

## Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.

### BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 17, 2013

#### Members Present

Rob Dilday, Utica Schools  
Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids (Advisory)  
Greg Durham, Northville (Advisory)  
Tony DeMarco, (Official) Dearborn Heights  
Crestwood  
Mike Jolly, Warren De-LaSalle (Advisory)  
Nick Kocsis, Detroit-U of D Jesuit,  
Scott La Rente, Howell  
Pete Ryan, Saginaw Heritage  
Pete Sims, Rockford  
Tony Quinn, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central

#### Members Absent

Jim Carl, Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard  
Sue Calvo, Swartz Creek (MIAAA)  
Shawn Grady, Okemos (Coaches Association)  
Colin Ripmaster, Mattawan (MASSP)

#### Staff Member

Tom Rashid (Recorder)

### INTRODUCTION

The following materials were emailed to the committee several weeks prior: Minutes of the two previous committee meetings, information on upcoming officials training, 2013 Classification of teams, cooperative programs, tournament brackets and dates, 2013 NFHS rule changes. The committee also received 2013 Participating School Tournament Information, Tournament Managers Material and a 2013 study of NFHS Boys Lacrosse Injury Epidemiology. The multiple functions (sport, seeding, Regional alignment and officials selection) were reviewed and a history of recent recommendations to the Representative Council.

### BOYS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION

The Association held a modestly attended coaches clinic in December in Mid-Michigan and hopes to improve in the future. The rationale for the MHSAA travel limitation was reviewed. Exploitive and costly events designed to provide exposure to college coaches were discussed in light of the very few scholarships that actually exist. This is, in part, because lacrosse is an emerging sport. The Association again requested that recognition of its Hall of Fame selections be allowed to occur at the MHSAA Final Tournament without impacting the schedule of the games. The committee felt strongly this was the best venue to recognize those who have contributed so strongly to the growth of interscholastic lacrosse.

### OFFICIALS

There are three local approved officials associations operating in boys lacrosse at present. The tournament assignment structure was reviewed and the committee felt that based on the growth and play of the game there was a sufficient quantity of officials to request that beginning in 2014 the Representative Council increase from two to three the number of officials assigned to the MHSAA Pre-regional and Regional first round tournament games. These games are presently played at home sites with all income and expenses to the home teams. Beginning this spring of 2013, three officials or more will be assigned from Regional Semifinals forward. It was pointed out that many leagues are using three officials including the Oakland Activities, Catholic League and Tier I of the OK Conference. The committee again favors the assignment of new officials with veterans.

### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

In 2012-13 there are 105 Teams, 123 schools; 17 cooperative programs. There are 52 Div. 1 teams with enrollment of 1,600 and above and 53 Div. 2 teams with enrollments of 1,599 and below. New MHSAA teams include in Division 1 Grandville; Grand Ledge (which was previously in a cooperative agreement with Lansing Waverly and Lansing Catholic) and Rochester which was also a former co-op and now a stand-alone team. New Teams in Division 2 include Dearborn-Divine Child and Muskegon-Reeths Puffer.

OVER

## **TOURNAMENT REVIEW**

The Committee affirmed the alternative site policy for all games except the Final and the preference for artificial turf fields whenever possible. If grass is used, it is to be trimmed short. It was also affirmed that a team could host its own Semifinal. It was the strong opinion of the committee that the staff seeks a Final venue on the west side of the state in 2013, but not necessarily every year. East Grand Rapids High School will host the MHSAA Final in 2013.

## **ONLINE RULES MEETING – POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

The online rules meetings will run from Mon., Feb. 4 to midnight April 11, 2013. One face-to-face rules meeting will take place on Feb. 7, 2013 at Birmingham Seaholm (6 pm) in conjunction with the local officials association. There are fewer rule changes in 2013 than previous years. It was noted that the NFHS study showed 42% of injuries in boys lacrosse are to the head and face. Points of emphasis will include concussion awareness, taking the head out of the game, and a better awareness of out-of-season coaching limitations.

## **2012-13 REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS & TOURNAMENT**

The Committee affirmed the preseason and late season seeding criteria making adjustments to the preliminary seeding of eight teams per division prepared in advance by committee members. The committee ranked the teams 1-8 based on the criteria and placed two seeded teams in each region (1 vs. 8, 2 vs.7, 3 vs.6, 4 vs. 5). The regions were balanced geographically and potential sites were discussed. The regions were finalized pending staff securing host sites. On May 9, 2013 the committee will reconvene and place each team on the bracket based upon the written criteria and current season competition played on or before Sun., May 5, 2013.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

1. As an emerging sport, allow the opportunity for recognition of Hall of Fame honorees selected by the Boys High School Lacrosse Coaches Association at the MHSAA Finals without disrupting the schedule of games. (7-0)
2. Increase from two to three the number of officials assigned to the MHSAA preregional and first round Regional games beginning in 2013-14. (7-0)