

Minnesota State High School League
Board of Directors Meeting
April 11, 2013

Meeting Synopsis

Action Items

- The competitive section assignments for the next two school years, 2013-14 and 2014-15, were formally approved by the Board. At a March workshop session, Board members reviewed the assignments that had previously been reviewed and approved by the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee, authorizing Executive Director Dave Stead to immediately implement them prior to formal approval by the Board at its April meeting. A Section Assignments tab has been available on the home page of the League website since then and remains available. It includes links to maps and lists of section assignments.
- The 2013-14 calendar of meetings — Board of Directors meetings and area meetings for the fall and spring — was approved. The 2013-14 activities calendar, including start dates, tournament dates and tournament venues, was also approved. The only significant departure from the previously approved projected calendar for the next school year is the dates for the State Girls' Swimming and Diving Meet. At the request of the University of Minnesota, the traditional Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 14-16, schedule was moved to Monday through Wednesday the following week, Nov. 18-20, 2013. The new calendars may be viewed on the League website under the Calendars link on the home page and will be posted by Friday, April 12.
- At the request of the Football Advisory Committee and staff, the Board authorized staff to seek approval for an experimental rule yet to be developed that addresses an issue involving kickoffs. The League has been experimenting for two years already and will continue for the third and final year with the 2013 season with a rule that prohibits overloading the formation by the kicking team. The experimental rule requires that the kicking team place a minimum of four players on each side of the ball. The yet-to-be-developed experimental rule, pending authorization from the National Federation, will address "bunch kicking." This is a technique employed by some teams to kick the ball to a designated spot at least 10 yards down the field to which the remaining players gravitate to attempt to gain possession of the ball. Both experimental rules are intended to address safety concerns such as the potential of concussions and other devastating injuries that could occur with too many players colliding at the same spot on the field in an attempt to gain possession of the kicked ball.
- The Executive Committee of the Board voted to require every administrative region to implement a consistent policy related to qualification for the State Golf Tournaments. The majority of regions hold a 36-hole section tournament, but not all. Now, all must conduct a 36-hole section event to determine team and individual qualifiers for the state tournaments.

Discussion Items

- Associate Directors Kevin Merkle and Craig Perry, as well as Executive Director Stead, briefed the Board on a number of issues impacting football. One concerns the amount and kind of contact that players may have during the summer months. Working with the coaches association due to concerns that there have been no guidelines that regulate football practice and scrimmages during the summer like there are during the regular season, a draft proposal

was presented. It addresses the amount of physical contact players may have with each other following a required five-day acclimatization period to weather conditions. It also limits the number of practices with player physical contact to seven during the summer coaching waiver period, and it also limits any kind of practice to two hours or less. It also prohibits inter-school scrimmages or games during that same period. It does allow 7-on-7 play, provided pads are not used and there is no contact in practice that same day and that players are given at least three hours of rest between practice and play. A second proposal which amends Bylaw 502 adds language that would limit an individual football player to no more than six quarters of play during any consecutive three-day period. Another issue that staff will explore concerns how member schools deal with lending protective equipment to players for summer camps and clinics. Guidelines may be developed that address risk and liability issues that arise with the lending of equipment, particularly football helmets, and assessment of their condition between the time they are returned at the end of the summer camps/clinics period and before they are reissued to players for the following school season. Merkle also indicated that discussion needs to continue about alternatives for the scheduling of football games.

- Board committee chairs offered updates on the progress made toward fulfilling specific goals of their committee. Each reported that either the goals had already been met or significant progress had been made in meeting them.
- Assistant Director Rich Matter reported that administrative regions will work with their member schools to implement a new system of payments for section tournament personnel. Instead of hiring people as independent contractors, they will be compensated as employees of individual school districts. The school districts will serve essentially as conduits for payments from the region committees to the school districts and then to pay the workers. The system addresses issues that have been raised in other states by the Internal Revenue Service.
- Board member Mark Solberg who represents boys' sports and Executive Director Stead reported that there is unanimous coaches associations support for a legislative proposal made by Rep. Dean Urdahl that would prohibit a school board from declining to renew a coach's contract solely based on parental complaints. Board member Shelly Hotzler represents girls' sports and was snowed/iced in at Jackson County and could not attend. However, Solberg indicated that she attended the same meeting with him when the coaches associations endorsed Rep. Urdahl's legislative proposal.

Board Committee Reports

- *Executive Committee*
The committee reviewed a proposed policy that pertains to administration of cooperative sponsorships. It primarily addresses the timeliness of requests for co-ops, requiring a request be made a minimum of 30 days prior to the start of the season for that activity. The proposal will be discussed at the spring area meetings that begin later this month. The committee recommended and the Board approved that staff enter into a contract with a video production company to produce a DVD in conjunction with the League's marking of 100 years in 2015-16.
- *Eligibility Committee*
The Board adopted 16 separate recommendations from the committee to censure coaches or athletic directors and accept corrective action plans for violations of bylaws. A number of other recommendations, including an award of additional semesters of eligibility, suspension

of an assistant coach, and granting immediate eligibility of some transfer students were also approved.

- *Audit/Finance Committee*

The Board approved the financial statements for the months of January, February and March. The statements show that actual net income for the fiscal year so far is nearly 25 percent above the amount projected in the current budget. Committee chair Rick Bleichner also reported that review of winter tournament attendance reflects near equivalency to the attendance of the Winter 2012 tournaments.

- *Communications and Marketing Committee*

The committee reported that contracts with Wells Fargo for renewing its premier partnership and contracts with ball manufacturers are nearing completion. Staff members discussed the need for continued development of consistent communication and marketing strategies. Development of an Internet video channel was announced. Still in its infancy, the site can be found at www.vimeo.com/MSHSL.

- *Technology/Coaches and Officials Education Committee*

Staff briefed the committee on development of curriculum for coaches education. Details were also shared about the Why We Play...A Coaches Conference that the League is co-sponsoring on August 1 and 7. Details are available on the home page of the League website. Assistant Director Chris Franson shared some statistics regarding usage of the League website, including online rules meetings and continuing education training. He also said that he was surprised to see that during the winter tournament season, 35-43 percent of the traffic was initiated from mobile devices.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the League Board of Directors is Monday, June 3, 2013, at the League office.