

## **TMSAA Committee Meeting Minutes**

11:00am CT, February 9, 2024

- I. The Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association Committee met on February 9, 2024 at Stewarts Creek Middle School. Committee members in attendance were: Mike Brown, Chuck Whitlock, India Weaver, Sarah Cope, Chris Burgess, Marty Moore, Rob Cummings, Keith Young, Scott Carroll, Darrin Joines, and Bryan Brown, with Tim James joining virtually. Representing TMSAA were Richard McWhirter, Emily Crowell, and Kim Alley.
- II. The Committee was reminded that a Middle School forum will be held on April 15th, 2024 as part of the TIAAA Athletic Directors Conference at the Crowne Plaza in Knoxville, TN.
- III. Committee members reported on the recent Area & Sectional Basketball Tournaments.
  - A. Overall across the state, there were some rescheduling challenges with weather for the Area tournaments, and many Areas and Sectionals reported multiple parent conduct issues and ejections this year.
  - B. The Committee discussed and recommended that TMSAA publish Area & Sectional regulations for all team sports. A summary of those recommendations can be found here:  
<https://cms-files.tssaa.org/documents/tmsaa/TMSAA-Area-Sectional-Regulations-for-Team-Sports.pdf>
- IV. State tournament dates and committee member assignments for organizing sectionals were discussed.
  - A. Golf – TMSAA has partnered with TMSGGA to have a TMSAA Golf State Championships on May 14, 2024. Both TMSAA member middle schools and non-TMSAA middle schools will be allowed to participate, but only TMSAA schools will be eligible for the TMSAA Golf State Championships. The qualifying for this event has been structured so that TMSAA schools will be guaranteed to advance out of both Area and Sectional competitions.
  - B. Baseball/Softball – this State Championship has been moved to Thursday & Friday this year, taking place at Drakes Creek Park in Hendersonville on May 16-17, 2024.
  - C. Track – this State Championship will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville. Qualifying sectional host sites were also discussed, as well as some sectionals implementing benchmark standards (when standards are used, every member school can still enter 1 athlete even if they do not meet the standard); The committee also discussed adding the 4x800m for the next classification cycle.
  - D. Dates and locations were discussed for state championships for the 2024-25 school year and have been published on the TMSAA website here:  
<https://tmsaa.tssaa.org/2425championship-dates>
- V. Volleyball State Format
  - A. The host site for the 2024 state championship still needs to be determined.
  - B. The existing 4 sections will now be divided into 8 subsectionals, with the winner of each subsection advancing to the state championship.

1. The state championship will continue to include pool play and bracket play. The committee suggests looking at a double elimination format for the next classification cycle.
- VI. Classification for cooperative agreements involving more than two schools
- A. The committee recommended cooperative agreements involving more than two schools be moved up to the next classification in state championship sports.
- VII. Future TMSAA State Championship Sports
- A. TMSAA staff have worked to add a state championship in a new sport every few years since beginning state championships at the middle school level in 2015. TMSAA Athletic Directors were surveyed in December about their school's participation in the sports of wrestling and soccer. The survey data was presented to the TMSAA Committee on February 9. The TMSAA Committee voted to recommend the following for the TSSAA Board of Control to consider at its February 28th meeting:
    1. Assuming a host facility can be found and a date agreed upon, a TMSAA Wrestling State Championship should be added for the 2024-25 school year. The target date for this championship is mid-December 2024. The format should be a dual meet championship, with an individual championship offered in girls' wrestling the same weekend. If approved, TMSAA will offer two classes in wrestling and one class in girls' wrestling and will work to have sections and areas set by the end of April 2024.
    2. A state championship in soccer should be added for the 2025-26 school year, with a girls' championship offered in the fall and a boys' championship offered in the spring. If approved, TMSAA will offer two classes in the sport and will work to have sections and areas set by the end of April 2024 so that member schools have one full school year to prepare for how the sport will be structured for postseason qualifying.
- VIII. Midway Middle School - Ten Mile submitted a request to be moved into a different Area in all team sports for the 2024-25 school year. This request was approved, so they will be placed in Class A, Section 2, Area 6 for volleyball, softball, and baseball and in Class A, Section 2, Area 8 for basketball.
- IX. For the Good of the Order
- A. The committee discussed a new model for classification involving taking the 3-year average of a school's 7th grade enrollment.
  - B. The TMSAA office will publish updated classification by May 1, 2024. This will include the volleyball subsections, as well as classes, sections, and areas for wrestling and soccer.
- X. Future TMSAA Committee Meeting Dates
- A. October 1, 2024
  - B. February 14, 2025