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MPSSAA Board of Control Minutes
MPSSAA
December 12, 2018

1. Ms. Dana Johnson, MPSSAA President, called the meeting to order. Mr. Andrew Warner welcomed everyone and reported that 55 of 58 voting members were present, qualifying for a quorum to conduct business for the association. Mr. Warner thanked Ms. Robin McCue from Montgomery County for taking minutes for the meeting. Ms. Johnson requested a motion to approve the minutes from April 27, 2018. Mr. Clayton Culp motioned for approval and Mr. Eric Michael seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.
2. Mr. Warner reviewed the MPSSAA 2018 Preliminary Fall Financial Report (copies provided). He started by saying that it was a rough fall and the weather did not help, noting that all outdoor sports suffered in attendance with heavy rain and wind on normally highly attended state tournament weekend contests. He indicated that the Finance Committee will have to take a hard look at the fall state championships given the lower than expected attendance this past year. Mr. Warner reiterated that the fall 2018 Financial Report numbers were very preliminary as not all expenses and reimbursements have been paid. No questions followed.

Mr. Earl Hawkins motioned for approval and Mr. Mike Sye seconded. The reports were unanimously accepted.

Old Business

A. Fall Tournaments

- **Golf** – Mr. Eric Michael presented the Golf Committee Report (copies provided). The 2018 MPSSAA Golf Championship was once again held at the University of Maryland Golf Course in College Park, Maryland, it was a successful three days. The tournament committee would like to thank the University of Maryland Golf Course's Head Golf Pro, Jeff Maynor and his staff, and the golf coaches from each participating high school. A special thanks was extended to Jon Browne who handles the scoring, and to Phelps Prescott for directing the tournament and securing USGA officials for the event. A special thanks to Bill Knopf, for setting up "Live Scoring" for the tournament. For the first time the tournament piloted "unofficial" Live Scoring for spectators to view scores throughout each day. There were over 265 views for the tournament, peaking at 100 on day three of the championships. Thanks were also given to the MPSSAA staff for their guidance, leadership, and support. 162 student-athletes participated in the 2018 MPSSAA Golf championship. Team and Individual Champions were announced and are included in the Golf Committee's report. 2019 dates were announced and are also included on the Golf Committee Report.

- **Cross Country** – Mr. Mike Sye presented the Cross Country Committee Report (copies provided). The 2018 Cross Country Championships were held at Hereford High in Parkton, Maryland. Thanks were given to the following: the MPSSAA staff, Morgan Lisby from M&D Timing, and Steve Smith, Head Official. Special thanks to Michael Kalisz, Athletic Director at Hereford High School, John Roemer, Hereford High School Site Director, and their staff for preparing the site after the heavy rains the day before. 1,893 student-athletes participated in the 2018 MPSSAA Cross Country Championship, which is up from 1,502 participants last year. Team champions were announced, and are included along with the finalists on the MPSSAA Cross Country Committee Report along with the sportsmanship award winners.
- **Field Hockey** – Phyllis Hemmes presented the following Field Hockey Report (copies provided). It was noted that weather was an issue this fall. Thanks were given to the athletic directors and their staffs at Paint Branch and Broadneck high schools for hosting the semi-finals, to the Washington College field hockey coach and team for preparing the site, and to the MPSSAA staff for their leadership and support. A special thank you to Jill Masterman for her website expertise. Champions were announced, and are included on the MPSSAA Field Hockey Committee Report, along with the sportsmanship award winners. 2019 dates were announced, and are also included on the committee report.
- **Soccer** – Ms. Marianne Shultz presented the Boys' and Girls' Soccer Committee Report (copies provided). Thanks were given to the MPSSAA office for their help and support. Appreciation was expressed for the efficient and timely notification of the information regarding the cancellation and rescheduling of games due to snow. The 2018 Soccer Championship Tournaments were held at Loyola University for the fifth year. Thanks were given to Teddi Burns from Loyola University for her leadership and support, and to the following schools for hosting semi-finals: Linganore, Northeast, Dr. Henry Wise, and River Hill high schools. Rules changes will be forthcoming in the spring. Champions were announced and are included on the Soccer Committee Report, along with the sportsmanship award winners. 2019 dates were announced and are also included on the report.
- **Volleyball** – Ms. Sybil Kessinger presented the Volleyball Committee Report (copies provided). The 44th annual State volleyball tournament was held at Ritchie Coliseum on the University of Maryland campus. The tournament committee was able to host a successful six-night event, despite the unexpected day off due to snow. A special thanks was given to Lawrence Moody and the wonderful staff at the University of Maryland. Thank you to the MPSSAA staff and to Ed Tucholski, state rules interpreter, for their guidance and leadership. The spring 2019 meeting date was announced and is included on the Volleyball Committee Report. One of the things the committee plans to do is to create an online school match record for schools to use so that the committee can monitor match records during the season. With the creation of the online match record, the committee hopes that the draw can be done without issue. Champions and finalists were announced, and are also available on the Volleyball Committee Report, along with the sportsmanship award winners.
- **Football** – Mr. Mike Calhoun presented the Football Committee Report. The MPSSAA Football Tournament was held at Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland for the third year. Appreciation was expressed to the Naval

Academy for their support and cooperation. Thanks were given to the many workers and volunteers who gave their time. A special thanks was given to Ryan Hines, site director, and his crew, who ensured that the event ran smoothly. The John H. Cox Sportsmanship Award recipient was Frederick Douglass-PG. Champions and finalists were announced: 1A Fort Hill defeated Frederick Douglass-PG, 2A Oakdale defeated Glenelg, 3A Franklin defeated Linganore, and 4A Quince Orchard defeated North Point.

B. Student Leadership Conference

Mr. Michael Duffy presented the Student Leadership Conference report. The 9th annual Student Athlete Leadership Conference was held June 9, 2018, at Howard High School. 372 student-athletes attended the conference. Opening and general session speaker, Mr. Craig Hillier, provided inspiration and motivation to the attendees. The student-athletes attended four 30-minute interactive workshops: Creating Team Culture, Hazing, Social Media, and Group Dynamics. In the afternoon, student-athletes attended team-building activities and utilized skills learned from the workshops. The sessions on Creating Team Culture and Social Media received the highest praise from the attendees. The community outreach program was able to send 110 packages of school supplies to nine Title I elementary schools. The committee will meet January 14, 2019, to begin to plan the 2019 conference. The 2019 Student Leadership Conference will once again be held at Howard High School.

C. Marketing/Sponsorship

Ms. Jill Masterman presented the report on Marketing/Sponsorship. Jill shared that sponsorships are a very important part of the MPSSAA budget. Utilizing official game balls, drinking chocolate milk, and going to Wendy's makes a difference as the companies are able to track the sales.

Contract Information:

- The American Dairy – Northeast renewed their contract for the 2018–19 school year and have provided new banners and coolers to use at events.
- Wendy's provided coaches cards again for this school year. To help increase store sales, the MPSSAA also added Wendy's coupons on the back of playoff tickets.
- The current soccer contract goes through next fall – the process to determine the new 5-year contract has begun. In January, there will be a vote on a new ball. There are four under consideration: Brine – which is current contract holder, Wilson, Molten, and Spalding. The new soccer ball will be announced in Spring 2019. This will give schools a year to go through what they have on hand. Jill shared that game balls under consideration will be shared with sport committees to get coaches feedback.
- Next up for renewal: Basketball in the spring, followed by Apparel, and Football contracts in the fall.

D. Officials Recruitment Report

Mr. Bursick presented the Officials Recruitment Report. About 18 months ago, the NFHS rolled out an Officials Recruitment Campaign. In turn, the MPSSAA tailored the campaign specifically for Maryland. On the MPSSAA website, there is a "Become a Sports Official" page (<https://www.mpssaa.org/officials/become-a-high-school-sports-official/>), where an interested candidate can fill out a form to receive information on becoming a sports official. Each week, the MPSSAA generates a report that lists all of the interested candidates. Then emails are sent to the candidate and to the official's association to share contact information for each. To date, 572 people have shown interest however, only 76 have become officials. At

this time, only fall and winter officials have been registered. Of the 76 who have become officials, 45 are now fall officials (23 football, 11 soccer, 9 volleyball, and 2 field hockey); and 31 are winter officials (18 basketball, 9 wrestling, and 4 swim/dive). Jason reminded everyone to reach out to former athletes who may be interested in becoming officials.

New Business

A. MPSSAA Updates

This past fall, the MPSSAA has had the opportunity to work with a student intern, Juliet Nierle, a senior softball player from Atholton HS. Juliet has been working on historical records from the old Playground League and the official's recruitment campaign, among other task. Juliet will be with the MPSSAA through the end of February, when she will start her final softball season. The MPSSAA wishes good luck to Juliet and her team!

Over the summer the MPSSAA Office moved from the 6th floor to the ground floor, across from the security area. Please make note to update their mailing address.

Spring rulebooks are under the Christmas tree– both the rulebooks that are part of your membership and any additional books that were ordered are here. If you need any additional rulebooks, please reach out to the MPSSAA office as soon as possible. Invoices for rulebooks will be sent before the end of the year.

Please take special note of the Tennis bulletin, as there is a proposal to change from one classification to four classifications. When you vote, you will be voting for four classifications.

Fall 2019 practice dates: please take note of the 2019–2020 calendar. There is a seven-year cycle, in which two of the seven years, the first fall play date will fall the Friday after Labor Day. 2019 is one of these years. Calendar dates are listed in the handbook. (https://www.mpssaa.org/assets/1/6/Proj_State_Tourn_Dates_18-26.pdf)

Congratulations to Ms. Marianne Schultz who will be receiving a distinguished service award at the NIAAA conference.

Mr. Warner wanted the membership to know that the MPSSAA office staff is down two people. Donnee Gray, Coordinator of Officials, retired in June 2018, and this fall, Cheryl Wells, administrative assistant, retired in early October. Mr. Warner gave a big thank you to Jason and Jill for keeping the association on track given 60+ hours a week of staffing was down and offered praise for all they have done to keep the office running smoothly.

B. Classification Committee Report and Recommendations

Per COMAR regulation, *“The local superintendent of schools shall submit to the MPSSAA Executive Director a report on the actual enrollment of students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 in each of the member MPSSAA schools as of September 30, in each even-numbered year. The MPSSAA Executive Director and Classification Committee shall present a recommendation for classification of member schools for each MPSSAA-administered sport to the MPSSAA Board of Control for adoption.”*

Mr. Warner on behalf of the Classification Committee presented the reclassification proposal (copies provided). Mr. Warner asked if there were any questions regarding COMAR regulations? There were no questions. Were there any recommendations for changes? Question – Can we do away with sections? Answer: Last year there was a survey regarding sectionals

vs. regionals. Over 1400 athletic directors and coaches took the survey. The majority were in favor of retaining sections.

Michael Duffy motioned for approval of the proposed reclassifications as presented, Mr. O'Shay Watson, seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous.

C. Winter Tournaments

- **Basketball** – Ms. Lynette Mitzel provided information from the Basketball Committee. The state championship semifinals and finals for **both** boys and girls will be March 14–16, 2019. Originally, the boys were going to be the week before but that has changed. Boys will be at the Xfinity Center at College Park, girls will be at the SECU Arena at Towson University. This year the boys will adopt the 30-second shot clock. The last play date of the season is February 25th, the seeding meeting will be held February 26th.
- **Indoor Track** – Mr. Clayton Culp has replaced Joe Sargent. He thanked Joe for his help and support. Clayton provided information from the Indoor Track Committee (copies provided). The indoor and outdoor track committees have been combined and will now meet together. Appreciation was given to the support people who work behind the scenes for the track program. There have been minor updates to bulletin to identify specialty jobs. The State Championships will held be on February 18, 2019 (1A/2A) and February 19, 2019 (3A/4A) at the Prince Georges Sportsplex. Regional tournament information was provided. The seeding meeting will occur at Broadneck High School on February 16, 2019. It was noted that the *Indoor Track Last Minute Bulletin* would come out at the time of the seeding meeting.
- **Swimming and Diving** – Mr. Kevin Kendro provided information from the Swimming and Diving Committee (copies provided). He noted that the information provided along with the region and state meeting schedule is available in the swimming and diving committee report and in the winter bulletin on pages 28-35.
Points of emphasis:
 - There is now a state meet coordinator, Michael Kokoski. All final results shall be emailed to Michael Kokoski at mpssaaswimdive@gmail.com.
 - Competitors that are entered into, compete in, and qualify from their region meet are expected to participate in their State Championship Meet or be subject to “misconduct detrimental to the tournament” and its’ penalties as found in the MPSSAA Handbook.

The swimming and diving committee offered their thanks to the MPSSAA staff for all of their help and support

- **Wrestling** – Mr. Brian Layman provided information from the Wrestling Committee. This year the second annual girls’ invitational wrestling meet will be held at Northeast High School on February 2, 2019. Last year there were over 80 competitors, the committee is hoping to double that number this year. The state dual meet tournament will be held on February 9, 2019, at North Point High School. The Individual State Championship will be held at the Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro for the fourth year on March 1–2, 2019. It was noted that there will be free chocolate milk samples at the tournament. Last year they gave chocolate milk to over 450 competitors.

D. Spring Tournaments Proposals

- **Baseball** – Mr. Jason Woodward provided information from the Baseball Committee. He thanked his committee for all of their hard work this past year. He announced and congratulated the 2018 state champions, and the sportsmanship award winner. For the 2019 championship season, the state official ball is the Wilson A1010. The committee highly recommends using the ball during the regular season as it required for postseason play. The 2019 State Tournament will be at Cal Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen. The facility contracts for the semifinals are still being negotiated and the locations will be announced at the spring meeting. There are no spring bulletin changes.
- **Softball** – Ms. Lynn Pitonzo was not in attendance. Ms. Marianne Schultz provided the Softball Committee Report (copies provided). She announced and congratulated the 2018 state champions and the sportsmanship award winner. The committee thanked Mariah Ripken for her time on the committee and welcomed Raenelle Taylor. The 2019 semifinals will be held at Bachman Park in Glen Burnie on May 21, 2019. Finals will be held at the University of Maryland on Friday, May 24 and Saturday, May 25, 2019 (schedule to be determined upon completion of the semifinals).

Softball Rules Changes for 2019:

- Media area located in dead ball territory.
 - No tinted eye shield attached to face/head protection – permitted for defense.
 - Illegal pitch penalty limited to batter – will no longer advance to runners.
- **Lacrosse** – Mr. Ken Zorbach and Melba Williams provided the Lacrosse Committee Reports. It was a tough spring weather wise. Thank you to the athletic directors for getting all of the regional games played in time for the semifinals. Thank you to the ADs at Gaithersburg, Mt. Hebron, Northeast and Havre de Grace for hosting the semifinals. Appreciation was expressed to the MPSSAA staff for their support and help during the tournament. Thank you to Stevenson University - they are always wonderful hosts. Thank you to the administrators who came to the championship games to support their teams. The 2018 state champions were announced, along with and the sportsmanship award winners. Last year was the first year that there were four classifications for Lacrosse. The last playdate for the 2019 season is May 4th, the draw is May 6th. The semifinal sites are the same as last year.

Changes to bulletin:

- Schools hosting state semifinal games may not host games with their own teams.
- Prom guidelines for regional games will also be followed for the state semifinals.
- Once the region tournament brackets are released, participating schools may not practice or play on the Stevenson University facility.

Rules Changes were provided. There will be a Girls' Rules Change Webinar. Information to follow. The US Lacrosse convention will be January 11–13, 2019, in Philadelphia, PA.

- **Tennis** – Ms. Jean Vanderpool provided the Tennis Committee Report (copies provided). She thanked Andy, Jason, and Jill for all of the hard work and the enormous amount of time they have spent on tennis over the last few years. She congratulated and announced the 2018 champions. She noted that the 2017–18 school year was the last year that the State of Maryland would have only one classification for tennis champions. The 2018–19 school year will be the first year that will have four classifications for tennis champions. There is a

tremendous amount of new information in the bulletin (copies provided). She noted that the regional tournament information was on page 33, and that the state tournament would now be a three-day tournament. For the third year in a row the State Tournament site will be Wilde Lake Tennis Center in Columbia, Maryland. Thanks was given to Wilde Lake for doing such a nice job hosting our tournaments.

The state tournament schedule:

- Thursday, May 23 – two preliminary rounds – Class 1A and 2A.
- Friday, May 24 – two preliminary rounds – Class 3A and 4A.
- Saturday, May 25 – Consolation rounds, and finals.

The committee will meet on May 14 for the regional seeding meeting and is counting on districts to turn in all the seeding information that they have. Most importantly, tennis coaches have this information as early as possible. If your tennis coach has any questions, please have them email Jean (jvanderpool@hcpss.org) with their questions. Any questions?

Question: Is there a recommendation from the state on how to play your student-athletes (position-wise)? **Answer:** No, it's up to the local school system.

Question: Will the four classifications will begin next spring - 2020? **Answer:** No, the four classifications begin this spring – 2019.

Question: Who provides tennis balls for regional tennis tournaments? **Answer:** Each district that hosts a regional tournament will be responsible for providing balls (just like regional games for field hockey, soccer, etc.)

- **Track & Field** – Ms. Beth Shook was not in attendance. Mr. Dom Zaccarelli provided the track and field committee report (copies provided). He reiterated the change with indoor and outdoor track committees, they have been combined and now meet together. He shared the outdoor track summary: there were over 22,000 student-athletes on the rosters, 6,646 student-athletes were entered in regional tournaments, and 2,189 were state qualifiers. He announced state and classification records. He noted that there have been no changes to the report.

E. Vote for Approval

Mr. Jason Gordon motioned for approval of the Spring Tournament Proposal reports; Clayton Culp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous.

F. Other Business

Over the course of the fall, the Football Committee has been discussing the playoff structure. After discussion, and gathering feedback from the districts, the committee voted in favor 8-1 to make a recommendation to change the football playoff structure to a 9 game regular season schedule, with week 10 starting the first round of playoffs. This proposal would double the number of teams in playoffs from a total of 64 teams to 128 teams. There would be two rounds in region, then reseed at state quarterfinal. The proposal still needs to be approved by the Executive Council, the Finance Committee, and the Board of Control in April.

Mr. Kendro (District 1) asked for time to discuss the proposal and then to do a straw vote. Mr. Kendro restated the proposal. He shared that a recent survey of football coaches and AD's indicated that 81% of the schools reporting would like to see a change in the current playoff system. He noted that other than dual meet wrestling, football is the only sport in MPSSAA system where teams must earn their way into the playoffs. Since not all teams make postseason, the committee feels that

approval of this proposal will make each school's chance (to make it into the playoffs) more equitable and comparable to all other sports offered by MPSSAA. Every school would have the opportunity to participate in postseason play consistent with the open tournament philosophy for all other sports. Before the straw vote, questions were taken.

Question: Currently in 10 game schedule, if a school chooses to play nine games – the divisor is 9, if we go to a 9 game schedule, could a team elect to play 8? If so, would the divisor be 8?

Answer: Probably, and similar to what we currently have. All details would need to be taken into consideration when writing football bulletin.

Question: Any further discussion on the 9-12 teams that don't make the playoffs. **Answer:** Current COMAR regulations would not allow additional games after week 9.

Question: Is it clear, that in the first round of playoffs in a 10 game regular season, that the money would come back to the participating schools or districts? **Answer:** The Finance Committee has not met, but the thinking is that week 10 funds would go back to the district, and the district would be responsible for the distribution of the funds. Keep in mind, football income was under budget this year. The Finance Committee will have a lot of details to work out.

Question: Is there consideration to still play a 10 game schedule, and expand playoffs?

Answer: It was not part of discussion to add a 15th game to the season (now maximum 14 games).

Question: Would the 1st round game be considered a county level game (money wise)?

Answer: It would be considered a regional game. The Finance Committee would have to determine where the money goes.

Question: There is concern regarding scheduling both a 9-10 week schedule specifically around getting out of county contracts. Are we looking at expediting the approval process so that it will be completed this year? **Answer:** Mr. Kendro wanted a straw poll today, so that everyone would get an opinion of how the Board of Control would vote. The Executive Council will vote at the end of January. You'll have a lot more direction once we get to that point. There was no way to rush the process.

Question: Are we looking at reseeding at the sectional level for other sports as well? **Answer:**

That is under consideration by a Classification Committee task force.

Straw Vote:

In favor of moving ahead with 9 game schedule: 36 in favor, 14 opposed, 3 abstentions (2 unaccounted).

Ms. Dana Johnson sought to adjourn the meeting – Mr. Dave Dolch motioned for adjournment, Mr. Jason Gordon seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned.