MCAC Volleyball Meeting Notes:

With the addition of Century College to the Southern Division volleyball schedule of the Minnesota College Athletic Conference, the coaches discussed the need for a review of MCAC Volleyball code as it relates to scheduling.

In that MCAC Southern Division programs added two additional Divisional matches, they 'lost' two non-conference scheduling opportunities. A discussion ensured that the Southern Division colleges would like to request two additional dates to maintain their ability to play important non-conference matches which would help them in the at-large bid opportunities and for national ranking consideration.

Further discussion ensued that an imbalance would occur if Southern Division colleges moved to 24 dates, while Northern Division colleges remained at 22.

Therefore, a motion to increase the MCAC competition schedule limit in volleyball from 22 dates to 24 dates was made and was seconded.

The motion passed by the coaches in attendance (9-6).

Therefore, a motion to increase the MCAC competition schedule limit in volleyball from 22 dates to 24 dates, as voted by the coaches, is presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

The volleyball coaches discussed the 2020 fall season starting date for pre-season practices and first date of competition.

The first discussion thread included the concept of moving to the NJCAA Division III volleyball starting date of August 1. That motion was unsuccessful.

The discussion then moved to an appropriate MCAC date, considering facility access, MCAC Crossover tournament, adequate preparation for season, etc.

A motion was made to establish August 5th as the first day of pre-season practice and to establish August 21st as the first date for contest.

Therefore, a motion to establish August 5th as the first day of 2020 pre-season practice and to establish August 21st as the first date for contests is presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

The volleyball coaches discussed the format by which All-Division and All-State honorees are selected in the MCAC Divisions.

Discussion topics between both the Conference office and the coaches included:

- Concerns over 'sandbagging' in voting.
- Role of Conference stats vs Overall Season stats in consideration.
- Challenges in a comprehensive and fair nomination & voting process.
- Challenges in a timely nomination and voting process.
- Acknowledgement of the several 'layers' of awards in recognizing the same athletes.
- Evaluation of All-Conference, All-Division awards processes used by other sports/conference.
- Acknowledgement that having un-equal number of teams by Division needs to be addressed in All-Division, All-State teams.

After a lengthy discussion, the suggestion was made for coaches to circle back to the group via email later in the year with a proposal(s) for consideration by the group.

The Conference office will work with coaches who have interest in proposing alternatives to the current All-Division process.

The volleyball coaches discussed the situation presented by the expansion of the NJCAA Division III volleyball tournament to 12 teams.

Discussion topics between both the Conference office and the coaches included:

- If / when the four new slots would move from automatic qualification to 'at-large' bids.
- Role of non-conference opponents in qualification for national tournament & weekly polls.
- Need for transparency at the national committee level, as post-season proposals seem to change and 'morph' as they work through committees and groups. It was originally thought that the four new slots would be At-Large

After a significant discussion, the suggestion was made for coaches to monitor this situation through the Region and national office communications.

The Conference office will work with coaches and administrators as Region meetings approach in spring if bylaw changes for post-season are to be considered.

Noted by Conference office to coaches group as to the formation of a MCAC-wide committee of coaches to review and, if needed, recommend changes to women's sports post-season tournaments.

Solicitation of coaches interested in nominating or serving was taken; emails will be sent advising the group of times and agendas to be forthcoming.