

The Minnesota State High School League provides educational opportunities for students through interscholastic athletic and fine arts programs and provides leadership and support for member schools.



Member of the National Federation of State High School Associations

Minnesota State High School League
Board of Directors Meeting
August 10, 2010

Meeting Synopsis

Action Items

- Member schools will soon begin receiving checks from the League office representing their 2009-10 tournament expense reimbursement, plus activity fee rebates for this past school year. The Board approved \$418,804 in tournament expense reimbursements, plus a total activity fee rebate of \$403,720 (\$40 per activity) for total of \$822,524. Staff reminded the Board that there will be no activity rebates for 2010-11.
- Two adjustments in ticket prices were approved. One, for the State One Act Play Festival, does not involve a price increase but rather how tickets are sold. Instead of a \$5.00 ticket for two plays, then clear the theater and pay another \$5.00 for the next two-play session, patrons will purchase a \$10.00 ticket for each of two four-play sessions. The other adjustment impacts all state tournaments conducted at Target Center in Minneapolis and Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Due to increasing usage expenses or facility fees at both venues, the Board approved a \$2.00 adult ticket price increase and a \$1.00 student ticket price increase. The increased revenue is projected at about \$400,000 which may offer the Board an opportunity to return some or all of it to member schools in the form of tournament expense reimbursements for 2010-11. The budget for the 2010-11 school year does not include any reimbursement money for the first time in decades.
- A brighter piece of financial news came in the form of overall premium reductions of 2.4 percent for renewal of catastrophic and tournament medical insurance as well as several different kinds of liability insurance that gained Board approval.
- Sports Authority is a new corporate partner of the League with Board approval of a two-year agreement. The League will receive \$25,000 each year. Sports Authority will receive, as do most of the League's corporate partners, ads in select state tournament programs and a presence at select state tournaments, exposure on the League Web site. Sports Authority will also be given ad space on the back of state tournament tickets and on the back of tournament staff credentials and souvenir bag tags given to state tournament participants. The company intends to imprint bar codes on the ticket backs, credentials and bag tags that will offer percentage reductions on purchases at its Twin Cities metro area and Rochester stores.
- Approval was given to three key items relating to the development of consistent policies across all administrative regions and competitive sections: 1) a policy pertaining to the treatment of forfeitures either before or after section seeding; 2) three possible processes for the seeding of teams — face-to-face, electronic, or a point system for which the details have yet to be determined; and 3) a policy for rental fees of tournament sites.
- Routine annual approval was given for the 2010-11 Official Handbook, the Board Policy Manual and Guidelines, the Region Secretaries Manual, and League Employee Handbook.

- Routine annual approval was also given to contracts for speech consultant Mike Tillman and music consultant Carl Lipke. Two-year contract renewals were also awarded to the legal counsel firm Kelly & Lemmons and to Roger Aronson for legislative services and special projects counsel.
- The Board adopted a new stitched felt puck for adapted floor hockey to replace the plastic pucks that have been used. The new pucks were recommended for their improved durability and play action.
- A resolution of appreciation and recognition was adopted for outgoing Board members John Klinnert, Ron Larson, Gary Lee, Dean Ogg, Chad Stoskopf and Jeff Whisler.
- Board committee assignments for the 2010-11 school year were made:
 - Audit/Finance Committee — Chair John Schumacher, Kim Algoo, John Hamann and Mike Rusinko.
 - Eligibility Committee — Chair Ray Kirch, Mike Kolness, Brent Robbins, Luanne Wagner and Bill Webb.
 - Marketing Committee — Chair Mark Fredericksen, Carol Bomben, Laurie Esau (newly appointed by the governor), Walt Hautala and Jill Lofald.
 - Technology/Coaches and Officials Education Committee — Chair Rick Bleichner, Perry Aadland, Chris Laird and Mike Manning.
 - Executive Committee — President Les Zellmann, Vice President Mindy Sparby, Treasurer John Schumacher, Luanne Wagner, plus the chairs of the Eligibility, Marketing and Technology/Coaches and Officials Education Committees.

Discussion Items

- The League’s Sports Medicine Advisory Committee later this month will be finalizing a plan for disseminating critical information regarding sports concussions. In the meantime, the Board highly recommended that athletes and their parents, coaches, officials and medical personnel take a free 20-to-30 minute online education course about concussions developed by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). Check out “Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know” at www.NFHSLearn.com.
- Associate Director Merkle offered an update from the task force that is addressing the issue of scheduling football games. He said action will be requested in October for creating an option for a Zero Week that would allow approved schools to begin their conditioning/practice/game schedule one week early, but also require a bye week later in the season. Potential options for scheduling according to section assignments are still being explored and will be presented at the Board’s December meeting.
- Associate Director Craig Perry briefed the Board on continuing negotiations with a company that offers online capabilities of completing and storing the health questionnaire, part of the sports qualifying physical examination and required annually thereafter. The goal is to pilot the system nationally for the company. Perry said he will provide an update at the October Board meeting.

Board Committee Reports

Eligibility Committee

The Board adopted 11 separate penalty recommendations from the committee resulting from violations of League bylaws.

Audit/Finance Committee

The Board approved the financial reports for the months of May 2010, June 2010 and July 2010, the latter of which may still require some minor adjustments. The committee offered the recommendations for action regarding ticket pricing and insurance policy renewals noted above.

Marketing Committee

The committee offered its recommendation for approval of the Sports Authority corporate sponsorship.

Technology/Coaches and Officials Education Committee

The committee reported that significant numbers of coaches are enrolling in the new education program offered by the League that includes classroom and online learning modules. Further Board scrutiny of implementation of the education program is expected in October.

Extra Points

- The Board set some tentative goals for the 2010-11 school year that will be addressed again at a workshop scheduled for October 6. They include: policy for class competition and placement of schools; posting of regular season statistics on the League Web site; a marketing plan that may include development of a tag line for the League; requirements for coaches education; revision of the investment policy for League funds; review of the policy for cooperative sponsorships; continued review of League bylaws; exploration of potential sponsorship of new education- or academic-based activities.
- Summer hours at the League office end this week. Thursday, August 12, is the last day. The office will be closed on Friday, August 13. Starting the week of August 16-20, however, normal 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. office hours resume Monday through Friday.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the League Board of Directors is October 7, 2010, at the League office.