



MIAA Soccer Committee Meeting: 2/1/23

Present: Robert Keuther, Danny Erickson, Steve Dubzinski, Ric Beaudoin, Christopher Schmidt, Luis Mercado, Jeff Newhall, Joe Francis, Karen Guillemette, Sue Hendee, David Keir, Nicole Viele, Nolan McKinnon, Ted Currie, Sean Bevan

Called to order 10:02am

1. Approval of Joe Francis as committee secretary: 13-0-0
2. Approve minutes from [September 15, 2022](#) meeting: Minutes approved 12-0-1
3. Cutoff dates for upcoming seasons were discussed:
 - 2023 season: Monday, October 30, 2023 will be cut off (already set)
 - 2024 season: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 (voted on 14-0-0)
 - Advisory vote taken: When it is determined by the committee that Thanksgiving is late, we shall extend the last day of the season 2 days to that Wednesday. (Approved 14-0-0)
 - State finals will remain as being held the week before Thanksgiving.
4. Coaches Update- Coaches representative on the committee
 - EMSCA representatives have approached the committee about gaining representation on the soccer committee. Discussion had about how coaches are appointed to the soccer committee. There is not a statewide coaches association which adds complexity to having fair representation from the regional coaches' associations. More discussion to be had on this matter to be fair and equitable.
5. Officials Update – Ric Beaudoin
 - Everything from the NFHS has been centered on the officials' shortage. Eastern Mass. Officials Committee has appointed a director of recruitment and retention.
 - Letter read

- Pilot program being explored by the MIAA and NFHS to be rolled out to schools to offer officiating as an elective to students

6. Tournament Discussion – Mr. Jeff Newhall, Tournament Director

- Overview of 2022 Tournament:
 - Much better experience in 2022. Far fewer missing scores. Jim Clark was an invaluable resource.
 - 417 teams participated in 407 games. 10,000 student athletes/coaches participated.
 - 51,650 tickets sold. GoFan has made the job a lot easier.
 - Relied heavily on host schools AD's. Need better education of those hosting games.
 - Some tournament host sites have still not turned in reimbursement forms as of 2/1/23.
- Host Fee Structure
 - Consider incentives to increase the number of host sites.
 - Really need 10 sites for state semifinal rounds.
 - Recommend to TMC to increase the stipend to host a tournament game
- Sites:
 - Discussion had about options for state final games. High school, college and professional venues were discussed.
 - Venue equity across all sports remain a concern where a sport like football plays their finals at a marquee location.
 - May meeting conversation: District reps should reach out to their constituents to get their opinion. If it is not Gillette, would schools prefer a college site or a high school site?

7. Infraction Report - Procedures and Policies

- Schools approaching the maximum card allowance were contacted by the MIAA liaison during the season. No schools surpassed the card allowance in 2022.

8. Divisional Alignment – Update and Process

- Process reviewed by committee chair. Data shared that 54 Boys' Soccer appeals and 49 Girls' Soccer appeals were received and reviewed.
- Next alignment cycle is in two years.

9. MIAA/MSSA Initiatives

- Members encouraged to submit nominations for Coach of the Year, Official of the Year & Student of the Month
- Women in Sports Day to be held April 28, 2023 in Boston

10. New Business

- Discussion on online game sheet format. Request made to add a section for goals scored and to remove some infraction lines.
- To be worked on and presented for approval at May meeting.

11. Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 10am in person

12. Adjournment at 11:46am