

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
2021-22 VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 2, 2021

Members Present:

Nicole Carter, Novi
Ramona Cox, Detroit
Kyle Duby, Mesick
Mary Haslinger, Flint
Steve Humm, Alma
D.J. Kellogg, Plymouth
Jean LaClair, Bronson (MIAAA)
Mike Roberson, Grand Haven
Heather Sawyer, Battle Creek (MIVCA)
Mike Roberson, Grand Haven
Robert Wright, Sand Creek
Shannon Taylor, Clare

Members Absent:

Tony Burton, Brown City
Toni Cole, East Kentwood

Others Present:

Meaghan Rourke, MATS

MHSAA Staff:

Andi Osters (Recorder)

INTRODUCTION

The 2021-22 MHSAA Volleyball Committee met virtually on Dec. 2, 2021, via Zoom. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision making process and charge of the Volleyball Committee. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members and the coaches' association. The committee was reminded that the scope of their work was to focus on growing the game of volleyball, protecting the health & safety of participants, and maintaining the proper philosophy of educational, school-based athletics.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

RULE MODIFICATIONS

The committee discussed the continued rule modification provided for team benches – allowing both teams to retain the same bench throughout a match unless a clear disadvantage is present on one side of the net. This topic will be a point of emphasis for officials in the 2022 MHSAA Rules Meeting to address the mechanics of the pre-match conference and how the 'clear disadvantage' should be determined and applied.

SEEDING/MPR/MATCH FORMATS

Several pieces of correspondence requesting seeding for the MHSAA Volleyball tournament led to a wide-ranging conversation about the concept. Ultimately, the collection of every game schedule and score would be required to apply MPR to volleyball. Most committee members agreed that in volleyball, when many teams play 60 or more matches in a single season, this would be a daunting task for both the volleyball community and MHSAA staff. Match formats at the varsity level also vary drastically from schedule to schedule. Some wondered if a more standardized set of contest limits would help coaches and ADs submit schedules and ultimately input their game scores. MIVCA board members at the meeting agreed to informally survey coaches and gauge their appetite for several options (restricting number of multi-team tournament dates, further limiting the number of allowed sets in a day, etc.).

MHSAA FINALS VENUE

Committee members were provided a report of MHSAA Championships held at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek on November 18-20, 2021. A proposal from Discover Kalamazoo was also presented, which led to a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of each potential location for the Semifinal and Final rounds of the MHSAA tournament. Conversations with Battle Creek personnel indicate that many capital improvements are scheduled to be complete in the summer of 2023, including completion of the attached hotel property and atrium parcels, and the possibility of a new sport court for the arena. Staff will continue to work with the Calhoun County CVB to ensure timelines are on pace for 2023.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

MHSAA Participation surveys indicate that approximately 50 MHSAA member schools currently sponsor boys volleyball at some level (varsity, club, intramural, etc.). Most schools sponsoring the sport are adhering to MHSAA Handbook guidelines regarding eligibility, contest limits, etc. The committee reviewed the MHSAA Handbook regulation regarding tournament sponsorship and Title IX requirements and agreed to continue monitoring sport growth in the spring of 2022. It was noted that the addition of Girls Wrestling as a sponsored sport could be paired with Boys Volleyball when the time for sponsorship arises.

NFHS PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

Members of the committee were provided the 27 proposed rules changes for the NFHS Volleyball Committee. Rules discussion centered on jewelry prohibitions, several uniform requirements, and libero play at the net. Staff will provide feedback to the Section 4 Representative on the NFHS Volleyball Committee in the coming weeks.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS (NO ACTION)

1. Site Selection Committee
2. Participation limits
3. Out-of-Season Coaching
4. Summer and Out-of-Season Transportation
5. 2021 MHSAA Update Meeting Survey Results

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MHSAA STAFF

1. Adjust MHSAA Finals game schedule to 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm.

NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MHSAA REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL