

# Fall. Fridays. Football.

The Scholastic Fabric That Weaves Communities Together



Fall 2017 Vol. 9 No. 1

benchmarks  
mhssa



I have a  
story...



I have a  
story...



I have a  
story...



I have a  
story...

We tell their stories

**SECOND HALF**

by MHSAA



# Cover Story: Fall. Fridays. Football.



**4** Friday night high school football across the country offers a slice of Americana at a time when other fabrics in our land are becoming frayed. The game has survived challenges for decades, including the proliferation of televised college football on these sacred autumn evenings.

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## The Vault - 16

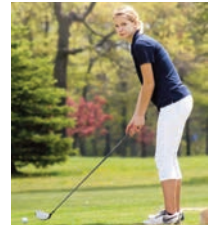
### Saving Our Friday Nights

A campaign from 2001 called for the saving of prep Friday nights, and the crusade can be of equal importance nearly two decades later.



## State of Play - 28

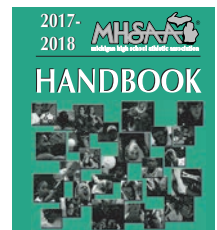
19 sports bested the state's overall national participation ranking of eighth by placing seventh or higher on their respective lists. Boys and Girls Golf helped lead the way.



## Regulations Review - 36

### Preseason Checkup

It's a new school year! Highlighting the significant changes in store for the 2017-18 school year.



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## Welcome to Our House

There is no less opportunity to help student-athletes mature into positive people in one sport than another or on one day or night of the week compared to others. That is an unshakable truth of educational athletics.

But that truth has not diminished the efforts of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, time and again for decades, to protest encroachment on Friday night high school football by both professional and college sports. The reasons go far beyond football and Friday nights.

Done right, as it very often is in very many Michigan communities, Friday night is a festival that engages far more than the football team and its fans. It is a forum for showcasing a variety of school activities:

- A volleyball-football doubleheader with a community barbeque in between.
- A cross country run starting and/or ending at the football stadium with the roar of the crowd.
- A showcase for the marching band and a variety of other musical groups to perform, as well as cheerleaders and pompon squads.
- An opportunity for all school groups to provide information booths so students and parents may become aware of these student programs and initiatives.
- An opportunity to announce results of golf, tennis and swimming meets and provide the upcoming schedule of events, both athletic and non-athletic.

Done right, 30 to 70 percent or more of a school's student body has an active part at most Friday night football games.

It has been said that the interscholastic athletic program provides a window to the entire school – to what it stands for and how it operates. If so, then Friday night football games are the front porch – a place for the entire school body and surrounding community to feel welcomed and to become more engaged.

Football players aren't the only students who benefit from the spotlight on Friday nights in the fall. From marching bands to spirit groups and other fall sport participants, a high percentage of the student body can play an active role for their school on a weekly basis.



**John E. "Jack" Roberts**  
MHSAA Executive Director



## Welcome Back! Here's What's Happening

### What's Happening at the MHSAA? We'll Tell You

There's no better opportunity to stay in touch regarding new developments within the MHSAA and hone your administrative skills than to attend one of the annual AD In-Service/Update Meetings each autumn in a neighboring community. The gatherings also give members a chance to offer face-to-face feedback, and also provide the MHSAA with valuable data through the annual Update Meeting Opinion Polls. **It is expected** that all athletic directors attend an In-Service and an Update Meeting each fall.

Beginning Sept. 20 in Kalamazoo and ending Oct. 27 in Marquette, the month-long tour literally spans the state to keep constituents informed and educated.

The cost per person is \$12 for the In-Service only; \$20 for the Update Meeting only; \$30 for combined sessions. Following are the dates and locations. In-Services begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Update Meetings at noon, except for the Oct. 27 session as noted below.



- Wednesday, Sept. 20 – Kalamazoo (Four Points by Sheraton)
- Monday, Sept. 25 – Warren (DeCarlo's Banquet/Convention)
- Wednesday, Sept. 27 – Frankenmuth (Zehnder's)
- Monday, Oct. 2 – Comstock Park (English Hills Country Club)
- Monday, Oct. 9 – Gaylord (Otsego Club & Resort)
- Wednesday, Oct. 11 – Lansing (Causeway Bay) – Annual Business Meeting
- Friday, Oct. 27 – Marquette (Superior Dome, 10 a.m. – Update Meeting only; no fee or meal)



Registration forms can be accessed from the Administrators page of MHSAA.com, or downloaded to your mobile device by scanning the code above right.

### CAP a Requirement for Head Coaches

Each head coach of a varsity team hired for the first time as a high school head varsity coach at any MHSAA member high school after July 31, 2016 shall have completed either Level 1 or Level 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP). If the head coach does not complete CAP Level 1 or 2 prior to the established deadline, that coach shall be prohibited from coaching in that season's MHSAA tournament. The Regulation reads as follows:



#### MHSAA Handbook Regulation II, Section 3(C)

Each head coach of a varsity team in an MHSAA tournament sport hired for the first time as a high school varsity head coach at any MHSAA member high school after July 31, 2016 shall have completed either Level 1 or Level 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP). If the head coach does not complete CAP Level 1 or 2 prior to the established deadline, that coach shall be prohibited from coaching in that season's MHSAA tournament for the sport involved and shall not be present at the facility where the MHSAA tournament involving that coach's team is being held. See Regulation II, Section 15 H(4). An administrator or faculty member designee of that school shall be present with supervisory capacity over the school's competitors. Failure to receive reminder notifications (email or other) does not change the requirement of this Section. The MHSAA may substitute an alternative coach's education program for late hires which will fulfill the requirement on a temporary basis.

#### The deadlines are:

Fall: September 14, 2017 | Winter: December 14, 2017 | Spring: April 12, 2018



**A**t a time when so many everyday distractions, mediums and changing ideals tear at the fabric of a cohesive society, school sports still offers a huge slice of Americana that continues to bond neighbors and promote community like few others can: high school football on Friday nights.

And now, that, too, is being threatened. Once “the only game in town,” prep football lights shone brightest on local kids playing on nearby fields while generating business for merchants on Main Street and providing inexpensive family entertainment. Friday nights were reserved for high schools.

In recent years, however, the lure of TV dollars led to a wave of universities which could not compete with the perennial powerhouses for exposure on Saturdays, shifting games to all nights of the week. For the most part, they steered clear of Fridays, respecting the hand that feeds their programs.

Not so anymore.

ESPN began to schedule and televise NCAA Friday night games in 2002 and last November things really hit home when the Big Ten announced a slate of games for Friday nights this fall.

Protecting Friday nights is paramount, and as the following pages illustrate, the MHSAA is not alone in its fight.

# FALL. FRIDAYS. FOOTBALL.



Courtesy Oxford High School

It's difficult to project the effect that such scheduling will have on MHSAA football games, but to borrow an axiom from the go-to book of coaches quotes, it will be prudent to take things one play at a time, one week at a time.

"The Big Ten Conference and other collegiate leagues enjoy high school football within their shadows; but the foray into Friday nights can be problematic," said MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts.

"With lengthier seasons which now reach 12 games – and 13 weeks if there is a bye week – the collegiate seasons extend well into postseason play for the MHSAA and other state associations. Clearly there is a concern when some traditional collegiate rivalries occupy the same dates as high school championships."

It looked like things would become much worse this year. Originally, Michigan State was scheduled to play at Northwestern on Oct. 27, potentially keeping countless Green and White enthusiasts in front of their televisions during the most pivotal financial weekend of the fall for the MHSAA: the first Friday of the Football Playoffs.

That game was moved to Saturday due to "unintended consequences" had the game remained on Friday. Northwestern also had a Friday tilt against Maryland moved to a Saturday.

So, already things have changed since the first announcement of Friday games by the Big Ten last November.

While there are six Friday games on the Big Ten docket for this Fall, five are in September, including two on Labor Day weekend.

– continued next page

Labor Day Friday games have played out in the MHSAA's back yard for quite some time, as MSU often hosted such season-opening contests. Those games, however, seldom created conflicts due to most high schools playing on Thursdays leading into the holiday weekend.

This year was no different, with 215 games involving MHSAA schools being played on Thursday, Aug. 31, compared to 58 on Friday, Sept. 1, and five on Saturday, Sept. 2.

Further, it should be noted that neither the University of Michigan nor MSU will have a Friday night game during 2017, largely because administrators at those schools voiced strong objections to hosting any of the Friday night contests.

Similar sentiments are shared throughout the league.

"I'm very concerned about (Friday night games)," said first-year Indiana University Head Coach Tom Allen at the Big Ten preseason media gathering this summer. "I'm not going to sit here and try and make a big issue in terms of what I think. My history as a high school coach for 15 years is strong. It's who I am, it's how I started, and it's been so many years.

"I think that's a special night. I don't like playing games on Friday night. I think that's high school night. It's not always my decision. But I'm not going to just not tell you what I believe."

During a May conference involving administrators from midwest high school associations and the Big Ten, several collegiate stakeholders voiced opinions favoring the high school spotlight on Friday nights.

MSU Athletic Director Mark Hollis made it known that his school would agree to Friday nights only on Labor Day or Thanksgiving weekends. Michigan Head Coach Jim Harbaugh proclaimed to local radio stations that day that, "I'm for traditional Saturdays. Friday is for high school games."

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*"I think that's a special night. I don't like playing games on Friday night. I think that's high school night. It's not always my decision. But I'm not going to just not tell you what I believe." — First-Year Indiana University Head Coach Tom Allen*

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Decades ago, a million dollar offer by the NCAA to the NFHS which would allow for televised collegiate games on Friday nights was turned down (see box on next page).

Additionally, the NFL is barred by law from televising games on Fridays and Saturdays from mid-September through mid-December to avoid conflict with high school or NCAA games.

The landscape began to change with the formation of the College Football Association, a group formed by many of the American colleges with top-level college football programs in order to negotiate contracts with TV networks to televise football games. It was formed in 1977 by 63 schools from most of the major college football conferences and also select schools whose football programs were independent of any conference.

By 1982, a CFA legal challenge led to a 1984 Federal court decision that dissolved the NCAA's exclusive control over television rights, allowing athletic conferences, independent schools and others to bargain for contracts.

As games now run rampant across TV screens and weekly calendars like tumbleweeds in the wild, wild west, could there finally be enough backlash to lasso this runaway horse?

The American Football Coaches Association – comprised of coaches from high schools to the pro ranks – unanimously opined in January at its annual convention that the NCAA should refrain from scheduling Friday night contests.

John Johnson, Okemos





## Fighting a Ravenous Beast

*“From the Director” blog - Sept. 23, 2016*

There continues to be among high school athletic administrators a great gnashing of teeth over encroachment of televised college football on the Friday night turf that long tradition reserves for high school football games. Little by little and year by year, college games drift to all times of the day and all days of the week, and Friday night is no longer hallowed ground for the high school game alone.

The Friday night intercollegiate fare remains mostly irrelevant games by second tier teams, but televised nonetheless because of the overabundance of production entities and networks seeking live sports events. But high school leadership is right to be on guard.

Known to very few people is a million dollar offer in the 1970s by then NCAA Executive Director Walter Byers to the National Federation of State High School Associations if it would not oppose televised college football games on Friday nights. Clifford Fagan, then executive director of the National Federation, declined the offer from his good friend; and the mutual respect these two men enjoyed brought an end to the negotiation.

Then, as now, the National Football League was prohibited by law (part of its anti-trust exception) from televising games on Friday nights and Saturdays from mid-September through mid-December where the broadcast would conflict with a live high school or college game. Under Byers, and until the NCAA lost control of intercollegiate football broadcasting as a result of a legal challenge by what was then called the College Football Association, college football leadership voluntarily gave high school football the same deference on Friday nights that the NFL did under federal law.

Today, major college football is such a ravenous revenue beast that it will schedule play at any time on any day in any location, televising every game – on college conference-controlled networks if the matchup is not attractive enough for national or even regional broadcasts. The Friday night high school football tradition can expect to be trampled as college football swarms and grunts around the feed trough like hungry hogs.

AFCA Executive Director Todd Berry issued a strong statement at the winter meeting, saying, “It was unanimous among all levels of coaches that the AFCA is in support of protecting Friday night for our high schools. We recognize the impact of having college football games on Friday night for our spectators, along with those viewing on television, can be significant. The AFCA feels very strongly that Friday night should be protected, not just for football, because the revenues generated by those high school football game ticket sales impact everything at those high schools such as other sports and organizations.”

That rings true not only from school to school, but also across state associations around the country which, like the MHSAA, depend upon football tournament attendance as one of the main sources of income from which to fund other programs throughout the year.

While the Big Ten’s announcement to increase Friday night television appearances has just recently brought glaring attention to the subject here at home, the unpopular trend has been affecting areas around the country for years now.

The year 2001 was a landmark year of sorts for collegiate football telecasts, when the Mountain West Conference, Conference USA and the Mid-American Conference sought to gain exposure by scheduling Friday night contests. While it was long after the deregulation of 1984 and faced opposition from larger conferences such as the

SEC, there was no legal ground to stand on for conferences then wishing to ban Friday night telecasts.

Even the larger conferences then – in certain extenuating circumstances – began to utilize Friday nights as an option.

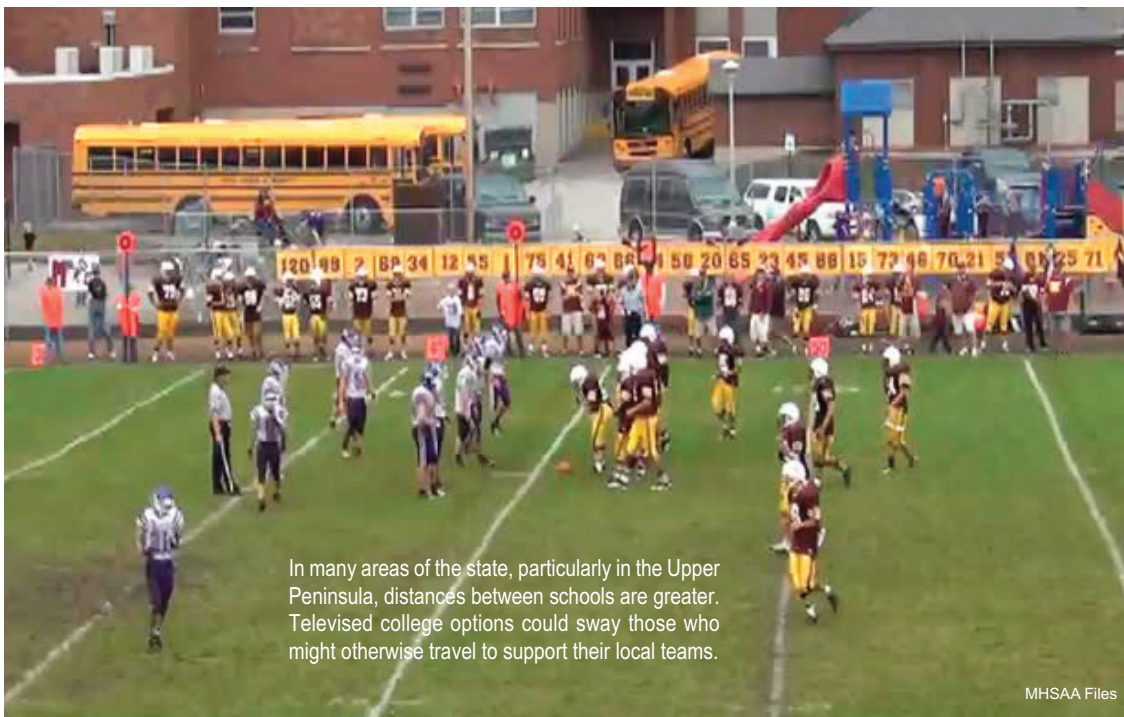
In 2003, the Michigan-Minnesota football game was moved to Friday night to avoid a potential conflict with Major League Baseball in which the Minnesota Twins could have hosted a playoff game on that particular Saturday.

At the time, Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delaney said, “The Conference and the Administrators Council regret having to reschedule football games to a Friday night. The Big Ten continues to support the protection of Friday night as a traditional high school football playing date.”

One year later, a high-profile contest between Florida State and Miami was moved to Friday night when several storms hit the area. The problem was, no one from the universities or the Atlantic Coast Conference bothered to inform the Florida High School Athletic Association ahead of time.

“In our opinion, (the decision) demonstrates their complete lack of sensitivity to our high school athletic programs, many of which are reeling financially due to the effects of hurricanes Charley and Frances,” said then-FHSAA Commissioner Robert Hughes said. “Most of our schools depend on the revenue from home foot-

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In many areas of the state, particularly in the Upper Peninsula, distances between schools are greater. Televised college options could sway those who might otherwise travel to support their local teams.

MHSAA Files

ball games to fund their entire athletic programs throughout the school year. Now, we find out that our schools will have to compete for an audience with the primetime telecast of arguably the biggest college football game that will played this year in this state.”

After watching in increasing number of games fill the prime Saturday slots and spill onto other days of the week, the Big Ten decided to modify its “Fridays are for high schools” stance, embarking on a path that will last until at least 2022.

The news release accompanying the decision stated that the conference, “appreciates the significance of high school football within the region and has worked to minimize the impact of this initiative by limiting the number of Friday night games. Overall, these games represent approximately six percent of Big Ten home games annually, and no institution will host more than one game in any given year.”

It’s that top-down communication that doesn’t sit well with those involved in high school sports, the very level that the colleges count on to supply the talent pool. In that regard, the Friday night collegiate games don’t make sense.

“We have so many more teams in the Big Ten that trying to find those windows that allow you to get that exposure for the whole league is important,” MSU’s Hollis has told reporters.

It’s not just the college football power conferences that have an effect on high school gridirons. Any city or town which includes a college campus shares a similar fan base.

– continued on page 10

## Crystal Ball

*The following from Bob Becker of the Grand Rapids Press in 2001 was just one of the accurate forecasts as the college game crept into Friday nights.*

“The Mountain West, the Western Athletic and Conference USA will be plowing new ground next fall, and in this copy-cat world, if what they are going to do catches on, who knows where it will end.

“Most high school fans won't lose any sleep over this announcement, but prep coaches who have been around awhile will give it some thought because they know that colleges are bandwagon driven.

“If something works in one place, everybody else wants to give it a try.

“I don't expect that we'll lose a lot of local attendance because UNLV is playing Colorado State on ESPN. But if everybody else signs, and ESPN starts waving nationaltype dollars at Michigan to play Southern Cal on a Friday night, who knows what might happen.

“There is an easy way to derail this plan right from the start. High school coaches have to make their teams, films, stadiums, practices and contacts off-limits to any coach from any school in a conference that plays Friday night games.

“The biggest impact will be at the local level. High school coaches never have much of an impact on collegiate decisions. They are almost never contacted for input. This is one time they can make sure their input can't be ignored.”

## “Football Week in Michigan” Making Room for All at the Thanksgiving Table

Once upon a time, the Detroit Lions had a football day all to itself, much like Fridays were reserved for the high school pigskin contests. The Thanksgiving Day classic was theirs, and theirs alone in the NFL, until the Dallas Cowboys moved into the dessert slot on that holiday in 1966, followed by an annual evening telecast to fill the leftover portion of the day in 2006.

The annual Turkey Day contest in Detroit proved invaluable for high school football in Michigan once the MHSAA began conducting its Football Playoffs in 1975. With the Lions playing on the last Thursday in November each year, their facility was free to host the MHSAA Finals that weekend. It's a marriage that continues to this day, teaming up for a true football festival in the state.

As college football schedules expanded and seasons lengthened, however, long-time rivalries often clash head-on with the last calendar day of the MHSAA season. Think Michigan-Ohio State.

But, in the true spirit of the holiday, when more guests show up, just add more chairs to the dining room.

It is in that light that the MHSAA Finals will take a prime seat at the table for “Football Week in Michigan,” a cooperative effort with FOX Sports and its telecasts of the NFL, NCAA and MHSAA football games that week.

“This collaboration will provide a stage upon which all levels of the game can gain maximum exposure and attendance opportunities,” said MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts.

“For many fans, our Finals have long been the centerpiece of this weekend. We hope the added promotion will attract new followers for years to come.”

On Wednesday that week, FOX Sports Detroit will have a “Football Week in Michigan” preview show. The Lions-Vikings game on Thanksgiving is a FOX national game, and all MHSAA

Finals will be on FSD, including the two 8-player games on a delayed basis. The Saturday Michigan vs. Ohio State tilt is a FOX national game, while Michigan State's game with Rutgers will air on either FS1 or the Big Ten Network. That Sunday, FOX's week concludes with an NFL Game of the Week.

To ensure maximum live coverage of the MHSAA Finals, FSD is pulling a page from its Lions pre-season game plan and making all eight 11-player Finals available to the FOX's over the air stations across the state, which will come into play if there are Red Wings or Pistons conflicts sometimes cause evening games of the MHSAA Finals to be tape-delayed.



Thanksgiving weekend always puts plenty of pigskin on the television menu in Michigan, from the Lions to statewide college clashes, and highlighted by the MHSAA Finals at Ford Field. There's room for everyone at the table.

FSD and the FOX over the air affiliates soon will begin a two-month promotion for FWIM, backed by title sponsor Kroger.

Look for plenty of storytelling about what football means to communities during the MHSAA Finals, bolstered by having some of the announcers from the Lions game from the day before in the stadium to visit with fans, teams, etc.

FOX is hoping the celebration will become an annual event, and that desire could become reality if the state legislature approves a proposed resolution officially declaring Thanksgiving Week as “Football Week In Michigan.”

On any given weekend in the fall, over a half million people could attend football games involving high school, college and professional teams in Michigan. Clearly this is a one big week where everyone has football on their minds.

With the MAC playing on any given night of the week for the last couple decades, high schools in those cities have tried to adjust. After mixed results, however, some schools are simply standing their ground.

“Both (Mt. Pleasant) Sacred Heart and Mt. Pleasant High have avoided the same night as CMU Football over the years,” said Mt. Pleasant Athletic Director Jim Conway. “As of this year, though, both schools have elected to not change schedules based on the CMU schedule. Altering our schedules over the years has had a great effect on the visiting teams and their fan base coming to our sites.”

Further south, Middle Tennessee State University plays rival Western Kentucky on the same Friday as the TSSAA state high school football quarterfinals this fall. Additionally, a home game with Marshall was moved to another Friday night.

“My belief is that college coaches want to keep Fridays for high school only. But they are going to play when TV tells you to,” local high school coach Kevin Creasy, whose team plays that night, said in a story from the *Murfreesboro Daily News Journal*. “If TV said to us they want us to play on Saturday, we would. College coaches don’t want to play on Friday, but they do want their team to be on TV.”

Yet, it will be difficult for prep players to watch prospective colleges when they are busy playing. It also will minimize the number of live looks afforded college coaches for their recruits.

SBNATION.com writer Alex Kirshner surmised in an article last fall that, “If high school coaches are unified in opposition to something, college

football programs have little choice but to listen. Taking a stand against your own state’s high school coaches is a horrible recruiting strategy.

“Friday night games in September and October mean recruits typically can’t visit for college games, because they’re busy playing.”

For those fans who prefer the college game, travel would be more difficult on Fridays, and/or would force many to take time off work to make their destinations by kickoff, versus driving just a few miles to root the local high school team.

In that regard, logistics favor the high schools when it comes to “butts in the seats.” But, the proliferation of television provides an ample excuse for those more inclined to click remotes rather than drive to games of any level.

“Any diversion from the traditional Friday night football has a direct impact on high school game attendance. High-profile collegiate games clearly will allow people to sit home in comfortable climate and watch football. This is not good for local games,” Conway said.

Losing any number of spectators can be felt throughout athletic departments and booster clubs which count on fall Fridays as a main source of revenue for their overall programs. With most schools having just four or five home football games per year, it’s vital to make the most of them financially.

“When CMU plays on the same night here, it takes away some fund-raising opportunities for some of our teams and Booster Clubs,” Conway said. “Obviously it puts our local fan base in a position where they have to decide which game to attend, but also many people who volunteer for



Friday nights hold special meaning to thousands of football officials around the country. For a select few, Friday college games will take them away from the grass roots level that launched their careers.

John Johnson, Okemos



MHSAA 8-Player Football welcomes a second Division in 2017, generating a new following in several communities, while bringing the sport back to existence in others.

Nate Hampton, Detroit

*“Local high school games bring complete amateurism to the sport of football. The band plays while moms and dads pop the popcorn and grill the hot dogs. Good high school games last no more than two-and-a-half hours, which is preferred to the length of collegiate games.” — Mt. Pleasant High School Athletic Director Jim Conway*

our Booster Club and our event staff are paid to work on crews at CMU games. The result is both the high schools and CMU trying to replace game management personnel, as many of us work the high school events and CMU Football.”

Executive Director of the Michigan Football Coaches Association Larry Merx believes that in many cases the prep and collegiate followings are different, but agrees with Conway for those locations which share geographic boundaries.

“I think high school football fans will stay with the high school game,” Merx said. “But, especially in and near college towns, many high school fans have work or other support responsibilities related to college games and will have to make some decisions.”

Fridays also provided a special stage for thousands of contest officials across the country. For the vast majority, working a regular schedule of high school varsity football games is the reward for countless hours and preparation.

For the select few fortunate enough to reach higher levels in the avocation, college opportunities and pay will trump Friday nights every time.

There is a vast pool of officials capable of working each week, but the absence of such vet-

eran officials results in missed training opportunities as a new crop of officials is brought forward. In football more than most sports, there are limited chances for live officials training outside the school season.

“I’ve done college games on Saturday and high school games on the same Friday,” said NFL back judge Tony Steratore in a recent *Referee* magazine story. “Many officials do this, but I have to tell you something, if you’re going to do this you have to bring your ‘A-game’ to Friday night as much as you bring it to Saturday. If you don’t, you’re doing yourself and the game a disservice. When it comes down to it, if you can’t guarantee both games are getting equal attention, then you have to choose one or the other.”

When the games are both on Friday it’s a no brainer for the official faced with the choice.

For spectators, the choice often isn’t as clear-cut. That’s where school sports leaders – from the NFHS to the state high school associations to athletic administrators and coaches – must continue to promote the grand scenes that take place right down the street from their neighbors on Friday nights in the fall.

Portrayed in that light, scholastic sports leaders have an easy product to sell.

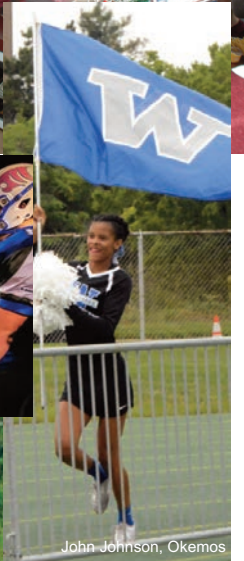
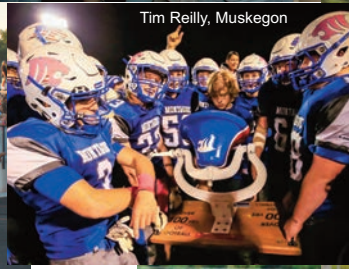
“Local high school games bring complete amateurism to the sport of football,” Conway said. “The band plays while moms and dads pop the popcorn and grill the hot dogs. Good high school games last no more than two-and-a-half hours, which is preferred to the length of collegiate games.”

It’s the perfect mix for a Friday night in the fall.

— Rob Kaminski  
benchmarks Editor

# Beats TV!

*If, indeed, a picture is worth 1,000 words, then several pictures should indicate the strong emotions shared by high school associations across the country when it comes to infringement on Friday nights. Nothing beats the local flavor and flair of attending scholastic football games in your community.*



## Sports Help Shape Young People

*Support students in athletics and extracurricular activities to help them become more productive citizens.*

Over the past few weeks, students across the region have returned to their math classes and biology laboratories.

To English literature and creative writing — perhaps even to journalism — as the academic year begins.

But education is so much more than what's learned in the classroom.

Education is a supervised experience in which young people learn how to socialize, deal with conflict, work together for common goals and so much more. They learn to overcome adversity and live with disappointment.

They learn to celebrate skill and work through deficiencies.

They also learn how to participate in a community and interact with people with whom they may disagree from time to time.

In other words, they learn how to become productive citizens.

Participation in high school sports — and other extracurricular activities — provides the perfect training ground for what the world will be like post graduation.

More than 3,000 student-athletes in Greater Lansing will compete for their schools throughout the year.

They wear their uniforms with pride, and boost the reputation of their community through healthy competition.

Other extracurricular activities can provide similar opportunities.

It's just as important for communities to show their pride in the young people who represent them.

Support their endeavors by going to games, attending performances, participating in fundraisers, generally by being present.

There is a lot of science that supports community connection as a benefit for young people.

Regardless of whether you have children, it is important to show your support.

Being celebrated in athletics and extracurricular activities is just one way good behavior is reinforced for young people.

Sports — and music, theater, debate, robotics, etc. — help teach students skills that will contribute to their future success.

Let's support them along the way, across the region.

As another school year begins, let's be sure to show up as a community to support young people and encourage their development.

Sports — and other extracurricular activities — will shape them for a lifetime.

So will our support.

*– Lansing State Journal editorial  
Aug. 24, 2017*



MHSAA Files

Another athletic season is off and running across the state, as participants log memories and values to last a lifetime.



## High School Activities Unite Communities

**T**ailgates. Pep rallies. Friday night lights. The new school year is here! And that’s exciting news for student-athletes and high school sports fans alike.

Research shows that being a student-athlete is about a lot more than fun and games. It teaches important life lessons, too. In fact, high school athletes not only have higher grade-point averages and fewer school absences than non-athletes, they also develop the kind of work habits and self-discipline skills that help them become more responsible and productive community members.

Attending high school sporting events teaches important life lessons, too.



*“That’s why attending the activities hosted by your high school this fall is so important. It’s not only an opportunity to cheer for your hometown team, it is also an opportunity to celebrate our commonality. And that’s something our country needs right now.” — NFHS Executive Director Bob Gardner*

Among them, it teaches that we can live in different communities, come from different backgrounds, faiths and cultures, cheer for different teams, and still have a common bond.

National Federation of State High School Associations



That’s why attending the activities hosted by your high school this fall is so important. It’s not only an opportunity to cheer for your hometown team, it is also an opportunity to celebrate our commonality. And that’s something our country needs right now.

The bond we share is mutually supporting the teenagers in our respective communities. We applaud their persistence, tenacity, preparation and hard work, regardless of the color of the uniform they wear. We acknowledge that education-based, high school sports are enhancing their lives, and ours, in ways that few other activities could. And we agree that, regardless of what side of the field we sit on, attending a high school sporting event is an uplifting, enriching, family-friendly experience for all of us.

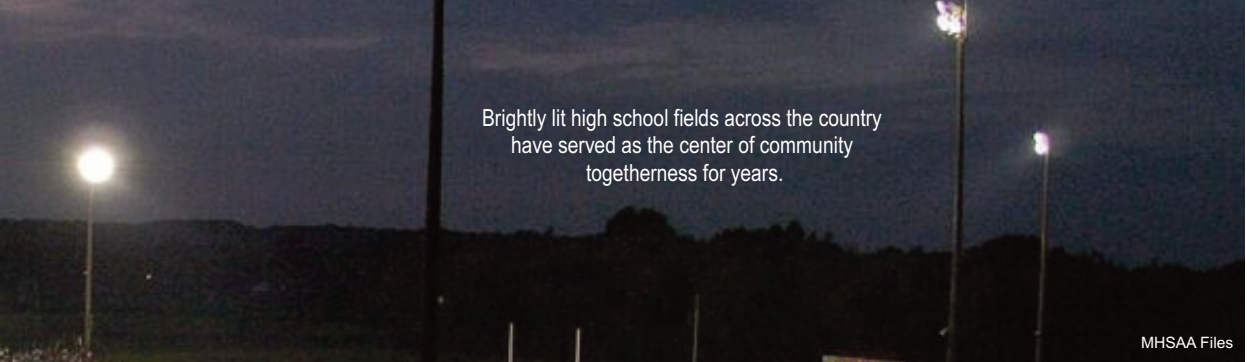
Many of the high schools in our state lie at the heart of the communities they serve. They not only are educating our next generation of leaders, they also are a place where we congregate, where people from every corner of town and all walks of life come together as one. And at no time is this unity more evident than during a high school athletic event.

This is the beginning of a new school year. Opportunities abound in the classroom and outside it. Let’s make the most of them by attending as many athletic events at the high school in our community as possible.

Turn on the lights, and let the games begin!

– Bob Gardner, NFHS Executive Director  
Jack Roberts, MHSAA Executive Director





Brightly lit high school fields across the country have served as the center of community togetherness for years.

MHSAA Files

## NFHS Adopts Friday Night HS Football Resolution

*In an effort to re-emphasize that Friday nights in the fall should be reserved for high school football, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has adopted a resolution that urges schools and teams at the college and professional levels to honor that longstanding tradition and schedule games on other days.*

*The NFHS membership, composed of state high school associations in the 50 states plus the District of Columbia, has adopted the following resolution:*

“Be it **RESOLVED** that every Friday night during the fall in America is ‘High School Football Night.’

“Be it **FURTHER RESOLVED** that college and professional football teams should refrain from scheduling contests on Friday nights. Such restraint would be an investment in their own future success. It would also demonstrate that high school football has value well beyond the field of play. Schools, communities and scholastic teams for girls and boys all benefit when football is strong.

“**THEREFORE**, the National Federation of State High School Associations urges all parties to observe the central premise of this resolution.”

Although some major college football games have been played on Friday nights for about 20 years, the numbers continue to increase. This year, more than 50 major college football games are being played on Friday nights, including eight on Sept. 1 – the Friday night before Labor Day weekend. Most recently, the Big Ten Conference joined a growing number of conferences that has scheduled a handful of games on Friday nights.

“The value of tradition cannot be understated,” said Bob Gardner, NFHS executive director. “Friday nights offer communities a traditional time and place to congregate and support their students. If a major college football game was scheduled in the area on a Friday night, it could affect attendance at the high school game or cause the game to be moved to another day. In addition, many of the Friday night college games are televised, which could result in lower attendance at high school contests nationwide.

“We believe retaining Friday nights for high school contests is a plus for colleges as well as they reap the benefits of healthy programs at the high school level.”

## Time for a Timeless Campaign to Resurface

The “MHSAA Vault” features stories from past publications and other documents in the MHSAA Library. This issue revisits the “Save Our Friday Nights” campaign from 2001, when the changing landscape of collegiate football led some schools around the state to begin scheduling games on Friday nights.

Fighting to maintain one of high school sports strongest and longest-standing traditions, the Michigan High School Athletic Association is announcing a program to counter the recent action of the National Collegiate Athletic Association to allow college football games to be played and televised on Friday nights.

many of the other activities of the school. College football games on Friday nights threaten this local tradition, not to mention the financial well-being of school athletic budgets.”

Roberts added that the while the so-called mid-major collegiate conferences may be starting out as the primary participants in Friday night games, it won't be long before everyone will be jumping into the fray.

“A Friday night football game played, for example, in Kalamazoo, will have an impact on anywhere from 30 to 50 games within a 90-mile radius of the site. Now, if the television networks entice a couple of Big Ten schools – Michigan and Michigan State – to take what has become a sometimes regionally televised game on Saturday and turn it into a nationally televised game on Friday night, the effects would be devastating.

“It wouldn't matter if the game was in East Lansing or Ann Arbor,” Roberts continued. “The game would fracture the high school spectator base across most of Michigan. Many of the radio stations which broadcast high school games on Friday nights would be required, by their network contracts, to carry the college games. Television sports reports on high school games that evening would be reduced to a quick rolling of scores on the screen, instead of highlights. Newspaper coverage would suffer.

“You can't say this move will be limited to the mid-major conferences, because the major colleges are in the same fight for air time and will use all of their leverage to turn the tables in their favor.



“Save Our Friday Nights,” is a campaign to emphasize the role that Friday night high school athletic events plays in communities, and to rally MHSAA member schools to contact NCAA member school football coaches, athletic directors and conference commissioners to voice their opposition.

“There is no tradition in sports more hallowed than entire communities gathering together on Friday nights in the fall to rally around their school teams,” said Jack Roberts, executive director of the association of nearly 750 senior high schools and over 600 junior high/middle schools. “People generally associate Friday nights with the lights towering over football fields, but let's not forget that on those Fridays are girls basketball games, boys soccer matches and even cross country meets.

“These events are important to communities. They are not just sporting events, they're social events where neighbors meet, relationships are fostered, and where schools communicate about



*“There is no tradition in sports more hallowed than entire communities gathering together on Friday nights in the fall to rally around their school teams.” — MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts*

The “Save Our Friday Nights” campaign of 2001 sought to protect high schools’ sacred night on the weekly calendar.

“There is no doubt that the NCAA men’s basketball tournament in March, with every game televised, is hurting the attendance at high school tournaments around the country in winter sports, and college football on Friday nights will do the same thing to fall sports,” Roberts concluded.

To show the level of concern that the high school sports community has about college football games on Friday nights, Roberts said the following steps are being taken:

- Roberts has already contacted the commissioners of the Mid-American and Big Ten conferences; and the issue will be discussed at a meeting in Chicago on May 22 (2002), which will be attended by representatives of Big 10 universities and state high school athletic associations;
- Support has begun to be voiced by the leadership of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association, the Michigan High School Coaches Association, the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan, and the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, all of which are being asked to encourage their member schools to contact Division I football schools in Michigan;
- The MHSAA is launching a special page on its web site – [www.mhsaa.com/FridayNights](http://www.mhsaa.com/FridayNights) – to advance the reasons why Friday nights are for high school sports; and



- Roberts pledged that the MHSAA will review its postseason tournaments venues, and attempt to avoid facilities owned by colleges which are playing Friday night football games; and he called on high schools to refrain from using such college facilities for regular-season events and practices.

“Colleges have to see that high schools, the very group they depend on for their future student-athletes and general student population, are genuinely concerned about this situation,” Roberts said. “We have to go beyond letter-writing campaigns and actually reduce the opportunities colleges have through our tournaments to bring potential students on campus and the financial benefits colleges may receive from those tournaments.”

The MHSAA encourages people to submit success stories for generating sports participation and attendance at their schools. Please send to: [info@mhsaa.com](mailto:info@mhsaa.com) and type School Success Story in the subject line.

## Confirmed Concussion Incidents Decrease in Year 2 of Data Collection

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has completed its second year of collecting head injury reports from member schools as it continues to build data that will assist in identifying trends and progress to reduce the incidence of head injuries in school sports.

Following a first mandate to do so in 2015-16, member schools again were required to report head injuries to the MHSAA identifying the sport in which each student-athlete was participating and whether the injury was sustained during practice or competition. As reporting for the 2017-18 school year is now underway, schools again are required to designate if potential concussions occur during competition or practice and at which level – varsity, junior varsity or freshman.

The full report of all head injuries experienced during 2016-17 by student-athletes at MHSAA member high schools – including percentages by sport (per 1,000 participants), gender and team level, as well as data tracking when athletes returned to play – is available on the Health & Safety page of the MHSAA Website.

As with the first year of reporting, the MHSAA received data from more than 99 percent of its member high schools after the fall, winter and spring seasons and continued to track each injury report through its conclusion this summer. Member junior high and middle schools also were allowed, although not mandated, to report their potential head injuries; and those findings are not part of the published report.

The 2016-17 concussion report found an 11-percent decrease in the number of confirmed concussions from the previous year. Student-athletes at MHSAA member high schools encountered during 2016-17 a total of 3,958 head injuries – or 5.2 per member school, similar but lower than the 2015-16 average of 5.9. Total participation in MHSAA sports for 2016-17 was 283,625 – with students counted once for each sport he or she played – and only 1.4 percent of participants experienced a head injury; that percentage in 2015-16 was 1.6.

However, MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said that while it's significant to note the similarity in those statistics over the first two years of injury report collection, the lower percentages in 2016-17 don't necessarily represent a trend – that conclusion can only be made after more data is collected in years to come. Some differences in data from the first year to the second could be the result of schools' increased familiarity with the reporting system, the refinement of the follow-up reporting procedure and other survey errors that are expected to decrease with future surveys.



MHSAA Files

Of the incidents reported by MHSAA member schools during the 2016-17 school year, soccer ranked first among girls sports with 28 head injuries per 1,000 participants.

“Our first survey in 2015-16 raised some initial themes, and the data we collected this past year and will continue to collect will help us identify the trends that will guide our next steps in reducing head injuries in interscholastic athletics,” Roberts said. “However, the necessity for more data to determine these trends should not delay our efforts to experiment with more head protection and modified play and practice rules in contact sports like ice hockey, soccer, wrestling and lacrosse – which all ranked among the top 10 sports for numbers of head injuries per thousand participants.

“We will continue to look for ways to make our good games better and our healthy games safer, and the collection of this data will continue to prove key as we work toward those goals.”

Although the total number of confirmed concussions was significantly lower in 2016-17, a number of findings detailing those injuries fell in line with results of the 2015-16 survey.

Boys experienced 2,607 – or 66 percent – of those injuries, nearly the same ratio as 2015-16 and as boys participation in sports, especially contact sports, remained higher than girls. More than half of head injuries – 55 percent – were experienced by varsity athletes, which also fell within a percent difference of last year's findings.

A total of 2,973 head injuries – or 65 percent – came in competition as opposed to practice. More than half took place during either the middle of

**BY THE NUMBERS . . .**

This Summary is based on 3,958 confirmed Head Injury Reports submitted for MHSAA supported sports sponsored and conducted at the MHSAA's member high schools during the 2016-17 school year.

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Head Injury Per 1,000 Participants</b>	<b>Rank Among All MHSAA Sports</b>
Football - 11 player	45	1
Ice Hockey	36	2
Football 8-player	32	3
Girls Soccer	28	4
Wrestling	26	5
Girls Basketball	23	6
Competitive Cheer	22	7
Girls Lacrosse	20	8
Boys Lacrosse	18	9
Boys Soccer	14	10
Gymnastics	13	11
Softball	11	12
Volleyball	9	13
Boys Basketball	8	14
Girls Swimming & Diving	6	15
Baseball	4	16
Boys Skiing	4	17
Girls Skiing	3	18
Boys Swimming & Diving	2	19
Girls Track & Field	1	20
Girls Cross Country	1	21
Girls Tennis	1	22
Boys Tennis	1	23
Boys Track & Field	0	24
Girls Golf	0	25
Boys Golf	0	26
Boys Cross Country	0	27
Boys Bowling	0	28
Girls Bowling	0	2

practice or middle of competition as opposed to the start or end, and 52 percent of injuries were a result of person-to-person contact. The largest percentage of athletes – 27 percent – returned to activity after 6 to 10 days, while 23 percent of those who suffered head injuries returned after 11-15 days of rest. All of these findings were within 1-4 percent of those discovered from the 2015-16 data.

Contact sports again revealed the most head injuries. Ranking first was football, 11 and 8-player combined, with 44 head injuries per 1,000 participants – a decrease of five head injuries per 1,000 participants from 2015-16. Ice hockey repeated with the second-most injuries per 1,000, with 36 (down two injuries per 1,000 from 2015-16), and girls soccer was again third with 28 head injuries per 1,000 participants (also down two from the previous year).

In fact, after football and hockey, the next four sports to show the highest incidences of head injuries were girls sports – girls soccer followed by girls basketball (23 per 1,000), girls competitive cheer (22) and girls lacrosse (20). Although girls basketball moved up from fifth to fourth for highest ratio, it did see a decline of six injuries per 1,000 participants from 2015-16.

Startling indications of another potential trend were seen again in the number of reported head injuries suffered by girls and boys playing the same sports. Soccer, basketball and baseball/softball are played under identical or nearly identical rules. Just as in 2015-16, females in those sports reported significantly more concussions than males playing the same or similar sport.

Female soccer players reported double the concussions per 1,000 participants as male soccer players, while female basketball players reported nearly triple the number of concussions per 1,000 participants (23 to 8). Softball players reported 11 concussions per 1,000 participants, and baseball players reported four per 1,000. The numbers from all three comparisons remained consistent from what the survey found in 2015-16.

It is the hope that Michigan's universities, health care systems and the National Federation of State High School Associations will take part in analyzing the data and questions that have arisen during the past two years. Michigan State University's Institute for the Study of Youth Sports submitted a paper titled "Gender Differences in Youth Sports Concussion" based on the 2015-16 results, and that subject will remain closely monitored in 2017-18 and beyond.

"The Institute's research concluded that there is merit for believing females may be more susceptible than males to having concussions because of structural differences to the neck and head, and also due to neurological differences in the brains of females and males. But the findings also show merit for believing females may be more honest in reporting concussions," Roberts said.

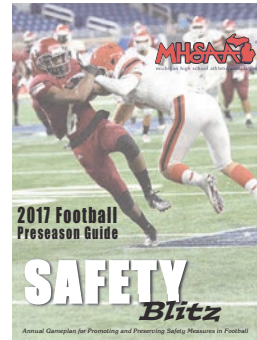
"We need to find out why. Are girls just more willing to report the injury? Are boys hiding it? These are some of our most important questions moving forward, and they will be critical in our efforts to educate athletes, their parents and coaches on the importance of reporting and receiving care for these injuries immediately."

Schools report possible concussions online via the MHSAA Website. Reports are then examined by members of the MHSAA staff, who follow up with school administrators as those student-athletes continue to receive care and eventually return to play. Student privacy is protected. The devotion and attention given to safe play and risk reduction is another pillar that holds educational athletics above other brands.

Visit the *MHSAA Health & Safety* Web page for resources



## MHSAA Provides Bounty of Health & Safety Resources



With each school year, personnel changes abound at all member schools, from administrators to coaches to student-athletes. But, the No. 1 goal remains the same for the MHSAA: to provide schools with an array of resources which will minimize risk and promote health and safety for all of its participants.

### 1. Coaching Requirements:

- A. CAP 1 or 2 is required for newly hired first time head coaches.
  - Last year between MHSAA schools and Michigan colleges; approximately 2900 coaches attended one or more levels of CAP.
  - Of this 2900, over 2200 attended a CAP 1 or CAP 2 clinic.
  - Already this year, approximately 400 coaches have attended one or more levels of CAP.
- B. CAP 1 curriculum includes a Sports Medicine module with the following safety topics:
  - Emergency Action Plan.
  - Concussion/Head Injury.
  - Sudden Cardiac Arrest.
  - Environmental – Heat Exhaustion, Heat Stroke, Heat Stress, Heat Related Illnesses.
  - Equipment and Facility Safety.
  - Care of Common Injuries.
  - Inclement Weather.
  - Preventative Sports Conditioning.
- C. CAP 2 curriculum includes Legal Responsibilities module with the following safety topics:
  - Emergency Action Plan/Emergency Planning.
  - Concussion Awareness/Protocol.
  - Instruction, Supervision, Management.
  - Hazing.
  - Bullying.
  - Recordkeeping.
  - Healthy Living.
- D. CAP 2 curriculum also includes in the Effective Communications module a piece that focuses on how positive interpersonal communication may help athletes in the concussion reporting process.
- E. Valid CPR Certification is required for all head coaches of a high school varsity team.
- F. High School Varsity Head Coaches, Assistant and Subvarsity High School Coaches (paid or volunteer) must complete an MHSAA rules meeting in their sport by the designated deadline.
  1. **All 2017-18 MHSAA coaches rules meetings include concussion awareness training.**
    - Signs and Symptoms.
    - Return to Activity Protocol.
    - Education and Enforcement.
    - Removal from Play.
    - Return to Activity and Post-Concussion Consent Form.
    - Reporting of all Concussion Injuries.

Also included in 2017-18 Rules Meeting:

- a. Heat and Hydration.
  - b. Heart and Emergency Readiness.
  - c. Signs and Symptoms.
  - d. Emergency Action Plans.
  - e. Anyone Can Save a Life.
- G. Athletic Directors must attest that Coach Requirements are Met:
    1. Each season by the final date of the season's rules meetings, athletic administrators must attest that:
      - a. Subvarsity coaches (paid or volunteer) have viewed a rules meeting (and therefore also concussion education and other health and safety topics).
      - b. All Head Varsity Coaches at the High School Level have valid CPR Certification.

## 2. MHSAA Concussion Protocol for Implementation of National Federation Sports Playing Rules For Concussions:

- If competition continues while the athlete is withheld for an apparent concussion that athlete may not be returned to competition that day but is subject to the return to play protocol.
  - a. The clearance may not be on the same date on which the athlete was removed from play.
  - b. Only an M.D., D.O, P.A. or N.P. may clear the individual to return to activity.
  - c. The clearance must be in writing and must be unconditional.
  - d. Individual schools, districts and leagues may have more stringent requirements and protocols.
- Member schools are required to complete and submit an online report designated by the MHSAA to record and track head injury events when they occur in all levels of all sports during the season in practices and competitions.
- Post-Concussion Consent Forms must be completed and returned (by student and parent) prior to returning to physical activity.

## 3. MHSAA Concussion Care Insurance:

- MHSAA provides athletic participants at each MHSAA member junior high/middle school and high school Concussion Care Insurance. This insurance intends to assure that all eligible student-athletes in MHSAA member schools in grades 6 – 12, male and female, in all levels of all sports under the jurisdiction of the MHSAA receive prompt and professional attention for head injury events.

## 4. Additional Concussion Awareness:

- State Champs has a new feature regarding Concussion Awareness on FSDetroit.
- Football has made a change to the allowable level of contact on a blindside block as one of the latest rules changes aimed at increasing player safety.

## 5. Heat Management Training and Resources:

- A. MHSAA's Model Policy for Managing Heat and Humidity has been adopted as a rule for MHSAA postseason competition. This plan directs schools to begin monitoring the heat index at the activity site once the air temperature reaches 80 degrees and provides recommendations when the heat index reaches certain points, including ceasing activities when it rises above 104 degrees.
- B. The Model Policy for Managing Heat and Humidity is outlined in a number of places:
  - Available for download from the MHSAA Website on the Health and Safety page.
  - In the publication Heat Ways.
  - In CAP 1 (Sports Medicine) curriculum.
  - In MHSAA's publication of Safety Blitz.
- C. Football practice allows for only helmets to be worn during the first two days, only shoulder pads to be added on the third and fourth days, and full pads to not be worn until the fifth day of team practice.
- D. Heat, Hydration and Acclimatization is also a focus of the MHSAA's required preseason rules meeting.

## 6. Safety Blitz includes the following resources:

- Coaching Requirements.
- Risk Minimization and Conditioning.
- Football Policies (see above) for managing heat and humidity.
- Football Policies for Collision practices:
  - a. Before the first regular-season game, schools may not schedule more than one "collision" practice in a day.
  - b. After the first regular-season game, teams may conduct no more than 90 total minutes of collision practice in any week.
  - c. No single practice may exceed three hours, and the total practice time for days with multiple practice sessions may not exceed five hours.
- Football Helmet Inspection.
- Concussion Signs and Symptoms.
- Concussion Management Policy.
- Post-Concussion Consent Form.
- Member School Concussion Reporting.
- Model Policy for Managing Heat and Humidity.
- CPR Requirements.
- Emergency Response Plan.

## Student Advisory Council Camps with a Cause



**MHSAA Student Advisory Council members:** Neil Bazaj, Ann Arbor Greenhills; Jordan Tirico, Ann Arbor Skyline; Danny deForest, Holland West Ottawa; Hunter Gandee, Temperance Bedford; Rachel Cummings, Mayville; Aaron Fahrner, Owendale-Gagetown; Sydney Hanson, Alma; Megan Corbe, St Joseph; Grace Reetz, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart; Taylor Adams, Allendale; Chloe Idoni, Fenton; Abigail Nelson, Negaunee; William Jontz, Brighton. **Not Pictured:** Darby Dean, Lowell; Pierce Morrissey, Big Rapids; Shane Dolan, Clarkston Everest Collegiate.

Each June, the MHSAA Student Advisory Council convenes at Mystic Lake YMCA Camp in Lake, Mich., to develop leadership strategies and become better acquainted.

The summit is often the first meeting of the incoming SAC class and the incumbent members who are halfway through their terms.

Under the guidance of MHSAA staff, the students enjoy a variety of team-building activities and problem-solving sessions, with an abundance of fun mixed in while cell phones are replaced with interpersonal communication.

The goal is to return to their local communities with sportsmanship and teamwork initiatives which can be shared with classmates and other schools in their leagues and conferences.

Embarking on their first years as SAC contributors, representing the Class of 2019, are: **Taylor Adams**, Allendale; **Neil Bazaj**, Ann Arbor Greenhills; **Megan Corbe**, St. Joseph; **Shane Dolan**, Clarkston Everest Collegiate; **Chloe Idoni**, Fenton; **William Jontz**, Brighton; **Pierce Morrissey**, Big Rapids; and **Abigail Nelson**, Negaunee.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2018 members who were selected a year ago: **Sydney Hanson**, Alma; **Jordan Tirico**, Ann Arbor Skyline; **Danny deForest**, Holland West Ottawa; **Darby Dean**, Lowell; **Rachel Cummings**, Mayville; **Grace Reetz**, Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart; **Aaron Fahrner**, Owendale-Gagetown; and **Hunter Gandee**, Temperance Bedford.

The first Student Advisory Council was formed for the 2006-07 school year. With the addition of this year's class, members will have represented 95 schools from 44 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in 13 MHSAA sports, and seven of the eight will be the first SAC members from their respective schools.

The Student Advisory Council meets seven times each school year, and once more at the leadership camp. In addition to assisting in the promotion of the educational value of interscholastic athletics, the council discusses the 4 S's of educational athletics: scholarship, sportsmanship, safety and the sensible scope of athletic programs.



## SAC Belief Statement

*As the voice of Michigan’s student-athletes, the Student Advisory Council’s role is to convey the message of how high school sports are supposed to be played. We are responsible for helping the MHSAA maintain a positive and healthy atmosphere in which interscholastic athletes can thrive.*

*We believe **athletes** should be competitive, sportsmanlike and excel academically. We believe **students** in the stands should have fun, but not take the focus away from the game. We believe **coaches** should act as teachers, helping student-athletes develop while still keeping high school sports in perspective. We believe that **parents** should always be positive role models and be supportive of their child’s decisions. We believe **officials** commit their own time to high school sports and respect should always be shown and given to them.*

*The most important goal for student-athletes is to enjoy high school sports while keeping a high level of respect between all those involved in the games.*

– Written by the Student Advisory Council,  
adopted by MHSAA Representative Council November 2007

## Look for “The Captains Playbook” This Fall

In 2009, the MHSAA and its Student Advisory Council rolled out a book titled “Captains 101” and delivered 7,000 copies to member schools. In Fall 2017, version 2 of the book – “The Captains Playbook” – will again be sent to the membership. This 24-page book follows the structure and lessons of both the in-person and online versions of the MHSAA Captains Clinic. 5,000 additional books have been printed for schools which want more copies, or for teams which want to dig deeper into the material.

The objective of the publication is to encourage captains throughout Michigan to be positive role models within their community. It was written in a collaborative partnership between high school students and graduate students of the Institute for the Study of Youth Sports at Michigan State University.

This book is intended to be read by aspiring high school team captains.



## MHSAA Sportsmanship Summits Calling

Sign up a group of students from your school to attend an MHSAA Sportsmanship Summits this fall and change the culture at your school and conference. This year’s Summits will be held the first three weeks in November as follows: Marquette on Nov. 6; Warren on Nov. 8; Kalamazoo on Nov. 13, and Lansing on Nov. 15.

Call Andy Frushour at the MHSAA, 517-332-5046, for further information.

### SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD APPLICATIONS

In 2017-18 we celebrate the 29th anniversary of the Farm Bureau Insurance sponsored MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award. In 2017-18, 32 \$1,000 scholarships will again be awarded from a pool of the best and brightest high school seniors. Eligibility requirements and applications can be found at MHSAA.com on the “Students” page. Applications are due to the MHSAA on Dec. 1.

### SPORTSMANSHIP SUMMITS

This fall the MHSAA’s series of Sportsmanship Summits returns with four regional clinics spread across the state. These day-long summits will cover sportsmanship topics from a variety of perspectives, including from the viewpoints of athletes, coaches, officials and administrators. Most importantly, though, the summits will focus on sportsmanship in student cheering sections. School groups will review what makes great student sections tick, and then develop plans on how to make its own student section more loud, organized, positive and fun. This year’s Summits will be held the first three weeks in November as follows: Marquette on Nov. 6; Warren on Nov. 8; Kalamazoo on Nov. 13, and Lansing on Nov. 15.

### BATTLE OF THE FANS

The seventh annual MHSAA Battle of the Fans competition will take place again during the winter season. The contest, organized by the MHSAA Student Advisory Council, seeks to find the loudest, most organized, more fun and most positive student cheering section in the state. Students should begin filming their student sections this fall in preparation for the video deadline in early January. Frankenmuth is the defending champion, while Traverse City West won in 2016-17, Dowagiac won in 2014-15, Beaverton in 2013-14, Buchanan in 2012-13 and Frankenmuth in 2011-12. Visit [mhsaa.com/BOTF](http://mhsaa.com/BOTF) for further details.



Battle of the Fans is the student-centered highlight of the winter season.

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP GRANTS

The MHSAA has earmarked \$20,000 to help students become better leaders. This fund originated from a gift to the MHSAA from student leadership training leader, the former W.B.A. Ruster Foundation. Scholarships are available to students to attend existing student leadership camps, and schools can receive grant money to create student leadership programs in their communities. Funding is available NOW. There is no deadline – applications are accepted, and money is distributed, year-round. Visit the “Students” page at MHSAA.com.

### CAPTAINS CLINICS

The purpose of the MHSAA Captains Clinic series is to give basic leadership training to both current and future team captains. The training session is only four-and-a-half hours long, so there’s no way these students can learn everything they need to become effective team leaders. Instead, we use this time as an opportunity to give the students the basics of being a team captain – we answer the question, “I was named a team captain, now what am I supposed to do?” We walk through the role of a team captain, we discuss common team problems, and we finish the day by making a “To Do” guide for all of each school’s team captains. Several clinics will take place in the coming year, and the MHSAA would love to come to your league. If you can get your entire league on board, guarantee 100-150 participants, and suggest a good location (preferably a school on a professional development day), the MHSAA will do the rest. The Association will coordinate the registration process, negotiate with facilities if necessary, provide the curriculum and supplies, work with the caterers and bring facilitators to the clinic. Contact Andy Frushour to learn more about the Captains clinic program – [andy@mhsaa.com](mailto:andy@mhsaa.com).

### ONLINE CAPTAINS COURSE

The MHSAA Captains Clinic program has proven to be a great in-person training method for future team leaders, but the program can only reach a finite number of students per year. With the new online version of the captains clinic, ALL of Michigan’s student-athletes and even all students nationwide, can now receive the training anytime and anywhere. Over 27,000 students have taken the course in the last two years. The Captains Course is housed on the NFHS Learning Center, and it is FREE to all participants. Go to [NFHSLearn.com](http://NFHSLearn.com) to take the course today.

## Scholar-Athlete Program Rolls Into 29th Year

Thousands of students voluntarily extend their classroom day by taking part in extracurricular activities, often improving their academic achievements in the process. The value that such programs play in the total education of a high school student is highlighted through the MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award, which will award \$1,000 scholarships to 32 top student-athletes and recognize over 2,000 other outstanding individuals in 2017-18.

Underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance, the Scholar-Athlete Award is now in its 29th year, and presents scholarships to students in every MHSAA enrollment classification. The scholarships may be used at any institution of higher learning.

"It is amazing to see the number of young people who are proven achievers in academics and activities," said Jack Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. "At a time when our educational system is coming under fire, the Scholar-Athlete Award is something that proves how important athletics are to the development of a well-rounded person."

Students applying for the Scholar-Athlete Award must be graduating during the 2017-18 school year, carry a 3.5 grade-point average, and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport that the MHSAA sponsors postseason competition.

Applicants will also be required to show involvement in other school- community activities and submit an essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Application materials can be found on MHSAA.com. Scan the code below to access the page.

Each MHSAA member school is allowed to nominate a number of student-athletes based on the size of the school. Class A schools can nominate six boys and six girls, Class B four boys and four girls, Class C three boys and three girls and Class D two boys and two girls. The first 30 scholarships will be awarded based on this graduated scale, with two additional scholarships intended for minority applicants.



Michigan's Insurance Company



A committee composed of school administrators from across the state will select regional and statewide winners.

Farm Bureau Insurance, a long-time supporter of MHSAA activities, also sponsors other educationally oriented programs. Executive Vice President Jim Robinson notes the company's pleasure with the awards program.

"All of us at Farm Bureau Insurance are proud to reward special, well-rounded young people who have developed both physical and academic skills," Robinson said. "To accomplish both while giving themselves to their schools and their communities are outstanding traits that must be recognized and rewarded."

The 32 scholarship recipients will be recognized at the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing on March 24, 2018.

The 32 scholarship recipients will be recognized at the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing on March 24, 2018.



The 2017 Scholar-Athlete Class



### Women in Sports Leadership Conference set for Feb. 4-5

The 2018 MHSAA Women in Sports Leadership Conference is set for Sunday, Feb. 4 and Monday, Feb. 5, 2018, at the Lansing Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The first and longest-running gathering of its kind will once again attract a sellout crowd to promote and recognize opportunities for females in athletics, from coaching

to administration. Be sure to visit the MHSAA website often for registration information as the date draws near. Leading up to the event, CAP courses and Girls Lacrosse Officials Training will be conducted the day prior on Saturday, Feb. 3.

For further information, call Kathy Vrugink Westdorp at the MHSAA (517) 332-5046.

## MHSAA Encourages Use of PRIVIT to Improve Health and Safety of Student-Athletes

*Getting I.T. offers helpful hints and instructions pertaining to information technology as it relates to the MHSAA and school sports in general.*

The MHSAA and PRIVIT will continue to streamline the process for the management and collection of physical health history and consent forms required for participation in high school sports. The MHSAA partners with PRIVIT's solution, called Privit Profile, as the electronic alternative to paper forms. The partnership began with the 2016-17 school year, and this year 50 schools are using the program.

Migrating the paper process to Privit Profile will help high schools better facilitate the process of collecting personal health history information from athletes, and it will save time and costs associated with managing the paper process.

Privit Profile includes the MHSAA's health history questionnaire and is built on PRIVIT's patented, secure, and HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) compliant technology. The additional MHSAA forms also are included in the implementation and provide MHSAA member schools the flexibility to further tailor Privit Profile to their process. Taking the paper-based process and transitioning it online will provide athletic trainers and coaches more time to focus on Michigan's student-athletes.

Within Privit Profile, parents of student-athletes easily complete the medical history questionnaire and take printed copies to the student-athlete's physical exam. In subsequent years, parents only will have to update the information in Privit Profile, as opposed to completing all of the paper-based forms again.

"It has become necessary for increased detail in the requirements to participate in school sports," said MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts. "We desire more comprehensive health histories for students and more education of parents and students regarding the risks of participation, as well as the intangible rewards of competing in educational athletics. Streamlining for collection and storage of documents is a priority."

Gathering more detailed Health Histories – including an upgrade of the previous pre-participation physical form – was the first focus of the ongoing MHSAA 4 Hs of Health and Safety effort taken up before the start of the 2009-10 school year (the other three H's stand for Heads, Heat and Hearts).

The MHSAA began rolling out Privit Profile throughout local high school athletic departments in May 2016. Use of Privit Profile by schools is voluntary.



The screenshot shows the PRIVIT website header with the logo, phone number (855.9PRIVIT), and social media icons. The navigation menu includes Home, PRIVIT Solutions, Company, News, and Contact. The main content area features a banner with an image of a swimmer, a smartphone displaying the Privit Profile app, and a badge stating "#1 Software Provider for Electronic PPEs". Below the banner is the heading "HEALTH INFORMATION WHEN YOU NEED IT" and a paragraph of text describing the platform's capabilities. At the bottom of the banner area is the slogan "TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR HEALTH".

"As the importance of pre-screening athletes continues to sweep the nation, more and more state high school athletic associations are adopting Privit Profile to better manage student-athlete health information," said Jeffrey Sopp, CEO of PRIVIT. "We are excited to be partnering with MHSAA and to be able to provide Privit Profile to schools and participants in Michigan for the 2017-18 school year. We're looking forward to helping MHSAA member high schools and improving a manual process for years to come."

PRIVIT® was established in 2009 and provides cloud-based patented technology for the collection, distribution, and analysis of personal health information. Considered a world-class leader in electronic pre-participation evaluations, Privit Products offer clients a more secure and standard method for acquiring and sharing the personal health information required for participation in organized sports and activities. With offices in London, Ontario and Columbus, Ohio, PRIVIT® fosters lasting relationships with physicians, athletic trainers, sports medicine organizations and international sports teams. To learn more about PRIVIT® and its Products, visit [www.privit.com](http://www.privit.com) or scan the code here.



## Expanded Broadcast Coverage: MHSAA & State Champs!

High school sports' strong presence on the radio gains more steam with the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, with the MHSAA Network and the State Champs! Sports Network teaming up to provide more statewide content than ever before.

The MHSAA Network's weekly radio show/podcast "This Week In High School Sports," makes its debut this week for its third season on over 75 radio stations and audio webcast outlets as part of their weekly prep coverage.

The five-minute program, presented by MI Student Aid, leads off each week with feature stories from around the state from the MHSAA's Second Half, or from network affiliated stories and interviews. "Be The Referee," a 60-second look at the fine art of officiating, comes in the middle of the show; and is followed by a closing MHSAA Perspective.

"This Week In High School Sports" is posted to the home page of the MHSAA Website by Noon on Tuesday each week; and is also available on the MHSAA Network Website.

### Stations Carrying "This Week in HS Sports"



For a complete list of radio stations and web audio outlets carrying "This Week In High School Sports," consult the Media page at MHSAA.com or scan this code (left).

Additional stations will be announced throughout the year. Many of these same stations will be carrying games from the MHSAA Basketball Finals in March.

"Be The Referee" is also available each week as a separate podcast. These 60-second messages take a look at rules in different sports, challenges your rules knowledge with some You Make The Call questions, and passes on other information about the world of officiating.

"Be The Referee" is posted online by Noon Tuesday each week, and can be found on the home pages of the MHSAA Website and the MHSAA Network Website.

The MHSAA will also be regularly featured on the **State Champs! Sports Network Scoreboard show** on Fridays from 10:30 p.m. - Midnight; which expands this year to run weekly during the Football and Basketball seasons, extending its radio station network from WXYT-FM (97.1) to a statewide group of affiliates, and is also available on social media with a live video stream on the WXYT Facebook page.



The State Champs! Sports Network has teamed up with the MHSAA Network to provide more statewide content over the air and web than ever before during the 2017-18 school year.

Here is a list of radio stations carrying the State Champs! Scoreboard Show (as of Aug. 20):

Alpena/Rogers City – WRGZ-FM (96.7)  
 Caro – WKYO-AM (1360)  
 Cheboygan – WCHY-FM (97.7) or WCBY-AM (1240)  
 Detroit/Southfield – WXYT-FM (97.1)  
 East Lansing - WVFN-AM (730) - Saturday at 7 a.m.  
 Grand Rapids - WTKG-AM (1230)  
 Grand Rapids/Muskegon/Holland - WMAX-FM (96.1)  
 Grayling - WGRY-FM (101.1)  
 Jackson – WKHM-AM (970)  
 Newberry – WNBV-AM (1450)  
 Port Huron – WPHM-AM (1380)

"This Week In High School Sports" and "Be The Referee" will be a regular feature on the Scoreboard Show, which kicks off a weekend of MHSAA/State Champs programming. Every Saturday during the Football season, statewide Friday night football highlights return to cable television viewers on the MHSAA Extra Point at 10 a.m. on FOX Sports Detroit. The State Champs! Produced show will also re-air on multiple occasions each weekend. The MHSAA Minute makes its weekly debut on the award-winning State Champs! High School Sports Show on Sundays at 9 a.m. on FOX Sports Detroit, with re-airs through the week. Both shows will be archived for on-demand viewing on the State Champs Channel on YouTube.

The MHSAA Website also has available fresh public service announcement scripts and pre-recorded audio spots for broadcasters for the upcoming 2017-18 fall sports season.

## Michigan Above Population Rank on Participation List

**M**ichigan had the eighth-most participants in high school sports nationally in 2016-17 according to statistics from the National Federation of State High School Associations, after ranking seventh in participation the last eight school years. However, this year's level of participation again bested Michigan's national ranking for total number of residents of high school age, which fell from ninth to 10th according to U.S. Census Bureau figures.

Michigan's participation ranking was based on a number of 295,647, with 127,277 girls and 168,370 boys taking part in high school athletics, and included sports in which the MHSAA does not conduct postseason tournaments. The totals count students once for each sport in which he or she participates, meaning students who are multiple-sport athletes are counted more than once.

The state's girls participation ranked eighth nationally, down one spot from 2015-16, while the boys participation figure also ranked eighth, down from sixth the year before. However, as with over-

Michigan's participation rank continues to rate above its population status nationally. Boys and girls golf improved from 6th to 5th in national participation rankings during the 2016-17 school year.

all population, Michigan ranks 10th for both females and males ages 14-17 according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau estimates from 2016.

A total of 19 sports bested the state's overall national participation ranking of eighth by placing seventh or higher on their respective lists. Three Michigan sports improved in national ranking during 2016-17, while five sports dropped one position and a sixth sport dropped two spots.

Michigan girls and boys golf both improved from sixth to fifth in national participation ranking, while girls basketball – with its first increase in participation after 10 straight years of decline – rose from seventh to sixth nationally. Michigan also moved up to seventh, from eighth, for 8-player football participation – significant because the state's 11-player football participation ranking did not fall with that increase, remaining at sixth nationally for the fourth straight year.

Of the five sports that fell in national participation rankings in 2016-17, three stayed above population rank – boys basketball fell from sixth to seventh nationally, girls bowling from third to fourth and volleyball from fourth to sixth. Girls gymnastics (11th to 12th) and boys lacrosse (eighth to ninth) fell only one spot on their respective lists.

The other Michigan sports that ranked eighth or higher all equaled their national rankings from 2015-16 and included baseball (eighth), boys bowling (third), competitive cheer (sixth), boys and girls cross country (both seventh), boys ice hockey (fourth), boys and girls skiing (both third), softball (seventh), boys tennis (fifth), girls tennis (third), boys track & field (seventh), girls track & field (eighth) and wrestling (seventh). Girls lacrosse (13th), boys and girls soccer (both ninth), boys swimming & diving (ninth) and girls swimming & diving (10th) all also held to their national rankings from the previous year.

National participation in high school sports in 2016-17 set a record for the 28th consecutive year with 7,963,535 participants – an increase of 94,635



from the year before. Girls participation increased for the 28th consecutive year with an additional 75,971 participants – the largest one-year jump since 2000-01 – and set an all-time high of 3,400,297. Boys participation also set another all-time high with 4,563,238, an increase of 18,664 participants from 2015-16.

Girls saw increases in all of their top-10 participatory sports, with competitive spirit (competitive cheer in Michigan) showing the largest increase of 18,712 participants nationally. Track & field, volleyball, soccer and lacrosse showed the next greatest increases among girls sports. Seven of the top 10 boys sports registered increases from 2015-16, led by soccer, track & field and cross country.

Football (1,086,748), while down two percent from 2015-16, again remained the most-played high school sport overall, followed by boys track & field (600,136), boys basketball (550,305), girls track & field (494,477) and baseball (492,935).

### Complete 2016-17 Participation Numbers



## Erickson, Fraser & Mohney Earn 2017 Bush Awards

**T**hree athletic directors who have taken leading roles in important areas of educational athletics – Rockford’s Tim Erickson, Bay City Central’s Morley Fraser and Mattawan’s Ken Mohney – have been named recipients of the MHSAA Allen W. Bush Award for 2017.

Al Bush served as executive director of the MHSAA for 10 years. The award honors individuals for past and continuing service to prep athletics as a coach, administrator, official, trainer, doctor or member of the media. The award was developed to bring recognition to men and women who are giving and serving without a lot of attention. This is the 26th year of the award, with selections made by the MHSAA’s Representative Council.

Among many contributions, Erickson has built a strong reputation in officiating, while Fraser is a hall of fame coach and Mohney is an accomplished instructor of administrators on the state and national levels.

“These three administrators have contributed to educational athletics in a variety of ways, but are especially well-respected in specific areas of expertise – and the quality that binds them together is leadership,” MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. “This award recognizes work behind the scenes, and Tim Erickson, Morley Fraser and Ken Mohney exemplify it. They are worthy recipients of the Bush Award.”



**Erickson**

Erickson recently finished his 34th school year at Rockford, where he started his career in 1982 after earning a bachelor’s degree from Central Michigan University; he later added a master’s degree from CMU. He has served as the Rams’ athletic director for the last decade supervising 34 varsity teams and 140 staff members. Erickson also has served as an assistant principal for five years, two years each as student activities coordinator, middle school athletic director and 6-12 intramural director; and taught for 19 years.

A member of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) and National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), Erickson’s vast contributions to educational athletics have stretched far beyond administration. A member of the West Michigan Wrestling Officials Association, he has served as a registered official for 37 years, currently in wrestling but previously as well for basketball, baseball, softball and volleyball. He has officiated an MHSAA Finals in wrestling, and also coached 42 seasons across a variety of sports, including four as the varsity baseball coach and as an assistant on Rockford football teams that won Division 1 championships in 2004 and 2005.

Fraser this spring completed his 39th year in education and 30th as an athletic director, recently retiring from his administrative duties at Bay City Central although he will continue to coach the football team. Fraser, who earned a bachelor’s degree from Alma College and master’s from CMU, joined the Bay City Central faculty in 1986 and took over as athletic director prior to the start of the 1998-99 school year. He also has served as an assistant principal at Bay City Central.



**Fraser**

His Wolves football team returned to the MHSAA Playoffs last fall with a 6-4 record, and Fraser has built a 162-135 record in 31 seasons leading the program. Fraser also coached at Mendon and Bowling Green, Ohio, and was inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association (MHSFCA) Hall of Fame in 2011. His 1994 Bay City Central team finished Class AA runner-up, and he was named an MHSFCA Regional Coach of the Year that season, 1996 and also in 1978 while at Mendon (and in 1985 earned a similar award at Bowling Green). He was inducted into the Bay County Hall of Fame in 2013.

Also a member of the MIAAA and NIAAA, Fraser has spoken and presented at MIAAA and MHSFCA events.



**Mohney**

Mohney has served as an administrator for 18 years with seven as a teacher and coach after earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Western Michigan University and while also serving from 1987-2007 in the U.S. Army. In addition to his work as an assistant principal and athletic director at Mattawan – the school received an MIAAA Exemplary Athletic Program Award in 2005 – Mohney has made significant contributions as a long-serving member of the MIAAA and NIAAA and as an instructor for the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program.

A contributor to the MIAAA Board of Directors and Executive Board from 2002-14, Mohney served as Executive Board president in 2012-13 and on the NIAAA Board of Directors as Section IV representative (for five states) and as chairperson of the finance sub-committee. He has served on various committees both for the MIAAA and MHSAA, and in addition to his CAP instructor contributions has served on the faculty of the NIAAA Leadership Training Institute providing instruction both in Michigan and nationally. Mohney has earned NIAAA Certified Master Athletic Administrator status and MHSAA CAP Masters Elite certification, and also Certified Interscholastic Coach recognition from the NFHS.

## Participation Fees Dip to Lowest Numbers in Years



***Survey shows fewer than 50 percent of responding schools are charging participation fees to help fund interscholastic athletics.***

**J**ust under half of high schools responding to an annual Michigan High School Athletic Association survey assessed participation fees to help fund interscholastic athletics in 2016-17, making it the first school year since 2009-10 that fewer than 50 percent of respondents reported not charging student-athletes to play sports.

The survey, completed by 557 high schools – or 74 percent of the MHSAA membership – showed 49.7 percent charged participation fees, down from 51.5 percent in 2015-16.

There were 750 senior high schools in the MHSAA membership in 2016-17. This was the 13th survey of schools since the 2003-04 school year, when members reported fees were charged by 24 percent of schools. The percentage of member schools charging fees crossed 50 percent in 2010-11 and reached a high of 56.6 percent in 2013-14.

Class A schools remained the largest group charging fees, as 70 percent of respondents did so in 2016-17 and at least 70 percent have charged for the last five years. Class B schools ticked up to 52 percent charging fees, but Class C (42 down from 49 percent) and Class D (35 down from 38 percent) both reported lower percentages of schools charging fees.

Charging a standardized fee for each team on which a student-athlete participates – regardless of the number of teams – remains the most popular method among schools assessing fees, with that rate at 44 percent of schools

that assessed fees for the second straight year. Schools charging a one-time standardized fee per student-athlete rose slightly, from 27 to 31 percent over the last year. Also for the second straight year, the survey showed a slight decrease in schools assessing fees based on tiers of the number of sports a student-athlete plays (for example, charging a larger fee for the first team and less for additional sports) and also a slight decrease in fees being assessed based on the specific sport being played.

The amounts of most fees also remained consistent from 2015-16 to 2016-17: the median annual maximum fee per student at \$150, the median annual maximum family fee at \$300 and the median per-team fee at \$75 – all for at least the third straight year. The median fee assessed by schools that charge student-athletes once per year increased again, but only \$5 to \$125 after showing a \$20 increase per student-athlete between 2014-15 and 2015-16.

The survey for 2016-17 and surveys from previous years can be found on the MHSAA Website by clicking on Schools – Administrators – Pay-To-Play Resources, or by scanning the code here.

**2016-17 Survey Results**





## Representative Council Adopts Classification Changes

The adoption of a change in how basketball and volleyball teams will be classified for Michigan High School Athletic Association tournaments was among notable actions taken by the Representative Council during its annual Spring Meeting, May 7-8, in Glen Arbor.

The Spring Meeting of the 19-member legislative body of the Association's more than 1,400 member schools is generally the busiest of its three sessions each year. The Council considered 29 committee proposals and dealt with a variety of eligibility rule, postseason tournament and operational issues.

The tournaments in girls and boys basketball, and volleyball – the last to be organized based on traditional Class (A-B-C-D) enrollment breaks – instead will be conducted using equal divisions (1-2-3-4) beginning with the 2018-19 school year. The Council approved this change in response to a proposal by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan; Michigan's interscholastic volleyball community also has expressed openness to equal divisions in the past. All other MHSAA tournaments, except for football, are conducted using equal divisions based on enrollment and determined prior to the school year. Football is the only sport requiring teams to qualify for postseason play, and its equal divisions are not determined until after the regular season ends.

After previously approving the addition of a second division to the 8-Player Football Playoffs for 2017-18 at its Winter Meeting, the Council approved the selection of the field after the ninth week of the regular season and based on playoff point average. The 32 teams with highest playoff point averages will be listed by enrollment, with the largest 16 placed in Division 1 and the smallest 16 in Division 2 of the 8-Player tournament.

Also concerning tournament setup, the Council chose to not adopt a Basketball Committee proposal that would have seeded both the girls and boys tournaments at the District and Regional levels. Instead, the Council instructed staff to examine seeding options for the District level only, to be presented at Council meetings during the 2017-18 school year.

Continuing a focus on athletes' health and safety, and in the case of football reducing the number of collisions experienced by players, the RC approved the Football Committee recommendation that, after the first game of the regular season, limits teams to no more than 90 total minutes of collision practice in any week. Similar to the previous rule limiting teams to two days of collision contact per week after the first game, blocking and tack-



This fall marks the end of an era in MHSAA Volleyball, when the final four Class champions will be crowned at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. Thereafter, the tournament will be split into Divisions, as will boys and girls basketball for the 2018-19 school year.

ling techniques are allowed by the new rule – but full-speed contact is limited to players versus pads, shields, sleds or dummies. Players may continue to wear helmets and other protective pads for non-collision practice sessions.

### Junior High/Middle Schools Competition Opportunities Increased

- The Council approved a Junior High/Middle School Committee recommendation urging each MHSAA sport committee to consider opportunities to add more games and dates to middle school schedules while not extending the length of the 13-week season for those sports. This likely would include expanding the number of multi-game events (all games played on the same day and on a day not followed by a day of school) from two to four events.
- For both girls and boys junior high/middle school lacrosse, the Council approved committee recommendations to increase the number of multi-team tournaments allowed. Both will be allowed four multi-team tournaments. One-day multi-team tournaments in both boys and girls lacrosse will be counted as one competition date. Also approved for boys junior high/middle school lacrosse were committee proposals upping the number of maximum game dates from 12 to 15 over the same 13-week season, and an increase in running time minutes during multi-team events from 150 to 160 minutes to allow for four games with 20-minute running-time halves.

## Not Just Another Season for Football Official Watson

**Editor's Note:** Longtime MHSAA Football Official Willie Watson of Kalamazoo began another season on the gridiron in August, an opening night that certainly had extra meaning. His last prior game was the 2016 MHSAA Division 6 Football Final at Ford Field, a milestone event which he does not remember. The following is the incredible story involving Watson, medical preparedness and response.

A 32-second response by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) was the difference in life or death for 68-year-old Willie Watson, who was spared from becoming another victim of sudden cardiac arrest.

Watson, a 38-year official for the Michigan High School Athletic Association, collapsed in the tunnel near the officials' locker room after the MHSAA Division 6 Football Championship at Ford Field last Nov. 25 in Detroit. Fortunately for the Kalamazoo native, stadium staff members were steps away as he fell unconscious. Within seconds, their call for help reached on-site EMTs who swiftly made their way to him from the field.

"It was strange because I wasn't sick or anything. I drove to the game by myself. Everything was fine, got dressed, and then went out on the field for the game," Watson said. "After the game, I came to the locker room, had a boxed lunch, and the last thing I remember is leaving towards the tunnel. That's the last thing that I remember. I woke up in the hospital the next day, on Saturday."

Moments before Watson's dire situation occurred, he stood in the officials' locker room speaking with Mark Uyl, MHSAA assistant director. Uyl said when he received the call regarding Watson, he arrived to find paramedics administering full CPR, in addition to the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED).

"It was a scene right out of a movie," Uyl said.

After about 10 minutes of work on Watson, Uyl said paramedics found a pulse and promptly transported him to Detroit Medical Center.

"Things were very critical that Friday night – very touch and go," Uyl said. "Overnight we got reports that he was slowly improving."

An implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) was placed in Watson's chest. The pager-sized device is battery powered and placed below the skin to monitor heart rate, according to the American Heart Association (AHA). If an abnormal heart rhythm is discovered, the ICD delivers an electric shock to restore a normal heartbeat.

"I got to witness an absolute miracle," Uyl said. "If the cardiac situation doesn't happen, literally at the feet of the medical staff that we have on-site at

an event like that, he would've gotten up to the concourse or, heaven forbid, outside the building into the parking lot or his car and I believe it would've been a much more tragic ending."

Watson was working the third game of the day as a line judge, and when he collapsed, was beginning to leave the facility and head to a local hotel reserved for MHSAA officials. Uyl told Watson how much of a blessing it was that he was assigned that game. At home or at the hotel, Watson would have been alone without access to proper medical attention.

"Certainly, where we got lucky is where he collapsed," Uyl said. "We have emergency procedures, but when we're at one of our college or pro venues, we often use the building's plan. It could not have been more seamless between our staff and the Ford Field building personnel."

At MHSAA events, such as those at Ford Field, an ambulance and two EMTs are stationed on the field next to the tunnel that connects it to the other areas of the stadium. Watson said he and fellow officials routinely confirm the location of emergency responders before starting a game.

"Schools almost always have somebody from a university around who does training. Most schools have ambulance service there at the site," Watson said. "There have been incidences where we have had injuries

that require them to come out onto the field to assist a student-athlete. It could be a concussion, a leg injury or who knows. We always have somebody at a venue."

Equipped with his ICD, Watson left for home a week later from Detroit Medical Center. Expecting to make a full recovery, Watson said the only recommendations from his doctors were to tweak his diet and increase exercise. Although he said his recovery is on track, one of the most notable effects from his incident was memory loss.

"The strange thing is that I cannot remember a single thing about the game. I can't remember anything," Watson said. "If you ask me what Ford Field looked like now, I couldn't tell you. I lost my short-term memory. I remember everything except the game. It's those 48 minutes that I can't remember."

An official in basketball, softball and volleyball



as well, staying active won't be too much of an issue for Watson, who said he took last basketball season off to get himself better prepared for the softball season.

"It's just amazing how quickly they responded in my situation. Regardless of who it is, the response time I received was tremendous," Watson

said. "I was out. They had to revive me. It only took them 32 seconds to get to me. Even if it's an injured player on the field, response times are getting so quick."

— Cody Porter  
NFHS High School Today

## Officials Associations Benefit from NASO Membership

The MHSAA is proud to continue to provide the Platinum program of the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) "Association Advantage" for all MHSAA Local Approved Associations (previously known as NASO-ON). The MHSAA is providing this Platinum program membership to all local Approved Associations in assisting these groups with association meeting preparation, association governance and effective, time-tested techniques on how to make good associations great.



"Approved Associations are the lifeblood of high school and middle school officiating," said Mark Cyl, MHSAA assistant director. "So many critical elements of our officiating program that includes recruiting new officials, retaining current officials and training all officials happens at the local Approved Association level. Our overall program gets stronger when each Approved Association has all the tools possible to be an effective educational hub for all officials in those local areas. We are pleased to be providing this service to all Michigan Approved Associations with our trusted and valued partner, NASO."

All Platinum Association Advantage member associations will receive the all-new monthly electronic newsletter *Click*, the revamped monthly printed newsletter *Advisor*, access to the Association Advantage website, a subscription to *Referee* magazine and a discount on supplies. Groups may choose to upgrade their membership with additional options and levels to include additional insurance, member benefits and training options. Contact the MHSAA office or NASO (262-632-5448).



### Officials for Kids Going Strong

Officials For Kids began in early 2003 as a small group of mid-Michigan officials dedicated to the future of children's healthcare & the Children's Miracle Network. The ultimate hope for the program is that officials' personal & association pledges, along with participation in fundraising events & initiatives, will make Officials for Kids a name synonymous with the continued improvement of children's healthcare across the state.

The Officials For Kids Program takes on a local focus at each Children's Miracle Network Hospital in the state, including Sparrow Hospital in Lansing; Beaumont Hospital in Detroit; Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, and Hurley Medical Center in Flint. One popular way for officials to donate is through the "Give-A-Game" program, offering a game check to one of the hospitals.

Since the MHSAA began to route funds for Officials for Kids (August 2006), the average annual contribution to each CMN facility over the past 10 years is just over \$2,000. Many approved officials associations send donations from Give-A-Game events to our office for routing to CMN facilities, while some choose to donate directly to their local hospital. The Capital Area Officials Association once accumulated \$9,000 from its Give-A-Game venture.

Visit the Officials for Kids page of MHSAA.com for more information.



Listen to "Be The Referee" on MHSAA.com



## Rules of the Games

Sharpen your skills with the following rules questions/case plays for volleyball, soccer and football. Answers appear in red on page 35.



### Football

1. When a penalty is accepted with less than two minutes remaining in either half, the offended team will have the option to start the game clock on the snap.
  - a. True
  - b. False
2. The penalty for a forward pass, batted, muffed or caught by an ineligible A player who is behind, in or beyond the neutral zone is . . .
  - a. Loss of 5 yards and loss of down
  - b. Loss of 5 yards and no loss of down.
  - c. Loss of 10 yards and loss of down.
  - d. Loss of 10 yards and no loss of down.
3. A blindside block is legal and may be executed outside the free blocking zone . . .
  - a. Leading with any part of the body.
  - b. If the impact is above the waist only.
  - c. If initiated with open hands.
  - d. All of the above.
4. Following a fair catch, the spot for the ensuing snap or free kick shall be . . .
  - a. At the spot of the fair catch if caught between the hash marks.
  - b. At the hash mark intersecting the yard line of the fair catch if caught in the side zone.
  - c. Anywhere between the hashmarks at the yard line through the spot of the catch.

### Boys Soccer

1. Player A1 is in an offside position after having made a play on goal. The ball is kicked up field by the goalkeeper and intercepted by Player A3. A3 sends the ball back into the box with A1 in an offside position, but A1 is not active in the play. Which is correct?
  - a. Player A1 should be declared offside. Award indirect free kick.
  - b. Player A1 should be declared offside. Award direct free kick.
  - c. Player A1 should not be declared offside.
2. Player A2 is in an offside position when player A3 plays a ball toward the goal which a defender deliberately attempts to head out of the area. Instead, the ball lands at the feet of A2 who shoots and scores.
  - a. Disallow the goal and award an indirect free kick to Team B.
  - b. Allow the goal.
  - c. Disallow the goal and award a goal kick to Team B.
  - d. Disallow the goal and award a penalty kick to Team A.
3. Player A2 is in an offside position when player A3 takes a shot on goal which the goalkeeper attempts to save and rebounds from the goalkeeper to A2. A2 shoots and scores.
  - a. Disallow the goal and award an indirect free kick to Team B.
  - b. Allow the goal.
  - c. Disallow the goal and award a goal kick to Team B.
  - d. Disallow the goal and award a penalty kick to Team A.

4. Attacking player A1, in an offside position, receives the ball directly from a corner kick inside Team B's goal area and heads the ball into Team B's goal. The correct restart is:
  - a. Indirect free kick from the point A1 headed the ball
  - b. Kickoff
  - c. Indirect free kick from the 6-yard-line at the point nearest the place A1 headed the ball
  - d. Goal kick



MHSAA Files

## Volleyball

1. The first server of the receiving team is in the \_\_\_\_\_ when the set begins.
  - a. Right back position
  - b. Left front position
  - c. Left back position
  - d. Right front position
2. The libero can serve for:
  - a. All front-row players only.
  - b. All back-row players only.
  - c. Only for the first server.
  - d. Only in one position in the serve order.
3. The sleeves of the solid-colored uniform top shall be the same color as the body of the uniform top.
  - a. True
  - b. False
4. It is legal for a player to contact the floor/wall cables, standards or first referee's platform if no advantage is gained and it is not viewed as dangerous.
  - a. True
  - b. False



MHSAA Files

Football Answers: 1. a. (3-4-7); 2. a. (7-5-13); 3. c. (9-4-3n); 4. c. (5-4).  
 Soccer Answers: 1. c. (11-1-3, Diagram 9). 2. b. (11-1-4, Diagram 20). 3. a. (11-1-4, Diagram 11). 4. b. (11-1-2, Diagram 15).  
 Volleyball Answers: 1. d. (8-2-1); 2. d. (10-4-1a); 3. a. (4-2-2); 4. a. (9-6-7b, c).

## Reviews and Requirements for 2017-18 School Year

**F**ollowing is a summary of the coaching requirements for the 2017-18 school year and a review of recent requirements.

- 1. CAP Required For Newly Hired First Time Head Coaches** - Each head coach of a varsity team hired for the first time as a high school head varsity coach at any MHSAA member high school after July 31, 2016 shall have completed either Level 1 or Level 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP). If the head coach does not complete CAP Level 1 or 2 prior to the established deadline, that coach shall be prohibited from coaching in that season's MHSAA tournament.
- 2. CPR Certification** - The head coach of a high school varsity team must have a valid CPR Certification by the established deadline – the same date for head coaches to complete a rules meeting. The MHSAA does not dictate which organization or format the training is completed in, only that the head coach hold a valid CPR Certification; which generally lasts two years. Many schools train and certify all their coaches and also include AED training (preferred). An online course would fulfill the requirement, but face-to-face courses are preferred. Head coaches who coach more than one sport must have their CPR Certification complete for the first sport of the school year. For “Frequently Asked Questions on CPR Certification” see the MHSAA.com Health & Safety page.
- 3. High School Varsity Head Coaches Rule Meetings** - Head coaches continue to be required to complete a sport rules meeting as a condition of coaching in the MHSAA tournament. This must be completed by the deadline. The MHSAA continues to tracks this for each head coach.
- 4. Assistant & Subvarsity Coaches Rules Meeting** - All subvarsity and assistant high school coaches, paid or volunteer, must complete an MHSAA rules meeting in their sport. Rules meetings must be completed by the established deadline each season (fall, winter, and spring). Credit is earned as follows:
  - a. By entering subvarsity and assistant coaches into MHSAA.com, individual coaches may view the rules meeting. Only coaches whose names and emails are submitted by the school can complete a rules meeting for credit. The AD may see who has completed a meeting while logged in under the “AD Dashboard” on MHSAA.com.

- b. In a group setting (staff meeting) or individually: The AD certifies that each season, subvarsity and assistant coaches have completed a rules meeting. ADs may track this internally and record as they see fit or may show an online rules meeting to an entire group. An assistant coach may view a rules meeting with a head coach and be given credit by the AD.

Assistant or subvarsity coaches, who coach more than one sport during a school year, must fulfill the requirement each season unless the sport is the same and the coach had completed the MHSAA sport specific rules meeting earlier in the school year for that sport (e.g. JV boys and JV girls soccer coach).



- 5. Attesting (confirming) Coach Requirements Are Met** - Each season by the final date of that season's rules meetings, athletic directors will inform the MHSAA while logged into MHSAA.com (school administrator services) that all requirements have been met or the school will not allow that coach to be present at the MHSAA tournament in that coaches sport at the seasons end when their school team is present.
- 6. Concussion Awareness Training for Coaches** - Because so many coaching responsibilities are out-of-season or outside of actual MHSAA interscholastic practice and competition, all school coaches in all sports should have completed a Concussion Awareness Course so as to comply with state law (Public Acts 342 and 343). All MHSAA coaches rules meetings in 2017-18 will include concussion awareness training which fulfills both the requirements of state law.

**The Only Official Interpretations are Those Received in Writing**

## AD and Coach Guidelines for Rating Game Officials

*MHSAA Handbook*, Regulation II, Section 7 (B) requires schools to rate officials who officiate contests involving their teams in sports for which ratings are maintained. Ratings must be submitted online at MHSAA.com. These guidelines are provided to assist member school athletic directors and coaches in rating officials. Deadlines: Fall Sports Dec. 1, Winter April 1, Spring June 1.

### Varsity Rating Definitions

**“1”- Excellent** — Very good, first class, surpasses all others. Typically, the quality of performance required to officiate tournament contests in the advanced rounds.

**“2”- Above Average** — Better than the mean, high quality, better than the accepted level of performance. Typically, the quality of performance required to officiate mid and lower level tournament contests.

**“3”- Satisfactory** — Adequate, average, a solid performance. Typically, the quality of performance required to officiate seasonal and lower level tournament contests.

**“4”- Below Average** — Deficient, lacking the skills and/or knowledge to earn a higher rating. Typically, an official who would benefit from additional training and education.

### Things to Consider Before Entering Online Ratings

- Each official should start out a contest with a “2” rating. His or her work during the contest could either move that rating up (excellent hustle, people skills or critical correct call) or down (lack of hustle, poor people skills, inconsistent judgment, etc). If the game has no real issues of any kind, the official most likely deserves to stay at the “2” rating level where he/she started.
- Do not rate officials immediately following the event. The system will not allow ratings to be entered until 48 hours have passed, just in case you need to “cool down” after the game or match, and allow other games to be played before rating those officials so you have a means of comparison before submitting those ratings. Video review can often bring objectivity in assessing the true performance of the officials.
- Ratings are the starting point for all tournament officiating selection committees; ratings submitted by schools are critically important for officials when deciding who does, and who does not, receive officiating invitations for MHSAA tournament events. Ratings need to be objectively submitted by schools after stepping back and considering where the official being rated “fits” when being compared with all other officials observed in that sport.
- A coach that threatens an official with the rating process or a poor rating during a game or contest should expect to be penalized immediately. Threats of this nature, even in the heat of the battle, are unacceptable and inappropriate.
- Don’t rate an official based on one call or game situation. A rating should be submitted for each official based on his or her body of work for the entire contest. If one crew member has had a poor game in your opinion, rate that official accordingly but do not punish other crew members if they had nothing to do with those negative situations.
- **Note for schools using ArbiterGame and/or using an assigner that uses ArbiterOne. The contests and officials assigned are “prepopulated” with officials information from Arbiter products. We call these “Quick Rate Contests.” Instructions are online for both Quick Rate and Manual Contests.**

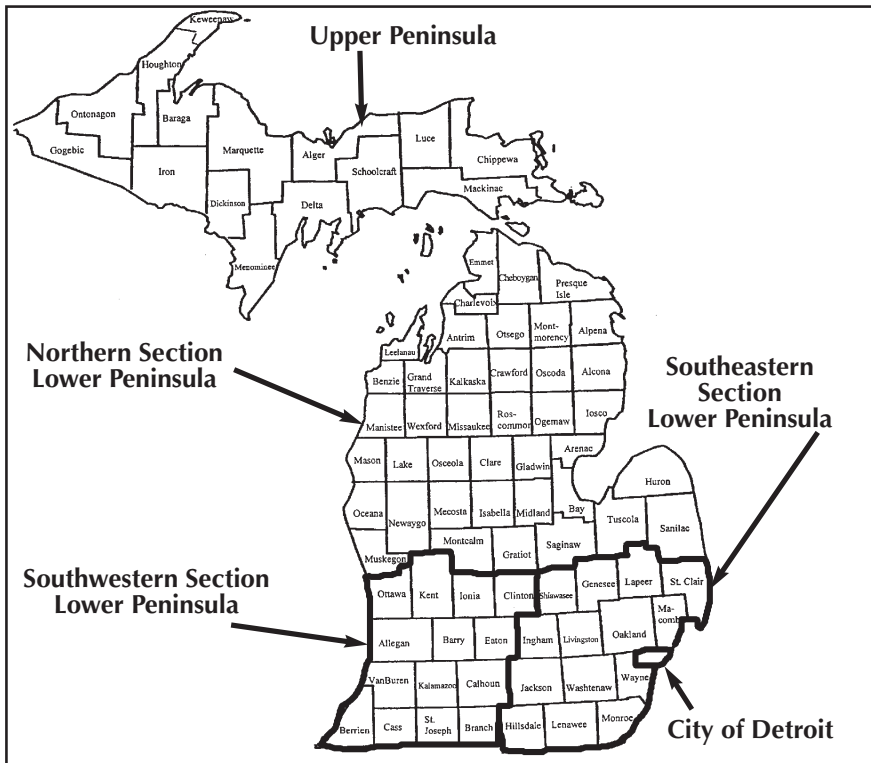


### Efficiency is Effective...

The MHSAA is always willing to assist with issues concerning Association regulations. Please remember, however, the most efficient method of communication with the MHSAA on eligibility questions is through the athletic director or principal. Athletic directors should gather all information necessary on a question and then call or write the MHSAA. Coaches or parents calling the MHSAA on eligibility matters can create confusion and delay. ADs or principals are encouraged to contact the MHSAA office directly. Please follow this efficient path of communication.

## Representative Council and Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee Elections

Map of Representative Council Sections



Ballots for Representative Council elections will be mailed to principals of member schools from the MHSAA office Sept. 1, 2017. The ballots will be due back in the MHSAA office Sept. 22, 2017.

Six positions for membership on the Representative Council will be up for election this fall. Vacancies for two-year terms beginning December 2017 will occur as follows: Class C-D Southwestern Section L.P. and Southeastern Section L.P; Class A-B Upper Peninsula; Statewide At-Large; Junior High/Middle School, elected on a statewide basis; and Detroit Public High Schools.

In addition to the above named Representative Council positions, there are three Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee positions to be voted on in September. A representative of the Class A-B, Class C and Class D schools will be elected by Upper Peninsula schools.

Look for the ballots and return them in time to be counted by the Board of Canvassers. Be sure you mark your ballot correctly and signatures are affixed in the proper places. Ballots must have two (2) signatures to be considered valid.

Details of the Representative Council composition may be found near the beginning of the *MHSAA Handbook*.

Following the due date of Sept. 22, 2017, the Board of Canvassers as provided in Article IV of the Constitution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, will meet and declare the winners for the various vacancies.

In accordance with the approved nomination and election procedures, listed candidates have submitted their desire to run for a position by March 15, 2017. They have included an approval to serve from their respective superintendent or principal and have certified their qualifications to run for the office which they seek. No write-ins will be possible because each candidate must be approved by March 15 in order to run for a position on the Representative Council.

Following are the declared candidates and the vacancies which will occur in December 2017:



## MHSAA Representative Council

**Dave Derocher\*\***  
Athletic Director  
Reese High School  
Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula

**Scott Grimes\*\*, President**  
Assistant Superintendent of Human Services  
Grand Haven Public Schools  
Statewide At-Large

**Vicky Groat\*\***  
Principal/Athletic Director  
Battle Creek St. Philip High School  
Appointee

**Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio)**  
Director, Coordinated School Health & Safety  
Programs Unit, Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing  
Designee

**Don Gustafson\***  
Superintendent  
St. Ignace Area Schools  
Junior High/Middle Schools

**Courtney Hawkins\***  
Athletic Director  
Flint Beecher High School  
Appointee

**Kris Isom\***  
Athletic Director  
Adrian Madison High School  
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

**Sean Jacques\*\***  
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director  
Calumet High School  
Class C-D — Upper Peninsula

**Karen Leinaar\***  
Athletic Director  
Bear Lake High School  
Statewide At-Large

**Cheri Meier\***  
Assistant Superintendent  
Okemos Public Schools  
Appointee

**Vic Michaels\*\*, Secretary-Treasurer**  
Director of Physical Education & Athletics  
Archdiocese of Detroit  
Private and Parochial Schools

**Chris Miller\***  
Athletic Director  
Gobles High School  
Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

**Steve Newkirk\*\***  
Principal  
Clare Middle School  
Junior High/Middle Schools

**Peter C. Ryan\*\***  
Athletic Director  
Saginaw Township Community Schools  
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

**Fred Smith\*\*, Vice President**  
Athletic Director  
Benton Harbor High School  
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

**John Thompson\*\***  
Athletic Director  
Brighton High School  
Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan

**Al Unger\***  
Athletic Director  
Kingsford High School  
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

**Alvin Ward\***  
Administrator of Athletics  
Detroit Public Schools  
Detroit Public Schools Position

**Pat Watson\*\***  
Principal  
West Bloomfield High School  
Appointee

\*Term Expires December 2017  
\*\*Term Expires December 2018

### REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL CANDIDATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 ELECTION

#### Southwestern Section, Lower Peninsula – Class C and D Schools

- Ken Dietz, Athletic Director, Watervliet High School
- Chris Miller, Athletic Director, Gobles High School

#### Southeastern Section, Lower Peninsula – Class C and D Schools

- Kristen M. Isom, Athletic Director, Adrian-Madison High School

#### Upper Peninsula – Class A and B Schools

- Al Unger, Athletic Director, Kingsford High School

#### Statewide At-Large

- Karen S. Leinaar, CAA, Athletic Director, Bear Lake Schools

#### Junior High/Middle Schools

- Don Gustafson, Superintendent, St. Ignace Area Schools

#### Detroit Public Schools

- Alvin Ward, Executive Director of Athletics, Detroit Public Schools

### UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

#### Class D Schools

- Rick Pepin, Athletic Director, Rapid River High School

#### Class C Schools

- Jon Beckman, Athletic Director, Ishpeming-Westwood High School
- Andrew Brunette, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Negaunee High School

#### Class A and B Schools

- Nick Nolde, Athletic Director, Escanaba High School

## Failure to Rate Officials

Member schools of the Michigan High School Athletic Association have agreed through Regulation II, Section 7(B) to rate officials in several of the sports for which the MHSAA conducts a postseason tournament and to be subject to penalties when a school fails to rate any officials in a sport that requires it.

Recent surveys indicate schools value the opportunity to rate officials and do not want that opportunity eliminated.

Most officials would prefer an evaluation process over ratings by participating schools; but

under our current system, officials need schools to rate them so they can amass the number of ratings necessary to be considered for advancement and tournament assignments.

On March 23, 2001, the MHSAA Representative Council adopted the policy of publishing the names of schools which fail to rate any officials in a sport and to do so as soon as possible following the season.

Following are schools failing to rate officials for the 2016-17 school year.

### Failure to Rate Officials - Fall 2016

**Football**

Mt. Clemens  
Romulus

**Volleyball**

Mt. Clemens

### Failure to Rate Officials - Winter 2017

**Boys Basketball**

Auburn Hills Christian  
Detroit-Davis Aerospace Technical  
Grand Rapids-Union  
Walker-West MI Academy of Environmental Science

**Girls Basketball**

Detroit-Cass Technical  
Flint Northwestern  
Hillsdale-Will Carleton Academy  
Paradise-Whitefish Township  
Saginaw-Arthur Hill  
Walker-West MI Academy of Environmental Science

**Girls Competitive Cheer**

Manistee

**Wrestling**

Detroit-Loyola  
Ludington  
Pinckney  
Sterling Heights-Utica Stevenson

### Failure to Rate Officials - Spring 2017

**Baseball:**

Detroit-Renaissance  
Flint-Hamady  
Harper Woods  
Wyoming-The Potter's House  
Christian

**Softball:**

Detroit-University Prep Science & Math  
Flint Southwestern Classical Academy  
Grand Rapids-Union  
Houghton Lake

## Ice Hockey Finals to Remain at USA Hockey Arena

The MHSAA Ice Hockey Semifinals and Finals will continue to be played at USA Hockey Arena through at least 2022 thanks to a five-year extension confirmed in July.

The arena, in Plymouth, has hosted the season's championship weekend since 2003. The Semifinals and Finals will be played this upcoming season March 8-10, 2018.

"The MHSAA is excited to continue our longstanding partnership with USA Hockey Arena on keeping the MHSAA High School Hockey Championships in Plymouth," MHSAA assistant director Cody Inglis said. "We are happy to keep the Finals in a great venue that has been updated to a first-class arena facility by USA Hockey."

USA Hockey Arena is a multi-purpose arena that opened in 1996. Originally known as the Compuware Sports Arena, it was renamed USA Hockey Arena in 2015 when the USA Hockey Foundation purchased it. USA Hockey Arena encompasses approximately 190,000 square feet with one main seating level, private suites and press boxes. The creative design of the arena affords the opportunity to provide 3,504 seats for hockey games and 4,500 seats for concerts and other performances.

"We are ecstatic to extend our relationship with the MHSAA," USA Hockey Arena general manager Mike Henry said. "We have enjoyed hosting the top high school hockey teams in the state for the past 15 years and look forward to helping create more memorable hockey history in the future."



# 2016-17 Officials Reports Listing

## (High Schools that received 3 or more negative Reports)

In accordance with the May 1996 Representative Council adoption of the “Comprehensive Sportsmanship Package” the names of schools that received three or more “concern” or “ejection” Officials Reports in the school year are listed in this report.

Melvindale	27	Howell	5	Warren Lincoln	4
Taylor Kennedy	22	Hudsonville	5	Waterford Mott	4
Lapeer	13	Kalkaska	5	Whitehall	4
Lansing Everett	12	Novi	5	Wyoming Lee	4
Eastpointe	10	Plainwell	5	Ada Forest Hills Eastern	3
Allen Park	9	South Lyon East	5	Alpena	3
East Grand Rapids	9	Southgate Anderson	5	Ann Arbor Huron	3
North Farmington	9	Swartz Creek	5	Bay City Western	3
Birmingham Groves	8	Traverse City West	5	Belleville	3
Dexter	8	Troy Athens	5	Bloomfield Hills	3
Harrison Township L'Anse Creuse	8	Walled Lake Western	5	Bridgeport	3
Jackson	8	Waterford Kettering	5	Brownstown Woodhaven	3
Manistee	8	Wayne Memorial	5	Cheboygan	3
Milford	8	West Bloomfield	5	Clinton Township Chippewa Valley	3
New Boston Huron	8	White Lake Lakeland	5	Clio	3
Wyoming	8	Wyandotte Roosevelt	5	Coldwater	3
Bay City John Glenn	7	Wyoming Godwin Heights	5	Comstock Park	3
Berkley	7	Allen Park Cabrini	4	Corunna	3
Clarkston	7	Auburn Hills Avondale	4	Croswell-Lexington	3
Dearborn Heights Crestwood	7	Brethren	4	Detroit Catholic Central	3
Flint Southwestern	7	Buchanan	4	East Lansing	3
Muskegon	7	Buckley	4	Flint Beecher	3
Muskegon Catholic Central	7	Carrollton	4	Flint Carman-Ainsworth	3
Onsted	7	Charyl Stockwell Academy	4	Flushing	3
Orchard Lake St Mary's	7	Clawson	4	Gaylord	3
Pontiac	7	Dearborn Edsel Ford	4	Grand Rapids Union	3
Rochester Adams	7	Detroit Old Redford	4	Harper Woods	3
Rochester Hills Stoney Creek	7	East Kentwood	4	Harper Woods Chandler Park Academy	3
Romeo	7	Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker	4	Hartland	3
Saline	7	Farmington	4	Holland	3
Temperance Bedford	7	Farmington Hills Harrison	4	Ithaca	3
Ann Arbor Skyline	6	Flint Powers Catholic	4	Kalamazoo Blades Hockey	3
Big Rapids	6	Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern	4	Lake City	3
Byron Center	6	Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills	4	Leland	3
Carleton Airport	6	Grandville	4	Lincoln Alcona	3
Dearborn Heights Robichaud	6	Hamtramck	4	Livonia Clarenceville	3
Fowlerville	6	Hanover-Horton	4	Marquette	3
Gibraltar Carlson	6	Holland West Ottawa	4	Marshall	3
Grand Blanc	6	Holt	4	Mason	3
Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills	6	Howard City Tri-County	4	Mattawan	3
Grosse Ile	6	Ionia	4	Midland Dow	3
Grosse Pointe North	6	Jackson Northwest	4	Mt Morris	3
Grosse Pointe South	6	Kalamazoo Central	4	Muskegon Mona Shores	3
Haslett	6	Kingsford	4	Ogemaw Heights	3
Hazel Park	6	Kingsley	4	Okemos	3
Jackson Lumen Christi	6	Lansing Waverly	4	Otsego	3
Lansing Eastern	6	Litchfield	4	Oxford	3
Macomb L'Anse Creuse North	6	Macomb Dakota	4	Quincy	3
New Baltimore Anchor Bay	6	Madison Heights Madison	4	Redford Union	3
Northville	6	Midland	4	Reed City	3
Portage Central	6	Monroe	4	Riverview	3
Saginaw Arthur Hill	6	Mt Pleasant	4	Rochester	3
Utica Eisenhower	6	Niles	4	Roseville	3
Warren DeLaSalle	6	Otisville Lakeville Memorial	4	Saginaw Swan Valley	3
Ypsilanti Arbor Prep	6	Owosso	4	Salem	3
Allendale	5	Pontiac Notre Dame Prep	4	Shepherd	3
Battle Creek Harper Creek	5	Port Huron Northern	4	St Clair Shores Lake Shore	3
Belding	5	Portage Northern	4	St Clair Shores South Lake	3
Britton Deerfield	5	Romulus	4	St Louis	3
Davison	5	Saginaw Heritage	4	Stevensville Lakeshore	3
Dearborn Divine Child	5	South Haven	4	Traverse City Central	3
Detroit U-D Jesuit	5	South Lyon	4	Utica	3
DeWitt	5	Southfield Arts & Technology	4	Vicksburg	3
Eaton Rapids	5	St Clair	4	Walled Lake Central	3
Ecorse	5	St Clair Shores Lakeview	4	Wayland Union	3
Fenton	5	St Joseph	4	Williamston	3
Flint Hamady	5	Sterling Heights Stevenson	4	Ypsilanti Lincoln	3
Garden City	5	Stockbridge	4		
Grand Rapids Christian	5	Sturgis	4		
Harrison	5	Three Oaks River Valley	4		
Hopkins	5	Troy	4		

## 2016-17 Officials Reports Summary

Sport	Level	Concern	Praise	Player Ejections	Coach Ejections	Other Ejections	Sportsmanship
Boys Baseball	Varsity	160	14	118	30	3	9
Boys Baseball	Junior Varsity	39	2	25	13	0	1
Boys Baseball	Freshman	10	0	2	7	0	1
Boys Basketball	Varsity	99	15	54	13	5	27
Boys Basketball	Junior Varsity	40	1	13	18	3	6
Boys Basketball	Freshman	15	0	4	9	0	2
Boys Basketball	8th Grade	9	0	5	3	0	1
Boys Basketball	7th Grade	6	0	3	2	1	0
Boys Boys Lacrosse	Varsity	36	0	32	2	0	2
Boys Boys Lacrosse	Junior Varsity	12	0	10	1	0	1
Boys Football	Varsity	167	45	129	10	3	25
Boys Football	Junior Varsity	61	9	47	7	0	7
Boys Football	Freshman	18	1	17	1	0	0
Boys Football	8th Grade	8	0	7	1	0	0
Boys Football	7th Grade	4	0	1	2	0	1
Boys Football	7th and 8th Grade	4	0	4	0	0	0
Boys Football (8)	Varsity	4	1	3	1	0	0
Boys Football (8)	Junior Varsity	2	0	1	0	0	1
Boys Ice Hockey	Varsity	143	2	129	10	0	4
Boys Ice Hockey	Junior Varsity	12	0	12	0	0	0
Boys Soccer	Varsity	278	5	235	22	2	19
Boys Soccer	Junior Varsity	47	1	38	6	1	2
Boys Soccer	Freshman	6	0	5	1	0	0
Boys Swim and Diving	Varsity	2	2	0	1	0	1
Boys Wrestling	Varsity	44	2	34	7	1	2
Boys Wrestling	Junior Varsity	3	0	3	0	0	0
Boys Wrestling	8th Grade	1	0	0	0	0	1
Boys Wrestling	7th and 8th Grade	1	0	0	1	0	0
Boys Wrestling	6th, 7th and 8th	3	0	2	1	0	0
Girls Basketball	Varsity	58	6	20	20	2	16
Girls Basketball	Junior Varsity	17	0	10	5	1	1
Girls Basketball	Freshman	1	0	1	0	0	0
Girls Basketball	8th Grade	2	0	1	1	0	0
Girls Basketball	7th Grade	3	0	0	3	0	0
Girls Basketball	7th and 8th Grade	1	2	0	0	0	1
Girls Girls Lacrosse	Varsity	5	0	4	0	0	1
Girls Girls Lacrosse	Junior Varsity	2	0	2	0	0	0
Girls Soccer	Varsity	72	2	49	17	3	3
Girls Soccer	Junior Varsity	12	0	9	3	0	0
Girls Softball	Varsity	15	7	4	5	1	5
Girls Softball	Junior Varsity	6	0	1	2	0	3
Girls Volleyball	Varsity	3	0	0	1	0	2
Girls Volleyball	Junior Varsity	1	8	0	1	0	0

### Distribution of Reports

No. of Schools	Reports of Concern	No. of Schools	Reports of Praise
198	1	85	1
114	2	14	2
63	3	3	3
58	4	1	4
33	5		
24	6		
15	7		
8	8		
3	9		
1	10		
0	11		
1	12		
1	13		
1	22		
1	27		

## Teams Practicing Out-of-State Required to Submit Out-of-State Travel Form

The tradition of taking a team on a “spring trip” for practice only is a separate issue from sanctioning a competition. Any school which conducts practice sessions out of state at a site more than 600 miles round-trip must submit to the MHSAA office a Travel Form for Out-of-State Practice at least 30 days in advance of departure. This does not allow schools to compete in a scrimmage, practice or competition with a team from another school.

The following interpretation was adopted at the May 2004 Representative Council meeting and became effective for the 2004-05 school year:

“When a school-sponsored team, or group of students which resembles the school team, intends to conduct practice sessions out of state at a site

more than 600 highway miles round-trip from that school, the Travel Form for Out-of-State Practice is required. For the purpose of this Section, it shall be considered a practice for a school team if a school coach in that sport is present with any number of players from that school's team, other than his/her family members.”

MHSAA catastrophic insurance does not cover such events.

The form can be found on the MHSAA Website. Pursuant to action of the Representative Council in May 2003, all schools which complete this form will be listed in *benchmarks* at the end of the school year.

A list of schools which completed the form in 2016-17 appears below.

### Schools Submitting Out-of-State Travel Forms for 2016-17

#### WINTER

##### BOYS BASKETBALL

Grand Rapids Christian

##### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Howard City Tri County

#### SPRING

##### BASEBALL

Ada Forest Hills Eastern

Adrian

Benzie Central

Birch Run

Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook

Kingswood

Carson City Crystal

Chelsea

Coldwater

Concord

Coopersville

Essexville Garber

Fowlerville

Grand Rapids Catholic Central

Grand Rapids Northview

Hamilton

Holland

Holland Calvary

Holland Christian

Holland West Ottawa

Holt

Homer

Hudsonville

Lawrence

Lowell

Mason

Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

Newberry

Otsego

Petersburg Summerfield

Portland

Romeo

Saginaw Swan Valley

Saline

Sterling Heights Stevenson

St Johns

Unionville-Sebewaing

Wyoming

Zeeland West

##### SOFTBALL

Allendale

Bay City Central

Benzie Central

Carson City Crystal

Chelsea

East Kentwood

Essexville Garber

Flint Kearsley

Frankfort

Grand Rapids Northview

Hemlock

Holt

Holton

Hudsonville

Jenison

Lake Odessa-Lakewood

Lowell

New Haven

Petoskey

Portland

Saginaw Swan Valley

Saline

Union City

##### BOYS GOLF

Grand Rapids Northpointe

Christian

##### GIRLS SOCCER

Saline

### STUDENT ILLUSTRATOR WANTED

The MHSAA is seeking a student illustrator/satirist for *benchmarks* during each school year. If your school has a talented, artistic individual looking for a platform to display his or her talents, this is the perfect opportunity. Interested candidates should send samples of their work to editor Rob Kaminski at [benchmarks@mhsaa.com](mailto:benchmarks@mhsaa.com). The illustration will relate to the theme of each *benchmarks* issue as determined by MHSAA staff. Call Rob at 517-332-5046 for further details.

## Michigan's Football Numbers Game – Corrected

The demise of Michigan high school football has been greatly exaggerated – or, at least, recently misreported by one of the U.S.'s most recognizable newspapers that noted as part of a larger story on football decline that Michigan has seen a “net loss of 57 teams in the past five years.”

It's easy to understand how this error took place – especially when a reporter is not familiar with the football landscape in our state – but that doesn't make this statement any less misleading, or harmful considering the story since has been picked up by multiple large news organizations. So let's quickly clear up the misinterpreted information:



- The data that led to this error came from an annual participation report released by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). Every spring, state associations (like the MHSAA) from every state and Washington, D.C., tally up how many of their member schools have a sport and how many athletes play it.
- For 2016-17, the MHSAA submitted to the NFHS a total of 580 schools with 11-player football – that number actually includes all schools that reported having at least one football player, including primary and secondary schools in co-ops. And yes, that 580 is 57 fewer than the 637 11-player schools the MHSAA submitted for 2012-13.
- But saying Michigan has lost 57 football programs misses out on something incredibly significant – the MHSAA also submitted 60 schools with 8-player football last year, up from 16 in 2012-13, making that net decrease in football schools over five years 13 – far fewer than 57.

And with a few more brush strokes, the picture of football in our state shows a healthy landscape:

- The 640 schools in Michigan with at least one football player for 2016-17, 11 and 8-player combined, is actually eight more than we reported to the NFHS four years ago and 10 more than three years ago.
- A better picture of Michigan's football consistency is shown by how many varsity programs are taking the field. This fall, that number is 616 – 555 11-player varsities and 61 8-player – and we also had 616 for most of the 2016 season, 616 in 2015 and 615 in 2014.
- Yes, there has been a decrease in Michigan high school football participation when it comes to the number of players – for reasons we discuss frequently, including more extracurricular/entertainment options than ever for students, more who are specializing in other sports and safety fears that often are misplaced. But we've also seen a three percent drop in enrollment at MHSAA member schools over the last five years. And despite that trend, Michigan again had the sixth-highest 11-player football participation in the nation in 2016-17 (and seventh-highest in 8-player) while ranking 10th nationally in number of residents of high school age.
- So yes, while a nine percent drop in the number of football players over the last five years in Michigan clearly is troubling, and something we're working with the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association to reverse, let's also put those numbers in perspective. At medium-sized to bigger schools, it could mean a roster of 40 might have only 36 players. A roster of 20 at an 8-player school might go down to 18. Neither would signal the need to eliminate a football program.
- And that move by so many schools to 8-player? It definitely started as a way for low-participation programs to keep football (and has worked for most of them). While that still may be the driving force as schools move from 11 to 8, others have made the switch because most of their former opponents did and joining them makes scheduling easier and travel shorter. Michigan has a multitude of small towns, and you'll find most of these 8-player programs in pockets in the thumb, southwest or northern Lower Peninsula, or Upper Peninsula. And keep in mind, only Class D teams remain eligible for the 8-player playoffs – and only two of 61 teams playing 8-player this fall are larger than Class D and its enrollment limit of 203 students for 2017-18.

The story behind “a decrease of 57 schools” clearly is a little complex to explain and explain away, but it's necessary to do so.

Yes, Michigan's total number of football players is down a few percent. But the sport's prominence and importance in our schools and communities remains high.

— Geoff Kimmerly  
MHSAA Second Half Editor



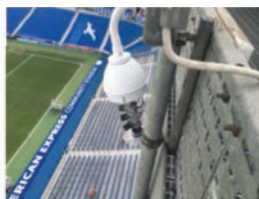
# AUTOMATED SPORT PRODUCTION

The NFHS Network has partnered with **Pixellot** to offer a new hardware & software solution for automated live event production.

- One-time installation in your athletic venue
- All events can be live broadcasted to the NFHS Network
- Fully automated (*no people required*)

## HOW IT WORKS

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- Auto-tracking feature enables cameras to follow the action (panning and zooming)
- No camera operator required
- Score graphics sync with venue scoreboard
- All events stream to your branded school page on NFHSnetwork.com



## HARDWARE

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- **Scoring device** – plugs into scoreboard for automated score integration into the broadcast
- **Desktop Computer** – for production integration & video processing

## PRICING

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Contact Tom Neiman for more information: [tom.neiman@nfhsnetwork.com](mailto:tom.neiman@nfhsnetwork.com)

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