

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting  
January 11, 2021

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 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  
Dana Johnson, Past President, 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

Excused: John Davis, District 5

- The meeting was called to order on January 11 2021 at 10:04 a.m. by President Elect Sye who is filling in for President Duffy until his other meeting is over.
- Mr. Sye asked Mr. Warner to provide the council updates as needed. Mr. Warner informed the group of the NFHS virtual winter meetings he attended last week. COVID, aerosol study, and mental health were a few of the topics discussed by executive directors around the country. He mentioned seven states have not begun high school sports yet this academic year. He informed the group he recently met with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and Dr. McCambridge for MDH approval on a return to play form for students who had COVID.
- Mr. Sye asked the committee to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Dr. Sullivan made a motion to accept the minutes, followed by a second from Mr. Lee. The minutes were approved 10-0.
- Mr. Duffy (joined the meeting at 10:08) and asked for updates from each district. At this time the only county offering in person winter season athletics is Carroll. Most are doing virtual, and a few cancelled winter at this point.
- Mr. Duffy asked for updates from Mr. Warner, who provided more detail for the return to play form recently developed. The form was developed by Dr. McCambridge of physicians of the medical advisory committee based on recent guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The form is a clearance for licensed health care providers to clear students after having COVID. Mr. Sye shared concerns on the administrative process with the difficulty students being able to timely see a doctor to get the form completed and then be permitted to

participate again. Mr. Duffy asked if physicians are aware of the form and who would be educating the physicians about the protocol. Mr. Warner informed the council he had this question for the physicians of the medical advisory committee, who assured him that licensed health care providers will understand the form and appropriate medical protocols. After MDH review and approval, Mr. Warner plans on sending the form to school systems later this week.

- Mr. Warner reviewed the language to be used when multi-jurisdictional contests occur during COVID based on the wishes of the council from previous meetings. After discussion by the group, the language to be used will be printed in the front of the bulletins and will read as follows: “Each local school system shall have implemented COVID policies and procedures in place in accordance with the Maryland Department of Health, MPSSAA, and local school and health department requirements. During any multi-jurisdictional competition, the policies and procedures of the hosting site jurisdiction shall be followed by all competing schools. When conflicts arise in which representatives, including, but not limited to coaches, participants, and spectators, are not following the mandated COVID policies and procedures of the local school system, the site director, in collaboration with school administration, shall have the authority to:
  1. initially provide a warning to those not in compliance to adhere to the local school system policies.
  2. suspend the competition and refer the conflict to supervisors of athletics for resolution.
  3. consult with the MPSSAA Executive Director

Mr. Warner will clean up number three and add to spring and fall bulletins.

- Mr. Sye inquired how far back the COVID form will be required for students who had the illness. He wants to know if it is retroactive for those students who may have had COVID in September, or if this is just moving forward for students who may develop COVID once the form is officially released. Mr. Warner suggested each county should discuss that with their health department and school system.
- Mr. Duffy thanked everyone for their time today and reminded people it was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MPSSAA. Mr. Warner stated the official date is January 26<sup>th</sup> and that is the date there will be an article on the website commemorating it. The new logo designed by a student from Frederick County will be used with the article. (Ms. Johnson joined the meeting at 10:49)
- Mr. Warner asked if there was anything else for the good of the order. Mr. Duffy reminded the council the meetings will now be bi-weekly, therefore we will meet again on January 25, 2021. Ms. Basler inquired as to scheduling waivers for fall 2021 and when those need to be approved. Mr. Warner reminded the group the discussion for 2020 waivers began in March and were approved in June; he would like to follow that same timeline.
- With no further new items, Mr. Duffy called for a motion to adjourn. One was received by Mr. Sye and second by Mr. Saunderson. The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 with a 12-0 vote.