

GIRLS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, May 6, 2009

Members Present:

Jerry Cowan, Hartland
Keith Froelich, Okemos
Cindy Hill, Tecumseh
Carmen Kennedy, Grosse Pointe
Betsy Kreston, Flint
Ken Mohny, Mattawan
Marty Simmonds, Pontiac

Members Absent:

Timothy Hollern, Forest Hills
Mike Mehall, Farmington

Staff:

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp (Recorder)

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Girls Lacrosse Committee reviewed its responsibilities as a standing sports committee and the process of making recommendations to MHSAA staff and the MHSAA Representative Council. The Girls Lacrosse Committee's function is to also assist with the assignment of tournament officials. Committee meeting minutes from the May 7, 2008 and January 15, 2009 Girls Lacrosse Meetings were again reviewed as well as the posted Lacrosse Participating School Team Information and the Tournament Manager's Manual. The Committee adopted both documents for the 2009 season.

2009 GIRLS LACROSSE TOURNAMENT

Fifty-one teams (representing 66 schools) will participate in the Girls Lacrosse Tournament that concludes at Bloomfield Hills Lahser on Saturday, June 6, 2009 with twenty-five teams in Division 1 and twenty-six teams in Division 2. In an effort to allow spectators the option to attend both the boys and girls lacrosse contests, the girls Division 1 Finals are scheduled for 5 p.m. and Division 2 Finals are scheduled for 2 p.m. at Bloomfield Lahser High School. Boys lacrosse is scheduled at Troy Athens at 5 p.m. (Division 2) and 2 p.m. (Division 1). Additional information regarding the lacrosse tournament is found on mhsaa.com.

ASSIGNMENT OF TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

The committee's function over this transitional period is to assist with the assignment of tournament officials. Ratings and schedules of girls lacrosse officials were available to provide additional assistance. Currently there are 154 (37 more than in 2008) officials who are registered in girls lacrosse and great progress has been made in terms of the recruitment, registration and training of girls lacrosse officials. This continues to be a priority of the committee members and the MHSAA. Of the 154 registered, 78 officials were eligible for tournament assignment.

The Girls Lacrosse Committee members offered input on the selection of tournament officials for regional semi-finals, regional finals, semi-finals, and finals. Assignments were also made to any first round regional game that was scheduled prior to the Committee meeting. Official's schedules and ratings were perused and officials were selected for tournament play. Girls lacrosse officials were notified of their assignment on Friday, May 8, 2009 by email and are expected to contact the MHSAA if they are unable to accept an assignment.

2009-10 PLANNING AND PREPARATION

The three-year provision for co-ops to exist over the 3500 cap concludes after the 2008-09 lacrosse season for schools that started lacrosse in 2006-07. Current cooperative programs were discussed and the schools that may be in their final year of the three year allowance must comply with the enrollment cap prior to the 2009-10 season.

Emphasis remains on the necessity to give assistance to schools regarding the enforcement of regular season policies that leagues normally follow regarding schedules and the assignment of officials, as well as promoting lacrosse within existing local conferences. Committee members remain committed to providing assistance in establishing new local lacrosse leagues and local officials associations for the 2009-10 school year and indicated their awareness of additional schools offering girls lacrosse.

In addition, the Committee determined and re-emphasized that the 2009-10 Official Rules for Girls and Women's Lacrosse would be followed – including rules of time factors and scoring (Rule 4) – unless a school, league or conference (with MHSAA concurrence) indicated otherwise. (7-0)

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL FEDERATION

The rules of girls lacrosse were discussed by the Committee with the possibility of providing a proposal to the National Federation of State High School Associations for review by the Girls US Lacrosse Committee. Concern again was expressed regarding the differences in the marking of fields for boys and girls lacrosse and that every effort should be made to provide some consistency to the line markings.

LACROSSE RULES AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR 2009-10

The lacrosse rules meeting schedule was discussed with the understanding that all 2009-10 rules meetings will be on-line next year. In addition, the MHSAA has one girls lacrosse face-to-face meeting scheduled at the MHSAA Offices on Wednesday, March 24, 2009.

EDUCATION

It was requested that it be reiterated with all assignors to be consistent in the placement of all officials and to follow MHSAA guidelines. Assignors are not to establish additional conditions for officials to be placed in regular season contests.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

The committee discussed additional ways to attract more schools and players to girls lacrosse. Conversation included what was presently occurring in leagues and conferences. Committee members will continue to work with schools for additional expansion.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

There were no recommendations to the Representative Council.