

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
August 31, 2020

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro, (District 2) Jeff Sullivan, (District 3) Shirley Diggs (joined at 10:12), (District 4) Steve Lee, (District 5) John Davis, (District 6) Jeff Markle, (District 7) Debbie Basler (joined at 10:07), (District 8) Bryan Ashby, (District 9) Tiffany Byrd

Also Present: Michael Duffy, President, MPSSAA
Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative (joined meeting at 11:20)
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Ken Kazmarek, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Secretary

1. The meeting was called to order on August 31, 2020 at 10:03 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 Dr. Sullivan. The minutes were approved 10-0. (Mr. Saunderson, Ms. Basler, and Ms. Diggs were absent from the start of the meeting.
3. Mr. Warner informed the council after the previous meeting he submitted the second semester plan to MSDE for approval and is awaiting final approval from MSDE.
4. Mr. Duffy asked each district representative to give a brief overview of what athletics was going to look like in their district for the first semester. Most are starting the year virtual with a plan to move to in person when permitted. A few district one counties are already in person, as is one in district 4.
5. Mr. Duffy requested a discussion on the 80% rule. He believes a decision was rushed without taking into consideration the social/emotional impact not being with teammates is taking on student athletes. Mr. Duffy stated the rules indicate fall 80% rule begins when fall sports begin, which in this case isn't until the second semester. Mr. Warner stated 80% begins when the academic year does, which is now. In addition, he commented the three superintendents

with whom he is working have been in favor of the current set up since his initial meeting with them several weeks ago. Mr. Sye inquired as to whether these three were going back to the other 21 superintendents for their opinions and feedback. Mr. Warner stated PSSAM is aware and in support of the entire two-semester plan as currently wrote. Mr. Sye suggested all supervisors ask their superintendents how they feel about 80% rule and another discussion can take place when that information is known. Mr. Duffy took a straw vote and everyone agreed to move on and not fight the 80% rule, but they would like the FAQ to be released soon. The document was worked on several weeks ago and to not have any guidance for members schools and their communities is becoming increasingly challenging.

6. Mr. Duffy inquired as to when the FAQ will be released. Mr. Warner stated the FAQ is part of the two-semester plan and will be released when approved. Dr. Sullivan suggested additional guidance on the 80% rule is needed to eliminate as many questions as possible. He made the following motion: the Executive Council, in collaboration with the MPSSAA shall work on and release a guidance document covering the 80% rule by Friday, September 4, 2020. Mr. Lee second the motion which was passed unanimously. 13-0
7. Mr. Duffy inquired about the timeline for meetings this academic year. Mr. Warner said most meetings will need to start later in the day so the MPSSAA is not creating conflict with remote learning. Mr. Bursick has already begun setting up sport committee meetings. Mr. Warner suggested a Board of Control meeting at the end of October/beginning of November and Executive Council meetings about other important information when needed. The standing committees that are required to meet will do so.
8. Mr. Warner shared initial work on creating opportunities to form tournaments within the planned five-week seasons to be held in the second semester. A full draft of the second semester will be sent out for review.
9. Mr. Kendro inquired as to the necessity of 20 practice days before the first contest. His jurisdiction permits scrimmages beginning day 14, so why not allow games beginning then as well. Mr. Warner stated strong rationale to waive a health and safety regulation would be needed from the council to move forward. The council did not offer up any further rationale on the current regulation.
10. Mr. Sye inquired as to the functionality of the Executive Council. It appears decisions are being made by PSSAM. Mr. Warner explained PSSAM's input is extremely important and working with three Superintendents will continue to be highly beneficial. Mr. Sye would like to see more collaboration with PSSAM and the three superintendents who are representing all 24 superintendents during the pandemic.
11. Mr. Sye made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:55am. Mr. Saunderson second the motion and all were in favor.