

The Minnesota State High School League provides educational opportunities for students through interscholastic athletic and fine arts programs and provides leadership and support for member schools.



Member of the National Federation of State High School Associations

Minnesota State High School League
Board of Directors Meeting
October 7, 2010

Meeting Synopsis

Action Items

- Formal approval was given to the 2010-11 goals formulated by the Board at its August meeting. Seven primary goals are in process: 1) Review and amend the policies governing administrative region and competitive section placement, as well as class competition; 2) Initiate a process for placement of certain competitive statistics on the League Web site; 3) Assessment of League's identity, audience perceptions, targeted messages and development of a comprehensive communications plan; 4) Expansion of the Coaches Education program; 5) Review and update of League's finance investment policy; 6) Completion of a review of the 100 series of League bylaws and possible amendment recommendations; 7) Exploration of additional education-based competitions.
- Ease of scheduling football games by some schools was improved with approval of what is called "Zero Week" scheduling. Schools that have had difficulty finding opponents to fill regular-season schedules may apply to employ the Zero Week option. It will give approved schools the chance to start their season one week earlier, schedule a regular-season game that wouldn't normally be available, and then have a bye – or Zero Week – later on during the season. The option will be made available for the 2011 football season, with specific details still to be developed of exactly what will be permitted during the Zero Week. The Football Task Force continues to meet to seek a permanent solution to the scheduling dilemma that includes exploration of several options of section scheduling.
- Upon the recommendation of the League's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, the Board approved updated standards for skiing competition in cold weather. Previously both Alpine and Nordic skiing were limited by the same wind-chill standards. However, since the duration of skiers to extreme cold varies greatly between the two sports, some limitations imposed on the shorter duration Alpine skiers were lifted without additional risk to the athletes.
- Three recommendations related to the state speech tournament were approved: 1) The primary tiebreaker will now be head-to-head scoring; 2) State champions will now be determined only by final-round scoring, with the three preliminary rounds used only to advance competitors to the final round; 3) Certain lesser rule violations that don't result in a competitive advantage will now not result in disqualification, but rather a lowest-score result as the penalty for a specific round.

- The Board amended the minutes of an earlier meeting to clarify the intent of adopting a no-contact week during the July 4th summer period. The motion-maker's intent was to approve specific one-week periods over the Fourth that encompassed one weekend only. Therefore, the specific no-contact periods for the following three years are in force: Summer 2011 – Friday, July 1 through Thursday, July 7; Summer 2012 – Fri., June 29 through Thursday, July 5; Summer 2013 – Monday July 1 through Sunday July 7.
- Approval was granted to a new two-year sponsorship of the League's ExCEL Award program by AAA Minneapolis valued at \$60,000.
- Approval was granted for staff to enter into a new two-year contract with Carlson Print Group of Eden Prairie for production, printing and delivery of state tournament programs.
- Approval was granted for staff to enter into a contract with the Minnesota Twins to stage the three championship baseball games at Target Field in 2011 on Tuesday, June 21. The exact schedule of games on Thursday and Friday, June 16 and 17, is yet to be determined.
- The Board approved a proposal that came from its Eligibility Committee to expand the scope of the Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee to include development of participation eligibility bylaw recommendations for students enrolled in online institutions.

Discussion Items

- The Board briefly discussed a number of recommended updates to its policies pertaining to administrative region assignments, the structure of competition within classes for activities, as well as competitive section assignments. Staff will draft new language for further consideration at the Board's December meeting.
- Associate Director Craig Perry briefed the Board on continuing negotiations with a company that offers online capabilities of completing and storing the health questionnaire, part of the sports qualifying physical examination and required annually thereafter. The goal is to pilot the system nationally for the company. Perry was instructed to explore the possibility of adding several additional functions that would benefit students, parents and member schools.

Board Committee Reports

Eligibility Committee

The Board adopted 17 separate eligibility recommendations from the committee resulting from a special meeting on September 17 and its regular October 7 meeting.

Audit/Finance Committee

The Board approved the 2009-10 year-end financial report, as well as the monthly reports for the months of July 2010 and August 2010. The committee also reported that the annual audit by the State Auditor's office is under way.

Marketing Committee

The committee spent considerable time reviewing and discussing the marketing report provide by Tunheim Partners and formulating a preliminary action plan for the report recommendations.

Technology/Coaches and Officials Education Committee

The committee reported that the new Coaches Education program sponsored by the League continues to be expanded and improved.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the League Board of Directors is Thursday, December 2, 2010, at the League office.