

MWPA Business Meeting Minutes

8/12/07

Meeting called to order at 3:04 p.m.

Coaches in attendance: Adam Briggs, Doug Wilson, Joe Scully, Jeff Shuck, Dave Weick, Jeff Hardy, Matt Latham, Luke Ortego, Dave McWatters, Marty Pohl, Ron Marsh, Chris Keenan, Pete Hewett, Chris Groenhout.

Treasurer's Report: Adam Briggs reported in Gil Segovia's absence. Checking account balance of \$3046.02. Certificate of Deposit balance of \$4590.93.

Director of Official's Report: Adam Briggs read an email from Mike Westgate discussing forthcoming officiating initiatives:

I would like to provide a general Director of Officials initiative as well.

Based on the new USWP Technical Committee:

In an attempt to oversee the consistent interpretation and application of water polo rules at Michigan Water Polo Association sanctioned events, I would like to take advantage of the new USWP Technical Committee.

The goal is to simplify our approach to applying the rules of water polo, and we need coaches and officials to work together on common standards of consistent application of the rules. Our referees are the stewards of our game, and we all need to support their efforts toward consistency.

General Initiatives:

- * Simplifying/Streamlining Interpretation of the Rules by utilizing the USWP guidelines for game principles that can be expressed on a single sheet of paper and widely circulated (available soon, I hope :).
- * Allow for timely and constructive feedback for officials from coaches and peers.
- * Building a stronger, mutually respectful partnership between coaches and referees.

2007 Boys' Post-Season Sites

- Districts (October 19 and 20)
 - North/South – Birmingham Groves
 - East/West – Rockford
- Regionals (October 26 and 27)
 - East – Saline
 - West – East Kentwood
- States (November 9 and 10)
 - Birmingham Groves

2008 Girls' Post –Season Sites

- Districts
 - North/South – AAP (South) and Mason (North)
 - East/West – EGR
- Regionals
 - East – East Lansing
 - West – Rockford
- States
 - Saline

Proposal #1 – District dual games during the girl's season do not begin until after the third week of practice (for the next two years, spring break on the west side is 4 weeks after the start of the season) or after spring break. Coaches may still make arrangements for games before three weeks, but only if both coaches are in agreement. Coaches may also use the weekdays prior to the district tournament to schedule duals. (Wilson)

General discussion followed. Most coaches were in agreement that this would be a beneficial change, as this would give them more time to prepare for important dual games. This would also mirror the current schedule during the boys' season. This primarily targets the schools on the west side, as their schedules are set by the conference over a year in advance, however this could impact the SEC as well if it adopts water polo in the next couple of years.

Motion to vote – Briggs
Second – Hewett
Passes unanimously.

Proposal #2 – To allow athletes that participated in the junior varsity games to participate in the varsity game in the same night if a score differential of 6 points is reached during the varsity game. The coach would maintain the right to play their JV players for the remainder of the game regardless of the score differential. JV goalies would be exempt from this rule if the varsity goalie is injured before the six goal differential. (Wilson)

General discussion followed. This would mostly affect the smaller teams. It would possibly help with player development of the in between player. However it was noted that we would be the only sport to allow something like this, and that there could be issues with athletic directors regarding this rule. Since the current rule was just put in place at the business meeting in February 2007, the consensus was to table this issue until the February 2008 business meeting to see how this boys' season goes.

Proposal #3 - Based on this discussion, there was concern over teams that had limited numbers of goalies, and how they would be affected because of an injury to the goalie. Chris Keenan proposed that if a varsity goalie is rendered unable to play due to an injury, sickness, or an eligibility rule during the course of the game, that a JV goalie would be allowed to play in exemption of the current rule, as long as two separate goalies are listed, one on the varsity roster, and one on the JV roster for that game. The varsity goalie that left the game due to an injury

may only re-enter the game as a goalie. The JV goalie that had assumed the position as varsity goalie, must leave the game at this point.

Motion to vote – Keenan
Second – Marsh
Passes unanimously.

Proposal #4 – Co-op applications need to be turned in to the board by the June meeting for the boys' season, and by the February meeting for the girls' season. (Board)

Discussion followed that this would give the board more time to evaluate and rule on prospective co-op agreements.

Motion to vote – Wilson
Second – Briggs
Passes Unanimously

More discussion followed on cooperative teams. There were several questions as to how we as an association should push long standing cooperatives to separate and form their own teams. The board stated that most co-ops are approved if it is necessary to keep the team from folding, however if one school can maintain the team with their own enrollment that they would discourage a cooperative agreement with another school. Several members spoke to the fact that the decision over approving/rejecting cooperative applications should be left for the executive board to deal with on a case by case basis. More discussion on this issue tabled until the February 2008 business meeting.

Proposal #5 – Active coaches will not be allowed to officiate during their respective seasons. The only exception to this rule would be allowing them to officiate at JV tournaments in games that their team is not participating in. This would affect all coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers. (Board)

Motion to vote – Briggs
Second – Marsh
Passes Unanimously

It was announced that Brian Fickies has resigned his position as executive board secretary for the MWPA based on a new business opportunity. Because of the lack of membership present, the vote for his replacement will take place at the November 2007 business meeting.

Pete Hewett reported that he has been approached by a professional photography company that would like to sign a contract as the MWPA's professional photographer. It was discussed that this could be a great fundraising opportunity for the association to help fund awards, scholarships, clinics, etc. The membership present urged the board to investigate and if called for establish a contract in time for the 2007 Boys' Post-Season Tournaments.

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.