 4) three divisions may be considered a watered down tournament, 5) growth through regional tournament success was occurring based on the current structure of 8 regions per division and likely would continue with three divisions, 6) several four-team regionals were needed to create 8 regions per division, 7) logistics issues with sites, seeding and officials 8) consider three division when a higher number of teams sponsor the sport (150?).

A motion in the affirmative was made and seconded to advance the three division proposal to the Representative Council. The motion received no votes in favor and eight votes opposed to adopting the three division proposal at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Do not adopt, at its Dec. 2019 meeting expanding to three divisions in boys lacrosse. (Supported 8-0).