

2017 MIAAA POSSIBLE POSITION STATEMENTS

Recommendations to the Representative Council Based on Sport Committees & Discussions

Not all items recommended to the Representative Council are presented. Only those judged to be more significant and impacting most schools. Note: Some MHSAA Committees meet following the Board of Directors meeting approving these statements.

1. We support an addition to the amateur status regulations that would prohibit prizes, awards or donations to individuals, organizations or causes that are based on the athletic performance of a high school's team or individual at an interscholastic athletic event. For example, contributions or cash for a team win, for scoring touchdowns, three point baskets or reaching 100 points in a contest. (MHSAA Staff)

Rationale: Regardless of the good cause behind an event, the performance of a high school athlete or team should not be factored into such programs. It may tend to see scores run up and inflate margins of victory.

2. We support expanding the 8-player football finals from one to two divisions with 16 teams qualifying in each division to be held on the weekend before Thanksgiving. NOTE: There is discussion about maintaining the cap of Class D enrollment for participation in the MHSAA 8-player tournament. (MHSAA Classification & Football Committees)

Rationale: There are nearly 60 schools sponsoring 8-player football. Leaving the Class D cap in place may cause less harm to Class C-D league alignments and keeps the enrollment range small for 8-player schools. May be best format to serve possible additional teams.

3. We support changing the football collision practice limitation that after the first regular season game to allow no more than 90 minutes of team collision practices in any week, Monday- Sunday. During other practice sessions, players may wear helmets and other protective pads (neither is mandatory). Blocking and tackling technique may be taught and practiced. However, full-speed contact is limited to players' vs pads, shields, sleds or dummies. This replaces the current limit of no more than two collision practices in a week. (MHSAA Football Committee)

Rationale: This meets the NFHS recommendation (60-90 minutes) and matches some other state's collision practice policies. It is more limiting than two days with practices of any length. A reduction in the time of exposure to possible head injuries.

4. We support a separation and reorganization of the MHSAA Baseball and Softball tournaments so that separate Districts and Regionals may be created in each sport. (MHSAA Baseball-Softball Committee)

Rationale: In some parts of the state, it is increasingly difficult to schedule baseball and softball Districts with the same schools because many schools do not always sponsor both baseball and softball. Some districts have four teams, others eight teams depending on the sport. (e.g. softball in the UP and Northern LP).

5. We support changing the baseball Regional tournament to begin with a single game between District champions on the Wednesday following the district at 64 sites. The winners advance to a Regional double header on the following Saturday. The winners of the Regional double header advance to the semi-finals and reconnect with softball at MSU. (MHSAA Baseball-Softball Committee)

Rationale: No change to the softball tournament. This eliminates the Baseball Tuesday Quarterfinal that was very difficult to complete in a short time prior to the statewide Semifinals on Thursday at MSU.

6. We support classifying the boys and girls basketball and volleyball tournaments in four equal divisions as opposed to the current Class A-D structure. (MHSAA Basketball Committee)

Rationale: Would match all other sports which classify by equal divisions. Would move some Class A schools to Division 2, some Class B schools to Division 3 and some Class C schools to Division 4. Would change some district and regional alignments.

7. We support, in Basketball, adopting the KPI Flex Seeding Plan for determining District and Regional brackets and pairings. This places teams in geographic regions and then divides teams in districts based upon their strength of schedule and success as determined by KPI Seeding. (MHSAA Basketball Committee)

Rationale: Supported by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan. Some like seeding, some do not. May tend to increase travel slightly. May tend to favor traditionally stronger programs.

8. We support, in Golf, requiring teams at the regional and final rounds to provide one adult observer. This adult could be the coach, a prearranged volunteer, or the school could pay a predetermined amount to the host school and course in order for them to secure an observer.

Rationale: Scoring errors, cheating and bad conduct tend to decrease when an observer is present.

9. We support, in Soccer, eliminating overtime periods and shootouts in the regular season. Allow leagues and conferences to have an overtime option for end-of-season bracketed tournaments (overtime not to exceed two 10-minute periods plus shootout). Allow waivers for multi-team tournaments and leagues which use shootouts to determine a winner. (MHSAA Soccer Committee)

Rationale: Too taxing on teams and individuals to play several minutes of overtime in addition to the 80 minutes of regulation play in the course of three allowed games in a week. A tie score is common place and accepted in soccer. Permits leagues and bracketed tournaments to advance teams through overtime.

10. We support, in Soccer, scheduling two days of rest between the Regional Semifinal and Regional Final rounds. Game schedule could be Tuesday/Friday, Tuesday/Saturday or Wednesday/Saturday. If weather forces deviation from the schedule, two days of rest would not be required. (MHSAA Soccer Committee)

Rationale: Too demanding on teams and individuals to play with only one day's rest.

11. We support, in tennis, changing the Limited Team Membership regulation to go into effect on the first allowable date of competition as opposed to the current rule which is the first allowable day of practice. (seven-day difference). (MHSAA Tennis Committee).

Rationale: This will correspond to some other sports and allow for students to enter other non-school meets which occur during this week prior to the start of actual competition.

12. We support the general concept of increasing from 12 to 15 the number of **middle school** games played in some sports during a 13-week season and increasing the number of multigame events allowed on the same day not followed by a day of school from two to four. (Current Limits: Basketball, lacrosse and soccer play 12 games in a 13-week season. Basketball allows two middle school games on the same non-school day, soccer and lacrosse allow two multi-team running clock tournaments. All these events count among the allowed 12 dates. (MHSAA Staff, Junior High Middle School, Boys and Girls Lacrosse Committees in part)

Rationale: Some students prefer non-school teams because the school seasons are so very limited and much more competition is found outside of the school. This may encourage students to play for their middle school. It is not uncommon for middle school teams to play more than one game in a day. This is a modest and optional increase that could occur on a sport by sport basis.

13. We support modifying the Limited Team Membership rules so that during the Junior High Middle School season in any MHSAA sport except football, allow a member of a school team to participate in a maximum of two non-school meets or contests in that sport during that season while not representing his or her school. An event held on not more than three consecutive calendar days is considered a single meet (including team sport tournaments) (MHSAA Junior High Middle School Committee – Met following MIAAA Board of Directors Meeting)

Rationale: May encourage middle school participation as a student could also have limited activity with a non-school team without impacting the school season.

14. We support, in wrestling, adopting a TBD (To Be Determined) Team Regional hosting format where the host is selected from among the four teams which qualify for that Team Regional, as opposed to the current format where the host is predetermined. On the day following the district, a blind draw would occur after among those schools interested in hosting. (MHSAA Wrestling Committee)

Rationale: Ensures that a school actually wrestling in the regional tournament will be hosting so as to generate greater interest. Logistics challenge when a host facility is not available

15. We support a revision to the wrestling Weigh-In Form/Process to include a section for inspection, where **all participating** wrestlers would be subject to inspection by officials. (MHSAA Wrestling Committee)

Rationale: Some wrestlers have avoided inspection by officials due to skin issues. This practice and form would require all wrestlers be inspected by the meet officials who initial next to each wrestler's name.