

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
November 6, 2020

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
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Ken Kazmarek, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA (joined at 12:25 p.m.)
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor of Athletics, Secretary
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative

1. The meeting was called to order on November 6, 2020 at 11:05 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 12-0.
3. Mr. Duffy opened the meeting asking for updates from MSDE or the MPSSAA office. Mr. Warner said there were no updates from MSDE since the last meeting and updates from the office were sent out via email yesterday. Three documents were included in that email: COMAR waiver guidance, culminating events language, and winter sport bulletin modifications. Mr. Warner indicated discussion on all three would be held during today's meeting.
4. Mr. Warner shared his screen and reviewed the COMAR waiver guidance that was discussed at the previous meeting. He voiced concern over some of the language, including the potential for some school systems not getting started, interpretations that over conditioning and weight training are more restrictive, and students in some jurisdictions are allowed to participate in multiple sports in the same sport season. He wants to make sure everyone understands the implications of how the task force recommendation was written. Mr. Warner stated the interpretation on out-of-season use of COMAR waivers will remain fluid throughout the year to give local school systems flexibility in administering athletics this year. Mr. Duffy asked if an LEA wanted to permit schools to continue fall practice during the winter season, does the supervisor need to update the two semester plan? Mr. Warner

indicated a school system would need to update their out-of-season plans that apply the use of waivers for systemwide opportunities. Ms. Basler and Mr. Sye, who assisted on the waiver guidance language, had no concerns on the interpretation and appreciated the effort put in by the committee and the MPSSAA office. Mr. Warner indicated the language would be added to the front section of the sport bulletins.

5. Mr. Warner shared a document reviewing possible scenarios for how culminating events could be administered this year. He shared he has had discussions with several supervisors and has devised three ways tournaments could be administered. Section I reviews City/County/Conference culminating events; Section II reviews MPSSAA District culminating events and tournaments for the fall and winter sports seasons; Section III reviews MPSSAA culminating events and tournaments for the spring sports season. The first two sections provide flexibility within districts to hold culminating events across the district if metrics allow. Committee members liked the flexibility it provided for counties, but some had concern over the wording of MPSSAA district champion. There is concern of the perception if certain counties/districts are unable to start athletics at all, or if some start and never get to the culminating events. The perception of calling the event an MPSSAA event could be seen as unfair to those jurisdictions. The question was asked if metrics permit some jurisdictions to participate in spring but others are not permitted, will state tournaments be held. Mr. Warner recommended not making a decision yet. Mr. Duffy asked if people felt comfortable making a decision about the culminating events document today or whether people would like time to review the information and a decision be made at the next meeting. Mr. Warner reminded the group the MPSSAA is the sanctioning body of culminating tournament policies and COMAR doesn't give the option for local school systems to run their own tournaments, unless being done during the weekly and seasonal limitations. He indicated a supervisor of athletics recommended the language and felt it would encourage student athletes. He asked the council to keep these considerations in mind when deciding whether to implement the guidance.
6. Mr. Duffy inquired as to which jurisdictions are permitted to leave and participate against other jurisdictions. At this time only the Bayside Conference schools are scheduled to play against schools in other counties, but still within the conference.
7. Mr. Warner reviewed the winter sport bulletins with the council. The first portion of the bulletin shares general considerations for all sports and for officials. The second section sport specific information on how to best administer each sport while providing mitigation strategies as well. (Ms. Johnson joined the meeting at 12:25) Mr. Kendro asked for specific information on weight certifications for the start of the wrestling season.
8. Mr. Duffy asked for further feedback on the sport bulletins. Some council members voiced concern over the administration of wrestling in general, but had no specific comments to share. Mr. Duffy inquired as to the time table for moving the bulletins forward at which time Mr. Warner stated the December Board of Control meeting would be too late since winter sports start on December 7th. He suggested approving the winter bulletins in the same way the fall bulletins were approved, which was to send them to the medical advisory committee for review and then back to the Executive Council for final approval.

9. With no new business to discuss, the council determined the next meeting would take place on Monday, November 16th. At this meeting, the culminating events document will be discussed and a decision will be made as to whether the language will be used by all jurisdictions. The council will reconvene at 10:00 a.m. on November 16th.
10. Mr. Sye made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Mr. Davis. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm with a 13-0 vote.