

**Minutes of the Michigan Water Polo Association
Coaches' Meeting
November 17, 2002**

- Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm
- Coaches submitted their All-State ballots to Dan Brandenburg, who proceeded to tabulate them.
- Vaughn Cooper then presented the Director of Officials Report.
 - Game duration, which had been interpreted in various ways since the adoption of the NFHS rules, was clarified. Specifically, games are to include 3, 2-minute timeouts; between-period intervals are to be 2 minutes between periods 1 and 2 and periods 3 and 4, and 3 minutes between periods 2 and 3. Games tied after regular time are to be played out with 2, 3-minute overtime periods, followed by 3-minute periods of sudden death. These rules may be superseded by the needs of specific events, e.g., during pool-round tournament play.
 - The NFHS rule book may be ordered from the Federation. In addition, since the water polo rules are included in the Swimming and Diving rules book, most Athletic Departments should already have this available.
 - Upcoming clinics:
 - January 3 & 4 at Groves (Friday classroom, Saturday on deck)
 - March 1 at Rockford's 5-on-5 tournament (classroom and game evaluation)
 - There will be a nominal fee (probably \$10) for each clinic to cover the cost of materials
 - Contact Vaughn for information on either clinic, or Dan Brandenburg for information on the Groves clinic
 - A standardized pay structure was recommended for all competition, as follows:
 - For 7-minute quarters, \$30 for each referee (\$45 if only one official)
 - For 6-minute quarters, \$24 for each referee (\$36 if only one official)
 - If goal judges are used, \$15 for each judgeThese are meant to serve as guidelines only; new programs or others without sufficient funding can feel free to adjust this scale as necessary. A vote passed unanimously.

Will Hart asked that this set of guidelines be sent to the Pioneer Athletic Department as a formal recommendation. Vaughn indicated that he and Bruce Murden would do so.

- Jim Silverman then presented plans to revitalize the Great Lakes Water Polo club. These plans include:
 - Establishing a permanent structure to enable the club to survive changes in coaches, membership, etc.
 - Creating regional centers based on participation and facilities
 - Defining the responsibilities of the head coach and hiring an individual to fill this position

- Ensuring that the head coach is independent of local high schools
- Being in a position to start working with 14-and-under boys, and all age groups for girls, in January 2003.

All high school coaches were invited to an organizational meeting at the Nelson's home in Ann Arbor on Wednesday, November 20, to both hear what the club is planning and to provide their input.

- Mike Westgate then presented the Treasurer's Report. *Formalized report to follow.*
- Eric Lancaster reported that members of the Association have been in contact with representatives of the MHSAA, including Executive Director Jack Roberts. A meeting was held in Lansing to discuss the possibility of having water polo sanctioned by the State. Jack and Gina (?) attended several games at the State Tournament in Rockford and seemed favorably impressed.

The MHSAA is considering sanctioning several sports, looking at 4 sports at a time. Currently equestrian, bowling, women's ice hockey, and lacrosse are being discussed. As a result of these discussions, and their observations at States, it is likely that water polo will be included in the next group of four.

Questions arose regarding the benefits of MSHAA sanctioning. Factors in favor include publicity, better training of officials, and legitimacy within athletic departments; those against include losing control of the format of the state tournament. Mike and Eric reported that they did mention this concern to Jack, and that he indicated that all such questions would be legitimate subjects for subsequent discussion.

- A brief discussion followed regarding Codes of Conduct. It was suggested that if any questions arose regarding athlete, coach, or officials' behavior, the appropriate Athletic Department be consulted for details. In addition, rather than developing our own Code, we should refer to the MHSAA Code where required.
- The group then reviewed the Academic All-State procedure. Specifically:
 - Any athlete in at least his/her sophomore with a 3.75 GPA qualifies
 - Every team that participates in a post-season tournament is eligible
 - Nominations must be submitted to the MWPA Board prior to the Regional Tournaments. The responsibility for processing the nominations, printing the certificates, etc., is that of the MWPA, not the Regional host sites.
- Mike Westgate then presented a proposed schedule for the Spring 2003 District Tournament format, which was based on a recap of several discussions at previous meetings and by the Executive Board. Several viewpoints were discussed at length, after which Dave McWatters suggested that since it was not likely that a consensus was going to be reached. As a result, we should continue the current process by which each Region determines its own method of selecting the 4 it sends to the State tournament. Dave then moved to close discussion on this topic; Vaughn Cooper seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

- Bids for 2003 tournament sites were then discussed, as follows:

Spring:

OK Conference	May 9-10	West Ottawa ¹
East Regional	May 16-17	Ann Arbor Huron
West Regional	May 16-17	Grand Haven
State	May 30-31	East Grand Rapids

Fall:

OK Conference	TBD	TBD ¹
East Regional	Oct 31-Nov 1	Ann Arbor Pioneer
West Regional	TBD	Grand Haven ²
State	Nov 7-8	Ann Arbor Huron (interested)

¹ The OK Conference Athletic Directors decided that the tournament would be assigned on a rotating basis

² Assignment must await assignment of OK Conference tournament

- Open Discussion
 - Dan Jacobs asked about East and West Regional Junior Varsity tournaments. If such events are held, Dexter would be interested in serving as a host site. Mike Westgate supported the idea of a JV tournament, but suggested that the MWPA not be involved in its organization or sanctioning. In addition, consideration should be given to the idea of playing a “JV Championship” game during a Varsity Tournament.
 - Open coaching positions should be posted on the MWPA Web site. Contact Webmaster Bruce Murden for details.
 - Brad Leedy suggested that coaches be permitted to nominate athletes for Regional All-Tournament teams. Mike Westgate indicated that the OK Conference already does so, and it works well. Contact Mike for details.
 - Brad also asked whether the MWPA could mandate that each member team send a delegate to every Association meeting. Chris Burnett suggested that the Board draft a proposal to be presented and discussed at the next meeting (February 2).
 - Jim Silverman will assume responsibility for collecting and submitting the All America nominations. He reminded the coaches that if they are not NISCA members, a \$10 application fee must accompany each such nomination.

- Dan Brandenburg reported the results of the All-State voting, as follows:

- Player of the Year: Steven Weinberg, Ann Arbor Huron
- Coach of the Year: Will Hart, Ann Arbor Pioneer

- First Team:

Kyle Bogucki	Jenison
Kirk Kaufmann (G)	Jenison
Matt Leskovar	Rockford
Kyle Moblo	Rockford
Jeff Ticknor (G)	Ann Arbor Pioneer
Victor Wakefield	Ann Arbor Pioneer
Steven Weinberg	Ann Arbor Huron

- Second Team:

Andrew Callam	Ann Arbor Pioneer
Ben Hovarter	Rockford
Dan Kurdys	Portage
Rob Mida	Birmingham Groves
Jon Thomas	Troy
Scott Thompson	Birmingham Groves
Nick Welshans	Ann Arbor Huron

- Honorable Mention:

Greg Lowman	Grand Haven
Scott Nelson (G)	Ann Arbor Huron
Ryan Pryor	West Ottawa
Scott Stephenson	Ann Arbor Pioneer
Joey Szymanski	Jenison

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.