

Minnesota State High School League
Board of Directors Meeting
Dec. 6, 2012

Meeting Synopsis

Action Items

- At the recommendation of League staff and with the support of both the girls and boys coaches associations, the Board approved a plan to modify the scheduling of the state basketball tournaments for the years 2014 through 2018. Due to Target Center hosting a season-ending tournament for the new National Collegiate Hockey Conference beginning in March 2014, the boys' tournament will be played before the girls' tournament for years 2014 through 2016. The traditional girls first-boys second schedule will revert for years 2017 and 2018. Both tournaments will likely utilize Mariucci Arena at the University of Minnesota in addition to Williams Arena, as well as Target Center during the week that the hockey tournament is not scheduled. Staff still needs to make contractual arrangements with all of the venues and design a specific schedule of which classes will play when and where. During those first three years, the boys' basketball season will start one week earlier than the girls' basketball season.
- The Board approved a presenting partnership proposal from the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League. Following comments both pro and con about associating with an activity that involves guns, the proposal was narrowly approved on a 9-8 vote. A League state championship event will be conducted at a Twin Cities area shooting range on either the third or fourth Saturday in June 2014.
- The Board approved a proposal that came from an ad hoc committee that looked at Class 9-Man football. The issue revolved around the current enrollment limit of 165 for schools to play in this class. The committee recommended that the limit be reduced to 150 students. It also allows for appeals by schools with higher enrollments that currently qualify for 9-Man football. The new limit will not become effective until the 2015-16 school year.
- An exhaustive review of the Board's policy for competitive section placement by a committee of member school personnel led to two recommended and approved changes for future placement cycles: 1) that requests for reclassification to either a lower or higher competitive class must be made prior to any Board classification action; 2) that all applications for cooperative sponsorships must be made a minimum of 30 days prior to the start of that activity season. A number of criteria must be met for consideration of placement in a lower competitive class. New placements for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years will be made in March 2013.
- Finance Director Rich Matter requested and received approval for moving forward with a new payroll plan for workers at subsection, section and state tournaments, beginning with the 2014 calendar year. Currently these workers have been treated as independent contractors, but Matter said that at least two other state high school associations were cited by the Internal Revenue Service for not considering these workers as employees. To be proactive, Matter emphasized that the League wants to work with member schools to handle the administration of payment of these workers for subsection and section tournaments. The League office can handle the change for state tournament workers.

- Individual Board committees approved goals for the current 2012-13 school year pertinent to each committee's area of responsibility.

Discussion Items

- Associate Director Kevin Merkle briefed the Board on two issues impacting football. One concerns the amount and kind of contact that players may have during the summer months. The coaches association is concerned that there are no guidelines that regulate football practice and scrimmages during the summer like there are during the regular season. The second issue concerns current player participation limitations which are no more than six quarters times the number of varsity contests played. The coaches believe that a better limitation might be based on quarters per week. Merkle said specific proposals will be presented at a future date.
- Several athletic directors requested the Board take another look at scheduling football games by section rather than by conference. Conversely, Board Member Dan Johnson, athletic director at Hopkins, said that would not address the scheduling issue that some of the largest Class AAAAAA schools face. He suggested that statewide scheduling would help.

Board Committee Reports

- *Executive Committee*
The committee approved a partnership with the Twin Cities Toyota Dealers. A new Toyota Camry has been donated to the League for three years. It has been wrapped to promote John's Journal, League media specialist John Millea's column on the League website. Look for it as John travels the state to research and write about all that is good about Minnesota high school activities. You can't miss it.
- *Eligibility Committee*
The Board adopted 12 separate eligibility recommendations from the committee to censure coaches or school administrators, accept corrective action plans and accept the findings of an independent hearing officer. Four of the censures involved violations of Bylaw 304-Ineligible Player and two involved Coaches Code of Conduct violations. The committee also recommended and the Board approved allowing Hillcrest Lutheran Academy to enter into cooperative agreements.
- *Audit/Finance Committee*
The Board approved the financial statements for the months of September and October. The committee was also informed that the annual financial review by the state auditor's office resulted in the highest possible opinion.
- *Communications and Marketing Committee*
The committee reported that League staff is working to renew an agreement with Wells Fargo to remain the League's premier corporate sponsor Wells for another two years. The goal is to complete the process by Feb. 1. The committee was informed that requests for proposals have been sent to numerous athletic equipment manufacturers to enter into agreements to provide balls for eight different tournaments and cash contributions. Staff reviewed past Listening to Students surveys and reported that the next survey will be conducted in Fall 2013.
- *Technology/Coaches and Officials Education Committee*
Staff shared a preliminary plan by the League, the state athletic directors association and the state coaches association to sponsor three conferences for coaches with sessions to assist

them in meeting current coaching licensure requirements. Two conferences would be held in the Twin Cities and a third in Grand Rapids. All would be held in early August 2013. Each organization would contribute \$5,000 toward staging the conferences. Final approval will be sought from the Board in January.

Extra points

- The Board recognized Roger Cersine who began officiating swim meets in 1967, served for 35 years as the League's swimming and diving rules clinician, and who served as meet manager for the girls' and boys' swimming and diving meets from 1995 through 2012. He stepped down from those positions after the 2012 State Boys' Swimming and Diving Meet.
- Michele Kelm-Helgen, chair of the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority, made a presentation about the new Vikings stadium project. Plans call for ground to be broken in late 2013, with the Vikings, as well as the League, using TCF Bank Stadium in 2015, possibly also in 2014, with the new stadium opening in 2016. She said the design of the new stadium that will replace the Metrodome will likely be completed by March 2013.
- The League office will close for the holidays at noon on Friday, December 21, and reopen on Wednesday, January 2, 2013.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the League Board of Directors is Thursday, January 24, 2013, at the League office.