

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
November 16, 2020

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro, (District 2) Kathy Green for Jeff Sullivan, (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
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA (Joined at 10:47 a.m.)
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Ken Kazmarek, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor of Athletics, Secretary

Excused: Shirley Diggs, District 3
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative

1. The meeting was called to order on November 16, 2020 at 10:04 a.m. by President Duffy.
2. Mr. Duffy asked the committee to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Ashby made a motion to accept the minutes, followed by a second from Ms. Basler. The minutes were approved 10-0.
3. Mr. Duffy opened the meeting asking for updates from MSDE or the MPSSAA office. Mr. Warner welcomed Ms. Green, who is representing District 2 for Dr. Sullivan. He requested individuals to use the chat bar when leaving or entering a meeting since that is recorded along with the audio. He informed the council the classification committee convened again prior to this meeting to approve the classifications for the 2021-2023 cycle. Those will be sent to supervisors, posted on the MPSSAA website, and be presented to the Board of Control for ratification.
4. Mr. Duffy requested updates from all districts as to the status of athletic programs across the state. Currently, there are no full districts conducting in person athletics; there are a few counties administering outside conditioning (Wicomico, Calvert). Local schools systems currently not operating in person activities were either restricted based on increased COVID-19 community spread or are finished with their conditioning programs for now.

5. Mr. Duffy asked for a discussion about the language developed for culminating events. Mr. Davis opened the dialogue stating he is good with the proposal but not with using the MPSSAA moniker on any of the culminating events. Mr. Sye stated he is okay with the language seeing that it is simply guidance for local jurisdictions to use, but he does feel it puts pressure on those who cannot operate due to health metrics. Mr. Warner reminded the council of the reason why the MPSSAA was established, which was to govern culminating events. His opinion is to be able to provide those jurisdictions whose metrics permit culminating events with the opportunity to use MPSSAA on awards. By not using the MPSSAA name in culminating events, that also means not using the logo on any awards. Mr. Duffy requested all district representatives provide their opinion before moving forward. All representatives on the call, except for Mr. Kendro, were okay with the language. Mr. Kendro feels it isn't fair to those systems who cannot provide athletics for their student athletes. Ms. Basler asked if those who do not want to use MPSSAA for their culminating events, can they call it a county or district championship? Mr. Warner commented the local school system can operate a city/county/conference culminating event, but district events are those of the MPSSAA. Districts were created by the MPSSAA, therefore, a district culminating event would need to be sanctioned by MPSSAA.
6. Ms. Basler asked for clarification in the guidance provides for MPSSAA Districts to administer culminating events and tournaments, whereas city/county/conference may only play one additional contest in accordance with COMAR. Mr. Warner explained a county could do one additional contest to determine a city/county/conference champion, but a tournament could not be held after the regular season. A tournament would be permitted during the regular season provided weekly and season limitations were followed. Mr. Warner reminded the group of the importance of remaining fluid this year. Something that is not desired right now may work well for everyone during the spring sports season. Mr. Ashby made a motion to accept the culminating events language as written. Mr. Sye second the motion. Mr. Warner asked Mr. Duffy to share an email from Mr. Saunderson, who could not attend today's meeting due to another meeting. Mr. Saunderson is in favor of the language as written. The motion passed 10-0.
7. Mr. Duffy asked Mr. Warner what agenda items would be considered for the Board of Control meeting and asked the group to assist in selecting a date for the meeting. Presently, classifications and COMAR regulations that were put on hold at the December 2019 meeting would be on the agenda. If there are other items, please reach out to Mr. Warner ASAP. The Board of Control meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16th, at 10:00am.
8. Mr. Duffy asked if the council felt the need to meet on Monday, November 23rd, or if the next meeting could be scheduled for November 30th instead. All agreed to take a week off and meet at 10:00am on November 30th. (Ms. Johnson joined the meeting at 10:47 a.m.)
9. Mr. Ashby made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Ms. Johnson, who just joined the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:49am with a 11-0 vote.