

2021 FALL PRESIDENT & DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES

Minneapolis Marriott West, 9960 Wayzata Blvd, Minneapolis, MN

September 11, 2021

8:00 AM Check-in, 8:15 AM Breakfast, 9:00 AM Meeting -Sept. 11, 2021

Minutes

A. Call to order President Barry Wohler-Orono-Introduction of new MSHSCA board Members Meeting called to order at 9:00 am. Barry introduced new Board member Jen Marshall, Executive director/assistant Rick & Joyce Ringeisen, Larry McKenzie, and outgoing president Tom Critchley Jr.

a. Jen Marshall - Farmington (MSHSCA Vice-President)

b. Larry McKenzie - Minneapolis North (Diversity & Inclusion Liaison)

c. Presidents welcome and opening remarks and Presidential goals for the coming year.

The main goal for Barry this year is to get more inclusion and diversity with our Association. We have good representation out-state Minnesota, we would like to get more involvement from inner-city coaches. Larry and Barry plan to create a task force to encourage more coaches to join MSHSCA

B. Erich Martens - Executive Director MSHSL. Thank you for all you do. We cannot help but think of 20 years ago today on 9/11. Stories are incredible. Watching the TV and watching live as the second plane hit the tower. We are thankful for those who serve others. Military, teachers, first responders. The past year has been the most challenging. No one has said to me I wish I had your job. Leadership matters and what you do is important. The MSHSL is excited about this year. Our theme is to celebrate the experiences that are offered. What you do is important to lead students and adults. It is great to see so many familiar faces and I look forward to meeting those of you I have not met. Volleyball is moving to 4 classes. I wish I could say we have the 4 class state tournament figured out. Extra classes in soccer, Track & Field as well. The third-place game will be off-site from the US Bank stadium. Covid has made life challenging this adds more challenges. Erich spoke about the importance of having emergency action plans in place. The worst thing that can happen is to not have one in place when things go wrong. We need to know where the AED is and who will go get it. Officials are very important. They need to be respected and we need to appreciate them. We retain them and encourage others by providing them with a great experience. Tapping people on the shoulder and asking them to get involved. Youth sports and keeping kids involved have become more important than ever. There is an incredible appetite and desire to compete. Sports drive decisions. Connecting kids to a larger community are important. Covid is still here, I wear my mask indoors as an example. I had covid and we need to do our part to keep kids safe and the people. Erich thinks it is a good idea to test your kids 4 and 2 weeks out from playoffs which can be critical for the postseason. Financially, the MSHSL finished in the black and were able to bring down fees. We are a leaner and thinner staff, just like what is happening in our schools.

Questions/Comments: Tom Critchley Sr. - I want to thank Erich and his staff publically. Everything that happened was a collaborative effort. We were kept up to date weekly and daily. Your collaborative leadership is greatly appreciated vs just handing things down. Erich is important to us being able to run the summer showcase. Erich commented on Minnesota athletes in the Olympics and Paralympics.

Question regarding St Cloud schools that are combining: Erich explained classification and the option to opt up or appeal down. (only one class). The co-ops happen and they get placed on 100% of the

largest school and 50% of the enrollment of the second school. This is one of the things people watch carefully.

Question: Jim Baker - is there a suicide program? - Erich- I'm not the best resource for this and we need to do a better job of training people. It is a collaboration of different services. You are the closest to kids and connect them to services. I'm open to the group if there are ideas about how to better address this issue. Jim - this is not just a kid issue, my neighbor is depressed because he is a people person. Erich - we have to be vigilant with that.

Question: Are there thoughts of revisiting transfer rules? Erich - there is more than thought. We have multiple transfers. We have over 850 so far this year. Bylaw 110 and 111 - there is a committee being formed to look at both bylaws. As things are done it creates more questions. 60 kids have returned to their schools of origin. The NCAA has set a stage. They have a transfer portal. All-State Associations are being looked at and what that will look like for us. People select schools based on the activity opportunities and then want to change when that does not go well. Barry - one of the best moves by the MSHSL was when they hired Erich. We feel our voice is being heard. And he gives answers.

C. MSHSL Board of Directors Report – John Vraa-New London Spicer (not present) & Dawn Engebretson-Rockford The addition of classes. State tournaments will look different. Mask mandates will be followed based on the location. Online ticketing again this year. Celebrating the 50 year anniversary of Title 9. Talking with the boys' VB group, and helping them join the MSHSL. Working with AD's to update their school pages with contact information. Discussion around the new website.

D. Boys' Volleyball Presentation - Krista Flemming & Walt Weaver. (Boys' Volleyball handouts).

Walt Weaver - I coached for over 30 years, I miss it every single day. I have great respect for you and what you do. We are lucky to have the MSHSL. The MSHSL is one of the top state associations in the nation.

We represent a lot of boys who want to play their sport for their schools. I started coaching in 1976 when AV opened. We are here to provide opportunities and we added sports, shared resources, and gave up 1 or 2 athletes along the way. All of the programs remained competitive and still do today. Today Boy's VB is asking for the opportunity after 5 years of growth. More kids are involved in sports and their schools. It is time for boys VB players to have this chance. As coaches, we played and we know what that means.

Krista - We appreciate this opportunity. I am a Shakopee coach and a director of Boys VB. I played in High School and college. We love the sport and want to share that with the men in our lives. They have been cut from other sports. We have a lot of cuts in our school. My son is 6-6 and was cut because he did not develop until later. We started out and hoped to have a few teams; we ended up with 44 teams. There is an overlap between girls and boys. The second year we doubled in size. This year (even with covid) we had over 700 athletes. We started organizing we had no idea so many of our kids would be from minority communities and there are also many LBGTQ participants. Last year, 37% of the athletes were Asian, In her gym only eight were caucasian.

Spring vs Fall. We did lots of calculations. It came down to what has worked in the country. 23 are in the spring (only Wisconsin is in the fall). NCAA is Jan - May (spring). Officials would be available in the spring. That is what we have done; we know that the season already works for us and we don't know about the fall. Last year we started on April 10. We do scheduling for all the teams and have had

limited conflicts. We are getting more kids involved-85% are not participating in other sports. I am a volunteer, we want the professionals to make the decisions.

Questions - Aaron Berndt- Thank you for the presentation and the literature. Spring is an outdoor sport, but we are indoor for weeks, even as late as the second week in May. There are so many spring sports and we don't have the space we already need. Spring has the highest number of participants of all. It is the most taxing on activities, departments, and transportation. Please reconsider moving to the fall season. Girls VB& Swimming are the only indoor sports in the fall. The one state that does Boys VB in the fall is Wisconsin-they have the same climate as we do. The other states have different climates. Speaking on the behalf of the spring sports, we are concerned about the additional stress created by adding another spring sport. We do not alter what we do for club sports; we are an HS educational program. Think it would be a benefit for the boys to work with the girl's programs. Please explore the Fall option. Walt's reply: we appreciate your comments. Our point is to discuss. Fall coaches have their own concerns. It will always gore someone else's ox. They are very legitimate points. We hope our proposal for this next rep assembly will be a proposal to have the MSHSL have a say in the specifics of the season. We don't have the perfect answer either. Those discussions need to take place.

E. Executive Directors Report

1. Approval of Sept. 2020 Minutes (Pages 2-8). Motion to approve by Jim Baker. 2nd by Nathan Youngs. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Membership Report 2019-2020 and current 2021-2022 (Page 9). Numbers were down last year from covid- they have rebounded back to normal.
3. Final Finance Report for the 2020-2021 Membership year - Nathan Youngs - Dassel-Cokato & Tom Sharp - Eastview (Pages 10-14). Note Cordonco fees are higher as more coaches join with credit cards. Expenses were down last year as 3 out of the last 4 meetings were virtual. Motion to approve Finance report by David Wareham, 2nd by Carl Pierson. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Proposed Budget for 2021-2022 (Advanced by Executive Committee for approval by Assembly) Nathan Youngs & Tom Sharp (Page 10) Note that proposed budget will look more like 2019-20 (skewed last year from covid)
Addendum from Nate: After this finance report was printed, we received a check from Cordonco for memberships for \$111,000. So the report can be adjusted upwards with this deposit. We are sitting very comfortably now with a budget that allows us to make our payments and can survive anything unforeseen much like we did last year.
Motion to approve the proposed budget by Bernie Schumacher, 2nd by Kerry Sutherland. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Communication: Very important to keep us updated with Clinic dates & locations and any sports association officer changes. Always looking for Coach of the Year, MSHSCA Hall of Fame & other Coaching Award Nominations
6. MSHSCA digital membership cards. To date, we have issued over 3500. Good roll out- minimal glitches.
7. Membership importance. Tink Larson had some good points: 1. Professionalism, it is important to collaborate with peers. 2. Support other sports. 3. To participate in the MSHSL advisory program. 4. Liability insurance. 5. Allows your athletes to receive awards. 6. Free admission to HS/college events. 7. Eligible for coaching awards. Craig Anderson also had good advice to join - he became aware of other sports in our school and across the state and the nation. I supported them and they supported us. Jim Baker suggested that we share this information with AD's. MNIAAA is on board with this.

8. NHSACA 2021 Minnesota Award Recipients (Page 19)

- A. Craig Anderson, Pine Island received the National Baseball Coach of the Year Award
- B. Jeff Mace, Edina received the National Swimming & Diving Coach of the Year Award
- C. Franz Boelter, Bethlehem Academy, VB & BB, NHSACA Hall of Fame
- D. Steve Paulsen, Edina, Tennis, NHSACA Hall of Fame

9. NHSACA COY & HOF nominations & NOCAD Update. Info in the packet. Oct 15 deadline. Refund from NOCAD.

Motion to approve Executive Director report by Tom Sharp. 2nd by Nathan Youngs. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Delegate Openings- Barry Wohler - Orono (Page 14) Barry went through the openings.

G. Hall of Fame report and update - Bernie Schumacher Hall of Fame Chair (Page 15). Bernie covered the nominations. 2020 selections were moved forward to this year's banquet. 214 people have tickets as of this time. Prep Coach issue will have pics/short bio's of winners. We are looking for nominations- applications are online and in Prep coach. Thanks to Jim and Janet Baker (previous banquet coordinators) hope to carry this tradition forward. Recognized Mark Solberg here today who will be receiving the George Haun award. Rick talked about purchasing "Livin the Dream" shirts in recognition of John Schumacher and thanked Bernie for remaining involved with the Board as the HOF banquet coordinator.

H.& I. Website Update-Rob Nielsen-Detroit Lakes (not present). Prep Coach-Mindy Nielsen-Detroit Lakes (not present). Tom Critchley Jr. gave an update. Reminder to Sport's Association presidents to submit articles. Presidents now have login access/information. Reach out to Rob if you need help.

J. DSA-Officials Report- Mike Peterson-Perham. Always looking for nominations. Amazing how touched they are by being nominated. Very important to honor our officials. Discussion about a 25-year requirement- can we reduce that requirement. We can look at that.

K. DSA-Asst Coach Report- Tom Sharp- Eastview. Also reiterated the need for nominations. (Nathan added that the requirement for this award is 20 years of service.)

L. Coaches Caring Report - Nathan Youngs - Dassel-Cokato. Lucky to have received a donation from Jerry Raddatz which we are able to use to support coaches. We have sent out 3 in the last week. Bernie added that Trophies Plus is also a major contributor to Coaches caring, donating \$2000/year for this.

M. Sports Medicine Committee report. Tom Sharp - Eastview. The main discussion was Covid. Current protocols are on the website. Mandates come from CDC, the Sports Medicine committee does not do this. Need for Emergency Action Plans. Looking for more representation from the Girl's sports for Sports Medicine Committee. We are increasing our meetings to 4 times/year. Website update- nice robust health and wellness page for coaches and parents (including a portal for resources including mental health).

N. Diversity & Inclusion Report - Larry McKenzie - Minneapolis North. Thanks to Tom Critchley Jr. for seeing the need for diversity & inclusion. He recognized the responsibility and created this position. Looking forward to working with this board. Recognizes the need to increase the number of members to

be more representative. It's not about black and white, it's about wrong and right. Simply respect humanity.

O. Sports Association Reports: Barry Wohler Each sports association was called upon to update the membership on their plans for the coming year (Advisory Committee Proposals, Clinics. Etc.)

Baseball- Ryan Holmgren – grateful for a full season. Baseball was able to hold the Junior Showcase- it was a great event. Will recognize HOF inductees for the past 2 seasons in Sept. In-person Clinic on November 12, at Viking Omni Hotel, Eagan.

Boys Basketball – Tom Critchley Sr. Review last year. We were able to hold our all-star series one day at Forest lake HS 21 athletes. Acknowledgment of Mike McMillian for the work he did that made our seasons possible. In June we had our showcase that was held over two weekends, 144 invited athletes, 150 coaches attended. We had two kids offer scholarships to the gophers! Clinic – in person. Concerned about financial responsibilities. This year we have to move forward. 2nd day with coach Johnson at the U of MN. It is refreshing that they have called me and want to connect with prep BBB. We continue to offer scholarships. Concerns about the non-renewal of coaches. Tom would like this organization to strengthen coaches' rights. There should be a timeline for non-renew by a certain date. Basketball coaches are coaching in the spring and also run summer programs only to learn they are non-renewed in the fall. I am proud to be part of an organization that is working to be more inclusive. We are adding two scholarships for athletes of color who want to go into the field of education. We have site issues with our state tournaments due to the Timberwolves having games scheduled on the same dates.

Girls Basketball – Carl Pierson – Here for president Leah Dasovich. We also have our all-star game. The big issue is that the MSHSL is approaching their board about adopting adding the shot clock to our sport. We have 84% approval, many schools already have the shot clocks. Discount price from Daktronics. Thanks to Tom Critchley Sr, to keep us included and I am grateful to him and what he has done for our association.

Cross Country - Brandon Heebink – In-person fall clinic, with zoom option 2/3's. The big news is the adding of a third class. Two teams from every section! This was important to continue this. We are adding 16 boys and 16 girls teams to the state tournament. We are working with the league to work on state tournament details.

Dance – Brittany Rehling- President, Roseville Coach- First time here. Eye-opening and fun to be here. Working with Bob Madison. We recognized the all-state athletes virtually at an outside venue. We are looking forward to returning safely to in-person interaction. Reflecting that it was scary at first and eventually we learned and were able to make it work.

Gymnastics – Joni Reitmeier, new president from Worthington. We were blessed to have both state tournaments before Covid hit. They were not able to have their TrueTeam last year and not able to have a clinic as well. They will have a clinic this year put on by the U of M. The season started earlier this past year because the state tournament that is held at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium was not open on the traditional date for us.

Boys Hockey – Mike McMillian and Girls Hockey. Served on a state committee regarding Covid. Sports almost did not happen. The state tournament was successful, there was a couple of teams who

were not able to participate because of Covid. We held a virtual clinic. St Thomas will become a D1 school and it will be better for our athletes and opportunities. Create a bond between us and our youth partner. We were nervous about only having 18 games. We need more games and will continue to work on this. Change in our HOF, our board took a pause, we all announce our HOF in Mid Oct, and will recognize them differently with the Wild, and not a traditional banquet.

Girls Hockey – Mike McMillan spoke for Tim Morris - Free clinic this year for members. The clinic is being held at the National Sports Center on October 8 & 9, 2021.

Girls Lacrosse – Kelsey Long. We have many athletes who play for fun. Grateful for the season and that state tournament was held (no consolation) We had a decrease in numbers because of Covid. We are looking to grow our numbers this year by adding more athletes. We have a short season. This year we start two weeks behind other sports, which is going to force our season to end after school is out for the summer. That adds additional challenges for coaches.

Robotics – Alex Jurek – We just celebrated our off-season event at the State Fair. There is really no off-season. 2020-21, it was a virtual season so virtually no season... We face schools from around the country and the world. Before Covid, a typical robotics event involved between 5000-7000 people. Due to Covid, there was a decrease from 224 teams down to just 99 teams this past year. This year (2022) marks 15 years of robotics in MN.

Soccer– Ben LeVahn – Maple Grove. The big news is the move from 2 to 3 classes. Filling roles from smaller schools. The board also approved 3rd place games. MSHSL has been great to work with and telling us when we can play at the Viking stadium. The clinic in August was well attended at NSC. Talks are underway with Minnesota United to do a highlight event.

Softball – Dawn Engebretson. Excited to have the season and state tournaments. Honored 88 seniors in the All-State event put on with the Minnesota Twins that was held at Mankato. Shelly Hotzler won the Minnesota Twins Bob Mertz award. We are proud of her and her accomplishments. We are also working with the Minnesota Twins to plan our clinic in February.

Strength and Conditioning – Mike Bryan. We are excited to be joining the MSHSCA. We are excited to recognize our coaches. Introduced Alex Greenway and Jessica Gust. State clinic January 22. We welcome any help you can give us by forwarding to your AD and strength coach about learning to become better coaches.

Swimming & Diving – Brian Luke – Stillwater. Brian observed that Swimming & Diving now has lots of representation on the MSHCA Board (Vice President, Executive Director, and Treasurer) Swimming is going well. Brian's personal goal is to get more coaches to join. He would like to see 100% of the swim coaches joining the MSHSCA.

Synchronized Swimming – Kathy Henderson – Stillwater 30th year of coaching,... Kathy is thankful for the season and that they are going back to the University of Minnesota Aquatics Center for the state tournament. Last year Edina hosted us, and the year before we had to go to Rochester because the University of Minnesota was under construction. There are some rules changes coming that were postponed because of the pandemic.

Tennis – David Wareham – On behalf of the tennis association grateful to have a complete season in the spring and the state tournament outdoors last year. Excited to have a full season and tournament at indoor facilities this year. Looking forward to getting back to focus on classification. We are one of only four sports with only 2 classes. We are considering changing the format of High School tennis by increasing the number of players in a line-up from 10 to 11. Instead of 4 singles and 3 doubles, there will be 3 singles and 4 doubles in the line-up. We did not hold a clinic last year. We support opportunities and support boys volleyball, however, we are concerned about it being a spring coach.

Track & Field – Aaron Berndt- Boys' & Girls' Wayzata- President. Track is moving to 3 classes this year. Track the second largest sport for participation. We are excited about the additional class and the participation numbers. Track is planning on doing many things to recognize this year marking 50 years of girls' sports. In addition, 7 Minnesota athletes participate in the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo!

Volleyball - Darin Swenson (via email to MSHSCA Executive Director)- Volleyball is working with MSHSL on the new 4 class State VB tournament, details to be announced soon. As a volleyball association, we support the advancement of boys' volleyball becoming an MSHSL sponsored sport. Because of the strain, it would put on coaches, gym time, and officials if it were to be placed in the fall, we support it as a spring sport.

The motion was made to adjourn by Rob Economy, 2nd by Kerry Sutherland. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am.

Please advise Rick Ringeisen (ringer@mshsca.org) of your clinics and banquet dates and locations.

Important MSHSCA links: [MSHSCA Constitution](#) & [MSHSCA Sports Association Handbook](#)