

TMSAA Committee Meeting Minutes

4:00pm CT, October 4, 2023

- I. The Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association met at the Williamson County Central Office on October 4, 2023. Committee members in attendance were: Rob Cummings, Jeff Curtis, Chris Burgess, Darrin Joines, Mike Brown, India Weaver, Tim James, and Scott Carroll, with Bryan Brown and Keith Young joining virtually. Representing TMSAA were Richard McWhirter, Emily Crowell, and Kim Alley.
- II. The Committee reviewed changes implemented to the TMSAA Bylaws for the current school year.
- III. The Committee discussed potential changes and recommendations to TMSAA classification and the TMSAA Bylaws, including the following topics:
 - a. Classification for cooperative programs
 - i. The Committee discussed whether schools participating in a cooperative program should have to count the number of 7th graders from the co-oping school in their enrollment numbers for classification in that sport. It was determined that at this time, no one has noticed a competitive advantage for co-oping schools and there is concern that a change to the way co-oping schools are classified could eliminate participation opportunities for schools that do not have enough students to host a team. Committee members will observe the cooperative programs in their areas, but no changes were recommended at this time.
 - b. Repeating Rule
 - i. The Committee discussed both the TSSAA and TMSAA Repeating Rule, but no recommendation to change the rule was made.
 - c. Future classification for championship sports
 - i. Classification is set through the 2024-25 school year, but the Committee discussed whether more classes were needed in any championship sports for the next classification cycle. Sections 1 & 2 noted that in team sports with 2 classes, adding a 3rd class would hurt Area competition. The Committee will revisit this at the February 2024 meeting.
 - d. Discussion on Area tournaments
 - i. The Committee recommended mandating a date by which all Area qualifiers to Sectionals must be determined. TMSAA staff will work on the proper language and location for this to added to either Sport Regulations or the TMSAA Calendar and report back at the February 2024 meeting. TMSAA will share with Committee members which schools from their areas indicated with their membership that they will participate in the postseason to be shared with sectional directors in each sport.
 - e. Sports Calendar

- i. The Committee proposed that the Legislative Council change the TMSAA Sports Calendar to allow 2 days of tryouts during the preseason/offseason in order to select teams and allow for ordering uniforms. In return, the TMSAA first practice date would move to 2 days later.
 - IV. Volleyball Postseason Feedback
 - a. The Committee reported that sectionals in volleyball went mostly smoothly, with the following observations:
 - i. There was a format complaint about the Class A Section 3 subsections. A recommendation was made to TMSAA staff to consider dividing all Sections into subsections and only bringing subsectional winners to state to avoid advancing teams to state that lost their last game.
 - ii. Other sections expressed a desire for a true double-elimination sectional tournament instead of having pool play.
 - iii. A recommendation was made to require the following to be registered officials for the semifinal and final games of the sectional championship:
 - 1. an R1 and R2 (and have each team provide a line judge)
 - OR
 - 2. an R1 and both line judges
 - b. The Committee agreed to observe the first TMSAA Volleyball State Championships over the next two days and report back in February any recommendations for changes.
- V. Cross Country Postseason Feedback
 - a. The Committee recommended increasing the number of qualifiers to the state meet from Area 12 to be the same as from Area 11, to go in effect in 2024.
 - b. The Committee also recommended considering changing to 6 sections for the next classification cycle.
- VI. Basketball Postseason Updates
 - a. The Committee reviewed sectional brackets and deadlines for advancing teams from each area to the sectional. Committee members will be sharing their sectional brackets with TMSAA staff in the coming weeks for adding to the TMSAA website.
 - b. The Basketball State Championships will be held at Rutherford County Schools on February 9-10, 2024.
- VII. Baseball/Softball Postseason
 - a. TMSAA Staff informed the Committee that the 2024 Baseball & Softball State Championships have been moved to Thursday and Friday (May 16-17, 2024). These championships will again be held at Drakes Creek Park in Hendersonville.

VIII. Track Postseason

- a. A recommendation was made to split the Section 2 Meet (previously hosted in Maryville) into either two sites or two days due to the time it took to complete the meet.
- b. The Committee was reminded that the limit of 3 events for middle school track athletes is an NFHS Track Rule and TMSAA follows all NFHS sport rules.
- c. A Committee member will submit to the TSSAA Track Committee in December a proposal to add the 4x800m relay to TMSAA Track & Field. Committee members were reminded that schools can choose to run that event (or any other event in the NFHS Track Rules Book) in regular season events even though it is not a TMSAA Track & Field State Championship event.

IX. Tennis, Cheer/Dance, and Golf

- a. USTA Tennessee hosted a Middle School Tennis State Championship September 30-October 1, but TMSAA will meet with their Board and staff to better align this championship with other TMSAA state championships
- b. TGF Junior Golf will offer a Middle School Golf State Championship this May. TMSAA member schools that play golf in the spring will be eligible to participate as school teams. TMSAA member schools that play golf in the fall or winter would have to compete as an independent team.
- c. The TSSAA/TMSAA Cheer & Dance State Championships had limited entries this year due to construction at the host venue. Committee members expressed a desire for TMSAA staff to explore running a separate TMSAA Cheer & Dance State Championship that did not involve Varsity/UCA/UDA and bids to nationals.

X. Championships

- a. Committee members discussed adding a TMSAA state championship to future sports.
 - i. Committee members discussed how one of the goals of introducing championships at the middle school level is to grow high school participation through increased participation at an earlier age.
 - ii. Both dual and individual wrestling was discussed, with pros and cons for both. Adding another winter sport championship was determined to be important. Committee members recommended surveying member schools and TMSAA wrestling coaches to determine if they would prefer a team or individual format for a state championship. Girls' wrestling would need to be included.
 - iii. A soccer state championship would need to have girls' soccer in the fall and boys' soccer in the spring. TMSAA needs to collect more information regarding what season the membership plays each sport.
 - iv. A bowling state championship could potentially be held in conjunction with the high school state championship. One

Committee member noted how adding middle school bowling had expanded participation at the high school level and offered participation opportunities to middle school students that do not play any other sport.

- XI. The next TMSAA Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, February 9th, 2024 at 11:00am at Stewarts Creek Middle School. The membership is encouraged to to contact their TMSAA Committee member or the state office if there is a topic they feel needs to be addressed at this meeting.