

MPA Ad Hoc Committee on Athletic Policy

The committee met on December 17, 2008. Their recommendations will be forwarded to member schools on December 19. Member schools will be asked to respond and the Interscholastic Management Committee (IMC) will address that input, together with the committee recommendations, at their January 26, 2009 meeting. The IMC has the full authority to act on behalf of the membership.

- **Maximum Countable Competitions:** Decrease the maximum number of countable competitions policy by two if the present number is 12 or more, and by one if the present number is 10 or fewer. Proposed maximums are followed in parenthesis by present numbers.

Fall	Winter	Spring
Cross Country 8 (9)	Basketball 16 (18)	Baseball 14 (16)
Field Hockey 12 (14)	Ice Hockey 16 (18)	Softball 14 (16)
Football 8 (9)	Skiing 10 (12)	Lacrosse 10 (12)
Golf 9 (10)	Track (Indoor) 7 (8)	Tennis 10 (12)
Soccer 12 (14)	Wrestling 15 (18)	Track (Outdoor) 7 (8)
Volleyball 12 (14)	(2 preseason, 13 regular)	

- **Sport Season Policy:** Due to the expense for many schools of renting swimming pools and ice hockey arenas, the length of the winter sports season for swim and ice hockey would be decreased by one week. The first possible practice date would be delayed by one week as would the opening date for countable games.
- **Non-Countable dates:** All sports would be limited to two non-countable dates. This includes all scrimmages, exhibition games, preseason and holiday tournaments, etc. **Exception:** In Heal point sports where there are preliminary rounds, any qualifying team not playing in the preliminary round may play one additional scrimmage, exhibition, or conference championship game occurring between the last countable game and the round of games following the preliminary round.
- **Qualifying for Post Season Play:** In all Heal point sports, 50% of the teams will qualify for post season play. (Odd number of teams will be rounded up. Example: 17 teams, 9 qualify.) The MPA Basketball Committee is urged to consider moving preliminary games to the tournament sites (Bangor, Augusta & Portland).

- **Officials' Fees and Travel:** A two-year moratorium will be proposed to all officials' groups regarding game fees and travel.
- **New England Competition:** Maine would withdraw from the Council of New England Secondary School Principals' Associations (CNESSPA) competitions.
- **MPA Policy:** These changes would become MPA policy without sunset provisions, effective with the 2009-2010 school year with two exceptions. The Qualifying for Post-Season Play rule and the Maximum Countable Competitions rule would be effective with the 2009 Spring Sport Season.

The committee encourages the MPA, leagues, conferences, coaches associations, etc to review policies regarding travel related issues such as coaches meetings, all-star selections, all-star dinners, etc. to ensure the best possible use of school funds. The committee further urges non-school athletic entities to respond in a financially responsible manner as well.

Finally, the committee recognizes that the current economic situation may lead to additional emphasis on fund raising and booster club involvement. We strongly urge schools and school districts to retain strong institutional controls over the fund raising, accounting process, and approval of expenditures of funds.

Ad Hoc Committee Members

Bob Stevens, Chair	York H. S. Principal
Butch Arthers	Belfast H. S. Principal
Gwen Bacon	Messalonskee H. S. Principal
Linda Bleile (President-elect)	Wiscasset M. S. Principal
Becky Bubar	Brewer H. S. Principal
Pat Doyle	Oak Hill H. S. Principal
Mike Eastman	Sumner H. S. Principal
Linda Mackenzie	Valley H. S. Principal
Mary Martin (President)	Elm Street School, Mechanic Falls
Mark Eastman	MSAD #17 Superintendent
Frank Keenan	Easton Schools Superintendent
Marty Bouchard	Official and Houlton H. S. Principal
Allan Snell	Official and Orrington Superintendent
Gordie Salls	Sanford H. S. Ath. Admin.
Matt Larsen	Deer Isle Stonington H. S. Ath. Admin.