

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting  
August 10, 2020

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

Districts Represented: Kevin Kendro (District 1), Jeff Sullivan (District 2), Shirley Diggs (District 3), Steve Lee (District 4), John Davis (District 5), Jeff Markle, (District VI), Debbie Basler (District 7), Bryan Ashby (District 8), Tiffany Byrd (District 9)

Also Present: Michael Duffy, President, MPSSAA  
Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA  
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA  
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative  
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA  
Ken Kazmarek, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA  
Lynette Mitzel, Secretary

Excused: Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA

1. The meeting was called to order on August 10, 2020 at 10:02 am by President Duffy.
2. Mr. Duffy asked the committee to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Lee made a motion to accept the minutes, followed by a second from Mr. Davis. The minutes were approved 11-0. (Ms. Basler and Ms. Diggs were absent from the start of the meeting; both joined at 10:07am)
3. Mr. Warner inquired as to the FAQ document and if there were any concerns that needed to be addressed. The issue of tryouts was brought up as well as the 80% rule. Mr. Warner feels the local school systems can address tryouts in any particular way they choose. The MPSSAA does not regulate the try out process and sets first available play dates. Executive Council members feel there should be no tryouts until students are back in the school building. Equity becomes an issue if teams are allowed to be chosen when certain students have no means by which to get to the school or if done virtually, have no means by which to be online. All agreed no tryouts in the first semester.
4. Mr. Davis mentioned the inequity with football teams if the 80% rule is in effect beginning August 12<sup>th</sup>, the first practice date prior to the fall and winter seasons being postponed. Most other sports have rec and club teams on which athletes can participate, but football does not, which means holding them to the 80% rule prohibits them from doing a majority of what other

sport teams are doing. The council agrees 80% rule should be enforced beginning August 12, 2020.

5. Mr. Warner reminded the council all school systems are required to adhere to the defined sport seasons for the upcoming academic year. Local systems cannot structure something on their own should they not be permitted to participate in the MPSSAA structured sport seasons.
6. Mr. Ashby inquired as to whether or not the Executive Council and/or Board of Control would have input and a vote as to the order of seasons to be offered in the second semester. While understanding the guidance from the superintendents working with Mr. Warner, he would like to know how this will work so when he meets with the 8 supervisors on the Eastern Shore he can give proper information. Mr. Warner informed the group if they feel strongly about a different order of seasons to please let him know and he will go back and give rationale as to a new order.
7. Dr. Sullivan requested information as to whether local school systems could do a post season if there is no MPSSAA state championship series. All districts represented on the call agreed they would like the flexibility to do such if permissible.
8. Mr. Warner informed the council additional information on the three mini seasons during second semester and other pertinent information will become available in mid-October.
9. Mr. Duffy asked the representatives if they were comfortable with the FAQ as it now stands. All were in favor of the slight modifications made. He also inquired as to how the group felt about the Monday meetings. All wanted to keep them on the calendar and if no meeting is necessary to cancel by noon on Friday. Mr. Warner told the group the second semester plan will need approval of PSSAM and MSDE.
10. Ms. Basler motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:34am. Mr. Saunderson made a second to the motion and it passed, 13-0.