

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

East Lansing, May 8, 2014 9:30 am

Committee Members Present

Sue Calvo, Swartz Creek (MIAAA)
Shawn Grady, Okemos (Coaches Assoc)
Mike Jolly, Warren De-LaSalle (Advisory)
Nick Kocsis, Detroit-U of D Jesuit,
Joe Koengeter, Chelsea
Scott La Rente, Howell
Jim Murray, Portage Central
Tony Quinn, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central
(Coaches Assoc.)
Pete Sims, Rockford
John Thompson, Brighton
Mike Van Antwerp, Holt

Mike Watson, Oxford

Absent

Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids (Advisory)
Tony DeMarco, (Official) Dearborn Heights
Mike Dungan, Rochester Hills-Stoney Creek
Steve Maiorana, Flint Powers

Staff Member

Cole Malatinsky
Tom Rashid (Recorder)

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

The agenda and minutes of the May 9, 2013 and January 17, 2014 meetings were presented in advance. The Representative Council is continuing to study a previous recommendation regarding recognition of coaching association honorees at MHSAA Finals in all sports.

2014 TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS

The late season Regional alignments for Division 1, Regions 1-4 and Division 2, Regions 5-8 were set based upon the pre-determined criteria from #1 seed to #14 seed depending on the number of teams in each Region. A committee member from the opposite division was assigned in advance to preliminarily seed each region and share their work with other members. These preliminary recommendations were submitted to the full committee which finalized the brackets. Criteria were presented and laxpower.com consulted. The pairings were posted on mhsaa.com the afternoon of the meeting, are final and not subject to appeal. The 2014 Semifinal pairings determined by the committee are: Division 1- Region 3 at 2 and Region 1 at 4; Division 2 – Region 8 at 5 and Region 6 at 7.

Six potential semifinal sites were also submitted and the policy reviewed that while not preferred, a host may also be a home team in the semifinal round. It was pointed out that 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 following sites have been secured and are holding their fields for a possible Semi Final: Birmingham Seaholm, Grand Rapids Christian, Grandville, Holt, Howell Parker Campus, Grosse Pointe South, Novi-Catholic Central.

The 2014 MHSAA Final Game will be at East Grand Rapids H.S. Saturday, June 7, 2014. Division 1 at 4:30 pm and Division 2 at 2 pm. These game times are the reverse of the girls lacrosse finals at Rockford H.S.

OFFICIALS

This was the second year of the requirement that officials must be members in good standing of an approved local officials association to work the MHSAA tournament. This is the first year that three officials will be assigned to all rounds of the MHSAA Tournament. The previous year in progression, three officials were assigned to the Regional Semifinal round. Committee members were presented a list of 118 MHSAA registered officials who had completed a rules meeting and had three or more years of MHSAA registration. Of this number, 95 were members in good standing of an approved officials association. Recommendations from three Lacrosse Officials Associations and three MHSAA registered assigners were presented to the committee as part of staff recommendations for assignments to tournament games from Regional Semifinal through MHSAA Finals.

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The three year average of official's ratings and number of ratings submitted for each official were also presented. The committee received a list of those officials who worked MHSAA Finals and Semifinals since the tournament first began in 2004-05. The committee made adjustments and finalized officials to fill 72 positions at Regional Semifinals and Finals, 16 Semifinal officials and eight Finals officials to the 2013 tournament. MHSAA staff will assign selected officials and replacements to specific games. Officials for the Pre-Regional games and first round at the home site will be the responsibility of the home school, which will be the top team on the bracket. Officials' schedules for most of the current season were also presented.

As of April 14, 2014 a total of 321 boys lacrosse officials registered with the MHSAA for the 2013-14 school year; an increase of 28 officials; (293 officials in 2013). The shortage of lacrosse officials is a concern given the growth at the high school and middle school age levels. Using three officials has also stretched the available pool of officials. Coaches and ADs are urged to help recruit officials.

2014-15 Lacrosse Planning and Preparation

The number of teams, schools and cooperative agreements since 2006-07 was reviewed indicating that in 2013-14 there were 111 teams among 130 schools (16 cooperative programs-57 Div., 1, 54 Div. 2). There was no change in the classification splits from 2013-14. Division 1 - 1,604 students and above, Div.2 – 1,600 students and below In 2014-15 it was noted that Grosse Pointe South and Rochester Adams move up to Div. 1, Warren Cousino, Rochester High and Davison move down to Div. 2. Three points are set for discussion in January 2015.

1. Consideration should be given to a change in the structure of the **2015-16** tournament regional game brackets. Consider a "play in bracket" within each region for teams seeded 9 and below. After two "play in" games among teams 9-16 the 7th and 8th seed would face the winners. It was also suggested that firm game dates be set for these two games, similar to predistrict baseball and softball. Possibly determine top tier seeds (1-8) and lower tier seeds (1-9) in January, so lower tier teams can save two dates the week following the May meeting. The May meeting would then place teams on the bracket within their predetermined tier based on the established criteria including games played to that point.

As the numbers of teams increase so has the number of preregional games to a total of 46 games overall in 2013-14. Among the eight regions, one region has four preregional games, one has five, five regions held six games and one has seven preregional games. The most that can be accommodated under the current bracket structure and calendar is eight preregional games in one region. There is room for seven more preregional games in Division 1 and nine in Division 2 which may impact geography among some already very large regions (e.g. Battle Creek to Bay City).

2. To relieve some of the travel within a region, a suggestion for 2014-15 surfaced that the Lacrosse Committee rearrange seeded teams on a bracket within two or three places for teams below the 9th seed travel is excessive and other options exist.
3. The committee discussed reseeding the original top eight teams in each division again in May based on performance up to the May meeting. This would likely move one or more seeded teams to another region to accomplish a 1 v. 8, 2 v. 7, 3 v. 6 and 4. v. 5 field which is currently not done in May (each region is seeded within). It may result in increased travel and weaker attendance if top seeded teams are far from host sites and problematic if a top seeded team is also a regional host.

Correspondence was presented from two coaches. One with suggestions for seeding and the other regarding turf and grass field for semifinal games.

The 2014-15 meeting dates are Thurs. Jan. 15, 2015 and Thurs. May 7, 2015

There were no recommendations to the Representative Council.