

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting  
February 22, 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 (joined at 10:19), (District 8) Bryan Ashby, (District 9) Tiffany Byrd

Also Present: Michael Duffy, President, MPSSAA  
Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA  
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  
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative

1. The meeting was called to order on February 22, 2021 at 10:05 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 Ms. Byrd. The minutes were approved 9-0.
3. Mr. Duffy asked for representatives to share updated athletic information.  
District 1: Garrett is starting spring sports on March 15th, Allegany is restarting Fall sports on February 13, Washington is finishing its winter season and starting spring sports on March 15th, Frederick and Carroll started fall on February 13<sup>th</sup>.  
District 2: Set to start fall sports on February 27<sup>th</sup>.  
District 3: Starting outdoor fall conditioning on March 10<sup>th</sup> and a modified spring season after students return from spring break.  
District 4: Calvert and St. Mary's are in the fall season; Charles will not play fall, but instead will move to spring sports on March 15<sup>th</sup>.  
District 5: Anne Arundel and Howard started fall on February 13<sup>th</sup>.  
District 6: Started fall season on February 13<sup>th</sup>.  
District 8: Bayside conference is in fall season and will start games on March 5<sup>th</sup>.  
District 9: Set to start spring sports on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

4. Mr. Duffy requested Mr. Warner inform the council of any updates from MSDE, MPSSAA, or VNN. Mr. Warner informed the group Senate Bill 759 will have hearings this week and House Bill 817 will have a hearing on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He had a discussion with Randy Hagg from VNN to present a webinar to the state supervisors of athletics to see what VNN has to offer and how it will work with DragonFly Athletics. (Ms. Basler joined the meeting) Mr. Warner informed the group they are working on a solution that can provide districts with a front end website that incorporates their local school sites. Mr. Kendro inquired as to whether using DragonFly and VNN were going to be mandatory. At this time they have a contract with R School and do not want to continue with it if DragonFly will be mandatory. Mr. Warner indicated it will not be mandatory, but the officials associations will need to register their officials on DragonFly. DragonFly will also be used for all MPSSAA State tournament brackets. Mr. Duffy informed the council one Carroll County school is currently piloting DragonFly and has run into several hurdles with the product. Mr. Warner asked if the South Carroll athletic director would please share any snags with the MPSSAA so Mr. Kazmarek and Mr. Bursick can relay to the DragonFly representatives on their weekly call. Mr. Byrd spoke about Baltimore City's experience and stated that DragonFly has been very attentive to working with Ms. Montgomery from her office.
5. Mr. Duffy requested Mr. Warner provide an update, if any, on academic eligibility as it pertains to the MPSSAA or MSDE. Mr. Warner indicated there is no update; the COMAR policy is still in effect; nothing was changed last April/May when waivers were being discussed. All school systems are required to be in full compliance with having an established academic eligibility policy. Those policies can be modified, but cannot be waived. Ms. Byrd commented she thought when this topic was being discussed, there was talk of waiving policies.
6. Mr. Duffy asked if there was an update on the possible start of girls' flag football. Mr. Warner shared they are working on a grant proposal with the Ravens. He stated according to information from states already offering flag football, the approximate start up cost for a ten game season would be \$6500 and the annual recurring cost would be approximately \$4500.
7. Ms. Basler provided information on District 7 since she was not on the meeting when the other districts spoke. At this time Cecil and Harford counties are prepared to begin spring preseason conditioning on March 1<sup>st</sup> and practices on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
8. Mr. Warner shared a timeline for what the MPSSAA would like to do between now and June 2021. The timeline showed the different sport season start dates, first play dates, and end dates. It also included various meeting dates and other pertinent information, such as a meeting date for the spring Board of Control meeting and a date for when the MPSSAA would ask for athletic waivers for the 2021-2022 academic year. Also included was a timeline for spring sport state tournaments. Ms. Basler asked if this means spring state championships are occurring this year. Mr. Warner indicated they are not off the table yet. The Board of Control meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> will be when that potentially gets determined. Mr. Duffy inquired as to what PSSAM members said when Mr. Warner met with them last week. Mr. Warner said he met with the two Board of Control members of PSSAM and they were in

favor of waiting on announcing anything about spring sport state tournaments. (Mr. Markle off the meeting at 10:46)

9. Mr. Ashby asked what those who have already finished a season of competition how they handled spectator tickets if spectators were permitted in contests. They Bayside conference is going to use family passes to help with contact tracing. Mr. Duffy said Carroll county will be permitting two spectators per student and purchase will be done via online ticket sales. Mr. Kendro asked which counties are charging admission. Mr. Duffy informed the group Carroll will be charging \$5/ticket with a \$1 convenience fee.
10. Mr. Duffy asked if there was anything else for the good of the order. Mr. Kendro inquired as to whether Frederick County was permitted to use the international tie breaker rule for baseball. Mr. Kazmarek indicated that was fine and Mr. Warner requested a written memo so they could send back a response notifying the school system it was allowed. Mr. Kazmarek would also inform the officials association that serves Frederick County.
11. Mr. Duffy asked if the meeting minutes could please be sent a day or two prior to the meeting. Mr. Warner indicated that would not be an issue.
12. Mr. Duffy requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kendro made a motion followed by a second from Mr. Sye. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 with a 9-0 vote.