

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
July 20, 2020

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

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

Also Present: Michael Duffy, President, MPSSAA
Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative (joined meeting at 12:50pm)
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Ken Kazmarek, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Secretary

1. The meeting was called to order on July 20, 2020 at 10:08 am by President Duffy.
2. The minutes from the July 20, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved. Motion by Steve Lee. Second by Jeff Sullivan. 11-0 approved (Ms. Basler and Mr. Kendro were on a previous call).
3. Mr. Duffy welcomed the committee and inquired as to which districts and requested Mr. Warner to provide any updates. Mr. Warner shared there have been active discussions with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). In lieu of any further announcement from either the MSDE or the MDH, the current MDH orders are in effect that allow for high school sports to resume. Local school systems at their discretion can have non-sport specific conditioning and enter the preseason phase of practice on August 12.
4. Mr. Duffy inquired as to what districts are planning for athletics if schools do not open for in person learning this fall. Most districts shared the same sentiment of general concern and collectively felt time is needed to assess educational plans. The executive council drafted the following three statements:
 1. The MPSSAA Executive Council supports delaying the start of fall sports until September 8, 2020 to allow LSSs to confirm return to school operations plans.

2. The Executive Council requests state approval for all districts to proceed with the Roadmap to Recovery for athletics, even in 100 percent virtual setting, as local health guidelines allow.
3. The MPSSAA will consider alternative models, including the shifting of sport seasons, to maximize participation opportunities, consistent with our guiding principles.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion for the executive council to accept the drafted the statement.s
Mr. Davis seconded the motion. 12-0 (Ms. Basler had to leave the meeting early).

5. Mr. Sye requested the council discuss no alternative models given the decisions of multiple school systems to start school virtually for the entire first semester. A questionnaire for local school systems will be developed to determine the support of three-sport seasons in the springtime, extending participation to June 30, 2021 for a competition season, and will school systems allow for preseason practice to take place prior to the start of the second semester.
6. Mr. Warner shared information from PepWear regarding the potential to purchase masks for schools and officials for the upcoming season. The council tabled discussion for the current moment but will look back into the matter.
7. Mr. Ashby made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Davis second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m. by a vote of 11-0 (Mr. Sye had to leave the meeting early).