

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
April 12, 2021

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

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

Also Present: Michael Duffy, President, MPSSAA
Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA (joined at 10:19)
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Ken Kazmarek, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor of Athletics, Secretary

Excused: Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA

1. The meeting was called to order on April 12, 2021 at 10:04 by President Duffy.
2. Mr. Duffy asked the committee to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Markle made a motion to accept the minutes, followed by a second from Mr. Davis. The minutes were approved 11-0.
3. Mr. Duffy requested updates from the MPSSAA. Mr. Warner informed the council today was adjournment day for bills to be passed in legislation. All bills the MPSSAA was following have remained in their original committee. He informed the group winter sport committee meetings recently took place and bulletins will be ready for the May 18th Board of Control meeting. Two COMAR proposals are still in the process of moving to the state board of education for approval. One proposal is about allowing wrestling to schedule three contests one time during the season provided it's during a non-tournament week. The other proposal would allow a student athlete who has exhausted eligibility to participate in an unlimited number of all star events. Mr. Warner and Mr. Schoen will be virtually attending the NFHS legal meeting Thursday and Friday, at which time he hopes to obtain more information about the summer meeting being held in Orlando.

4. Mr. Ashby asked Mr. Warner if there was a change to the number of contests per week due to the shortened season. Mr. Warner informed him the weekly and seasonal limitations were still in effect.
5. Mr. Duffy asked for representatives to share updated athletic information.
 - District 1: no changes; Allegany, Garrett, and Washington are in spring season; Carroll and Frederick are finishing fall, starting spring Saturday.
 - District 2: no changes; finishing fall, starting spring Saturday.
 - District 3: started spring, competitions begin April 26th.
 - District 4: no changes; Calvert and St. Mary's finishing fall, Charles in spring.
 - District 5: no changes; finishing fall, starting spring Saturday.
 - District 6: no changes; finishing fall, starting spring Saturday.
 - District 7: no changes, in spring now
 - District 8: no changes; finishing fall, starting spring Saturday.
 - District 9: no changes; in spring, competitions later this month.
6. Mr. Duffy requested an updated memorandum from the MPSSAA reminding coaches the 80% rule is in effect until June 20th. Mr. Warner shared the document that was approved by the Executive Council in September 2020 and asked if this document was still adequate for distribution. Ms. Byrd asked for clarification on waivers and when they would be approved. Mr. Warner said now is the time to discuss waivers so they can be approved at the May Board of Control meeting and then approved at the June board of education meeting. Mr. Duffy recommended two things be addressed at today's meeting: 1. waivers and 2. specifics on what state tournaments will look like should there be an opportunity for them to be held. Ms. Basler inquired as to whether a caveat needed to be added if there was no state tournament when the 80% would go into effect. Mr. Warner referenced page 34 in the handbook and reminded the council if schools were eliminated in the state tournament in previous years, the 80% rule was still in effect until the spring state tournaments were finished. The council agrees nothing should change this year.
7. Mr. Duffy requested a discussion about spring state championships to have a better perspective on where the association is in the planning process. At this time, the sport committees have started to lay the groundwork for how the tournaments will run and the MPSSAA has investigated facilities. Mr. Warner started a spreadsheet on graduation ceremonies and right now there looks to be little conflict during the two week playoff period, with the exception of Montgomery County schools. He also informed the group the opportunity to break down the regions into smaller ones would help with travel and mitigation. He would like to prepare bulletins for the Executive Council and Board of Control to approve. Mr. Sye asked if local school system guidelines applied to the state tournament, and Mr. Warner confirmed that was the case. Mr. Sye also asked about combining regions if teams chose not to enter, to which Mr. Warner indicated that would contradict trying to reduce region sizes. Mr. Duffy asked what the current timeline looks like. Mr. Warner reviewed the timeline for June 7 and June 14 weeks. Dr. Sullivan asked what the strategy was going to be to address concerns between now and May 18th Board of Control meeting. He feels there needs to be a summary of a plan so concerns can be addressed as they

arise. Mr. Warner will open a google meet for Tuesday so people can join and continue with the planning process.

8. Mr. Duffy inquired as to what the group thought essential waivers were for entering the 2021-2022 academic year. The majority of the group was in favor of keeping the waivers for the following year. There was some discussion about removing the sport season waiver, but at the end of the discussion, it was decided to ask for it again now. Mr. Warner recommended the district representatives speak to their superintendents so a vote can take place at the next Executive Council meeting.
9. Ms. Byrd inquired about summer out of season participation. District 9 is having critical issues with participation numbers and she would like to know what opportunities could be presented to engage students. Mr. Warner indicated there are opportunities through camps and clinics.
10. Upon hearing no further new business needed to be addressed, Mr. Duffy entertained a motion for adjournment. Mr. Kendro made a motion, followed by a second from Mr. Saunderson to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor – 11-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:52.