MIAA Tournament Management Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 16, 2018

I. Call to order – 10:05 by Jim O’Leary

II. Committee Members Present – Sherry Bryant, Jim O’Leary, Dave Lezenski, Mike Deval, Bob Ware, Dave Reid, Johanna DiCarlo, Ed Maguire, Desi Vega, Derek Folan, John Brown, Shaun Hart, Mary Ryan, Pam Gould, Kara Sheridan, Jared Shannon

III. Approval of Minutes –

a. June 19, 2018 – Dave Reid moves to accept minutes, Mary Ryan seconds – 11-0-2

b. September 7, 2018 - Dave Reid moves to accept minutes, Mary Ryan seconds – 11-0-2

IV. Requests for Consideration

a. Volleyball – spring cut off dates

i. Brian McCann and Jess Winders presented. Looking to move the boys spring 2019 cutoff date from May 27th to May 20th and further requests that all future cutoff dates remains the Monday preceding Memorial Day, which has been the norm for years. Graduations tend to impact the indoor sports right after Memorial Day and impact their ability to get into the gym. Discussion among TMC surrounded the logistics of indoor and outdoor spring sports, weather, etc.

John Brown makes a motion to accept their appeal, Derek Folan seconds. 7-8. Appeal is denied.

b. Rugby – tournament site policy

i. Requesting a waiver regarding predetermined sites and the issue that the sport is still so new to the state, there aren’t a lot of sites that could do this appropriately. Third season of rugby. Numbers still increasing, but the committee feels that with only four teams qualifying and the fact that some schools don’t know how to set up the field, home sites makes more sense. Jim O’Leary commented that it is a different field to set up.

John Brown motions to accept the proposal, Dave Lezenski seconds. Mary mentioned that the site still needs to meet the criteria for a tournament. John amends his motion to include that this proposal still needs to ensure the tournament meet all MIAA requirement. Vote: 12-0-1. Appeal is affirmed.
V. **Winter Formats** – Jim talked about the process for determining winter formats and that by May 2019 everything should be in place. Sherry has been talking to members about the timelines. There is an understanding that some meeting dates will determine when these get done. All the ones she has accepted so far are in compliance. Hockey is a little different but Sherry is working with them on that. Sherry will post the formats as they are available.

VI. **BOD Charge**

   a. Feedback from Districts – Jim thanks anyone from the committee who has presented at the District meetings.

   *Mary Ryan (Cape Ann).* They would like to see sections. Private schools should maybe not be automatically moved up, some small ones could move down. They asked if maybe use a past tournament and do a study to see how it plays out. Shawn pointed out that someone did do that with baseball and it turned out pretty similar. Also felt that when the vote comes it should be electronic and there be absentee ballots for those who cannot attend. Jim pointed out that would just have to come from the Governance Committee.

   *Shawn Hart (District B)* – felt that it would be a big change, that they seem to like it, and are on board. Needs to be seen as a statewide tournament.

   *John Brown (District C)* – seemed clear that they were okay with the alignment plan. The statewide tournament drew opposition. They would like like a balanced sectional tournament with equal sections. Sherry also mentioned that no one wanted to leave it the way it is. They did want change. But maybe not what is proposed.

   *Mike Deval (District D)* – very positive, lot of listening. They felt it cleaned up a lot of the issues that have been in the past.

   *Dave Lezenski (Merrimack Valley)* – they were very receptive. There were questions, but overall really liked it. Hasn’t has the District A meeting yet.

   *Johanna DiCarlo (District E)* – Overall the response was positive and they are intrigued. They do feel that more work needs to be done. Questions around the power system.

   *Kara Sheridan (District F)* – big schools were happy with it, small schools were not. Small schools will struggle to get games if the power rankings don’t help the other team and their ranking. They like that their league works hard to help the small schools and the level of their competition. Concerned about divisional alignment and power rankings. Others said that shouldn’t matter. Only could if you are small and not good at all. Also worried about travel and the budget for that. They do acknowledge that it really isn’t working the way it is, but they are a bit nervous.
Jarred Shannon (District G) – some financial concerns. Also had some concerns about small schools but it was pointed out that there will be a Division 5. They know that some myths need to be debunked. Biggest issue was protecting the voice of the smaller districts. But overall are intrigued with the idea.

Jim O’Leary (District H) – most on board. Redistricting came up. Only concern was that some of them would automatically be put up a division, but the reality is that there are bigger things to worry about. School Choice came up as to the impact that may have.

b. Next Steps
   i. Jim and Sherry are starting to work on a timeline. They need to take the info from the districts and make some decisions with regard to rankings, etc. Jim pointed out that folks like the idea of the third party coming in to do the rankings.
   ii. Need to formalize before our November meeting – Johanna wonders if we need to give more info to the board before we actually vote.
   iii. Sherry noted that 11/7 is the next board meeting. She feels that we still have a bit of work to do before presenting to them. The one after that would be 12/12. Might be better timing to fine tune with sub committees.
   iv. Pam wondered how to best communicate to Superintendent’s. Sherry pointed out that there are all district communications that do go out, but she will talk with Bill about how he would prefer it is communicated to MASS. Maybe the January 2019 MASS meeting would be a good opportunity.

VII. Other
   a. Johanna has a request from tennis. Would like to know if we would allow an appeal regarding formatting and how things are perceived there (Walker vs winning percentage). Sherry indicated that District E should address the tennis committee directly.

   b. Jim talked about getting information about start dates

   c. Jim also reminded that we need to look at consistency of rules (NFHS)

VIII. Rules Packet – move this agenda item to 11/20 meeting

IX. Next Meeting Dates
   a. November 20, 2018 10AM
   b. December 11, 2018 10AM

X. Jim O’Leary adjourns meeting at 12:30pm