

# MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

## OFFICIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, October 3, 2022

### Members Present:

Barb Beckett, Traverse City (Virtual)  
John Carideo, Akron  
Ed Early, Jackson  
Tom Flynn, Birmingham  
Todd Gooding, Portage  
Leroy Hackley, Muskegon  
Kelli Hart, Williamston  
John Hartley, St. Clair Shores  
Chris Hartman, Kingsford (Virtual)  
Jill Lansky, Kalamazoo

Nikki Norris, East Lansing  
Loren Ristovski, Taylor  
Fred Smith, Bangor  
Jon Studley, Alpena (Virtual)  
Justin Terry, Lansing

### Staff Members Present:

Sam Davis  
Brent Rice  
Ryan Wieferich

## INTRODUCTION

Staff shared that the Officials Review Committee (ORC) is the only committee with officials serving as members. Discussion took place about adding officials as members of the rules committees as non-voting members. The group talked about the 2-year term limit for committee members.

The minutes of the 2021 meeting of the ORC were reviewed. The three changes that were approved by the Representative Council included the following:

1. VB and SW Uniforms- Adopt a cyan uniform for both VB and SW officials. The Representative Council decided that will go into effect during the 2023-24 school year, and the cyan color will be optional with white remaining as the default color (all must match).
2. Replay Review of Ejections- Review make take place in 3 areas including rules misapplication that leads to ejection, misidentification of ejected player or when flagrant or malicious contact occurs between players or officials. The MHSAA receives approximately 2 video review requests per week. Staff reported positive feedback from schools and officials with little pushback about any overturned call.
3. Non-Act of God Cancellation Policy- Last year, this committee proposed a change in the non-act of god policy from 10 days to 5 days. The Representative Council accepted the proposal as is.

## UPCOMING TRAINING SESSIONS AND MEETING

1. NASO Summit- The MHSAA will host the NASO Summit 2026 in Grand Rapids. Starting in 2022-23, all MHSAA officials now receive NASO membership as a part of their registration.\
2. Assigner and Association Leadership Meeting Report- Held the meeting in July at the MHSAA office. Members could attend in person, via Zoom, or watch a recorded version. All assigners and at least 1 board member from each association is required to attend the meeting every year. The main goal was to define the relationship and roles between assigners and associations.
3. Midwest Officials Summit- Staff attended with 15 other state association leaders from the Midwest, to brainstorm strategies and initiatives to improve officiating.
4. Officiate Michigan Day 2023- This will take place in person this summer at DeWitt Middle School on July 15th. Training for officials both in the classroom and on the

field/court. All-day event for officials of all sports from the state of Michigan to receive training and network with one another.

### **OFFICIALS PROGRAM UPDATES**

1. Registration, Recruitment, and Retention- Overall numbers are down, but due to the change in registration deadlines this year that was to be expected. However, fall sport registration numbers have increased in FB and VB. Slight increase overall in the percentage of minority and female officials.
2. Recruitment Efforts- A meeting was held with recruiting and mentorship coordinators from official associations in April '22. Strategy was developed to target "sports empty nesters." Business cards and recruitment materials were developed and sent out to associations to aid them in their recruiting efforts.
3. High School Curriculum Update- Staff met with RefReps during the NASO summit. RefReps has developed a curriculum for high school classes focused on sports officiating. RefReps has been accredited by the Department of Education in all states for high school. There is a current cost of \$50 per student per course. The MHSAA will investigate purchasing the curriculum in bulk and offering it to schools at a lower cost.

### **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

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1. Officials' Postseason Requirements Updates- Adjusting based on the new rating system. Increase the required rating for semifinal/finals games. Wrestling reduced the required ratings from 100 to 75 over 3 years. Competitive cheer, add the requirement for CC officials to be MIGS of an association to judge during the MHSAA tournament. Soccer, reduce the minimum number of regular season games required to work in the tournament from 10 to 5.
2. Assigners and Associations Reforms- Propose a change so assigners can only be paid by schools, leagues, or conferences. This would remove the ability for associations to pay assigners. All assigners must use an arbiter account separate from their local officials' associations to assign MHSAA contests. This issue will return to the ORC in 2023 for further discussion.
3. Out-of-State Official's Postseason Opportunities- We now require out-of-state officials to be full members. Currently, they can only work the first round in our tournaments. Motion to open later-round tournament opportunities to out-of-state officials. This issue will return to the ORC in 2023 for further discussion.
4. Camp Clinic Attendance for postseason consideration- Tabled to a future meeting.
5. Regular Season Fees- Act of God cancellation policy- Under current rules, officials are entitled to 1/3rd of the fee when a game is canceled due to an act of god after they show up on site. John Hartley proposes to increase to 1/2 of the game fee.
6. Timely Payments Consideration- Should there be a penalty for late payments to officials, and how long should schools have? Most members agree that it will be difficult to enforce and set an appropriate time limit as each school is different. Proposal to add verbiage to the Official's Handbook for officials to give schools at least 2 weeks or a month to complete payment.
7. Maximum and Minimum Officials – Regular Season Contests- Jon Studley proposed that 7-man official crews be banned for football regular season games due to the shortage of officials. Many schools are using 7-man crews while many schools are using 4-man crews or having to cancel the game altogether. Proposal to have a follow-up meeting to discuss this issue in more detail. Expand the discussion to include official limits for all sports, not just football.
8. School Feedback Form- Create a rating system for officials to rate schools like the current officials rating system to be adopted for the 23-24 school year. This issue will return to the ORC in 2023 for further discussion.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Officials' Postseason Requirements Updates- Adjusting based on the new rating system. Increase the required rating for semifinal/finals games. Wrestling reduced the required ratings from 100 to 75 over 3 years. Competitive cheer, add the requirement for CC officials to be MIGS of an association to judge during the MHSAA tournament. Soccer, reduce the minimum number of regular season games required to work in the tournament from 10 to 5 (15-0).
2. Regular Season Fees- Act of God cancellation policy- Under current rules, officials are entitled to 1/3rd of the fee when a game is canceled due to an act of god after they show up on site. John Hartley proposes to increase to ½ of the game fee (15-0).