

MIAA Tournament Management Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2022

1. Call to order – 10:00 am by Jim O’Leary

Attendance –Virtual Meeting - J. Brown, M. Devoll, J. DiCarolo, D. Early, J. Forest, P.Funk, A. Gagne, P. Gould, S. Hart, E. Maguire, J. Newhall, R. Newton, J. O’Leary, S.Paine, D. Reid, J. Shannon, K. Sheridan, M. Ryan, T. Tarpey, S. Bryant (liaison), media, MIAA staff.

2. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve October 28, 2021 minutes (S.Paine / J.Forest) **Approved 16-0-0**

3. Fall Review – Sherry Bryant shared some feedback and observations regarding the first season with the new Statewide tournament structure. As designed, the Equal pathways to tournaments, same format across state, seeding qualification, and fair competition were evident. Comments from many ADs found the tournaments to be enjoyable and host schools made great experiences for their opponents. Attendance figures were up and the migration to digital ticketing was very positive.

Sherry also noted that the power ranking system is clearly working - as the top teams participated in extraordinary competitions. Overall, things are working well but acknowledged that more work needs to be done, which the full committee will continue to assess going forward.

One specific issue to be discussed, and asked that committee members give to thought/guidance/more direction on the levels of venues (college vs HS; geographic locations, etc). TMC sub-committee will come up with 2 proposals to bring to the full committee in the spring.

Committee members echoed Sherry’s positive feedback as well as mentioning some challenges and opportunities for improvements:

-a member experienced challenges such as Wifi issues for online ticketing.

-a member shared that a state final event hosted by a high school location with an early morning timeslot felt “anticlimactic”.

-an issue with opponents’ schedules not being published/visible in Arbiter. This topic was discussed in length and seems to be perhaps part of the learning curve.

4. Winter Season Discussion –

A. Board of Directors Working Group – this group was formed to address COVID issues during the latest surge and potential changes to any aspect of sports going forward. This working group intentionally set their meeting date for January 21, 2022 (after the current TMC meeting date) to ensure that feedback was gathered and to determine if any action is required at this time.

B. Basketball Format Change Request – Jeff Newhall and Peter Smith spoke on behalf of the Basketball Committee to request the minimum capacity for Round of 8 games be changed from 500 to 1000. This also means that if a local Board of Health or school determines they are limiting spectators into a gym, this becomes that facility's capacity size.

Motion to update the minimum capacity for Basketball Round of 8 games from 500 to 1000 (the Tournament Director has the prerogative to make exceptions, if deems appropriate). The TMC Site Policy must be followed.

(J. DiCarlo / J. Shannon) **Approved 18-0-0**

C. Ice Hockey Committee request for cutoff date change – John Brown spoke on behalf of the Ice Hockey Committee to request the cutoff date for Ice Hockey change from Thursday to Sunday at 3PM. The request was made because of the difficulty schools are having reserving ice time and getting games in due to COVID related postponed/canceled games. Discussion continued with feedback from other TMC members voicing that the cutoff dates have been published 3 year in advance and there is currently an appeals process in place for teams that do not meet the full schedule of games played.

Other concerns are that the date change affects the timeline for rankings and publishing seedings. Additional concerns that other sport committees may request moving cut-off dates if Ice Hockey is allowed to change.

The policy has been in place and dates are published. TMC can only vote to recommend to bring the request to the Board of Directors. Motion to forward the recommendation from TMC to BOD requesting the cut-off date for Ice Hockey be changed from Thursday to Sunday at 3PM.

Roll call taken for vote.- **Defeated 6-12-1**

D. Tournament Entry qualification and process – subject circled around the COVID restrictions and impacts to each district. The feedback is being brought to the BOD working group. Many voiced the impact of their communities putting a pause on sports, shutting down programs for between 1-2 weeks, etc. Most members voiced that their districts are making the effort to make up games; spectators being limited varied from none allowed, 2 per athlete, to no restrictions at all. After each member offering their district experiences, it appears that the general feedback is that all will meet the minimum number of required games.

Johanna DiCarlo suggested that making sure communication goes out to clarify minimum number of games required, booking ice time if you see your team is ranking high once we begin to publish, prepare for online ticketing, etc. Just to reiterate these points well before the start of the tournament. Also suggested changing the language for seeding meetings and when those will be published – maybe add a late time frame to help ADs and coaches answer to the fans/teams/etc.

Feedback and ongoing discussion items may be sent to Sherry ahead of the next TMC meeting on February 3rd to re-asses and offer additional direction for the BOD working group.

5. **Spring Formats** – moved to February 3 meeting. Liaisons will be invited to the meeting for this portion of the agenda. Sherry asked that committee members review all formats provided and pass along any feedback prior to the meeting. Noted Individual Tennis remains on “pause” this year. There will be ongoing discussion with the Tennis Committee regarding this item.

6. **Other**

MSSADA conference coming up at end of March. There are 2 sessions:

- 1st Year Experience
- Hosting (regular season and post season) – Sherry is moderator and is relying on TMC members’ help / participation

Question raised specifically about Winter Swim venues –have they been locked down yet. Not yet as there are some challenges getting sites. College venues might be better earlier, but that might change cutoff dates. Smaller venues might mean increasing qualification minimums to limit number of participants.

Next Meeting February 3, 2022

Adjourned 11:50 AM