

Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association  
(MPSSAA)  
Baltimore, MD

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting  
September 2, 2015

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

Districts Represented: Jim Rodriguez (District 1), William Beattie (District 2), 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: Kim Dolch, President, MPSSAA  
Earl Hawkins, Past President, MPSSAA  
Kevin Hook, President Elect, MPSSAA  
Jay Berno, Principal's Representative  
Jill Masterman, Program Specialist, MPSSAA  
Donnee Gray, MPSSAA  
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor of Athletics, BCPS (secretary)  
Jeff Sullivan, Specialist, Montgomery County  
Debbie Basler, Supervisor, Harford County  
Clayton Culp, Supervisor, Anne Arundel County

Not Present: O'Shay Watson, District 3 representative

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the May 2015 Executive Council Meeting
2. Spring 2015 Financial Report
3. Anyone Can Save A Life material
4. NATA information regarding appropriate care of the spine-injured athlete
5. NFHS SMAC Update Regarding NATA document
6. MPSSAA Medical Advisory agenda for October 2015 meeting
7. State Tennis Tournament two classification proposal
8. MPSSAA Classification Committee agenda for October 2015 meeting
9. 2015 Student Leadership Conference recap
10. MPSSAA News and Notes regarding non-school teams
11. Penn State football camp brochure
12. Amateur Rules regarding The Ride lacrosse event
13. NCAA Amateurism regulations
14. Senate Bill 508
15. State Tournament Participation Eligibility timeline
16. Letter from District 4 requesting clarification on tennis participation by Montgomery County
17. Response from Montgomery County regarding tennis participation

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:33am.
2. Introductions of new committee members, Tiffany Byrd, Joe Harbert, and Kevin Hook were made.

3. A motion was made by Michael Sye with a second by Jim Rodriguez to approve the minutes from the May 2015 meeting. That vote was unanimous.
4. Mr. Warner provided the committee with information regarding the vacated assistant director position. At this time there is still an MSDE hiring freeze, which is holding up the release of the vacancy notice. As soon as it becomes available, Mr. Warner will disseminate the information to local supervisors.
5. The Director of State Championships position is still being discussed and formulated within the MSDE and county department. The attorney for the MPSSAA has constructed a document which is being reviewed by the MSDE. When it gets approved, Mr. Warner will provide those details to the committee.
6. Mr. Warner informed the council of financial consideration discussions between the MPSSAA, MSDE, and Attorney Generals' office. These discussions include the role of the MSDE fiscal agent as well as the MSDE financial guidelines for the MPSSAA.
7. Mr. Warner reviewed the royalties agreement the MPSSAA member schools have with LRG. At this time, a check has been sent to the MPSSAA and Mr. Warner will distribute to each district the appropriate amount each participating school received, including the association's part of the agreement. MPSSAA will not keep any funds earned by the agreement.
8. The spring financial report was reviewed and overall, the gross income was steady across the board despite the increase in ticket cost.
9. Ms. Masterman supplied the group an update on current sponsorship. In the spring the football contract was up for Wilson. Under Armour was voted to be the replacement, but Wilson came back and matched the Under Armour deal. A five year deal was signed, which begins in 2016. The TV contract with Sinclair will continue. PNC has removed itself from all lacrosse sponsorships. Baseball and volleyball will have ball adoptions due next year, therefore the process will begin this year to continue or find new manufacturers. Wilson will remain the tennis ball for the state tournament. There are two new potential sponsors: Alliance Sports Marketing, who has programs in various states and provide grant funds to deliver highway safety messages. Mid Atlantic Dairy Association has inquired about providing money to the association to make chocolate milk the official drink of the MPSSAA. They would provide samples at the end of certain state tournaments, which they choose.
10. Mr. Warner reviewed a few sports medicine updates with the council. The first such update deals with the Anyone Can Save a Life program started by the Minnesota HS League in conjunction with the Medtronic Foundation. The program provides a guideline for emergency action plans for student athletes to use if a coach becomes unresponsive. Mr. Warner is planning on reviewing the documents with the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) next month and with their approval, he will send copies to all supervisors to use as they see the need. He is also going to review the field hockey heat acclimatization calendar and the baseball innings pitched versus pitch count with the SMAC. He reviewed the new position statement NATA put out regarding how to properly transport a student athlete who wears shoulder pads and a helmet. The new position is for the equipment to be taken off at the field, when appropriate. Mr. Warner gave a brief update on the Women's Injury Task Force, who has been studying female high school sports injuries, specifically ACL tears. Mr. Warner will keep the council up to date on the committee's report.

11. Mr. Warner notified the group about the resignation of Sue Diffenderfer, the lacrosse girls' rules interpreter. They will do a search with the girls' lacrosse committee chair and hope to have somebody in place quickly.
12. Mr. Rodriguez provided the council with information regarding a proposal made by the tennis committee to change the state tennis tournament to a two classification tournament, similar to wrestling - 1A/2A and 3A/4A. He detailed how it would break down starting with region tournaments and a super region tournament, which would then lead into the state semis and finals over Memorial Day weekend. While there are many advantages, it was undecided as to when to take the proposal to the Board of Control. Mr. Rodriguez also mentioned a few potential new sites for the state tournament since Cole Field House and the adjacent tennis courts will no longer be available due to construction at The University of Maryland. Olney Manor is the top choice thus far and as soon as a decision is made, Mr. Warner will make the council aware.
13. Mr. Warner reviewed the classification committee agenda for next month's meeting. Among topics for discussion at the meeting are the timeline for spring bulletins to be approved (a recommendation has been brought forth to do at the spring Board of Control meeting instead of the winter meeting), unintended consequences of the 10% rule, charter schools overall affect on classifications, and the spring special alignments.
14. Mr. Warner informed the council the Board of Control meeting in December will now be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the BWI Marriott, instead of what is printed in the handbook. He also reminded everyone of the dates and location for the January Executive Council retreat - January 28/29 at the Wye River Conference Center.
15. Mr. Warner distributed a recap of the Student Leadership Conference presented by committee chair Michael Duffy. The conference was once again held at North County HS in Anne Arundel County, and was once again a success. Allstate would like to donate additional funds to the MPSSAA and Mr. Warner will discuss with the student leadership committee at their upcoming meeting how to effectively use those funds.
16. Mr. Warner notified the council of the SEED School of Maryland. The school is a public and Maryland state run school that resides in Baltimore City. The SEED School of Maryland will fall under District 9 for athletics and may potentially contact member schools for contests.
17. Last spring the nominating committee met to present a name to the Board of Control for the President Elect position for the Executive Council. Two names were discussed and after vote, Kevin Hook's name was brought forward. The nominating committee voted to send Dana Johnson's name to the December Board of Control meeting for nomination to become President Elect in 2016-2017. The Executive Council agreed that was acceptable without the nominating committee meeting again this year.
18. After a few problems presented themselves with non-school teams and camps this summer, a review of the rules and regulations took place. One camp in particular, the Penn State football camp, clearly stated on the brochure it was intended for high school teams. After much discussion regarding the current rules, it was decided the Executive Council would review its interpretations at the winter Executive Council meeting to provide further clarification on the difference of a school team and non-school team.
19. Mr. Warner presented the group with information regarding amateur rules as they apply to the MPSSAA and the national rules continue to differ. A girls' lacrosse event over the summer provided

- gifts of over \$1500 was an example provided to the council. Mr. Warner will discuss national amateur rules at the upcoming Section 2 meeting.
20. The steering committee put together to look at the oversight of corollary sports is meeting to put together a survey for member schools. The intent of the survey is to obtain information on what the expectations are for the MPSSAA involvement in corollary sports.
  21. Mr. Byrd spoke to everyone with reference to concerns that have been brought to the table in regards to the quality of officials across the state and more specifically during the state tournaments. There is an officials committee, and he believes it should meet on a semi-regular basis to discuss issues with officiating and how to better manage the standards. Mr. Gray gave background information on how selections are made for officials to work in the state tournament. Mr. Warner will set up a meeting in April for the committee to meet.
  22. Mr. Warner addressed the group about the swimming regulations in regards to what the 2015-2016 MPSSAA handbook states. The old regulations are still in the book because the new ones hadn't passed through the State Board when it was printed. Mr. Warner is scheduled to ask for final approval at the State Board meeting in December.
  23. Much discussion took place on the topic of state tournament participation eligibility as it pertains to Montgomery County playing girls' tennis in the fall and qualifying for the spring state tournament. Mr. Warner researched the history and informed the group as to the findings. In 1979 when the issue was first looked at, approved language by the MPSSAA Constitution Committee and Board of Control to restrict state tournament eligibility to participation in the same sports season, failed to earn regulation approval by the Maryland State Board of Education. Discussion now, 36 years later is mixed with the members of the Executive Council. Dr. Roper proposed adding to the general section of all bulletins the following statement: "student athletes may only participate in MPSSAA post season events when their regular season coincides with the season in which the state championship is held." He then amended to add 2016-2017 school year to the statement. Mr. Sye seconded the motion. After further discussion, the motion did not pass with a vote of 5 for, 2 opposed, and 4 abstentions, failing to reach a majority of present voters (2 absent).
  24. Mr. Hawkins raised the subject of the two separate schools sharing the same building. Prince George's County will be adding two small international schools and he would like guidance on how to address the issue of using same facilities, equipment, etc. He asked if it could be placed on the agenda at the winter retreat.
  25. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Beattie with a second by Mr. Berno. The meeting was adjourned at 1:48pm.