



CAPITAL AREA ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE

EDUCATION THROUGH ACHIEVEMENT,
ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION.

CAAC ATHLETIC DIRECTOR MEETING MINUTES February 27, 2019, MHSAA Office, East Lansing

Schools present: Charlotte, DeWitt, East Lansing, Eaton Rapids, Fowlerville, Grand Ledge, Haslett, Holt, Ionia, Lansing Catholic, Lansing Eastern, Lansing Everett, Lansing Sexton, Okemos, Mason, Portland, St. Johns, Waverly, Williamston.

President Jeff Dassance of Eaton Rapids called the meeting to order, January meeting minutes were approved. Commissioner Randy Allen reviewed the agenda.

Old business items were reviewed as follows:

The decision by Howell to remain in the KLAA and not pursue membership in the CAAC was reviewed. Although the school and district elected to stay in their current league, it was reported all discussions and communications were positive.

An update was shared regarding discussions on formation of a new high school hockey league in Mid-Michigan. The commissioner gave a summary of discussions at a recent meeting with athletic directors from the SW HS Hockey League (Kalamazoo United, Portage Northern & Central and Mattawan). They have indicated strong support from coaches and AD's to "merge" with the four CAAC hockey programs and Lumen Christi to form a new Mid-Michigan HS hockey league comprised of all school-based programs. The two non-school members of the SW League (Blades and Eagles) have been given until March 11 to become school-based co-op programs or leave the league.

Richland Gull Lake has indicated they are willing to become primary school for a new MHSAA approved co-op program that will include many of the schools and students currently in the Eagles program. CAAC hockey coaches and AD's all support continued dialogue toward formation of the new league, with approval and scheduling to begin in late March for either a 2019-20 or 2020-21 initial season for the new league. The commissioner will continue to represent the CAAC programs and coaches as plans continue and communicate all developments on a timely basis.

More discussion took place on the potential for a league-wide coaches meeting. The commissioner reported on possible locations, dates and formats for such an event. Some favored a mid-August weekend date prior to the start of a new school year, others a late June date to conclude the school year. No consensus emerged. Further discussion to take place in April.

A discussion took place regarding the extraordinary weather interruptions of school athletic events that was experienced in January and the subsequent re-scheduling and coordination with officials assigners. Some concerns were expressed regarding how communications were handled, leading to some uncertainty about officials availability. A follow-up with assigners will take place to review such circumstances and foster improved procedures.

A report was given from the recent "task force" that reviewed league All-Conference selection procedures. Several changes were recommended in the number of honorable mention places in some

sports, and proposals for changes in some team sports selection procedures. Other suggestions included replacing “honorable mention” with a first team/second team approach in team sports, elimination of “honorary captain”, consideration for some on-line voting, having division cross country meets separate the JV race from the varsity and possible one-division wrestling meet to crown individual champions with dual meets determining team champions in each division. All such changes or proposals to be discussed with coaches at the school and league level.

Other review topics discussed included freshman baseball schedules; Senior Scholar Athlete event planning; winter all-conference meeting dates; reminders to send fall league schedules in team sports to assigners; and fall cross country jamboree dates & host confirmation to be sent to Chuck Block for confirmation of timing services.

New Business Items were reviewed as follows:

Lacrosse officials assigners Keith Byrd and Paige Winne appeared before the group to review procedures and answer questions regarding the upcoming spring boys and girls seasons and CAAC tournament dates, hosts and plans. The commissioner will also meet with the league baseball/softball assigner and officials group in March to review league policies.

Hamed Sadeghi of Arbiter sports presented to league AD's and answered questions regarding their scheduling software products and upgrades now that the MHSAA no longer subsidizes the annual license fee. Procedures for use of Arbiter Pay for officials payment was also clarified.

Spring Girls CAAC Soccer Cup plans were reviewed. The Cup seed meeting will take place at Holt HS on Saturday, May 11 after the Division All-Conference selection meetings which begin at 9 a.m. Williamston will host the Cup Finals.

A report was given on the MHSAA League & Conference meeting held in February. Several important proposals were discussed that will be advanced to the Representative Council for final vote in May. They include changes to the football playoff point system to reward strength of schedule; seeding plans for boys & girls basketball; additional restrictions to transfer policies; allowing scrimmages during out of state practice between Michigan schools primarily affecting spring sports such as baseball/softball; conducting the hockey tournament over three weeks instead of the current two week span; and a change in amateur status limits from \$25 to \$40. It was also reported that the :40 play clock in football is now a National Federation playing rule to be followed by all schools. Schools were supplied with all pertinent documents and administrative reminders from the MHSAA meeting with emphasis on officials security, coaches certification requirements, co-op team renewals and new transfer rule compliance.

A request from a member school soccer coach to return to a rotation of boys soccer dates between divisions was discussed, specifically the M-W dates for the Blue Division rotating with Tu-Thu in the Red & White Divisions. The suggestion will be added to scheduling meetings for discussions and possible implantation for the 2020 season.

Other new business topics covered were updates for activities at the upcoming MIAAA Conference in Traverse City; thoughts on basketball scheduling changes, date and host for the CAAC Golf Open and possible adoption of new league policies on scoring integrity; and the annual Commissioner position evaluation with reps from each division.

As previously agreed, the Feb. 27 meeting served as a combined February/March meeting to accommodate the MIAAA Conference. The next scheduled league meeting will be April 10th at the MHSAA and the spring scheduling meeting April 17 at Haslett HS.

Next Meeting – 9 a.m., Wednesday, April 10, MHSAA Office, East Lansing