

# ***MIAA Tournament Management Committee***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

**January 18, 2023**

### **1. Call to Order – 10:05 AM by Shaun Hart**

**Attendance** – J. Brown, J. DiCarlo, D. Early, J. Forrest, P. Funk, S. Hart, A. Linkenhoker, D. Newton, S. Paine, D. Reid, M. Ryan, J. Shannon, K. Sheridan, T. Tarpey, D. Vega, S. Bryant (liaison), MIAA staff and members of the media

### **2. Approval of Minutes December 21, 2022 (A. Linkenhoker/M. Ryan) Approved 15-0**

### **3. Fall Tournament Update**

Sherry shared the Fall-2022 season – revenue nearly the same as last year, while expenses are up approximately \$100,000. This is a result of an increase to the host site fees paid to schools (additional \$40,000) as well as an increase in police, custodial and ambulance expenses. All things considered, this is a positive outcome and, based on income, seems to indicate that the Statewide tournament structure is working well.

### **4. Cut-Off Dates**

There is a request to change the Lacrosse cut-off date in the formats. The date changed over the last couple of years, perhaps because of COVID, etc. The Lacrosse Committee is looking to move date from Thursday before Memorial Day holiday, to the Monday after Memorial Day holiday. TMC can only make a motion to recommend to Board of Directors, since the BOD makes the final determination.

Open to discussion among the TMC members. Questions arose as to why cut-off dates differ for sports. While TMC looks for consistency, each sport committee sets their own dates. Some members recommended to keep prior to Memorial Day, others suggest it should be the same as Baseball. Johanna indicated that there were many appeals last year, and pushback of date may prove to be difficult. Sherry noted 3 years' worth of cut-off dates are published in the MIAA Handbook.

**Motion to make a Recommendation to BOD to have Lacrosse cut-off dates be the same as Baseball (J. Shannon, K. Sheridan) Approved 11-3-1**

### **5. Spring Formats**

Exceptions for the following formats:

- Lacrosse Formats (Boys & Girls) – date may change based on item 4 above once Board of Directors makes a determination.
- Outdoor Track – committee met January 17, 2023 – would like to present at next TMC Meeting
- Softball – will present at a following TMC meeting
- All spring formats will be amended to include on Page 1, the following dates only:  
Cutoff Date / Bracket Release Date / State Final Dates

## **Spring Formats (cont.)**

**Motion to Approve Baseball Format (J. Shannon / A. Linkenhoker) 15-0**

**Motion to Approve Golf Format (J. DiCarlo / T. Tarpey) 15-0**

**Motion to Approve Boys Lacrosse\* Format (M. Ryan / A. Linkenhoker) 15-0**

**Motion to Approve Girls Lacrosse\* Format (M. Ryan / K. Sheridan) 15-0**

\*approved and will be updated with BOD vote for cut-off dates

**Motion to Approve Rugby Format (M. Ryan / A. Linkenhoker) 15-0**

**Motion to Approve Boys & Girls Team Tennis Format (J. Brown / K. Sheridan) 15-0**

**Motion to Approve Volleyball Format (M. Ryan / J. Brown) 15-0**

## **6. Alignments**

At the last TMC meeting, there was a request for data regarding fall alignment appeals. Copies of the information will be shared electronically with the committee via email following this in-person meeting. In the meeting, the discussion began with a review of the 2-year alignment cycle, implementation of the CET (Competitive Equity Tool) being used for the basis of alignments, and the current appeal process.

The CET is used as a starting point. While the “Competitive” word infers the ability of a school’s athletic ability and success, it was discussed how this tool is used as a multiplier to fairly reflect the portion of a school’s likelihood of participation, while taking into account high needs (ELL, economic need, etc).

The appeals process included two levels. The first level is based strictly on data alone and committee members included TMC Chairman, and Sport Chairpersons for the particular season are involved. Using the CET info, and based on number of divisions per sport, a percentage of schools were put into each division. This was based on data the schools provided.

A spreadsheet was then created by TMC Chair for those schools that requested an appeal, which included information such as a) what division originally placed in, b) division being requested, and c) movement to which division if granted. Again, based on data only.

If a school is denied, or was not granted the requested divisional placement during the first appeal, they may request a second appeal. This second appeal committee is made up of TMC representatives (not the TMC Chair) and sport chairpersons. Schools may then state their case for requesting movement, and appeal committee members then use the information to form a decision. These decisions are final.

It is TMC’s expectation that once all seasonal alignments are completed, they will remain intact for the complete 2-year cycle. After that time, these placements should be locked in, allowing for only exceptions resulting in gross movement. Schools with these exceptions would then be welcome to follow the appeal process at that time.

Sherry reviewed the statistical data with the committee, which show that approximately 90% of appeals were approved between both steps 1 and 2. This is indicative that schools are being heard based on equity components, which focuses on all schools equally.

Sherry asked that TMC members utilize their understanding of the CET and appeals process to explain to their constituents and ask for feedback. Committee members are asked to bring this feedback to the next meeting.

## **7. Tournament Sites**

Semi Final and Final site determinations were discussed. Shaun will meet with MSSADA. Would ideally like 2 sites locked in per district in advance of dates to play. This would allow us to have the option of using one site or the other, based on if one of those school's team is in play as the tournament gets closer.

An acceptable site with hosting capabilities to offer a tournament experience for those teams participating and their fans is the ultimate goal. Sites can be spotlighted in advance to pump up the excitement.

Setting expectations and a baseline of the "tournament experience" should be more than just checking off boxes. All rounds of tournament play should feel special by setting expectations for the venue. Perhaps offering a webinar on "How to be a great host site" and offer any additional assistance required.

Feedback from a fall tournament director is that some athletic directors were taking it upon themselves to find sites for State Semis and State Finals, which is not appropriate. Currently, it is the responsibility of the tournament director and executive liaison to determine those neutral sites, and mileage is not a factor in this decision. This conversation led to the suggestion that the role/responsibility of the tournament directors be effectively communicate to participating schools.

Sherry added that within a particular season, the nuances of the sports may affect the venue choices. Factors such as the date/time games can be played, sports with boys and girls teams, and schools with multiple sports teams in tournament play all have an impact on how venues are determined.

## **Other**

- Wrestling Committee meeting is Thursday January 19, 2023 for alignment proposals (still in sectional format). This is a bit later than other sports. Wanted to make sure TMC is aware and okay with the delay in releasing alignments.
- Rugby – wanted to be sure that the start date could remain same as last year – start play on the day after brackets released because they only play once per week.  
**Motion to waive the 24-hour waiting period for Rugby (D. Vega/A. Linkenhoker)**  
**Approved 15-0**
- Sherry mentioned that Jim Clark I running some different scenarios with power rankings. Looking at factoring in winning score differentials, wins ("do they matter"), records of .500 or better/cutting off at a different number, minimum number of wins, etc. All suggestions are welcomed and may be emailed to Sherry if TMC

members come up with something after today's meeting. Feedback in meeting was that the MOV is working – no need to look at.

The goal of power rankings is accuracy...are the best teams getting to the finals?

- TMC meeting may be in-person or virtual meetings –when in-person, no virtual option is offered.

Next Meeting – February 1, 2023 virtual & February 15, 2023 in-person  
Adjourned - 12:13 PM