Softball Committee Meeting Minutes February 5, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Rachael Moo. David Reid chaired the meeting in the absence of Martha Jamieson.

Attendance: Nicole Viele, Glen Gearin, Avery Esdaile, Christopher Scully, Mark Miville, David Reid, Michael Rubin, Elizabeth York, Tom Schnepp, David Stratton, Chris Barbarotta, Joseph McSpirit, Michael Gerrish, Ellen Sullivan, Annette DiMascio, Kelly Farley, Mike Kuchieski, and Luis Mecedo

Minutes from the October 24, 2018 were accepted.

2019 Format: Committee members reviewed the 2019 Softball Tournament Format and corrections were made on dates. Luis Mecedo suggested that “school issued uniforms be worn for the presentation of awards” be written in the format. The committee agreed. There was discussion on tournament rotation. There will be no tournament rotation as new sites have become available.

National Federation: Rule changes for 2019 were discussed. Two rules particularly highlighted were:

a. The pitcher must have two feet in contact with the pitching rubber to start the pitch.

b. Pitchers must pitch to the batter, no intentional walks.

Electronic Ticketing:

a. Programs will be available on the website.

b. Fans will be able to purchase tickets on the website.

There was discussion and it was decided that a hybrid method of purchasing tickets be used this spring. Fans will be able to purchase tickets on the website as well as at the gate.

Educational Athletics:

Rachael reminded the committee of the life related activities offered and listed on the website. Faces of Addiction on February 15th and Community Service Showcase on May 3rd.

TMC Update:

Sherry Bryant and Jim O’Leary presented and explained the Tournament Management Committee’s alignment process beginning 2021. (see attached document)

In an effort to be consistent, equitable and balanced the TMC will adopt a statewide format for tournament play. The TMC committee will receive feedback on this policy and there will be a special vote in the fall.
Upcoming Dates:
    Spring Tournament Directors Workshop  -  May 1, 2019

    Softball seeding  -  June 4, 2019

Reminder: Please submit nomination form for "Official of the Year"

Next Meeting:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.
Tournament Management Committee (TMC) Meeting Highlights

March 19, 2019

The MIAA Tournament Management Committee had their scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2019. The following information is newsworthy and is provided to keep you updated of the actions of your Association.

Discussion and voting in the following areas took place based on recent feedback from membership to TMC members:

Tie Breaker Policy

Motion: Remove Item #2, Most Wins, from the original procedure.

Defeated 3-12.

Motion: Change the language for Item #4, Record Against Common Opponents, to Winning Percentage Against Common Opponents and flip item #2 and #4 from original plan:

Approved 15-0 Effective Fall 2019

This will be the new Tie Breaking Procedure effective fall 2019:

1. Head to Head Competition
2. Winning Percentage Against Common Opponent
3. League Champion

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4. Most Wins

5. Coin Flip

Site Policy: Numerous discussion points were addressed including: The language "pre-determined" implies that the site should be posted as soon as the site is known; equity of venue options (college venue vs TD Garden); and, higher teams not having to play at a lower seeded home site.

Motion: Make a change to the current language in the Site Determination Policy (item #2) from:

Sectional Semi-Final and Final rounds: will be played at predetermined sites meeting the sport specific standards. This means that a team will play on their home field/site if that site has been predetermined as a tournament host.

Proposed change:

Sectional Semi-Final and Final rounds: may be played at predetermined sites meeting the sport specific standards. This means that a team may play on their home field/site if that site has been predetermined as a tournament host.

Motion to be effective Spring 2019.

Defeated 4-11.

The committee will revisit Site Policy process in the May meeting.

Release of Seedings:

The release of tournament seeding information is not consistent throughout Districts/Divisions. Discussion on seeding process will occur at May TMC meeting after gathering more information on release of seeding process from members is gathered.

Statewide Tournament Proposal: TMC reviewed draft of Statewide Tournament Proposal. A suggestion to create a visual with important upcoming dates, such as implementation of MaxPreps and potential new District Alignments, was made.

Personnel Fees: As per the budget process the tournament management committee considered recommendations for increases to personnel fees for the FY20 budget. Specific recommendations were made to increase the Site Manager stipends in the sports of Baseball, Field Hockey, Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Rugby, Volleyball, Basketball and Outdoor Track. This is an effort to help attract more member schools to consider hosting Association events. Discussion around the need to be cognizant and respectful of fiscal responsibility in current climate was emphasized.

Motion: Approve the proposed increases and move them forward in the budgeting process.

Approved 14-0.
The Wrestling Committee requested that restrictions in existing policies which limit payment on certain fees such as maintenance and security be amended to be in alignment with other sport committees.

**Motion:** Remove limits for police and/or security and custodians to support the needs of wrestling meets.

Approved 14-0.

Peter Rittenberg, Vice Chair of XC/Track and Field Committee representative spoke with the TMC regarding TMC oversight/governance relative to tournament formats, financials, and consistency as charged by the MIAA BOD. The Governance structure was discussed and communication, relative to process of addressing concerns, was reviewed. Mr. Rittenberg shared tournament experiences for XC and Indoor Track. Concern regarding Association communication pathways was discussed. The Governance procedure for bringing forth proposals was reviewed by TMC Chair Jim O’Leary. The XC/Track and Field Committee plans to request an agenda item to review a Committee tournament proposal to the Association. John Brown, Wellesley HS AD, inquired to why the MSTCA proposal that was approved by the XC/Track Committee at their special meeting on March 18, 2019 was not a TMC agenda item at this meeting. The Chair reiterated the Governance process for requests of this nature and how the meeting agenda had been set. TMC invited Mr. Rittenberg to have the MSTCA proposal forwarded to the Chair for inclusion on the May TMC meeting agenda. Derek Folan, Canton High School Principal emphasized the importance for a proposal of this nature to go through the appropriate Governance procedure which provides TMC members time to gather and vet feedback from their constituents as one part of the Governance process.

The next meeting for TMC is May 5, 2019. As always, all MIAA meetings are open.