

Michigan High School Athletic Association  
CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK AND FIELD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
January 26, 2022 - 9:30 a.m.  
Virtual meeting

**Members Present:**

Sarah Boisvert, Romulus	Jeff Offringa, Kalamazoo
Lewis Clingman, Grand Rapids (ATOM)	Don Passenger, Grand Rapids
Kevin Dean, Edwardsburg	Mike Quinn, Lakewood
Dave Emeott, Kentwood	Tim Ritsema, Jenison
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock (ATOM)	Meg Seng, Ann Arbor
Carey Hammel, Shepherd (MITCA)	Ann Serra-Lowney, Clarkston
Steve Linn, Deckerville (MITCA)	Nancy Smith, Northville
Brian Macomber, Rockford	Connor Thomas, Mason
Kyle McKown, Clare	Dan Wytko, Portage

**MHSAA Staff Present:**

Cody Inglis

**Guest:**

Rich Kieft, MATS

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

Following the welcome, introductions, statement of committee purpose and the committee relationship to the Representative Council, the following business was conducted:

**Track and Field**

1. Review of 2020 Committee Minutes and Recommendations (There was not a 2021 meeting because of Covid-19)
2. Health and Safety updates:  
Covid return – The committee discussed things learned from a Track and XC season and done through the pandemic. Future planning will emphasize best practices for a safe return to competition this spring in Track and Field and gauging how Covid is impacting athletics and life at that time.
3. MHSAA Regional JH/MS XC competition was reviewed after its' first year. The committee shared strong sentiment to continue and grow this area of MHSAA competition. Lessons learned from a first year of MHSAA JH/MS competition were discussed and tweaks made to sites, race structure, communication, pre-meet information and number of competitors in each race. Sites will be selected by the MHSAA XC site selection committee to be held in May. The committee recommended that the MHSAA JH/MS committee discuss MHSAA Regional competition of Track and Field at the JH/MS level and use data to make determinations. There is a strong desire to pursue, and the JH/MS committee will determine timing and a potential proposal.
4. 2022 National Federation rules and editorial changes for Track & Field and Cross Country were reviewed. In-depth discussion on issues related to the two sports occurred.
5. Adaptive Track and Field discussion – The committee had a thorough discussion on adaptive track and field and how and if the MHSAA should adopt a new category for MHSAA tournament competition in Track and Field. A thorough review of a proposal from Houghton HS was reviewed by the committee. The desire of Houghton HS is to include a statewide competition model for para-athletes in track and field. Strong support and data were provided. Process and protocols were discussed as to the best way to incorporate para-athletes into MHSAA track and field competition based upon the proposal. Currently there is not a restriction on para-athletes to compete in any way, but the committee felt strongly that the sport needs to be more inclusive. Discussion as to whether MHSAA team scoring should be included for para-athletes in MHSAA competition concluded that getting the adaptive category started was key first as the MHSAA has done in para-swim MHSAA competition. There was not committee support to allow team scoring in the potential newly established category. Future discussion on team scoring would include a minimum number of athletes and teams in competition but determining how many student-

athletes would be involved statewide would be key before going in this direction. The committee supported medals earned in places. Competition would follow existing para-athlete competition in Wheelchair events. The Wheelchair category will allow schools to enter athletes in another race category for MHSAA Regional and Finals competition. MHSAA staff will develop criteria for advancement. The committee's sentiment was that the sport of Track and Field can be more inclusive to students with disabilities and proposal was supported for advancement to the Council for a potential vote at their March meeting. Unified sport opportunities were also discussed as a potential exhibition event at Track and Field Finals. The MHSAA has a long-standing partnership with Michigan Special Olympics and will work to see if this may be an option this spring in an event or two at the MHSAA Track and Field Finals.

6. Additional Qualifying Standards for Track and Field Regionals and Finals were reviewed as compiled by the MHSAA Track and Field Standards Committee.
7. Participating School Tournament Information and Manager Materials – The committee reviewed both documents.
8. 2022 Track and Field Final Sites:
  - Division 1: Rockford HS
  - Division 2: Forest Hills Eastern HS
  - Division 3: Kent City HS
  - Division 4: Sparta HS or Hudsonville Middle School
9. Regional Entry deadline – Tuesday, May 17 at 11:59 p.m. was determined to be the best time to allow Regional hosts and timers to get data to their events and races yet still allow coaches flexibility on updating marks prior to Regionals.
10. Coaches being allowed on infield at Final meets was reviewed and reiterated that this will be done at all MHSAA Finals sites with a coach's box on the infield.
11. Regionals and Finals Throw protocol will be 1, 1, 1 at all MHSAA tournament throwing competition in Track and Field.
12. ATOM discussion on waterfall and the "step up" start will be an emphasis for Starter's and Officials in competition to provide more consistency in this area. MHSAA documents and the website will be updated in these areas as a guide and help for Track officials.
13. MITCA discussion on the Team State competition which has been conducted for 26 years by MITCA. A MITCA subcommittee has discussed ways to enhance this competition including the MHSAA conducting this event like what the sport of Wrestling does with an MHSAA Individual and Team competition. The committee discussed protocols, scheduling, structure and timing of a potential proposal. The committee recommended to MHSAA staff that this be an MHSAA Update meeting survey question in the Fall and potentially go to the Rep. Council for a vote in the 2022-23 school year.
14. MITCA discussion on MHSAA sponsorship of Indoor Track and Field. There is sentiment to see if the MHSAA would be interested in adding this sport to its sport tournament offerings. The committee recommended the MHSAA convene a subcommittee to bring all parties to the table regarding this potential ask in the sport. This subcommittee will meet in the Fall of 2022 to gauge interest, ask questions and get all parties to the table.

## **Cross Country**

1. Review of 2021 Cross Country Tournament
  - Timing with Image Based Results
  - Live Results
2. 2022 Cross Country Calendar:
  - LP Finals – Michigan International Speedway – Sat., Nov. 5
  - UP Finals – Gladstone HS – Sat., Oct. 22
  - LP Regionals – Oct. 28 and 29
  - First Practice – Aug. 8
  - First Competition – Aug. 17
3. Site Selection Committee – May 4, 2022
4. An update was provided on Classification Committee discussion on future classification in XC and all sports.

### **Recommendations to MHSAA Staff**

1. Track and Field Finals Meet - Create coach's box on infield for running event coaches.
2. Track and Field Regionals and Finals – Shot Put and Discus will follow the 1, 1, 1 method of throwing in these events.
3. Track and Field Regional Entry deadline will be Tuesday, May 17 at 11:59 p.m.
4. MHSAA staff will establish an Indoor Track and Field subcommittee for discussion and future MHSAA involvement.
5. Develop MHSAA Update meeting questions related to Team Track and Field involvement of the MHSAA for the Fall of 2022. Continue discussion with MITCA Team Track and Field subcommittee to determine protocols, entry procedures, scheduling and advancement.
6. MHSAA Staff will work with Michigan Special Olympics to see if there is desire to have Unified events at MHSAA Finals in Track and Field.
7. Recommend to the MHSAA JH/MS Committee that they discuss the addition of MHSAA Track and Field Regional competition to the MHSAA tournament calendar.

### **Recommendations to the Representative Council**

Establish an adaptive wheelchair Track & Field category for participants at Regional and Final meets beginning with the 2022 season. Additional events such as the 100m, 200 m and 400 m wheelchair category would be established using existing MHSAA track & field events. Races would be open to eligible wheelchair track & field athletes at MHSAA member schools. Requirements would be established for both the regular season and postseason including advancement with places. This would follow the para-athlete competition MHSAA Swim competition. Individual medals for these events would be awarded. A combined team scoring system could be investigated for implementation IF there are enough adaptive or wheelchair athletes in the future. Other event advancement criteria and event limitations would be developed. (18-0)