

MIAA Tournament Management Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2021

- 1. Call to order** – 10:05 am by Jim O’Leary
- 2. Attendance** – T. Bazyldo, J. Brown, J. DiCarolo, D. Early, J. Forest, S. Hart, E. Maguire, R. Newton, J. O’Leary, S. Paine, D. Reid, M. Ryan, T. Tarpey, D. Vega, S. Bryant (liaison), media, MIAA staff.
- 3. Approval of Minutes** – Motion to approve September 15, 2021 minutes (D. Newton / D. Early) **Approved 13-0-0**
- 4. MIAA Tournament Formats** – Motion to approve the following formats with notations/comments. (M. Ryan / R. Newton) **Approved 13-0-0**

Basketball - Site Information section relative to capacity limits (not Covid related) and Home venues (item 5) with regard to Locker Rooms and Handicap Access.

If host school is not able to meet requirements, they should discuss with the tournament director and MIAA liaison to find a secondary site.

Approved format as is but noted that we send back to have reference to “MIAA Handbook” removed.

Ice Hockey - fix the Seeding/Tiebreaking section (reference to Volleyball Committee should be Ice Hockey).

Overall feedback was to have the language changed from “Seeding is to be done by a committee ...” to “Seeding is done by the Tournament Director and regional representatives using the power ranking system”.

Indoor Track Formats - reviewed / no changes.

Swimming and Diving Formats – reviewed / no changes.

Challenges were encountered to secure venues due to compliance needs and Covid testing requirements, etc. Capacity issues for both Indoor Track Swimming & Diving events are also problematic, including potentially no fans being allowed.

- 5. Statewide Tournament Update** - Motion to approve the following recommendation (M. Ryan / J. Brown) **Approved 13-0-0**

- A. Game Officials Committee Recommendation “Fall 2021 State Tournament Officiating: The GOC discussed the work over the past four months to support the TMC as they work to clarify officiating and assigning for the Fall 2021 Tournament. The committee voted 9-0-0 to recommend to the TMC that an assignors coordinator for the round of 4 and the state finals help offer oversight for assignors in previous rounds. Additionally the committee discussed the value to clarify for the membership that when assigning for the preliminary round, rounds of 32,16,& 8 the athletic directors would likely use an assignor/commissioner to assign officials for the contest.”

John Brown questioned why we are having the home school assign officials through round of 4. Should they assign the whole tournament? Sherry Bryant offered that regionally, assignors know the people, schedules and local area challenges more so than someone not in that particular area.

Discussion around potentially hiring a Statewide Assigner for Winter Tournaments (to assign round of 4 and State finals) and provide oversight for regional assignors. Voted to include language “Statewide Assigner to be hired by MIAA Executive Liaison and Tournament Director”.

- B. Digital Ticketing

A GoFan Webinar was held approximately one month ago for membership. Webinars have been hosted for those districts that requested to have additional presentation of information. Resources and videos have been previously posted on the MIAA website as well.

An email will be sent to provide quick links and additional resources for member schools as well as for fans. Social media messaging will be amped up to continue to spread digital ticketing information. The tournament director, MIAA staff and/or MIAA Liaisons will be setting up the ticket sales links. Those links will be pushed out to schools for their fan base.

TMC members that have voiced concerns with push back from business offices/mangers regarding the use of digital tickets for MIAA Tournaments were offered to call Sherry Bryant directly to discuss. Sherry shared the positive feedback from all NFHS Section 1 states as well as MIAA’s experience for more than 5 years (used exclusively at Swim events, for example).

- C. Venues

Access requirements must be continued to be observed due to COVID restrictions which continue to be in place. Urge members to offer reminders to schools in their leagues if they know of some that won’t be able to provide acceptable venues.

- D. Host Fees

Sherry explained the Host Fee for schools for tournament events. The fee is intended to cover costs for official fee, assigner fee (at the rate of \$4/per assignment), estimated required staffing (auxiliary, gate crew, site manager). Costs for custodial and police coverage will be paid by MIAA.

E. Power Ratings

This year has been a learning curve for power ratings with Arbiter. Issues with the data (such as multiple matchups, errors or missing scores, out of state teams, and different naming conventions of schools) have caused additional workload for staff. The process is improving, as data files are being sent to Tournament Directors to get the some of the issues rectified by contacting the schools. Committee members praised the TDs for have been consistent with their communications.

The committee recognized the effort and assistance of the MIAA staff, especially Jan Martin for all her assistance, effort, and extra hours she has been working while preparing the rankings files each week.

Discussions regarding the impact of “opponent ratings” on all schools and the Margin of Victory (MOV) components for this ranking method. Shaun Hart commented that information he saw recently with MIAA rankings vs MaxPreps rankings were very close and indicates we were clearly “hitting the mark”.

Dave Reid commented that the rankings by division still seem to be skewed by Eastern Mass schools. Johanna DiCarlo contributed that the MIAA rankings appears to be working as the Central & West sections of the state, which are already playing tournaments, will also be heading to states.

All agreed this process will be reviewed after a year or more has passed to evaluate components of the calculation, as well as trends.

Mary Ryan inquired about her concern with school administrative staff required to cover tournaments and if directors will be taking into consideration the multiple schools/sports qualifying for tournament play. Sherry Bryant advised that the MIAA staff will continue (as done in the past) to work on a conflict matrix to help with this concern. This concern will be taken into account the bus driver shortages, officials’ availability, and other concerns which may have to take precedence but conflict issues will be looked at. Suggested to communicate with opponent school and MIAA sport liaison if issues arise.

F. Alignments

Sherry Bryant indicated that Ice Hockey, Wrestling, and Swim & Dive alignments are posted. Basketball and Indoor Track are in process. She also shared that there have been some challenges with late co-ops and participation numbers.

G. Seedings (not on agenda) Address the question from membership:

Are we re-seeding at the round of 4?

No - teams will continue use the bracket to let the games play out.

If a school that is in the qualifying ranking opts out once they are placed in a bracket, does the other team get a bye?

No – the team opting out is removed and all other teams move up.

Are cut-off dates changing because of the weather (October storm during last few days of regular season for some parts of the state)?

No, the cut-off date is not being moved. Consideration will be given to changing the minimum number of games that cannot be made up due to the storm, school closings, power outages, etc. Schools severely affected due to the storm which cannot play remaining games may mark their games as no contest. Voted to approve this exception to the minimum number of games to qualify for Fall Tournament. (S. Hart / S. Paine) **Approved 13-0-0**

Seeding meetings – no outside attendance is allowed for the seeding meetings. League or district representative only. Completed seeding information will be released as soon as it is available.

Meeting adjourned 12:35 PM