

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
April 12, 2010

Meeting Synopsis

Action Items

- Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, travel restrictions for practices, scrimmages and jamborees will be lifted, provided that school boards approve the travel. At its June 2009 meeting, in response to constituent concerns about costs and program equity, the Board imposed a limitation that practices, scrimmages and jamborees only be held in Minnesota or no more than 25 miles outside the Minnesota border. The policy revision will also include recommendations or guidelines that school boards consider when making travel decisions, such as a full accounting of anticipated revenues and costs, compliance with Title IX requirements, and knowledge of the itinerary. The Board's bottom line is that such travel decisions are best left at the local level.
- Formal approval was given to conducting the three 2010 State Baseball Tournament championship games on Saturday, June 19, at Target Field, the new Minnesota Twins baseball facility. The agreement applies to the current season only because of potential variables in the Twins' future schedules and the stadium's availability.
- The Board refined its one week "no contact" period between coaches and their players during the summer. The amended policy, effective during the summer of 2011, redefines the "no contact" period as the Sunday through the following Saturday of the week during which the Fourth of July falls. As an example, for the summer of 2011 the "no contact" period will be Sunday, July 3, through Saturday, July 9. The "no contact" period for Summer 2010 remains unchanged as July 1-7.
- The calendar of Board meeting dates and Area Meeting dates and sites for the 2010-11 school year was approved. It may be viewed on the League Web site.

Discussion Items

- Associate Directors Kevin Merkle and Lisa Lissimore, who oversee boys' and girls' basketball, respectively, provided an overview of their study of possible changes in formats of those state tournaments. In an attempt to explore the potential of reduced time out of classrooms and increased revenue, Merkle and Lissimore looked at numerous options. However, due to issues related to availability and quality of quarterfinal venues, a projected minimal revenue increase, and the impact a new format would have on section tournament play, the Board thanked staff for its exhaustive review and indicated that the issue can be put to bed.
- Associate Director Merkle also reported about a 20-member task force that has met to address the issue of scheduling football games. Some schools across the state are having difficulty scheduling opponents for a variety of reasons that include proximity to potential opponents, conference conflicts, and concern about comparable competitiveness. The Board recommended the task force

continue to study the issue and report back at a future meeting. In a related matter, the Board did approve a request by Wayzata High School to host a game against a Bradenton, Florida, high school team that no longer belongs to the Florida High School Athletic Association. Board approval is not required if the school is a member in good standing with that state's high school association.

- The Board deferred until its annual August workshop its discussion about placement of schools into administrative regions, tournament formats, and class competition within tournament formats.
- League staff will bring items for Board action at its June meeting related to protocols for concussion assessment, treatment and return to play, as well as making use of the League Pre-Participation Physical Examination and Clearance forms mandatory. The proposals are being forwarded by the League Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

Board Committee Reports

Eligibility Committee

The Board adopted nine separate penalty recommendations from the committee resulting from violations of League bylaws.

Audit-Finance Committee

The Board approved the financial reports for the months of January 2010 and February 2010. The committee was also briefed about unaudited attendance figures for the Winter 2010 state tournaments which showed a significant decline from the previous year.

Marketing Committee

No Board action was required. The committee did report that Winter 2010 marketing efforts will likely net the League about \$100,000 in revenue. Several sponsorship agreements are up for renewal and staff will be meeting with representatives from Jostens, AAA Minnesota, and McDonald's/Coca-Cola. League staff worked with SAVE – Suicide Awareness Voices of Education – to recognize the Breckenridge students who won a video production competition to promote suicide prevention. The winning production can be viewed at the SAVE.org Web site. League staff also orchestrated a mass CPR training session on the Target Center floor with Lakeville North band members practicing the technique on mannequins to the beat of the Bee Gees “Staying Alive” played by the Chaska band. The beat of that song parallels the rhythm required for successful CPR.

Technology, Coaches and Officials Education Committee

The committee reported that planning is proceeding smoothly for hosting the annual NASO – National Association of Sports Officials – Summit in the Twin Cities this coming July, as well as the complementary Officiate Minnesota conference on July 24 that is targeted to involve 700 to 800 Minnesota contest officials. League staff also reported that an awards program to honor officials program has been finalized. The committee continues to look at the Board goal of consistency at the administrative region level, specifically relating to the rental rates for school faculties and to seeding procedures.

Extra Points

League staff informed the Board that if St. Bernard's School closes prior to the next school year, students currently enrolled there will be able maintain their 2010-11 varsity eligibility if they enroll in any other faith-based member school or enroll in the public member high school in the attendance area where they reside.

An orientation session for new Board members is scheduled at the League office on July 19.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the League Board of Directors is Monday, June 21, 2010.