

Missouri State High School Activities Association

Officials Advisory Meeting

March 23, 2021

MSHSAA Office
10:00 AM

HISTORY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The MSHSAA Board of Directors in the late 1950's was concerned with comments from coaches, music and speech directors indicating they had little voice in the administration and regulations of the respective activities they directed in their schools. To address this issue, the Board was to appoint advisory committees for music and speech to assist the executive director and Board of Directors in planning and administering the various activities.

The MSHSAA Constitution, after a vote of the member schools, included provisions for music and speech advisory committees. However, specific procedures for implementing the committee recommendations were not addressed. In 1959 the Music Advisory Committee was the first to become active and met with the executive director to review the regulations applied to music festivals and to make recommendations to the Board via the executive director for improvements in the program.

Shortly after the Music Advisory Committee became active the Speech Advisory Committee followed suit. The first significant recommendation was to include all speech activities, rather than debate only, under the jurisdiction of the MSHSAA.

The hard work and promising recommendations made by these two advisory committees prompted the Board of Directors to establish similar advisory committees in each activity under the MSHSAA jurisdiction. As new activities have been added or expanded, advisory committees have continued to be developed to meet this growth.

PURPOSE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The advisory committees serve to provide increased communication from the "grass roots" level between the MSHSAA member schools and the MSHSAA Board of Directors. The committees shall act in an advisory capacity with the MSHSAA Board of Directors reserving the right to accept, reject or amend committee recommendations.

Officials Advisory Committee Meeting
March 23, 2021 – 10:00am
Agenda

I. Old Business:

- a. Welcome – Introductions
- b. New Members: Landon Gray (Southwest) and Cale Williams (Southeast)
- c. Financial and Contact Information
- d. Role of Advisory Committees
- e. Approval of minutes for March 19, 2019 Meeting
- f. Officials Manual – Seifert

II. New Business:

- a. **Baseball/Softball** - Allow powder blue or black shirts for umpires (Mark Bross)
Rationale: If black was brought in to line up with college umpires, they are also allowed to wear powder blue at that level. It would also allow new officials/umpires to save costs for uniforms if they are able to work both baseball and softball.
- b. **Softball** - Softball umpire base mechanics (Mark Bross)
Rationale: College mechanics are easier on the body with less twisting and turning. You are also in better position to see the 4 elements of the play.
- c. **Basketball** – JH Running clock (Cale Williams)
Rationale: Younger officials are put on these contests and with a running clock it will gladly force these officials into getting use to calling all fouls that need to be called knowing the clock is running
- d. **Basketball** – Change the running clock to the start of the 3rd quarter Rule 5 Section 5 Art. 3 Note (Andy Williams and Michael Hawkins)
- e. **Football** - Football officials pre-game duties change – Pregame Mechanics Proposal (Emry Dilday)
 - i. 90 minutes before kick-off crew dresses in full uniform and begins the pregame meeting.
 - ii. 60 minutes before kick-off the entire crew arrives on the field. The Referee and one other official meet with the home team coach, then visiting coach.
 1. Confirm with each coach if they will be leaving the field before kick-off and what time we will return.
 2. Other crew members observe players from each team, i.e. *player equipment *uniform compliance *proper alignment of offense, especially as it relates to lining up receivers, the meaning of official's signal (punch or not) *discussions with snappers, QB, and kick receivers (fair catch signals)
 - iii. Once the coach's meeting and observations are completed the Line Judge and the Linesmen check the chain crew equipment.
 1. Line Judge also meets with ball boys and secures game balls. Umpire checks any equipment issues.
 2. The Referee and Back Judge shall inspect the entire field and follow the outline in the NFHS manual.
 - iv. The crew then comes together for information from the coaches' meeting.
 - v. 30 minutes before kick-off meet timekeepers on the field.

- vi. After duties are performed if ONE of the teams leaves the field the crew MAY leave the field and return to the locker room or a specific designated area.
- vii. At the time the coach stated, but no later than 5 minutes before kick-off, the crew will arrive at the field.
 - 1. Referee and Umpire go to their sideline
 - 2. Line Judge and Back Judge will escort their team from their field access entry point to their sideline
 - 3. Head Linesman takes care of duties with the chain crew
- viii. NOTE: At any time, from 60 minutes before kick-off until the coin toss with captains, if BOTH teams are on the field, the Officials MUST be on the field.
- ix. 3 minutes before kick-off – coin toss with captains and head coaches

Rationale:

- This procedure will put the crew into an immediate pre-game mode upon arrival.
- By having the crew on the field at 60 minutes, they will have an opportunity to observe teams and take care of the administrative issues before the kick-off occurs. This has not been the case as most teams leave the field by the 30-minute mark.
- The more pregame communication with players/coaches we have, the less chance there is for procedural fouls
- When teams leave the field this will allow officials to remove themselves from pre-game festivities and keep them engaged by bringing the teams back to the field.
- This will ensure that there will always be Officials on the field when BOTH teams are present.
- All NFHS Mechanics Manual requirements are met.

- f. **Football** – Officials report to facilities at 6 vs 5:30. (Cale Williams)

Rationale: All officials take the field at 6:30 with the referee and umpire doing the coaches meeting while the other 3 examine the field.

- g. **Football** – Football Officials Pre-game jackets (Donnie Ireland)

- i. The recommendation is that football officials should be allowed to wear jackets during the pre-game before the coin toss. Football officials are required to be on the field 30 minutes before the game is to start. They are to walk the field and make sure the equipment is in working order and that the field is safe to play on. This usually takes about 5 minutes. Then they are to stand on the field and wait until they need to go to their positions for the coin toss which happens at the 3 minute mark before the game.

Rationale: Sometimes the weather, especially late in the season, is very cold and can also be raining. Our crew was involved in a game last year in the playoffs where the temperature at kickoff was around zero with about a 15 mph wind. Both teams came out until just before the coin toss. Due to the standing before the game and getting cold our back judge was cold enough that we had serious concerns as to whether he would be able to continue during the second half. Wearing a jacket during this time would make that time safer and help us better prepare for the game. I believe standing around shivering does not get anybody ready to officiate the upcoming contest. Basketball is allowed to wear jackets and they are not needed nearly as badly as football. The suggestion is for the pre-game only and it is not being suggested that the officials wear jackets during the contest. It is understood that there would need to be consistency on

the crew. The suggestion is that the jackets worn would be required to be either all or mostly black with some white. Similar to the college women's basketball jackets. All crew members would be required to wear the same jackets. The only adornments if any would be the MSHSAA patch worn on the upper left arm like the shirts and or an association patch worn on the left upper chest area.

- h. **Basketball** – Expand the observer role in basketball to better serve officials and the sport of basketball by helping officials get better (Donnie Ireland)
 - i. A consistent problem in officiating circles, which I believe fosters adversarial relationships between coaches and officials, is the current rating system employed by MSHSAA. The current system offers no real solution to ensure that officials are aware of their shortcomings and how to improve the job that they perform. At best, this system is probably useful in some ways to select playoff officials but ignores what should be the overall goal of a rating system, that being to raise the level of officiating to the point where there are no quartiles needed as all officials will perform to an acceptable level where any registered official with experience can officiate most of any game that is assigned to them. I, in no way, am advocating that the coaches rating system be abandoned or even modified. I feel that coaches who work diligently at the task of rating officials are going above and beyond what should be required of them. As most are teachers, their plate is very full with that very important job plus the tasks of preparing their team for competitions. Rather I would suggest that an observer/evaluator component be listed for officials as well. I don't expect coaches to know all of the nuances of officiating that observers would be expected to know.

Rationale: I would like to see the observer system expanded so that all officials receive evaluations to help them improve the job they do as well as give a balancing evaluation of the job the officials are doing. I know that officiating isn't rocket science and one can be trained to evaluate officials, it's done frequently at the collegiate level. I would extend an invitation to area observers to recruit a staff that they could work with to get more unbiased opinions of official's performances.

- i. **Basketball** – (Kenny Seifert) Beginning with the 2022-23, ALL MSHSAA Basketball Officials will be required to wear the NCAA Basketball Body Flex or Performance Mesh Shirt (striped shirt with solid black sleeves) or Solid Gray shirt with side panel.

Rationale: It would be beneficial for the Basketball Officials to upgrade to a more modern look/style of Officiating Shirt. It has been MANY years since there has been a change made. The new college shirts are very comfortable, attractive and are less "Officiating like" because of the solid black shoulders/sleeves. Approximately every 3 or 4 years Officials need to purchase a new shirt. This, one year, advance notice would give all Officials time to plan and prepare.
- j. **Football** – Raising zone pay and look at zone pay for all sports (Cale Williams)

Rationale: Our association had several crews complain about week 10 pay specifically. Most of our schools pay week 10 based off our normal week 1-9 pay, but there are schools going off MSHSAA zone pay. We're going to have a problem getting week 10 games covered for \$83 when they are making \$125 week 1-9. Need some adjustments.
- k. **Football** – SEMO Football association would like radios to be passed for sub- varsity contests (Cale Williams)

Rationale: Radios have become a great tool for varsity contests. We are having to use new guys for varsity contest in which radios are used. We would like an opportunity to utilize them in low levels for training purposes.

- I. **Volleyball** – Allow official to wear pink shirt for cancer awareness week. Only if both officials have a pink uniform shirt. Rule now is only pink whistle and lanyard can be used if both officials have them. (Michael Hawkins)
- m. **Basketball** – Continue to have one game a night for play-off games or if having a two game night bring in three new officials to work it (Michael Hawkins)

Rationale: This will allow more officials the opportunity to work play-off games.

III. General

IV. Open Agenda

V. Closing

- a. Outgoing Members: Scott Gaylord, Michael Hawkins, Stacie Minor, and Andy Williams

"Anyone attending a meeting of the Missouri State High School Activities Association who requires auxiliary aids or services should request such services by contacting the Executive Director of the MSHSAA, telephone 573/875-4880, no later than 48 hours before the meeting. Thank you."