

## **Notices of Motion as of April 24, 2013**

### **1. Wildcards (Automatic Berths)**

**WHEREAS:** All teams, in all sports spend the length of their season trying to peak towards their perspective Provincial Championships,

**AND WHEREAS:** the intent of any Provincial Championship is to have the best teams/players represented from throughout the province in each of the four categories,

**AND WHEREAS:** Automatic berths, in the A, AA, AAA categories are at the discretion of those who have only a seasonal record to discriminate, and often games early in the season are used to determine “who is more deserving” as opposed to taking into account improvement throughout the season and strength of schedule,

**AND WHEREAS:** teams who do qualify through their respective zones are often forced to participate in an interzone game effectively costing those substantial dollars through travel costs, while teams awarded automatic berths experience no extra costs,

**AND WHEREAS:** awarding an automatic berth is purely a subjective decision compared to having the teams decide the outcome of who qualifies for provincials on the playing field.

**AND WHEREAS:** Implementing a system whereby all teams must qualify through competition would be the most equitable and should provide the Championships with the best participating teams at the end of the season,

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the automatic wildcard berth in the A, AA, AAA categories be eliminated and that all teams (other than the host) participating in a provincial championship be there through qualification, either by winning their zone, inter-zone or a wildcard game.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** In the case when fewer teams apply than there are wildcard spots available, the maximum number of wildcard games shall be played, while the number of teams receiving the “automatic berth” shall be the minimum possible number.

Submitted by Zone 9

## **2. JV Championships**

**WHERE AS:** The JV Provincial Championships are currently set up into two categories - A/AA & AAA/AAAA

**AND WHERE AS:** this format has set up a system by which the play at these championships has been both inequitable and lower in quality,

**BE IT RESOLVED: The JV Provincials for volleyball and basketball be converted back to the former Urban and Rural categories.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that schools in the AAAA category be automatically considered an urban school.

**RATIONALE:** The current format has “watered down” the level of play in both categories.

**RATIONALE:** A number of urban schools are not able to qualify for the championships due to reserving spots for AAA schools outside of the urban areas.

**RATIONALE:** Under the current system, AAA schools have no place to play where they can be competitive.

**RATIONALE:** The current system has created an AA & AAAA JV championship.

**RATIONALE:** There are only a few A schools that have enough players to run a JV program, making the A/AA a very weak tournament

Submitted by Zone 9

## **3. Junior Varsity Volleyball and Basketball Provincial Championships**

**Whereas:** Following the 2011 MHSAA AGM the format for the Provincial Championships changed from an Urban Championship and Rural Championship to A/AA and AAA/AAAA

**Whereas:** The format that existed for 2011-13 resulted in some teams that were legitimate provincial contenders not being able to compete in the provincial championships.

**Whereas:** There were teams who were in the AAA/AAAA provincial championships that were not able to compete at that level.

**Whereas:** The format change has created a similar situation that A/AA teams had to contend with in the past for AAA teams.

**Whereas:** Providing appropriate competition for schools of all categories is important for the membership of MHSAA.

**Be it resolved:** that for the 2014-15 school year a third category of competition be added to the Junior Varsity provincial championships for AAA schools thereby offering three levels of competition for schools to participate in – A/AA, AAA, AAAA.

**MHSAA Note** Re Financial Implication: Adding four more Championships would result in an approximate cost of \$14,000.00 which would result in a per school Zone membership fee **increase of approximately \$80.00 per school.**

There are also concerns regarding referee availability as we are currently stretched to the limit in available officials', thus the dates might have to be moved earlier by a week or two for JV competitions. Concern is also with the demand on human resources. It is getting more difficult to get schools to hosts currently and adding 4 more Provincial Championships would cause a greater strain. MHSAA office staff is also getting stretched to the max, as over the years, we have added a complete new classification, added JV championships and the staffing component has not increased. We may have to look at adding more staff which will result in increased fees to the membership.

Submitted by Zone 9, 11 and Zone 14

#### **4. Volleyball Championship Date Changes**

##### **Current**

Dates for AAAA Volleyball Provincials

- Regionals are set for the second last weekend in November
- Final 4 are set for the last weekend in November

##### **Proposed**

Dates for **AAAA Volleyball Provincials**

- Regionals to be set the last weekend in November
- Final 4 to be set the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in December
- To take effect 2014-15

##### **Rational**

- The original dates for the AAAA Provincial Championships were set at the proposed dates for many years until schools began opening the last week of August. At that time the Provincial

dates were moved from December to the last weekend in November due to the earlier school start-up. The government's policy for the past number of years was to always start school the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September. To date the dates of the Provincial volleyball championships have not been moved to coincide with the change in school start up.

- In the present format most schools have a only 1 - 2 weeks available to prepare their teams for the start of the zone leagues

Submitted by Zone 2

## **5. Change of Championship Volleyball and Basketball System for A/AA/AAA**

**WHEREAS:** There are more spots in the A/AA/AAA Basketball Championships, than are currently being filled through qualification by teams winning their way in,

**AND WHEREAS:** automatic wildcard berths to the championships are being awarded to teams in large part because more wildcard spots are available than teams applying for them,

**AND WHEREAS:** currently teams are qualifying to participate for provincials by losing their zone and / or inter-zone games

**BE IT RESOVLED:** That in the A/AA/AAA categories, MHSAA adopt a system of Provincial Championships for Volleyball and Basketball whereby the championships would be a "Final Four" competition,

Volleyball adopt a 4 team round-robin, with 1<sup>st</sup>/2nd playoff for gold medal, and 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> playoff for bronze medal.

Basketball adopt a 4-team playoff, Semi-final winners playoff for Gold Medal, Semi-final losers playoff for Bronze Medal.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** Qualification for this Championship only be attained by winning one of three qualifying tournaments held throughout the province two weekends prior to the Provincial Championship.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** Participating teams in the Qualifying Championships shall be determined by provincial ranking / seeding and not geography.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** teams finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Qualification Championships, still have the right to advance to a Wildcard Tournament the weekend prior to Provincials.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** this format change takes place for the 2014-15 school year.

**MHSAA Comment:** This motion is quite confusing, and does not give any direction as to formats. It would probably result in each team being assessed an entry fee of \$150.00-\$200.00 each to cover the added number of games. When the format is finalized, a Zone membership fee or entry fee will be announced and schools will be assessed. There is a concern also in regards to human and financial resources in hosting and strain on MHSAA office for co-ordination of the qualifiers.

## 6. Basketball Format Change

### Basketball

#### Formats& Rules page 87

##### Current:

- A) "AAA" Format – Eight (8) girls and Eight (8) boy's teams. The boys and girls championship will use the same format. All teams guaranteed two games, with a consolation side and third place game.

##### Proposed:

- A) **"AAA" Format – *Ten (10)* girls and *Ten (10)* boy's teams. The boys and girls championship will use the same format. All teams guaranteed two games, with a consolation side and third place game.**

##### Rational:

**Whereas** an increase from 8 teams to 10 teams at the AAA Provincial Basketball Championships would increase the chances of deserving teams being able to participate.

**Whereas** 10 teams participate in AAA Provincial Volleyball Championships,

**Whereas** 10 and 12 teams participate in AA and AAAA Provincial Basketball and Volleyball Championships respectively,

**Whereas** the present 8 team format often provides for only one wildcard spot at the AAA Provincial Basketball Championships for deserving teams,

**Therefore Be It Resolved That** the AAA Provincial Basketball Championships be expanded to involve 10 girls and boys teams.

**Be it Further Resolved That** this change come into effect for the 2014-15 school year.

Note on the financial implications to the MHSAA should the Motion pass:

With a 10 team draw (assuming we use the same format as was used in the 2009 and 2010 Championships) there would be 4 extra games for each Championship. This would add referee costs for 8 extra games. No additional cost to MHSAA for awards or banners. It would be safe to assume that with 4 extra teams and 8 extra games there would also be additional gate monies coming to MHSAA.

Submitted by Zone 2

### FAQ of Motion

1. Will this motion result in two games being played on one day?  
Yes - but the games could be separated by at least 7 hours which is typical for any Saturday tournament during the regular season. (Similar to AA Basketball Championship Schedule 2011)
2. Were there any deserving teams that did not get to go to the AAA Provincial Basketball Championships?

Yes - in the 2012 -13 season girls' teams ranked (as of Feb 21) # 1 and # 6 played off for one spot and #7 #9 did not get a wild card game. Boy's teams ranked (as of Feb 21) # 3 and #9 played for one spot and #4 and #6 played off for one spot. This resulted in three boys' in the top ten (#4, #9, and #10) and three girls' teams in the top ten (#6, #7and #9) not getting a chance to compete at the AAA Provincial Basketball Championships.

Yes - in the 2011-12 season girls' teams ranked #6 and #9 played for one spot and the boys' team ranked #2 got an automatic spot. This resulted in three girls' teams in the top 10 (#6, #8, and #10) and three boys' teams in the top 10 (#3, #8, and #10) not getting a chance to compete at the AAA Provincial Basketball Championships.

Yes - in the 2010 -11 season girls' teams ranked #3 #4 #5 and #10 (as of Feb 9) played off for one spot and boys' ranked #2 #4 #6 and #8 (as of Feb 9) had to play off for one spot. This resulted in three boys' in the top eight (#2, #6, and #8) and two girls' teams in the top five (#4 and #5) not getting a chance to compete at the AAA Provincial Basketball Championships.

3. What percentages of school teams make the Provincial Basketball Championships in the "A" "AA" "AAA" and "AAAA" categories?

According to the MHSAA basketball teams registering for the 2012-13 season were as follows:  
In "A" There were 33 Boy's teams registered and 29 Girl's teams registered. This means 30% of the Boy's teams (10/33) and 34% of Girl's teams (12/29) make Provincials.

In "AA" There were 30 Boy's teams registered and 26 Girl's teams registered. This means 33% of the Boy's teams (10/30) and 38% of Girl's teams (10/26) make Provincials.

In "AAAA" There are 40 "AAAA" schools but only 26 Boys teams play Tier 1 and only 22 Girls teams play Tier 1. This means 46% of the Boy's teams (12/26) and 54% of Girl's teams (12/22) make Provincials.

In "AAA" There were 30 Boy's teams registered and 30 Girl's teams registered. This means 26% of the Boy's teams (8/30) and 26% of Girl's teams (8/30) make Provincials.

## **7. Policy Change Regarding Volleyball Uniforms**

### **Policy:**

**Rules and Regulations** - Equipment 4.3.4 (Volleyball Canada Rulebook page 22).

Please note the MHSAA handbook states on page 73 (section 2. Formats & Rules Subsection B. Rules) that "the playing rules of Volleyball Canada shall govern the competition unless specified below. Special playing rules approved by the MHSAA will take precedent over rules in the official rulebook." This is why the Volleyball Canada rule is listed above.

### **Current:**

The team captain must have on his/her jersey a strip of 8 X 2 cm underlining the number on the chest.

### **Proposed:**

**A captain's bar is not required on a player's uniform. This rule would begin to apply in the 2013/2014 high school season.**

### **Rationale:**

Many schools are the suppliers of the uniforms to their volleyball teams during the high school season (ie. the athletes often do not purchase their own uniforms). Placing a permanent captain's bar on a uniform does not readily allow for a change in captaincy from year to year as the uniform may not fit the

next captain; it does not allow you to change or share captaincy during the season; the number of the uniform which has the permanent bar may not be that of the current captain; et cetera.

Officials are capable of remembering who the floor captain is if the designated captain is ever substituted off the floor (for example) and they are able to do so without any form of transferable bar/markings. Also not all volleyball leagues require the use of a captain's bar (the CIS men's league for example) and the officials do not have problems with identifying and remembering the correct individual. This shows that a captain's bar is not necessary.

In order to avoid unnecessary warnings (both with and without penalty) and the added hassle it has for the schools that purchase their team uniforms, it seems logical to just remove the requirement of a captain's bar all together and make it a special playing rule for MHSAA as mentioned above.

Financial Implications to MHSAA/Member Schools:

None.

Submitted by Zone 2

## **8. Hockey Championship Date Change**

1) Hockey, AA and AAAA Provincials, Page 82 in the handbook

**Current:** AA and AAAA hockey Championships March 7, 8 and 9 and March 8, 9 and 10

**Proposed:** **AA hockey championships be held one week earlier**

**Rationale:** Currently the Hockey Championships and JV Basketball Championships are held on the same weekend which has some athletes qualifying for both championships.

This is a busy weekend already for provincial playdowns. Spread them out over a two weekends.

Hockey is a longer season so it would make sense to move its Championship ahead one week.

This will keep JV Basketball Provincials on one week with the Varsity Basketball Provincials the following week.

Submitted by Zone 6