

MIAA Wrestling Committee (Remote) October 8, 2020 Minutes

1. Call to Order at 10:08 am

a. Attendance- Joseph Bianca, Brendan Kent, Ann Palumbo, Brian Brewer, Mark Hollick, Steve Rotondi, Paul Shvartsman, Jason St. Peter, Dr. Robert Pritchett, Jon Longley, Amy Daniels, Brian Urquhart, Scott Tremlett, Phil Napolitano, Ted Neill, Danny Ventura,

b. **Conflict of Interest:** Download, fill-out and scan to Phil as soon as possible.

C. MIAA Governance document was review

2. Election of Officers

- Election of Chair – Brendan Kent
- Election of Vice Chair – Ann Palumbo
- Election of Secretary – Joseph Bianca

3. Minutes of April 29, 2020 Meeting – Approved 14-0 (motion to approve by Brendan Kent, second by Mark Hollick)

4. MIAA Rule Change Proposals – Phil Napolitano utilized polling voting through Ring.

- Rule Change #1 submitted by parent group Coaches' Code of Ethics. No discussion.
- Rule Change #2 Change to the composition of Game Officials Committee (GOC) membership in line with other GOCs. No discussion.
- Rule #3: Representation of adults at athletic events. No discussion.
- Rule #4: Definitions and policies – Add Rule 32 to this section. No discussion.
- Rule #5: Part III, Rule 34: Recognized Sports and Scheduling Limits for Schools; add Boys' Field Hockey. No discussion.
- Rule #6: Part III, Rule 34: Recognized Sports and Scheduling Limits for Schools; add 8v8 league option for football in the fall. No discussion.
- Rule #7: Part III, Rule 34: Recognized Sports and Scheduling Limits for Schools; add Pickle Ball as fall sport. No discussion.
- Rule #8: Part III, Rule 34: Recognized Sports and Scheduling Limits for Schools; increase maximum number of competitions for the sport of wrestling from 2 to 3 per week. No change in number per season. Recommended by MIAA State Wrestling Committee. No discussion.
- Rule #9: Part III, Rule 34: Recognized Sports and Scheduling Limits for Schools; Boys Lacrosse, reduce number of games per season from 18 to 16 and the weekly limit from 3 to 2 per week. No discussion.

- Rule #10: Allow golf to begin season on the 3rd Friday prior to Labor Day, due to limited daylight in fall season. No discussion.
- Rule #11: Baystate Conference Athletic Directors; Change start date to Fall sports. No discussion.
- Rule #12: Change the start date to Winter Sports and Spring sports, pushed back in the calendar. No discussion.
- Rule #13: Change the start date Spring sports, moving up in the calendar. No discussion.
- Rule #14: Change the start date of Rugby to allow for the additional practices necessary for competition. No discussion.
- Rule #15: Coaching out of season for Fall sports maximum of 15 sessions, 2 times per week and 2 hour maximum, open to all students and approved by principal. May not be supported by school budget. No discussion.
- Rule #16: Complete re-write of MIAA Rule 40. Discussion around equity for sports if start dates of seasons shift.
- Rule #17: To Prohibit boys from girls field hockey teams. No discussion.
- Rule #18: Gender and participation in volleyball. No discussion.
- Rule #19: Part IV, Rule 45: Bona Fide Team Rule change penalty. No discussion.
- Rule #20: Part IV, Rule 51: Student Eligibility; remove Student Eligibility from title of Rule 51 will eliminate the ability to submit waivers under this rule. No discussion.
- Rule #21: Eliminate Middle School waivers and allow districts to make their own decision. Discussion: would apply to all sports.
- Rule #22: Eliminate the requirement for a Middle School Waiver athletes to have to compete at the lowest level possible. No discussion.
- Rule #23: Part IV, Rule 57: Form 200 copy must be submitted to the MIAA in all transfer cases. No discussion.
- Rule #24: Part IV, Rule 62: Chemical Health Policy change in penalty to add educational component and decrease punishment for “students who are upfront and honest”. No discussion.
- Rule #37: 2-pound allowance. No discussion.
- Rule #38: Eligibility. No discussion.
- Rule #39: Part VII, Rule 87 Eligibility Waiver. No discussion.
- Rule #40: Part VII, Rule 87 Eligibility Waiver notification to league. No discussion.
- Rule #41: Part VII, Rule 87 Eligibility Waiver change to appeal process to eliminate second level of appeal. No discussion.
- Rule #42: Part VII, Rule 87 Eligibility Waiver, add accountability for improper appeal requests. No discussion.

- Rule #43 Recommended Game Officials for Football from 4 to 5. No discussion.
- Rule #44: Game officials authority. No discussion.
- Rule #45: Return alignment cycle to 4 years. No discussion.
- Rule #46: Officials and sites. No discussion.

5. New Business:

a. NFHS Rule Changes

- **Paul Shvartsman on behalf of coaches** – “Basic and necessary rule changes” weigh in same for males/females and in uniform; no weight allowance for uniform; Hair regulations removed; shoes fall off out of uniform.

b. 2020-21 Wrestling Season Outlook

• Modification presentation to the EEA

- **Brendan Kent:** Work over the summer updates, and presentation to Lt. Governor on behalf of the sport of wrestling potential modifications: a.m. weigh in, skin checks on site, not handshakes, shoes put on when on mat only, no noise makers, cleaning protocols before and in between matches, officials will not raise hands, mask protocols, washing of hands after a match (possible post-match showering), COVID screening protocols in line for all sports, potentially limiting number of athletes in rosters and pods for training, eliminate combined practices with other teams, tournaments need to be discussed for further protocols, ventilation of training rooms and dressing rooms, when athletes are not competing and coaches not coaching physical distancing will apply, potential of live streaming events.

• Further modifications w/ Wrestling Committee

- **Paul Shvartsman:** Coaches have low confidence that a season will take place in the current environment.
- **Brian Tildsley:** Officials are willing, ready and able. They discussed masks, whistles and gloves. Officials are looking at modifications happening in other states that are actively wrestling. Visualizing how a tournament would run before a vaccine is difficult.
- **Paul Shvartsman:** what will happen if wrestling is not approved for winter? Will another season this year be an option? Phil Napolitano could not provide certainty around possibilities, but that will have to be taken up out of fairness (football example).
- **Mark Hollick:** Question around discussion /guidance around coops. Phil Napolitano could not provide and specific guidance around wrestling, but did note that coops are happening in current fall sports and expects guidance for winter sports. **Phil** reiterated that this is a local decision.
- **Phil Napolitano:** Potential modifications are ideas put out on behalf of wrestling, but nothing has been approved. Biggest challenge is the face to face, sustained contact of the sport.

c. Alignments update

- **Phil Napolitano:** Alignments will go out to membership in the next week or so. TMC has been focused on fall sports.

d. 2020-21 Wrestling Format

- **Phil Napolitano:** Wrestling time-line for the season not set yet. Wrestling Committee should plan to meet several times prior to the season in order to have season plan and modifications planned out for approval.

e. New England's update

- **Phil Napolitano:** No information

f. FloArena – tabled

g. TMC Update

- **Phil Napolitano:** Tournament format approved at last meeting but on hold.

h. Other - none

6. Coaches Input

- **Paul Shvartsman** asked for direction on discussing modifications and tournament structures with coaches. **Phil Napolitano** provided direction to get as much input as possible with the understanding that there will be many viewpoints and Wrestling Committee will make final recommendations.
- Brendan Kent, Paul Shvartsman, Jason St. Peter, and Ann Palumbo volunteered for subcommittee.

7. Officials Input

- None

8. COVID-19/Return to Play Resources

- **Phil Napolitano:** Showcased the COVID-19 Task Force page on MIAA as a resource.

9. Informational Items

- **Phil Napolitano** briefed the committee on topics in agenda and additional information:
 - Tournament Director position posted send information to Phil Napolitano
 - Coach of the year - Deshawn Fentress, Brockton H.S.
 - Official of the Year - Daniel J. Buckley, Sr

Phil Napolitano thanked **Ted Neill** for his service and time on the committee on behalf of officials and wrestlers in the State of Massachusetts. **Ted** offered his consultation in any committee topics as needed.

Future meetings will be scheduled and shared out with the committee.

Adjournment- Called by Phil at 11:31 a.m.