

Minnesota State High School League
FOOTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 15, 2009

MINUTES

1. The Activity Advisory Committee process and Representative Assembly processes were reviewed.
2. Current state format, policies and schedule were reviewed. Kevin gave a financial report on the Tournament. Quarterfinal attendance was quite low and expenses were up, which resulted in loss of approximately \$30,000. However the Semifinals had very high attendance as did the Prep Bowl. This helped make up the loss so that the total revenue was \$12,000 below last year. The board will continue to monitor both attendance and expenses. There is an additional cost for quarterfinals on turf fields – however, the committee feels strongly about keeping this format – safety, quality of experience for kids and quality stadiums for spectators are worth the extra expenses.
3. The committee has recommended that the quarterfinal opponents be rotated every year beginning with the 2010 tournament. They would also like to rotate the 2A and 3A game – Kevin will check with TV and if this is OK with them that rotation will start in 2010. The committee will survey 5A coaches to see if there is interest in doing a blind draw to determine opponents beginning with the quarterfinals. This would have to be a recommendation from the Advisory Committee that would have to meet the **November 1** deadline.
4. The Metrodome will continue to be used as long as possible. If or when something happens with the Dome, TCF is the logical site, but there may be issues with cost and availability.
5. Football Rules and Policies were reviewed. The committee wants to keep the current rule regarding the video taping of other schools. The Mercy Rule seems to be working much better this year – officials are enforcing more consistently. Kevin shared the concern with the number of individuals on the sidelines during games and the number of passes being requested – biggest problem is with non-players. Several solutions were suggested. The coaches recommended a limited number of passes for each class, with a charge for extra personnel and an overall limit. That change will be implemented this year.
6. The issues involving when games can be played and when scrimmages can be held was reviewed. For some reason this has become a rather large issue. The MSHSL will review this with AD's at the fall area meetings. The bigger concern to coaches is the violation of having scrimmages during the first week of practice in pads – which is illegal. The committee would like to propose an amendment that would allow lower level games to be played on Wednesday of the second week of practice. This is a Representative Assembly process – five designated school reps need to sign-off on this amendment, and it must be submitted no later than **October 15**.
7. Seeding issues at the section level – in regard to forfeits was discussed. In general the committee feels that forfeits for administrative error should not count as losses for seeding purposes. Some would rather do seeding through coaches votes as opposed to the point system but there was not a consensus. The committee agreed that there should be a policy to deal with this issue.

8. Kevin reviewed several proposed rule changes and asked for committee feedback.
 - a. The committee would like to have the back judge count down the final five seconds of the play clock. This can be implemented in 2010.
 - b. The committee likes the proposal that would not allow a player to recover their own fumble on 4th down. This will be given consideration to submit to the National Rules Committee as a rule change.
 - c. The issue of loss of down on Offensive Pass Interference was again discussed. The Committee would like to see this changed, but were not in favor of taking away an automatic first down on the Defensive Pass Interference.
 - d. The Committee recommended a rule change that would take away a pass interference call on an uncatchable ball.
 - e. There was interest in allowing large teams to go from the 20 to 20 for their team box.

9. The issues surrounding pre-season practices, conditioning, and heat issues was discussed. In general coaches do not feel that this is an issue. However in addition to the changes made by the NCAA, the National Trainers Association has made similar recommendations. The MSHSL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee also feels that adjustments need consideration. At a minimum there needs to be a renewed effort in training and educating coaches in this area. Practice time limits, rest between practices, the number of days with two-a-days are all concerns. Coaches are concern about the time off between practices – lengthens the days, affects jobs, and creates transportation issues. There will be continued discussion on the best way to approach these issues.