

MIAA FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 11, 2020

- 1) Call to order - Attendance
- 2) Motion to approve minutes from Sept 25, 2019. Motion made by Bill Fonseca, 2nd by Joe Gamache. Motion passed 12-0
- 3) Alignment appeal - James Creed from Nashoba Tech.
 - Sent a written document as well as attended the meeting to present Nashoba Tech's case. Looking to move from Division 7 to Division 8 for the 2020 season
 - Motion to approve the waiver - made by Joe Gamache and 2nd by Steve Dembowski. Motion did not pass 5-7-0
- 4) 2019 Football Tournament Reports
 - Richard Pearson shared with committee a 3 year financial report - attendance was down at state finals, but net revenue was positive in all regions and state as compared to previous year
 - All sectional tournament Directors attended other than Jim B (Central) his report was sent and read by R. Pearson. All Directors similarly said tournaments went great. Good weather, good crowds. Gillette is a well-oiled machine and went very well; many thanks went to Barry Haley and Scott Paine for their professionalism and support.
 - R. Pearson commented on all four tournament directors doing a great job holding the line with financials and specifically the expenses.
- 5) 2020 Football Format
 - Front page of format has links at bottom of page in boxes of important information not in package this year. Links are on website on football format.
 - Qualifying and seeding of tournament. Discussion about MaxPreps vs MIAA Football Ranking/Seeding. Football has used their own power seeding system (criteria). Discussion was about how it would be confusing to use two different power-seeding systems that would or could publicize teams in different spots. Motion to use just Max Preps as our 1 and only power ranking system for 2020 season for both qualifying and seeding; motioned Jay Costa, 2nd by Don Heres. Motion passed 11-0-2
 - Pg 9 - #2 Game sites - Recommendation by Joe G that West mimics the east and have games played at higher seeds up to and including the sectional finals Motion by Jay Costa, 2nd by Bill Fonseca. Motion passed 12-0-1
 - Pg 9 #3 - Game length - Conversation about being flexible with length of qtr.'s from 12' to either 11 or 10. Some suggested maybe there was exceptions made for Div. 7 & 8. Comments made that some observed teams not abiding by rule and playing shorter quarters. Response was if this is happening, it needs to be

reported and nothing has been. Teams need to follow rules. Discussion about changing length of qtr. for non-playoff games. Motion by Steve Dembowski to allow Div 7 & 8 to play 10' qtr.'s and also to have the option to play 10' qtr.'s during regular season - 2nd by Mike Proccacini, motion passed 7-3-3; Motion to rescind last vote from Steve Dembowski, 2nd by Jim O'Leary. Motion passed 12-0-1

Motion by Steve Dembowski – all Playoff games will be played by same game time length as the regular season, 2nd by Don Heres. Discussion: There will be complexity with Gillette. TMC votes on our Format and will have a say. TMC meets next Tuesday (March 17). Motion passed 11-1-1

- Pg 11 #11 Film exchange - Discussion from Steve Dembowski about hearing from coaches around the state that the wording in our format is not clear enough that film exchange is not mandated and there are some that are not exchanging film in playoffs. Remove 2nd sentence “if a team does not take game film or tape, there will be no exchange”. Add: 3 films will be exchanged during playoffs between opponents by 3:00 Sunday. Motion by Joe Gamache - 2nd by Mike Proccacini. Motion passed 12-0-1
- Mass State Football Official's Assoc. Rep Brian Doherty presented (handout was provided to committee) moving from 5 officials to 7 officials for state semifinal and state final games. Motion to approve proposal by Steve Dembowski, 2nd by Joe Gamache
Discussion about making sure officials have had some training on working in a 7-man crew - Brian discussed how there would be a clinic for any officials used in these games. Another concern was now that there are more officials would it change the game with to many penalties being called. Brian emphasized that he felt there would not be more penalties just less calls missed. Motion passed 11-0-2
- 2020 format motion to accept with changes made motion by Jay Costa 2nd by Don Heres. Motion passed 11-0-1

6) Football alignment for 21-23 seasons

- Subcommittee has been put together to focus on a few topics:
 - # of Divisions - TMC recommended 5 divisions for football (does this work for us state wide)
 - # of regular season weeks - TMC recommended
 - # of teams qualifying for playoffsAll 3 categories have an effect on each other
Jay Costa will chair the subcommittee and set up a meeting very soon

7) NFHS rules - Tom Azevedo, officials representative –

- 2020 rule changes have been sent out to officials and boards. There are some things such as QB being able to spike the ball to kill the clock from the shotgun position. Discussion about Hudl sideline and the advantage some schools are getting as systems are expensive – seems to be an unfair advantage for the haves and have nots. If consideration to not allow technology, these topics are rule changes and it was suggested to put them in writing for the proper rule change proposal beginning in July 2020.

8) Coaches topic

- Steve Dembowski brought forward a hand out of topics regarding rule changes and again was directed to process for suggesting rule changes

Next meeting May 12 at 10:00am