

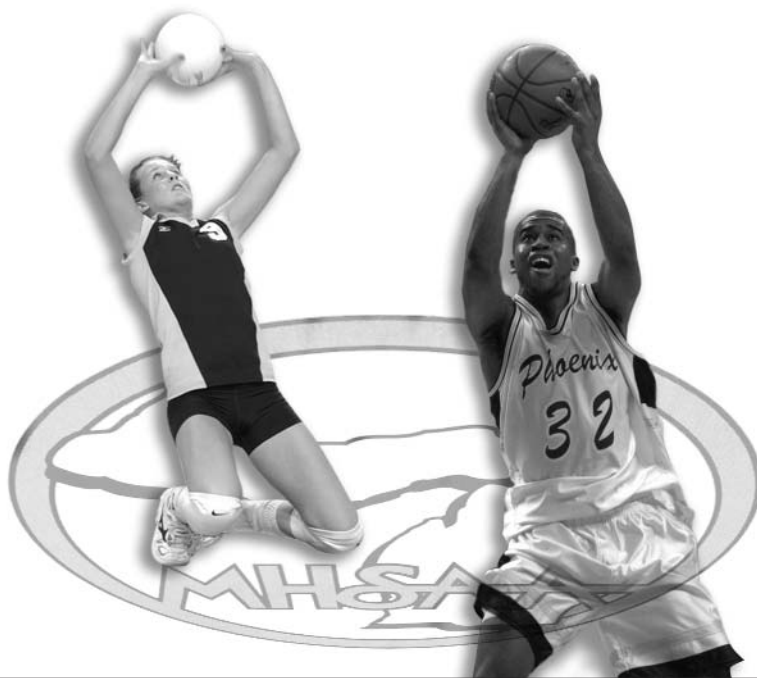


michigan high school athletic association

New this year: Head coaches who miss rules meetings and do not pass exams will not coach in MHSAA Tournaments
See Page 419

In This Issue:

- Executive Committee Meeting
- 2005-06 Host Availability Card
- 2005 Officials Banquet Registration
- Game Suspension Guidelines
- 2004-05 Scholar-Athlete Award Winners Announced
- Officials Banquet Ticket Form



BULLETIN

March 2005
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The Only Official Interpretations
Are Those Received In Writing

ON THE COVER

March is the busiest month of the year for MHSAA Finals, as champions are crowned in 13 team sports in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. The action concludes with the Girls Volleyball Finals March 10-12 in Kalamazoo, and the Boys Basketball Finals March 17-19 in East Lansing.

Photos by 20/20 Photographic

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
1661 Ramblewood, East Lansing, 48823-7392 • Telephone 517-332-5046
FAX 517-332-4071
mhsaa.com

Members of Representative Council

- James Derocher***
Superintendent
Negaunee Public Schools
Class C-D — Upper Peninsula
- Ken Dietz****
Athletic Director
Hartford High School
Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan
- Keith Eldred*, Vice President**
Faculty Member
Williamston Middle School
Junior High/Middle Schools
- Paul L. Ellinger**, President**
Superintendent
Cheboygan Area Schools
Junior High/Middle Schools
- Lafayette Evans****
Director of Athletics
Detroit Public Schools
City of Detroit
- Eric Federico***
Acting Superintendent
Gibraltar Schools
Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan
- Dan Flynn****
Faculty Member/Coach
Escanaba High School
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula
- Scott Grimes***
Principal
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Statewide At-Large
- Leroy Hackley****
Athletic Director
Byron Center High School
Appointee
- Karen Leinaar****
Athletic Director
Benzie Central High School
Statewide At-Large
- Kathy McGee****
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Flint Powers Catholic High School
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Principal
Britton-Macon High School
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan
- Fred Smith***
Athletic Director
Comstock High School
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan
- Pam Wong (ex-officio)**
Chief of Staff, Michigan Dept. of Education
Lansing
Designee

*Term Expires December 2006

**Term Expires December 2005

Any individual who is a representative of a member school (faculty member or Board of Education member) may become a candidate for the MHSAA Representative Council. Please contact the MHSAA Executive Director for an outline of procedures.

MHSAA Staff

- Randy Allen**, Assistant Director
Tony Bihn, Director of Information Systems
Andy Frushour, Marketing and Special Programs
Coordinator
Jim Ganong, Network Administrator
Mandi Hoover, Administrative Assistant
Nate Hampton, Assistant Director
John R. Johnson, Communications Director
Heather Jordal, Receptionist
Rob Kaminski, Publications and Web Site Coordinator
Camala Kinder, Administrative Assistant
Laurie LaClear, Bookkeeper
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Thomas L. Minter, Assistant to Executive Director
Thomas M. Rashid, Associate Director
John E. Roberts, Executive Director
Sharla Stokes, Administrative Assistant
Mark Uyl, Assistant Director
Jamie VanDerMoere, Administrative Assistant
Faye Verellen, Administrative Assistant
Debbie Waddell, Executive Assistant
Kathy Vrugink Westdorp, Assistant Director
Karen Yonkers, Executive Assistant

Not all the facts presented to the Executive Committee and Representative Council as part of requests to waive eligibility regulations are included in the reports of those meetings, either because of the volume of material reviewed or the confidentiality requested by schools for their students, parents or faculty.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 23, 2005

Members Present:

Paul Ellinger, Cheboygan
William Newkirk, Meridian
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven

Staff Members Present:

Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)

Executive Committee Authority and Responsibility - The Executive Committee reviewed its authority under Article VII of the MHSAA Constitution and specifically its responsibility to consider each application for waiver of an eligibility requirement on its individual merits, determining if the regulation serves the purpose for which it was intended in each case or if the regulation works an undue hardship on any student who is the subject of a request for waiver. (These underlying criteria may not be restated for every subject of these minutes.)

The Executive Committee was reminded that it was the responsibility of each member school involved to provide sufficient factual information about the specific request for the Executive Committee to reach a decision without further investigation. If information is incomplete, contradictory or otherwise unclear or has been received too late to be studied completely, the Executive Committee may deny the request for waiver or delay action. Such requests may be resubmitted to the Executive Committee with additional information at a subsequent meeting or appealed to the full Representative Council.

It is possible that some of the information presented as facts to the Executive Committee by school personnel and others may be inaccurate. However, to avoid constant repetition in these minutes of phrases such as "it was alleged" or "it was reported," no attempt is made in the introduction of each waiver request to distinguish between truth, allegation, hearsay, opinion, summary or conclusion. If any information provided to the Executive Committee is inaccurate, any deci-

sion of the Executive Committee to grant waiver of a regulation shall be null and void.

A determination of undue hardship is a matter addressed to the discretion of the Executive Committee within the educational philosophy and secondary role of voluntary extracurricular competitive athletics in the academic environment. The Executive Committee will avoid making exceptions that would create precedent that effectively changes a rule without Representative Council action or local board of education adoption, which would exceed Executive Committee authority.

Students for whom waiver of a particular regulation is granted must be eligible in all respects under all sections and interpretations of the regulations prior to their participation.

Adoption of these regulations is a choice schools make locally when they consider their option of MHSAA membership. Consistent with rulings of the Attorney General and Michigan Supreme Court, schools are not bound by the decisions of the Executive Committee, but the association may limit participation in the post-season tournaments it sponsors to those schools which choose to apply rules and penalties as promulgated by the MHSAA and adopted by each member school's board of education. The MHSAA exercises no independent authority over schools or students.

Albion High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - A request was made to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2004-05 school year on behalf of a 9th-grade student who had previously attended

Jackson High School for the fall of 2004 and did not participate in athletics. The student enrolled at Albion High School to begin the second semester of the 2004-05 school year.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2004-05 school year.

Ann Arbor-Gabriel Richard High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) - A request was made to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment on behalf of an 11th-grade student who had previously attended Hartland High School before enrolling at Gabriel Richard High School on Oct. 4, 2004.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Gabriel Richard High School.

AuGres-Sims High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who was made a temporary ward of the court under the jurisdiction of the Family Independence Agency. The student was formerly enrolled at Standish-Sterling High School before he attended Eagle Village from May 17, 2004 until his release on Jan. 21, 2005. The agency requested that, for the student's safety, he not return to his former district of residence and that he be enrolled at AuGres-Sims High School. The student is residing with his mother in the Standish-Sterling district under placement by the Family Independence Agency.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver.

Bad Axe High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who currently attends Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port-Laker High School. In late December 2004, the student was forced out of his home by his parents with no place to live. On Jan. 12, the probate court appointed a family whose son is a friend of this student to be legal guardians for the student. The guardians have three children who currently attend Bad Axe High School (grades 9,11 and 12).

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver.

Big Rapids-Crossroads Charter Academy (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - A request was made to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2004-05 school year on behalf of a 9th-grade student who had previously attended Big Rapids High School for the start of the 2004-05 school year before enrolling at Crossroads Charter Academy on Jan. 8, 2005. The student did not participate in any sports at her previous school.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2004-05 school year.

Blanchard-Montabella High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - A request was made to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2004-05 school year on behalf of a 10th-grade student who had previously attended Stanton-Central Montcalm High School where she had participated in fall and winter sports before enrolling at Montabella High School on Feb. 8, 2005. The student moved out of her mother's residence in Central Montcalm and is residing with an aunt in Montabella. The student changed schools due to harassment, causing great emotional turmoil which led to therapy.

Pursuant to the requirement of Section 9(B) that the student shall not have participated previously in high school athletics, and absent outside documentation of a compelling reason to change schools, the Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Burton-Atherton High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - A request was made to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2004-05 school year on behalf of a 9th-grade student who had previously attended Grand Blanc High School in the fall of 2004, where he did not participate in athletics, before enrolling at Atherton High School (the school of his residence) to begin the second semester of the 2004-05 school year.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2004-05 school year.

Grand Rapids-Creston High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended and participated in athletics at Creston High School for the 9th and 10th grades before enrolling at Ada-Forest Hills Eastern High School to begin the 2004-05 school year. The student reenrolled at Creston on Nov. 3, 2004, when the first marking period ended, based upon advice the father had received from the school to enroll at the start of the second marking period rather than prior to the fourth Friday after Labor Day.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Lake Odessa-Lakewood High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who attended school in Missouri, living with his parents and participating in athletics. On Oct. 29, 2004, the student enrolled at Lakewood High School while residing with an aunt and uncle in the Lakewood School District. The student relocated to Michigan because of parent-family problems, as reported to the school guidance counselor.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

North Adams-Jerome High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who had attended Addison High School before enrolling at North Adams-Jerome on Nov. 23, 2005, because the student was physically and emotionally threatened at her previous school as a result of problems with other students which were escalating.

Noting a lack of independent documentation, the Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Port Huron High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request was made to waive the transfer regulation and specifically the stipulation of exception No.1 that a student move with the persons with whom he or she was living, on behalf of a 10th-grade student who had previously attended Carsonville-Port Sanilac High School prior to changing residences and enrolling at Port Huron High School on Jan. 20, 2005. The student's entire

family relocated except for an older 12th-grade brother who remained at the original home with his grandfather in order to finish his senior year at Port Sanilac High School. The family has a rental property in Port Huron where the father is employed. A copy of the lease agreement was requested.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver, noting several unanswered questions.

Romeo High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Shelby Township-Utica Eisenhower High School and was the victim of a criminal sexual assault under investigation by the Shelby Township Police Department. The student has been in joint custody of both divorced parents and resides part-time in Oxford and part-time in the Utica Eisenhower district. Because of the rumors, comments and stigma attached to the assault, the student changed schools and enrolled on Feb. 7, 2005, at Romeo High School, which is approximately halfway between the parents' residences. Media reports, police department correspondence and support from Utica Eisenhower High School were submitted for consideration by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver.

Williamston High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - Request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who had attended Williamston Community Schools since kindergarten. At the conclusion of the first semester of the 2004-05 school year, the student enrolled at Okemos High School on Jan. 18, 2005, attended for six school days and did not participate in athletics. The student reenrolled at Williamston High School on Jan. 27, 2005.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver.

Regulation II, Section 10(A) 7 - Lacrosse Limitations of Competition - The Girls Lacrosse Committee and staff asked the Executive Committee for special consideration to modify the existing multi-team tournament allowance stipulated for girls lacrosse. The committee expressed concern that the *Handbook* language on multi-team tourna-

ments, while applicable to soccer and boys lacrosse, was not appropriate for girls lacrosse. Because this is the first year of MHSAA involvement in lacrosse and this combined limitation does not work equally well for both boys and girls lacrosse, the Girls Lacrosse Committee sought Executive Committee approval for a change to the multi-team tournament conditions for the 2005 season. Differences such as contact and game length between girls and boys lacrosse are significant. Inasmuch as there are not apparent safety issues, the committee requested permission to lower the running time maximum from 150 to 120 minutes for girls and count the multi-team event the same as any other day of competition, allowing for up to three days of competition in the same week. In addition, this change would allow for latitude in officials assignment until registrations in girls lacrosse increase. As in boys lacrosse, the multi-game conditions are permitted twice in a season.

The Executive Committee will recommend that the Representative Council approve this change at its March 18, 2005 meeting.

Hudson High School (Regulation V, Section 3) - On Jan. 15, 2005, the varsity wrestling team was removed from competition with four matches remaining by the head coach after protesting calls by the official, including a one-point penalty (but not an ejection) for unsportsmanlike conduct against the coach. Although not required by rule, the school suspended the coach for the next date of competition and submitted a written response for Executive Committee consideration.

The Executive Committee accepted the internal action of the school.

Capac High School (Regulation V, Section 4) - A request to waive the requirement of forfeiture was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who previously attended East Jackson High School before enrolling at Capac on Nov 15, 2005. The student participated while ineligible in eight varsity basketball games before it was discovered that the student was residing in Imlay City with a sister and not residing at the address provided within the Capac district (there was no house on the property listed).

The school's principal, athletic director and counselor met with the Executive Committee to explain how this student was processed for enrollment and interscholastic athletic eligibility and to ask that the team be relieved of the obligation to forfeit the games in which this student participated.

The student's family relocated from East Jackson to reduce the daily commute to work in Auburn Hills by the father. The student originally sought to be enrolled at Imlay City, but because he was behind in credits, he would have been placed in the school's alternative education high school and would not have been eligible for interscholastic athletics at Imlay City. Unaware that this occurred and that the student resided in Imlay City and provided an address for land owned but not occupied by the student and his family, Capac personnel processed the student for enrollment and athletic eligibility.

When the student's residential situation was brought to the school's attention, it acted promptly to withhold the student from play and report the matter to the MHSAA office.

The Executive Committee noted that the challenges schools face in processing transfer students are increasing. However, to avoid claims of unequal application of rules, forfeiture has been applied as stipulated in the regulation for "accidental, intentional or other use of ineligible players," regardless of the level of competition, ability of the player, amount of time played or the outcome of the contest.

The Executive Committee noted, as has the Michigan Supreme Court, that the MHSAA membership's interests in uniformity and predictability justify even-handed application of the forfeiture regulation for participation by students of any level who are ineligible for any reason.

The request for waiver was denied.

Member School Concern (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - Bloomfield Hills-Cranbrook Kingswood High School wrote suggesting that the subvarsity eligibility allowance become more automated, and not require Executive Committee waiver on a case-by-case basis. Suggestions included staff granting immediate eligibility of those waivers that meet the two criteria (grade 9 or 10 and no prior participation in a game or scrimmage in

any MHSAA tournament sport since entering the 9th grade). It was suggested that a form could be created with the executive director's signature, much like the Educational Transfer Form approach. There would be virtually no delay in eligibility under this approach, whereas a student currently waits for the next Executive Committee Meeting.

In previous correspondence, it was suggested broadening the regulation to allow subvarsity eligibility without a form or staff approval: a student would simply be eligible for subvarsity competition if he or she met the criteria, as is the case with many but not all exceptions to the transfer rule.

Ongoing in this discussion was the concern expressed that the subvarsity allowance does not assist small schools which do not sponsor subvarsity sports, or sports such as track and swimming where schools traditionally only compete in varsity competition. The subvarsity allowance, first enacted in the 1998-99 school year, allowed the Executive Committee to grant eligibility to a great number of students who would have been ineligible prior to the allowance.

The Executive Committee discussed the fact that even though it is not helpful in all situations, Section 9(B) has allowed eligibility for many students who previously were ineligible under the transfer rule. The Executive Committee noted that as students become more mobile and athletic administrators become less experienced, there may be need to assist schools with more rather than

less procedural oversight by MHSAA staff and Executive Committee. Policies which discourage school changes - including that students are assumed to not be eligible for interscholastic athletics - may be best for the stability and education of students.

Committee members are aware of and have been discussing the increasing workload of staff related to Executive Committee preparation and the lengthening agendas of Executive Committee Meetings, but committee members were not aware of concerns by other schools that MHSAA staff be empowered to rule on Section 9(B) requests or that the subvarsity eligibility provision should be broadened at this time.

Next Meetings - The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing (Representative Council March 18); Wednesday, April 20, 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing (Finance Committee to follow); Saturday, April 30, 6 p.m. in Rothbury (Representative Council May 1-3); Wednesday, May 25, 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, June 15, 12 Noon in East Lansing; Tuesday, Aug. 2, 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 24, 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Monday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. in Traverse City (Annual Business/Update Meeting at 7:15 a.m.); Thursday, Oct. 13, 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 9, 9 a.m. in East Lansing; and Thursday, Dec. 1, 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing (Representative Council Dec. 2). ■



Lt. Commander Andrea Nerbonne of the Michigan State Police addresses student-athletes in attendance at a regional Women In Sports Leadership conference at Lowell HS in February. For information on WISL mini-grants, visit the Student Leadership page of the MHSAA Web site, mhsaa.com.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 23, 2005

Members Present:

Paul Ellinger, Cheboygan
William Newkirk, Meridian
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
James Derocher, Negaunee

Staff Members Present:

Tom Minter
Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)
Kathy Vrugink Westdorp

2005-06 BUDGET PREPARATION SCHEDULE:

February 23-Finance Committee proposals (including personnel).

March 18 -Representative Council approval.

April 20-Finance Committee proposals (remainder of budget).

May 3-Representative Council approval.

2004-05 Year-To-Date Review - Basic operations through Jan. 31, 2005 were \$289,000 behind the previous fiscal year, but very close to 2004-05 budget projections. Overall, fall tournaments were unchanged from the previous year, although there were significant variations in some levels of some sports.

2005-06 Budget - There was consensus that the 2005-06 budget should be prepared in the usual way but that a list of cost-saving

measures – prioritized from least to most impact on constituent services – should also be developed for future implementation if sports seasons are changed and if it is found that there is a significant detrimental effect on Basketball Tournament attendance and revenues.

Tournament Ticket Prices - The Finance Committee finalized for the Representative Council's consideration on March 18, 2005, proposals to revise MHSAA ticket prices beyond the Regional level to establish more consistency between sports. This action would complete the review of tournament ticket prices that then would be expected to remain unchanged except for minor adjustments for the near future.

Personnel Considerations - The Finance Committee adopted proposals for the Representative Council's action in March relative to compensation for staff for fiscal year 2005-06. ■

Don't Miss the



Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association

Mid-Winter Conference

March 18-22, 2005

Grand Traverse Resort

Traverse City, MI

Call (734) 455-5056 for Registration Information

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2006

We're just now getting used to writing 2005 instead of 2004 on our letters and checks; but the year 2006 is already on our minds. It is the year of implementation for changes adopted by the MHSAA Representative Council in previous years.

Cooperative Programs

In May of 2002, the Representative Council capped the enrollment of cooperative programs at 3,500 students while providing two exceptions: (1) cooperative programs in sports not previously sponsored by the schools involved can be approved for three years (eight of those currently exist in lacrosse); and (2) cooperative programs in existence prior to Aug. 1, 2002 can continue to operate through the 2005-06 school year.

In May of 2002, there were 23 cooperative programs with a combined enrollment in excess of 3,500 students. That number is now 22. For any of the 22 programs to continue beyond the 2005-06 school year, it must request and receive waiver from the MHSAA Executive Committee by April 15, 2006.

The following criteria will be included in the Executive Committee's consideration of the waiver request:

- a. The availability of facilities for a second team.
- b. The availability of coaches for a second team.
- c. The availability of students for a second team. In this request, the Executive Committee will require . . .
 - (1) Team rosters for the past four school years.
 - (2) Names and grades of students "cut."
 - (3) Evidence of efforts made to recruit participants.
 - (4) Information regarding out-of-season and summer programs.

- d. The record of the team over the past four school years with respect to . . .
 - (1) Win/loss percentage.
 - (2) League and conference finishes.
 - (3) MHSAA District, Regional and Final Tournament results.
- e. Endorsements . . .
 - (1) League or conference in which the program participates.
 - (2) Non-conference opponents.

The Executive Committee will require that the school district demonstrate what efforts it made to increase participation and to establish an additional team or teams.

Prior to making a final determination on any request, the Executive Committee may direct staff to obtain additional information from MHSAA registered officials, coaches and representatives of member schools and media.

Just as small Class D schools have concerns for fairness when they must compete against schools twice as large in MHSAA tournaments, so do average sized Class A schools have concerns when competing against cooperative programs more than two or three times their size.

The 3,500 student limit was selected because it approximately doubled the enrollment of the average Class A school, and was just larger than the largest Class A school's enrollment.

Competitive Cheer

After years of criticism that competitive cheer is being treated differently than other sports with respect to out-of-season competition and more than a year of detailed study and discussion, the Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association on Dec. 3, 2004, adopted two policies that limit member schools' cheer-

leading competition to the MHSAA format if they choose to allow competition for their cheerleaders in their school. The policies become effective Aug. 1, 2006.

- If a school sponsors MHSAA competitive cheer, then school-affiliated sideline (game) cheerleading squads may not be involved in competition against other squads at any time.
- If a school does not sponsor MHSAA competitive cheer, then sideline (game) cheerleading squads affiliated with that school are unregulated unless the sideline cheerleading program includes any competition against other teams. If any competition is to occur, it must all be the MHSAA competitive cheer format.

This action by the Representative Council does the following:

- (1) Allows all schools to sponsor and support non-competitive sideline (game) cheerleading at any time of year.
- (2) Allows competitive cheer coaches to work with school-affiliated sideline squads in non-competitive activities outside the winter season.
- (3) Allows competitive cheer athletes to participate with school-affiliated sideline squads in non-competitive activities outside the winter season.
- (4) Allows competitive cheer athletes to participate on their own outside the winter season in non-school cheer-

leading activities, subject to amateur, awards and all-star rules.

- (5) Helps to assure that competitive cheer schools don't obtain an unfair competitive advantage in the MHSAA tournament through school-affiliated sideline competition outside the winter season.

In other words, if school-affiliated cheerleaders enter any competition, it must be the MHSAA competitive cheer format. A school may have a sideline cheerleading squad which does not compete. The same person may supervise the non-competing sideline squad and the MHSAA competitive cheer team. Students may be involved with both sideline cheerleading and competitive cheer simultaneously during the same school year or sports season.

The nation's fastest growing high school sport for girls is competitive cheer, and it's also the Michigan High School Athletic Association's fastest growing MHSAA tournament sport with the addition of more than 40 schools in 2004-05. The 2004 MHSAA Girls Competitive Cheer Finals were televised and ranked second only to basketball in attendance for the final day of an MHSAA girls tournament. The 2005 Finals will also be televised.

The MSHAA will provide orientation sessions on a regional basis where coaches and administrators can learn more about the management of the sport from those with many years of experience in competitive cheer. The schedule of meetings will be announced soon on mhsaa.com. ■

And We Quote –

“We demean the profession when we cheat. Coaching's not a job, it's a privilege.”

*— Lee Corso
ESPN analyst and former football coach*

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STOP THE MADNESS

The Michigan High School Athletic Association never uses "March Madness" to promote its tournaments. One reason is that the over-hyped, trademark protected "March Madness" of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament has so overwhelmed all other sports during March that they struggle for their rightful share of public notice.

NCAA Division II and III Basketball Tournaments, as well as the national tournaments of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and National Junior College Athletic Association, operate in obscurity; and the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament now avoids the dates and sites of the men's tournament, distancing itself more each year.

More importantly, we've never felt the phrase – March Madness – appropriate for educational athletics.

Too many people – especially adults – get so angry at high school athletic events that we don't have to endorse their attitudes

by labeling the atmosphere "madness." Our attitudes at high school sporting events should be the polar opposite: not of anger but awe, not frustration but fascination, not worry but wonder, not madness but magic.

Appreciation for the awesome talent of many participants and of the desire and guts of less talented competitors. Fascination for the way school spirit spreads through a community as a team makes a tournament run. Wonder for the energy of coaches and administrators who give to kids so generously of their time. It is a magical, often once-in-a-lifetime experience to be savored.

And if the final result isn't all we wanted – if a teenager makes a mistake, if a coach calls a play that doesn't work, if an official sees a close call differently than we do – it shouldn't matter . . . it **won't** matter a short while from now.

MHSAA tournament time, year-around, is a magical time to be enjoyed by all who participate and watch. ■

MHSAA Offers Mini-Grants for Student Leadership Events

Are you a student with plans of attending a leadership training program? Are you a school administrator planning a student leadership event in your community? Do you need funding?

The MHSAA has earmarked \$20,000 in 2005 to help students become better leaders. Scholarships are available to students to attend existing student leadership camps, and schools can receive grant money to create student leadership programs in their communities. Funding is available NOW. There is no deadline – applications are accepted, and money is distributed, year round.

To apply:

- 1) Visit the "Services" page of the MHSAA Web site and find the Student Leadership link
- 2) Download the application
- 3) Send the application and appropriate documentation to the MHSAA
- 4) Allow 45 days for processing

**If you have any questions, call Andy Frushour
at the MHSAA – (517) 332-5046**

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

PREP SPORTS GROWING UP TOO FAST

In another sterling example of your tax dollars at work, 17 football players announce their choice of colleges at a nationally televised high school all-star game in San Antonio paid for by the United States Army.

Two days later, the Mequon school board discloses that it's considering raising its athletic fees to as much as \$110 a sport to help cover a budget shortage.

What's wrong with this picture? Or put another way, who's stealing high school sports?

Co-curricular fees including athletic fees are always a bad idea, because they discourage kids from taking advantage of the priceless extra credit that schools have to offer after the bell rings. It might not be long before many kids are deprived of those lessons entirely without helping anybody's budget crunch enough to notice.

High school sports need nationally televised all-star games the way your 16-year-old needs a Porsche for a birthday present. They present teenagers with a skewed view of the universe, and the money would be better spent elsewhere. On eliminating the demand for athletic fees, for instance.

Times are tough in education, but there's money for high school sports. It's just floating to the top these days.

If the Army has extra tax revenue burning a hole in its fatigues, it could always send it directly to the high schools that are scraping to keep their athletic programs going. That wouldn't do much to recruit soldiers, of course, but when did high school sports become an advertising vehicle?

If every dime that companies and networks spend on sending high school standouts to all-star games or basketball teams to Hawaii or baseball teams to Florida were instead spent on giving a maximum number of kids a chance to play something, maybe more than half the school districts in Wisconsin wouldn't be charging fees.

Those are Doug Chickering's numbers, and he says they're growing. Chickering is the executive director of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, and he sees it getting more expensive all the time for families to let their kids compete.

He's worried that program cuts on freshman and jayvee levels will show up soon in varsity numbers, and he wonders what the national spotlight on special kids does to the other kids.

"We want to focus programs for everyone, not just the elite," he said. "That's what we lose when we have a national agenda."

Kids also lose their chance to be kids when they're treated like pros at 17 or 18. And schools lose tradition. Tuesday night's crosstown rivalry pales when the next game is scheduled for Saturday night in Orlando.

The WIAA allows its members to play out-of-state games as long as they're in season. If they let them play them all year long, there would be no end to the seasons. But even that meets resistance.

"When we say no, there are people who challenge us and say we are preventing someone from getting as good as they can get," Chickering said. "I have yet to see evidence of that."

Not that it was ever the high schools' job to get athletes ready to play college ball. Chickering knows the high schools' job, and he knows how he'd do it if he were king for a day.

"We would have as many programs as we could possibly have at all levels to satisfy the interests that kids have," he said. "And people who participate wouldn't have to pay."

That's about what it would take to steal high school sports back.

— Dale Hofmann
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

WINTER RATING FORMS

Due March 18, 2005

Officials rating forms for varsity or sub-varsity ice hockey, volleyball, wrestling and boys basketball were sent to all MHSAA member schools sponsoring those sports. The forms are designed to be “read” by a mark sensor scanning device. The ice hockey, wrestling, boys basketball and volleyball ratings forms were mailed late February. Many of the blanks already have been completed and returned. This notice is included in the Bulletin to remind schools to forward them if they have not already done so. The deadline for receiving forms in this office will be March 18, 2005. Rating blanks received after this date will not be processed.

Athletic directors are reminded that only one rating may be submitted for each official regardless of the number of times the official works contests for one school. Each official may receive a varsity and a sub-varsity rating from one school for working more than one level of competition.

The mark sensor forms do require attention and adherence to specific preparation rules.

1. Use only a No. 2 pencil — NO INK.
2. Fully mark each space selected.
3. Print the officials ID number and name in the space provided and fully darken the appropriate spaces under the entry. Officials ID numbers are found in the Officials Directory.
4. Indicate “Varsity” or “Subvarsity” rating.
5. Print the school ID number in the space provided and fully darken in the appropriate spaces under the entry. School ID numbers are in the School Directory in parentheses following the school name.

6. Use only the original forms sent to your school. Copies of the form cannot be read by our equipment because the carbon properties in the copy machine ink violate the system.
7. Keep forms as neat and free of wrinkles, folds and holes as possible.
8. Athletic directors are asked to review the ratings and make copies of the ratings sent for their files in case problems develop. File copies help solve problems.

It is important that rating forms be reviewed by athletic directors before mailing to insure that they are completely and properly filled out. This procedure allows the athletic director to make file copies and to see that the forms are submitted to the MHSAA on time.

All schools should be positive that EITHER the superintendent OR the principal AND the athletic director OR the coach sign and review the ratings forms and that they be returned to the MHSAA office at the earliest opportunity.

NOTE: When an official receives a rating value of 5, the school must submit an Unsatisfactory Rating Explanation form to the official and to the MHSAA with the Rating Form. **WITHOUT THE DOCUMENT** the “5” rating will be expunged from the officials rating record. Forms are available on the Web only at mhsaa.com, or on the MHSAA CD-ROM sent to each school in the fall.

An official may be rated as varsity and/or subvarsity only once per sport, per school, per year. ■



DON'T MISS THE 26th ANNUAL OFFICIALS AWARDS & ALUMNI BANQUET

April 23, 2005

The Michigan High School Athletic Association is proud to announce the 26th Annual Officials' Awards and Alumni Banquet set for Saturday, April 23, 2005. The Banquet will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, corner of I-496 and Creyts Road, Lansing, beginning at 7 p.m.



For our 26th Annual Celebration, a multimedia show is being produced, taking a look back at what was happening in 1965, 1975 and 1985, the years our honorees stepped into the officiating ranks.

As part of the program, individualized plaques will be awarded to those officials with twenty (20) years of service, thirty (30) years of service and forty (40) years or more service with the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The "Vern Norris" award will be presented to one official in recognition of contributions made to officiating. The Banquet will give those officials who were awarded plaques previously, a chance to renew acquaintances as "alumni."

Those who plan to attend should complete the form below and return it with a check or money order in the amount of \$15 per ticket to the MHSAA no later than April 4, 2005. Ticket orders will be filled on a first-come basis, however, priority will be given to those officials receiving awards. Officials, friends and relatives are also encouraged to attend. **Tickets will not be sold at the door.**

----- (cut here) -----

(Please detach and return to the MHSAA office before April 4, 2005)

OFFICIALS' AWARDS AND ALUMNI BANQUET

Saturday, April 23, 2005

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____
(Last) (First) (Initial)

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Number of tickets ordered _____ @ \$15 — Total: \$ _____

Number of tables ordered _____ @\$15 — Total: \$ _____

Please return before April 4, 2005, and make check payable to the Michigan High School Athletic Association, 1661 Ramblewood, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

TICKET MONEY CANNOT BE REFUNDED

BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 18, 2005

Members Present:

Mel Atkins, Grand Rapids
Ron Beegle, Charlotte
Mitch Bohn, Sanford
Pete Bush, Cedar Springs
Richard Catt, Ludington
Ken Dietz, Hartford
Larry Edlund, Portage
Chris Ervin, Carson City
Jim Eurick, Auburn
Lafayette Evans, Detroit
Denny Fulk, Laingsburg
Mike Fusco, Macomb
Paul Gaudard, Bad Axe
Leroy Hackley, Byron Center
Kevin Herendeen, Jackson
Elbert Hicks, Flint
Barry Hobrla, Lowell
Cody Inglis, Suttons Bay
Dewayne Jones, West Bloomfield
Maureen Klocke, Capac
Don Knight, Otsego
Ken Kott, Manistee
Dan McShannock, Midland
Vic Michaels, Detroit

Jim Okler, Grosse Ile
Jim Pittman, Clinton
Sean Richmond, Flint
Brett Roach, Holland
Rich Schrotenboer, Grand Rapids
Cindy Short, Lansing
Tarlton Small, Pontiac
Matt Stapleton, Frankfort
Brett Steele, Redford
Wayne Welton, Chelsea
Christian Wilson, Gaylord

Members Absent:

Jean LaClair, Bronson

Staff Members Present:

Nate Hampton (Recorder)
Andy Frushour
Mandi Hoover
Camala Kinder
Tom Minter
Jamie VanDerMoere
Faye Verellen
Debbie Waddell

The Committee was presented with the entire list of approved officials in Boys Basketball who had completed availability forms at the MHSAA rules meetings in the fall. Assignments were made for the tournament on the basis of recommendations and availability of the officials.

RATINGS

Minimal ratings required included 2.1 for Final officials; 2.5 for Semifinal and Quarterfinal officials; 2.7 for Regional and District officials. Officials recommended by two or more leagues/conferences and/or officials associations were qualified to the next rating level.

TOURNAMENT INVITATIONS

All officials selected at each tournament level were sent "Assignment Response" forms from the MHSAA. Officials were assigned to work only one game per day in any tournament competition. At Regional Tournaments, officials work one date/game of the tournament.

OFFICIALS AVAILABILITY

862 officials indicated their availability for Lower Peninsula Tournament assignments. Of this number, 609 were assigned to the 2004-2005 Districts. Regional assignments for officials totaled 287. 51 officials were selected to work the Quarterfinal games 24 officials were selected to work the Semifinal contests and 12 in the Championship Games. ■

CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 19, 2005

Members Present:

Keith Eldred, Williamston
Dan Flynn, Escanaba
Lillian Mason, Grand Blanc, MASB
Dan McShannock, Midland, MIAAA
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Linda Myers, Morley
Stuart Redpath, Troy
Mike Roberts, Hillsdale
David VerMerris, Muskegon
Claudia Werner, Alpena

Members Absent:

Kirk Baese, Elsie, MASSP
Jim Dittmer, Ludington, MASB

Staff Members Present:

Jack Roberts
Tom Rashid (Recorder)

Executive Director Jack Roberts began the meeting by highlighting the Classification Committee's traditional purpose of reviewing proposals and making recommendations to the Representative Council or MHSAA staff regarding policies and procedures of MHSAA Tournament Classification. This is a historically significant committee which this year includes four Representative Council members. Representatives from MASB, MASSP and the MIAAA are invited. All types of schools are represented among the committee members.

Minutes of the 2004 Classification Committee meeting were reviewed indicating a wide range of topics and some topics were repeated on the 2005 agenda.

Applicable minutes of the May 2004 Representative Council Meeting were presented showing that the Representative Council did not alter the enrollment limits or provide flexibility to the limits for subvarsity play when 7th or 8th-grade students participate in the 9 - 12 program as granted in Regulation I, Section I [D] for schools with an enrollment of under 50 or under 100 students respectively. The Representative Council also complimented the Classification Committee and the staff on its research and presentation regarding the tournament experience of our smallest Class D schools and invited staff to distribute and solicit comments from all Class D schools.

TOURNAMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR SMALL CLASS D SCHOOLS

Only four letters were received from Class D schools (two in favor, two opposed)

in response to circulation of ideas on improving the Class D school tournament experience within the four division structure. There was gratitude for the study, but no strong desire to alter existing tournament formats or opportunities. There was consensus that the Classification Committee take no action, closing the study for the current time. The committee discussed the preferences of some regarding the possibilities of enrollment seeded pre-district games, point differential rule application and the anticipated growth of small schools with few sports offered.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

A challenging era begins shortly for the MHSAA when the 3,500-student limit takes effect for cooperative programs beginning in the 2006-07 school year. Schools which do request waiver of the 3,500-student cap for cooperative programs beyond 2005-06 must submit material to the Executive Committee by April 15, 2006. The specific case by case waiver requirements, approved by the Representative Council in March 2003, were provided in written form for the committee.

On Oct. 12, 2004, the MHSAA Gymnastics Committee asked for a review of the cooperative agreement teams which have dominated MHSAA tournaments in gymnastics. Currently, 24 of the 60 gymnastic teams are cooperative programs. In the five years from 1997 to 2001, three to five of the top 12 teams have been from cooperative programs. In the most recent past three years (2002 to 2004), seven or eight cooperative teams have placed in the top 12. It was reported that the

request for information the Gymnastics Committee recommended was already requested on the Cooperative Agreement Renewal Form which was distributed to the Classification Committee. Monitoring is automatic through the bi-annual league and Executive Committee approval. The upcoming April 2006 deadline for programs which wish to operate beyond 2006-07 in excess of 3,500 students may also serve to correct some concerns expressed in the gymnastics community.

The Cooperative Team Renewal Form was reviewed indicating the data being collected was in line with the Gymnastics Committee's recommendation. It was suggested that a line could be added asking for information on facilities and the history and relationship to the non-school (club) aspect of the sport in that school or community.

The committee discussed some reasons schools may give for remaining in agreements in excess of the 3,500-student limit such as facilities, staffing, finances, and number of participants.

ENROLLMENT DECLARATION FORM

The Enrollment Declaration Form was reviewed. The first year that the form required the actual name of non-traditional programs appeared to meet with success.

NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS

Currently, alternative education students are eligible in the school of their residence if their school so chooses and indicates by counting the students and naming the program on the enrollment declaration form. A letter was received from the Kent County Area Alternative School Principals, endorsed by the athletic directors at Sparta and Comstock Park High Schools, asking the MHSAA to reconsider its approach to allowing schools themselves to determine whether or not they will allow eligibility to and, if so, count non-traditional students.

Not counting specialty schools, schools within a school and other non-traditional schools could be places where significant numbers of students would be eligible, possibly participating, and yet are not counted. The consensus of the Classification Committee was that it would be contrary to current trends in education and make count-

ing even more inconsistent from school to school. The Committee did not advocate a change in the policy of counting non-traditional school students.

TOURNAMENT RECLASSIFICATION CONSIDERATIONS

In accordance with previously stated tournament classification policy, the sports committees of volleyball and skiing have supported equal divisions. The process of surveying schools and tournament management and seeking staff and tournament management input has begun and will be shared with the Classification Committee for possible action in 2006.

1. In 2003-04 the **Competitive Cheer** Committee recommended four tournaments, equally dividing Class A and B schools into three divisions and one separate division of Class C and D schools. In May 2004, the Representative Council said not at this time. The schools have been surveyed; results will be shared with the next meeting of the Competitive Cheer Committee.
2. It is anticipated that the **Bowling** Committee will develop a recommendation in March for three equal divisions with approximately 70 schools in each division.
3. The Representative Council determined in 2003-04 that the new sport of **Boys and Girls Lacrosse** shall be classified into two equal divisions.
4. In 2003-04 the **Swimming and Diving** Committee recommended changing from two to three equal divisions. The Representative Council rejected the increase in divisions due in great part to the decline in participation evidenced especially in boys swimming. Moreover, the availability of only three eight lane college pools in the state and the unlikely event that a large Division 1 high school pool with adequate seating capacity would host a lower division championship in swimming. As part of the established process, schools are being surveyed with a report back to the Swim and Diving Committee meeting in March 2005.

It was pointed out that the school survey process almost always yields a desire for more championships and divisions. This is moderated by Classification Committee review and Representative Council determination as well as other considerations involved in conducting MHSAA tournaments.

The rationale for equal divisions versus classification by Class ABCD was discussed. Two technical clarifications were discussed with regard to classification:

1. When an uneven number of teams are classified, the line is drawn so the extra teams are in the smaller half of the division, as teams who opt-up may even out the divisions.
2. When boys and girls **both** sponsor the sport in the same season, the gender with the higher number of schools sponsoring the sport shall guide the divisions.

8TH-GRADERS PARTICIPATING ON HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS

The Junior High/Middle School Committee is advancing a recommendation to eliminate Interpretation No. 76 that states that an 8th-grade student who participates on a 9th-grade program as in Reg. 1, I(D) is **only** eligible immediately at that same school. The Classification Committee took no position. However, in as much as many schools may not be aware of this requirement, it was suggested that a report form or mechanism be in place informing students of this interpretation before they participate. In many cases the primary reason for allowing 7th and 8th-graders to play on the high school team is when there are not enough 9-12 students to field a team.

There was also consensus that a survey of schools whose enrollment is under 100 be conducted to determine how often Regulation I, Section 1 [D] is in use and what these schools' opinions are with respect to future enrollment of these students as 9th-graders in their school or another school. ■

Coaches Updates Needed For Record Book

To help keep the Michigan High School Sports Record Book current, the cooperation of member schools is necessary in maintaining the records of active coaches who are listed among career leaders on the various sports pages.

If a school has a coach listed in any sport, it should contact MHSAA historian Ron Pesch with the won-loss record for the season just completed. Remember to double-check the cumulative career record.

Information can be submitted by e-mail to: records@mhsaa.com

*visit.us.at
mhsaa.com*

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 20, 2005

Members Present:

Jack Anderson, Portland
Justin Ansel, Onaway
Steve Babbit, Blissfield
Sue Barthold, Kentwood (MHSSCA)
Linda Bouvet, Sault Ste Marie
Gary Boyce, Grand Ledge (MIAAA)
Larry Boyer, Battle Creek
Margie Caid, Constantine
Joe Chowanic, Frankenmuth
Jim Conway, Mt. Pleasant
Tony DeMare, Dearborn
Denny Fulk, Laingsburg
Ed Greenman, Battle Creek
Dan Griesbaum, Grosse Pointe (MHSBCA)
Sharon Hammerschmidt, Detroit
Scott Huckaby, Hudsonville
Bob Jones, Carleton
Tim Kluka, Allen Park

Dennis Kreiner, Alma
Steve Newkirk, Harrison (MAASP)
Greg Rambo, Sault Ste. Marie
Andy Rio, Detroit
Archy Robinson, Saginaw
Bob Rodenhouse, Lowell
Gerrard Taylor, Detroit
Wayne Welton, Chelsea
Tom Willette, Canton

Members Absent:

John Gravlin, Saginaw

Guests:

Larry Wegener, Battle Creek

Staff Members Present:

Randy Allen
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2004-2005 MHSAA Baseball / Softball Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics involving the MHSAA tournament series in baseball / softball.

REVIEW OF 2004 REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

The committee reviewed the action taken by the Representative Council on the baseball and softball recommendations from 2004. The topics discussed included hiring procedures for District umpires, District draw schedules, Regional dates, Finals umpires, double first base, and Finals ticket prices / parking.

REGULAR-SEASON DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion took place on a variety of issues related to regular-season play. The current pitching limitations for Baseball were clarified, along with discussion on potential pitching limitations for Softball. Scheduling issues, including game suspension and shortening procedures, were discussed, along with an emphasis on the current daily limitation of two games per school day. The committee also discussed the current requirements of the

three-player rule for baseball and softball schools, along with interpretations and enforcement information. The first date of practice was discussed, along with the possible need for a later date for the first allowable contest.

TOURNAMENT DISCUSSION ITEMS

Tournament Administration: Tournament procedures such as the coin flip for home team that were first used in 2004 were reviewed, along with discussion of the Opt-Out procedures that will be used in 2005. A reminder that Tournament Managers must forward the eligibility lists to the next tournament level was given.

Rain Procedures: Dialogue took place on suspended game issues during the MHSAA Tournament series. In addition, the committee re-emphasized that Tournament Managers must make every possible effort to play games on scheduled days, even if it requires lengthy waits during rain delays.

District Tournament Site Options: The committee reviewed the requirement that all District games (Tuesday, Friday, Saturday) be played at the field of the designated District host. The only exception to this would be if the two schools playing on

Tuesday wished to play at one of the home sites due to geographic and travel reasons. This exception would have to be approved by both the District tournament manager and MHSAA staff.

Practice on Tournament Fields: A host school can make their field available to competing schools for practice in the week prior to the tournament. If it is made available or given to one school, it must be actively offered to all other competing schools, as well. The committee supported the idea that if the host is offering practice times, it must openly be communicated to all participating schools.

Tournament Sequence of District / Regional / Quarterfinal: A lengthy discussion took place on the current tournament format and days in between the District, Regional and Quarterfinal levels of the tournament. While many committee members voiced concerns that inclement weather can make for a compacted schedule, there was no support to change the current schedule due to many scheduling issues and conflicts with the end of the school year and exams.

Baseball Finals Format: The committee discussed scheduling all four Baseball Final games to C.O. Brown Stadium, with a defined contingency plan in case of inclement weather. Discussion also took place on an alternative time schedule for the Semifinal Baseball games, which will be discussed and examined further by Final Tournament management and the high school baseball community.

Baseball and Softball Umpire Selection Committees: With the change of District Managers hiring their umpires from an approved list, discussion took place on whether to combine the Baseball and Softball Umpire Selection Committees into one committee to be more efficient.

Baseball / Softball Tournament Draw: The committee conducted the draw for the Regional and Semifinal pairings. The Regional pairings will be 2nd High vs. 2nd Low and High vs. Low. The Division 1 Semifinal pairings will be Low vs. 2nd Low and 2nd High vs. High. The Division 2 Semifinal pairings will be 2nd High vs. 2nd Low and Low vs. High. The Division 3 pairings will be 2nd Low vs. 2nd High and High

vs. Low. The Division 4 pairings will be High vs. 2nd Low and Low vs. 2nd High.

RULES MEETINGS

Rules Meeting Content: The committee was updated on National Federation rules changes in softball and baseball for the 2005 season. Major softball changes included the mandatory helmet & face protection for 2006 and the new obstruction rule. Baseball changes included a revision to the shoulder turn/balk rule, coach's uniform requirement and illegal substitution clarifications.

Rules Meeting Format for 2006: The committee provided feedback on scheduling separate baseball and softball rules meetings at the same site with one meeting to begin at 5 p.m. and the other for 7 p.m. The committee was supportive of this approach for 2006.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Assign an additional umpire to each Final, Semifinal and Quarterfinal baseball tournament contest. The rationale used was that this would provide the "gold standard" of umpiring for both softball (3 umpires) and baseball (4 umpires) at the Final Tournament levels (26-0).
2. In respect to the three-player rule, increase the number of athletes a coach can work with from three to four from Feb. 1 until the first day of practice. The committee believed that additional time was needed for athletes to get their arms ready for the upcoming season, and this additional player would allow schools to have two pitchers and two catchers working together after Feb. 1 (26-0).
3. Allow for Baseball / Softball to commence practice no earlier than the first Monday after March 1. The committee was concerned that the first day of practice has been moved later into March. By starting practice no earlier than the first Monday after March 1, it would give athletes more time to get their arms prepared for the season (26-0).
4. Combine the Baseball and Softball Umpire Selection Committees into one Baseball / Softball Umpire Selection Committee. With District Managers now

hiring District umpires, the committee felt that the time and energies of those invited to serve on the umpire selection committee would be better used by one, combined committee (26-0).

5. For all MHSAA tournament Baseball / Softball contests, complete games of 7 innings shall be played except when shortened by current run differential rules, or lengthened by extra innings. When an official game (4 1/2 or 5 completed innings) becomes suspended, it shall be resumed and played to a complete 7 innings unless the team behind wishes to make the result at the time of

suspension final. The rationale for this change would be to eliminate rain-shortened games being official in the Tournament series (26-0).

6. Schedule all four Baseball Final games at C.O. Brown Stadium. This change would schedule all Final games in Brown Stadium, with the outside two diamonds being utilized on Saturday if weather became an issue. This schedule of all Final contests in the main stadium is the schedule that is currently used for the Softball Finals (22-0). ■

REGISTER ALL NONFACULTY COACHES BEFORE THEY ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES

The *MHSAA Handbook* requires that any coach who is not an administrator or a member of the regular teaching staff of the school district must be registered by the school with the MHSAA. The requirement pertains to all nonfaculty coaches, full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer.

The regulation states, "The person responsible for the immediate training or coaching of a secondary athletic team SHOULD be a member of the regular teaching staff of the school. If a nonfaculty member is used, that person must be registered by the school with the MHSAA on a form provided for that purpose BEFORE assuming any coaching duties. A nonfaculty member coach must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and not a current high school student.

"Note: The Representative Council urges that all schools strive for the standard that only qualified faculty members are used as head coaches of interscholastic athletic teams, and all nonfaculty coaches complete the MHSAA's Program for Athletic Coaches' Education (PACE) or equivalent program."

There are two ways to fulfill the registration requirement:

1. The easiest way to register nonfaculty varsity head coaches is online at the MHSAA's administrative Web site, mhsaa.net, as you provide School Directory information.
2. Forms for registering other nonfaculty coaches may be requested from the MHSAA or may be found on pages 108-109 of the *MHSAA Handbook* for 2004-05. You may copy and enlarge as necessary. The forms – one for high school, the other for the junior high/middle school level – may also be downloaded from the MHSAA Web site at mhsaa.com and are available on the CD-ROM sent to schools in August. Forms may be submitted throughout the school year as nonfaculty coaches are assigned. Many schools submit forms just prior to each season: fall, winter and spring. ■

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 24, 2005

Members Present:

Timothy Baker, Constantine
Rod Bragg, Gaylord
Darren Bray, Gladstone
Richard Catt, Ludington
Teresa Cole, Mio
Michael Colletta, Belleville
Ken Dietz, Hartford
Denny Dock, Stevensville
Chris Ervin, Carson City
Jim Eurick, Auburn
Lafayette Evans, Detroit
Mary Jo Evans, Detroit
Larry Featherstone, Benton Harbor
Morley Fraser, Bay City
Denny Fulk, Laingsburg
Jason Gribble, Carleton
Paul Guse, Westland, Westland
Dan Hoffman, Morenci
Cody Inglis, Suttons Bay
Randy Johnson, Cheboygan

Bruce Mann, Shelby
Dan McShannock, Midland (MIAAA)
Mike Millhouse, Holly
Jim Okler, Grosse Ile
Tony Petkus, Fennville
Bob Saylor, Reese
Ronald Simpkins, Detroit
Marty Spencer, St Ignace
Matt Stapleton, Frankfort
Paul Test, Ann Arbor
Jim Webb, Cadillac

Members Absent:

Tim Croel, Frankenmuth
Russell Davis, Jackson

Staff Members Present:

Nate Hampton (Recorder)
Tom Minter
Jerry Cvengros
Mark Uyl

The committee met for the purpose of reviewing playing rules, regulations, and policies concerning high school football and Football Playoff procedures. Following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations for Representative Council action.

FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Committee members were given 2004 Football Playoff Tournament Information materials and comparative dates that demonstrated future first practice dates and first game dates.

The data provided to the committee demonstrated that the results of the 6-year expanded format were consistent from year to year when comparing school's classification, enrollment breaks, and numbers of automatic qualifying schools. In 2002 and 2003, 242 and 240 schools respectfully qualified automatically based on their regular season records. In 2004, 243 schools did the same. In 2003 and 2004, 44 and 10 games respectively were subjected to the playoff point differential rule. Enrollment ranges for the eight 2003 Divisions were as follows:

Division 1: 3320-1712, Division 2: 1689-1271, Division 3: 1226-857, Division 4: 855-665, Division 5: 657-489, Division 6: 481-393, Division 7: 387-228, and Division 8: 226-94.

Classification of schools by Division for 2004 included the following: Division 1: 32 Class A schools, Division 2: 32 Class A schools, Division 3: 12 Class A, 20 Class B schools, Division 4: 32 Class B schools, Division 5: 32 Class B schools, Division 6: 32 Class C schools, Division 7: 29 Class C schools, 3 Class D schools, and Division 8: 32 Class D schools.

In the Final games at the Silverdome, seven finalists were No. 1 seeds at the Pre-District level, six were No. 2 seeds, three were a No. 3 seed, and there were no No. 4 seeds.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

After a review of football starting dates, duration of season and other related statistics important to the Football Playoffs, the discussions continued and included the following topics:

- Tournament information found in the *August Bulletin* and on the MHSAA Web site.
- Regional geographic pairings.
- Forfeitures.
- MHSFCA presentation by Vince LeVeille on restructuring Pre-District, District and Regional pairings.
- Facility standards for hosting Semifinal Playoff games.
- Rules meeting requirements for coaches and officials.
- Head coaches exams for coaches who fail to attend a current year rules meeting.
- Rules meeting format (are changes needed if sport seasons change?)
- Out-of-season 3-player regulations.
- Coaches sideline decorum.
- Officials must belong to an approved officials association starting in 2005.
- Junior high/middle school start date.

FUTURE FOOTBALL DATES

Year	Earliest Practice*	Earliest Game#	Labor Day (Games Before)
2005	Aug. 8	Aug. 26	Sept. 5 (2)
2006	Aug. 7	Aug. 25	Sept. 4 (2)
2007	Aug. 6	Aug. 24	Sept. 3 (2)
2008	Aug. 11	Aug. 28	Sept. 1 (1)
2009	Aug. 10	Aug. 28	Sept. 7 (2)
2010	Aug. 9	Aug. 27	Sept. 6 (2)

**whether or not play 1st week; 1st 3 days without pads; schools could start later
#schools could start later*

FOOTBALL RULES AND PROCEDURES

The committee was informed of National Federation football rule changes for the 2005 season.

The committee members made several suggestions to include in next fall's football rules meetings as points of emphasis. They will include:

- Forfeitures that appear to be used only to get out of competitions
- On-side kicks with bunch blocks
- Officials communicating to coaches in pregame expectations for sideline decorum

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Change current District/Regional format to allow the first-place seed to play the eighth-place seed, the second-place seed to play the seventh-place seed, etc. The proposal would eliminate current District matchups that are based on geography

and all geographical pairings in Region 1 (19-2).

Note: The full proposal reads: Currently each division is divided into four Regions, and then further divided into geographic districts. Within each District, the No. 1 seed plays No. 4, and No. 2 plays No. 3. The winner of the two play each other and then move on to the other district winner.

- a) Divide each Division into four Regions (same as before)
- b) Within the Regions, seed the teams so No. 1 plays No. 8, No. 2 plays No. 7, No. 3 plays No. 6, and No. 4 plays No. 5.
- c) The second round would be the winner of 1 vs. 8 vs. the winner of 4 vs. 5; 3 vs. 6 vs. 2 v.s 7. Then those two teams play for the Regional Final and would receive the Regional trophy and medals.
- d) The winner of the second game would still receive the "District" trophy and medals.

2. Should a member school forfeit a football contest and the forfeit is contested by the opponent for reasons that the forfeiture is not for health or risk issues, but rather to just get out of competition, the forfeiting school must appear before the Executive Committee to show cause why other sanctions should not be applied to the forfeiting school (20-0).
 Note: This recommendation followed discussions relating to last-minute forfeitures for lack of numbers (players) and the appearance that these forfeitures are being used by schools to get out of contests that schools just do not want to play.
3. Eliminate geographic pairings in Regions 1 of the Football Playoff format (19-1).
4. Request the NFHS Football Committee to adopt at minimum the NCAA rules relating to on-side kicks, the positioning of players in the pre-kick formation (must have a minimum of four players on either side of the ball) and restricted blocking (no kicking team member may block a receiving team member before the kicked ball has traveled 10 yards where Team K may legally be eligible to recover a grounded kick (21-0).
5. Publish that subvarsity level teams may use less than 11 person football rules (8-person football) (21-0). ■

2004-05 Scholar-Athlete Recipients Honored

The 2004-05 recipients of the MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award will be honored in ceremonies during the Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Student Events Center on March 19.

The program drew 2,522 applications from 446 schools for 28 \$1,000 college scholarships to be presented by Farm Bureau Insurance. A complete list of applicants may be obtained through the mhsaa.com under the Recognition/Scholar-Athlete Award page.

“These young people are those who excel in academics, athletics, and in other school and community programs,” said John E. “Jack” Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. “All of the applicants are reaping the benefits of a well-rounded education by sampling as many things as she or he can while in school.”

Winners of the Scholar-Athlete Award for the fall sports of 2004 are: **Christina Ashley Maertens**, Birmingham Seaholm, girls basketball; **Jason Victor Hawley**, Temperance Bedford, boys cross country; **Kelly Nicole Sampson**, Detroit Renaissance, girls cross country; **Steve Short**, Kingsford, football; **Ross Osgood**, Delton Kellogg, boys golf; **Mark Weber**, Grand Rapids Catholic Central, boys soccer; **Emily Weslosky**, Troy Athens, girls swimming & diving; **Jenny Armstrong**, Harbor Springs, girls tennis.

The winter 2005 winners are: **Nikolas Burkhart**, Pellston, boys basketball; **Philip J. McDonald**, Saginaw Heritage, boys bowling; **Grace H. Williams**, Sandusky, girls bowling; **Amanda Louise Winn**, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern, girls competitive cheer; **Calie E. Thompson**, Trenton, girls gymnastics; **Kris Young**, Ann Arbor Pioneer, ice hockey; **Brady Donnelly**, Harbor Springs, boys skiing; **Sarah Conkle**, Bellaire, girls skiing; **C.J. Holmes**, Alma, boys swimming and diving; **Stephanie Booms**, Marysville, girls volleyball; and **Ben Wales**, Otsego, wrestling.

The 2005 spring recipients are: **Jason Allan Sosnowski**, White Lake Lakeland, baseball; **Megan Elizabeth Carter**, Bloomfield Hills Lahser, girls golf; **David W. Dindoffer**, Grosse Pointe South, boys lacrosse; **Lauren Gaer**, Birmingham Marian, girls lacrosse; **Kimberly Oberski**, Port Huron, girls soccer; **Emily Blair**, Harper Woods Regina, softball; **William Robert Lloyd**, White Lake Lakeland, boys tennis, **Jameson F. Lamie**, Hart, boys track & field; **Lauren Bennett**, Birmingham Marian, girls track & field.

Applicants for the Scholar-Athlete Award must carry a 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) grade-point average, and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport in which the MHSAA sponsors postseason competition. Applicants are also required to show involvement in additional school and community activities and submit an essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics. ■

TRACK & FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY REGULATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 25, 2005

Members Present:

Gene Balawajder, Highland
Kevin Behmer, Ann Arbor
Dan Bolhuis, Muskegon
Cecil Burch, Leroy
Dave DeCou, Marcellus
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock
Kathy Hutfilz, St. Louis
John Lober, Traverse City
Jim Long, Kalamazoo
Jim Mallard, Allegan
Paul Nilsson, Williamston
Charles Pelham, Pittsford
Rob Ribby, Eaton Rapids
Ed Skrelunas, Clio
Bertha Smiley, Detroit
Fred Smith, Kalamazoo

Kim Spalsbury, Grand Ledge
Lowie VanStaveren, Gobles (MITCA)
Douglas Willer, Hillsdale
Wright Wilson, Royal Oak
Bill Fries, Portage

Members Absent:

Lewis Clingman, Grand Rapids
Mac Domke, Marysville
Doug Grezeszak, West Branch
Brian Macomber, Comstock Park (Advisory)
Duane Pelz, Clinton
Dale Sage, Reese

Staff Members Present:

Nate Hampton (Recorder)
Mark Uyl

The committee met for the purpose of reviewing specific National Federation sport rules and MHSAA tournament policies, adoptions, regulations and interpretations that are applicable to Track and Field and Cross Country during the regular season and MHSAA tournaments. The following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to staff for inclusion in tournament information and recommendations that will advance for Representative Council consideration.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

During the welcome and introductions the committee made special note of the attendance of Rudy Godefroidt of Hemlock, serving the MHSAA as Rules Interpreter and Rules Meeting Presenter, and Kathy Hutfilz of St. Louis, serving as a current member of the National Federation Track and Field Rules Committee representing the NFHSCA.

2005 TRACK & FIELD REGIONAL AND FINAL SITES

The committee reviewed the Regional recommendations for sites and school assignments made by the Selection Committee on Jan. 14, 2005. The Finals sites selected are as follows:

Division 1 - Rockford HS
Division 2 - Caledonia HS
Division 3 - Comstock Park HS
Division 4 - Grand Rapids Northview HS

2005 NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES AND EDITORIAL CHANGES

The committee discussed the following 2005 National Federation Track & Field/Cross Country Rules and Editorial Changes.

3-2-2: When meet limitations are more restrictive than NFHS Rule 4-2, the meet director shall announce the number of contestants who may represent a school and the number of events in which each contestant may enter and or compete. Delete: "in most instances, the state association has standards concerning those matters. When there are no statewide standards, the conference or meet director determines the regulations using the standards listed in Rule 4-2."

3-2-4t: By state association adoption, the games committee may designate the use of the 40-degree or 34.92-degree sectors in the shot and/or discus throw. 6-5-1, 6-4-5, 3-20-5

Rationale: Many high school track and field meets are conducted at college/university sites where the sectors are marked at 34.92 degrees.

4-2-1: A contestant shall not be entered in more than four events, excluding relays.

Rationale: To minimize risk, the committee has clearly defined the number of entries allowed. This change also provides a clarification that allows NFHS, state associations and member schools to accurately and consistently enforce and interpret NFHS rules.

4-3-1b3: Full-length track jersey and track shorts or body suit (one or two piece) issued by the school. (4-3-8). 3. The jersey and shorts or body suit (one or two piece) may have the school identification and the competitor's name. 8. Remove "body suits." (4-3-5, 9-6-1b, 1, 2, 3, 8)

Rationale: These changes reflect those that have been made in other NFHS rules and the new fabrics being utilized in uniforms.

6-2-12: Add penalty for infraction of warming up without a coach or event official at the venue shall lead to a warning, and if repeated, a disqualification from that event. If the incident recurs, the athlete will be disqualified from further competition in the meet as a penalty for unsupervised warm-up in throwing and jumping events.

Editorial Changes: 3-5-4b; 3-8-4; 4-3-6 PEN; 4-20-5; 4-3-2b; 6-2-13; 6-3-15; 6-4-0; 6-5-9

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Regional hosts for 2005.
- Representative Council action on 2004 Committee Recommendations.
- Finals afternoon start time for the second session.
- School teams participating in multiple meets on a single day.
- Disc and shot competitors at Regionals and Finals to be listed in Prelims best to worst, and worst to best in the Finals.
- Clerking Regionals and finals to not have unnecessary empty lanes.
- 2005 Additional Qualifier Standards.
- Pole vault coaching certification and pole vault helmets.
- School tournament information Track/Cross Country.
- Host cost and reimbursements Track/Cross Country.
- Health and safety issues related to Track/Cross Country.
- v Weather delays at Regional/Final competitions Track/Cross Country.

- Accommodating physically challenged students in Track and Field.
- Out-of-season three-player rule as it relates to indoor Track out-of-season.
- Required practice prior to first competition.
- Verification for Regional entry times, heights and distances.
- Class D concerns.
- 2005 Rules Meeting handout.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Track and field entry times, heights and distances verification at the Regional competition.
2. Non-registered officials being used at regular season competition.
3. Officials not in the appropriate uniforms.
4. Supervision of field event areas. Coaches must coach athletes to not use unsupervised Event areas pre or post-event warm-up/practice.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MHSAA STAFF

1. Establish interpretation that multi meet participation on a single day by portions of a single team is to be one of the 18 days of competition for the team.
Example: team A may send a small group of athletes to the Mansfield Relays while others on the team attend another competition on the same day.
2. Establish interpretation that pole vault helmets may have both manufacturer's logo and school logo.
3. Establish clarification for an interpretation relating to providing liquids to athletes while participating in Cross Country events. The Games Committee for events may establish hydration stations or allow coaches to provide hydration to athletes during competitions on hot and humid days.
4. Establish a verification system for Regional Entry heights, times and distances.
Option 1 - Ask systems provider to establish verification space for each electronic entry.

Option 2 - Ask systems provider to establish verification space for all additional qualifiers.

Option 3 - Require that all coaches of each school team bring verification materials to Regional competitions.

ATOM RECOMMENDATIONS

Establish annual Rules Meetings for Cross Country coaches and officials.

MITCA RECOMMENDATIONS

Cross Country - Allow individual athletes who finish at Regional competitions in places 16-20 to advance to the Final competition.

Note: Currently, individual places 1-15 (not on teams) advance. Potential for 45 more athletes to advance, but the more practical would estimate 19-15 more athletes per race.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Establish Rules Meetings specifically for Cross Country coaches and officials (21-0).
2. At Regionals, allow athletes that place in positions 16-20 as individuals to advance to Final competition (12-7). ■

TRAVEL FORM FOR OUT-OF-STATE PRACTICE

The following schools have submitted the travel form for out of state practice which is required by the *MHSAA Handbook*, Regulation II, Section 6(B). The regulation states that:

Schools which desire to conduct practice out of state at a site more than 600 highway miles round-trip from their location must complete and submit to the MHSAA office the "Travel Form for Out-Of-State Practice" at least 30 days in advance of departure.

FALL

No forms submitted

WINTER

Alpine Ski

Clarkston
Greenville
Petoskey

SPRING

Baseball

Blissfield
Cedar Springs
Chelsea
DeWitt
Essexville Garber
Grand Blanc
Richland Gull Lake
Portland
Saline
Shepherd
Howard City Tri-County
Holland West Ottawa
Ypsilanti Lincoln
Zeeland

Softball

Alma
Caledonia
Cass City
Chelsea
Flint Kearsley
Frankfort
Glen Lake
GPW-University Liggett
Hamilton
Hemlock
Howell
Lake Odessa Lakewood
Highland-Milford
Portland
Southfield Christian
Wyoming Rogers

Lacrosse

Detroit Country Day

Tennis

Whitehall

WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 26, 2005

Members Present:

Kevin Akin, Alma
Dan Chrenko, Trenton (MASSP)
Dustin Cichocki, Carson City
Marti Covert, Byron (MWA)
Sam Davis, Lansing
Tim Erickson, Rockford
Tom Flynn, Beverly Hills
Mark Fuhrman, Pinconning
Mike Garvey, Delton (MIAAAA)
Mike Goggins, Hastings
Steve Hendershott, Ortonville
Tom Johnson, Iron Mountain
Al Kastl, Clinton Township
Rudy Kocsis, Cheasaning
Jerry LaJoie, Gaylord
Rob Madigan, Norway
Scott Marvin, Middleville
Ken Mohney, Mattawan

Dennis Paquete, Bangor
Ellen Pugh, West Branch
Jim Scott, GVSU
Andy Skewis, Negaunee
Al Sosinski, Bronson
Pat Threet, Warren
Frank Vilardi, Southgate
John Zinmaster, Flint

Member Absent:

Mario Villarreal, Lansing

Guests:

Kent Bailo, Ortonville
Ron Nagy, Hazel Park

Staff Members Present:

Randy Allen
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2004-2005 MHSAA Wrestling Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics involving wrestling issues and the tournament series.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of 2004 Representative Council

Action: The committee discussed the positive changes, and subsequent implementation, of the following: elimination of the 50% rule, allowing wrestlers to compete during an appeal, new procedures for a failed hydration test prior to a hydrostatic assessment, use of the NWCA online weight monitoring process, use of four mats for the Individual District tournament, and the revised policies for Home Weigh-In when schools are not in session.

National Federation Topics: The National Federation has sought input from state associations regarding reduction of weight classes from fourteen to twelve, and implementation of two 30-second tiebreaker periods when the contestants are tied at the end of three regular periods. The committee had concerns that the reduction of weight classes would lead to a decrease in participation opportunities. The representatives from

some of the Class C-D schools did state that this reduction could help their programs, but the group consensus was to not support any change that would reduce the number of weight classes. There was also discussion, but no consensus, for any change to the current overtime and sudden-victory procedures.

Weight Monitoring: The committee discussed at length various issues as they relate to the 1.5% weekly weight loss currently allowed. Discussion centered on wrestlers being allowed to lose their 1.5% per week immediately after the Alpha Weigh-In, while those appealing are restricted in weight loss until the second week. The committee also reviewed the current hydrostatic facilities and procedures as they related to that process. The current growth allowance, and its various interpretations, was also reviewed and MHSAA staff will highlight these interpretations during the 2005-06 wrestling rules meetings.

Wrestler Inspections: The committee recommended that MHSAA emphasize that wrestler inspections should be done in a designated area (locker room, wrestling room, auxiliary gym, etc) prior to competition if facility conditions allow. The committee

believed that this recommendation will only enhance the ever improving public perception of wrestling.

Skinfold Assessors: Discussion took place regarding the annual re-certification process of skinfold assessors. The committee also reviewed the current policy of wrestling coaches being able to serve as assessors of other teams other than their own.

Nutritional Program: The committee received an update on the current requirements for schools and coaches regarding attendance at the MHSAA Nutritional In-service meetings.

Tournament Procedures: The committee reviewed the weigh-in procedures currently used at the LP Individual Finals, and the changes made last year were well received. Discussion also took place on Final officials and the need for a rotational system among those receiving Final assignments. The Team District dates were reviewed, as well, and the committee also reviewed the current differences between the MHSAA team tiebreaker criteria and the NFHS team tiebreaker criteria.

MHSAA Handbook Regulations: The committee discussed the possible impact of a sports season change and its effect on Regulation II, Section 10 (A). The issue of Michigan wrestlers and national high school championships was also discussed.

Correspondence / Committee Member Items: The committee discussed correspondence and committee member submitted items that dealt with the use of "mat lamps", schools having access to additional qualifier tickets for the LP Individual Finals, growth of girls wrestling on current teams of member schools, and seeding issues within the Team Wrestling Tournament series.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Eliminate the current requirements for "second wrestlers" when a school is entering two wrestlers in the same weight class for the Individual District (24-2).

2. Allow all wrestlers to begin their descent plans immediately following the Alpha Weigh-In (26-0).
3. Require all renewing skinfold assessors to attend the MHSAA Skinfold Assessor workshop every other year. In the year an assessor would not be in attendance, he/she would have to successfully complete a renewal examination to maintain their assessor status (25-1).
4. Revise *MHSAA Handbook* Regulation II, Section 10 (A) to eliminate the limitation of five days of competition in any 14-day period, Monday through Sunday. This would allow teams and individuals to compete a maximum of 3 days per week, giving schools added scheduling flexibility if sport season litigation would cause season changes (26-0).
5. Use the NFHS Team Tiebreaker as published in the NF Wrestling Rules book (24-0).
6. Require a school representative from each wrestling school to successfully complete an annual online nutritional education examination over MHSAA and NWCA nutritional materials. This annual requirement would replace the nutritional in-service meetings, and the online materials would comprise the local nutrition meeting curriculum (22-0).
7. Establish a sub-committee to investigate girls-only wrestling competition during the wrestling season, and possible girls-only competition exhibition matches at the LP Individual Wrestling Finals (20-0).
8. Support the concept of seeding for the Team Wrestling Districts. The seeding plan would be developed by the Michigan Wrestling Association for implementation for the 2006 tournament series (14-6). ■

BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 26, 2005

Members Present:

Bob Dowd, Troy
Larry Edlund, Portage
Aaron Frank, Birmingham
Mike Jolly, Warren
John Kenney, Beverly Hills
Rich Kimball, Jackson
Ed Maloney, Ann Arbor
Roger Pattee, Detroit
Jack Provencal, Grand Haven

Members Absent:

Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids (BLCA)
Tom Mecsey, Bloomfield Hills
Kathy McGee, Flint

Staff Members:

Tom Rashid (Recorder)
Kathy Vruggink Westdorp

PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Boys Lacrosse Committee was established by the Representative Council in May 2004, as a standing sport committee, initially meeting twice annually to develop recommendations to the Representative Council and MHSAA staff regarding the MHSAA Tournament. The Committee was given a three year window (2005-2007) for experimentation of seeding teams for the tournament as has been the practice of lacrosse in the years previous. The composition of this committee represented administrative, coaching, and officiating backgrounds valuable to the transition of lacrosse to MHSAA Tournament status.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Committee minutes from three combined boys and girls lacrosse meetings held in the 2003-04 school year, and from the Representative Council Meeting of May, 2004 were reviewed by the committee. All recommendations from the 2003-04 Lacrosse Committee were adopted by the Representative Council and are in place for the 2004-05 school year. Numerous meetings and discussions have occurred since the fall of 2003 with MHSAA staff and lacrosse coaches, administrators and officials.

TRANSITION

The former Michigan Scholastic Lacrosse Association, which governed the sport among member schools previously, has dissolved. A Boys Lacrosse Coaches Association has replaced the MSLA. Leadership from the MSLA has served and cooperated well with the MHSAA and mem-

ber schools in the transition. On Oct. 27, 2004, the MHSAA Executive Committee approved the creation of a Lacrosse Transition Task Force with two goals: 1.) To assist schools with the enforcement of regular season policies that leagues would normally follow regarding schedules and the assignment of officials and 2.) Work to add lacrosse to existing local conferences and establish new local lacrosse leagues and local official associations for the 2005-06 school year.

Committee members reported that the Oakland Activities Association, Macomb Area Conference, Kensington Valley Association, Catholic High School League and OK Conference were planning boys lacrosse as league sports in 2005-06. Progress was anticipated in the Capital Area Activities Conference as more schools sponsor lacrosse. The Committee discussed including independent schools or schools somewhat isolated in their geography as either league members or saving non league space on schedules for these teams. The Committee felt that the MHSAA should communicate with league and conference leadership regarding the addition of lacrosse as a league sport. The question of repeating the regular season schedule assistance again in 2005-06 will need to be determined.

OFFICIALS

Recruiting, training, assigning and providing incentives to officials in the transition period began in the fall of 2003 and continues with strong cooperation from the many existing lacrosse officials. 86 boy's lacrosse officials were MHSAA registered as of Jan 26, 2005, several newly trained officials have

yet to register, including most of the 62 new officials who attended an Officials Training Clinic on Feb 5, 2005, at the MHSAA Offices. Previously sponsored training sessions at Birmingham, Novi and East Grand Rapids have trained 36 officials this school year. Many current lacrosse officials have cooperated greatly and taken leadership roles in both the training of new officials and the unique requirements placed upon lacrosse officials to qualify for MHSAA Tournament assignments. Future considerations were discussed including the goal of increasing the number of local official associations for boy's lacrosse as is the policy and best practice of other MHSAA sports.

2005 BOYS LACROSSE TOURNAMENT

62 teams representing 76 schools (14 cooperative programs) will sponsor MHSAA boys lacrosse in 2005. There are 33 teams in Division 1 and 29 teams in Division 2, with two teams opting up to Division 1 by the established deadline. A planned Developmental Tournament will not be held as only four of the required eight teams indicated a desire to compete outside of the MHSAA statewide championship.

The Transition Task Force provided a recommendation for a two-phase seeding criteria and regional alignments which included eight pre-season seeded teams in each division, with two teams assigned to each Regional. Teams were then assigned to regions geographically with considerations for hosts included. The pre-determined criteria for the two-phase seeding system was approved by the committee. The MHSAA staff will select sites for all rounds of the tournament. The first round will be held at the field of the higher seeded team, but may be played at the Regional host site if mutual-

ly agreed to by all teams. The tournament bracket seeding for both the Regional and Semifinal rounds will be finalized at the May 10, 2005 meeting. Teams will be reseeded in the same Regional based on their 2005 season performance following the proposed written criteria. Adopted (9-0)

The time schedule for the Finals was discussed and will be determined by MHSAA staff after input and collaboration with the Girls Lacrosse Committee which meets the following day.

RULES MEETINGS AND PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The committee discussed suggestions for the content of the first ever MHSAA Lacrosse Rules Meetings to be held in February and the publication of Participating School Tournament Information and the Tournament Managers Material. All this information will be available on mhsaa.com. Draft copies of the material may be forwarded to the committee members for their input.

ASSIGNMENT OF TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

As this is the first year of the MHSAA Tournament, the committee's function of assisting with the assignment of tournament officials will be modified because ratings are not as yet available, some officials have not registered, and rules meetings have not been held. Committee members were given a list of current MHSAA lacrosse officials and will be sent a more accurate list after the final rules meeting requesting that each committee member rate the officials they or their coaches may have knowledge of. In addition, input from officials and local assignors will be sought by MHSAA staff. ■

Lacrosse Officials Needed

Call the MHSAA at 517-332-5046

GIRLS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 27, 2005

Members Present:

Jerry Fouch, East Grand Rapids
Pat Hayes, Beverly Hills
Judy Hehs, Bloomfield Hills
Betsey Kreston, Flint Powers
Greg Mehall, White Lake
Mike Neumann, Grand Rapids
Melinda Saylor, Bloomfield Hills
Rick Schmidt, Holt

Fred Smith, Comstock

Members Absent:

Mike Mehall, Farmington

Staff Members:

Tom Rashid (Recorder)
Kathy Vruggink Westdorp

PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Girls Lacrosse Committee was established by the Representative Council in May, 2004 as a standing sport committee initially meeting twice annually to develop recommendations to the Representative Council and MHSAA Staff regarding the MHSAA Tournament. The make up of this committee represents a wide variety of administrative, coaching and officiating positions. This committee has been instrumental in transitioning lacrosse to MHSAA Tournament status.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Committee minutes from three combined boys and girls lacrosse meetings held during the 2003-04 school year, and from the Representative Council Meeting of May, 2004 were reviewed by the committee. All recommendations from the 2003-04 Lacrosse Committee were adopted by the Representative Council and are in place for the 2004-05 school year. Numerous meetings and discussions have occurred since the fall of 2003 with MHSAA staff and lacrosse coaches, administrators and officials.

TRANSITION

The former Michigan Women's Scholastic Lacrosse Association, which previously governed the sport among member schools, has dissolved. A Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association has replaced the MWSLA. Leadership from the MWSLA has served and cooperated well with the MHSAA and member schools during this transition. On Oct. 27, 2004 the MHSAA Executive Committee approved the creation of a

Lacrosse Transition Task force which focused on two goals: 1) Assist schools with the enforcement of regular season policies that leagues would normally follow regarding schedules and the assignment of officials and 2) Work to add lacrosse to existing local conferences and establish new local lacrosse leagues and local official associations for the 2005-06 school year.

Committee members reported that the Kensington Valley Association, and Catholic High School League were planning girls lacrosse as league sports in 2005-06. Progress was anticipated in the Capital Area Activities Conference and Oakland Activities Conference as more schools sponsor lacrosse. The Committee discussed the including independent schools as either league members and/or saving non league space on schedules for these teams. The Committee felt schedules should continue to be open ended to allow for equitable competition. The question of repeating the regular season schedule assistance again in 2005-06 will need to be determined and addressed in part by the Coaches Association when they meet on June 7, 2005.

OFFICIALS

Recruiting, training, assigning and providing incentives to officials in the transition period began in the fall of 2003 and continues with strong cooperation from leaders in lacrosse officiating. Thirty girls lacrosse officials were registered with the MHSAA as of Jan 26, 2005. Twenty six officials were scheduled to attend the Officials Training Clinic on Feb 5, 2005 at the MHSAA Offices. The unique requirements requested

by officials were reviewed as was the goal of increasing the number of officials and local official associations for girls lacrosse.

2005 GIRLS LACROSSE TOURNAMENT

38 teams representing 52 schools (9 cooperative programs) will sponsor MHSAA girls lacrosse in 2005. There are 19 teams in Division 1 and 19 teams in Division 2, including one team opting up to Division 1 by the established deadline. A planned Developmental Tournament will not be held as only two of the required eight teams indicated a desire to compete outside of the MHSAA statewide championship.

The Transition Task Force met previously with MHSAA and recommended that the girls lacrosse tournament be similar to all other MHSAA tournaments: Teams are to be placed in geographic regions and blind draws used to establish opponents.

The time schedule for the Finals was discussed and will be determined by MHSAA staff, after input and collaboration with the Boys Lacrosse Committee, which met the previous day.

MULTI-TEAM TOURNAMENT ALLOWANCE

The Committee expressed concern that the *Handbook* language on Multi Team Tournaments, while applicable to soccer games and boys lacrosse, was not appropriate for girls lacrosse. Because this is the first year of the sport and this combined limitation does not work equally well for both the sports, the committee is seeking Executive Committee approval for a change to the multi team tournament conditions for the 2005 sea-

son. Differences such as fatigue, contact, stamina and game length between girls and boys lacrosse are significant. In as much as there are no apparent safety issues, the committee recommends lowering the running time maximum from 150 to 120 minutes for girls and counting the multi team event the same as any other day of competition, allowing for up to three dates of competition in the same week.

RULES MEETINGS AND PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The committee discussed suggestions for the content of the first ever MHSAA Lacrosse Rules Meetings to be held in February and the publication of Participating School Tournament Information and the Tournament Managers Material. All this information will be available on mhsaa.com. Draft copies of the material may be forwarded to the committee members for their input.

ASSIGNMENT OF TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

As this is the first year of the MHSAA Tournament, the committee's function of assisting with the assignment of tournament officials will be modified because ratings are not as yet available; some officials have not registered; and all rules meetings have not been held. Committee members were given a list of current MHSAA lacrosse officials and will be sent a more accurate list after the final rules meeting requesting that each committee member rate officials. In addition, input from officials and the local assignors will be sought by MHSAA staff. ■

Lacrosse Officials Needed

Call the MHSAA at 517-332-5046

SOCCER COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 9, 2005

Members Present:

Stacey Bollen, Warren
Kim Brewbaker, St. Johns
Ken Ewald, Caseville
Keith Froelich, Okemos
Clare Girard, Riverview
Dene Hadden, South Haven (MASSP)
Linda Harrison, Greenville
Todd Heugh, Rochester Hills
Barry Hobrla, Lowell
Jeff Lillo, St. Joseph
Floyd Lincoln, Durand
Mike Nestell, Williamston
Andrea Oatman, Bridgman
Doris Pipkens, Holt
Chris Riker, Portage (MSCA)

Susan Riksen, Gobles
Laurie Ryan, Grand Rapids
Mychal Thom, Pontiac
Andy Valdmanis, Traverse City
Jennifer VanNoord, Cadillac
Jeff Vennel, Bloomfield Hills
Mike Vondette, Hemlock

Members Absent:

Jim Pittman, Clinton
Meg Seng, Ann Arbor
Goran Cepo, Temperance

Staff Members Present:

Mandi Hoover
Tom Minter (Recorder)

The committee members introduced themselves and were reminded of the functions of the various MHSAA committees and of their relationship to the MHSAA.

SPORTS SEASON LITIGATION UPDATE

MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts provided the committee with an update on the sports season litigation and possible timelines for the appeal process to the U. S. Supreme Court. The MHSAA brief has been submitted and the Supreme Court will likely rule on the petition around May 15, 2005. The options given to the MHSAA by the Federal District Court were reviewed.

2004 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Representative Council's decisions on last year's committee's recommendations to the Council were reviewed. Committee members reported no negative comments about the implemented changes.

FIXED DAY FOR BOYS SOCCER FINALS

The two options of a fixed Finals day or a fixed season length were presented and discussed. Concern was for worsening weather

if a fixed season length put the Finals later into November when the practice start date was late. The option of an earlier start date to keep the season at a fixed length was discussed. An earlier start date raised concerns over conflicts with other school activities, student summer employment, family activities and other sports then desiring the same earlier start. The committee unanimously agreed to have a fixed day for the Finals, keep the same start date but reduce the number of days between the start of practice and the first competition date from 11 to seven. For the years in which the season is only 12 weeks long, a school would have four more days in which to offset the lost seven for competition. The fixed day would be the first Saturday in November.

REGULAR SEASON OVERTIME PROCEDURES

The committee considered reducing the length of the two optional 15 minute overtime periods to 10 and adding a penalty kick shootout if a tie still existed. This would align the currently grandfathered MHSAA tie breaker method more closely with that of the National Federation High School Soccer Rules Book. It was unanimously agreed not to change the current method.

SELECTION COMMITTEE ASSIGNING DISTRICT LEVEL TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

The committee unanimously agreed that the assigning of tournament officials for the district level of play should continue to be done by the Host Manager. The selection committee should continue to assign only from the Regional Level on up.

ALLOWING TEAMS TO PRACTICE ON TURF FIELDS

The committee unanimously agreed that if a host school with an artificial turf field agrees, all teams playing on that field could practice on that field earlier than the day of the contest. This would address the concern that some teams had no experience of playing on an artificial turf field prior to the actual tournament contest.

APPLICATION OF GOAL DIFFERENTIAL RULE

The committee unanimously agreed that the optional goal differential rule should apply if the conditions for its use are met at the end of the first half, rather than 10 minutes into the second half. This would make the currently grandfathered MHSAA rule the same as the National Federation rule and also apply the same principle for application start as is used in Football and Basketball.

DIVISION 4 HAVING 20% OF TOURNAMENT TEAMS

The history of why soccer has this arrangement and no other sport does was reviewed with input by some committee members who had served when the original recommendation was made. Citing the eight Divisions used in Football Playoffs, the committee recommended that 5 equal divisions be used in soccer or that the Soccer Committee examine keeping the 20% con-

cept in soccer or that an ad-hoc MHSAA committee be established to examine possibly expanding the 20% concept for all sports.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

The following items were discussed, but no recommendations made or action taken:

- To reduce the number of allowed contests from 18.
- Three player limit for Coaches out-of-season during the school year.
- 2005-06 National Federation Soccer Rules Changes.
- Continue to develop a single site or locale for the Finals in Boys and Girls Soccer.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Fix the first Saturday in November as the date for the Finals every year, keep the same start date and reduce the number of days between the start of practice and the first competition from 11 to 7 (22-0).
2. Establish the policy that if a host school with an artificial turf field agrees, all teams playing on that field could practice on that field earlier than the day of the contest if they request to do so (22-0).
3. Revise the optional goal differential rule to apply at the end of the first half, rather than 10 minutes into the second half (22-0).
4. Reclassify the MHSAA Soccer Tournament into five equal divisions or, in the alternative, direct the Soccer Committee to examine keeping the 20% concept in soccer and appoint an ad-hoc MHSAA committee to examine expanding the 20% concept for use for all sports (12-8). ■

E-MAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

As the MHSAA Web site expands and paper correspondence to schools diminishes, it is more vital than ever to have updated e-mail addresses in our database. It is the member school's responsibility to visit the "School Login" page of mhsaa.com to update personnel and building information on a timely, routine and consistent basis to keep files current. Communications with this office and with fellow school administrators will improve if we all do our housekeeping.

Tornado Policy for Michigan High School Athletic Association Events May, 1981

- I. IF THERE IS A WATCH OR WARNING AT A TOURNAMENT SITE —
- A. Watch or warning issued **at least three hours** prior to the event:
 - 1. If the local district policy closes the tournament facility, all participating teams must be called and informed of postponement with information pertaining to next playing date and time included in the call.
 - 2. If the host district policy **does not** close the facility, all participating schools who have not called the host must be called to be sure all who are scheduled to play will be present. (The participating school local policy must prevail).
 - a. If one team of a dual type competition (i.e. Baseball Tournament) cannot be present by their policy, no contest shall be held. The competition for that day/night must be rescheduled on the next possible day, not including Sunday.
 - b. If the competition is multiple team type (i.e. Track, Tennis), the meet shall be conducted as long as a reasonable number of teams (60 percent) can be present.
 - B. Watch or warning **less than three hours** before event:
 - 1. If the competing teams are enroute, no decision shall be made until both teams in a bracket have arrived or contact has been made, unless local policy forbids use of facility once the watch or warning has been issued.
 - 2. If competing teams arrive, are on the premises, and local policy permits, play the contest when and if time permits.
 - 3. If it is not possible that date, reschedule for next playable date, not including Sunday.
 - 4. Local policy shall always prevail.
 - C. Watch or warning first issued during contest:
 - 1. Suspend play.
 - 2. Take necessary steps and precautions as directed by local policy.
 - 3. Resume play at the point of suspension as soon as permitted. If not that day/night, then reschedule for the next possible date, not including Sunday.
- II. IF THE WATCH OR WARNING IS IN AN AREA OF ONE OR MORE COMPETING SCHOOLS AND NOT AT A TOURNAMENT SITE:
- A. It shall be the responsibility of the competing school to inform the manager of the tournament immediately.
 - B. The decision as to play or not to play shall be made by the Tournament Manager, based on the information presented and the type of sport event involved.
 - 1. If one or more local policies do not permit travel or competition, the game, games, or tournament shall be postponed.
 - 2. If the scheduled competition is of a multiple team nature (i.e. Track and Field), the competition may take place even though all teams are not able to be present. (60 percent is suggested guideline).
 - 3. The rationale for No. 1 and No. 2 hinges on the fact that in No. 1, both teams of a dual type competition must be present if a contest is to take place. No. 2 permits competition, even though all teams cannot be present.
 - C. If one or more schools are on the road to the tournament site at the time of watch or warning, no decision shall be and until contact has been made with all concerned. (An authorized person from the assigned schools).
 - D. If one school arrives on site and the opponent cannot travel due to local policy, the game shall be postponed and rescheduled on the next possible date, not including Sunday.

GENERAL GUIDELINE: The local Tournament Manager has full jurisdiction over the policies of the tournament site. If the above guidelines do not cover a certain situation, the decision on the matter shall be that of the Tournament Manager. ■

MHSAA Game Suspension Guidelines (Inclement Weather)

- I. On threatening days, game management should consult with contest officials about steps to be followed if conditions worsen.
- II. When suspending an outdoor contest, officials and game management shall follow these policies.
 - A. Lightning necessitates that contest be suspended. The occurrence of lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion — *lightning is lightning*.
 - B. Severe weather in the form of rain or snow may make the field unplayable.
- III. When a contest is suspended, the home school administration shall attempt to arrange for the security of all participants.
 - A. Contestants and support personnel shall be moved to appropriate indoor facilities.
 - B. When lightning is observed or thunder is heard and the contest is suspended, contestants shall not return to the playing field until lightning has been absent from the local sky and thunder has not been heard for 30 minutes.
 - C. Spectators shall be advised of the action being taken to seek shelter. (Some hosts may be able to offer shelter to spectators but are not required to do so.)
- IV. In considering resumption of competition, the following steps shall be followed.
 - A. Delays for contests scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. must not exceed three hours. Delays for contests scheduled for 3:01 p.m. to 6:59 p.m. must not exceed one and one half hour. Delays for contests scheduled for 7 p.m. or later must not exceed one hour. A postponed contest shall be rescheduled on a date/time mutually agreed to by the schools involved.
 - B. A decision to resume the contest within the time frame must be made by the officials who shall consult the home team administration and visiting school administration present at the contest.
 - C. The home school is responsible for facilities and will be given priority consideration in the final decision if there is not consensus among the three parties.
 - D. The final decision shall consider liability and conditions of facilities as well as future schedules, need to play the contest and finally the quality of all other options.



NOTE: More restrictive local policies and MHSAA tournament policies would supersede these policies and should be shared with the opponents and officials prior to the contest, preferably in writing.

Otherwise, and to the extent allowed by the playing rules code, the official(s) shall make the final decision regarding game suspension once the game begins. ■

SPREAD THE WORD:

"NO TEST, NO COACHING"

NEW BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR MHSAA TOURNAMENT COACHING ELIGIBILITY

If you are a high school head coach reading this article, you are most probably a head coach who attends the annual rules meeting in your sport. If for some reason you are unable to attend the yearly meeting, you are probably one who takes the coaches examination and returns the test on time, with a passing grade of at least 70 percent.

There are, however, some coaches every fall, winter and spring who do not attend a rules meeting and after numerous notices, do not return a coaches exam, or do not return the coaches exam with a passing grade (70 percent).

The Representative Council, in March 2004, determined that this basic requirement of a head coach to take, pass and return on a timely basis a rules exam if they are not present for the annual rules meeting should have a means of enforcement or penalty. The Council stipulated that beginning with the fall of 2004, coaches who do not return the test with a passing grade after two mailings will not be allowed to coach in the MHSAA tournament that season. The team can participate unless the school has had no representation at rules meetings for two years, but the regular season coach – who for any reason missed this basic test requirement – will not be allowed to be present at the tournament site when his or her team is participating. In addition to the coach being barred from the contest, a school administrator must be present to supervise competitors.

Failing to fulfill the meeting attendance requirement – followed by failing to submit a passing test after two mailings sent in duplicate to coaches, athletic directors and principals – will result in at least a substitute coach being present at tournament time. It is a minimal and basic requirement that must be met by the men and women who are so valuable and visible in the wider picture of educational athletics.

As the rules meeting schedule runs its course, the MHSAA will be listing on mhsaa.net the schools, by sport, whose coaches have yet to return their exam with a passing grade. It is hoped that the "Current Ineligible Coaches List" will alert coaches or other concerned parties and remind them of this basic requirement that must be met to allow them to be present at MHSAA tournaments where their team is participating.

The MHSAA is hopeful that 100 percent compliance can be achieved and will communicate this new requirement in many varied forms until the weeks prior to the tournament. Please assist by spreading the word to all those who may miss one of the many messages: Effective immediately, head coaches must attend the rules meeting or submit a passing exam on time to be eligible to coach in this years MHSAA Tournaments. ■

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
1661 Ramblewood Dr.
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823-7392

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