

Minnesota State High School League
Board of Directors Meeting
October 3, 2013

Meeting Synopsis

Action Items

- With the scheduled demolition of the Metrodome following the current Minnesota Vikings season, League staff has been exploring options of where and when to conduct future state football and soccer tournaments. Finally, it's official for football at least. The two-day Prep Bowl in 2014 will be played on Friday, Nov. 21, and Saturday, Nov. 22, at TCF Bank Stadium on the University of Minnesota Campus. That's a week before Thanksgiving (Nov. 27). It will require no further adjustment of the football season, including section tournaments and the first two rounds of the state tournament, with one exception. Semifinals, which have been played in the Metrodome, will also move outdoors the week before the Prep Bowl, most likely at multiple sites around the state. Those details remain to be confirmed. As for 2015, options continue to be considered and no Board decision was required. Associate Director Kevin Merkle indicated that the option that has gained the most traction thus far would require a limitation of the section tournament qualifiers to only four teams per section. That's because if the university stadium will be used, the Prep Bowl would have to be played on Friday, Nov. 13, and Saturday, Nov. 14, two weeks prior to the customary post-Thanksgiving dates. Stay tuned for possible action on the 2015 dates at the Board's next meeting in December. The new football stadium for the Vikings and for which the League has guaranteed dates for the soccer and football tournaments, is supposed to open in the fall of 2016.
- The Board formally approved the date and location of the 2014 Prep Championship Series. The three state championship baseball games will be played at Target Field in downtown Minneapolis on Saturday, June 14.
- The Board approved the placement of six member schools into two conferences, following the recommendations of a committee that heard the testimony of school officials and representatives of the affected conferences. Irondale, Spring Lake Park and Totino-Grace will become members of the Northwest Suburban Conference. Academy of Holy Angels, Columbia Heights and Fridley will become members of the Tri-Metro Conference.
- Staff was given approval to continue planning for regional meetings for school administrators to attend to learn more about Why We Play, the August conferences that were attended by more than 600 coaches. Staff will also plan regional meetings for coaches to obtain required continuing education credits.
- The Board formally adopted seven goals for its 2013-14 school year tenure that range from resolving the football scheduling dilemma to coaching licensure to development of a policy to address transgender students.

Discussion Items

- As for soccer, League staff believes that Husky Stadium on the St. Cloud State University campus will be the best site to host semifinals, third-place and championships for 2014 and 2015. Board action is expected at its December meeting.

- The Board gave staff the go-ahead to formalize a new process for scheduling football games statewide that involves designation of scheduling groups on a regional basis, with member schools within those groups meeting to establish equitable schedules for each. Staff hopes to be able to present the Board with specific details at its December meeting.
- The Board heard a proposal from the Minnesota High School Press Association asking the League to fund a number of its programs. Potential action is on the December docket.
- Expansion of the official squad for baseball from currently 18 to 20 players was discussed and action is scheduled for the December meeting. The request came from the Baseball Advisory Committee.
- Expansion of the state girls' fast-pitch softball tournament from three to four classes was also discussed. Concerns about treating individual four-class tournaments differently in terms of structure were raised by some Board members. The sport's advisory committee brought the proposal forward. Action is expected in December.

Board Committee Reports

- *Executive Committee*
The committee reviewed the proposed goals for the school year, discussed a contest to design a logo for the League's centennial observation in 2015-16, and began discussing development of policies to address transgender students involved in League activities.
- *Eligibility Committee*
The Board adopted six separate eligibility recommendations for violations of: Bylaw 105-Grade Level Eligibility; Bylaw 304-Ineligible Player; Bylaw 502-Daily and Season Participation Limits; and Bylaw 508-Football. Discussion was held regarding the travel and scrimmage policy, disqualifications and multi-sport participation in the same season, and a possible language revision of a portion of Bylaw 304.
- *Audit/Finance Committee*
The Board approved the financial statements for the months of July and August. The committee was also informed that the annual financial review by the state auditor's office is under way. The committee asked for and received Board approval of a new policy that requires a minimum of 750 hours of service per year to qualify for the League's 403(b) retirement plan.
- *Communications and Marketing Committee*
The committee reported that staff is finalizing the questionnaire for a Listening to Students survey for which member schools will be asked to participate in November and December. The survey is conducted every five years. Staff will also be exploring a proposal from Minnesota Public Radio to involve classical music students.
- *Technology/Coaches and Officials Education Committee*
Staff offered updates on the coaches education program and development of educational resources for both coaches and administrators. Staff also briefed the committee on an annual Midwest Officials Summit hosted by the League that brought staff members from other state associations and the National Federation together to network and learn more about best practices for working with high school athletics officials.

Extra Points

- Tom Johnson and Laura Berg Olsen were honored for their years of service to the League; Johnson as the coordinator of soccer officials and Berg Olsen as the coordinator of girls' dance team officials.
- A workshop for Board members was scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 4, 1-4 p.m., at the League office.
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The next regularly scheduled meeting of the League Board of Directors is Thursday, December 5, 2013, at the League office.