MIAA Tournament Management Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2018

I. Call to order – 10:01 am by Jim O’Leary, Chair

II. Committee members present: Sherry Bryant, David Keir, James O’Leary, David Reid, Edward Maguire, Mary Ryan, Dan Buron, Shaun Hart, Dave Lezenski, Johanna DiCarlo, Desi Vega, Dwayne Early, Pam Gould, Mike Lucas, John Brown, Jared Shannon, Bryan Lombardi, Bob Ware, Tasso Filledes, Jeff Newhall,

III. Minutes – A Motion was made by David Keir and seconded by John Brown to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2018 meeting as amended. Unanimous.

IV. Special Guests – the committee welcomed Bob Kuether, Chair of the Soccer Committee as well as Phil Vacarro and Phil Napolitano MIAA Liaisons to the Soccer Committee. Bob wanted to share the updated Tournament Format and answer any questions the committee had. The Soccer Committee did their normal review and made some minor changes. One change is the language around pre-determined sites as was requested by the TMC.

A question was asked about using member school sites for some of the neutral site games and Bob remarked that there are very few that volunteer the use of their facility. But he assured the TMC that they are always looking for the best possible sites for all games.

They did include this year the method for assigning officials which reflects what has happened in the past and will continue for now.

There was discussion regarding home and away uniforms and the change that NFHS has made and the format will be amended to reflect that change.

Discussion held about the minimum number of games that needs to be played to qualify and that the TMC will likely mandate a minimum number soon for all sports.

The TMC shared that down the road there will likely be a seeding method adopted by the TMC that all committees will need to use.

The other issue is that rest should not be a consideration by Tournament Directors when teams play in soccer. School should be allowed to play when it is most beneficial to them when hosting games and some teams may have to play with less rest than their opponents for many different reasons.
V. **Winter Tournament Brief Review** – discussed that it is looking like there will be less income from the winter tournaments continuing the trend we have seen for the last few years. Final numbers will be presented at May meeting. Gate Security and Ticketing are issues that will continue to be looked at because folks are trying all sorts of things to try and enter different venues without paying the ticket price.

VI. **Upcoming Presentations – Annual Meeting and MSSADA Conference**

The work of the TMC is on the agenda for both of these meetings in the near future and the committee discussed what should be presented at these venues.

The following should be addressed -

- The TMC has been given more power by the Board of Directors
- Consistency in seeding and qualification and tiebreakers.
- The TMC will have more input as to how tournaments are run as far as sites and assignment of officials.
- Consistency in Tournament Formats
- Alignment Policy & Procedures
- NFHS rules in all sports

Discussion was held that the TMC needs to put some kind of change or changes forward to let everyone know that this is really going to happen.

Sherry was asked to gather information about what states have true state tournaments so that we can use that to consider this for Massachusetts.

There was continued discussion about NFHS rules being used in all sports.

A motion was made by David Keir to require that starting with the 2019-2020 school year all sports will use NFHS rules if they are available in that sport. Mary Ryan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

There was also a motion made by Jeff Newhall that starting in the 2018-19 school year that all tiebreakers used in seeding tournaments will be consistent throughout all sports. Dave Lezenski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The Committee will decide what the procedure will be at the May meeting.

VII. **Proposed changes to Start/End dates** –

Dave Reid presented his thoughts about changing some of the start and end dates of the seasons. There was much discussion about the changes he proposes. He will formalize his recommendations based upon the committee’s input and come back to the May meeting for a vote.

Dave Lezenski made a motion to recommend to the Executive Director to move the cutoff date for all Spring sports 7 days later for the Spring, 2018 season. The motion was seconded by Desi Vega. Discussion held that with the current weather
and snow conditions and the pending storm that this seems to be the most prudent move to allow an easier finish to the Spring season. The vote was unanimous.

The possible changes to the start and end dates of each season should be added to the presentations at the Annual Meeting and MSSADA.

VIII. Update –
Sherry Bryant updated the TMC about the Blue Ribbon Task Force that is looking at gender issues across the Association. There are 4 TMC members on the Committee – Pam Gould, Johanna DiCarlo, Mary Ryan and David Keir. Sherry is also the MIAA Liason. The result of their work may have an impact on the TMC and they may have to deal with any recommendations that come out of the Task Force.

VIII. Next meeting will be held May 16, 2018

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Minutes submitted by: David Keir