

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
January 25, 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
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative (joined meeting at 11am)
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 January 25, 2021 at 10:01 a.m. by President Duffy.
2. Mr. Duffy asked the committee to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Basler made a motion to accept the minutes, followed by a second from Dr. Sullivan. The minutes were approved 11-0.
3. Mr. Duffy asked Mr. Warner to provide the council updates as needed. Mr. Warner informed the group of two people from around the state who recently passed away; Lil Shelton, long time field hockey coach at Severna Park High School and Dom Zaccarelli, former football coach and current athletic director at Westlake High School. He informed the council further information will be coming from the NFHS sports medicine advisory committee on how to assist schools amidst the pandemic. Mr. Warner recently had a meeting with VNN, during which they discussed a front end solution for schools which are implementing DragonFly. Dr. Sullivan inquired as to whether this guidance from the NFHS is the most recent following what they put out in May 2020. Mr. Warner concurred.
4. Mr. Duffy asked for updates from each district. Presently, Carroll County is still the only county offering in person winter season athletics. Frederick is set to begin this afternoon. A few counties were turning the focus to spring athletics, while some are planning on the February 13th fall athletic season.
5. Mr. Bursick provided the council updates on spring sport bulletins following the committee meetings that were held over the past few weeks. The COVID mitigation strategies for all sports will be placed in the front of the bulletin with each sport specific guidelines detailed in

that sport section. Baseball and softball added no sharing of batting helmets, bats, or catchers equipment, but if sharing had to occur due to equipment constraints due to school budget issues, the equipment must be sanitized after each use. They also will require catchers, pitchers, and coaches who meet on the mound to be six feet apart. The girls lacrosse committee unanimously voted to keep the draw in the game and the boys voted to keep the face off. The both felt it took away from the integrity of the game to not have those pieces. Tennis added the home team will be responsible for keeping score on the scoring device. During a doubles match one person from the team will be responsible for keeping the score on the device. Track and field added a stagger start at 3 meters and a break at the back for the 800m race. Mr. Lee made a motion to accept these modifications and Ms. Diggs second the motion. It passed 11-0.

6. Mr. Warner informed the council there were several official associations that did not pay their fees from last spring. Despite the cancellation of spring sports, the MPSSAA still provided books, registered officials, paid the NFHS, provided rules interpretation clinics, and administered exams. The MPSSAA sent a letter to officials associations that explained what the registration fees cover and informed the council the fee has not been raised in ten years. The finance committee voted to reduce the normal \$34 fee to a \$30 last April for Spring 2020 officials. The district representatives would like to have the opportunity to discuss the delinquency with the associations that serve their county, and will do so and report back to Mr. Warner. Mr. Sye made a motion to endorse collection \$30 from the spring 2020 officials organizations and \$20 from this year's fall and winter officials organizations. Mr. Davis second the motion. (Patrick Saunderson joined the meeting at 11:00) After further discussion during which Mr. Warner reminded the council the finance committee already approved \$30 for last spring, Mr. Sye withdrew his motion. Mr. Warner informed the group the MPSSAA recommends charging \$20 for spring since rule books from 2020 will be used and charging \$25 for fall and winter since there are new rule books for those sports. Mr. Lee made a motion, with a second from Ms. Basler, to assess the fall and winter sport officials associations \$25 per official and the spring sport officials associations \$20 per official. The motion was approved 12-0. Mr. Lee asked if the fee could be collected directly from the individual and Mr. Warner, along with Mr. Kazmarek told the group the registration process with DragonFly is being designed to collect fees from the individual official.
7. Mr. Warner shared strategies with the council to maximize opportunities and be creative with potential senior all star contests, given the lack of participation opportunities. Should something be done at the state level or should something be put in place to allow each school system to administer these events. Mr. Warner provided the group with a draft framework on guidance from the state for local school systems to administer all star contests. The council members would like to review the provided document and speak to their athletic directors before providing Mr. Warner with input. The topic will be reviewed at the February 8, 2021 Executive Council meeting.
8. Mr. Warner provided the council information from the NFHS winter meeting regarding girls flag football. The Atlanta Falcons have been working with the Alabama and Georgia athletic associations to start girls flag football. There is an application process if a school would like to participate. Mr. Kendro said he would be interested in learning more for the Frederick County schools. Mr. Sye asked if this was something middle school programs could do. Mr. Davis asked where this fit in with the priority of the MPSSAA. Mr. Warner indicated this is

one of the emerging female sports across the county and noted Section 3 of the MPSSAA Constitution states the association shall recommend and develop new and innovative athletic programs. (Mr. Kendro had another meeting to attend and left at 11:58) Mr. Duffy commented about not losing sight of cheerleading that is offered by many of our school systems as an alternative. (Mr. Davis and Mr. Saunderson had to attend another meeting at left at 12:00)

9. With no further new items, Mr. Duffy called for a motion to adjourn. One was received by Mr. Sye and second by Ms. Basler. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 by a 9-0 vote.