

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
December 15, 2020

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro, (District 2) Jeff Sullivan, (District 4) Steve Lee, (District 5) John Davis, (District 6) Jeff Markle, (District 7) Debbie Basler (joined at 10:07), (District 8) Bryan Ashby, (District 9) Tiffany Byrd

Also Present: Michael Duffy, President, MPSSAA
Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA
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

1. The meeting was called to order on December 15, 2020 at 10:03 a.m. by President Duffy.
2. Mr. Duffy asked the committee to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Sye made a motion to accept the minutes, followed by a second from Mr. Lee. The minutes were approved 10-0.
3. Mr. Duffy opened the meeting asking for updates from MSDE or the MPSSAA office. Mr. Warner said there were a few updates. The Board of Control meeting agenda is set for the December 16th meeting. There will be two doctors joining the meeting to provide an overview on COVID related topics. The medical advisory board met last week and will provide a form for students who have had COVID to use prior to returning to athletics. Mr. Warner will be speaking about the most recent athletic information during a Maryland Department of Health technical assistance webinar. Mr. Sye reminded Mr. Warner of discussion that took place with the medical advisory group related to enforcement of COVID-19 mitigation policies at inter-county contests and for the council to have further discussion today. Mr. Warner stated this topic was part of today's agenda.
4. Mr. Duffy requested district representatives provide the council with an update as it pertains to the start of the winter season. The only update was from Dr. Sullivan, who announced Montgomery County suspended all activities through January 12, 2021.
5. Mr. Duffy asked for discussion about the responsibility for host schools to enforce mitigation strategies laid out by each county. Mr. Warner reminded the council the mitigation strategies are for the entire year and it is the site director's responsibility to enforce those guidelines.

Mr. Sye mentioned he would like to make sure every county is operating under the same rules so there are no problems should inter-county competitions be permitted later in the year. Mr. Warner informed the group local guidelines will be followed and enforced at the contests. Mr. Sye would like to see language provided so coaches and athletic directors all follow the same rules during contests. After discussion about how the guidelines should be enforced, who shall enforce them, and what penalties should be imposed, the decision was to have the MPSSAA office create language stating if coaches and players are not following COVID mitigation strategy guidelines, the contest shall be suspended by the site director, supervisors of athletics for both school shall be notified, and a decision will be made as to playing the game at another time. This was deemed an acceptable alternative to ejecting coaches since jurisdictions have different policies for coaches who have been ejected from a regular season contest.

6. Mr. Duffy inquired as to whether there was other business for the meeting. Mr. Davis wanted information concerning fall 2021 and asked if there would be flexibility for scheduling. Mr. Warner said there would need to be a request to extend the waivers granted for the 2020-2021 academic year. The waivers currently in place expire on June 30, 2021. Mr. Warner informed the group those waivers and other considerations for the 2021-2022 academic year will be reviewed in the March/April time frame, following the same timeframe used for approving the waivers for this current academic year.
7. Mr. Duffy requested a closed session to discuss financial matters of the association. Mr. Kendro made a motion to go into closed session, followed by a second from Mr. Saunderson. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 by a 11-0 vote.