

benchmarks

Spring 2019 Vol. 10 No. 3 mhsaa



New Ice Hockey Playoff Schedule
Scores with Schools, Officials and Fans



I have a
story...

I have a
story...



I have a
story...

I have a
story...



We tell their stories

SECOND HALF

by MHSAA



On Goal: Lengthened Ice Hockey Postseason



4 The MHSAA has lengthened the ice hockey postseason from two weeks to three, allowing more rest for players, flexibility for officials, and the potential for larger crowds throughout, scoring a hat trick for all.

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The Vault – 14

Lights Out

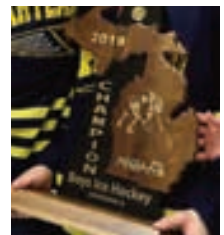
As the curtains closed on an era of championship ice hockey at the Flint IMA in 2002, a power outage brought teams back for one more day.



MHSAA News – 16

Class in Session

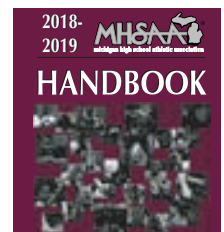
MHSAA Classifications have been announced for the 2019-20 school year across the state.



Regulations Review – 32

Transfer Tales

The revised MHSAA Transfer Regulations is upon us and in effect for the 2019-20 school year. Know the regulation before student-athletes participate.



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Lengthened Format a Shot on Goal for Ice Hockey

Success in athletics at all levels hinges on teamwork; people putting the goals of many above personal acclaim. This is especially true in interscholastic athletics, where one of our founding missions is to instill that belief in our young people to prepare them for arenas beyond the playing boundaries of our games.



It is just as critical for administrators and coaches to keep those values in mind when making decisions which affect the many students for whom we are responsible as it pertains to athletic competition. When it all comes together – coaches, administrators and governing bodies shooting for the same goal – that is another kind of teamwork that leads to a win-win situation which strengthens our programs.

The MHSAA hockey tournament had been a real challenge in terms of the potential of six games played in 13 days; teams don't come close to that kind of pace during the regular season. By expanding the tournament by one week, without increasing the total length of the season at all, we believe we've found the right balance between games and rest during both the regular season and MHSAA tournament. We are excited that school communities will have more time to plan and get behind those teams that are making runs through the Regional tournament and we will really be able to showcase high school hockey all across the state on "Quarterfinal Saturday" in getting many communities, teams and rinks involved.

The extended time from that round to the Semifinals and Finals should allow for greater team preparation and heightened fan anticipation leading up to the pinnacle of that sport for winters to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Uyl".

Mark Uyl
MHSAA Executive Director



It will now take three weeks for the MHSAA Ice Hockey championships to be decided, a journey that should benefit all involved.

Happy New Year! Prep for 2019-20 School Year

MHSAA.com School Year Start Up: Beginning in mid-July, all athletic directors must log into MHSAA.com and update school contact information for administrators and coaches and double-check the sports the MHSAA shows your school as sponsoring. Adding or dropping a sport must be done in writing on school letterhead. ADs are urged to submit their mobile phone numbers which are kept private and used for necessary contact by MHSAA staff. Accurate coach information allows for rules meeting completion by head coaches.

Coach Requirements: ALL MHSAA coaches – head coaches, assistant and subvarsity coaches – must complete a sport rules meeting. Schools shall attest that all assistant and subvarsity coaches have completed an MHSAA rules meeting (online or in person) for that sport for the current school year prior to the deadline. Assistant or sub varsity 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. Athletic Directors also must attest each season that all their coaches have met MHSAA coaching requirements and that all head varsity coaches have a valid CPR Certification. Coaches who have not met the two requirements (rules meeting or CPR Certification) are not allowed to be present at that school's MHSAA tournament in the sport they coach.

First-Time Head Varsity Coaches: 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 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. The many coaches who have been attendance at CAP clinics over the last 12 years have indicated these are worthwhile sessions of learning and collaboration. Additionally, liability insurance, State Continuing Education Clock Hours, and GamePlans are available to coaches who take CAP coursework.

New AD Orientation: MHSAA Regulation II, Section 15 (I) requires that as a condition of participation in MHSAA Tournaments, a school designates a high school athletic director. In addition, that person must attend an Athletic Director's Orientation Program prior to Dec. 1 of that school year. Schools which fail to have their first-year Athletic Director attend shall be placed on probation and prohibited from hosting or receiving reimbursement for MHSAA tournaments.

While the requirement and penalty sound quite ominous, hundreds of administrators who have attended over the years will vouch for the meeting's value. These one-time, six-hour sessions are held in the MHSAA Office in East Lansing in July, August or September. Dozens of novice ADs come back for a voluntary second session held in November.

Athletic Directors hired this spring or summer, or late this past school year (after Dec. 1, 2018), are to attend a 2019-20 AD Orientation Program on either Thursday, July 25, Tuesday, Aug. 6 (Tuesday, Sept. 10 for later hires). All meetings are in the MHSAA Office from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. A registration form may be downloaded from MHSAA.com. Direct questions to Tom Rashid (tomr@mhsaa.com) or Camala Kinder (camala@mhsaa.com).

AD In-service and Update Meetings: Athletic directors should plan now to attend an AD In-Service and Update Meeting in the fall. While attendance is strong, some ADs have not attended as their duties have increased. We suggest the opposite approach and urge those who have not attended recently to make it a point of emphasis. Please see details earlier in this issue.

The MHSAA Office Summer Hours are 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday from June 24-July 26, 2019.

Leading Off offers readers a forum for feedback. Submit your opinions, share your experiences or offer suggestions to benchmarks@mhsaa.com.



Andrew Knapik, Southgate

Great Lakes Skate

Longtime coordinator of off-ice officials for the MHSAA Ice Hockey Finals Jim Gaglead often noticed it during his annual three-days traversing the hallways and locker rooms beneath the stands at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

“You could see it in the players throughout the weekend down underneath the arena there. The players at times seem worn out, tired,” said Gaglead, who spends the winter months assigning officials and working games for the Livonia Ice Hockey Officials Association, and has overseen officials and teams earning coveted trips to Plymouth for the Semifinals and Finals since 2004.

Cody Inglis had pondered the two-week speed-skate to the championships in the sport since he arrived at the MHSAA and took charge of the administration of the tournament as assistant director five years ago. Occasionally, the topic would surface at meetings of the MHSAA Ice Hockey Committee.

“It seemed at times to be a battle of attrition rather than the best team sometimes winning the tournament,” Inglis said. “We mentioned to the (Michigan High School) Hockey Coaches Association the possibility of shortening the regular season by a week to lengthen the post-season by a week. We heard some sympathetic voices, and really put it on the coaches to discuss it. The coaches association deserves a great deal of credit.”

Led by MHSACA Executive Director Don Wright, the coaches association presented a proposal to the MHSAA Ice Hockey Committee which passed at the end of January, thus slating it for MHSAA Representative Council action this spring.

The problem was, ice hockey depends upon nearly 100 percent of facilities which are not school-operated, thus scheduling can be problematic if not coordinated well in advance.

“In conversations with coaches at USA Hockey Arena during the Finals this winter, many of the coaches said they do a majority of scheduling for the coming season immediately after this



By the time players hit the ice for the 2020 MHSAA Ice Hockey Championships, they will be better rested than in years past.

The MHSAA has lengthened the ice hockey postseason from two weeks to three, allowing more rest for players, flexibility for officials, and the potential for larger crowds throughout, scoring a hat trick for all.

one, so awaiting a May Representative Council decision would be too late,” Inglis said.

Through discussion with MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl and Associate Director Tom Rashid, along with Ice Hockey Committee members Pete Ryan, John Thompson and Sean Jacques – all of whom are on the MHSAA Representative Council – it was decided that the proposal would move up to the March RC agenda.

“From a scheduling standpoint for ADs and working with arenas, we needed to give them a firm date as to the start of Regionals and end of the regular season. We realized we had to get this done sooner than later. They can lock in times now and we won’t be scrambling later,” said Ryan, who is also athletic director for Saginaw Township Community Schools, where Heritage High School has reached the MHSAA Semifinals for the last two winters.

“This has been a discussion item for at least three years, and really picked up momentum this year with coaches association. The inclement weather this winter might have

been a blessing; schools still got their games in, and realized we could still have the tournament as scheduled.”

The proposal was approved, changing the number of weeks for the MHSAA Tournament in ice hockey from two to three, spreading the maximum of six games that may be played from the start of Regionals through Finals over 20 days instead of the previous 13.

“From the coaches perspective, especially for teams getting to final four, there’s no doubt the tournament is a grind. To get to the Finals, it might mean playing six games in 12 days, whereas schools might only play twice a week during the regular season,” said Wright, who coached Chelsea High School for nearly 20 years. “Most everyone takes Sunday off, so there really is very limited time to even practice. Add to that the fact that it’s the playoffs and you’re getting everyone’s best game, everyone’s top effort.

“From student-athlete and school sport standpoint, moving to three weeks gives kids more school time and more practice time. It

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was a no-brainer. Everybody saw it the same. Getting done in March vs May was spectacular.”

The dates for the start of the regular season and Finals (second Saturday in March) will remain the same, as will the total number of regular-season games allowed. However, the MHSAA Tournament will begin on the third Monday before the Finals instead of two weeks before.

For the 2019-20 season, that means the tournament will begin as early as Monday, Feb. 24, with all Regionals concluding by Wednesday, March 4. All Quarterfinals then take place on Saturday, March 7, moving from the traditional Tuesday-Wednesday format. Semifinals will follow nearly a full week later under the current Thursday-Friday format, with the three Finals on Saturday, March 14.

One of the huge benefits for schools will be the period of time between the Quarterfinals and Semifinals, particularly for schools traveling from the Upper Peninsula or far Northern Lower Peninsula.

“I feel this will be a benefit for UP schools in particular. As it was, a team like ourselves had to leave home on a Tuesday and if we kept winning, we were sleeping in hotel rooms for four straight nights,” said Corey Markham, who coached Houghton to a runner-up finish in 2019. “This does take a toll on a team. With the new format, a UP team would only have to spend two nights in a hotel if it made it all the way to the championship game.”

Jacques, one of Markham’s neighbors in Copper Country, has traveled the same path many times as Calumet’s athletic director, in addition to officiating the sport.

“The coaches really wanted this for sure,” Jacques said. “They have to be extremely happy that we don’t cram six big games into two weeks anymore. And, if those Quarterfinals are played closer geographically, like Marquette, then there could be even less travel so kids can get back to classes, sleep at home and eat meals at home.”

It is 300-plus miles from Calumet to Sault Ste. Marie, and *only* 112 to Marquette. The vast area and sparse population in the UP have always presented certain logistical issues for its schools at tournament time, but the new timeframe will bring welcome relief for teams.

“From a coaches standpoint, preparation time has to be a lot better for everyone,” Jacques said. “Going from Copper Country to, say, the Sault, you win and you’re not going back home. So, you’ve got a couple days before the next game, but you’re traveling, maybe getting in a practice around Novi, so

“I feel this will be a benefit for UP schools in particular. As it was, a team like ourselves had to leave home on a Tuesday and if we kept winning, we were sleeping in hotel rooms for four straight nights. This does take a toll on a team.” —



Houghton High School Head Coach Corey Markham

coaches have little time to look at the next opponent. A lot of the time, you’re going in blind, so to speak.”

Moving the Quarterfinals to Saturday should also attract larger crowds and provide a better spotlight for the sport, while moving it away from nights traditionally saturated with District and Regional basketball games, whether during the boys or girls tournaments.

“Attendance-wise, the Saturday Quarterfinals are going to be great,” said Wright. “If you didn’t know until late Wednesday if your school was going to play Friday, it was difficult for people to arrange fan buses and other travel considerations. Saturdays will make the Quarterfinal crowds bigger and then whoever wins, people can plan.”

That extra time is a huge shot in the arm for administrators who wear many hats.

“From my standpoint, arranging fan buses was a challenge on such short notice when the Quarterfinals were Wednesday and the Semis were Friday. You had to find a bus, get prices, send out information . . . we love it, but it’s a very time-sensitive operation, and the new format will help in that regard,” Jacques said.

Markham agrees. Proof was provided in March, as Houghton’s crowds at USA Hockey Arena were impressive given the short turnaround. With a Quarterfinal being on a Saturday *and* closer to home throughout the state, the MHSAA should expect larger turnouts.

HAPPY RETURNS

For many years, a Quarterfinal win for Upper Peninsula schools like Houghton meant continuing the trek all the way to Plymouth without returning home.

The new format will allow for more school time, practice time and rest at home for such schools.

“The Saturday Quarterfinals will be great for all the teams and fans involved,” Markham said. “There will be time to travel and obviously most people have greater free time on a Saturday versus a weekday. Also people will have more time to plan for the game with the extended time-frame.”

The weekend dates are easier for rinks to schedule as well, which should allow for an attractive list of suitors as potential hosts.

“It is easier to run a weekend event compared to a weekday event,” said Wright, whose primary job now is facilitating Arctic Coliseum in Chelsea. “There is more availability during the weekend than on a weeknight in terms of sheer hours.”

Inglis cautions that in some circumstances the mileage total might increase – for instance UP schools which advance and must go back and forth across the bridge – but the positives outweigh the negatives.

“No matter what format we implement, there’s going to be travel,” Inglis said. “More importantly, this format allows the players to go back and be students. And, of course, health and safety are big components. The student-athletes will have more time to recover physically as well as mentally.”

While the most notable rest period will now take place from the final horn of the Quarterfinal until the puck drops for the Semifinals, the greater number of days to play the same number of Regional games is equally as important.

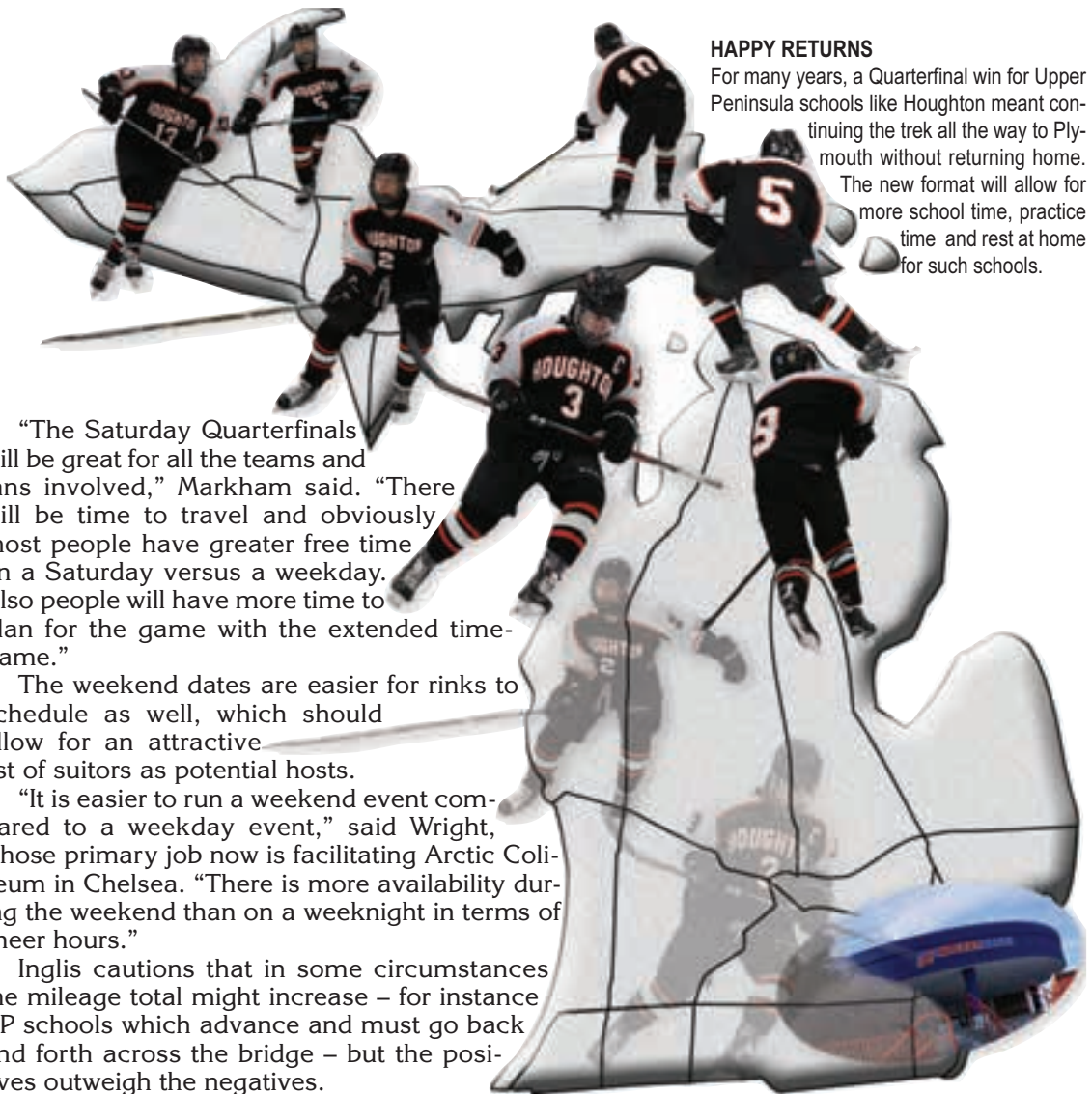
To earn a Regional title up until now, schools had to win as many as three games in six days. The Regionals will now stretch out over a 10-day span.

Such a luxury could actually serve to lessen travel, keeping schools closer to home early in the tournament. Where decades ago it was more problematic finding arenas, that is not the case today.

“There are more sheets of ice available today, and the other side of it is that even though there are more *schools* represented than ever before, there are fewer *teams* due to the number of co-op programs,” said Ryan. “So scheduling ice is not a problem.”

During the season just past, a fewer number of sites hosted more games around the state during Regional week, necessitating a significant number of doubleheaders.

Preliminary figures for 2019 indicate a drop in total ice hockey tournament attendance, from 45,975 the previous year to 41,611 this March. (*Editor’s Note: Two Regional sites had yet to report at time of printing for this issue of benchmarks*) However, attendance for the Quar-



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“From student-athlete and school sport standpoint, moving to three weeks gives kids more school time and more practice time. It was a no-brainer. Everybody saw it the same. Getting done in March vs May was spectacular.” — MSHCA Executive Director Don Wright

terfinals (6,324 to 4,754) and the Semifinals-Finals at USA Hockey Arena (10,631 to 9,780) both showed increases this year over 2018.

One trend that stayed the same was the fervor for high school hockey in the Upper Peninsula, where the Regional at Michigan Tech University typically ranks No. 1 in attendance. Hosted on a rotating basis by Houghton, Hancock and Calumet, the site drew 2,542 fans this March. In 2018 that venue led the way with 4,100 fans, while the facility drew 1,888 in 2017 to pace all Regionals.

The biggest dip in 2019 came at the Regional level below the bridge, where crowds were down several thousand. Poor weather conditions likely played a factor, and moving from multiple sites to one Regional site also could have affected attendance. On nights where doubleheaders were played, early starts might have had an adverse effect, or perhaps it was the late faceoff for the second games.

“This year, it seemed like when I traveled around to different sites during the Regionals, the crowds were down a bit,” Gaglearn said. “There were some schools having solid seasons that just didn’t get the student sections I thought they would. I’d rather see more hosts, or sites, and allow more fans to be engaged.”

Inglis indicated that change could be coming with the 2019-20 season.

“We will be staying with Regional sites – at least in terminology – but have the ability to use different rinks and hosts as needed to eliminate the doubleheaders,” said Inglis.

The more widespread format to come could possibly boost attendance, and unquestionably will bolster an extremely critical element of the game – officiating.

“Even in Week 2 next year, the Regional Finals can be one of three days, so all officials aren’t working on the same days,” said Inglis. “This absolutely helps us and it’s a good thing for assigners.



Andrew Knapik, Southgate

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The path to an MHSAA Championship is a grind in all sports, but the recently revised ice hockey schedule should yield a fresher look at the end of the tunnel.

“This should allow some of our better qualified and most deserving officials to officiate some of the most important games as the tournament progresses.”

For more views on officiating in the tournament, please see pages 10-11.

The bottom line of the playoff schedule expansion is that ice hockey will move in line with the majority of MHSAA tournaments. With the exception of team wrestling, which is unique in the individual makeup of the event, all other MHSAA team sports have at least three weeks to accumulate the five or six wins necessary to claim a championship.

“At no time during regular season do we ask schools to play six games in two weeks, especially in a physically demanding sport like ice hockey – during the tournament, no less – when the stakes are greatest and the intensity is at its highest,” said Inglis.

The end result should provide a more polished product for a showcase that is quickly becoming one of the highlights of the MHSAA winter tournament season each March.

– Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

School Hockey: Where Everybody Knows Your Name

As the final horn sounded March 9 at the end of the MHSAA Division 1 Ice Hockey Final, another successful campaign was in the books. The tournament attracted more than 40,000 spectators from the time the first pucks dropped on Feb. 25, including a three-year high of more than 6,000 at 12 Quarterfinal sites. More than 200 schools and 3,000 participants compose the 145 teams that battled for championships this past winter as high school hockey continues to enjoy great popularity in Michigan. The Great Lakes State ranks third among the number of schools and fourth in participation among the 18 states nationally which sponsor the sport. Some of the sites and sounds from this year's Finals at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth indicate the sport is on solid ice.

“The travel team I played for disbanded last year and I needed a place to play. I should have done this years ago. What a great experience. Did you see our student section? People even know who I am at school now, and that I play a sport.” — Domenico Munaco, Rochester United goalie after stopping 49 of 53 shots in 4-2 Division 1 Semifinal loss



Hockey Weekly Action Photos



FARMINGTON UNITED HOCKEY posted this on its Twitter account in April: “Went to the USA tier 1 NATIONALS and this was the turnout (above). Picture #2 is this year’s STATE CHAMPIONSHIP. I think the pictures speak for themselves. Why would you not want to play in front of so many people and your classmates?”



Hockey Weekly Action Photos

“This (MHSAA) is better. Going to school with everybody every day is just a great time.” — Hartland’s Adam Pietila, who won a national championship with his travel team in April 2018, and last month won the MHSAA Division 2 title

Drop the Puck! Officials Looking Forward to New Format

Hockey Weekly Action Photos



Tuesday, Feb. 26, was a particularly busy day on the ice as the 2019 MHSAA Ice Hockey Tournament reached just its second day around the state.

On the slate that night were 27 Regional games, bringing the two-day total to 48 on the heels of Monday's busy calendar.

As teams were busy setting their sights on the ultimate goal, so, too, was another group of accomplished skaters who toil with much less fanfare. Nonetheless, the games can't start without them, the folks in the striped shirts who call the games.

Just as players and coaches will welcome the expanded playoff format in 2020, the officials are looking forward to the change as well.

"When we got to the first week of the tournament it seemed like we were going every day," said Jim Gaglead, who assigns officials for the Livonia Ice Hockey Officials Association. "There are only so many officials to go around in any sport. By allowing us as officials a day or two to catch our breath it's good. Good for us, and good for players more than anything."

If it seemed like everyday, well, it was. A total of 66 games were played in the first three days, and 89 in the first four. Considering each game has three officials at the Regional level, that computes to 267 officials needed during that span. On the busiest day, 81 had to take to the ice.

Given that there were a total of 302 playoff-eligible officials in 2019, filling those slots can be a logistical nightmare for assigners at times.

"Regional week will see a huge burden alleviated for officials and especially assigners. There will be so much more flexibility under the new format," said Dan DiCristofaro, President of the Northeast Hockey Referees Association. "Last year, we were faced with so many doubleheaders at single sites and the first games needed an early start so that the second games would not last late into the evening on school nights.

"At times, the most important factor for the assigner was scheduling those officials who could get to the arena for the early start times. Merit and ability sometimes had to take a back seat."

Gaglead agrees, saying, "Assigning-wise, early games are the toughest to fill. Everyone has a job, and in order to work a game they have to tell the boss they're leaving at 2:30 for a 5 o'clock game. You start to look for officials who are retired, or can get out of work, instead of the most qualified. That's not fair to the teams playing."

In the northern reaches of the Upper Peninsula, the problem is more acute.

Sean Jacques is the athletic director at Calumet, and also an experienced official, having skated the Division 2 Final in Plymouth in 2016.

"Not enough," Jacques said, in reference to the number of playoff officials in the UP. "Not enough. When I get the list of eligible officials that is sent to tournament managers, I have to search and scramble to find three people within an 80-mile radius."

Moving the Quarterfinals to the weekend will definitely help matters, and eliminating Regional doubleheaders should ease the scheduling anxiety as well.

"With Regionals spread out more, without doubleheaders, officials potentially could work more days," Jacques said. "And there should be more availability for the Quarterfinals. The last few years, it was in the Sault, and getting

Hockey Weekly Action Photos

MHSAA Ice Hockey officials are looking forward to the extended postseason tournament schedule, which should afford more rest and increased opportunity.



four guys to the Sault on a weeknight, whether from Escanaba or northern lower Michigan, was difficult. There were times I'd turn down a Quarterfinal because I just couldn't get there and back and make it to work the next day. Saturday makes it easier."

On the west side of the Lower Peninsula, assigner Randy Sheahan uses a mathematical approach to illustrate his challenges, even in the regular season. Sheahan calculates that 98.88 percent of all West Michigan games are scheduled for Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday. Breaking it down further, 84.39 percent skip Wednesday and schedule only Friday or Saturday.

With the shortened regular season coming in 2019-20 to allow for a three-week tournament window, Sheahan took a proactive approach.

"When the MHSAA announced the change to a three-week tournament, I emailed all West Michigan coaches, plus a handful of athletic directors and booster leaders who may be involved in team scheduling," Sheahan said. "I encouraged them if they are having difficulty squeezing all their games into a window which is now one week shorter, to give further consideration to playing on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays to greatly alleviate some of the stresses we place on the West Michigan officiating staff."

As for the MHSAA Tournament, Sheahan agrees with his brethren across the state in metro Detroit that the expansion will benefit assigners, officials, and teams.

"I only see positives," Sheahan said. "This gives me tremendous flexibility with our staff to maneuver around their professional and personal schedules to keep our best officials on the ice every round, which is an expectation teams have for playoffs. It also provides (at times) much needed rest for officials and teams, especially if they are involved in overtime affairs. This could help with the quality of overall game play."

That's the goal everyone is shooting for. Fresher legs for players and officials alike will provide a better experience for all involved.

"This allows for physical recovery for everyone on the ice," said DiCristofaro. "It also allows for better time management for student-athletes, officials and coaches. Even at the Quarterfinal offerings with four officials for each game, we'd run into issues as far which people could get to places, or wanted to travel and skate late on a work night. Saturday give us much more flexibility and should create more interest in state tournament."

The Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Finals have employed a four-official system in recent years, affording an extra position each game for deserving officials while adding to the quality of the game for participants at the highest level.

Sheahan plans to utilize the new format to continue to reward those among his troops who have earned their stripes for such contests.

"In theory, I may have opportunities to increase game counts for some of our perennial playoff officials, but I have no plans to do that," Sheahan said. "We have other officials every season who are good enough to skate playoffs and have earned it, but simply couldn't quite break the playoff bubble. Now the opportunity presents itself to reward some of those officials. It would be counterproductive to officiating development if fewer officials are getting opportunities for important games."

Similarly, DiCristofaro is hoping the time will come when four officials will be assigned to skate Regional Finals, and perhaps the new length of the postseason will open the door.

"Some of most important games are the Regional Finals. Maybe this new schedule can help," DiCristofaro said. "Four officials offer teams the best possible ice coverage and they deserve that."

— Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

Title Time Differs Among Leading Hockey States

Next season's three-week playoff format for the MHSAA Ice Hockey Tournament will fall more closely in line with similar postseasons for state associations around the country which sponsor the sport.

According to 2017-18 National Federation of State High School Association participation statistics, 18 states sponsor boys ice hockey.

Michigan ranked third in number of schools involved with 240, behind Minnesota (282) and Massachusetts (278). In terms of overall participants, the MHSAA was fourth with 3,353, trailing Massachusetts (7,377), Minnesota (5,751) and New Jersey (3,492); and just ahead of New York (3,088). Wisconsin and Ohio boast more than 2,000 participants annually.

So, how do the tournaments compare among those states similar to Michigan? Most use longer tournament calendars than the two-week span previously employed by the MHSAA.

The timeframe for the season just past in the Minnesota tournament had most play beginning on Feb. 21 and ending the same day as the MHSAA Finals, March 9. Some teams started on Feb. 19. The MHSAA dropped the puck for its first games on Monday, Feb. 25. It should be noted that Minnesota crowns just two champions annually, to the MHSAA's three divisions.

Meanwhile, in Wisconsin and Ohio, just one school takes the statewide title each year, so it stands to reason that the postseason is spread out even further. Both states began the 2019 playoffs on Monday, Feb. 11.

Wisconsin's tourney culminated on March 2 at Veteran's Memorial Coliseum in Madison as teams played the Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Final in three consecutive days.

Ohio, meanwhile, took a week-long break following District Finals on March 1 or 2, then played the Semifinals and Finals at Nationwide Arena in Columbus March 8-9. This is similar to the rest period the MHSAA will enjoy moving forward from its Quarterfinals to the Semifinals and Finals in 2020.

Just as the season was reaching its pinnacle in Wisconsin, the postseason title chase was merely beginning in Massachusetts, where this year it opened Feb. 25.

Massachusetts is tied for the most divisions of the states studied here with four, but the top division is created with a different twist.

"The top division is often called the 'Super 8' or 1A. This tournament is set up differently than the other divisions," said Massachusetts Ice Hockey Coaches Association President Dan Connolly. "The Super 8 is a double-elimination tournament. The seedlings for this tournament are done by power seeding via a committee using strength of schedule, record, team vs. teams under consideration and win-loss record down the stretch."

Connolly said just 10 teams are chosen for the Super 8, and seed Nos. 7 through 10 must face off in a play-in game to join the top 6. The two teams losing the play-in game return to their respective pre-assigned divisions and can still win those tournaments. Such was the case in 2019, when Duxbury HS lost in its bid to join the Super 8 field, but then won the Division 1 Final.

Like Michigan, those three divisions are based on enrollment, but unlike Michigan, the divisions are seeded based on winning percentage.

The Finals take place on a Sunday at the TD Garden in Boston, a celebration of hockey that features six games (four boys and two girls finals). This year's event took place on March 17, and



Select schools in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Ice Hockey Tournament participate in a "Super 8" double-elimination tournament. Two schools losing a play-in game to that tournament can come back to win a state championship in their respective divisions, as Duxbury (left) did in 2019.

2017-18 NFHS Ice Hockey Participation

STATE	Schools	Participants
Alabama		
Alaska	30	534
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California	20	460
Colorado	65	923
Connecticut	56	1,453
Delaware	9	98
District of Columbia	4	147
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
Iowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		
Maine	65	1,109
Maryland		
Massachusetts	278	7,377
Michigan	240	3,353
Minnesota	282	5,751
Mississippi		
Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
Nevada		
New Hampshire	42	1,000
New Jersey	134	3,492
New Mexico		
New York	144	3,088
North Carolina		
North Dakota	40	580
Ohio	81	2,141
Oklahoma		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island	27	812
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont	16	214
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin	86	2,528
Wyoming		



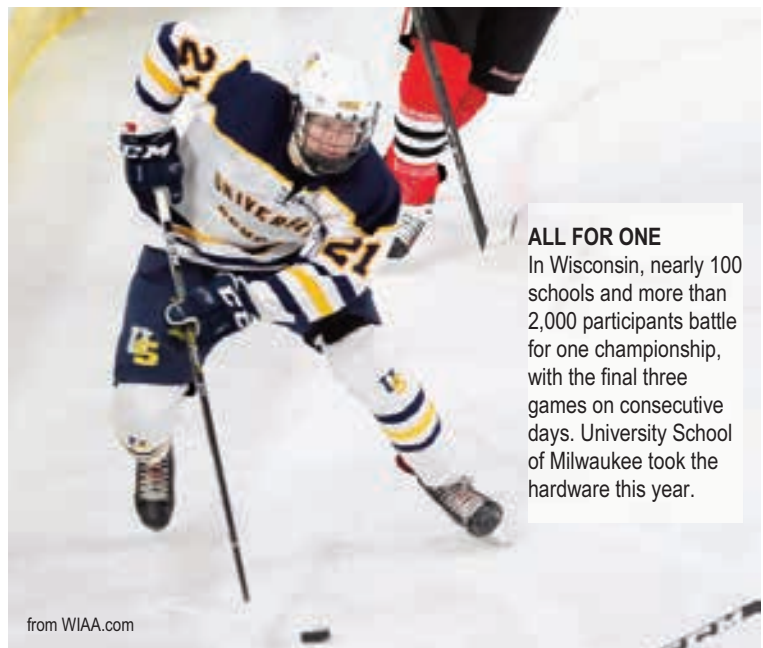
Minnesota ranks No. 1 with 282 schools participating in high school hockey, and is second to Massachusetts in participants, 7,377 to 5,751. Schools battle for one of two state championships, Class AA and Class A.

nearly went into March 18. The Division 1 Final began at 9:59 pm as the previous contest, the Super 8 Final, went to four overtimes.

As mentioned, Minnesota’s tournament ended the same day as the MHSAA in 2019, and featured one overtime game in its two Finals at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul as Edina took the top class over Eden Prairie, 3-2.

The Sunday finales in Boston might seem foreign to followers of MHSAA tournaments, but New York also features a Sunday as the stage for its two state Finals, following Semifinals on Saturday. This year’s playoffs went from Feb. 20-March 10, culminating at the Harborcenter in Buffalo.

Neighboring New Jersey comes closest in length to the old MHSAA format with four divisions – three public and one non-public – taking just 14 days to determine winners at the Prudential Center in Newark. The 2019 titles were determined on Monday, March 4, with Semifinals the Wednesday prior.



ALL FOR ONE

In Wisconsin, nearly 100 schools and more than 2,000 participants battle for one championship, with the final three games on consecutive days. University School of Milwaukee took the hardware this year.

from WIAA.com

This issue's trip to the "vault" offers a look at the last year the Flint IMA, now Perani Arena, hosted the MHSAA Ice Hockey Semifinals and Finals before the event moved to Plymouth.

LIGHTS OUT

The Flint IMA had been to the MHSAA Ice Hockey Finals what Joe Louis Arena was to the Detroit Red Wings since it began hosting high school championships in the state in 1977. For parts of four decades, the facility set the scene for many memorable moments on ice for scholastic skaters through the years.

So, it would have only been fitting on Saturday, March 9, 2002, as the curtain was closing on an era, if there'd be an overtime game or two out of the three MHSAA Finals to commemorate the IMA's last year hosting the event.

Beginning in 2003, the MHSAA Semifinals and Finals would be at Compuware Arena in Plymouth – now USA Hockey Arena – where the event has been ever since.

There would be no overtimes in the IMA's swan song, but the arena wasn't about to let go without a fight. Following the morning's Division 2 Final, won by Grosse Pointe North over local qualifier Davison, things got strange.

As if by divine intervention, a significant power outage hit the Flint area between the first and second periods of the Division 3 Final, necessitating a return to the building for an encore performance that Monday.

Following is an account from then-MHSAA Assistant Director Randy Allen, administrator of the sport at that time.



"East Grand Rapids and (Dearborn) Divine Child were between the first and second periods when the power went out at what must've been around three in the afternoon. Some of the house lights went on, but there was no huge generator. The power company told us it could be quite awhile before the power came back, so the decision was made pretty quickly to come back Monday. *(Editor's Note: MHSAA regulations at that time prohibited Sunday competition, thus play would resume Monday)*

"Finishing the game in progress Monday was really a no-brainer, but now there were a couple of immediate challenges. First, how were we going to let people know, and second, what was going to happen to the (Detroit) Catholic Central – Marquette Division 1 game coming up later in the day?

"Well, knowing what I knew about the TV business (Allen's background in Wisconsin included sportscasting), I grabbed one of the television reporters there, probably from Grand Rapids, and asked



MHSAA files

Marquette (above) had the longest road to the rare Monday Final, both in mileage and time, having not been home for a week.



GOOD FIT IN FLINT

The Flint IMA hosted MHSAA Ice Hockey Finals in the Lower Peninsula and/or statewide from 1977 through 2002.

“So there’s about 2 or 3 thousand people in the arena – in the dark – and I’m standing on the ice in front of a light from a TV camera, and at the top of my voice . . .” — Former MHSAA Assistant Director Randy Allen

him to come down to the ice with me. It was totally dark; I figured once he put his camera lights on, it would get the attention of the crowd, which it did. So there’s about 2 or 3 thousand people in the arena – in the dark – and I’m standing in front of a light from a TV camera, and at the top of my voice I explain the situation and let them know we’re coming back Monday.

“Anyone wanting to come back, admission was free of charge, and we’d trust they were at the game. If they wanted a refund, they could mail their ticket stub to MHSAA and we’d send a refund. We obviously couldn’t use the box office without power. I don’t recall more than a couple dozen refund requests coming to our office later.

“Now the real challenge is the Division 1 game. Marquette very, very much wanted to go home and come back a week later. They’d been on the road all week (Marquette won a QF in Traverse City that Wednesday). Jack (Roberts, former MHSAA Executive Director) was there, and he and Marquette’s AD (Scott Koski) and their superintendent debated a bit. In the end, the regulations of the day were upheld, and the game would be Monday.

“As it turned out, someone in the Marquette entourage had a contact in the Detroit Pistons front office, so the team was entertained in a suite at the Palace of Auburn Hills on Sunday night, so that was quite a happy ending from their standpoint.

“Many of the Marquette people were either in the arena or at a single hotel or two in the area, so alerting them to the change was not difficult.

“But then we started to think, ‘What about the

Detroit CC people who would be driving up for their game later? Remember, social media was not as prevalent as it is today, or even the dependence on the internet.

“So, Saturday night, I sat there at the entrance to the IMA with my car running and lights on to inform the CC fans and anyone else who pulled up that the game had changed . . .” Powers out, game’s on Monday.” They’d say thanks, and out they’d go. No one really got angry; there wasn’t anything anyone could do. I sat there an hour and a half with a steady stream, and shortly after the scheduled gametime I called it a night.”

And, the IMA called it the end of an era, but not before hanging on for one more night, when Divine Child and Detroit CC would raise the last trophies in that building . . . under the lights.



SEEING THE LIGHT

East Grand Rapids and Dearborn Divine Child finally got to settle the score in the 2002 Division 3 title game on a Monday, two days after the puck dropped to start the contest.



Classifications Announced for 2019-20

Classifications for Michigan High School Athletic Association elections and post-season tournaments for the 2019-20 school year have been announced, with enrollment breaks for postseason tournaments posted to each sport's page on the MHSAA Website.

Classifications for the upcoming school year are based on a second semester count date, which for MHSAA purposes was Feb. 13. The enrollment figure submitted for athletic classification purposes may be different from the count submitted for school aid purposes, as it does not include students ineligible for athletic competition because they reached their 19th birthday prior to September 1 of the current school year and will not include alternative education students if none are allowed athletic eligibility by the local school district.

Traditional classes (A, B, C, D) are used only for MHSAA elections and football playoff purposes – in 11-player to determine opponents' point values, and in 8-player to determine if schools are eligible to compete in the MHSAA Playoffs (only Class D teams may participate in the postseason). All other sports' tournaments will be conducted with schools in equal or nearly equal divisions.

To determine traditional classifications, after all counts are submitted, tournament-qualified member schools are ranked according to enrollment and then split as closely into quarters as possible. For 2019-20, there are 748 tournament-qualified member schools with 187 schools in each class.

Effective with the 2019-20 school year, schools with 863 or more students are in Class A. The enrollment limits for Class B are 395-862, Class C is 189-394, and schools with enrollments of 188 and fewer are Class D. The break between Classes A and B decreased 22 students from 2018-19, the break between Classes B and C decreased three students, and the break between Classes C and D is five students fewer than the current school year.

Schools recently were notified of their classification. MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said schools may not subsequently lower their enrollment figure. However, if revised enrollment figures are higher and indicate that a school should be playing in a higher division, that school would be moved up.

Schools have the option to play at any higher division for a minimum of two years, but must exercise the option by May 1 for fall sports, August 15 for winter sports and October 15 for spring sports.

The divisions and qualifiers for the MHSAA Football Playoffs will be announced on Selection Sunday, Oct. 27, 2019. Visit the respective sport pages on the MHSAA Website to review the divisional alignments for all other MHSAA-sponsored tournament sports.

Among teams that will be playing in new divisions in 2019-20 are two reigning MHSAA champions. The Rochester Adams girls swimming & diving team will be moving into Lower Peninsula Division 1 this fall after winning Division 2 in 2018. The Saugatuck boys cross country team will move into

Lower Peninsula Division 3 after winning Division 4 last fall. Additionally, two-time reigning Division 3 girls soccer champion Flint Powers Catholic is playing in Division 2 this spring, but will move back into Division 3 for the 2020 season. There will be a guaranteed new champion in Division 1 boys bowling in 2020 as this winter's winner Farmington Hills Harrison will be closing after this school year.

A complete list of school enrollments used to determine classifications for the 2019-20 school year can be found on the Enrollment & Classification page of the MHSAA Website.

The new classification breaks will see 17 schools move up in class for 2019-20 while 12 schools will move down. (Note: This list does not include schools opting up in class/division for tournaments, which can be found on the Administrators page of the MHSAA Website, under Enrollment, Classification, Co-Ops):

Moving Up From Class B to Class A

Battle Creek Harper Creek
Dearborn Divine Child
Marysville
Parma Western
Pontiac
Stevensville Lakeshore

Moving Down from Class A to Class B

Clio
Grand Rapids Christian
Ortonville Brandon
Owosso
Redford Union

Moving Up from Class C to Class B

Adrian Madison
Dearborn Advanced Technology Academy
Flint Hamady

Moving Down from Class B to Class C

Detroit West Side Academy
Leslie

Moving Up from Class D to Class C

Adrian Lenawee Christian
Benton Harbor Countryside Academy
Deckerville
Kingston
Lutheran Westland
Mayville
Merrill
Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary

Moving Down from Class C to Class D

Big Rapids Crossroads Academy
Britton Deerfield
Dryden
Eau Claire
Newberry

New Postseason Eligible Tournament Schools in 2019-20

Southfield Manoogian
Flint New Standard
Midland Calvary Baptist Academy
Starr Albion Prep
Whitmore Lake Livingston Classical

Enrollment Breaks by Classes – 2019-20

(Number of schools in parentheses)
Class A: 863 and above (187 schools)
Class B: 395 – 862 (187)
Class C: 189 – 394 (187)
Class D: 188 and below (187)

Derocher, Smith Named 2019 Forsythe Winners

Jim Derocher always tried to listen to everyone before making a decision while serving on the MHSAA's Representative Council. He wanted to best serve not just the stars but all student-athletes, and not just those down the road but all over Michigan.

Longtime Council member Fred Smith always thought back to something Lake Michigan Catholic coach Terry Rose once told him: when making decisions, do what's best for kids first. Smith did so while trying to consider the needs not just of the student-athletes in his community, but in the many communities all over the state.

Both Derocher and Smith served thousands of students locally over decades of service and provided statewide contributions that continue to guide educational athletics in Michigan today.



Jim Derocher



Fred Smith

In recognition of their dedication, Derocher and Smith were named the 2019 recipients of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Charles E. Forsythe Award.

The annual award is in its 42nd year and named after former MHSAA Executive Director Charles E. Forsythe, the Association's first full-time and longest-serving chief executive. Forsythe Award recipients are selected each year by the MHSAA Representative Council, based on an individual's outstanding contributions to the interscholastic athletics community. Derocher and Smith received their honors during the MHSAA Division 1 Boys Basketball Final on March 16.

After beginning his career as a teacher and coach at L'Anse, Derocher went on to serve as athletic director and assistant principal at Ishpeming Westwood from 1989-94, then as superintendent at Brimley from 1994-98 and finally Negaunee from 1998-2014. He also represented the Upper Peninsula's Class C & D schools on the MHSAA Representative Council from 2003-14 and served as its president from 2008-14.

Smith taught, coached and served as athletic director at St. Joseph Lake Michigan Catholic from 1981-91, then served as athletic director at Comstock from 1991-2007, Buchanan from 2007-2015 and Benton Harbor from 2015-17. He represented the Lower Peninsula's Southwestern Class A & B schools on the MHSAA Representative Council from 2008-17, including serving as vice president his final four years.

"Jim Derocher was an outstanding Council president, always approaching things first as a superintendent and looking at the big picture," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "He provided a statewide perspective through an Upper Peninsula prism, always considering how decisions would impact schools from Monroe to Menominee.

"Fred Smith is simply one of the best athletic di-

rectors I've gotten to work with during my career in athletics," Uyl added. "I met him while he was at Comstock; from Comstock to Buchanan to Benton Harbor he was presented with and led his programs through different challenges. And he always served as a champion for those schools in that part of the state while keeping a statewide perspective when helping shape the Council's work."

Derocher finished his time at L'Anse earning the Copper Country Conference Coach of the Year award for boys basketball in 1989, and he also served as an MHSAA-registered official in football, boys and girls basketball from 1970-90. While on the Representative Council, Derocher served concurrently on the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee.

He was a member of the Michigan Association of School Administrators from 1994-2014 and selected as its Region 1 Superintendent of the Year in 2013. He also received MASA's 20-year Distinguished Administrator Award.

Smith's impact continues to be far-reaching. He remains active as part of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) and National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), having served on the Board of Directors for both and recently named to the Strategic Planning Committee for the latter. He also continues to teach courses for the MHSAA's Coaches Advancement Program (CAP) and taught the NIAAA's Leadership Training Course at the national conference and via the internet in 13 states. He has presented at a number of MHSAA New Athletic Administrator In-Service programs and served as the co-chairperson of the MIAAA's Professional Development Committee.

Smith has been a registered cross country and track & field official for more than 30 years, and while an athletic director at his various schools hosted a multitude of MHSAA Tournament events in cross country, volleyball, boys and girls tennis, boys and girls basketball, track & field, wrestling, baseball, boys and girls soccer and softball.

Derocher graduated from L'Anse High School in 1970 and earned his bachelor's in secondary education, mathematics and physics in 1975 and master's in education in 1988, both from Northern Michigan University. He also earned education specialist certification in 2003. He was a member of the Lake Superior Community Partnership from 2003-14 and remains a member of the Negaunee Lions Club. He resides in Ishpeming and works as an account executive for SET SEG, which coordinates benefits for Michigan public schools and their employees.

Smith graduated from Battle Creek St. Philip in 1973 and Western Michigan University with his bachelor's degree in 1979. He received the Certified Master Athletic Administrator designation from the NIAAA in 2004. He remains active through his church, Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Bridgman, and resides in Stevensville.

2019 WISL Award Goes to Kris Isom

Over more than three decades, Adrian Madison Athletic Director Kris Isom has taken on responsibilities not only in her league and regionally, but statewide as a member of the MHSAA Representative Council – in addition to her athletic department responsibilities at the high school and junior high.

And yet, she still teaches multiple classes and coaches at least one of the district’s teams every year, serving and building relationships at the most local level of her wide influence on educational athletics.

She’s made those relationships a priority, also serving as class advisor to Madison students through last year when her daughter Rachel graduated. One year during the 1990s, in fact, the graduating class even dedicated its yearbook to her.



Kris Isom

“I like being in the classroom and coaching because I still have a connection with kids, know who they are,” Isom said. “Being at a smaller school, you’re able to know who kids are, but at the middle school especially I don’t know a lot. Getting involved in coaching has helped me put a name with a face so I will know them coming up.”

She continues to impact students at Madison and beyond, and was recognized for her many contributions with the 32nd Women In Sports Leadership Award during halftime of the Division 3 Girls Basketball Final on March 23 at Calvin College’s Van Noord Arena.

Each year, the Representative Council considers the achievements of women coaches, officials and athletic administrators affiliated with the MHSAA who show exemplary leadership capabilities and positive contributions to athletics.

Isom is in her 33rd year as athletic director at Adrian Madison, taking over athletics for the high school and junior high after serving as a teacher and coach for a year at Clinton. She has served as part of the MHSAA Representative Council since 2008, representing Class C and D schools from the state’s southeastern section.

“I’m very honored by this award, not only because it’s for women in leadership. I’ve been doing this 33 years and I’ve seen more and more women in this profession ... that for all things considered is a man’s profession,” Isom said. “Having a daughter, who while she’s not following my footsteps, but getting her in the business world eventually, it’s a good feeling.”

Isom’s contributions to high school sports and its participants are many and at all levels. Within

her district, she has coached basketball, volleyball, sideline cheer, track & field and softball – at least one sport every year, including as the eighth grade girls basketball coach this season.

At the league level, Isom has served as president of the Tri-County Conference since 2002 after previously serving as vice president and secretary/treasurer. Serving more of her neighboring districts, Isom has hosted numerous District, Regional and Quarterfinal competitions and MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP) sessions.

At the statewide level, Isom has provided her expertise as a member of the Representative Council and as a 33-year member of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. She also assists MHSAA staff annually in selecting members of the 16-student Student Advisory Council.

She was named the MIAAA’s Region 6 “Athletic Director of the Year” in 2000 and received the MHSAA’s Allen W. Bush Award in 2016 to recognize her many behind-the-scenes contributions.

“Kris Isom continues to provide a steady presence on our Representative Council. She researches issues and really brings a voice of reason to the discussion – not only to the full Council, but to the Executive Committee as well,” MHSAA Executive Director Mark Jyl said. “She does a great job representing the southeastern corner of the state, bringing a small-school perspective to the table time after time. We’re thankful for her leadership and glad to present her with the Women In Sports Leadership Award.”

Part of leadership is being an example, and Isom has served as one for many. Of course that growing group included her daughter who this year left home to study in the dental hygiene program at Jackson College but has frequently been by Mom’s side for the many activities.

“Hopefully, (she learned) to be assertive, that she needs to be a good listener, and obviously you have to be a mediator,” Kris Isom said. “Hopefully seeing all those aspects, and dealing with situations and different issues, she’ll be a better problem solver, be more open (to the idea) that there is more than one side of a story.”

A graduate of Clinton High School, Isom received her bachelor’s degree in science and teaching certification in physical education and health in 1984 from Michigan State University. She earned her master’s in elementary education in 1986 from Eastern Michigan University and also has completed graduate courses from Fresno Pacific University.

David Buck Tabbed for 2019 Norris Award

David Buck's degree in education did not lead him into a fulltime job in the classroom.

But the longtime St. Joseph baseball umpire and basketball referee has had an undeniable impact as a teacher and trainer of officials in southwest Michigan, across the state and far beyond its borders.

Buck, one of the state's most highly respected officials on the court and considered among the nation's top collegiate baseball umpires, was recognized for his vast contributions to the high school games with the MHSAA's Vern L. Norris Award for 2019.



David Buck

The Norris Award is presented annually to a veteran official who has been active in a local officials association, has mentored other officials, and has been involved in officials' education. It is named for Vern L. Norris, who served as executive director of the MHSAA from 1978-86 and was well-respected by officials on the state and national levels.

Buck has earned similar regard. He's also a mentor as part of southwest Michigan's Fruit Belt Officials Association, and considered an elite clinician who has taught the baseball umpiring trade on the national level.

"Dave Buck generously gives of his time to teach and instruct at clinics all over the country. He is an outstanding teacher who relates to all officials, from the rookies and up-and-comers to the veterans still working at improving their craft," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "Dave also has brought a level of enhanced professionalism to the officiating landscape in southwestern Michigan, where he has improved the continuing education, recruitment and retention efforts and assignment process for many officials. I cannot think of a more worthy Vern Norris Award winner than Dave Buck."

Buck was honored at the 40th Officials' Awards & Alumni Banquet on May 4 at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center in East Lansing.

He also was recognized with his 40-year service award and remains registered with the MHSAA for basketball. He previously officiated football for 16 years, volleyball for his first seven and baseball for his first five beginning with the 1979-80 school year.

He has focused solely on basketball for the MHSAA since 2002-03 and officiated Boys Basketball Semifinals in 2012 and 2013 and the Class B Final in 2009. Additionally, he officiated 30 college basketball seasons, stepping away from that level a year ago, and has begun his 21st at the NCAA Division I baseball level, working in the Big Ten, Mid-American, Pac-12 and Big West confer-

ences. He earned College World Series assignments in 2004 and 2007 and umpired in minor league baseball for 11 seasons, including four at the Triple-A level. Buck also is in his 15th year observing and evaluating umpires for Major League Baseball.

As noted, those experiences on the field have supplied valuable knowledge he gladly continues to pass on. After attending the prestigious Harry Wendelstedt Umpire School – he was named the "outstanding student" in 1984 – Buck also served there as an instructor for eight years. He has taught for 24 years at Doane Umpire Camps and instructed at the Division I Baseball Regional Umpire Camp.

On the high school level, he's been a member of the Fruit Belt Officials Association for more than three decades including more than 15 years serving on its Board of Directors. He developed the FBOA's mentoring program that pairs novice basketball officials with experienced partners for low-level games, and he also developed the FBOA website and continues to serve as its webmaster.

"We want people to succeed so much ... and I still get a lot of joy out of seeing someone who discovers the world we're in with officiating," Buck said. "The camaraderie part of it, the feeling you get from doing the job properly, although for the most part you're not getting pats on the back from people other than your own. It's a unique group of people at all levels."

Buck graduated from North Adams-Jerome High School in 1978, then earned his bachelor's degree in education from Central Michigan University. In addition to the College World Series and nine Division I Super Regional assignments, Buck umpired two Olympic Qualifier tournaments and the Baseball World Cup in 2007.

Locally, in addition to officiating basketball, Buck has served as an assigner and evaluator for multiple southwest Michigan conferences for 15 years.

Buck most recently has been affiliated with the FBOA, Amateur Baseball Umpires' Association, Collegiate Baseball Umpires Alliance and National Association of Sports Officials. He currently works as an electronic health records analyst at Lakeland Health in St. Joseph.

While officiating has played a significant part during the majority of Buck's adult life, he's equally passionate about his fundraising work to find a cure for cystic fibrosis. Buck's oldest daughter Hannah battles the disease; he's personally raised more than \$175,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and served as the co-chairperson of St. Joseph's "Great Strides Walk" from 2002-16. Hannah, who was diagnosed at age 5, graduated from University of Michigan earlier in the day May 4.

Make Plans to Attend the 2019 AD In-Service/Update Meeting Series

Athletic directors should plan now to attend an AD In-Service and Update Meeting in the fall. While attendance is strong, some ADs have not attended as their duties have increased. We suggest the opposite approach and urge those who have not attended recently to make it a point of emphasis. Attending these efficient “2-in-1” programs improves leadership and service skills and can make your work less of a burden.

The Update meetings begin at noon and present current issues, rules, regulations, future plans, and pertinent Representative Council matters. SUPERINTENDENTS, PRINCIPALS, ATHLETIC DIRECTORS and SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS should attend Update Meetings each year. Lunch is served at Update Meetings only. The Athletic Director In-Services runs from 8:30-11:45 a.m. and will focus on new actions, describing and defining regulations, MHSAA procedures, group discussions and more.



Scan to download registration form to mobile device

2019 AD In-Service/Update Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, Sept. 18	Kalamazoo, Four Points by Sheraton
Monday, Sept. 23	Warren, DeCarlos Banquet/Convention (Annual Business Meeting)
Wednesday, Sept. 25	Frankenmuth, Zehnder's
Monday, Sept. 30	Comstock Park, English Hills Country Club
Monday, Oct. 7	Gaylord, Otsego Club & Resort
Wednesday, Oct. 9	Lansing, Causeway Bay
Friday, Oct. 25	Marquette, Superior Dome (no fee, no meal)

Got the MHSAA.com to register for a session near you!

Inform Students, Coaches, Parents of Summer Dead Period

Each school sets its own Summer Dead Period – a seven-consecutive day “zero player and coach contact period” for all sports and all coaches – no functions, fundraisers, parades, etc.

Non-school baseball and softball teams may continue their schedule during the dead period.

Set the period between a school's last day of participation in any MHSAA tournament and Aug. 1. It is recommended that the dead period include the 4th of July.

There is no requirement to report, but there is a requirement to designate and observe a dead period.

Please include ALL sports, especially tennis and swimming in the discussions. Be sure to publicize your Summer Dead Period to all parties and the community at large.



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.

Student Advisory Council Names Members of 2021

Eight student-athletes who will be juniors at their schools during the 2019-20 academic year have been selected to serve two-year terms on the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council.

The Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student's perspective, and also is involved in the operation of Association championship events and other programming. Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. Eight new members are selected annually to serve on the SAC, with nominations made by MHSAA member schools. The incoming juniors will join the group of eight seniors-to-be appointed a year ago.

Selected to begin serving on the Student Advisory Council in 2019-20 are: **Pierre Brooks II**, Detroit Douglass; **Macy Brown**, Cadillac; **Lydia Davenport**, Ithaca; **Freddy Kopplow**, Traverse City St. Francis; **Colin McAuliffe**, Salem; **Avery Peters**, Mason; **Abigail Pheiffer**, Novi; and **Landen Thompson**, Stevensville Lakeshore.

The first Student Advisory Council was formed for the 2006-07 school year. With the addition of this class beginning this summer, members will have represented 110 schools from 45 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in 12 MHSAA sports, and all eight will be the first SAC members from their respective schools.

The Student Advisory Council meets seven times each school year, and once more for a 24-hour leadership camp. In addition to assisting in the promotion of the educational value of interscholastic athletics, the Council discusses issues dealing with the 4 S's of educational athletics: scholarship, sportsmanship, safety (including health and nutrition) and the sensible scope of athletic programs. There also is a fifth S discussed by the group – student leadership.

This school year, the Council selected the 2018-19 "Battle of the Fans VIII" champion and presented Sportsmanship Summits in front of more than 1,000 students from across the state, handed out championship trophies at Finals events and provided feedback to the MHSAA Representative Council on proposed rule changes.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2020 members who were selected a year ago: **Grace Beardsley**, Gladwin; **Kaitlyn Bricker**, Pellston; **Nathan Eccles**, Port Huron Northern; **Jack Fairman**, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood; **Alexis Mohnney**, Mattawan; **Trevin Phillips**, Caro; **Bella Lindsay**, North Muskegon; and **Lance Wiltse**, Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

Student Advisory Council Belief Statement

Adopted Nov. 2007

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 in Nov. 2007

Scholar-Athlete Class of 2019 Honored

The Michigan High School Athletic Association/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award has been recognizing the top student-athletes for 28 years. Applicants for the Scholar-Athlete Award must meet the following criteria: A minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale; and must have previously won a varsity letter. Applicants also show involvement in other school and community activities; submit two letters of recommendation and a 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Recipients of the 2018-19 Scholar-Athlete Award receive a \$1,000 college scholarship to be used at the college, university, or trade school of their choice during the 2019-20 school year. This year, a total of 1,645 applications from 418 schools were received for the 32 scholarships. Class A students were guaranteed 12 winners, Class B eight winners, Class C six winners and Class D four winners. Two at-large winners were also selected.

All scholarship recipients will be honored in ceremonies at halftime of the Division 3 Boys Basketball Final at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing on March 16.



32 student-athletes from around the state are honored during the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals each year for academic excellence.

2019 Scholar-Athlete Award Winners

Rachel Allen, Mason County Central, Class C
 Lauren Anderson, Charlotte, Class B
 Chloe Bartz, Edwardsburg, Class B
 Abbey Bullis, Peck, Class D
 Alma Cooper, Okemos, Class A
 David DeBacker, Detroit Catholic Central, Class A
 Precious Delos Santos, Indian River Inland Lakes, Class C
 Noah Doederlein, Carleton Airport, Class B
 Alexa Easter, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Class A
 Trey Feldeisen, Ann Arbor Greenhills, Class C
 Lauren Freeland, Kent City, Class C
 Matthew George, Novi, Class A
 Olivia Haring, Clare, Class B
 Chloe Idoni, Fenton, Class A
 Adele Kemp, Greenville, Class A
 Brendan LeClaire, Dollar Bay, Class D

Justin Luo, BH Cranbrook Kingswood, Class B
 Pierce Morrissey, Big Rapids, Class B
 Trey Mullins, Novi, Class A
 Zoe Neirink, Frankenmuth, Class B
 Riley Poupore, Iron Mountain, Class C
 Nolan Rich, St Joseph, Class A
 Avery Robinson, Wyoming, Class A
 Edward Roe, Traverse City Central, Class A
 Dane Smitz, Roscommon, Class C
 Samantha Somers, Mackinaw City, Class D
 Michael Song, Troy, Class A
 Connor Swinehart, Newaygo, Class B
 Jade Turner, Traverse City Central, Class A
 Alexander VanDeWeghe, Ithaca, Class C
 Audrey Whiteside, East Grand Rapids, Class A
 Ryan Yahner, McBain Northern Mich.Christian, Class D



Allen



Anderson



Bartz



Bullis



Cooper



DeBacker



Delos Santos



Doederlein



Easter



Feldeisen



Freeland



George



Haring



Idoni



Kemp



LeClaire



Luo



Morrissey



Mullins



Neirink



Poupore



Rich



Robinson



Roe



Smitz



Somers



Song



Swinehart



Turner



VanDeWeghe



Whiteside



Yahner

Visit the Students page of [MHSAA.com](https://www.mhsaa.com)
for a Scholar-Athlete History, and
for 2019-20 Application Information

Lake Orion HS is SBP Program of the Year

Lake Orion High School has been named the “Program of the Year” in the MHSAA’s School Broadcast Program Excellence Awards for 2018-19.

The SBP Excellence Awards will award certificates and plaques to the schools which took individual honors, with the presentation dates and times to be announced.

Lake Orion claimed the top spot in three of the five award categories, and placed in all five categories, capturing seven individual awards. The program demonstrated a good blend in a variety of sports covered – at home and on the road; and an overall command of the PlayOn! Sports software used for graphics and inserting commercials/features during the course of productions.

Here is the complete list by categories of the schools and students being honored in this year’s SBP Excellence Awards:



Best Multicamera Production:

- *First Place* – Cedar Springs – Nathan Draper, Max VanderMeulen, Macie Huntoon, Katia Corwin, Mason Francis, Josh Allen, Jacob Meredith, Jacob Swinehart, Dylan Patterson, Austin Kibby, Tayvon Gardner, Rylee Kinzinger, Riley Smith – Football game v. Grand Rapids Forest Hills North-ern.
- *Second Place* – Lake Orion – Sienna Gibson, Kevin McCormick Jr., Teddy Hirschfield, Jacob Johr, Becca Hamilton, Derek Dungan, Amanda Pordon, Eric Maxwell, Hunter Chambers – Boys Basketball game v. Rochester Adams.
- *TIE - Third Place* – Cedar Springs – Nathan Draper, Max VanderMeulen, Macie Huntoon, Katia Corwin, Mason Francis, Josh Allen, Jacob Meredith, Jacob Swinehart, Dylan Patterson, Austin Kibby, Tayvon Gardner, Rylee Kinzinger, Riley Smith – Football game v. Gaylord.
- *TIE - Third Place* – Lake Orion – Sienna Gibson, Teddy Hirschfield, Kevin McCormick Jr., Isabella Larsen, Derek Dungan, Alexandra Hill, Jenna Gaylord, Becca Hamilton, Eric Maxwell, Amanda Pordon, Alex Gustanski – Boys Basketball game v. Clarkston.

Best Student Play-By-Play:

- *First Place* – Lake Orion – Kevin McCormick Jr. & Teddy Hirschfield – Boys Basketball game v. Rochester Adams.
- *Second Place* – Lake Orion – Kevin McCormick Jr. & Teddy Hirschfield – Boys Basketball game v. Oxford.
- *Third Place* – Montrose – Daniel Sackrider & Chase Hobson – Boys Basketball game v. Mt. Morris.

Best Produced Commercial/Feature:

- *First Place* – Lake Orion – Kalee Kniess & Ryan Hammond – Feature: Beyond The Lights-Kyle Loken.
- *Second Place* – Montrose – Molly Dunton, Chase Hobson, Gabe Patterson, Joe Wade, Tansy Cook – Zhen-der’s of Frankenmuth Commercial.
- *Third Place* – Montrose – David Sackrider – Unsportsmanlike Conduct Podcast Promo.

Best Single Camera Production with PlayOn! Graphics:

- *First Place* – First Place – Lake Orion – Hunter Chambers, Kevin McCormick Jr., Emily Penrose, Holden Dholakia, Josh McCaffrey – MHSAA Boys Basketball Quarterfinal game – Detroit U-D Jesuit v. Roseville.
- *Second Place* – Cedar Springs – Clyde Dykhous, Nathan Draper, Graham Bayink – Football game - Zealand East v. East Grand Rapids.
- *Third Place* – Montrose - David Sackrider, Daniel Sackrider, Alex Morrow, Libby Scott - Girls Basketball game v. Mt. Morris.

Best Use of PlayOn! Graphics/Software:

- *First Place* – Montrose – David Sackrider, Daniel Sackrider, Alex Morrow, Libby Scott - Girls Basketball game v. Mt. Morris.
- *Second Place* – Lake Orion – Kevin McCormick Jr., Teddy Hirschfield, Kalee Kniess, Marc Studier – Boys Basketball game v. Clarkston.
- *Third Place* – Montrose – David Sackrider, Daniel Sackrider, Peyton Hobson, Tanner Sims, Drewe Conley – Football game v. Chesaning.

Norse Nation is MHSAA's No. 1 Student Section



North Muskegon senior Kendal Hoppa grew up watching the older kids in her town cheering on their friends at high school games, a sports-based extension of the close-knit community.

And what she's known about Norse Nation for years, the rest of Michigan now knows as well.

The Nation already was a force when it came to student support. But she and her classmates showed this winter what a dedicated section can become with organization and a bit more intention – and they can celebrate what they've built with the Battle of the Fans VIII championship.

"The biggest thing is our sense of school pride," Hoppa said. "We are there supporting the basketball team, we are supporting our family, and I think that really rubbed off on the schools we've competed against and any other community members who came to watch us."

"I've noticed an immense growth in schools in our conference and schools that we've played against having student sections of their own now – 'We want to be like North Muskegon. Let's organize this student section.' It's been awesome for our community and also communities around us as well."

North Muskegon accepted its Battle of the Fans VIII championship banner during halftime of the first Division 2 Boys Basketball Semifinal on March 15 at Michigan State University's Breslin Center.

North Muskegon was chosen based on a vote by the MHSAA's 16-member Student Advisory Council influenced by public vote on the MHSAA's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram sites. A total of 9,875 social media votes were received – and increase of more than 6 percent over last year's con-

"We are there supporting the basketball team, we are supporting our family, and I think that really rubbed off on the schools we've competed against and any other community members who came to watch us." – North Muskegon senior Kendra Hoppa

test – with those results then equated against a school's enrollment. This year's results came out to 4.3 votes cast for every student attending one of our finalist schools.

The Council based its vote on the following criteria: positive sportsmanship, student body participation, school spirit, originality of cheers, organization of the group, section leadership and overall fun. Nine semifinalists were selected from the original application group before Buchanan, North Muskegon and Saginaw Heritage were chosen for MHSAA visits. Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard, Carson City-Crystal, Petersburg-Summerfield, Petoskey, Traverse City West and Wayland also were semifinalists.

North Muskegon totaled the most public social media support and finished first across four of five ways votes were accepted (Facebook likes and shares, Twitter re-tweets and likes and Instagram likes). Votes were scaled to take into account a school's size – a vote for Class B Buchanan was worth more than one for Class A Saginaw Heritage, for example – and North Muskegon's voting totaled higher than that of the other two finalists combined.

In Her Fight, Inman Seeks To Provide Hope

The silver lining from tragedy can take a while to come into focus. Searra Inman might not have been searching for it in the days that followed a motorcycle accident that would forever change her life.

Inman wasn't supposed to survive the July 9 crash that left her paralyzed from the waist down. Surgeons in Indianapolis even used her as a case study due to the fact that almost no one with such severe spinal cord injuries has reached the operating table alive.

So, Inman kept living. Her goals were unchanged. And in the process of that pursuit, she slowly began to realize the lives she was touching along the way. Spurred on by an outpouring of support from her family, church, and classmates and staff at Niles Brandywine High School, Inman faced her new reality head-on.

The first item on the senior's to-do list was to make good on a promise to herself to earn a four-year varsity wrestling plaque. The second was to reach 100 career victories.

"I love to do these things, and I don't want to sit in bed the rest of my life and feel discouraged about the situation," Inman said. "Instead, I pushed forward. Wrestling has helped with it. There were times in wrestling I wanted to quit and give up. Instead, I pushed through it and worked hard and gained a lot of mental strength. It helped me get through my situation."

Veteran Bobcats wrestling coach Rex Pomranka received the news from Inman directly when visiting her in the hospital. He began talking to local officials about whether or not Inman would be allowed to take wins for the team if opponents failed to produce a wrestler at 103 pounds.

Both the officials and Inman's doctors gave her the green light.

"She said she had a plan as to how she was going to get out on the mat and that she'd show me at our first meet, which she did," Pomranka said.

In the season opener Dec. 5 at Bronson, Inman locked the wheels on her wheelchair, climbed down

to the floor and crawled out to the circle. Very few people in attendance had any idea what was happening, including referee Kevin Raber.

"I wasn't trying to show pity or anything, but I was thinking about other kids possibly snickering or saying something that was inappropriate," Raber recalled. "I took a couple steps to her so she didn't have to crawl all the way out to the middle. I raised her arm up and congratulated her.

"When it was all done, I didn't want anything negative to happen, so I said, 'Do you mind if I pick you up?' She said, 'It's up to you.' I said, 'Well, I'd like to.' So, I just picked her up. Everybody started clapping and it was a very moving moment. I didn't realize until I was in the middle of it what was going on. Man, I had to swallow my tears in that moment. It was definitely profound and moving for me."

Inman didn't know what to expect as she boldly slid out of her wheelchair.

"I was nervous and so embarrassed," she said. "I told my assistant coach that I didn't know if I was ready to go out there. I didn't

know how it was going to look. I built up some courage, crawled out and, with everybody clapping, it made me feel like I was still out there wrestling even if there wasn't an opponent."

She didn't mind the lift from Raber either.

"When he asked to carry me, I was happy," she said. "I didn't want to crawl back to my chair. There was somebody who wanted to help and saw how hard I was willing to push myself."

Raber, unaware of Inman's accident and the community's fundraising efforts, felt compelled to donate his check from that night, as well as additional money, to Inman's family – information he didn't voluntarily divulge. He even made a trip to Brandywine a week later to talk to her about that emotional night.

"I was honored to be in that moment with her," he said. "I officiate because I love the sport of wrestling. If it could help her have a little brighter Christmas, to be able to help her parents or anything, she could use it with a better purpose than I ever could have."



Official Kevin Raber lifts Inman following her return to the mat in December. *photo courtesy of Troy Tennyson/Coldwater Daily Reporter*

Like Raber, Pomranka hardly kept it together that evening.

“I was in tears,” said Pomranka, whose brother was paralyzed in an automobile accident nearly 30 years ago. “This was a goal she was shooting for. I was trying to hide the tears; I’m glad she was able to get back on the mat and do something she enjoyed. I’m just happy she is here to finish out her senior year.”

It was Inman’s 76th career victory.

However, the best might have been saved for last when during a Feb. 12 Division 4 Regional match against Schoolcraft, Inman once again moved to the center of the mat, had her hand raised for victory No. 100; mission accomplished.

Most recently, Inman was selected as the Section 4 recipient of the “National High School Spirit of Sport Award” by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

The Award was created by the NFHS to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics.

Inman’s father, Chris, thought back to the day in the hospital when he had to deliver news no parent should have to deliver.

“For a day and a half, I was upset because I held back,” he explained. “We wanted to get all the information from the doctors. But she was starting to figure it out.

“She said, ‘Dad, tell me what’s going on?’ I walked up with tears in my eyes and she knew. ‘I’m paralyzed, aren’t I?’ She looked away with a tear in her eye and she just collected her thoughts. It was that mentality that I’ve seen from her with any challenge she has ever faced. She said she was going to walk again. From that moment on, that has been her drive. She’ll never walk without the assistance of something, but her goal is to get back upright.”

More goals include driving a car and, even if reluctantly, getting back to everyday tasks a lot less exciting than wrestling.

“My mom (Pepper) is always pushing me to do things I may not like doing, even though I’m in a wheelchair,” Inman said. “She tells me, ‘Would you have done it if you weren’t in a wheelchair?’ So, I go and do it.”

She still enjoys working on cars and motorcycles, changing the brakes on her parents’ vehicles and getting her hands greasy. But Inman’s passion is helping animals, so she plans to attend Lake Michigan College for two years before working toward a degree in veterinary medicine at Michigan State University.

Helping her get there have been a host of teachers, friends and even strangers. Teachers film their classes and send the video to Inman while she’s doing physical therapy at Mary Free Bed in Grand Rapids two days a week. Her therapists, she said, are aiding Inman in reaching a goal: She plans to

surprise everyone on graduation day.

The funds raised by the community have kept the Inmans out of what would have been crushing debt from medical bills. They’ve read and saved every well-wishing card they’ve received.

Admittedly private, Chris – who teaches at Brandywine – described how the community rallied behind his family as a



Brandywine coach Rex Pomranka assists Inman during a meet this season.
photo courtesy of Joelsider.com

humbling experience.

“Early on, they had her on a video conference live at the school,” he said. “It was a big fundraiser. They panned around and Brandywine’s cafeteria and hallway was crowded for hours. (Searra) made the comment, ‘Good grief, with this much support I can’t fail.’

“The world sometimes is a rough, hard place,” Chris said. “You hear about all the bad stuff. You initially think you’ll never get through this. But people come out in support and share their stories, and then you realize the place where you live is pretty amazing.”

So is watching Inman smile as her hand is raised in victory.

– Wes Morgan
Special for MHSAA Second Half

Rules of the Games

Sharpen your skills with the following rules questions. Answers appear at the bottom of the next page.

Baseball

- The pitcher places his pivot foot in contact and parallel to the pitcher's plate and his non-pivot foot entirely in front of the front edge of the pitcher's plate.
 - This is an illegal pitching position.
 - This is a legal wind-up position.
 - This is a legal set position.
 - This is a legal hybrid position.
- With a runner on first base, the batter hits a ground ball to the third baseman. After fielding the ball, the third baseman overthrows first base and the ball goes out of play. The runner and batterrunner are awarded:
 - Two bases from the time of the pitch.
 - Two bases from the time of the throw.
 - Two bases from the time the ball went out of play.
 - One base from the time of the pitch.
- Any time the defense wishes to appeal following the last play of the game, the appeal must be made:
 - Before the umpires have left the field.
 - Before the infielders leave fair territory.
 - Before the officials scorekeeper gets the book signed.
 - Before the umpires have left facility.



- True or False: A 1 passes the ball to A 2. While the ball is in flight B 1 targets a body check on A 2 who does not see the hit coming. In this situation, the official needs to judge the hits intensity and assess a one-three minute non-releasable penalty.
- Which of the following apply to having a clearly marked center line that runs through the entire width of the field:
 - Failure to have this line results in the game beginning with the ball being awarded to the visiting team.
 - Failure to have clearly marked centerline makes face-offs difficult.
 - Failure to have a clearly marked centerline make off-sides and over and back difficult to call.
 - A temporary chalk line or shadow line is permitted.

Girls Lacrosse



- After a draw and before possession is determined, the whistle is blown for an early entry violation at the restraining line by Black #7. How is play restarted?
 - The ball goes back to the center and White may self-start or wait until the Black center moves 4m away and then self-starts.
 - A redraw is taken.
 - Play is restarted at the spot of the ball, with all players 4m away and the player may self-start.
 - Play is restarted at the spot of the ball, with all players 4m away and the official must restart play with a whistle.
- A Red player in the 8m arc empty stick checks a Blue opponent, just as the Blue player is pushing the Red player. Offsetting fouls are called and the Red team has the Alternate Possession. The free position will be awarded:
 - At the 8m hash on the GLE with all players 4m away.

Boys Lacrosse

- Which of the following under the new Rule 7.8.2 ENDS a flag-down, slow-whistle situation. The officials blow the whistle to stop play when there is a:
 - Ball goes out of bounds.
 - Defensive team gains possession.
 - Ground ball.
 - Subsequent or 2nd foul on the defense.



- b. On the closest hash on the 8m from where the push occurred; Blue #6 goes behind; clear the penalty zone.
 - c. At the dot closest to where the foul occurred when the whistle was blown to stop play.
 - d. On the 12m fan, closest to where the foul occurred; Blue #6 is 4m away.
3. True or False: When clearing a defensive player in the 8m arc for a Free Position and her shortest way out would not place her at the adjacent hash to the shooter, she is not entitled to that position.

Soccer

1. Player A2, in taking a penalty kick, approaches the ball and then stops abruptly. The goalkeeper dives to the side. A2 then kicks the ball, but it is deflected by the goalkeeper and the ball stays in the field of play.



- a. The referee shall award an indirect free kick to the defending team.
 - b. The referee shall order the kick to be re-taken.
 - c. The referee shall award a goal kick to the defending team.
 - d. The referee shall allow the play to continue.
2. Goalkeeper A1 collides with an opposing player and goes down to the ground. The official stops the clock and runs over to the goalkeeper to see if she is OK. The player regains her composure, and seems ready to play. Does the goalkeeper need to come out of the game?
- a. Yes, the clock was stopped so the goalkeeper must come out of the game.
 - b. No, the coach/trainer was never beckoned so the goalkeeper can stay in the game.

3. During a penalty kick shootout, each teams' five kickers, goalkeepers and officials are on the field. Where should the coaches and remaining bench players be located?
- a. At midfield with the kickers.
 - b. On the touchline, near the goal.
 - c. In the Team and Coaching Area.

Softball



1. B1 hits a high fly ball down the line to right field. F9, with both feet clearly in fair territory, reaches across the foul line in an attempt to catch the ball. While the ball is still in the air, completely over foul ground, the ball deflects off of F9's glove and lands in fair territory. The correct call is:
- a. Foul ball since the ball was over foul territory when first touched.
 - b. Fair ball since both feet were clearly in fair territory when she touched the ball.
 - c. Fair ball because after she touched the ball it landed in fair territory.
 - d. Fair ball. Any ball touched by a fielder is automatically fair.
2. When an illegal pitch is called with a runner on base:
- a. All runners advance one base.
 - b. The batter is awarded a ball.
 - c. A warning will be issued to the pitcher.
 - d. Both a and b.
3. All of the following are true statements regarding the designated player (DP), EXCEPT:
- a. The DP is one of the nine hitters in the batting order.
 - b. The DP may be substituted for at any time by a legal substitute.
 - c. The DP may play defense only for the FLEX. (3-3-6)
 - d. The DP has left the game if the FLEX bats.
 - e. The DP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.

Baseball Answers: 1-c (6-1-3); 2-a (8-3-3c2, 8-3-5b); 3-a (8-2-5 Penalty)
 Boys Lacrosse Answers: 1-a, b, d (Rule 7.8.2); 2-False (3 minute non-releasable, ejection possible)
 5.4.6 Situation); 3-a, b, c, d (1.2.1)
 Girls Lacrosse Answers: 1-c (5-2-5); 2-c (5-5-3); 3-True (10-1-penalties 4 note)
 Soccer Answers: 1-a (14-1-4); 2-a (3-2-2-b2); 3-c (NFHS Sample Tie-Breaking Procedures, 7; also
 MHSAA Tournament Managers Manual)
 Softball Answers: 1-a (20-2-2); 2-b (6-1-1, 6-2-1); 3-c (3-3-6)

MHSAA Unveils Power Ranking System

As the topic of seeding for MHSAA Tournaments continues to swirl in the air of numerous committee meetings on an annual basis, one of the primary concerns continues to focus on the simple question: “How?”

The MHSAA for years has been working behind the scenes on potential formulas which could best be used as a standardized tool to assist in measuring strengths of teams in a given sport.

This spring, the MHSAA has introduced the Michigan Power Rating in the sport of Boys Lacrosse for a test flight.

“The boys lacrosse tournament has been seeded since it was added as an MHSAA sponsored sport in 2005. The seeding is done by committee based on several criteria, one of which was statewide power rankings generated by a third-party website. In the Fall of 2018, that website ceased operation – it was the perfect opportunity for the MHSAA to develop its own data-driven, purely objective ratings system and incorporate that data into the seeding criteria,” said Cole Malatinsky, administrative assistant for the sport. “It is MHSAA-controlled, simple, objective, and transparent, and it can be used by other MHSAA sports in the future.”

MPR, is a computer rating formula similar to the popular RPI rating. MPR provides a way to measure a team’s strength relative to other teams, based on games played against other MHSAA tournament teams, largely on the strength of their opponents schedules. MPR is purely objective using only the game results listed on MHSAA.com – there is no subjective human element.

What is the basic MPR formula?

MPR is calculated using wins, losses and ties for games played between teams entered into the MHSAA tournament. The final MPR number is 25% of the team's winning percentage, plus 50% of its opponent's winning percentage, plus 25% of its opponent's opponent's winning percentage.

$$\text{MPR} = (.25 \times \text{W}\%) + (.50 \times \text{OW}\%) + (.25 \times \text{OOW}\%)$$

The MPR formula can easily be applied to other MHSAA team sports.

What game data is included in the formula? What game data is not?

MPR only looks at results between opponents entered into the MHSAA postseason tournament. Wins, losses and ties in multi-team shortened game tournaments (lacrosse, soccer) also count. Forfeits are also counted as wins and losses.

MPR does not use the specific scores of a game or the margin of victory in a game. The location of a game is not included in the MPR formula, and the



formula weighs games at the beginning of the season the same as scores at the end of the season. Scrimmages are also not included.

Why use the MPR formula?

Different rating systems have been used in the past or have been recommended to the MHSAA. We wanted to have a rating system where the data was controlled and stored in house, and could be used for any sport featuring head-to-head competitions. With its own rating system the MHSAA can also control the different components of the formula, thus keeping the tenets of scholastic competition at the forefront (like not including margin of victory in the formula). Finally, by listing all scores and team schedules online, as well as showing the MPR calculator on each team schedule page, the ratings are transparent and can be easily replicated.

How will MPR be used?

Initially, MPR will be used in Boys Lacrosse (spring 2019) as one of the tools for the seeding its tournament. Other sports may eventually use MPR, potentially as the lone criteria for seeding teams. In addition, some sports may add qualification requirements in order for a team to be seeded (like a team must have X number of submitted results in order to be seeded). In the meantime, the MPR data simply provides a fun way to compare teams and schedules from across the state.

CALCULATING MPR

What are the detailed components of the MPR formula?

You need three numbers to calculate your MPR: winning percentage (W%), opponent’s winning percentage (OW%) and opponent’s opponent’s winning percentage (OOW%).

How do you calculate winning percentage (W%)?

Divide the number of wins by the number of total games played. A tie is worth half a win. For MPR purposes, find the winning percentage against all teams that will play in the MHSAA tournament (MPR W%). Games played against out-of-state teams, varsity "B" teams, junior varsity teams, non-school club teams, and any other non-MHSAA tournament participants, should not be included when calculating winning percentage. W% should be an easy number to calculate.

How do you calculate opponent's winning percentage (OW%)?

Average the winning percentages of a team's opponents. When calculating the winning percentage of a specific opponent, use the opponents "Adjusted Winning Percentage" (ADJ W%). Adjusted winning percentage eliminates all games the team played against that opponent (as well as its games against non-MHSAA opponents). For instance, if the team beat an opponent with an overall record of 4-1, use a record of 4-0 (1.000) for that opponent. If the team lost to an opponent, use a record of 3-1 (.750). Find the ADJ W% for all of opponents, and then take the average. If a team plays an opponent team twice, that opponent's ADJ W% will be counted twice. OW% is not calculated via the combined record of the opponents, instead take the average of all opponent's winning percentages.

How do you calculate opponent's opponent's winning percentage (OOW%)?

Use the same process as described above, except calculated for the opponents of a team's opponents. This number is much harder to manually calculate, so the OW% for every team is listed on the MPR page of the MHSAA website. Again, simply take the average of all opponent's OW%.

How often is MPR calculated?

MPR is calculated about every five minutes. Enter a score and a minutes later the team MPR and the MPR of all the team's opponents will update.

How much will my MPR change throughout the season?

You will see wild MPR swings in the beginning of the season, but after about 10 games played your MPR will start to level out. At 20 games played you will see very little movement with each additional game played.

My score is missing. How can it be added?

This is a crowd-sourced system. Any registered user of MHSAA.com can add a missing score. ADs, coaches, parents, students and fans can all login and enter a score for any game.

What are some common errors when calculating MPR?

When calculating your team's winning percentage, only include games against MHSAA-tournament teams. When calculating your opponent's winning percentage, don't include the games they played against you. When calculating ties, count the game as a half-win and half-loss.

What happens if a cancelled game is not rescheduled?

Because the MPR system works off of averages, it will not make a difference in the final MPR if a game cannot be rescheduled. It would not penalize, nor benefit, any team involved in that scenario.

USING THE WEBSITE

Where can I find game scores?

A list of statewide scores for all sports can be found in the MHSAA Score Center. Click on "Schools & Schedules" in the top navigation bar, search for the school, then once on the school page click the sport. You can also see a list of all schools (with links to schedules), on the statewide MPR list.

"We continue to have great success in score reporting for varsity boys lacrosse contests. While we state that schedule submission and scored reporting to MHSAA.com are required, athletic directors and coaches understand that in order for MPR data to be accurate, we need consistent and accurate score reporting," said Malatinsky. "MHSAA.com is now the primary site for high school boys lacrosse schedules, results and ratings in the state."

How should I use the statewide list of teams and MPR?

This page is a statewide listing of all Michigan Power Ratings (MPR) for teams entered into the MHSAA postseason tournament. The data updates every five minutes. Click on the column headings to sort the data. You can also use the drop down menu to show teams in one Division, or type a Region number in the box to filter teams for that Region. You can also click on any school name to go to their schedule page.

How do I read the school schedule page?

The schedule at the top of the page shows the date and opponent for all scheduled games, and results for games already played. If results are missing, click "Submit Score" to add a game score.

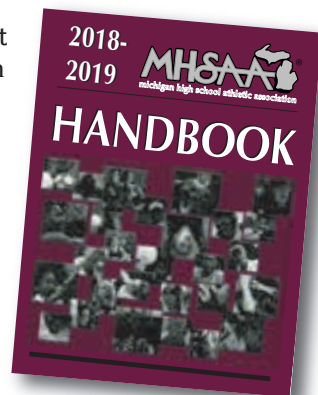
Below the game schedule is the MPR Calculator. The calculator is split into three sections. The first section shows the three MPR component scores for the team, as well as the team's current MPR score. The second section shows the MPR information for the team's opponents. Specifically, for the opponents the team has already played (actually, for games where scores have been submitted). Only these games are included in the MPR calculation. The third section highlights future opponents. The MPR data for future opponents are not used in the MPR calculation for the team.

Fourth-Friday Transfer Rule Out; Sport-Specific Rule In

Eligibility under the new “sport-specific” transfer rule begins this coming fall after circulating extensively for nearly one school year. The new rule was also incorporated into the 2018-19 *MHSAA Handbook*. Unless one of the stated 15 exceptions is met, participation during the 2018-19 school year determines eligibility for 2019-20. The new rule adopted by the Representative Council at its May 2018 meeting has found support among most audiences. A transfer student’s eligibility in 2019-20 is based upon that student’s participation from this past school year (2018-19). It will be paramount

son. If a student changes schools in mid-season, the student would be ineligible for the rest of that season in that sport and the next season for that sport.

Participation under this and other rules means playing in an interscholastic game or scrimmage after starting the 9th grade at any high school. It does not mean practice, but entering an interscholastic game, meet or scrimmage in any way. It also may involve more than one sport so a three-sport athlete who does not have a residential change and transfers would be ineligible in those sports during the next school year – but eligible for any other sport. It also means a student cut from a team – one who never entered a scrimmage or game – may



The more restrictive portion tends to discourage students who change schools for sports reasons.

for administrators and coaches to have awareness of the sports a transfer student participated in during their previous school year (see below for the definition of “participation.”)

The long standing 15 Exceptions to immediate eligibility, such as a full and complete residential change or a student moving between divorced parents by completing of an Educational Transfer Form **did not change**.

One might call the rule on the way out, “The Fourth-Friday Transfer Rule.” Under this old rule, **when** a student enrolled at the new school determined eligibility. Under the new Sport Specific Transfer rule, **what** a student played in the previous season determines eligibility.

The Council passed a more lenient rule on the one hand and more restrictive on the other. The more lenient aspect is a change that finds a transfer student **ELIGIBLE** in any sport in which he or she did not participate in a game or a scrimmage in the previous school year.

The more restrictive portion tends to discourage students who change schools for sports reasons. A transfer student who did play a sport in the previous season – and who does not meet one of the 15 Exceptions – is **NOT ELIGIBLE** in that sport for the next sea-

In Other Words . . .

The revised rule means a transfer student has

- **immediate eligibility** in a sport **not played** the previous season for that sport and (unless one of the 15 exceptions applies)
- **no eligibility** for the upcoming season in a sport **actually played** the previous season in that sport (participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest).

If the student’s new school requests in writing, the MHSAA Executive Committee **may** approve a waiver that reduces the period of ineligibility to 90 scheduled school days at the new school if the change of schools was for compelling reasons demonstrated with outside documentation having nothing to do with sports, curriculum, finances, and school demographics. The Executives Committee also has authority to approve immediate eligibility.

The Only Official Interpretations are Those Received in Writing

transfer and play without delay for that new school’s team. It may also mean that a student who has meets one of the stated exceptions such as a residential change but enrolls in a school other than their school of residence, would have eligibility in sports not played in the previous year.

The sport-specific transfer rule is aimed at solving some major reoccurring problems identified by schools, parents and students often displaced by transferring students. The old “Fourth Friday Transfer Rule” was not perfect and was written and updated by the Representative Council over decades. The new Sport Specific Transfer Rule is also not perfect and will likely evolve over time. Some addi-

tional adjustments are proposed for Representative Council approval this spring and may be implemented starting this fall – be alerted to possible adjustments.

The new rule will tend to discourage students from changing schools for sports because they would be ineligible in any sport they have played in school the previous season for that sport. It will increase participation for some students who were otherwise not eligible under the current rule. It is always best to contact school athletic directors who can connect with the MHSAA to verify eligibility prior to enrollment. *When in doubt, sit the student out and find out!*

Important Fall 2019 Administrative Dates

June 3	Four Player Rules ends; Summer Rules begin
June 3-July 31	Summer competition except during dead week (set by each school)
Aug. 1 to Start of Fall Sports	Preseason Down Time (High School)
14 Calendar days prior to the start of Middle School Practices:	Preseason Down Time (JH/MS)
Aug. 12	Four Player Rule Resumes
Aug. 12	Practice Starts for Football, Cross Country, Golf, Tennis
Aug. 14	Practice Starts for Volleyball, Swimming & Diving
July 2-5	MHSAA Office Closed
Mid-July	School Year Start-Up on MHSAA.com
July 25 & Aug. 6	New AD Orientation at MHSAA
July 29 & Aug. 5	Fall Online Rules Meetings Launch
Aug. 1	MHSAA Membership Resolution due
Sept. 10	New AD Orientation at MHSAA (later hires)
Sept. 5 & 12	Administrative Assistant In-Service MHSAA
Sept. 12	ADs attest CPR for Head varsity coaches & Subvarsity rules meetings; Fall rules meetings close Subvarsity & assistant coach completion of fall rules meetings
Sept. 18	Kalamazoo Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Sept. 23	Warren Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Sept. 25	Frankenmuth Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Sept. 30	Comstock Park Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Oct. 7 & 14	Winter Online Rules Meetings Launch
Oct. 7	Gaylord Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Oct. 9	Lansing Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Oct. 25	Marquette Update Meeting

MHSAA Representative Council

Nicole Carter**
Principal
Novi High School
Appointee

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)
Deputy Superintendent, Finance Operations
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

Justin Jennings*
Superintendent
Muskegon Public Schools
Appointee

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

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

Chris Riker**
Athletic Director
Portage Northern High School
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

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

Adam Stefanski**
Athletic Director
Mackinaw City High School
Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula

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

*Term Expires December 2019
**Term Expires December 2020

ANALYSIS OF MHSAA MEMBERSHIP April 22, 2019

749 Total High Schools

Total Public Schools	645	86%
Charter (Public School Academies)	61	8%
Traditional Schools	584	78%
Total Non Public Schools	104	14%
Religious	93	13%
Secular (Non-Public)	10	1%

867 Total Junior High/Middle Schools

Total Public Schools	771	89%
Charter (Public School Academies)	43	5%
Traditional Schools	728	84%
Total Nonpublic Schools	96	11%
Religious	90	10%
Secular (Non-Public)	6	0.7%

Candidates Set for September 2019 Election

BALLOTS TO BE MAILED TO SCHOOLS IN AUGUST 2019

Ballots for Representative Council elections will be mailed to principals of member schools from the MHSAA office Aug. 30, 2019. The ballots will be due back in the MHSAA office Sept. 20, 2019.

Six positions for membership on the Representative Council will be up for election this fall. Vacancies for two-year terms beginning December 2019 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. 20, 2019, the Board of Canvassers as provided in Article IV of the Constitution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, will meet on Sept. 24, 2019 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, 2019. 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 2019:

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL CANDIDATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2019 ELECTION

NOTE: Due to movement and retirements, several positions currently listed as "Open" were still up for nominations at print time. Please refer to MHSAA.com for complete list of nominees.

Southwestern Section, Lower Peninsula – Class C and D Schools

- Chris Miller, Athletic Director, Gobles High School

Southeastern Section, Lower Peninsula – Class C and D Schools

- (Open)

Upper Peninsula – Class A and B Schools

- Alex Tiseo, Athletic Director, Marquette High School

Statewide At-Large

- Shaun Butler, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Ferndale High School
- Karen S. Leinaar, CAA, Athletic Director, Bear Lake Schools

Junior High/Middle Schools

- Don Gustafson, Superintendent, St. Ignace Area Schools
- Edward Miller, Board of Education Member, Custer-Mason County Eastern Schools

Detroit Public Schools

- (Open)

Northern Section, Lower Peninsula – Class A and B Schools (1-Year Term)

- (Open)

Northern Section, Lower Peninsula – Class C and D Schools (1-Year Term)

- (Open)

UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Class D Schools

- Jim Bobula, Superintendent/Principal, Ontonagon Area School
- Mark Branstrom, Athletic Director, Rock-Mid Peninsula High School
- Vincent Gross, Athletic Director, Paradise-Whitefish Township Community Schools
- Mario Marana, Faculty Member/Coach, Republic-Michigamme High School
- Mark Movrich, Athletic Director, Bessemer-A. D. Johnston High School
- Robert W. Vaught, Superintendent/Principal, DeTour Area Schools

Class C Schools

- Jon Beckman, Athletic Director, Ishpeming-Westwood High School

Class A and B Schools

- Andrew Brunette, Principal, Negaunee High School
- Chris Messano, Assistant Principal, Marquette Senior High School
- Rich Rossway, Board of Education President, Marquette Public Schools

Rockford, Canton Win For PSA Prowess



For their work getting out the good word on sportsmanship and officials recruitment, respectively, Rockford and Canton were among those honored this spring with Michigan Student Broadcast Awards from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Foundation.

The MHSAA sponsors awards for Sports Public Service Announcement for both TV and radio. Rockford's Payton Longeliere, Mylei Cullivan and Lindsay Carpenter won the TV category with "Sportsmanship – It's Not That Hard."

The PSA was deemed suitable for broadcast and was shown on FOX Sports Detroit during the MHSAA Basketball Finals and will be included in broadcasts on MHSAA.tv.

Canton's winning radio PSA by Fiona Hughes detailed the importance of "Officials Recruitment." Additionally, Rockford's Noah Ike, Noah Stallworth, Dimitra Colovos and Tatum Kleis were recognized as the top sports announcing team for TV, and Can-

ton's Jack Krumm and Max Mulvaney were the award-winning team for radio.

Scan the code at right from your mobile device for audio and video at the MHSAA's SecondHalf website.



Schedule Membership Resolution for Board of Education Meetings

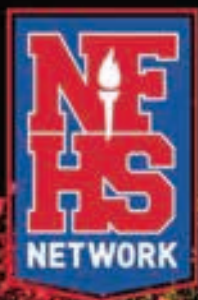
When the Representative Council meets each May, the rules are finalized for the coming school year, and meeting minutes are mailed to each member school. Every member school Board of Education or governing body of a nonpublic school wishing to join the MHSAA for the coming school year must vote to do so and adopt the rules as its own.

The MHSAA Membership Resolution must be signed by the Board of Education and returned to the MHSAA. Please complete both sides of the form: on the reverse side, list schools in your district that will be MHSAA members and include the current enrollment number for 7th and 8th grades. When membership lapses, insurance coverage, among other matters, is jeopardized.

Administrators: Please be sure to schedule the MHSAA Membership Resolution for your upcoming Board of Education Meeting – Membership Resolution Forms are mailed to superintendents and athletic directors each May and are due back to the MHSAA by July 31.

Ratings Due June 20

Spring is notoriously the season during which MHSAA schools lapse in their duty to rate contest officials. We understand the number of contests taking place, the chaotic nature of scheduling due to weather, and the anticipation of summer vacation, but ratings must be submitted for officials at all levels, and on time: June 20. Not only do ratings supply feedback for officials and tournament assignments – they are a requirement your school and coaches are to follow. Please accomplish this detail in baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse.



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