

REPRESENTATIVE

COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 6-7, 2018

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MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Gaylord, May 6-7, 2018

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven (5/7 Only)

Vicky Groat, Battle Creek Don Gustafson, St. Ignace Courtney Hawkins, Mt. Morris

Kris Isom, Adrian

Sean Jacques, Calumet

Justin Jennings, Muskegon (5/7 Only)

Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake Vic Michaels, Detroit Chris Miller, Gobles Steve Newkirk, Clare Chris Riker, Portage Pete Ryan, Saginaw

John Thompson, Brighton

Al Unger, Kingsford Alvin Ward, Detroit

Pat Watson, West Bloomfield

Members Absent:

Dave Derocher, Reese Kyle Guerrant, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton
Dan Hutcheson
Cody Inglis
John Johnson
Geoff Kimmerly
Andi Osters
Tom Rashid

Jack Roberts (Recorder)

Mark Uyl

Kathy Westdorp Karen Yonkers

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Pat Watson, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of March 23, 2018; and the Executive Committee meeting minutes of March 22 and April 24, 2018; and the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting minutes of April 20, 2018. Adopted.

REPORTS

Administration – **MHSAA membership** during the 2017-18 school year was 751 high schools and 752 junior high/middle schools as of April 1, 2018. This compares with 750 and 740, respectively, as of April 1, 2017. In addition, there were 42 elementary schools with 6th-grader participation.

As of April 9, 2018, there were 299 **cooperative program agreements** for high schools for 524 teams (an increase of 20 programs and 48 teams over the previous year). There were 76 cooperative program agreements for 289 teams for junior high/middle schools (a decrease of 2 programs and 29 teams). The most frequent sports involved in cooperative programs at the high school level are (in order) ice hockey, girls swimming & diving, boys swimming & diving, girls gymnastics and boys lacrosse. At the junior high/middle school level, the sports most frequently involved in cooperative programs are football, boys and girls track & field and boys cross country.

Associate Director Tom Rashid reviewed the philosophy, history and major policies for cooperative programs, itemizing the purposes for which cooperative programs are and are not intended. Eligibility advancement applications were received and approved for 6 students during the 2017-18 school year, which was the third lowest number since the eligibility advancement provision was begun during the 1987-88 school year. This compares with 5 during 2016-17, 5 during 2015-16, 4 during 2014-15, 14 during 2013-14, 15 during 2012-13, 9 during 2011-12, 15 during 2010-11, 2009-10 and 2008-09, and 7 during 2007-08. The highest number of applications was 94 during the 1991-92 school year.

It was reported that 219 **Educational Transfer Forms** were processed for the 2017-18 school year through April 13, 2018, compared to 237 for the entire 2016-17 school year and 266 for the 2015-16 school year. Public to public school transfers continue to be the most common (149), and the divorce exception (#8) continues to be the most frequent reason (88) for the Educational Transfer Form to be used.

It was reported that there were 74 "**Travel Forms for Out-of-State Practice**" filed during 2017-18, compared to 65 the year before. The highest number filed was 113 during the 2007-08 school year. The lowest was 40 during the 2003-04 school year. The requirement began in 1994-95.

A listing of **violations** by schools and officials between April 9, 2017 and April 8, 2018 indicated that the total number of violations for the year was slightly lower than the previous year and significantly below the 13-year average for both schools and officials. Failure to rate officials, always the most frequent violation in previous years, was the lowest on record during 2016-17 – the result of the new interface on MHSAA.com that simplifies the rating task for schools utilizing the Arbiter suite of tools to schedule contests and officials. The MHSAA provided ArbiterGame free of charge to member high schools.

Associate Director Tom Rashid described the **Athletic Director In-Service** programs conducted by the MHSAA that attracted more than 890 registrants. The schedule for the fall of 2018 was presented. Topics for those meetings were identified throughout this meeting. For the eighth year, an in-service program for athletic department secretaries is being planned for September.

Assistant Director Kathy Westdorp reported on the MHSAA **Coaches Advancement Program (CAP)** during the 2017-18 school year. Level-by-level and site-by-site listings were provided. CAP programs offered by Michigan secondary schools, colleges and universities were identified. Attendance at CAP sessions during 2017-18 will establish another new record in 2017-18. By the end of this year, individuals will have completed more than 26,000 CAP units since the start of the 2004-05 school year.

Assistant Director Mark Uyl reported that the decade-long decline in **officials' registrations** was halted for the 2017-18 school year. The high number of registrants in 2007-08 and 2008-09 was caused in large part by two factors: (1) a poor economy, and (2) a temporary policy to allow registered officials in basketball or volleyball to add the other sport at no additional fee. Officials registration has been declining across most states in the Midwest.

MHSAA rules/risk management meeting attendance during 2017-18 was up 6.2 percent compared to the previous year, with nearly 90 percent of school representatives and more than 93 percent of officials completing the requirement online. Beginning in 2014-15, in order to increase efficiency and communication, rule/risk management meetings had some content in common for both officials and coaches and other content that was provided separately to coaches and officials. The health and safety focus for 2017-18 (and every other year) was concussion education, detection and after-care. The 2018-19 health and safety focus is repetitive use injuries.

Officials Reports for the spring 2017, fall 2017 and winter 2017-18 seasons were reviewed. The reports were broken down not only by sport but also by level: varsity, junior varsity, and sometimes also 9th-, 8th- and 7th-grade levels. The frequency of sportsmanship problems is statistically rare in sports conducted by MHSAA member schools.

For spring 2017 compared to the previous spring, player ejections increased significantly in baseball and boys lacrosse but declined by two-thirds in girls soccer. For fall 2017, player ejections were up significantly in football. For winter 2017-18, there was a significant increase in player ejections in both boys and girls basketball. In the spring of 2017 there was one contest and in the fall of 2017 there were two contests where an unusual number of ejections occurred, skewing statistics.

Concussion Management – Assistant Directors Kathy Westdorp and Mark Uyl provided updates regarding two aspects of concussion management that are unique to Michigan: (1) mandated reporting by all high schools of suspected concussions in practices and competitions in all MHSAA sports; and (2) claims under the concussion care "gap" insurance the MHSAA provides without charge to member schools to eliminate the \$25,000 deductible of the MHSAA-provided accident medical insurance when the injury is a suspected concussion occurring during practice or competition to a student-athlete in grades 6 through 12. Surprisingly, the number of concussions reported and the number of claims filed were both lower in year two than year one; data is not complete for the third year.

National Federation – Council members had been provided the agenda for the April meeting of the **NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee**. The MHSAA has not found it necessary to appoint and support a separate medical advisory committee because the NFHS committee is nationally constituted with representation from diverse medical disciplines and has direct input to NFHS playing rules committees. The agenda for the three-day meeting, its second such meeting this school year, demonstrates great breadth and depth of research, input and discussions. Copies of the committee's most recent position statements are provided to the Council as they are made available.

The National Federation hosted a two-day conference for state association staff and sports medicine advisors April 20 and 21, 2018. The focus topics were concussion management, emerging action plans, CPR/AED certification, overuse injuries related to youth sports specialization, wrestling weight management and mental health issues.

The MHSAA executive director, who serves as Chair of the **NFHS Network** Board of Directors, provided an update of Network operations. Each of these key performance indicators was up at the end of March compared to one year earlier – traffic growth, conversion rate, new passes, new revenue and recurring revenue – and March of 2018 was the Network's first million dollar month in terms of subscription revenue. The Network has proven its ability to produce a quantity of events, and its focus is now on delivering more consistent quality, especially state high school association tournament broadcasts. Another of the key challenges of the Network and its participating state high school associations is to protect the rights for which the Network has paid from encroachment by live streaming on other platforms, especially social media. In less than five years of operations, the Network has paid more than \$12 million in rights fees to associations and nearly \$2.5 million to local schools; this at risk if the Network's live video streaming rights are not protected.

Litigation – The executive director reported that the April 19-20, 2018 Legal meeting of the National Federation of State High School Associations demonstrates the MHSAA is avoiding a host of public, legislative and judicial challenges that are visiting similar organizations in other states. In the only current litigation involving the MHSAA, brought on behalf of an injured ice hockey player, plaintiffs have made what the court has called "tenuous" claims against the MHSAA. The court has authorized a 90-day period of discovery before acting on the MHSAA's motion to dismiss.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Transfer Rule – At its Dec. 1, 2017 meeting, the Council encouraged MHSAA staff to distribute promptly the proposals developed over the previous six months of meetings and surveys – this was done Dec. 11 – and to be available as much as possible to facilitate discussions regarding those proposals among constituent groups – this continues to occur. At its March 23, 2018 meeting, it was suggested that a communication be sent soon to superintendents and principals as well as to the leadership of MASB, MASA and MASSP. That occurred March 28.

The revised rule would mean a high school transfer student has **immediate eligibility** in a sport **not played** the previous season for that sport and (unless one of the 15 exceptions applies) **no eligibility** for the upcoming season in a sport actually **played** the previous season in that sport (participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest). If the student's new school requests, the MHSAA Executive Committee **may** approve a waiver that reduces the period of ineligibility to 90 scheduled school days at the new school.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by John Thompson, to adopt the modifications proposed for Regulation I, Section 9, except that it would not be required that the school from which a student has transferred provide written support of the receiving school's request to the Executive Committee to waive the transfer regulation. See Appendix "1." Adopted.

Basketball Schedules and Sites – At its Dec. 1 meeting, the Council approved 2018-19 regular season schedules for girls and boys basketball as well as the schedules and Finals venues for the MHSAA tournaments in 2019. Thereafter, the staff has been focusing on two options for 2020 and beyond: (1) the 2018 and 2019 model that uses two sites for the Finals and accommodates the limited availability of the only site offered that is large enough to host the boys Semifinals and Finals; and (2) a three-week simultaneous tournament that utilizes the larger arena on only two days – one for the four girls Finals and the other for the four boys Finals. At itsMarch 23 meeting, the Council discussed the pros and cons of these options as well as the plan for communicating with constituents to increase understanding and search for consensus; and for this meeting, special attention was given to the positive and negative aspects of the three-week simultaneous tournament. The Council must act by its Nov. 30 meeting on plans for at least the season and MHSAA tournaments during the 2019-20 school year.

Eight-Player Football – At its Dec. 1 meeting, the Council began a discussion of how the MHSAA might assist 8-player football schools in their scheduling of regular season games. At their March 23 meeting, Council members suggested that there be an option to discuss where schools are placed in geographic regions without regard to their division in order to reduce the length of travel for regular season games.

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Since that meeting, all schools which sponsor 8-player football and all Class D schools which sponsor 11-player football, in both cases including secondary schools in cooperative football programs at the varsity level, have been surveyed. There was little disagreement by survey respondents to the idea of having the MHSAA provide this scheduling structure, and a clear majority favors "scheduling sections" that are not based on enrollment only but on both enrollment and geography, indicating the size of school they schedule is more important than the proximity of the school. The Council examined the data closely. Staff reported regarding meetings in the Thumb where there was little support for this scheduling structure and in the Upper Peninsula where reaction was favorable.

Discussions will continue with the schools involved throughout the summer and fall. Council action (approval or disapproval) is anticipated at its Nov. 30 meeting.

The **North Central Thumb League** made two requests of the Representative Council: (1) to permit Dryden High School in the 2018 8-player football tournament; and (2) to establish a fixed rather than floating enrollment limit for eligibility in the 8-player tournament.

The Representative Council made the decision on Dec. 1, 2017, that the limit for the 8-player football tournament would continue to be the maximum for a Class D school that year. In the same action, the Council approved the policy that Class D schools which sponsored 8-player football one year (e.g., 2018) but have an enrollment in excess of Class D the next year (2019) may continue in the 8-player tournament for that year (2019). They must be within the Class D enrollment limit the following year (2020) to continue in the 8-player tournament that year (2020). The maximum enrollment for Class D schools was 215 in 2011-12, 216 in 2012-13, 206 in 2013-14, 214 in 2014-15, 212 in 2015-16, 206 in 2016-17 and has declined from 203 in 2017-18 to 193 for 2018-19.

Dryden High School has never been a Class D school but has conducted 8-player football since 2013. Its enrollment for MHSAA tournament classification purposes in 2017-18 was 207 (when the Class D limit was 203); for 2018-19, its enrollment is 199 (when the Class D limit is 193), and thus it remains ineligible for the 8-player tournament in 2018 even though two schools with higher enrollments are eligible during their one-year "grace period":

- Big Rapids-Crossroads Charter Academy (187 in 2017; 201 in 2018)
- Mesick (180 in 2017; 202 in 2018)

Motion by John Thompson, supported by Kris Isom, to not approve the request of Dryden High School to participate in the 2018 8-player football tournament and to review again at its Nov. 30, 2018 meeting the pros and cons of a floating versus fixed enrollment limit for the 8-player tournament. Adopted.

Basketball District Seeding – At its May 2017 meeting, the Council asked staff to examine possibilities for seeding and separating on brackets the top two teams of each geographically determined District of the MHSAA Girls and Boys Basketball Tournaments. At its December meeting, the MHSAA Basketball Committee recommended prompt implementation of a databased plan to seed the District tournament level of the Boys and Girls Basketball Tournaments. Staff have been examining the practical considerations and have been attempting to prepare answers to questions and to establish policies and procedures to implement seeding, even though differences of opinion are apparent within the MHSAA's membership and among Representative Council members.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Chris Miller, to not approve the seeding plan as presented for the MHSAA Boys and Girls District Basketball Tournaments. Adopted (no change).

Student Engagement – The MHSAA has been taking a comprehensive look at what "inclusion" means in interscholastic athletics. Among considerations are how to serve and support a greater number of students, including more junior high/middle school students at more grade levels and more high school students with a wider variety of interests and abilities.

At its December meeting, the Council focused on recommendations of the MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee to raise the profile of school-sponsored sports and the MHSAA through rules changes that would be appealing to younger athletes and their parents and through expansion of MHSAA sponsorship of junior high/middle school events.

Motion by Pat Watson, supported by Don Gustafson, to increase Regulation IV, Section 10 contest limits and days of competition in the following sports without lengthening seasons (<u>underscored</u> is new):

- 1. Softball <u>12</u> days of competition (previously 10) over 13 weeks with doubleheader games counting as one day of competition.
- 2. Basketball 12 games over 13 weeks with one game a day allowed, except that two games may be played on a day not followed by a school day, up to <u>four</u> times a season. Each of the doubleheader days counts as one of the 12 games.
- 3. Soccer 12 games over 13 weeks with one game a day allowed, except that two games may be played on a day not followed by a school day, up to two times a season. Each of the doubleheader days counts as one of the 12 games.

Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Courtney Hawkins, to revise Regulation III, Section 12(A) – Limited Team Membership – to allow a middle school student to compete in two non-school events during the season in team sports except football (an "event" is one occurring on not more than three consecutive calendar days). This would make the team sport rule in junior high/middle school athletics the same as the individual sport model that currently exists, initiating with a student's first participation in a contest (not practice). Adopted.

The Council was provided a report of the April 30 meeting of the Work Group that is discussing the logistics for expanding the MHSAA"s role as the "presenting sponsor" for additional and larger junior high/middle school events.

Motion by Sean Jacques, supported by Steve Newkirk, to:

(1) Continue to develop and expand opportunities for the "Presenting Sponsorship" of already existing junior high/middle school meets, invitationals and tournaments conducted by leagues, conferences and schools around Michigan, including: additional existing junior high/middle school league and conference meets, and new larger area invitational meets which join two or more leagues into a single competition; in both cases, with MHSAA branding, funding and awards.

(2) Approach MHSAA sport committees and sport coaches associations to determine the details, specifics and timeframe of conducting junior high/middle school area or sectional competitions in the sports of cross country, track & field, wrestling, swimming and other sports.

Adopted.

Council members were updated regarding discussions that could lead to seeking Council approval for the MHSAA to be "presenting sponsor" of existing state meets for high schools in sports like field hockey, water polo and others; of esports events; of girls-only wrestling invitational meets; of Ryder Cup style regular season golf events; of road races or mini-marathons; and of events for students with disabilities. Special attention was given to the involvement of the National Federation and the NFHS Network with esports and the launching of high school seasons and state high school association tournaments in several states during 2018-19. Significant actions could be requested at the Council's Nov. 30 meeting.

Multi-Sport Participation – Council members were provided a brief update of plans of the MHSAA Task Force on Multi-Sport Participation to measure multi-sport participation in MHSAA member high schools and to recognize schools which distinguish themselves in that regard.

Boarding School Students – At its March 23 meeting, the Council was provided a brief history of the boarding school student exception to the Transfer Rule and of a significant modification of the exception in 1992, as well as voluntary modifications of the exception as applied to one boarding school since 2015. The Council was informed of more recent issues with respect to another boarding school, and the Council discussed rules modifications that would promote more competitive equity between boarding schools and other schools, both public and nonpublic, in the MHSAA's membership.

At this meeting, the Council received additional information regarding boarding school students who participate in interscholastic athletic programs of the four MHSAA member boarding schools without delay through the use of the Educational Transfer Form.

The Council also was provided an analysis of how, especially with respect to international students, boarding schools have advantages that no other public or nonpublic schools have and are able to provide participation opportunities that no other MHSAA member schools can provide. For discussion purposes only, a rule modification to reduce these differences was presented to the Council. A meeting with boarding school administrators will be scheduled.

REGULATIONS

Regulations I through V of the *MHSAA Handbook* and their interpretations were submitted for review by the Representative Council.

Motion by Al Unger, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the consent package of miscellaneous changes for the purpose of organization, clarity or updating and to incorporate changes or interpretations previously adopted by the Representative Council. Adopted.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Karen Leinaar, to:

(1) Insert this paragraph after the tenth paragraph on Page 12 – How to Join the MHSAA: "The MHSAA Executive Committee shall not approve membership for an institution or program owned or operated by either a for-profit or nonprofit entity when the stated mission or demonstrated purpose of that institution or program is primarily sports competition and/or development. The existence of an educational component, either online or in-person, does not in itself transform a 'sports academy' or 'preparatory school' into a school that is acceptable within the MHSAA membership. All aspects of the institution or program may be evaluated by the MHSAA to determine if it exists primarily for athletic-related purposes and, as such, does not qualify for MHSAA membership."

And

(2) Revise Interpretation 109 to read (<u>underscored</u> is new): "High school coaches or their representatives may not attend grade school or non-school games <u>camps</u>, <u>clinics or competitions</u> for the purpose of evaluating or recruiting prospective athletes."

And

(3) Add a new part (4) to Regulation II, Section 11(H) 2 a: "For the purposes of this Section, incoming 9th-graders become high school students when the four-player period ends on the Monday following Memorial Day. Provided these recent 8th-graders are not still involved in middle school sports, they may begin working out with high school students on the Monday following Memorial Day. This does not negate the rule that prohibits recruiting for athletic purposes (undue influence)."

And

(4) Add the following to the end of paragraph 6 of Athletes and Officials Accident Medical Insurance: "To be covered by MHSAA-purchased insurance, the activity of sideline cheerleaders at interscholastic athletic events must not exceed the safety norms of MHSAA girls competitive cheer (i.e., the height of mounts, flips, stunts, etc.)."

Adopted.

CLASSIFICATION

The Summary of MHSAA Tournament Classification for 2018-19 was provided to Council members. The Council was also provided a summary of where traditional classes (A, B, C, D) are still relevant after the change from traditional classes to equal divisions (1, 2, 3, 4) in basketball and girls volleyball in 2018-19. The Council also reviewed suggestions for revising the procedures of the annual classification process, one of which required Council action.

Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Pat Watson, to change the "opt-up" deadline for fall sports from April 15 to **May 1** (winter sports remain Aug. 15; spring sports remain Oct. 15). Adopted.

OFFICIALS

Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Vicky Groat, to approve for immediate effect the following Officials Review Committee recommendation to the Representative Council: In the non-striped shirt officiating sports (baseball, softball, swimming & diving, girls volleyball), allow officials to wear the approved MHSAA shirt and/or jacket with the horizontal logo as provided by the MHSAA apparel vendor. This would be permitted immediately and become a requirement in these four sports by the 2020-21 school year. Adopted.

COMMITTEES

The Council was provided a document that identified dysfunctions in the appointments and operations of MHSAA committees, as well as suggestions for improvements in the short and longer terms. These suggestions include:

- 1. <u>In the short term</u>, it would be wise for the Council to establish and the staff to pursue the goal that the makeup of each MHSAA committee be no more than 50 percent coaches (including the coaches association representative).
- 2. In the longer term, it would be wise for the Council to direct staff to . . .
 - a. pursue additional means of assuring that the programs which are typically underrepresented are in the room; and
 - b. construct agendas that assure that the first topics and the longest discussions address . . .
 - (1) enhancing health and safety of participants.
 - (2) expanding the number of participants.

A revised "MHSAA Sports Committee Guide" was provided to Council members.

Staff and Council members were reminded that committees exist and operate at the pleasure of the Representative Council. They may be created or abolished by the Council. They may be told what to discuss and what not to discuss. The Council could issue the mandates above, and abolish the committees that are not effective. The MHSAA might save money and make more progress by substituting ineffective standing committees with focused, energized work groups assigned a specific task for a specific term.

With that advisory, the Council was supplied with a description of MHSAA committees, a copy of the MHSAA Sport Committee Guide, a review of the committee appointment procedures adopted by the Representative Council in May of 1987 and modified in December 2007, a list of those who had identified themselves as candidates for committees in 2018-19, a list of schools not represented on any committees for the past five years, and a list of those who had declined committee appointments in 2017-18. Council members were encouraged to submit nominations for committees, making special efforts to provide nominations from superintendents, principals, small schools, females and minorities, and any school that has not been represented in recent years. The staff will compile the suggestions and submit them to the Executive Committee for review and appointment.

Names of committee members selected to serve during the 2018-19 school year will be published in *benchmarks*. The only exceptions are those committees involving the selection of tournament officials and award recipients. Some committees were identified as having converted to online and email or conference call formats.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Baseball – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the following Baseball Committee recommendation: In 2019, continue to award the same number of Regional trophies and medals (32 trophies plus individual medals) with the new Regional format, keeping the same number of 32 Regional-level awards the same with the "old" tournament format and the same number of Regional-level awards as softball. For the 16 winners of the Super Regional games, the Regional trophy would read "Super Regional Champion." For the 16 losers of the Super Regional game, the Regional trophy would read "Regional Champion." The awards would be given to both teams and individuals following the Super Regional game (3 p.m.) on that Saturday. Adopted.

Motion by Vicky Groat, supported by John Thompson, to not approve the Baseball Committee recommendation to allow baseball schools which receive MHSAA approval to travel out of state to practice, to share facilities by practicing jointly and/or scrimmage (up to four days using allowed scrimmage dates) only with and against other approved MHSAA member schools. This should be surveyed and considered by the Council from the standpoint of softball, lacrosse and other spring sports as well as baseball. Adopted (no change).

Basketball – Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve the Basketball Committee recommendation to allow MHSAA member school head coaches to use during competition the 28-foot coaching box that the NFHS rules allow by state association adoption. Currently, the MHSAA allows for a 14-foot coaches box. Adopted.

Girls Competitive Cheer – Motion by John Thompson, supported by Alvin Ward, to:

(1) Approve the Girls Competitive Cheer Committee recommendation to allow, for the junior high/middle school level, junior high/middle school athletes to perform an inverted exit – cradle to back walkover out only.

And

(2) Approve the Girls Competitive Cheer Committee recommendation to allow, for the high school level, any catch that originates from shoulder level or below and transitions from a vertical body position to a horizontal body position to require only 3 catchers. Any catch that exceeds shoulder level will require 4 catchers, as stated in the current rule (p. 48) of the Girls Competitive Cheer Manual. In this release from a vertical body position to a horizontal body position, the flyer may pass through a heightened prep position, but must not begin, end or stop in an extended position. This may transition only to a dismount, and not back up to a stunt or load. All other rules regarding a transition from a vertical to a horizontal position must be followed.

And

(3) Approve the Girls Competitive Cheer Committee recommendation to allow, for the high school level, a Mt. Climber to an unbraced OLE to receive OLE choreography bonus.

And

(4) Approve the Girls Competitive Cheer Committee recommendation to award, for all levels (grades 7-12) four difficulty points for a ground-up to an elevator at all levels.

Adopted.

Cross Country/Track & Field – Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Al Unger, to approve the Cross Country/Track & Field Committee recommendation to adopt the ATOM/MITCA recommendation that, starting in 2020, Regional and Final competitions be required to use a one-turn stagger for the 4x800 meter relay, 1600 meter run, 800 meter and 3200 meter run. Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Cross Country/Track & Field Committee recommendation to adopt the MITCA recommendation to change the middle school order of events to better align with the high school order.

Current Order	Proposed Order
3200 Meter Run	4x800 Meter Relay
55 Meter Hurdles	55 Meter Hurdles
4x200 Meter Relay	100 Meter Dash
800 Meter Run	4x200 Meter Relay
1600 Meter Run	1600 Meter Run
100 Meter Dash	4x100 Meter Relay
400 Meter Dash	400 Meter Dash
4x800 Meter Relay	70 Meter Dash
70 Meter Dash	800 Meter Run
200 Meter Hurdles	200 Meter Hurdles
200 Meter Dash	200 Meter Dash
4x400 Meter Relay	3200 Meter Run
4x100 Meter Relay	4x400 Meter Relay

Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Al Unger, to approve the Cross Country/Track & Field Committee recommendation to adopt the ATOM recommendation for track and cross country to change the current required red body with yellow sleeve jacket, due to the lack of availability (no supplier). The proposal will require a simple red jacket, sweater, pullover or red shirt (body and sleeves). Black or tan pants. Starters will be required to wear a yellow slip or sleeve for the starting arm. A red hat or cap is optional. This allowance is effective immediately and will be required in 2019-20; the current garment continues to be allowed. Adopted.

Football – Motion by Steve Newkirk, supported by Don Gustafson, to approve the Football Committee recommendation to request that the MHSAA and the NFHS continue for the third year the 40-second play clock experiment for the 2018 season. Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Pat Watson, to not approve the Football Committee recommendation to adopt the enhanced strength of schedule plan for the 11-player tournament, effective for the 2020 football season. Adopted (no change).

Ice Hockey – Motion by John Thompson, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Ice Hockey Committee recommendation to change the MHSAA Preregional system of tournament assignments back to an MHSAA system of Regional tournament assignments with no more than 8 teams assigned to each Regional for a total of 24 Regions around the state. Adopted.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Steve Newkirk, to (1) not seed MHSAA **Regional** tournaments; and (2) not seed MHSAA **Semifinal** tournaments. Adopted (no change).

Boys Lacrosse – Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Boys Lacrosse Committee recommendation to implement a policy beginning with the 2019 tournament where an MHSAA tournament game will end when an 18-goal margin is reached any time after the third quarter is completed. The 12-point goal point differential running clock in the second half continues. Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Don Gustafson, to approve the Boys Lacrosse Committee recommendation to revise Regulation II, Section 6(A) – Contests with Out-of-State Schools, Item 2, as follows (<u>underscored</u> is new): "2. All schools and teams are in good standing with their respective National Federation member high school association (if eligible). <u>In boys lacrosse</u>, a school may not participate in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest against an out-of-state opponent from a state whose NFHS member state association does not sponsor a statewide boys lacrosse tournament unless that team follows comparable regulations of other spring sport teams in that state. Comparable rules include but are not limited to practice and contest limits, travel, use of NFHS playing rules, and undue influence (recruiting). It will be for the MHSAA member school to collect and submit information to the MHSAA staff 30 days in advance of the season for approval to play teams in states where high school associations do not govern boys lacrosse." Adopted.

Alpine Skiing – Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Karen Leinaar, to approve the Ski Committee recommendation to increase the maximum number of contests from 15 to 17 while decreasing the number of scrimmages from 4 to 2. Adopted.

Soccer – Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Soccer Committee recommendation to allow at the high school level, as a part of the multi-team tournament rule, teams to play two full games on a non-school day, and have those two count as one of the 18 regular season contests. Teams still have the option to play 180 minutes under the current multi-team tournament rule. The only overtime allowed would be a shootout if part of a bracket tournament. Adopted.

Motion by Chris Riker, supported by Karen Leinaar, to approve the Soccer Committee recommendation to require, effective with the spring season of 2019, the first round of District games to be played the week before the current District week. First round games are to be played on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, with the District Semifinals and Finals scheduled for the following week. Saturday games can be used as a weather backup only for the first round. Adopted.

Tennis – Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by John Thompson, to not approve the Tennis Committee recommendation to allow the Regional in which the state champion and/or state runner-up was entered an additional qualifier to the Finals the next year, in addition to those that qualify under the current system. Adopted (no change).

Non-Traditional Draws – The history and current policies and practices for conducting MHSAA tournament draws was reviewed and discussed as it applies in either District or Regional tournaments for basketball, girls volleyball, ice hockey, soccer and other sports.

Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Al Unger, to approve the following policies and procedures relative to non-traditional draws for MHSAA tournaments:

For the 2018-19 MHSAA Basketball and volleyball Tournaments –

A. DISTRICT ROUNDS

- 1. Non-traditional draws will be mandated for Districts comprised of:
 - a. All Upper Peninsula teams, or
 - b. A combination of Upper Peninsula teams and northern Lower Peninsula teams, or
 - c. 7- or 8-team groupings in any location of the state.
- 2. In a and b, if <u>all participating teams agree</u>, a traditional draw may be conducted.
- As already stated in the PSTI, if all schools in a district consisting exclusively of Lower Peninsula schools agree, a non-traditional draw may be used.

B. REGIONAL ROUNDS

- 1. In Regions that include more than one (1) District located entirely in the Upper Peninsula, geographic neutral sites will be selected.
- 2. Based on Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee recommendations, each sport site selection committee will finalize hosts at their May meetings.
- II. Beyond Basketball and Volleyball –

There will be a work group appointed to review all aspects of non-traditional draws and all affected sports. A report and recommendation should be provided to the Representative Council by Nov. 30, 2018.

Adopted.

OPERATIONS

Calendar – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Steve Newkirk, to approve the sevenyear calendar of MHSAA events reflecting changes required by other Representative Council action. Adopted.

Allen W. Bush Award – Council members were invited to vote for up to three candidates from the seven presented. The one or more who receives the most votes will be notified in May and honored at events important to them during the fall of 2018 or early in 2019. The recipients will be featured in the fall issue of *benchmarks*.

Meeting Expenses – Motion by Kris Isom, supported by John Thompson, to approve the expenses for this meeting as follows: the specified hotel rate, the IRS-stipulated amounts for meals, and a 40¢ per mile mileage allowance, round trip. Adopted.

Future Meetings – The next meeting of the Representative Council is Nov 30, 2018, at the MHSAA office in East Lansing, with a full-day schedule anticipated. The March meeting of the Representative Council will be the morning of Friday, March 22, 2019 in Grand Rapids.

Motion by Al Unger, supported by Steve Newkirk, to conduct the spring meeting of the Representative Council on May 5-7, 2019 at Treetops in Gaylord. Adopted.

Budget – Financial reports through April were presented to the Council with comparisons to fiscal year 2016-17 and the 2017-18 budget. Net revenue from MHSAA tournaments and gross revenue from sponsorships were reported to be down \$544,000 and \$487,000, respectively, for fiscal year 2017-18 compared to 2016-17 as of April 30. Higher expenses for basketball and wrestling Finals venues are most responsible for the decline in net performance for MHSAA tournaments.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the 2018-19 revenue and expense budgets that would include, for the first time in 14 and 15 years, increased ticket prices for Regional and District tournaments, and approve a capital improvement budget, all of which would result in additions in cash of \$78,170. Adopted.

Staff was excused for the Council's discussion of the Executive Committee's recommendation to succeed the retiring executive director. Motion by Pat Watson, supported by Kris Isom, to appoint Mark Uyl to become executive director of the MHSAA upon the retirement of the current executive director in August 2018. Adopted.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Alvin Ward, that in recognition and appreciation for 32 years of unparalleled leadership and service to high school athletics and those who participate, the MHSAA Headquarters Building in East Lansing shall be dedicated and named the John E. "Jack" Roberts Building. Adopted.



SUMMARY OF SPORT-SPECIFIC TRANSFER RULE May 11, 2018

A "sport-specific" transfer rule proposal has been adopted by the MHSAA Representative Council for 2019-20. It has two major components:

1. More Lenient -

Students in grades 9 through 12 who have not participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere in an MHSAA sport one season may transfer from one school to another with no delay in eligibility at any level in that sport the next season. No MHSAA action is required.

2. More Restrictive -

Unless one of the 15 stated Exceptions applies, students in grades 9 through 12 who have participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in an MHSAA sport on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere during the previous season for a sport, and then transfer to an MHSAA member school, are ineligible at all levels of that sport at that school through the next complete season in that sport, including the MHSAA tournament.

Students who transfer during a season in which they are participating, and do not meet one of the 15 stated Exceptions, are ineligible at all levels of that sport for the remainder of that season, including the MHSAA tournament; and they remain ineligible at all levels of that sport through the next complete season in that sport, including the MHSAA tournament.

The revised rule means a transfer student has . . .

• immediate eligibility in a sport not played the previous season for that sport

and (unless one of the 15 Exceptions applies)

 no eligibility for the upcoming season in a sport actually played the previous season in that sport (participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest).

If the administration of the student's new school requests in writing on a timely basis, the MHSAA Executive Committee **may** approve a waiver that reduces the period of ineligibility to 90 scheduled school days at the new school. The Executive Committee also has authority to approve immediate eligibility.

The effective date is Aug. 1, 2018, with implementation felt during the 2019-20 school year. That is, what students do during the 2018-19 school year will determine their eligibility for 2019-20 should they transfer schools and not meet one of the 15 stated exceptions.





DETAIL OF SPORT-SPECIFIC TRANSFER RULE

May 11, 2018

PRINCIPLES

- 1. Students enrolling for the first time anywhere in the 9th grade are eligible without delay at all levels of all sports, provided they have not already practiced or competed for a different high school. (No change; and, as in the past, the transfer rule does not apply to middle schools.)
- 2. Students in grades 9 through 12 who have never participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere in an MHSAA sport may transfer from one school to another with no delay in eligibility at any level in that sport. No MHSAA action is required.
- 3. Unless one of the 15 stated exceptions applies, students in grades 9 through 12 who have participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in an MHSAA sport(s) on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere during the previous season for a sport(s), and then transfer to an MHSAA member school, are ineligible at all levels of that sport(s) at that school through the next complete season in that sport(s), including the MHSAA tournament(s).

Students who transfer **during** a season in which they are participating are ineligible at all levels of that sport for the remainder of that season, including the MHSAA tournament; and they remain ineligible at all levels of that sport through the next complete season in that sport, including the MHSAA tournament.

- 4. If there are compelling circumstances for changing schools having nothing to do with athletics, discipline or family finances and would not require Executive Committee evaluation or comparison of school demographics, environment or curriculum, schools may request that the Executive Committee waive the regulation to the extent that the period of ineligibility in the sport involved is reduced to 90 scheduled school days of enrollment in the new school.
- 5. Under conditions described in the MHSAA Constitution, the Executive Committee (or Representative Council) may waive any aspect of the Transfer regulation. (No change.)

APPLICATIONS

A. Situation

A student enrolled at Canton High School in the 10th grade, participated in non-school ice hockey and school-sponsored lacrosse, completing his high school season June 1, 2019. He enrolled without a change of residence or any other applicable exception at Brighton High School at the start of the 2019-20 school year.

<u>Ruling</u>: The student is ineligible for lacrosse at Brighton High School for the complete lacrosse season in 2020. The student is eligible for all other sports at Brighton High School, including ice hockey, without delay.

B. Situation

A student attended Haslett High School for 9th and 10th grades where he participated in football and basketball. At the semester break of 10th grade, the student enrolled at DeWitt High School, and no exception to the transfer regulation was applicable.

<u>Ruling</u>: The student is ineligible at any level for the remainder of the current basketball season and is ineligible for the next school year's entire football and basketball seasons at DeWitt High School. He is eligible immediately at any level for every other sport at DeWitt.

C. Situation

A student participated in cross country at East Lansing High School as a 9th-grader and transferred to Okemos High School on March 1, 2019. It is alleged and well documented that the student was bullied at East Lansing. The parents are separated, but not divorced, and the student is changing residence from one parent in East Lansing to the other parent in Okemos.

<u>Ruling</u>: The student is ineligible for cross country at Okemos High School for the 2019 season. He is immediately eligible at Okemos at any level for all other sports, including track & field.

<u>Appeal</u>: Okemos High School requests waiver, citing significant and well documented bullying. The Executive Committee approves the request for waiver to participate in cross country after the student's 90th scheduled school day at Okemos High School beginning March 1, 2019.

D. Situation

A 12th-grade female student who plays soccer year-round and participated in girls soccer at Mason High School during the spring 2019 season, transferred to Holt High School in July where she seeks to participate on the boys soccer team. She enrolled at Holt without a change of residence and no other exception to the transfer regulation applies. At no time did she participate in any other sports at Mason or any other high school.

<u>Ruling</u>: The student is ineligible for both the boys and girls soccer seasons at Holt High School. She is eligible without delay at any level for any other sport in which she may wish to participate.

E. Situation

A 12th-grade student played football and basketball at St. Johns High School in 9th grade but not in 10th or 11th grade before he transfers to Grand Ledge High School for the start of the 2019-20 school year. His residence has not changed.

Ruling: The student is eligible for both football and basketball at Grand Ledge High School during the 2019-20 school year.

F. Situation

An 11th-grade student transferred from Mason High School to St. Johns High School on Oct. 2, 2018. No Exceptions apply. Having just missed the fourth Friday after Labor Day, St. Johns High School administration requests a waiver under Regulation I, Section 9(D) 3, asking for eligibility on the student's 91st school day of enrollment at St. Johns High School beginning Oct. 2.

<u>Ruling</u>: Pursuant to Interpretation 99, the Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of that student's enrollment at St. Johns beginning Oct. 2.

Note: Regulation I, Section 9(D) 3 may not be applied as it is currently written after Oct. 15, 2018.

G. Situation

An 11th-grade student played football at Okemos High School in the fall of the 2018-19 school year. He played no winter sport for his school. He transferred to East Lansing High School on March 1, 2019, missing the fourth Friday by a brief number of days. No Exceptions apply.

Ruling: The student is ineligible for football only at East Lansing High School during the 2019-20 school year.

<u>Appeal</u>: Prior to Aug. 1, 2019, East Lansing High School requests a waiver under Regulation I, Section 9(D) 3 that allows the Executive Committee to consider approving waiver after 90 school days of enrollment at the student's new school.

Result: The Executive Committee may not apply Regulation I, Section 9(D) 3 as it is currently written after Oct. 15, 2018.

IMPLEMENTATION DATES

This new rule will begin implementation on Aug. 1, 2018, with effects on eligibility beginning Aug. 1, 2019.

- Students who have played a sport at any level in high school during the 2017-18 school year and who transfer during the 2018-19 school year have their eligibility for 2018-19 determined by the current rule in effect during 2017-18 ("4th Friday" rule).
- 2. Students who have not played a sport in high school during that sport's previous season may transfer with immediate eligibility in that sport, beginning with the 2019-20 school year.
- 3. Students who play a sport in high school during the 2018-19 school year and who transfer during that school year or later have their eligibility during the 2019-20 school year or later determined by the new sport-specific rule that takes full effect Aug. 1, 2019.