

**MARYLAND PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
(MPSSAA)
Baltimore, MD**

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting February 2-3, 2017

Refer Questions: R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, 410-767-0376

Districts Represented: Kevin Kendro (District 1), William Beattie (District 2), Earl Hawkins (District 3), Andrew Roper (District 4), John Davis (District 5), Michael Sye (District 6), Joe Harbert (District 7), David Byrd (District 8), Tiffany Byrd (District 9)

Also Present: Kevin Hook, President, MPSSAA
Kim Dolch, Past President, MPSSAA
Dana Johnson, President Elect, MPSSAA
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor, Baltimore County (secretary)
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Jeff Sullivan, Specialist, Montgomery County
David Dolch, Supervisor, Carroll County
Matt Roberts, Acting Coordinator, Cecil County

Excused: Jill Masterman, Program Specialist, MPSSAA

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the August 2016 Executive Council Meeting
2. House Bill 513
3. Fall 2016 Financial Report
4. 2017 MPSSAA Coaches' Conference Report
5. MPSSAA Standardized Calendar
6. MPSSAA Forfeit Language Proposal
7. Classification Committee Guidelines
8. MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee Draft of Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries Language
9. Sponsorship Update
10. MPSSAA Sport Classification Breakdown
11. MPSSAA Bulletins Language Update
12. Lacrosse Proposal for Four Classifications

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by President Kevin Hook.

2. A motion was made by David Byrd, with a second by Kevin Kendro, to approve the minutes from the August 2016 meeting. That vote was unanimous.
3. Mr. Warner informed the committee of several MPSSAA updates. The MPSSAA has acquired additional office space and is looking into ways to best utilize the space in relation to state committee meetings and distribution of publications and materials. Mr. Warner is also looking into other options regarding state tournament meeting locations. Mr. Warner mentioned his office has exhausted all options for a larger meeting space for the April Board of Control in Ocean City, MD. The current contracted space will have to work. Mr. Warner informed the group of the updates to the MPSSAA website which now provides great website accessibility to visually impaired viewers.
4. Mr. Warner provided the group with an update on the Section 2 meeting that was held in September in Annapolis. The NFHS will not be moving forward at this time with taking over writing the rules for girl's lacrosse, but will continue to rely on US Lacrosse for the manual. He informed the group no states in Section 2 are interested in a shot clock for boys' basketball. The NFHS Executive Director's meeting reviewed cheerleading music requirements for copyrights, girls wrestling, and a recent campaign "My Reason Why." Mr. Warner informed the committee Charlie Hudson, a 70 year veteran of the boys' basketball tournament, will be receiving the NFHS Outstanding Service Award this year.
5. Mr. Warner reviewed several items discussed at the fall Executive Council meeting. The MPSSAA piloted online ticketing for the state football championships through Huddle Ticketing, and will pilot the system for boys and girls basketball this winter as well. Rescue One is now a partner of the MPSSAA for use of AEDs. They will provide AEDs for state championship events. The agreement with ATI was modified to include all requested changes proposed to them after the fall meeting. The new awards presented at the fall championships proved to be well received by the student athletes.
6. Mr. Warner provided a recap of the fall state championship events. The football games at the Naval Academy went very well despite the cold weather. Overall the fall gross income met what the finance committee budgeted.
7. Mr. Bursick informed the group of the annual Student Leadership Conference, which will be held June 10th at Howard High School. Registration will open March 13, 2017 and each school will have the opportunity to register three delegates. If there is still space available after April 6th, a school can register more delegates if they choose.
8. Mr. Hawkins provided information for the second annual Coaches Conference to be held April 22nd at North Point High School. This year's conference, which will be open for registration starting February 15th, will be for fall and winter coaches.
9. Dr. Roper apprised the group of the Appeals Committee's request for further guidance in regards to two major issues – 1) is it the job of the committee to retry the case; and 2) what are the grounds for modifying a penalty? In January the Appeals Committee met to discuss and develop language to assist them in the process of hearing appeals. At that meeting Elliott

Schoen, Deputy Council for MSDE, said the two most important items were for the appellant to have notice, and the opportunity to be heard. He said three things to keep in mind are to be just, equitable, and fair when hearing cases. A small sub committee was formed and will meet in March to continue developing language to assist the process of appeals.

10. Discussion was had on the athletic calendar and the local educational agencies academic calendars for the 2017-18 school year. The Council discussed some of the different options that could be looked at going forward of how the two calendars work together. Some suggestions included review of COMAR as it relates to contests in a week, health and safety regarding heat acclimatization policies within the new timeframe, and staggering starting for different sports.
11. The group took a break and then moved to focus groups to discuss forfeiture language, charter schools and their impact on 1A schools, and the current all-star regulations. Following dinner the Executive Council reconvened to share the recommendations from each focus group.
12. Mr. Sye chaired the forfeiture language group and shared what they formulated for further discussion.
 - a. Only the Executive Director may declare a forfeit.
 - b. In order to declare a forfeit, the game or contest must be documented as part of each team's regular schedule by their respected school systems.
 - i. This stipulation includes the time, place, and date is mutually acknowledged prior to the start of the season.
 - c. A game may be declared a forfeit if the team disbands temporarily or permanently after the first play date.
 - d. A game may be declared a forfeit if a team deliberately avoids participation for something other than extraordinary circumstances.
 - e. A forfeit must count towards both participating team's records.
 - f. A school or team may appeal the decision of the Executive Director to the MPSSAA Appeals Committee.
13. Dr. Roper provided information concerning the all-star regulations. The main issue is when an underclassman participated in such a game, current regulations do not provide an avenue to regain eligibility in that sport. More discussion needs to take place regarding the regulations and position statement.
14. Mr. Hawkins and the focus group dedicated to the charter schools discussion indicated the main concern is with basketball. Most charter schools are so small the only sport they can offer most times is basketball. As it currently stands, if a school offers less than 50% of the MPSSAA sports, they are placed in the sport classification based on their enrollment numbers, and the 10% rule is in effect. The group recommended three options: 1) allow the current system to continue and if the teams grow to 66 for any particular sport in one bracket, it gets reshuffled; 2) classify schools for each sport; 3) review the current playoff structure as a whole.

15. The meeting adjourned for the evening and reconvened the following morning at 8:50.
16. Mr. Warner notified the group of House Bill 513, which is an act proposed to suspend a coach if he/she plays a student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head injury. The stance of the MPSSAA is to relegate this to the local school systems as they are the ones governing their coaches.
17. Mr. Warner informed the committee about the renewal of three sponsorships: Brooks Running will sponsor cross county, indoor track, and outdoor track, and will provide bib numbers. The American Dairy Association will continue to provide chocolate milk to the MPSSAA for state championship events. The Tennis contract with Wilson expires soon will be up for renewal.
18. Mr. Warner reviewed the Medical Advisory Committee proposal in regards to making a refresher care and prevention course mandatory for coaches. The proposed language would be added to .04B(3) in the MPSSAA Handbook and read: “in order for coaches to stay relevant with the care and prevention of athletic injuries to students, all coaches are required to recertify utilizing a local school system approved online course within the last five years.” Mr. Warner updated the group concerning recommendations which govern heat acclimatization, concussion awareness, and sudden cardiac arrest. The Medical Advisory Committee would like to see a compliance survey to ensure all school systems are meeting the requirements of the law.
19. Mr. Warner informed the group of two injunctions against the MPSSAA this past fall. There was an injunction on the case regarding all-star contest, and an injunction filed to delay the seeding of the soccer tournament. The soccer case is still being carried on and the MPSSAA is currently waiting on further news.
20. Mr. Warner reviewed the region alignments particularly as it pertains to 1A. The classification committee has charged sport committees to review based on the individual analysis of their sport any inequities in the number of participating schools. Any recommendations to the classification committee must be approved and submitted at the April Board of Control for final approval as part of the sport bulletin.
21. Mr. Warner shared a proposal made by the Lacrosse Committee to move from three classifications to four. The Executive Council will take the proposal back to local school systems and discuss with coaches and district representatives. The committee chairs for boys and girls lacrosse have submitted a letter of opposition to moving to four classifications at this time. Mr. Warner informed the Council of a proposal being worked on by the Tennis Committee to move to two classifications, similar to wrestling. Tennis is the only sport where no team champion is crowned. Mr. Hawkins made a motion for the Tennis Committee to discuss team tennis championship and to look at four classifications instead of two. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion and it passed. (12 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)

22. Mr. Warner informed the council of the Softball Committee's desire to add language to their bulletin in regards to scheduling conflicts. They wanted school sponsored activities to be more clearly defined. They are recommending only conflicts with prom and graduation be considered when moving times for tournament games. Dr. Beattie reminded the group the current language states "will be considered" which indicates it may or may not be permissible to move a game. He then made a motion to continue with the current language on scheduling conflicts. Dr. Roper provided a second to the motion and it passed unanimously.
23. Mr. Hook inquired about developing a supervisor of athletic summit where everyone could meet to discuss current issues. The consensus of the council warrants the summit and Mr. Hook will send an email to solidify a date and location.
24. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 am.