

**Minnesota State High School League
2100 Freeway Blvd.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430**

**Minutes of the Special Board of Directors Meeting
September 21, 2020**

Due to COVID-19 and Governor Walz September 11, 2020 Executive Order 20-89, the Board Meeting was held using Zoom virtual platform. President Novak called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. All current members of the Board of Directors were present except Kirby Ekstrom. All members of the executive staff were present for all or portions of the meeting.

A list of others attending all or portions of the Zoom Meeting is on file at the League Office.

Pledge of Allegiance

Heier moved and Revenig seconded to approve the agenda as amended: Add to Action Item 6A Reconsider Placement of Fall Activities Seasons: Adapted Soccer, Volleyball, and Football; Add Discussion Item #7C Membership Dues; and Discussion Item #7D Training Seasons for Fall. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Individuals or Delegations on Agenda Issues

Dawn Gillman, #LetThemPlayMN, spoke in favor of football and volleyball returning to the fall season.

Dr. Bill Roberts, Chair of the MSHSL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee provided an update from the Committee, discussed safety protocol and reviewed a Return to Participation Form that will help guide physicians and other providers determine the level of participation for student athletes who are recovering from COVID-19.

Board of Directors Members' Reports and Comments

Board of Directors reports were received and included board members' comments thanking the board and staff for their professionalism during the tough decisions that are being made; thanked President Novak for his leadership; and appreciate the work that is being done by all involved.

Legislative Report Received

Legislative Report was received and included that communications with state leaders indicated support for the MSHSL's process in decision-making; and the election is 43 days away.

Legal Counsel's Report Received

Legal Counsel's Report was received and included an update on a lawsuit filed on Friday, September 11, 2020 and is scheduled be heard on Tuesday, September 22, 2020.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

Reconsider Placement of Fall Activities Seasons

Adapted Soccer: Assistant Director Rich Matter indicated that the Minnesota Adapted Athletics Association (MAAA) recommends a Fall Training Season replace the traditional Adapted Soccer Season for the fall of 2020. Waterbury moved and Reetz seconded to approve the MAAA recommendations. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Volleyball: Associate Director Jody Redman indicated that she has been working with the Volleyball Advisory Committee to create options for girls volleyball. Domin moved and Heier seconded to approve volleyball being moved to the fall activities season starting on September 28, 2020 with an eleven-week season and competition beginning on October 8, 2020 with fourteen regular season contests. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Discussion was held regarding a potential wavier for volleyball participants to attend Junior Olympic (JO) try-outs. This topic will be reviewed by the Eligibility Committee.

Football: Executive Director Martens gave background information and referenced Dr. Roberts' information shared earlier in the meeting. Associate Director Madison indicated that the Football Advisory Committee would like to see football return to the fall season.

Ostrowski moved and Tauer seconded to reinstate football with a six-game regular-season schedule and section level post-season. Discussion was held regarding the timeline of reinstating football.

Ostrowski amended the original motion: Reinstate football beginning September 28, 2020 with a six-game regular season with the first week of competition to begin on October 9, 2020 and with localized playoffs being held the last two weeks.

Discussion was held regarding a potential state tournament and if the MSHSL 2020-2021 budget includes fall state tournaments.

Tauer rescinded his second to the motion and no objections were heard.

Discussion was held regarding a state tournament and the MDE and MDH restrictions regarding spectators.

Bosshart seconded Ostrowski's amended motion to reinstate football beginning September 28, 2020 with a six-game regular season with first week of competition to be held on October 9, 2020 and localized playoffs being held the last two weeks. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Waterbury moved and Bosshart seconded to add Fall Training Seasons to the agenda as Discussion Item 7D. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Post-Season Competitive for Fall Activities

Girls Tennis: Recommendation to host a team tournament at the section level. Matches will be held outdoors.

Boys and Girls Soccer: Recommendation to host a section tournament over two weeks beginning with the week of October 12, 2020.

Girls Swimming and Diving: Recommendation that section events will be held beginning the week of October 19, 2020 at multiple sites with meets taking place at the same time or be held over two days.

Boys and Girls Cross Country: Recommendation that section meets will be held at multiple sites beginning the week of October 12, 2020. Meets may be held over two days.

Return to Participation Clearance Form

The Board reviewed the Return to Participation Clearance Form by Dr. Roberts. This would be a tool to guide school administrators to determine when a student is ready to return to participation after having tested positive for COVID-19. The Board asked for clarification if criteria to return is ten or fourteen days since onset of symptoms; and what are other states doing.

Membership Dues

Board Members shared what they have been hearing from their constituents and indicated it is important to keep communicating with superintendents. This topic will continue to be reviewed.

Fall Training Seasons

The Board discussed the fall and spring training seasons that are currently in place and supported leaving the current schedule in place and review at the October 1, 2020 meeting.

With no further business, Heier moved and White seconded to adjourn at 1:38 p.m. The motion passed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erich Martens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "E".

Erich Martens
Executive Director