



2023-24 MHSAA SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION
Published May 2024

This summary does not include all Council action. Minutes of the Dec. 1, 2023, and March 22, 2024, meetings were published at MHSAA.com. Minutes of the May 5-6, 2024, meeting have been sent to all superintendents; and all high school and junior high/middle school principals, athletic directors and city wide athletic directors have been emailed a link to a download location at MHSAA.com. Changes take effect Aug. 1, 2024, unless otherwise indicated.

High School Regulations

A. Regulation I, Section 9 – The following note was added.

Note: For a school district with at least three high schools comprised of both boundary and non-boundary schools, a transfer student (who meets an exception) is eligible immediately at the boundary school (attendance area of residence). If a student is accepted and enrolls at a non-boundary school, the student is eligible at the closest non-boundary school to the new residence. In this case, that student is no longer eligible at the boundary school of residence once enrolled at the closest non-boundary school.

B. Regulation I, Section 9(E-4) – Approve the following addition to the “links” regulation.

(4) One of that high school’s coaches served as a school employee or third-party contractor at the former school, personal sports trainer, conditioner, or instructor (paid or volunteer) for that student. Note: The ineligibility will apply to all sports a student previously participated in during the previous or current season when transferring into a school where a non-sport-specific instructor (e.g. school employee/third-party contractor or strength and conditioning coach) is on staff.

C. Regulation II, Section 1, Interpretation 178 – Clarifies in-state and out-of-state teams that MHSAA member schools may participate with and against.

178. Except as required by Regulation II, Sections 5 and 6, MHSAA member schools may participate against in-state non-member teams (including non-school community teams), regardless of who the sponsor is and the number of schools and non-school teams involved, except that senior high school varsity football competition may only be against bona fide high school teams. See Regulation II, Section 9(D). Member schools may not compete in any sport against out-of-state teams that are not bona fide high school teams.

D. Regulation II, Section 8, Interpretation 203e – Playing Rules.

203e. Schools may permit the wearing of head adornments such as a hijab or leggings covering the legs because of firmly held religious reasons by the student without advance MHSAA approval. Head adornments must be securely fastened and not affixed with any non-yielding fasteners (i.e., pins). Hijabs and leggings must be of a single color and not be a safety risk for the student or opponents. A religious insignia can be uniformly displayed on athletic uniforms for faith-based schools.

E. Regulation II, Section 9(C) – Clarifies when football scrimmages may occur.

A school may not take part in an interscholastic scrimmage session with other schools until the Wednesday of the second week of practice as long as the team has conducted football practice on at least seven (7) separate previous days. A joint practice session with two or more schools is considered a scrimmage session and cannot take place until a team has conducted football practice on at least seven (7) different days previously.

F. Regulation II, Section 9, Interpretation 210 – Regardless of the location or time of year, after once representing an MHSAA member school in competition in any MHSAA sport, an individual student(s) shall not participate in any out-of-season football camp, competition, clinic or combine with equipment of more than football helmets and football shoes. Out-of-season during the school year and summer (except as prohibited during the summer dead period), participation by a student in football practice involving physical activity which may be offered as part of an out-of-season or summer camp combine, competition or clinic is not a violation of this section as long as player equipment is limited to football shoes, helmets and footballs. The one exception is that shoulder pads may be worn at college summer camps sponsored and run directly by NCAA/NAIA institutions which must be an individual athlete camp sponsored and run directly by the institution. Team camps or schools that rent or use college facilities out of season may never wear shoulder pads (full shoulder pads or “spider” pads) and are subject to all off-season and equipment rules. See Regulation II, Section 11(H) 2.b. (1) (2) and (3).

G. Concussion Policy – Updates were made to the current concussion policy, adding references to practice sessions. See *MHSAA Handbook* page 120 in the 2024-25 edition.

H. MHSAA Tournaments & 50/50 Raffles – The following language will be added to all Tournament Managers Materials.

MHSAA tournament hosts can conduct 50/50 raffles provided the host site manager requests and receives the appropriate license from the State of Michigan.

Calendar Updates

Winter Calendars – Adjustments were made to the length of the winter sports season with special focus given to the current late finish in March. Changes to Final dates were made in some sports which were strongly supported by member schools. No changes were made to the winter calendar for 24-25 and the first adjustments were made to the 25-26 dates and beyond. Check the Quick Reference and Seven-Year calendars at MHSAA.com.

Emerging Sports

New Sports – Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, two new MHSAA tournament sports will be girls field hockey (fall) and boys volleyball (spring).

Officials

Ejection Penalty – The penalty was expanded for any coach or player who is ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing or intentionally and/or aggressively physically contacting an official at any time during that season, or who commits such acts after being ejected. The new penalty for the individual shall be suspension for the next fourteen (14) calendar days of competition from the date of the incident. Following this penalty with completion of the required online sportsmanship course, the school district shall inform the MHSAA on school letterhead that the ejected individual has been reinstated to the team as a player or coach and is eligible for future days of competition. When the coach is ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing or intentionally and/or aggressively physically contacting an official at any time during that season, or who commits such acts after being ejected, the coach is not eligible to coach in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season. The disqualified coach shall not be present on site or within sight, sound, or communication. This MHSAA tournament penalty for the coach is in addition to the fourteen (14) calendar days of competition suspension.

Minimum Number of Officials & Compensation Policy – The Council approved the minimum number of officials required to work an event for each sport to assist with issues regarding officials working shorthanded beginning with 2024-25. This change in policy will be published in the *2024-25 MHSAA Officials Guidebook*.

Sports Medicine / Risk Minimization

Emergency Action Plans & AED's – Starting with the 2024-25 school year, high schools must attest by each season's established deadline that their high school sports coaches have emergency action plans specific to location, which are posted, dispersed, rehearsed, discussed, and documented within their practice plans. In addition, all MHSAA tournament host sites must have an AED within visible distance (within 1-3 minutes) of the event.

Sports

Baseball – Require all schools, starting in the 2024-25 school year, to submit the pitch count information by noon the following day of the game to an electronic form for all individuals and pitches from the previous game(s). This is for varsity competition only.

Basketball – Seed all teams in each District tournament using MPR.

Bowling – Allow hosts to deviate from the traditional Friday-Saturday dates, and conduct the Bowling Regional events on two consecutive days, Wednesday-Saturday, for the purposes of increased bowling center availability and scheduling flexibility. Additionally, bowlers may now compete on a varsity and subvarsity team on the same date of competition.

Cross Country / Track & Field – In track & field, establish an early automatic qualifying window to allow athletes to qualify for the MHSAA Finals throughout the regular season at any meet that meets the Early AQ race guidelines and standards beginning with the 2024-25 school year.

For the past two years, the MHSAA has provided a pilot program that includes MHSAA tournament experiences for adaptive (wheelchair) track & field athletes at the Regional and Final levels. This pilot program was approved as a permanent offering, beginning with the 2024 MHSAA Track & Field tournament at all LP and UP sites.

Football – For the 2025-26 school year, establish an enrollment cap for Division 8 football of 250 students or less.

Golf – A site selection committee was created to review Regional tournament groupings and determine host schools and courses.

Girls Lacrosse – Allow use of the 5th quarter rule for an individual effective for the spring of 2025 with overtime considered an extension of the fourth quarter. For multi-team tournaments, if two school teams are at the same event, allow participation in no more halves or quarters than what is being played by the school's highest team level that day.

Soccer – Seed all teams in each District tournament using MPR. Additionally, institute a running clock in the first half when the goal differential is eight or more.

Softball – Permit schools to play District softball tournament Semifinal and Final games on either Thursday or Friday if all participating teams agree effective with the 2024 tournament. If one school dissents, the default tournament date will remain Saturday.

LP Swimming & Diving – All times entered for both individual and relay events at the MHSAA LP Championship Meet must be times that (a) are the fastest achieved in actual varsity competition during the current season and (b) can be electronically verified on SwimCloud.com.

LP Tennis – Allow staff to determine if too few schools are sponsoring tennis to continue having eight (8) Regionals by using 288 schools, or 72 per division sponsoring tennis, as the number to reduce the number of Regionals to six (6).

Wrestling – Award a “team” championship and runner-up trophy in girls wrestling based on individual points earned at the Individual Wrestling Finals. In addition, the penalty for a wrestler competing at an ineligible weight class was amended.