

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
September 21, 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 (joined at 10:06am), (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 11:09am)
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 September 21, 2020 at 10:03m by President Duffy.
2. Mr. Duffy asked the committee to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Lee made a motion to accept the minutes, followed by a second from Mr. Markle. The minutes were approved 10-0.
3. Mr. Duffy asked Mr. Warner if there were any updates since last Friday's supervisor meeting. Mr. Warner stated at this time, there was nothing new to report to the council. Ms. Diggs asked for clarification on what the sport committees were tasked with as it relates to collecting information from their district coaches. Mr. Warner informed her the district representatives were asked to collect feedback on how to proceed with the second semester contingency plan as it currently is. Each sport committee will then provide feedback to the MPSSAA for the Executive Council to review.
4. Mr. Duffy requested the council members begin discussion about the new dates Dr. Sullivan proposed last week for the start to second semester athletics. Most of the council members said their superintendent would support an earlier start date in January, but the later end date in June was going to pose problems for most of them. The council at length discussed:

- a. State tournaments and culminating events available in shorten seasons,
- b. Plans with state tournaments,
- c. Plans without state tournaments if there is seasonal overlap,
- d. Overlap between sport season with all schools participating until the last play date of the sport season,
- e. A start date of a Saturday preseason provides the availability to start the next season on a Friday, thus earning two days of participation,
- f. A December starting option with four-week preseason for winter sports due to winter break,
- g. A January stating option.

The council reviewed four separate options that included two plans to propose starting December 7 and two plans to propose starting January 4. The committee immediately eliminated two of the plans that ended as late as June 26 based on previous discussion.

Mr. Kendro made a motion in order of preference for what the council presents to the local superintendents. Dr. Sullivan emailed an updated copy of the options along with rationale to support the options. Dr. Sullivan second the motion, which reads: in the event competitive athletics may begin prior to the approved February 1, 2021 date, in alignment with current health metrics, the MPSSAA Executive Council recommends the following two options, in order of preference.

Returning students to participation as soon as possible, in alignment with designated health metrics and school operations
 Health & safety benefits for student-athletes
 Less overlap between seasons - health & safety and coach conflicts
 Relieve facility conflicts
 Allow for a 5/6+ week competition season for all sports

Option 1:

December 7th start – 3 week preseason, 6 week regular season – no overlap

Winter – December 7 – February 13 (first play date 1/4)*

Fall – February 13 – April 17 (first play date 3/5)

Spring – April 17 – June 19 (first play date 5/7)

* Note – for the winter season, there is an additional week of preseason than the required 20 calendar days due to the need to provide student-athletes with an additional week for reconditioning and concerns regarding operations due to local school systems being on winter break. This would allow for buildings and facilities to be cleaned and maintained as appropriate.

Option 2:

January 4th start – 3 week preseason, 5 week regular season – no overlap

Winter – January 4 – February 27 (first play date 1/25)

Fall – February 27 – April 24 (first play date 3/19)

Spring – April 24 – June 19 (first play date 5/14)

Under both, if the start of the winter season begins in November or December, the Maryland Department of Health and Medical Advisory Committee include statements and guidance addressing concerns with the use of indoor facilities and the administration of the high-risk sports of basketball and wrestling, along with gathering sizes in indoor track & field.

The vote took place with a 8-3-1 outcome. The motion passes.

5. Following the passing of the motion, Mr. Warner asked for clarification of the council that based on the discussion and vote, the current Two-Semester Plan would not afford state championships if metrics permit. Mr. Kendro restates a new motion to read: in the event competitive athletics may begin prior to the approved February 1, 2021 date, in alignment with current health metrics, the MPSSAA Executive Council recommends the following two options, in order of preference. Both options include the possibility of state tournaments. A new vote was taken with the outcome remaining 8-3-1.
6. Mr. Duffy inquired as to whether anybody had anything for the good of the order. Mr. Warner reminded the council next Monday is a Jewish holiday, therefore a new date needs to be chosen. The meeting originally scheduled for Monday, September 28 will now take place on Wednesday, September 30 at 9:00am.
7. Mr. Ashby asked what happened to this motion now. Should the council representatives discuss with their superintendents or does it go to the three Mr. Warner is working with first? The understanding is it should go to the three first. Mr. Ashby agrees and wants to make sure a few Executive Council members are in that meeting in case any questions arise. Mr. Duffy agrees and will speak with Mr. Warner in regard to when that meeting will take place.
8. With no other new business to discuss, Mr. Kendro made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ashby second the motion and all were in favor of adjournment. (12-0) The meeting was adjourned at 12:08pm.