MINUTES
OF THE
MAINE PRINCIPALS’ ASSOCIATION
SOCcer COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 5, 2018

A meeting of the MPA Soccer Committee was held on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the MPA office.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josh Frost, Eric Hall, Ryan LaRoche, Jason Mills, and Jonathan Spear.

LIAISON PRESENT: Mike Jeffrey (MSCA).

GUESTS PRESENT: Charles Brown and Brad Lunt (MASO).

STAFF PRESENT: Michael Bisson.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Eric Hall at 9:03 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a MOTION by Spear/Mills, the minutes of the October 17, 2018 meeting were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mike Bisson shared the following correspondence that was reviewed and placed on file:

- A series of individual topic emails with the committee that were reviewed and placed on file at the MPA.
- A series of emails regarding an incident between the Lisbon High School and Mt. Abram High School girls’ soccer teams.
- A series of emails from Sumner Memorial High School boys’ soccer parents complaining about the officiating at Fort Kent Community High School and the response from Principal Ty Thurlow.
- A series of emails from Winslow High School girls’ soccer parents complaining about playing a playoff game at Presque Isle High School and the travel concerns, with a response from Principal Chad Bell.
- A series of emails from Mt. View High School boys’ soccer parents and an assistant coach complaining about the officiating versus Brewer High School and the response from MPA Executive Director Dick Durost and MPA lawyer Meg LePage.
- A series of emails regarding legality of the size of some soccer fields used in the playoffs.
- A series of email communications regarding a coach contacting an official. On a MOTION by Hall/Mills, and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the committee recommended a one-year suspension from coaching for Aaron Wolfe, for an incident on October 17, 2018 where contact with an official was made. Mike Bisson will communicate this ban
with the Winslow High School administration. If there is an appeal it would go to the Interscholastic Management Committee for an adversarial hearing under Appendix T of the MPA Handbook which states:

ASSAULT UPON OFFICIALS BY COACHES
A coach who intentionally strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other physical contact with an official before, during, or after an interscholastic contest, as determined by the school, shall be disqualified immediately and his/her coach’s eligibility will be suspended for one full year. At the end of the suspension, the coach may request the reinstatement of his/her eligibility. At this time, the Interscholastic Management Committee will place the request on its next meeting agenda, at which meeting the coach and principal must attend. The Interscholastic Management Committee will make the determination whether or not to reinstate the coach’s eligibility.

REVIEW OF 2018 CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- The committee members that attended the north site felt that Hampden Academy does a fantastic job of hosting. They said that the facility is great and the team of Nick and Fred do an outstanding job. “Hampden is a well-oiled machine.”
- McMann Field was a good host site. Nate Priest was an excellent host. The committee and Lewiston High School administration did a good job of keeping the fans off the field. North Yarmouth Academy was on the field following the girls’ game and took some time to remove from the field.
- The 4th official was a much better situation this year.
- The committee did a great job of attending and supporting the championship games.
- Mike Bisson will look to Hampden Academy for A/D North and Falmouth, Biddeford, Sanford, or Lewiston for B/C 2019 South sites.

COACHES' REPORT: Mike Jeffrey reported the following:

- The MSCA had a great turnout at the MSCA Banquet at the Spectacular Events Center in Bangor and the Senior Bowl was moved to Thomas College and went very well.
- The coaches would like to see a reset of the Yellow/Red Cards before the playoffs.
- The coaches would like to have the first countable game start earlier to avoid three game weeks.
- The coaches would like the committee to consider neutral sites for the Regional Championship Games.
- The committee would like the State Championship Games a full week after the Regional Final and not hold the Regional on a Wednesday.

OFFICIALS' REPORT: Charles Brown, the State Interpreter for Soccer Officiating, and Brad Lunt, the President of MASO, reported the following:
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- Brad Lunt, Charlie Brown, and Mike Bisson met on November 26 to discuss improving the relationship between MASO and the MPA Soccer Committee. The group is interested in getting the best officials on our regional and state championship games. There will be future meetings to look at the structure of MASO and how to improve soccer officiating in Maine.
- There is a concern that there were games assigned for officials that were not eligible to do the regional championship game.
- The process of creating an eligible list officials and voting is a concern. There is a misunderstanding that a school should get an official that they vote for. The process is to develop a list of officials eligible to officiate the championship games.
- Brad Lunt is the new President of MASO and has traveled to all of the soccer officiating boards in Maine and would like to improve the structure of MASO and their relationship with the MPA. MASO is focused on improving the quality of officiating in Maine and developing new officials.
- The committee discussed the potential need to report cards at the game level through a scorebook or form to be signed off at the site as a backup to the card reporting system.

2019 BULLETIN: The 2019 bulletin was reviewed and updated with new dates. New classification for the 2019 bulletin will be added following a vote by the MPA membership at the Spring Conference.

8 v 8 SOCCER: The committee discussed the concept of reducing the number of players on the field and the potential to create an 8 v 8 or 9 v 9 division. This discussion began at the October 17, 2018 meeting. The committee will continue this discussion for the 2021 classification cycle. Schools and coaches will be surveyed.

TIE BREAKER/OVERTIME PROCEDURES: The committee would like to come up with an alternative to the shootout to decide tie playoff games. The committee discussed having two five-minute overtime periods move to a reduced number of players on the field.

CUMULATIVE CARD REPORT: The committee discussed and examined the data from the 2018 season and supports the continuation of the Cumulative System as currently implemented for the 2019 season. There was no support to differentiate encroachment from the other more physical fouls.

On a MOTION by Frost/Mills, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, beginning with the preliminary round of the playoffs all coaches and players will have their cumulative card total reduced by one card.

CLASSIFICATION: On a MOTION by Hall/Spear, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, for Soccer Classification to mirror the numbers for Baseball and Softball and would be willing to allow the committee chairs to meet to negotiate a common classification for all three activities.
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NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting of the Soccer Committee will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Maine Principals’ Association.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Continued work on a Regional Soccer Neutral Site Plan.
- Continued discussion of overtime alternatives to a penalty kick shoot-out.

ADJOURNMENT: On a MOTION by Hall/Spear, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael G. Bisson
Assistant Executive Director

/tjm
12/6/18

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