MIAA Tournament Management Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2019

I. Call to order – 10:00 by Jim O’Leary

II. Committee Members Present – Jim O’Leary, Dave Reid, Desi Vega, Dwayne Early, Kara Sheridan, Ed Maguire, Dan Buron, Shaun Hart, Mary Ryan, Jared Shannon, John Brown, Johanna DiCarlo, Mike Devoll, Dave Lezenski, Derek Folan and Sherry Bryant

III. Approval of Minutes
   A. February 7, 2019 – Approved 15-0-0

IV. MSSADA & Annual Meeting Presentation
   A. Tie Breaker Policy – Proposed Revisions
      Based on the feedback and concerns regarding the tie breaking procedure, the committee motioned to remove Item #2 Most Wins of the Procedure
      Motion was Defeated 3-12-0
      Additional discussion regarding the other criteria Items used for the tie breaking procedure resulted in the committee making a motion to change the language for Item# 4 to change from Record Against Common Opponents to Winning Percentage Against Common Opponents – Approved 15–0-0 effective Fall 2019
      The discussion continued to focus on item #2 Most Wins. Motion to switch Item #2 Most Wins and Item #4 Winning Percentage Against Common Opponent. Motion to implement this for the Spring 2019 season was Defeated 5-10-0
      Motion to implement for Fall 2019 Approved 15-0-0.
      Result of these Approved motions will now have a revised Tie Breaking Procedure effective Fall 2019 as follows:
      1. Head to Head Competition
      2. Winning Percentage Against Common Opponent
      3. League Champion
      4. Most Wins
      5. Coin Flip

   B. Site Policy – Proposed Revisions
      The committee discussed additional feedback regarding the site policy. Language used “predetermined” implies that the site should be posted as soon as brackets are posted. Some sections feel the venues are inequitable (AIC vs Garden for state semis). Other comments from committee members were that the higher seeded teams should not have to play at a lower seeded home site. This is partially the result of schools not signing up to be predetermined sites. Also, a
problem for schools with teams still in the tournament and may now be committed to being a site to host another school.

Additionally, the Tournament Directors should be using their best judgement in choosing sites based on geographic consideration that make the most sense for each team.

Suggestions included limiting the # predetermined sites in a section to avoid having too many to choose from. Some members feel this policy might not work for all sports.

Motion made to change 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.

Changed to:

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 Defeated 4-11-0

Revisit discussion at future meeting.

C. Release of Seedings

Committee members brought up concerns about the way the information is being released, or not released, in some cases. Difficulty in the short window of time to prepare for the first game if the communication is not timely. Suggestions to looks at the seeding information 24 hours prior to the seeding meeting and be sure that records are correct.

Tournament directors also have to be better at disseminating that information as well. Schools should also look at when a game should be first played after seeding date. MaxPreps seeding may help with this issue.

This subject was tabled to the May meeting.

D. Statewide Tournament Proposal

Review of Draft for Discussion for Statewide Proposal document to distribute prior to MSSADA conference next week. Talk of the process for feedback, and acknowledging that there are “blindspots” with regard to improvements to the process and what the financial impact may be for this proposal.

The timeline for the first draft – then presentation to Board – them approval by membership – should be outlined on a slide for presentation to give people a visual feel for what these changes look like for a potential start date of Fall 2021
Lends itself to a visual presentation for all other discussion points, and implementation of MaxPrep – Fall 2020; Alignments in Fall 2021

Also showing an example of MaxPreps versus current ranking systems might help the members that just want to see it work/how it will work.

V. Fall-19 Formats

The committee recommended that formats be emailed to them and some consistency in the visual appearance be cleaned up. Only changes in a certain color, etc. to maintain some ease of tracking changes.

VI. Personnel Fees

TMC member John Brown had previously asked that an increase in Site Manager stipends be considered. This will ultimately help to secure more sites and hopefully increase tournament revenue by attracting more sites to be used as predetermined sites.

Motion to propose to the Finance & Personnel Committee for budget approval for all team sports an increase from $90 to $140 per game. This is for the sports of Baseball, Field Hockey, Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Rugby, and Volleyball. For Outdoor Track the increase is being proposed from $125 to $200 (1 day event) to $450 for 2-day event. These proposed changes would increase tournament personnel fees by approximately $28,000 total budget.

Motion to approve the proposal to Finance & Personnel 14-0-0 (one member left at this time)

Wrestling previously had a set fee for many years of $350 for police/security and $1,000 for custodial. In other sports, it reads “Per Contract – as approved by the Tournament Director/Exec. Staff Liaison”. Motion to remove these limits Approved 14-0

VII. Cross Country and Track Committee

The first individual sport invited was extended to the XC/Track and Field Committee. Peter Rittenberg, Vice Chair and Keith McDermott, MIAA Executive Liaison joined the discussion.

The intent of these sport committee meetings is to have focused dialogue relative to TMC oversight/governance in the area of tournament formats, financials, and consistency as charged by the MIAA Board of Directors.

The Governance structure was discussed and communication, relative to how to address concerns were reviewed. It was noted that TMC had not received requests from the Cross Country & Track Committee in the past several years. Sherry Bryant sought out prior Track Committee minutes to assist in facilitation the recommended changes to site director fees for the outdoor track events. The budget cycle was discussed, timing of requests and how it should come forward in the future to be included for consideration.
Peter began his discussion by giving the timeline of the previous Track Committee meetings and requests regarding budget cuts. He briefed TMC on the lack of financial data presented to the Track Committee. He expressed his concerns for the State Cross Country tournament experience due to what he believed were a result of budgetary cuts.

TMC Chair Jim O’Leary reinforced the value of bringing in committee representatives to help committees understand how both can work together to create better communication and change.

The timeline for requesting agenda items be added was also discussed after an issue was addressed about why there was not an item on TMC agenda for this date. This led to an overall discussion about vetting periods and how we can have some consistency among all committees as another topic for improving the culture and communications within the Association.

VIII. **Statewide Tournament Discussion**
Kara and Dwayne brought up some concerns from District F regarding philosophy of moving towards the seeding process and statewide tournament, and focusing on that while losing attention to the actual 12 week season for the student athlete (not running up score, how many goals, etc). They also want to have a better understanding of the seeding process. Jim responded that this is simply replacing systems like the Walker System, that some of this is going on anyway. Kara explained that there is just too much confusion about how the MaxPreps does the work behind the scenes. Jim reiterated that the formula is proprietary to MaxPreps and they will not share that.

The committee reviewed the proposal that we will continue sharing with committees, MSSADA meeting and Annual meeting. The committee will continue work on this proposal discuss presentations during the March meeting. Presenters at the MSSADA meeting and annual meeting will be Jim O’Leary, Johanna DiCarlo and Shaun Hart. Committee members are encouraged to attend the MSSADA session.

IX. **Meeting adjourned @ 1:55 pm**