

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting  
January 28-29, 2016

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

Districts Represented: Jim Rodriguez (District 1), William Beattie (District 2), O'Shay Watson (District 3), 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  
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor, Baltimore County (secretary)  
Jill Masterman, Program Specialist, MPSSAA  
Donnee Gray, MPSSAA  
Jeff Sullivan, Specialist, Montgomery County  
Kevin Kendro, Supervisor, Frederick County

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the September 2015 Executive Council Meeting
2. USA Football Coach Training Agreement
3. MPSSAA award outline
4. NFHS Leadership Summit overview
5. House Bill 119
6. House Bill 29
7. House Bill 142
8. House Bill 251
9. 2016 Coaches' Conference outline
10. Corollary Sports Steering Committee recap
11. Montgomery County classification proposal
12. Football playoff proposal
13. Out of season guidelines (various counties)
14. MPSSAA Bulletin amendment proposal
15. MPSSAA tie breaking procedure proposal
16. Montgomery County notes regarding tennis seasons

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm.
2. A motion was made by Michael Sye, with a second by John Davis, to approve the minutes from the September 2015 meeting. That vote was unanimous.
3. Introduction of MPSSAA Assistant Director, Jason Bursick.

4. Mr. Warner notified the council the MPSSAA recognized Bob Wade and Jessica Ivey for their long standing commitment to the MPSSAA during their tenures. They were presented with life time gold cards. He also informed the group Milly Wilson would be receiving an NFHS award presented to state associations for individuals who have made significant contributions to their respective associations. This award will be presented at the girls' state basketball finals at SECU Arena.
5. Mr. Warner provided the committee with information regarding the public service announcements delivered to the MPSSAA by the NFHS. Ten PSAs were sent to over 100 radio stations across Maryland. Schools may download content at [www.supporthighschoolsports.com](http://www.supporthighschoolsports.com)
6. Mr. Warner reviewed the NFHS Winter Meeting with the group. He informed them many discussions were held on NFHS new strategic planning process. The NFHS Network topic was examined, but nothing will change from the standpoint of the MPSSAA. He apprised the group the Section 2 meeting in September will be held in Annapolis, MD.
7. Mr. Warner informed the council USA Heads Up Football has reached out to the MPSSAA recently with a new agreement. This new agreement will be distributed to the local school systems for their legal offices to review. Many of the council members shared concerns about the insurance piece and the actual training of the coaches. Mr. Warner, Mr. Sye, Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Sullivan all plan on attending the upcoming conference and will share more information at the spring executive council meeting.
8. Mr. Warner reviewed the current state championship and finalist awards that are presented to state tournament participants. He is concerned the awards are not reflective of the entire student body. He informed the council this is the last year of a three-year contract with Larry Beck and a contract for awards will be sent out for bid over the summer. David Byrd proposed for Mr. Warner to make changes to the awards including potentially replacing the current plaques with medals. Jim Rodriguez second the proposal and it unanimously passed.
9. Mr. Bursick gave a report to the group on the 2016 Student Leadership Conference. This year's state conference will be held on August 4<sup>th</sup> at Gaithersburg HS, and will again be under the leadership of Michael Duffy. The NFHS resurrected the national conference last year, and this year's dates are July 17-20 in Indianapolis. The MPSSAA would like to send more than two student athletes, but will wait for directive from the NFHS as to the exact number permitted.
10. Mr. Warner reviewed four new house bills that are currently being considered. House Bill 119 appears to pertain more to collegiate athletic teams than high school, in that it gives physicians traveling with sports teams licensing exemption when in a different state. House Bill 29 recommends suspending coaches who violate certain provisions of the law as they pertain to the removal from play. House Bill 142 pertains to emotional health awareness programs for student athletes and coaches. The delegate who introduced House Bill 251 wants school systems to permit home school students the opportunity to participate in clubs and extracurricular activities.
11. Mr. Warner discussed financial considerations and moving to a more automated electronic system for the payment of state tournament workers. The MPSSAA Finance Committee will discuss further during their annual meeting.
12. Mr. Hawkins provided the council with information about the inaugural coaches' clinic set for June 18<sup>th</sup> at Paint Branch HS. Opening and closing speakers are secured, clinicians are being contacted for their assistance, and the biggest piece currently is financing the program. Mr. Hawkins has solicited donations from districts for assistance. Mr. Warner mentioned matching the monies provided for the

- Student Leadership Conference. Mr. Hook made a motion for the MPSSAA to at a minimum, match the funds, which are \$15,000, the SLC receives. Mr. Sye second the motion and it unanimously passed.
13. Mr. Davis brought a report from the corollary sports sub-committee to the group. A survey was distributed to the local school systems requesting information on the satisfaction level of what is currently being offered for students with disabilities. When the results were tallied, the consensus was everyone is satisfied with what their county provides and wants to continue with their programs. If local jurisdictions want to seek one another out for a season culminating event, that is permissible.
  14. Mr. Sullivan reviewed the report from the classification sub-committee, which met in October to discuss concerns about the timeline for the ratification of the classifications for spring sports. They also met to evaluate the ten percent rule and how it affects schools. A proposal was made by the sub-committee to address the imbalance in classifications across the state. The proposal requires member schools to offer a minimum of fifty percent of MPSSAA sponsored sports during the previous classification cycle in order to be included in the initial classification calculation. The schools would then be divided into four equal groups, with the schools who do not offer twelve of the 23 MPSSAA sports not included. Following the initial classification, the enrollment ranges and set, and the schools who fall below the 12 sports are then assigned to the appropriate classification and region/section based upon their enrollment numbers. The implementation would occur for the 2017-18/2018-19 cycle. Dr. Beattie made a motion to adopt the proposal and Mr. Hawkins second it. The vote was unanimous to adopt the proposal.
  15. Mr. Hawkins questioned the council on interpretation of two schools who are currently housed in the same building. Discussion took place about the different issues that can arise when this occurs and previous interpretations. A sub-committee will be formed to delve into the details and bring information back to the group at the April meeting.
  16. Mr. Rodriguez shared a football point system proposal from constituents in his county. Mr. Warner also shared there was a proposal from a Montgomery County school. Both proposals will be discussed at the football committee spring meeting.
  17. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.
  18. The meeting began again at 8:50am, Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.
  19. Ms. Masterman reviewed the current ball contracts for baseball and volleyball, which are currently up for renewal. Diamond, ProNine, Spalding, and Wilson are vying for the baseball contract. According to the baseball director, Diamond is highly recommended. After reviewing the value of the contract, Mr. Berno motioned to choose Diamond. Mr. Hook second the motion and the vote was unanimous to use Diamond, with Wilson having the first right of refusal. If Wilson exceeds the offer, they will be awarded the contract renewal. Baden, Gala, Molten, Spalding, Under Armour, and Wilson are the balls being considered for volleyball. Upon review of the contract values of the various companies, Mr. Berno motioned to accept the Spalding contract. Mr. Rodriguez second the motion and it unanimously passed. Spalding will be awarded the contract with Molten having the first right of refusal to exceed the offer.
  20. Discussion was had regarding non-school teams and what policies were upheld in various jurisdictions. A packet of information was included in the folder for people to review.

21. Dr. Beattie proposed an amendment in section 1 of the state bulletins to clarify the procedure for tournament seeding. The proposal better explains how teams are seeded, what occurs if there is a tie, and how to calculate winning percentage. Mr. Hook made a motion to accept the new language and Mr. Sye second the motion. The motion passed 13-0.

Mr. Clayton Culp submitted a proposal to insert new language into section 2, responsibilities of schools participating in a tournament. The new language requires the schools to maintain hard copies of the NFHS rules and the MPSSAA bulletins at all playoff games and to recommend they are presented to the officials prior to the start of the contest. Mr. Davis made a motion to accept the new language and Mr. Hawkins second the motion. There were 12 votes in favor of the motion and one abstention.

22. Dr. Roper addressed the council on how teams/individuals qualify for state tournaments. His conference is questioning how Montgomery County girls are permitted to play tennis in the fall and qualify for the spring state tournament. Dr. Roper made a motion: "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." Mr. Sye second that motion. Dr. Beattie distributed literature on how his county has allowed girls to participate in the fall and enter the tournament in the spring and why it should be permissible in the future. Ten individuals were in favor of the proposal, one was against, and two abstained. The motion passed and will be in effect at the start of the 2018-2019 school year.
23. Mr. Warner informed the group the golf committee meeting originally scheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup> would be postponed due to committee members being out of school frequently during the past week with weather related closings.
24. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Rodriguez with a second by Mr. Sye. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.