

Michigan High School Soccer Coaches' Association  
MINUTES  
Annual General Meeting  
February 18, 2005

The Annual Meeting of Michigan High School Soccer Coaches' Association was called to order by president Chris Riker at approximately 7:08 pm. President Riker introduced the MHSSCA Members of the Board of Directors – David Hulings, Executive Direct, Ric Wilson, secretary, Jim Flack, Treasurer, John Conlon, Vice-president and Chris Riker, President. Chris then introduced the Past Presidents – Pat Norman, Nick Archer, Tom Miller and Clark Udell. Chris then reminded any guests that they are welcome but cannot take part in any discussions or voting.

Tom Minter was then introduced to the coaches. Tom's introduction was met with applause. Tom began by telling everyone that he appreciated the opportunity to address the association. Tom said that communication is important to make sure that what the MHSAA is doing in Lansing is what is best for the game of soccer for both boys and girls in high school here in Michigan. We set up a (soccer) rules meeting here (at the hotel) at 6:00 pm. David (Hulings) thought we might get 6 – 10 people but we actually got two dozen. He explained that he held a rules meeting last night here in Mt. Pleasant and only got 17 people to attend. So next year he is going to drop that meeting and just conduct the rules meeting as part of our association meeting.

I am going to defer some of the issues that were discussed at the Soccer Committee Meeting to Chris as he was there and represented you all well and his summary is very well summarized. In the fall 2004 we had 454 boys' teams, our largest number. This spring 2005 we have 401 girls' teams. This is the first time we have topped 400 for girls. That is a net increase of 19. We actually had 22 new teams but three division 4 schools dropped soccer this year. For the spring season I have prepared maps that we work with and I have left copies up here that you can look at. They are for the executive board to keep. They contain the tentative district assignments for this coming girls season. Final assignments and the host schools will be up on the web site March 14, 2005. It is critical that you get to me with any concerns that you have so that we can fix things. I have talked to some folks about some problems that we usually have in the Metro-Detroit area. There we have a whole lot teams clumped together, tightly packed in. We are looking at how we might be able to assign teams other than just geography.

Tom went on to update us on the litigation. While soccer in the lower peninsula is not effected at all, as you may know soccer in the upper peninsula, by court order, we going to look at offering UP tournaments for boys and girls, but at times that are that are at odds with what they currently doing. The UP folks are not very happy about that and they have let their feeling be very well known. We did have ten boys teams and five girls teams in the UP. If they go to opposite seasons that will hurt them quite a bit. A brand new program like Kingsford, which plays about one third of the games against Wisconsin schools, One third against UP teams and one third against Canadian teams. They need to

be in sync. If the court forces them to go to opposite seasons who will they play? That is their problem and they are very concerned about that. The UP folks have some very tough decisions to make about tennis, golf and soccer in the UP.

We (the MHSAA) has filed all of the briefs to the Supreme Court. With all of the delays that are possible, we still think that we will here by May 15<sup>th</sup> as to whether the Supreme Court will hear our case. As you know they hear a very small percentage of the partitions presented to them. Why we think we have a better chance is as follows: the two point of law – violation of Title IX and violations of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution are two issues that were primarily litigated by the plaintiffs. Three Federal Courts of Appeal, in three different location around the country ruled for the MHSAA. Three different Federal Courts of Appeal, in three different location around the country ruled for the plaintiffs. The Supreme Court exists to adjudicate that type of dispute, where the lower courts are evenly split on the issues. This is why we think this will be a case that will have some “intrigue” for the High Court. They need to resolve the split of the lower courts. We think, on matters of law, we will prevail.

If they tell us they will hear our appeal, we probably will not get a ruling until 06 – 07 school year. If they refuse to hear our case we are done. Three month after that decision we will begin implementing changes of season. The big ones are obviously basketball and volleyball, golf and tennis. The girls will play golf in June of 2005 for their state championship and then four months later in October they will come back and play again. Depending on which sport and which gender you are we will have some folks that will go eighteen months between state tournaments.

Tom finished up by saying that the work that you all do through your executive board and in particular David Hulings is great. When we look at the various sport programs and their web sites your web site is heads and shoulders above the rest. The information there is excellent. When the National Federation wanted to email out a survey I went to your web site for that. The Survey that you sent out and that Chris will discuss later was excellent too. That information was presented at the Soccer Committee Meeting. At the Soccer Committee Meeting there was one principal, ten AD’s, ten coaches and a couple of officials. There is always a representative of the soccer association and the principals.

Tom then asked for any questions. There were no questions and Tom thanks everyone for the opportunity to speak and said he would be around for a while after the meeting.

Chris thanked Tom and moved on to the adoption of the minutes for the 2004 meeting. Chris asked a motion to adopt the 2004 minutes. Steve Zil made the motion and it was seconded by Bill Brillhart. Chris then asked for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Next up was the President’s report. Chris pointed out that the report was on the yellow pages in the packet that everyone received. Chris indicated that he would skip the sections that Tom Minter had already gone over. He said that he would be covering items from the Soccer Committee Meeting and a new program that the MHSAA has

going in coaches education and a report on the presidents meeting which compared our association to some of the other associations in the state. The Coaches Advancement Program (CAP) is discussed on the two green packet sheets that follow the President's Report. At the President's Meeting Cathy Westorf from the MHSAA introduced the concept of the CAP Program. This new program would replace the PACE Program that was in place. Some of the complaints about PACE were that there was nothing coaches could take with them, it was a sit there and just listen type of program and it wasn't interactive at all. The new program will be interactive with handouts and activities and should be of value to the coaches.

If you notice there are six different levels and you can have different certifications based on the number of hours you take. On the sheets are topics that the MHSAA is considering. It is not final yet. The goal is to offer the program starting next year.

Chris went on to explain that Tom had already covered the litigation items, but the main points are all covered in the President's Report for everyone to look over. The third page of the report covers a comparison between our association and other associations in the state. Membership size showed that gymnastics had about a hundred members with basketball with about 7000 members. We are currently at 475 members without all of the girls' members in so we are expecting to be around 525 or so. We also compared recognition such as All-district, All-region and All-state for both academic and athletic achievement. Looking at the number of athletes that we recognize our organization is by far recognizing the most.

We compared clinics and things like that. Most groups have clinics but they do a lot of their own coaches doing the clinics. We are starting to attract some of the high profile clinicians. Last year we had Tony Dichico, we have had Lauren Gregg and this year we have Anson Dorance. Other organizations are not getting these type of clinicians. One thing that did show up is that other associations are getting a far better turnout at their clinics. Baseball has nearly 1000 members and 600 attend their clinic. We are attracting 180 out of 525 or so. We compared coaches awards and one thing that we don't do and are considering is assistant coaches awards.

Many of us have assistant coaches that contribute substantially to your programs and it would be nice to recognize those coaches. The other thing we may consider is awards for people outside of the coaching ranks like reporters who have been helpful to soccer and officials.

Another thing that several of the other associations are doing is a Hall-of-Fame. We do not have a Hall-of-Fame. Wrestling has theirs at Central Michigan University. Baseball is in discussion with Comerica Park to have their Hall-of-Fame displaced there. Football is talking about having theirs at Ford Field. It is something that we might want to consider.

Other things we looked at were scholarships. Other organizations are giving out a lot more in scholarships, both in quantity and size. Baseball gives out five \$1,000 scholarships and they have plans to increase those amounts. Softball gives out ten

scholarships of \$1,000 each. Volleyball gives eight scholarships and four grants. The grants go to senior whose parents are members of their association. Some of those were academic and some were need based. Right now we are only giving out one scholarship to a member and two by application. This something we may want expand and give out a few more awards in the future.

As far as web sites, as Tom mentioned ours is certainly one of the best. David is responsible for that. That is a summary of the President's Meeting.

Next up is the Soccer Committee and there we took action on several of the issues we were asked to look at. The bright blue sheets in the back (of the packet) are a summary of the survey that we conducted. At the All-state Meeting in the fall Tom mention some issues that we would be looking at, so we put out a survey for our members. We asked coaches for their thoughts. We had a pretty good mix of coaches, old and new, all divisions, and a pretty equal break-down of east-side and west-side coaches. Everyone can take a look at the summary on their own.

At the Soccer Committee Meeting the first thing we did was to review the recommendations that the Representative Council passed in 2004. There was one amendment that dealt with field makings. One of the conditions for hosting a tournament was that the field makings must be in contrasting colors. We were running into turf fields that were designed for multiple uses and colors used were not consistent. One of the members made a recommendation that soccer lines be yellow. That passed unanimously, so soccer lines will be yellow on multi-use fields. It is up to the host institution to bear the expense of making the changes to the field makings.

Other things that were passed in 2004 were to extend the application of the Mercy Rule to the last game of each level of tournament play, placing the byes in the district bracket so that teams receiving them would not be the host of the second round games, (they would have play away, on the road), allowing district sights to determine if they also want to host semi-final games, and requiring at least two full days of rest between the regional semi and the final games if the regional games are played on different days and last item was to move the starting times for championship games for both boys and girls to noon and 2:30 PM.

The next thing we did was to look at some of the issues that were in the survey and took action on several of them. The first issue asked if the boys soccer season should be a fixed length, which is currently 13 weeks, with a finals date that would be the second weekend in November or should we fix the finals date for the first weekend in November and have the possibility of losing a week of the season? This year the 15<sup>th</sup> (of August) actually falls on a Monday but last year we started on the August 9<sup>th</sup>. Our survey indicated that members would like to have a floating date. As our discussion went on it became apparent that a floating date was not going to work. The majority of the committee wanted a fixed date. Trying to keep the season length at 13 weeks, we came up with a compromise.

First of all, we unanimously passed a fixed date. The state finals will be the first weekend in November. As a result of that, we were looking at a 12 week season. The discussion that followed dealt with how we get 18 games in 12 weeks without risking injuries. One of the proposed options we came up with was to start with the finals date and work 13 weeks back from there. That would then be our starting date. A concern came up with other sports wanting to do the same thing. There was also a concern about band camps and kids that work in tourist related jobs. So, that wasn't going work. A second option was discussed. Moving the first day of competition back seemed like a good solution. Now, if we start on the 15<sup>th</sup>, we can't compete until the 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>. The change would be to allow the first day of competition to be set at 7 days after the first day of practice. That way we would have the entire second week of the season to play games.

There was some discussion about playing games from the very start of the season, but we felt that we needed time to pick a team, give kids a fair chance at trying out and a week would work for that. Coaches will be able to play games that second week if they want or they can wait later to start. This will allow some flexibility and it gets us back the week we lost. That proposal passed unanimously and will be going to the Representative Council. If the Rep Council passes the proposal it will become effective for the 2006-2007 season.

A question was asked concerning the girls season and Chris responded by saying that the girls season would effected the same as the boys season. The girls will have a fix date. It will be the second week in June and the girls will be able start competition a few days earlier. A question was asked about the current MHSAA web site and the accuracy of the fixed date there for soccer. Tom Minter said it was correct. A short discussion followed.

The second issue was should we chance the current over-time procedures so that we reduce the over-time length to ten minutes and allow shootout or keep them at the fifteen minute periods. There was no motion made on this issue so they will stay at fifteen minute over-time periods.

The next item was: should the Soccer Tournament Officials Selection Committee select officials at the district level? Currently that committee only selects officials at the regional level and higher. The vote on this item failed. There was no one in favor, most members sustained. Officials selections will stay as is. One of the reason for this was that there are only so many refs available and the same ref will most likely be hired anyway. The school will in charge of hiring the district level referees.

The next item was: should teams be allowed to practice on the host turf field for the finals if both team can make arrangements with the host school. There was a motion to allow this and it passed unanimously. Each school would have to make arrangements with the host school..

The next item was to change the mercy rule to match up with national federation rules which puts the mercy rule into effect at half time. A motion was made and passed unanimously.

An other item which some people have tried to pass for years deals with dividing the schools into four divisions using the 80/20 formula. Currently the smallest 20% of schools make up division four with remaining 80% being divided equally into the remaining three divisions. No other sport in the state does this. When this was originally started there was a big difference in the size of schools. That has now changed somewhat with the addition of soccer in smaller schools. A motion was made to go to four equal division. Twelve members were in favor of the motion seven were not. So, if the Representative Council votes in favor on this it will go into effect in 2006-2007.

Other items that were discussed included going to a one-sight-final. One problem that was mentioned had to do with having an early game go into over-time and pushing the schedule for the rest of the day. The MHSAA is proposing two sights with turf fields that are geographically close together. Start times would be staggered so people could get back and forth. Troy and Troy Athens for example are within ten minutes of each other.

Ideally, we would like to have one sight and we made that very clear. There would have to be some things worked out to make that happen though.

There was some discussion about reducing the eighteen (play) dates. It was felt by some that eighteen was too many games and too great a chance for injury. However, eighteen games is right in line with other sports that are similar. It was agreed that coaches who don't want to player eighteen games don't have to and those want play all eighteen can. The flexibility was there.

There is some discussion that the MHSAA will relax the three-player rule in some individual sports such as golf and tennis and so on. Chris asked Tom Minter to speak on the three-player rule. The concern, Tom explained, is that in many individual sports there are a lot of coaches who are not teachers. They might be a coach/instructor at a local swim club or pool, for example and also coach at the high school. During the off season, there players might go to the local pool to workout and there is their coach. Up to eighty percent of swim coaches admit they have probably been in violation because when kid go to swim they swim at the community pool. The Council wanted all team sports as well as individual sports to look at the three-player rule and give the council feedback, should that rule be relaxed for specific situations where an individual, due to their employment, would apply to the Executive Committee each year for dispensation from that rule. Right now no wavers can be given. The MHSAA is looking at it primarily for individual sports. We also want to know how team sports would feel if the MHSAA were to grant these exceptions.

Other items that were discussed involved the 2005-2006 National Federation rules chances. One of the big ones is that taunting will no longer be a yellow/red card but hard red with no substitution allowed. The player involved will be out for the remainder of that game and the next and team will play short.

The second item was that coaches will be required to attend the pre-game meeting. So, when referees call the players together coaches will have to be there as well.

The third item was that penalties resulting from misconduct (whether direct or indirect) will be awarded from the spot of the infraction, rather than from where the ball is located.

Number four, they are going to crack down on the knee brace issue. Some players are using a sleeve that doesn't cover the entire brace leaving some metal exposed. Anything with exposed metal will now be illegal and referee has the authority to deem anything dangerous.

Five is a revised officiating procedure. The referee will blow their whistle, indicate the foul, then the direction.

Soccer is now the fifth most popular sport in both boys and girls high school athletics. Girls soccer showed the biggest gain with an increase of approximately 7500 participants. As Tom mentioned earlier we were up twelve team in boys and eight team in girls soccer. This year we are up even more than that.

There was a couple requests for officials to make points of emphasis on. One of those was player dissent. Some referees were allowing a lot of talk from players, while others were giving out cards. Any talk-back from players will mean an immediate card issued. Any foul language will result in a card being issued.

Chris then turned over the program to John Conlon for the Vice-President's Report. John began by saying the we have two new traveling "Mr." and "Miss Soccer" trophies which have all of the past award winners indicated on them. Jac Stacey who won "Mr. Soccer" will be presented his trophy Tuesday evening at Forest Hills Central Basketball game. Future award winners will receive their trophies also at similar sporting events. So come on up and take a look at these trophies. David Hulings went on to explain that these are traveling trophies that will kept at the school for a year then passed on to the new winner's school the following year.

David Hulings then continued on to the Financial Report and asked evryone to turn to the white pages in the hand-out. Last year, David explained, we moved the financial responsibility to the Executive Director last year. We had three goals: 1. To keep us healthy and to make us healthier, 2. To assure that we had integrity in how we collected and dispersed all funds, and 3. To be good stewards of ours resources. The report starts with Diane Puglese's financial report from last year's meeting. The next one is then same report for this year. You will note there is a big difference in amounts and ask how are we healthy? One has twenty-five thousand and the other has nineteen thousand. The difference is that when we took over the financials from Diane March first last year we didn't have any of the bills for the AGM or the clinic paid and there were several outstanding bills for "Touchline". This year, everything is paid except for the room for the clinician, and there are no other unpaid bills. So, that is the difference. We should end this year with twenty-three thousand dollars. We ended last year with about

seventeen thousand dollars, so that is a net increase of approximately five to six thousand dollars. That is the healthy side.

The second thing we wanted to do is to make sure that you were getting accurate information. To safe-guard the integrity of the process I have reported to the board on a monthly basis. I give them an itemized statement of everything that is paid. One problem that remains that will fixed this year, is that some school and some coaches still send check made-out personally to me. If you are one of those coaches please don't do that. Make the check out the MHSSCA.

The last thing is that I am also providing, on a monthly basis, to the board a budget. This is the first time that this organization has been on a budget basis rather than on a needs basis. I present a budget to the board in November so they have an idea of what we will be spending . They have an idea of where we are at month by month.

David indicated that we need to ask for a motion from the floor to accept the Treasures report as read.

Chris took over and asked for a motion. Ted made the motion and it was seconded by Clark. The motion carried unanimously.

Chris then moved to old business which is the Larry Kuzniar Scholarship Report. David H. started his report by reminding everyone that we are trying to be the best association in the state. We are lagging behind in scholarships. What we are doing is good. We gave out two Kuzniar Scholarships and you can see who we gave them to in the hand-out. We gave The Dependant Scholarship to Andy Valmanis's son Jordon who is at MSU (it was very hard for me to write that check to MSU). We need to increase these scholarships. The nice thing is that the Kuzniar Scholarships don't come out of your membership dues they come out of the sale of the 15 Kelme Warm-ups that Kelme donates every year. And the Dependant Scholarship is paid for by Samba who donates 7 portable goals to us. Players can go online March 1<sup>st</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> to apply for the Kuzniar or the Dependant Scholarship. The winners will be chosen in April will be awarded in May.

Chris then moved on to New Business. We currently need to elect a new Secretary for the association as Ric Wilson's term is now up. The floor is now open for nominations for the position of Secretary. Clark Udell nominated Ric Wilson. His nomination was seconded by a member. An other member made a motion that the nominations be closed and that motion was seconded. Nominations were closed, a vote was called and Ric Wilson was unanimously elected Secretary.

The next item on the hand-out is the evaluation of the Executive Director. Everyone should look at the light pink sheets. Each member of the board evaluated David on a specific part of his job. The board Members evaluations are combined on the pink pages. David does a fantastic job for the association including the Web site, handling the all state process and the day to day business. We owe him a very big thank you.

Chris then asked for motion to accept the Executive Director's evaluation as is. The motion was made by Andy Valmanis and it was seconded by Jeremy. A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

The second item we have related to the Executive Director's position is to renew his contract for another year. Chris told everyone that he strongly recommends renewing David's contract for another year. What we pay him is nothing compared to the amount of work he does for the association. The floor was then opened for a motion to renew David's contract for another year. Erin Dean made the motion and it was seconded by Ted. A vote was called and David's Executive Director's contract was unanimously renewed for another year.

The next item on the agenda on the coral colored pages, is the Samba Goals Agreement. Samba would like to enter into a two year agreement with us. The new agreement would end in February 17, 2007. What they will do is provide us with five multi-goals and three 4X8 goals per year. The floor was then opened for a motion to enter into a two year agreement. Art S. made the motion and it was seconded by Nick Archer. A vote was called and it unanimously passed.

The next item is the MHSAA Survey items which is on the blue sheets. Everyone can look those over on their own.

Next is the MHSSCA Web Site. David Hulings will handle this discussion. David began by saying that one of things we want to do with web site is to increase communications. We want to create a discussion Board similar to "M-live" that you can only get into if you are a paid member. To gain access members would use their last name plus their membership number. Only paid members would be able to see what is going on in the discussion board. This intended as a mature discussion venue where members can go on and talk about things that are important. We are moving our site to a secure server which will eliminate 99% of the hackers.

The second thing we are trying to do is to fix some of the things we are having trouble with. The ranking system is one of the items where we have had some trouble. Right now we have one person for each division that is doing the rankings. That person has a number of people they call around the state. Starting Saturday afternoon they try to reach coaches in their division. By Sunday afternoon they have got to get the information to me so I can post it on our web site. The two people who handle the national ranking call me Sunday night around 11:00 PM to get our ranking. Using the new discussion board members will be able to vote on rankings for the top ten teams in their division. Again only paid coaches would have access which would make this a true "Coach's Pole".

We would keep the current division ranking chair people who would simply use the results as a guide to the ranking they would publish. The system is set up to allow coaches to only vote in their division. But that could be changed if it is what the membership wants. Boys coaches could vote for boys teams in their division as well as

girls teams. Clark asked if the results would be used for the national rankings. David responded that the national rankings would not come directly from the voting results. National rankings would come from the division chairs plus David. David went on to explain that Michigan is the only state that includes teams in the national rankings that could be from divisions other than D-1.

We have a problem with the All-Academic Team for the boys season. If you have a freshman on your team you have to wait until the end of the first semester which is the middle of January to figure grade point averages. What we are suggesting is that we change the period to the end of the first six week marking period. That way we could have all of this done much earlier and could get you certificates in time for your banquets in November.

Chris asked for a motion to change the period for determining grades for All-Academic Team honors to right after the first marking period (first six weeks) for freshman players on varsity teams. A motion was made by Eric Pheifer and seconded by Bill Byrd. A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

One of the other things we have a problem with is the fragmentation of high school soccer in the state. We would also like to come up with a better way to honor soccer coaches and players. Lastly, we would like to be able to provide better education and licensing opportunities for our members.

We want to pass a proposal that would create a committee that would come up with a plan to provide education and licensing during a three day period (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). Friday during the day could be for coaches education, Friday night would be our AGM. Saturday we would conduct our clinic and Saturday night host a banquet for coaches and their wives at which time we would award coaches honors and All-State honors for the players. Sunday could then be other educational opportunities. Coaches could decide which parts of this they would like to participate in. What we are going to ask is that we as a group decide whether we want to pursue this.

Aaron Dean made a motion to accept the proposal and it was seconded by Ben Ritzma. A call to vote was made. The motion passed unanimously. Pat Norman asked about holding this in the summer. David explained that parts of the coaches training certainly could be held in the summer with final session on this weekend in February. Volunteers for the committee included Aaron Dean, Clark Udell, Doug Green, Jeff Loman, Tom Valdes and John Colon would be the chair.

A motion was made by a member and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A vote was called and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ric Wilson, Secretary

