

Chris Riker called the meeting to order.

1. Tom Minter gave a short welcome from the MHSAA.
2. Minutes from the 2005 Meeting were accepted, Richard Campbell moved, no discussion and the minutes were passed with no resistance.
3. Chris Riker discussed his 2005 Presidents Report. Report contained 2 parts, Meetings that he attended, (the MHSAA President's meeting and the Soccer Committee meeting.)
Coaches Advancement was discussed, this is an MHSAA program is trying to get coaches involved and certified.
The new start to the academic school year, starting after Labor Day. The MHSAA is concerned, but it does not affect sports yet. No earlier start dates, and no increase in competition numbers.

Questions were raised:

Will a student participate in sports if it starts too early?

Tom Minter answered with caution, but he feels that it depends on the area, jobs, etc. He brought up a schedule change because of the State Finals being the 1st weekend in November, you will lose a week to your season, 1st competition date is moved up a week for 2006 Boys season.

Chris discussed the out of season "training" emphasis. MHSAA wants a level playing field. You can petition for an exemption but it is difficult to get. Chris, also stressed the three-player rule, for contact with players out of season, the MHSAA is trying to develop a punishment for violators. Probation, restricted practice, removal of coach, etc. Out of season coaching reforms, Jack Roberts, is putting together a list that is not finalized but is being worked on by the MHSAA. They are considering a preseason down time, no open gym, no interschool competition, a possible 7 day dead time in the summer is being considered for all sports.

Questions were raised:

How does this affect a basketball coach who schedules an open gym?

Tom Minter said there could be no open gyms involving basketball, during those dead periods. It could be a true open gym, if other activities are offered. Coaches have to be very careful on how that is perceived. If you are just offering soccer it is not an open gym.

Can a coach have a camp run by outside coaches?

It depends on how that camp is structured. A coach cannot hand out a flyer, be very careful on the amount of influence. You cannot demand that students be there, that is a clear violation.

What about summer team camps?

The coaches cannot make it mandatory.

It is recommended that people with summer training questions get in touch with Tom Minter at the MHSAA website. Members asked if information could be posted on the MHSSCA website. Dave Hulings was going to create a page called "Tom's Page" to post this info.

Curriculum Courses were discussed by the MHSAA, in the situation that a school offers soccer as a class in their school. It is quite possible that these will be eliminated; there is a legal element to this, because of students that are home schooled. If you have a course like this, they are moving to require that a class teach at least three different sports, for equal amounts.

At the MHSAA meeting other sports were allowed to share what the other sport organizations are doing. Many are moving to better sportsmanship, which we are looking to do with a player and coach code of conduct. We are right about where other sports are; we are one of the larger organizations. Chris recommends that compared to other groups we lag behind in scholarships given to athletes. Volleyball and softball were given as examples that give many scholarships. However, in other areas, like the website we are up to par.

Chris, also, attended the soccer committee meeting. They looked at a lot of issues like locations, overtime. Chris did not have the report so it would be posted on the web site. One change recommended was to make the mercy rule mandatory, and change it from 10-0 to 8-0. Another discussion was overtime in the finals; the soccer committee wants to have a shoot-out in the finals. They also recommended four equal divisions. Currently, Div 4 is the lowest 20% with the rest of the states teams divided equally across the three larger classes. This was recommended by the soccer council last year, and was shot down by rep. council. The last recommendation was to have all the finals at one site, and alternate east side & west side, every year.

Jon Conlin was to give a VP report, but this will be listed as new business

4. Dave Hulings gave a treasury report. The association changed how the reports was given, Dave reports to Jim Flack, who is the treasurer, who double checks all of Dave's work. Fiscal year 2004, (Aug 1-July 31), and 2005 were presented. We brought in about \$4800 more than we did in 2004 (?). All of the revenue and spending have been recorded. The report was approved to accept.

Discussion: How much increased membership has there been? The answer was we increased nearly 60 members, from 2004 to 2005. That does not mean there was an increase in soccer programs, but a movement of coaches from say fall to spring, only coaching one season.

5. Executive Directors report

Dave Hulings spent sometime discussing with the group his responsibilities. The board evaluated him. The web page has changed to make the discussion board easier to use. We are moving more to an Mlive.com set-up. It is being changed to make this simple. This is available only to member coaches, and not to the public.

Question: Do people have to put their names?

The answer was no, but Dave Hulings can identify who posts what based on the password and log in. Dave has the ability to identify and monitor the website. This is designed to be an intelligent place to have discussion.

Dave Hulings, also, is setting up a spot on the website to vote for state rankings, this will be for paid members of the organization. Hopefully this will help the division chairs actually rank the teams. This will not actually set the rankings; this is just a coach's poll.

The 2005 Larry Kuznyar scholarships (\$500 to each) went to Robert Cerreno from Oxford, coached by John Vale. The female was Susan Saunders from Avondale, who plays for David?. One dependant scholarship was given to Heather Stedlan, her father is Paul, and they are from Frankenmuth.

6. New Business

A. The evaluation of Dave Hulings as executive director was given, and it is recommended that he remains on staff in that position. He is evaluated yearly. Dave Smith made a motion, Jeremy Thelen seconded the motion. Dave makes \$1800 a season (\$ 1500 a season + \$600 a year for Treasury duty), and that was discussed. Dave has also created a yearly checklist, so that we now when things and money are due, for public knowledge. The vote was largely in favor of keeping Dave on in this position.

B. All State Player Code of Conduct

The association wants to have a code of conduct for players. A sample statement was presented, but this is open for discussion. This will be for MHSSCA all state teams. Brenda Sequin proposed to accept the proposal, the motion was seconded, and discussion ensued. Drugs, Alcohol, or police action these were discussed to determine if we wanted these to eliminate these individuals from all state. We tried to keep this broad and not a list. Would this pit coaches against each other to "snitch" on other coaches, this was discussed. The key phrase seemed to be "detrimental to your program." There was a lot of discussion on this issue. The statement given is not a final draft, and work on this needs to continue. This discussion is hopefully just setting up a bit of framework. We want to adopt the idea, and then come up with a more formal statement. A committee could be formed to create this

statement. The motion was amended and the idea of a committee to create a code on conduct was accepted. This was voted on successfully.

C. Coaches Code of Conduct or Ethics

The idea was that a card would be issued to each coach, and then you would have to sign the card and agree with the ethics to be part of the association. Chris Riker put together a general statement based on other association's code of ethics. We are asking our members to strive to reach goals that will improve our conduct and hold us to a positive standard. The motion was passed to accept the written statement as is, and seconded. Discussion occurred to streamline our statement, and maybe the group that was to put together for the player code of conduct could make a similar statement for the coaches. The motion was amended to have the committee look to form our code, and seconded. Discussion followed as to if there needs to be a by law change for this. However the vote to form a committee was unanimous.

D. National Membership requirements

The number of All American players is proportional to the number of coaches who are national members. We currently have two All American spots, other states receive more because they require their coaches to be national members. One of the goals of our organization is to get our players recognized for their play, by increasing our membership more will be recognized. The proposal by the board is to require national membership. The motion was not given and the proposal died there.

E. Continuation of our involvement with the Michigan High School Coaches Ass.

We currently are spending \$3000 in dues to their organization, however the board is trying to figure out what we get for that amount of money. We already receive insurance through other organizations, but they are offering more insurance to their coaches, but that is at an extra cost. They are supposed to be providing more to us, but their follow through is poor, (i.e. a newsletter that we do not receive). They provide a Gatorade coaches award participation, they provide a MHSC hall of fame, and a chance for the national HS coaches hall of fame. Our thought is we have other avenues to recognize our coaches. They are also taking our dues to pay the legal fees for the gender equity lawsuit, whether we like it or not. The board is proposing to end our relation with the MHSCA, and the money we save will be given as a scholarship, and increase the number of scholarships we give out. The motion was made and seconded. Discussion followed. Are all sports members and are other sports unhappy with the support they receive? The answer was unknown because they will not provide us info. The board feels we are not getting what we are spending, which has been \$30,000 for the last ten years. We are not notified of meetings and the communication with their organization is poor. Dave Hulings talked as to why we have had difficulty dealing with them; this has not been a short-term problem. Tom Minter

added that the insurance is covered, and other groups are not happy. A question was also raised to the amount of money their president is making, that information would not be revealed to us. No membership cards have ever been provided. Discussion ended and the vote was for the proposal to end our relationship with the MHSCA. A few did vote no, but the motion passed.

Chris Riker turned the meeting over to John Conlon, VP, effectively ending Chris's term as President. Applause followed to show the members appreciation for his work to help the Ass.

Conlon's Discussion points:

1. Michigan Soccer Hall of Fame
We are gathering ideas from other Associations as to how they do their Hall of Fames. John made it a point that this is one of his goals to start in the next two years. Each association does something different; we want to find what fits us.
2. Coach of the Year Awards
The board recommends that instead of certificates to recognize the coach of the year, we hand out plaques. An award for Boys coach and Girls coach of the year will be added, with no division restrictions. Similar to Mr. soccer but for coaches.
3. Coaches education
The board is working with NSCAA and USSF to come up with some options to work together, as far as coaching licenses. Aaron Dean, John Conlon, and Brett Jacobs the MSYSA director of coaching have discussed some cooperation between our groups.
4. Changes in the All state process
There has been a feeling that this process continually needs to be reviewed and possibly refined. What is being recommended that the ranking will remain, however at the all-state level the regional chairs could rearrange the top three players. The reason is that the past year 3 Mr. Soccer candidates were from one particular region, therefore the Mr. Soccer was decided in the regional mtg. This would be an opportunity at the state level to discuss and find the Mr. Soccer. This will help us to better figure out who belongs on the Dream Team. The motion to accept this was given and seconded. Discussion followed: More clarification was given, and it allows for other coaches to be involved in picking the Mr. Soccer, not just the regional chairs. This is really only targeting the very top, this is not meant to change the lower levels. This will also allow for us to avoid "to the victors go the spoils." Hopefully, these will even the field, but we are talking just the top twelve players. Some discussed if this goes through, then could this happen at the district level, and it is felt that this would only help for the dream team, and Mr. Soccer. The

discussion also came up as to how much club soccer should factor in our awards, and currently that is looked at as a tiebreaker for players. The motion to change the top three players at the state level for regional players was voted on. The motion was taken to a hand count; the motion carried in a close vote, however the numbers could not be recorded

David Hulings Discussions points:

1. Vender proposals

Dave Hulings presented the Soccer Zone proposal that would continue to have the Soccer Zone underwrite the expense for All State medals; they have done this for 2 years, at \$1250 each year. They have agreed to do this for 2 more years. They get credit on the back of the medals, along with our ass. name. The motion was to accept the soccer zone was agreed to and seconded. The vote was taken and we agreed to accept Soccer Zone as a sponsor.

Kelme- agreed to up their donation from 15 to 30 warm-ups that are sold at the convention to raise money for scholarships. They are sold at 60 dollars a piece. This doubles our L. Kuzniyar scholarship to 1800 dollars coming in. The board has proposed to then double the scholarship given out. Kelme has agreed to this, however they would like a 3-year agreement with our group, instead of the 2-year agreement we have had in the past. The motion to increase Kelme length of contract was proposed by Tom Veldez, and seconded by Dave Hatfield. The vote was held and passed.

2. Election of Officers

We are trying to make our organization more professional, so decided to give out 4 different job descriptions for the Board members jobs. This will be a working document that will keep us moving in a manner that will improve our organization. Rick Wilson, the past secretary, took a job in Florida, so his position will be filled, and the treasurer position is up for renewal. Also, as Conlon moves to the president position we will have a need for a Vice President for a two-year term. The first acted upon was the Vice President, by serving as VP you are agreeing to a 4-year term (2 as VP, then 2 as pres.). Ben Ritsema nominated Aaron Dean from Grand Haven, that was seconded and Aaron accepted the nomination. Paul Bartoshek was nominated, but declined the nomination. Aaron Dean was elected unopposed. The next position was the treasurer, the treasurer is to work closely with the executive director to maintain and monitor funds and venders. Jim Flack has been the past treasurer, his term has expired. Paul Bartoshek nominated Jim Flack to continue in his post, which was seconded by Nick Archer. Jeremy Tchapkis from North Muskegon nominated Jeremy Thelen from Spring Lake. That was seconded. The vote was for Jim Flack, and he will continue as treasurer. The secretary job is to take serious notes at various meetings; Richard Campbell was nominated and seconded.

Jeremy Thelen was nominated and seconded. Jeremy Thelen was elected secretary.

3. Nomination of an All State Academic Chair

This is not an elected chair, however Cor Damhuis has been doing this for the past 4 years, and would like to be relieved of his position. This is a volunteer, former president Chris Riker has volunteered to do this.

Jon Conlon then adjourned the meeting and introduced IU coach, Mike Freitag.

E-mail alert

With Jim's vote that means the motion to have the MHSSCA cover the travel cost of Clark Udell going to the nationals passes. I will forward this to him and he can make flight reservations.

Jeremy did not vote, but the motion passes with three yes votes of the four board members.

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