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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
STATE HIGH SCHOOL  
ASSOCIATIONS



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**MPSSAA Board of Control Minutes  
MPSSAA  
December 11, 2024**

1. Dr. Jeffrey Sullivan, MPSSAA President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Mr. Andy Warner welcomed everyone and reported that 56 of 63 voting members were present, qualifying for a quorum to conduct business for the association. Dr. Sullivan requested a motion to approve the minutes from April 26, 2024. Mr. Eric Michael made a motion for approval and Ms. Debbie Basler seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.
2. Mr. Andy Warner provided an overview of the Spring 2024 financial report. It was noted that the lacrosse budget was built for Loyola University, but the championships went to Stevenson University where the rental fee was much lower.
  - a. Mr. Michael Watson made a motion to accept the Spring 2024 financial report and was seconded by Mr. Michael Duffy. The vote was unanimous to accept the report.
3. Mr. Warner gave an update from the Finance Committee.
  - a. An important thing to note is that the committee decided to raise the pay of state tournament workers.
4. Mr. Warner provided an overview of the financial report of the recent 2024 Fall Championship season. Finances were under budget with a few more expenses expected to come in and be paid out by the association.
  - a. Football came in under budget. The weather impacted revenue resulting in a 6-figure deficit.
  - b. Mr. Brian Ashby made a motion to accept the Fall 2024 financial report and was seconded by Mr. John Davis. The vote was unanimous to accept the report.
5. Dr. Sullivan transitioned to sharing MPSSAA updates and issues from the Executive Council.

- a. Communication – How are we disseminating and getting out consistent information
  - b. Financial Structure – We have decided on enhanced payments for state workers. Also discussed a percentage split of revenue.
  - c. Student Leadership – We would like more representation across the MPSSAA with student voices. A group was sent to the leadership conference over the summer. How can we utilize our students in the future?
  - d. Ongoing initiatives – We have Girls Flag, Cheer, Girls Wrestling We need to work with school systems to monitor emerging sports.
  - e. Long term initiatives – We'll look at a strategic plan and classification structure.
6. Mr. Kevin Kendro gave an update on the Sportsmanship Committee.
- a. Sportsmanship Survey – Encourage coaches, administrators, and officials to complete it. The good reviews still outweigh the bad.
  - b. Mr. Warner has the ability to send results to schools and central offices.
  - c. The state went to a statewide form for ejections this year. Please have your officials groups utilize the form so that the results can be gathered.
  - d. Officials Appreciation Weeks – Please encourage coaches and athletic directors to take the time to recognize the officials.
  - e. Game Management – Would like to thank the soccer committee for instituting the mercy rule.
  - f. Egregious Behavior – Most school systems have adopted the same consequences for regular season play. Please have discussions about fighting and leaving the team area.
7. Dr. Sullivan gave an update on the ongoing COMAR review. The chairperson of each working group gave an overview of what their group is reviewing.
- a. The review will involve all of the “yellow” pages of the Handbook where recommendations will be made for the future.
  - b. Will look at other states for benchmarking if applicable.
  - c. The target timeline is December 2025 for the Board of Control (BOC) to take action. Recommendations can take months with a target goal of taking effect in Fall 2026.
  - d. Six Working Groups on the Task Force
    - i. Eligibility (.02)
    - ii. Sports Season (.03)
    - iii. Operational Guidelines (.04)
    - iv. Violations, Penalties, and Appeals (.05)
    - v. Classification (.06)
    - vi. State Tournament Policies (.07), Awards and Recognition (.08), Sanction Rules (.09), Amateur Rules (.10)
  - e. Mr. Warner gave a little history of the last time a COMAR review was done.
    - i. The amendment process has to come through the BOC first. You can reach out to the working groups with any questions. The task force will report to the Executive Council first before discussion with the Constitution Committee and then the BOC.

8. Mr. Warner gave an overview of the mental wellness training for coaches. There is guidance in draft form so that school systems will be prepared with a professional course when the time comes. An NFHS course is being developed and will be free of charge.
  - a. Mr. Clayton Culp asked about combining this course with the Care and Prevention course. Mr. Warner said the group will actually be voting on it during the meeting.
9. Dr. Sullivan called on each of the fall sport committee directors to report on the recent fall state championships.
  - a. Golf – Eric Michael
  - b. Cross Country – Michael Sye
  - c. Field Hockey – Gina Grubb
  - d. Soccer – Matt Roberts
  - e. Volleyball – Sybil Kessinger
  - f. Football – Ryan Hines
10. Dr. Sullivan called each of the winter sport committee directors to report on the upcoming winter sports tournaments.
  - a. Basketball – Lynette Mitzel
  - b. Indoor Track and Field – Clayton Culp
  - c. Swimming and Diving – Kevin Kendro
  - d. Wrestling – Brian Layman
11. Dr. Sullivan brought up new business.
  - a. Mr. Warner came up to discuss the 2025-2027 classification recommendations.
    - i. Discussion – Ms. Amy Sexton requested that Perryville High School move to the East region in the football alignment after reviewing the regions geographically.
    - ii. Dr. Sullivan first asked for a motion for the Winter and Spring Classifications. A motion was put forward by Mr. Michael and seconded by Mr. Sye. The vote was unanimous to accept the Winter and Spring Classifications.
    - iii. Mr. Warner presented the Google map that the Classification Committee utilized when deciding the alignment for Class 1A South and East.
      1. Ms. Sexton made a motion to move Perryville High School from the Class 1A South region to the 1A East region. Mr. Duffy seconded the motion. (YES – 43, NO – 5, ABSTENTION – 9) The motion passes.
  - b. Mr. Roberts asked if there was the ability to adjust regions if there is a region with only one team. Mr. Warner stated that the BOC approves the alignments and there is no movement once the regions are set. He was unaware of any region that was down to one school. The regions are set based on schools submitting the programs they intend to sponsor.
  - c. A motion was put forward by Mr. Duffy to accept the Fall Classifications. It was seconded by Ms. Anne Rossiter. The vote was unanimous to accept the Fall Classifications.

12. Mr. Warner discussed the Care and Prevention course outline that was approved by the Medical Advisory Committee. They reviewed what could be modified or simplified so that coaches can have Care and Prevention and other courses that are required to be taken by coaches.
  - a. Ms. Rossiter asked about how she should submit for this new portion of the course. She submits to her Certification Office and they submit who is certified from her county. She just wants to know if this will be the same process for her. will also be submitted. Mr. Warner will need to find out and get back to her.
  - b. Ms. Kurisha Hoffman commented that the portion about Nutrition was removed and she feels it's very important. Can an LEA add to what's required? Mr. Warner confirmed that additional content can be added.
  - c. Dr. Sullivan asked for a motion if there were no further questions or discussion. Mr. Clayton Culp made a motion to accept the Care and Prevention Course outline. Ms. Tiffany Byrd seconded. (YES – 50, NO – 1, ABSTENTION – 1) The motion passes.
    - i. Discussion – Ms. Cate Beaton asked how it was decided on what to remove, such as Nutrition. Mr. Warner stated that this is what the Medical Advisory Committee recommended keeping. It was viewed as: when there is no athletic trainer or EMT present, there will be someone there to care for a student-athlete until medical personnel can be present. He does not disagree about something like Nutrition being important, but that can certainly be added as a precursor by a school system.
13. Dr. Sullivan called each of the spring sport committee directors to provide information and proposals for the spring championship bulletins.
  - a. Baseball – Jason Woodward
  - b. Softball – Marianne Shultz for Lynn Pitonzo
  - c. Lacrosse – Michael Duffy
  - d. Tennis – Jean Vanderpool
  - e. Track and Field – Clayton Culp

Mr. John Davis motioned to approve the proposals and accept the spring sport bulletins. Mr. Kevin Hook seconded. The vote was unanimous to approve.

14. Dr. Sullivan asked if there was any new business.
  - a. Mr. Warner acknowledged the MPSSAA office staff and introduced the newest member, Melissa Nash Mertz. The office has been using their nicknames “Mel” for Melissa Jones “M” for Melissa Mertz.
15. Dr. Sullivan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting if there was no further discussion. Mr. Duffy made a motion and Mr. Michael seconded. The vote was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.