

MENTOR



The Michigan High School Athletic Association Newsletter for Coaches and Officials

Effective Immediately: Head Coaches Who Miss Rules Meetings and Do Not Pass Exams Will Not Coach in MHSAA Tournaments

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



Don't miss your team's tournament run; attend a rules meeting or pass the exam.

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.com 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.**

Officials have long been held to similar standards for Tournament Assignments – See Page 2

MHSAA Standards for Tournament Officiating Assignments Will Continue to Grow in 2005-06

Approved Association Membership to be Mandatory Next Year

While some coaches throughout the MHSAA will undoubtedly recognize the penalty for not meeting rules meeting/exam requirements outlined on page 1 as a shrill wakeup call, registered officials within the Association have been meeting the same standard for decades in order to receive tournament assignments.

And rules meeting attendance is just the first and foremost requirement asked of MHSAA tournament officials, the rest of which are outlined later in this article. The results are easy to see: MHSAA tournaments are officiated by the most qualified, experienced and knowledgeable candidates in the state.

Since 1987 the MHSAA has worked to advance the profile and purpose of officials associations which share the vision of the MHSAA to recruit, educate, train, mentor and evaluate officials in those sports offered by the MHSAA.

In 1999 the MHSAA Representative Council acted to make it a requirement that officials be members "in good standing" of a local Approved Association by 2004-05 to be selected to officiate in MHSAA Basketball, Football and Wrestling tournaments for 2005-06. For MHSAA Volleyball tournament eligibility beginning in 2006-07, officials must be members of an Approved Association by 2005-06, and for Soccer tournament work in 2007-08, officials must have Approved Association membership by 2006-07.

Additionally the Council adopted language that may allow an annual exception to the Approved Association requirement for officials that live in remote areas, in an area where there are no approved associations, or when there is no association for the sport within the state. There will be some consideration for those who serve as instructors in other recognized national organizations. And those who can document completion of the National Federation Officials Education Program may also qualify for a limited exception.

The Approved Association roster has grown steadily, each fulfilling the standards set forth by the MHSAA. Following the ini-

tial year of required membership for the three sports mentioned other sports will be added annually with the goal that all sports will eventually be subject to the standard. Volleyball has been determined, by the Representative Council in May 2003, as the sport to be added in 2006-07. Other sports will be recommended periodically by the Officials Review committee for inclusion in the program.

The Mandatory Association membership document follows:

MANDATORY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP (2005-06)

Beginning in the 2005-06 school year, officials in three sports – Football, Basketball and Wrestling – will be required to be members in "good standing" in a local Approved Association in order to be eligible to officiate MHSAA tournament contests. There may be some situations that may make it difficult for an individual official to meet the requirements of Approved Association membership. It is the purpose of this document to outline a procedure to govern appeals of the policy adopted by the MHSAA Representative Council in 1999-00.

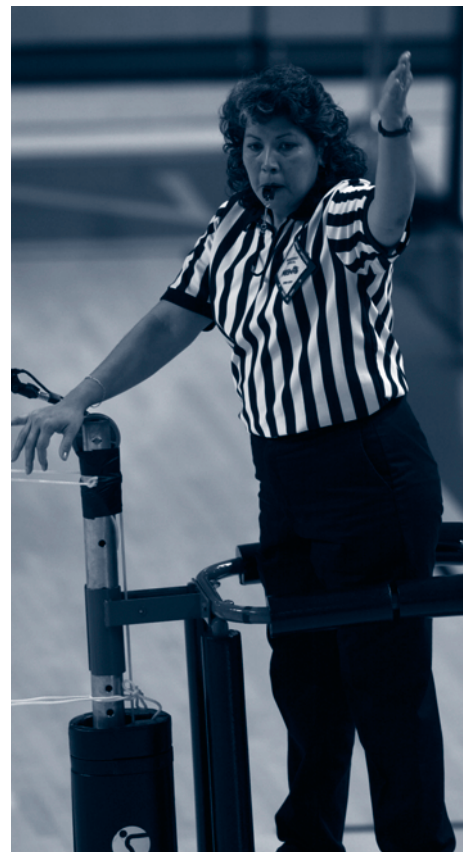
In order to be eligible to officiate in an MHSAA tournament series event, officials shall meet the following conditions.

1. Attend a current rules meeting for the sport in question.
2. Obtain Approved status (16 ratings) in the sport in question.
3. Achieve a three-year rating average of 3.0 or better (1.0 is best).
4. Be a member, in good standing, of an Approved Association as determined by the MHSAA.

In the event an official is not a member of an Approved Association, a letter requesting a waiver shall be submitted to the MHSAA Officials Department. In the letter the official shall cite clearly the reasons membership in an MHSAA Approved Association does not exist. The request must be received by the MHSAA or post-marked prior to the first allowable game date for the sport in question.

The MHSAA will review each request and determine the status of the official. The categories available for consideration by the MHSAA representative are:

- A. Residence in a remote area of the state not in proximity to the meeting place for the Approved Associations within the area.



- B. Residence in an MHSAA zone without an Approved Association.
- C. Absence of a state-wide Approved Association in the sport that the individual officiates.
- D. Status as an annually certified member official, meeting current registration and certification requirements of a national association (FIFA etc.) serving the sport under consideration and a member of an MHSAA Approved Association.
- E. Evidence of completion of a National Federation Officials Education program in the sport under consideration and a member of an MHSAA Approved Association.

The MHSAA representative may waive the requirement, waive the requirement with conditions or deny the request for waiver. Waivers or waivers with conditions are applicable to the current season and do not apply to another sport or another school year.

For a complete list of Approved Associations and contact personnel, consult mhsaa.net and click "Officials Services."

From the Editor

In the Spring of 2002, a decision was made to discontinue the printed version of *STRIPES* and *MENTOR*, the prevailing thought being that in this era of instantaneous access to information via the Web the two publications could be more effective and generate more readership in an online-only format.

We were wrong.

Your voices were heard, and the result is what you are holding in your hands. As you might have recognized by this point, the difference is not only the size and full-color format of the newsletter, but also the fact that it is a *combined* publication for coaches and officials.

We all are in the education business. That is why we officiate. That is why we coach. When we do these things, we are teaching our youth the many virtues interscholastic sports have to offer. Thus, the name of the publication remains *MENTOR*, because we are all teachers in our own way.

However, while our goals as officials and coaches are the same, the relationship between the two groups can be strained at times, to say the least. It is our hope that this new format can help to educate coaches and officials alike; to promote an understanding of the tremendous job each side does on a daily basis for very little recognition; to generate greater respect for one another.

This publication will contain policy updates, schedules for important dates and various registration materials, much like *STRIPES* and *MENTOR* have in the past. But, we'd really like you to inform us of happenings in your area. Are there new training techniques that coaches have found beneficial? How did you defuse a potentially volatile situation as an official? Have you developed new fundraising activities for your sports team? Were you involved in a complicated rules decision that you just have to share with other officials?

We want this to be *your* publication. Submit stories, anecdotes, suggestions and letters as often as you'd like by e-mailing them to: mentor@mhsaa.com

We look forward to hearing from you.

One Less Form to File: Teams Must Meet New Tournament Opt-Out Due Date

The MHSAA Representative Council took action in March 2004 to save schools time and the MHSAA resources by eliminating the "pre-internet" tradition of completing an entry blank for each sport team entering an MHSAA postseason tournament. Tournament assignments will continue to be posted well in advance on mhsaa.com as in years past.

Replacing the sport-by-sport entry blank will be a preseason notification to each member school athletic director in the fall, winter and spring. The TOURNAMENT NOTIFICATION FORM (TNF) will be sent indicating all teams entered with their first-round sites for the coming season based on the prior year's participation or prior notice to the MHSAA. The "TNF" will also include the first-round tournament site and manager information for each sport.

Two important requirements falling on the same deadline (the "opt-out due date") for participation in MHSAA Tournaments remain as in years past.

1. Schools must notify the tournament manager if they DO NOT intend to participate (to "opt out") as noted on the TNF by the stated opt-out date.
2. Schools must submit an accurate roster and MHSAA Eligibility List to the tournament manager by this same opt-out due date. In some sports (swim, cross country, and track) electronic entries must be submitted to the manager by this same opt-out due date.

Over the years, the entry blank may have become an unnecessary and expensive step, notifying schools of what was posted on

mhsaa.com months before the tournament. Those schools which failed to submit entry blanks, eligibility lists and rosters on time in years past, are likely to be the same schools to miss the new opt out due date. Many in the discussion of this new process thought no new work for tournament managers would be involved. All school teams – large and small, new and veteran, city, suburban and rural – have the same responsibility to meet the two requirements of participation by the opt-out due date. Schools which fail to withdraw or submit materials on time face the same penalties as in prior years: late fees payable to the tournament host schools, and the possible removal from future MHSAA tournaments.

Please check your calendars, and look for the fall Tournament Notification Form being mailed right after Labor Day. Please communicate on time with tournament managers.

Athletic Directors and coaches are reminded that the Master Eligibility List is the official listing of those students who are eligible to participate in an MHSAA tournament. While rosters may be updated with eligible athletes prior to the actual start of a tournament, an eligibility list must be accurate and include all those who may participate, including JV and Freshman athletes who may be "brought up." Unless you have a team entered in a reserve team basketball tournament that begins after the MHSAA tournament starts (*MHSAA Handbook*, Page 66, Interpretation No. 227), schools should submit one eligibility list per sport with all levels – Varsity, JV and Frosh – on the same form.

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NCAA Teams With Other Groups to Sell Health and Safety Over Supplements

Student-athletes who use dietary supplements to get ripped may get ripped off instead. That's what many health and safety experts think, and they're launching an educational campaign to say so.

This isn't the first attempt at raising awareness among student-athletes who rely on an unregulated billion-dollar industry to enhance athletics performance. The drug-education and drug-testing subcommittee of the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports sends an annual memorandum to athletics directors, compliance coordinators and athletic trainers that warns against the use of supplements, and athletic trainers work year-round to educate athletes about supplement use. But this latest effort employs a partnership approach with the American College of Sports Medicine and the National Federation of State High School Associations to deliver a four-poster series that emphasizes food, hydration, exercise and recovery over dietary supplements to maximize athletics performance.

"Food, hydration, exercise and recovery will never be found on an NCAA-banned substances list," said Mary Wilfert, NCAA assistant director of education outreach.

What does show up on the NCAA-banned substances list, though, are drugs that aren't always on supplement labels. That's what's causing some student-athletes to lose their eligibility via a positive drug test.

Of course, food, hydration, exercise and recovery aren't found in many mainstream advertisements, either. Indeed, the high-school and college student-athlete age groups are prime targets for the supplement industry, which has money to burn on

flashy ad campaigns that promise quick and easy results.

"It's rather exhausting trying to beat the industry," admitted Augustana College (Illinois) athletic trainer Rochel Rittgers, who chairs the drug-education and drug-testing subcommittee. "Our student-athletes are in an age group that wants something for nothing, something quick and fast with immediate results. Nutrition in the form of real food from the grocery store isn't flashy or exciting. It's difficult to sell that which we've known for 200 years."

BAD APPLES

Rittgers said not only is the industry influential, but student-athlete peers also steer decisions. Some student-athletes are getting information from their friends and roommates and they're considering that testimony as more valid than the information from athletic trainers and administrators. Rittgers emphasized this is a market-driven consequence, "but from a drug-testing point of view," she said, "we're not accepting 'I didn't know' anymore, because we have been inundating people with information for so long."

The NCAA and other health-and-safety-conscious groups have beat that drum for years. The annual memo reiterates that careless supplement use is causing student-athletes to lose their eligibility. The primary problem is that sup-

plements aren't always what they seem. Some contain substances that aren't on the label, and some of those are NCAA-banned substances. Research shows in fact that about one-third of the supplement market in America has products not listed on the label. Thus, a student-athlete who purchases a product in good faith may be betrayed.



Exercise and diet are the only risk-free routes to better performance.



"There is no completely safe supplement due to the very poor regulations," said Rachel Olander of the Center for Drug Free Sport, the organization that administers drug testing for the NCAA and provides other drug-education services.

"Supplements do not have to be guaranteed pure or safe – they are not guaranteed by the Food and Drug Administration to be pure or safe. And the manufacturer does not have to prove that they are pure or safe before putting them on the market."

Olander oversees Drug Free Sport's Dietary Supplement Resource Exchange Center, established in 2001 as a confidential hot line and Web site to answer athletes' questions about dietary and banned substances. She said the problem is complicated further when supplement manufacturers that do play by the rules are tainted by those that don't disclose ingredients or that change them from batch to batch.

Rittgers in fact said the bad apples prevent athletic trainers from recommending any supplements at all, even though some might be safe. While many reputable businesses provide acceptable products, she said no one can know if they will continue to be reliable.

"We never recommend any product over another," she said. "What we do say to the athletes is that as far as we know from the research we've seen, this product has not been indicated in any positive tests. However, it is a buyer-beware market and there is no governmental regulation on this product or any other nutritional product."

For example, Rittgers said, while the supplement creatine hasn't been proven to be unsafe, she and others can't trust creatine because "we can't trust what else the manufacturer may be putting in the bottle."

– continued on page 13

Girls Athletic Participation Numbers Hit New High

For the second straight year, girls participation in high school sports set a record at Michigan High School Athletic Association member schools across the state during the 2003-04 school year.

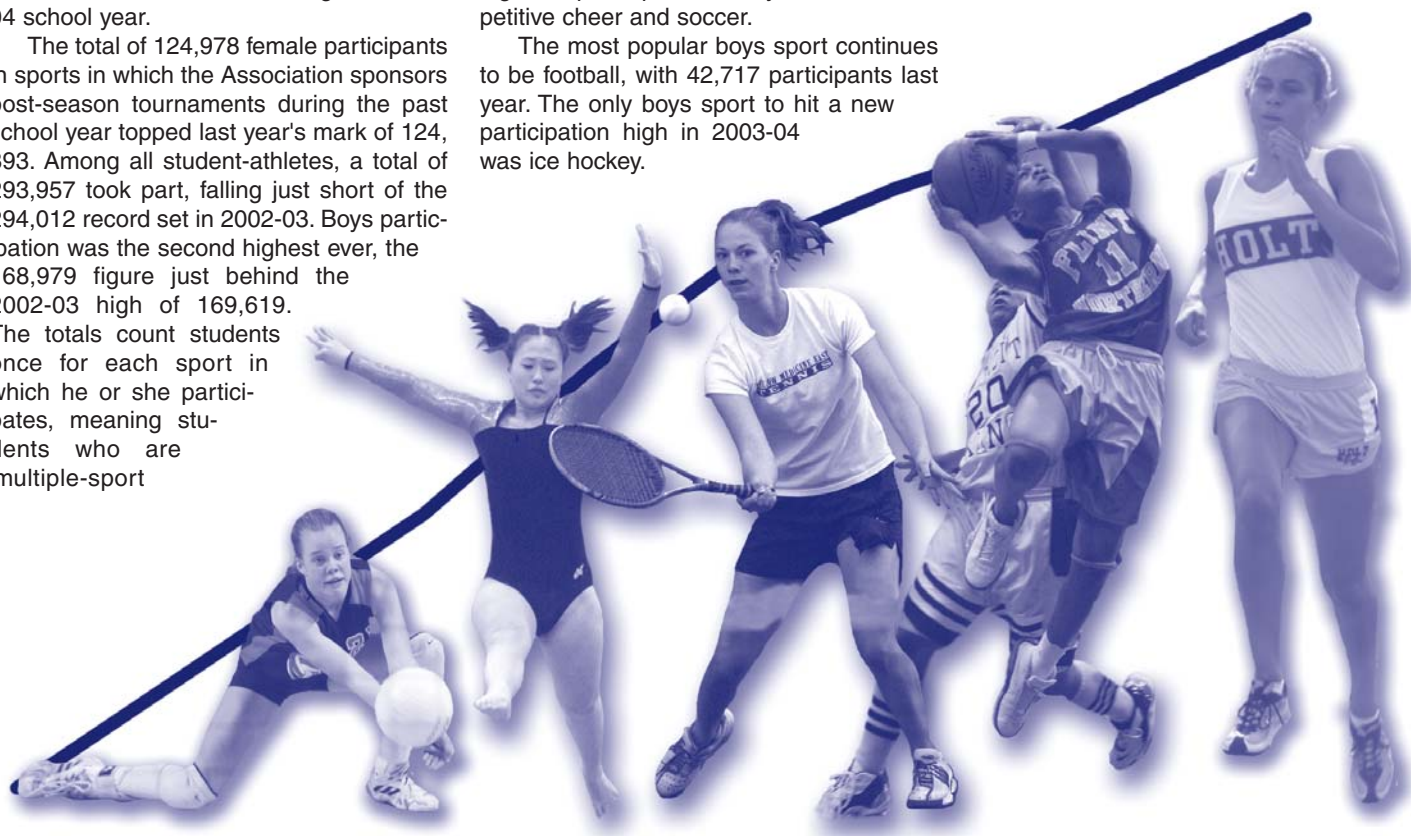
The total of 124,978 female participants in sports in which the Association sponsors post-season tournaments during the past school year topped last year's mark of 124,393. Among all student-athletes, a total of 293,957 took part, falling just short of the 294,012 record set in 2002-03. Boys participation was the second highest ever, the 168,979 figure just behind the 2002-03 high of 169,619. The totals count students once for each sport in which he or she participates, meaning students who are multiple-sport

athletes are counted more than once.

Volleyball continues to be the most popular sport for girls, with 21,320 participants in 2003-04. Girls sports hitting their all-time highs in participation last year were competitive cheer and soccer.

The most popular boys sport continues to be football, with 42,717 participants last year. The only boys sport to hit a new participation high in 2003-04 was ice hockey.

Bowling, the newest MHSAA post-season tournament sport, had 1,866 boys participants and 1,480 girls in its inaugural 2003-04 school year.



2003-04 Sports Participation

The following summaries indicate participation in MHSAA tournament sports for 2003-04.

(A) The second number indicates the total number of schools that sponsored the sport in MHSAA tournaments, including secondary schools in cooperative programs, as of May 26, 2004.

* Indicates the number of additional girls playing on teams consisting primarily of boys and entered in boys competition.

Sport	BOYS & GIRLS TEAMS		GIRLS ONLY TEAMS	
	Schools (A)	Participants	Schools (A)	Participants*
Baseball	622 / 653	19,082		4*
Basketball	732 / 738	23,788	718 / 719	20,661 / 5*
Bowling	163 / 199	1,866	151 / 198	1,477 / 3*
Competitive Cheer			171 / 149	4,387
Cross Country	575 / 622	7,575	562 / 622	6,710
Football - 11 player	608 / 635	42,717		32*
Golf	569 / 572	8,048	306 / 308	3,910 / 71*
Gymnastics			84 / 102	989
Ice Hockey	201 / 228	3,776		4*
Skiing-Alpine	91 / 102	955	88 / 103	733 / 6*
Soccer	445 / 450	14,234	399 / 400	13,515 / 130*
Softball-Fast Pitch			605 / 635	16,772
Swimming & Diving	243 / 269	4,553	256 / 278	6,588 / 69*
Tennis	340 / 356	8,194	338 / 350	8,917 / 116*
Track & Field - Outdoor	636 / 667	22,849	631 / 666	18,347
Volleyball			691 / 714	21,320
Wrestling	470 / 482	11,342		176*

MEEMIC Insurance Sponsors Good Sports Are Winners! Award

With the generous support of corporate partner, MEEMIC Insurance, the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Good Sports Are Winners! Program continues in 2004-05.

The Good Sports Are Winners! Program is a year-round, comprehensive approach to sportsmanship, providing MHSAA member schools with educational materials which can be tailored locally to suit their promotion efforts; an alternating annual schedule of statewide Sportsmanship Summits and a mini-grant program to assist schools and leagues and conferences in conducting local education programs; and a recognition program where over 1,400 teams will be recognized annually for displaying outstanding sportsmanship at selected MHSAA postseason tournaments.

In 2004-05, the education efforts will include the availability of the annual Good Sports Are Winners! Sportsmanship Kit on the MHSAA Web site

and a brochure on sportsmanship which will be made available in quantity to schools to distribute at parent's meetings and home sporting events.

"Sportsmanship is a learned response, an educated choice," said Lynn Kalinowski, president of MEEMIC Insurance. "It makes sense that Meemic Insurance, a company which has worked with educators for over 50 years, provide a program on sportsmanship and its lifelong character elements – integrity, ethics and respect – to MHSAA

member schools."

In selected tournaments at the District and Regional levels, all schools which are considered by the local tournament management to have displayed a high level of sportsmanlike behavior will be recognized in different MHSAA publications and on the MHSAA Web site. At the Finals levels, one or more schools may be honored and presented with a commemorative banner and

es and spectators for unsportsmanlike actions; antics on the part of spectators designed more to attract attention to themselves than to support their team; the use of game-ending derogatory cheers, chants or songs; and any other unsportsmanlike behavior related to their team's tournament involvement at the event venue and beyond. Any team which is disqualified from consideration for the Good Sports Are

Winners! Award at the District and Regional level of a tournament becomes ineligible for the honor at higher levels of that same tournament.

"To be considered for the Good Sports Are Winners! Award is a prestigious honor," said Kalinowski. "It's truly a community award and one that grows in stature as the years pass. Participating in the MHSAA postseason tournament is a unique and memorable experience. When fans and participants make the educated choice and emphasize good sportsmanship, we enhance that experience for everyone involved."

"Sports at the high school level are different than all other forms of sports. Sportsmanship is a key ingredient of that difference," said John E. "Jack" Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. "Sportsmanship is an element of our games that will always be emphasized, and we're pleased that an organization which is well recognized in the educational community, MEEMIC Insurance, has joined us in our ongoing efforts to educate and recognize good sports across the state."

2003-04 Good Sports Are Winners! Award Recipients

- Baseball** – Homer
- Boys Basketball** – Charlevoix; Wyoming Tri-unity Christian
- Girls Basketball** – Flint Northern
- Girls Competitive Cheer** – Ovid-Elsie
- Football** – Beal City; Rochester Adams
- Ice Hockey** – Marquette
- Boys Soccer** – Saline
- Girls Soccer** – Grand Blanc; Hudsonville Unity Christian
- Softball** – Gladstone
- Girls Volleyball** – Kingsley
- Team Wrestling** – New Lothrop

crystal trophy. MHSAA postseason tournaments in which teams will be recognized are: girls basketball, football and boys soccer in the fall; girls competitive cheer, team dual wrestling, ice hockey, girls volleyball and boys basketball in the winter; and baseball, girls soccer and softball in the spring.

There are also standards built into the program which automatically disqualify a school from consideration for the award, which include: Ejections of athletes, coach-



Tournament Managers for sports listed above should download the Good Sports Are Winners! Award Forms from the MHSAA Web site and submit winning schools upon completion of their level of the tournament. The forms can be downloaded from the administration page, and from each sport's home page at mhsaa.com

Soccer Officials Association Recognizes Sportsmanship

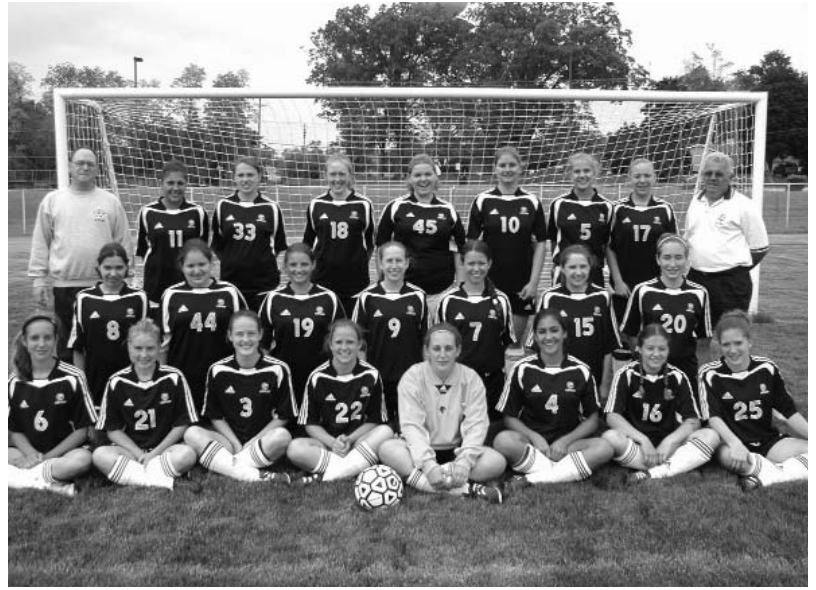
The **South Michigan Soccer Referee Association** (SMSRA), a 60-member organization providing officials for 16 high schools in Washtenaw, Lenawee, Monroe, & Livingston counties, this year chose to celebrate what they want to see more of on the soccer field – sportsmanship.

Upon review of the 2004 girls soccer season, the members of SMSRA voted to recognize the Clinton High School girls soccer team for its consistent display of good sportsmanship.

They awarded each team member with a shirt proclaiming: "SPORTSMANSHIP: A WINNING ATTITUDE," with Clinton High School on the front and the players' names and numbers on the back.

Front Row, left to right: Kayla Murphy, Jenna Dunigan, Kristen Brogdon, Tricia Clark, Ashley Drake, Allie Lucas, Samantha Kish, Sara Smither. **Second Row:** Sarah Brenke, Emily Pearsall, Brittany Napier, Kim Murray, Sara Stefani, Kylene McDonnell, Michelle Wilkins. **Third Row:** Assistant Coach Dough Murray, Caylin Nieto, Jenni Martin, Samantha Fraley, Sherri Pepper, Austin McCormick, Jackie Demerath, Christia Hill, Head Coach Dave Hatfield.

Not Pictured: Clair Harris, Statistician Heather Voorhees, Assistant Coaches Jennifer Posa and Marla Montpetit.



Clinton High School

A Good Day for Good Sports

The following account was submitted to the MHSAA by Richland Gull Lake Athletic Director Marc Throop when reporting his choice for the Good Sports Are Winners! Award from the baseball District at Gull Lake High School.

I know that a summary of this award is not required. However, I believe I need to contact your office to inform you of the recipients at Gull Lake this year.

During the course of this baseball season, **Comstock** and **Gull Lake** had two extremely good teams. In fact, Comstock had been rated No. 1 in Division 2 for most of the season while Gull Lake had found themselves as high as No. 7. One must know the importance of this, as the two schools are as close to crosstown rivals as you will find. Our league matches up the rival games at the end of the year, and yes, Comstock came into the doubleheader with a 25-game winning streak and was undefeated in the league, Gull Lake, on the other hand, also sported a great record and had lost only two games in the league. On a beautiful spring evening, an extremely large crowd for a baseball game was in attendance for the huge doubleheader. In two great games, Gull Lake won both to halt the win streak, knock Comstock from the No.1 ranking, and tie them for the Wolverine Conference championship. Both teams were very gracious following the two games and we even wrote a little article in our athletic newsletter about the good display of sportsmanship that Comstock showed despite the impact of the losses.

Well, as luck would have it, Gull Lake hosted the District tournament this year with both schools participating in it. At the draw, the two teams were in the opposite brackets, which meant that a District Final matching the two schools was a strong possibility. Sure enough, on another beautiful Saturday, the two schools made it to the District Final. Again, the impact of the game and the rivalry made for an intense afternoon. Here is where the fun took place.

Before the game, a Gull Lake player asked our coach if players could be introduced alternately before the game so that they could shake hands with the opponents. It was then decided that following introductions both teams would shake hands with **all** players from the opposing team. The game was exciting with quality play by both teams and officiating as good as one will find anywhere. Both crowds were very vocal, but supportive, and there were several times that players from both teams simply found themselves talking with players from the other team about the excitement during the game and about things in general. Not only was it evident to the kids, but the crowd picked up on the display as well. At the end of the game, the score was 5-2. During the handshakes following the game, both teams proceeded to hug the members from the other team. Yes, a lot of tears were shed by the losing team, but a level of intensity and quality play was seen all game. You'll notice I have not told you the name of the winning team, because it really didn't matter in an environment like this. Both teams and crowds are to be commended for their sportsmanship.

SPORTSMANSHIP: NO EXCUSES!

Human Error: Part of the Game or Test of Conscience?

In a recent playoff game in soccer, one team started the game with 12 players. This is one more player than rules allow. The two teams continued playing for approximately two minutes culminating with the offending team scoring. The coach of the team realized the offense, removed the extra player and allegedly notified an official and the game resumed.

For unknown reasons, the officials chose not to enforce National Federation rules that could have revoked the goal. The offending team eventually won the game 5-4. What ensued was inevitable.

Protests from the losing school were expected. School officials understood that protesting the results of the game was prohibited by UIL rules. Of course this did not prevent an avalanche of protests from parents and fans of the team that lost.

What followed was two days of discussion and debate. The parents took the case to court seeking a temporary restraining order to prevent their team from being left out of the playoffs. Thankfully the judge saw no merit to the claim of the plaintiffs and the playoffs moved forward.

Continued discussion with parents and lawyer for the plaintiffs eclipsed the issue of ethics. They felt the winning coach, upon realizing he had 12 players on the field, should have requested the goal be nullified.

This brought to mind a college football game in the early 90's between Colorado and Missouri. At the end of that game Colorado was inadvertently given a fifth down. They used the fifth down to score the game winning touchdown. Critics of the Colorado coach argued he should have refused the touchdown. Or, at the very least, after reviewing the game film and validating the officiating error, ask the score to be taken away, giving the win to Missouri.

This debate has gone on for several years. The head coach at Colorado, Bill McCartney, helped establish Promise Keepers, a Christ-centered organization. McCartney has been soundly criticized because, as leader of this organization and an avowed man of integrity, he failed to take what many would call the high road in this controversial game and give the victory to Missouri.

This issue of ethics and integrity often leave us on a limb. We can spin our rhetoric of fair play and level playing field all we want as a state association. But when the

rubber meets the road are we guilty of turning our head and allowing coaches and athletes to escape with less than virtuous intent?

I think not. I believe that in both of the games described, officials were agreed upon prior to the game. Everyone involved knew the officials in the game would adjudicate the game according to appropriate playing rules. Coaches on each sideline had the opportunity to protest calls *during* the game in a professional manner. If we want to play purely by the honor system and have players and coaches make all of



the calls we can surely eliminate the angst we have with the shortage of officials.

It is unreasonable to single out one play or circumstance in a game as determining the outcome. To ask a coach to give back a point or a touchdown credited to them in error is unfair. I am sure every coach could find several calls in a game they would like reversed. To claim a coach is unethical because he or she failed to ask an official to reverse a poor call is a stretch.

There have been circumstances in games in which coaches have done just what is being asked. While I applaud and celebrate those who do, it does not mean

that those who do not are unethical. Could they have taken the bold step and refused to accept the win? Certainly, but they also have a responsibility to play by the rules set forth at the beginning of the game. How often do we hear from the losing coach that one play doesn't make a difference?

Adults make mistakes. It is one of the unfortunate things that often comes out of competition. What appears to be most unfair is often a human error that possibly could have been corrected. If protests were allowed after the conclusion of any game, we essentially would never see the end of a contest.

Certainly in the educational arena we espouse fair play, sportsmanship and ethics. Those are not hollow words. If a coach is proven to have orchestrated a strategy giving them an unfair advantage, penalties exist to punish those offenders. Otherwise, as we go about our daily tasks, we should not be so sanctimonious and claim that, "if it had been me I would have given back the victory and those that don't are crooks."

I know that my friend Michael Josephson, who heads the Josephson Institute for Ethics, may take issue with me. I highly respect his program and his stance on ethical behavior and the importance of modeling this behavior. A perfect world should start with each of us doing just that. The problem I have is selecting a coach who has an important game and unfairly claim he is unethical because he didn't give back a point that may have been undeserved.

On the balance scale with ethics is the issue of trust and valuing those involved in the activity more than the activity itself. As long as we have competition we will have conflict and controversy. Let's not judge, lest we be judged. Until coaches coach a perfect game and players play a perfect game, there will never be a perfectly officiated game.

We can all make a difference. We need to remind ourselves that character does count.

— Dr. Charles Briethaupt
Director of Athletics
Texas University Interscholastic
Athletic League

Around the State

Medtronic Donates Automated External Defibrillator to Freeland High School

As awareness of sudden cardiac treatment increases and school budgets get tighter, the ability for schools to acquire an automated external defibrillator (AED) has become a tough chore. Thanks to a generous and unexpected gift from Medtronic Physio-Control, **Freeland High School** no longer has to wonder how to fund an AED for its school.

At Freeland's Honors Award Assembly in May, a representative from Medtronic presented the school a LIFEPAK CR Plus as part of an effort to raise awareness about the lifesaving function of AEDs.

Medtronic Physio-Control facilitated the donation as part of a national education initiative called LIFEPAK Heart Safe Schools, a complete package of services that integrates the components necessary to bring lifesaving AEDs to schools across the country.

As part of this program, Medtronic is making the LIFEPAK CR Plus available to Michigan's high schools for a discounted price of \$1,595. The unit has a list price of \$2,395.

The American Heart Association estimates as many as 7,000 children and up to

450,000 Americans die each year from sudden cardiac arrest, and recent studies show that up to 70 percent of victims survive when AEDs are accessible and used within three to four minutes.

John E. "Jack" Roberts, executive director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, commented, "We know from numerous studies about the availability of AEDs in public places that more lives can be saved if defibrillation technology and trained volunteers are available where people gather. We hope this donation helps raise awareness of the importance of AEDs. We commend Medtronic for offering the discounted price to Michigan schools, and we look forward to a time when the lifesaving devices are even more affordable during tough budget times."

With 350,000 LIFEPAK defibrillators distributed worldwide, Medtronic Physio-Control is the world's leading provider of external defibrillators for the treatment of sudden cardiac arrest. To find out more about AEDs and the LIFEPAK Heart Safe Solutions program, visit Medtronic's Web site at www.aedhelp.com or call 1-800-442-1142.

MHSAA Awards First Two Student Leadership Grants

Pinconning High School and **Fraser High School** are the first recipients of grant money aimed at improving student leadership. The MHSAA has earmarked \$20,000 in 2004 to help students become better leaders.

Pinconning and Fraser will apply the grant money toward special programs each has developed for next fall. Each school has organized a day-long student leadership program targeting student-athletes, captains, coaches and parents. Both programs feature a nationally recognized speaker that will talk about leadership issues and facilitate discussion on improving leadership qualities in students at the school.

This funding comes from the MHSAA's designated "Student Leadership Fund" which was started when the W.B.A Ruster Foundation dissolved and transferred its assets to the MHSAA. An advisory committee exists to steer the policies and procedures for grants.

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.

Officials Now Able to Change Personal Data Online

MHSAA registered officials now have the ability to change personal information online via the Web site at mhsaa.net

Keeping your data current provides schools and other officials with a valuable resource for contacting you regarding potential work, clinic and camp opportunities, Approved Association membership, etc.

To update your information and to browse the Officials resources:

1. Go to mhsaa.net and click on "Officials Services"
2. Once there, click on "Member Services," which will require your Official ID number and password. If you do not have your password, call the MHSAA at 517-332-5046 to request it. You will be asked some questions for identification purposes, and then provided with your password.
3. Once onto that screen, there is a new link under "Officials Directory" titled "Update Personal Information." From there, just fill in the blanks if you have changes. You also may change your password from this page.





Coaching Advancement Plan Launched To Renew Emphasis on Coaches Education

The following is an excerpt from the MHSAA Coaching Advancement Plan released June 28, 2004

It is obvious that there is great need for coaches education and that this need is not being met effectively or efficiently on any level: local, state or national. If coaches are the delivery system of educational athletics, and we really believe educational athletics can do good things for students and schools, then the MHSAA must discover and deliver more effective and far-reaching means to prepare the coaching force, which is growing in numbers but diminishing in essential preparation. The MHSAA Coaching Advancement Plan (CAP) is the attempt to meet this challenge for school-based sports in Michigan.

While **coercion** will not cause coaches to **value** coaches education, coaches WILL put more importance on education programs if it will significantly **increase their pay** and/or **decrease their exposure to litigation**. Some school districts have required coaches to complete an education program as a prerequisite for their first pay-

The MHSAA urges *all* coaches to attend a coaches education program *this* year. To locate the site nearest you, click on "Coaches Education Program Information" from the MHSAA Home Page, mhsaa.com

check. Some proposals of Michigan legislators have linked completion of a coaches education or certification program with limited immunity from liability for injuries.

Many people cite inconvenience as a major obstacle to coaches education. However, several schedules for convenient programming have been tried without great success in terms of attracting attendance:

- weekday evenings during the school year
- weekday mornings during the summer
- weekend mornings during the autumn
- at statewide conferences (e.g., BCAM, MIAAA)
- at regional sites across the state
- online

Many people cite costs as a major obstacle to coaches education. However, many administrators have reported that it is difficult to get coaches to commit to training programs, other than Xs and Os, even when the school district will pay for the clinic or conference.

Clearly, it is the **attitude of coaches** themselves that more than any other obstacle frustrates coaches education efforts.

No matter how much value **we** have placed on education, coaches have not shared that opinion. We must reshape that opinion if we are to significantly increase the number of people who complete coaches education programs.

It is not greater convenience or lower cost that will jump start coaches education in Michigan. It is **commitment** to the ideal of **educational** athletics that requires coaches to be trained in much more than skills and strategies of the game.

Therefore, underlying themes of the MHSAA's Coaching Advancement Plan are first and foremost a corporate commitment to its value – top to bottom – and then collaboration and communication.

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.

Eligibility Advancement Reminders

School administrators, counselors and coaches are reminded to present advanced eligibility opportunities to over-age junior high/middle school students. MHSAA Regulations prohibit seventh and eighth-grade students who become 15 years of age before Sept. 1 to participate in interscholastic sports competition at their respective grade level. The same is true of 16-year-old 9th-graders in a 10-12 grade high school system if their birthday occurs before Sept. 1.

If the local school administration and parents can agree and arrange, these over-age students can be advanced athletically and participate in the 9-12 program, even if it is in a separate building.

The students will be limited to four years of high school eligibility and must maintain the requirement to be passing work in at least four full-credit courses.

Eligibility Advancement Application forms are available on the MHSAA Web site at mhsaa.com and are also included in the *MHSAA Handbook*, page 110.

Wrestling Weight Monitoring Program To Go Online In 2004-05

The MHSAA will be conducting all aspects of the wrestling weight monitoring system online during the 2004-05 school year. This change was approved by the Representative Council at its May meeting, and will be implemented for the upcoming wrestling season. The online process has been studied and supported by various committees comprised of wrestling coaches, school administrators, and skin fold assessors in Michigan.

The new system is web-based, and it will be operated by the National Wrestling Coaches Association. All assessors will enter data online by using a unique school code and password for each member school that sponsors wrestling. Once the assessor enters the data, athletic administrators, coaches, student-athletes, and parents can access the website to view information regarding lowest minimum weight class, body fat percentages, and weight class descent schedules. In addition to the more efficient and timely processing of alpha information, schools, athletes and parents will have access to the nutritional education portion of the website, which will provide sample menus and

resources for safe weight maintenance.

The Michigan Weight Monitoring Program was first approved by the Representative Council in May of 1993. The program was implemented and piloted over

possible to serve the member schools more quickly electronically.

The NWCA program currently offers an online process that is being used by approximately 15 other high school associations. It was tested during the 2001-02 school year, and it eliminates the data forms and postage expense required by the present MHSAA procedure. Once the assessor has completed the assessment of a team, and has entered the data, the school is able to receive the results of the assessment for each student and the team almost immediately, without the postal expense and wait time currently involved. A school can then print the Alpha Master form from any internet-access computer with the proper school identifica-



a four year period, beginning in earnest in 1997. The operation of the program has fostered the development of a high tech processing system which involves the exchange of data collection sheets, processing of the data sheets by MHSAA staff and mailing of the compiled data to the school. This process was state of the art when it was developed. However, the advancement of technology has made it

tion code and password. By eliminating the postal mail-based system, the MHSAA hopes to 1) reduce cost to member schools, 2) decrease the time needed to process data and 3) eliminate the reliance on the postal service to deliver materials.

The \$30 per school cost will be paid by the MHSAA without any expense to member schools.

Master Eligibility Lists: Purpose, Protocol and Procedures

"SCHOOLS SHALL PREPARE a Master Eligibility List (Form-1 or its equivalent) of all students eligible for that sport under the provisions of the Regulations, including current semester record. Additions to the squad should be duly added. Current copies of the Master Eligibility List are to be available to competing schools upon request and must be submitted by the opt-out due date to the manager at the entry level of each MHSAA Tournament to which a school is assigned." (Regulation II, Section 4 *MHSAA Handbook*)

In 1997 the MHSAA eliminated the requirement that schools submit eligibility lists to the MHSAA Offices. Mailing or faxing eligibility lists to the MHSAA is unnecessary and wasteful – send eligibility lists to Tournament Managers with other required material to fulfill tournament entry requirements. Be sure to include any students who may be eligible for that tournament, such as JV players who may be "brought up." Unless you have a team entered in a reserve team basketball tournament that begins **after** the MHSAA tournament starts, one list per sport – not separate Freshman, JV and Varsity lists – is considered most efficient for this purpose.

Preparing the forms in advance of scrimmages or contests helps schools to ensure that only eligible students enter competitions. See Regulation II, Section 4 for the complete regulation and

interpretations. Administrators, support staff and coaches should use great caution and not just "fill out the form." The preparation of accurate and up to date eligibility lists remains a critical responsibility intended to ensure that all students participating on teams are eligible. "Eligible" means in compliance with several MHSAA and individual member school regulations including enrollment, age, current and previous semester academic minimums as well as the transfer rule. It is intended to be one last "double-check" seeking to prevent an ineligible student from participating in a scrimmage or contest. When in doubt, school administrators should contact the MHSAA for a written interpretation before a student competes.

The MHSAA Catastrophic Accident Excess Medical Insurance coverage and many school insurance coverage plans are extended only to students who are eligible and listed on an up-to-date eligibility list. To ensure that all your athletes are afforded the maximum protection available under the MHSAA's Catastrophic Insurance plan, your school must be able to show that the students were listed on their school's Master Eligibility List in that sport for that season.

Coaches Corner

Teams Practicing Out-of-State Must Submit Out-of-State Travel Form

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

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

"When a school-sponsored team, or group of students which resembles the school team, intends to conduct practice sessions out of state at a site more than 600 highway miles round-trip from that school, the Travel Form for Out-of-State Practice is required. For the purpose of this Section, it shall be considered a practice for a school team if a school coach in that sport is present with any number of players from that school's team, other than his/her family members."

MHSAA catastrophic insurance does not cover such events.

The form can be found on page 108 of the Handbook or on the MHSAA Web site. Pursuant to action of the Representative Council in May 2003, all schools which complete this form will be listed in the *MHSAA Bulletin* at the end of the school year.

Summer Competition Subject to Travel Restriction

Concerned that National Championship competition may inadvertently be permitted in the summer months, the Representative Council took the following action in May 2004:

From *MHSAA Handbook* Regulation II, Section 11 (H): **"These 15 (or 7) days with competition (see next paragraph) in the summer are subject to the same out-of-state travel limits that apply to school teams during the school season under Regulation II, Section 6, except for camps conducted within Michigan."**

Application: During the summer prior to Monday the week of Aug. 15, 2005, coaches are limited to 15 days when they can coach in competition students in grades 7-12 of their school district if the teams involve more than the following number of players: Basketball - 3, Football - 7, Ice Hockey - 3, Lacrosse - 7, Soccer - 7, Volleyball - 3.

Questions for Us?

The most efficient method of communication with the MHSAA on eligibility questions is through your athletic director or principal.

Athletic Directors should gather all information necessary on a question and then call or write the MHSAA. Coaches or parents calling the MHSAA on eligibility matters can create confusion and delay. ADs or principals are encouraged to contact the MHSAA Office directly.

Please follow this efficient path of communication.



Officials Ratings: Part of the Contract

Coaches and administrators of MHSAA member schools should note that rating an official is part of the contract obligation a member school has when an official is hired to work a contest. The payday is not complete unless the official receives a rating from each school for which he/she works during the season.

The data accumulated from the ratings contributed by schools is important because it assists selection committees when they issue invitations to officials to work MHSAA tournament events. The number of ratings and the rating average are important details which assist the committees in their work. In fact some quality officials are denied an opportunity to officiate tournament events when their numbers don't meet the published minimums. This is especially discouraging to the official when he/she has recorded sufficient contests from which to draw the necessary ratings and those ratings are not filed.

We recommend the athletic director copy the rating scan sheets when they arrive to give to each coach involved in the rating event. The athletic director should set a deadline, collect the ratings and prepare the official document for submission to the



Communication and feedback are essential to quality officiating. Coaches can do their part by submitting ratings on time.

MHSAA (***Ratings Deadlines for Fall sports appear on the back page of this issue; others can be found online at mhsaa.com.***)

Once the coach has returned the Rating Form copy to the AD, we suggest the AD review the ratings and transfer the desirable number to the official form. Such practice allows the athletic director to monitor the specific ratings for each official, record that coaches complete the rating responsibility and to assure that the official documents can be copied for the school file and submitted to the MHSAA before the deadline.

Often, when athletic directors hand over the official ratings forms to a coach the forms are lost or damaged and there is a greater incidence of failure to file the ratings or failure to file in a timely manner. Acting as the conduit through which the ratings obligation flows provides an important check and balance in the effort of rating all officials.

As long as ratings are important to the tournament selection process rating officials will be an important part of the contract schools make with officials hired. Making the effort to "pay" the official by providing a rating is paying the full fee agreed upon and serves the needs of everyone.

— Supplements

— continued from page 4

Rittgers said one week's formulation may be different from the next, too.

But even though the industry and its ability to advertise poses an almost unbeatable opponent, Rittgers said, "We have to keep chipping away."

POSITIVE APPROACH

The poster series does that by emphasizing that student-athletes can in fact get performance enhancement from food.

"There are credible nutritionists who can help with that, too," Olander said. "There are ergogenic effects from food, especially with timing – what you eat before and after practice or right after exercise."

Jim Whitehead, executive vice-president at the American College of Sports Medicine, said, "What we want to do with this educational outreach is to provide clarity and emphasize the role that healthy lifestyles can have in enhancing performance and the well-being of the student-athlete. We also want to avoid concerns about the ingestion of prohibited ingredients – avoid the inconsistency of the ingredients and the unknown quality of supplements in general."

Whitehead also emphasized that the posters and memos aren't the only approach.

"Many sports-sciences organizations are considering other avenues that would complement the posters," he said. "And it's going to take that kind of partnership to address the best way to combat an industry that has tremendous resources. We understand the reality of that fight, but through a consortium of organizations, we're looking at all available options. It's important that the posters be seen as one element in what is going to be a multi-faceted approach."

One difference from past efforts, Whitehead said, is that the current campaign focuses on the positive side rather than just simply railing against supplement use. Because this new approach emphasizes performance enhancement through diet and health and quality of life, perhaps student-athletes will be more likely to listen.

Olander said if student-athletes hear this same message from several sources, they may start to believe it, rather than succumbing to advertising that may not be able to back up the claims.

"There is no proof that 99 percent of dietary supplements work – in fact, there are very few that have any scientific evidence supporting their effectiveness," she said. "But when you look at a muscle magazine and see a 5-9, 280-pound body-

builder holding a can of product and saying that's how he did it...Ours certainly isn't as flashy of an approach as the supplement industry's, but it certainly is safer. And the benefits to the student-athletes are greater."

The NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committees will review the posters at their July meetings. The posters will then be distributed to campuses this fall.

"We can't spread the word enough," the NCAA's Wilfert said. "The student-athlete who uses a nutritional supplement without checking the ingredients with the athletics staff and tests positive for banned sub-

stances will be held in violation of NCAA rules. And an athletics department that does not adequately educate current and incoming student-athletes about NCAA-banned substances, including the risks of over-the-counter nutritional supplement use, will be held in violation in the event the student-athlete tests positive for such substances."

That's a message worth getting.

— Gary T. Brown
The NCAA News

2004-05 NATIONAL TESTING DATES ADMINISTRATION - COUNSELORS - COACHES

Please advise students of the 2004-05 test date schedule. Your students should be aware of athletic tournament dates and should attempt to schedule their respective test date away from tournament dates of the sport or sports in which they are interested and participate.

Following are test dates for 2004-05 and possible MHSAA Tournament conflicts:

ACT ASSESSMENT DATES

October 23, 2004 . . . Boys Soccer Districts, UP Cross Country Finals
December 11, 2004None
February 12, 2005None
April 9, 2005None

SPORT CONFLICTS

June 11, 2005Girls Soccer, Baseball, Softball Regionals,
Boys and Girls Lacrosse Finals

SAT TESTING DATES

October 9, 2004LP Boys Golf Regionals
November 6, 2004Football Districts,
Boys Soccer, LP Cross Country Finals
December 4, 2004Girls Basketball Finals
January 22, 2005None
March 12, 2005Boys Basketball Regionals,

SPORT CONFLICTS

Competitive Cheer, Girls Gymnastics, Ice Hockey,
LP Boys Swimming, Girls Volleyball, LP Individual Wrestling Finals
May 7, 2005None
June 4, 2005Girls Soccer, Baseball, Softball Districts,
Boys and Girls Lacrosse Regionals, LP & UP Track & Field,
LP Girls Golf, LP Boys Tennis Finals

AP EXAM DATES

May 2-13, 2005None

SPORT CONFLICTS

(Advanced Placement Exams are administered over a five-day period for each subject)

Officially Speaking

Registrations Reach Record High

A record was reached for MHSAA registered officials in 2003-04, with the total of 12,268 registered officials, surpassing the 2002-03 mark of 12,116. While Michigan's numbers continue to counter a national trend in declining registrations, MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl says that the upward move is necessary.

"We can't continue to count on our numbers going up year after year, because we will be facing a lot of turnover in the near future with the anticipated retirements of many officials," Uyl said. "We must continue to promote the need for more individuals to become involved in officiating, and the recruitment, education and retention of new officials is a key to having younger folks ready when our veterans step down."

The MHSAA will continue to emphasize its efforts that allow high school students to become officials. The Legacy program allows 11th-graders, 16 years of age and older, to officiate subvarsity and junior high/middle school games with an approved official.

12th-graders, 17 years of age and older, are also allowed to officiate subvarsity and junior high/middle school contests without a mentoring official. The 2004-05 school year will be the 13th year for the Legacy program. Student officials will benefit from a waiver of the standard \$20 processing fee. Registration of \$10 per sport will be the only requirement.

"If every school and every officials association would deliver us just one young person each year, promoting officiating as a way to stay active in sports beyond the high school playing days, we can keep our numbers strong," Uyl said.



Standards for Assignors

Approved by the Representative Council, May 2004

(**Bold** is modification of Committee Proposal)

1. Assignors shall be paid by:
 - a. a **school or** league or conference, or
 - b. the members of an approved association who elect or hire an individual to assign for them. Turn-back fees, paid to an assignor by an official, do not violate this concept.
2. Assignors shall not collect fees for service from both a school, league or conference and an individual official or an officials association.
3. Assignors shall not require an official to be a member of a specific association in order to be assigned games under the control of the assignor. **Membership in any MHSAA Approved Association is an acceptable requirement.**
4. Assignors shall not require an official to pay a fee to participate in a **specific** camp, clinic or training activity in order to be evaluated and considered for assignments under the control of any assignor. Involvements in free events, for the same reason, are permitted.

Selection and Replacement of Tournament Officials

I. Change

Volleyball and Soccer District and Hockey Regional managers have assigned entry round officials and replacements. Given the limited availability of officials and the problems associated with replacement of officials, it is now policy that entry round managers also assign and replace entry round tournament officials in Wrestling, Baseball, Softball and Lacrosse.

II. Points of Emphasis & Communication

A. Considerations for assignments and replacement of tournament officials:

1. A list of qualified officials will be provided by staff at the conclusion of the rules meeting period for the sport and supplemented by communication with assignors and official associations through the MHSAA staff.
2. Managers must solicit requests of possible officials from assigned teams.
3. MHSAA staff would assist individual tournament managers in the selection and replacement process as requested.
4. The following conflict of interest guidance would prohibit an official from working a specific district or regional and would now appear in tournament managers manuals and the *Officials Guidebook*:

"In all cases, officials must be neutral and may not officiate in any contest involving relatives or other similar close relationships. It is the official's responsibility to notify tournament management as soon as possible of a conflict of interest, so that a possible switch may occur.

- a. Official's son/daughter attends a participating school.
- b. Official (or an immediate family member) is a current or former staff member (teacher, coach, or employee) at a participating school.

- c. Official has a close connection or relationship to the coach of a participating team.
- d. Official is a recent graduate (1 to 10 years) or connected alumni of a participating school.

It is preferred that an official who is also a coach in the sport he/she officiate decline a tournament invitation in that sport in any class. Depending on the sport, a qualified official who works a full regular-season schedule, may be considered for tournament assignment or replacement by MHSAA staff."

- B. Registered assignors and approved associations may assist the Official Selection Committee and MHSAA staff in assisting with the process of selecting tournament officials and necessary replacements according to the following procedures:

1. All MHSAA Committees may receive correspondence from schools and others. We suggest permitting written correspondence through the MHSAA Office from registered assignors and approved associations to be given to the officials assignment committee members by zone. Approved associations and leagues and conferences currently submit recommendations of specific officials to the selection committee.
2. After assigning tournament officials, each zone committee would prepare a list of officials who were not selected, to be placed on a "first to call" replacement list to be used at the discretion of the MHSAA staff.
3. Local officials associations and assignors can communicate with and submit a list of officials to MHSAA staff (after the initial assignments of officials are made) who, to their knowledge, attended a rules meeting but were not assigned, so as to supplement the "first to call" replacement list. This may serve to apply some local peer pressure through assignors/associations upon officials to attend rules meetings and submit schedules so as to qualify for tournament assignments.

Scholar-Athlete Award Application Available Online & On CD-ROM

Application and promotional materials for the MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance, are available via the MHSAA Web site at mhsaa.com and the MHSAA CD-ROM sent to schools in August.

Athletic directors, building principals and/or guidance counselors should download files pertinent to information and application from the MHSAA Web site or access the forms from the CD-ROM.

Individual applications must be turned in to high school principals by Nov. 22 to be processed and forwarded to the MHSAA for judging. A school must submit all of its applications in one packet with its School Applicant list so that they are received in the MHSAA office by 4 p.m. (EST) on Dec. 3, 2004. Each school is responsible for utilizing a delivery method which ensures that its applications arrive on time. The MHSAA is not responsible for delays caused by a school's choice of delivery service. No applications will be considered which arrive at the MHSAA office after the Dec. 3 deadline of 4 p.m.



Register Now for the 2004 Sportsmanship Summit

The MHSAA will once again hold its bi-annual Sportsmanship Summit in Fall 2004. The summit will take on a different look as the MHSAA brings smaller regionalized sportsmanship workshops to different parts of the state.

September 29 - Saginaw - Horizons Center
 October 4 - Battle Creek - McCamly Plaza
 November 3 - Grand Rapids - DeVos Place
 November 17 - Warren - DeCarlos Banquet Center

The Sportsmanship Summit will last from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at each of the sites. The cost is \$25 per participant. Registration at each site is limited to the first 400 students and administrators. The summit is geared to high school students, and schools are welcome to bring as many as 10 representatives including two administrators.

Registration forms are on the MHSAA Web site. If you have any questions, contact Andy Frushour at the MHSAA office - 517.332.5046.



MHSAA Licensed Merchandise



MHSAA Ball Suppliers



MENTOR PLANNER

Fall Sport Dates

SPORT	First Practice Date	First Contest Date	Days or Contests	Opt-Out Due Date	Ratings Due Date	MHSAA TOURNAMENT DATES				
						Districts	Regionals	Quarters	Semis	Finals
Basketball - Girls	Aug 9	Aug 23	20C	Oct 13	Dec 3	Nov 15-20	Nov 22-24	Nov 30	Dec 2-3	Dec 4
Cross Country - LP	Aug 9	Aug 9	15D	Oct 13			Oct 29 or 30			Nov 6
Cross Country - UP	Aug 9	Aug 9	15D	Oct 8						Oct 23
Football	Aug 9	Aug 26	9C	N/A	Dec 3	Oct 29 or 30 & Nov 5 or 6	Nov 12 or 13		Nov 20	Nov 26-27
Golf - LP Boys	Aug 5	Aug 9	16D	Sep 29			Oct 7, 8 or 9			Oct 15-16
Soccer - Boys	Aug 9	Aug 20	18C	Sep 29	Dec 3	Oct 18-23	Oct 26-30		Nov 3	Nov 6
Swimming - LP Girls	Aug 9	Aug 21	16C	Nov 16			Dive: Nov 16			Nov 19-20
Tennis - LP Girls	Aug 9	Aug 9	16C	Sep 29			Oct 7 or 8			Oct 15-16
Tennis - UP Girls	Aug 9	Aug 9	16C	Sep 29						Oct 1

Officials Fall Tournament Recommendation Due Dates

Annually, Approved Officials Associations, Leagues and Conferences are invited to recommend individual officials as candidates for all levels of girls basketball, football, and boys soccer in the fall. Approved Associations earn this privilege only in the sports listed in their annual Approved Association resolution and for which they meet all requirements. Recommended officials **are not** guaranteed tournament assignments.

The due dates for fall recommendations are Sept. 3 for girls basketball and football, and Sept. 22 for boys soccer.

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
 1661 Ramblewood Drive
 East Lansing, Michigan 48823-7392

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