

2024 SKI COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 9:30 am – East Lansing

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Fisher, Novi
Aaron Frank, Birmingham
Tim Gariglio, Clare (MHSSCA)
Casey Lombard, Holly (MIAAA)
Casey McGovern, East Grand Rapids
Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs
Todd VanTongerren, Grand Rapids
Mark Weymouth, Bloomfield Hills
Betty Wroubel, Pontiac

GUESTS

Rich Kieft (MATS)
Don Tyrell, Lake Orion

MHSAA STAFF

Cody Inglis (Recorder)
Paige Winne

The Ski Committee met on October 16, 2024. The committee was reminded of its responsibility and the process by which rule changes occur. The following discussion and action took place.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2023-24 SKI MEETING MINUTES REVIEW

The committee reviewed last year's Ski meeting minutes, including staff recommendations that were additions to the MHSAA Ski Tournament in 2024-25.

SKI MANUAL EDITS

The committee discussed edits to the *Ski Manual*, which is the official rules book of MHSAA ski racing. The manual was completely rewritten in 2018-19, and the Ski Coaches Association has a subcommittee that suggests changes to the MHSAA Ski Committee each year. No major rewrites or edits were suggested this year, but discussion on future edits included the use of chin bars on helmets in the Giant Slalom, better defining the finish gate area distance, adding additional language about emergency action plans, and changing hand timing language to allow alternative methods of secondary timing.

MHSSCA UPDATES AND GENERAL DISCUSSION

Tim Gariglio, the Michigan High School Ski Coaches Association President, updated the committee on topics the ski association board has discussed, including membership growth, *Ski Manual* edits, course setting, coach education, JH/MS race involvement, and Regional realignment. The ski coaches' board will continue to address and work on these areas with the MHSAA and the Ski Committee.

The ski coaches board has established a timing committee, and committee members, including Don Tyrell, who serves as a timing/scoring advisor to the Ski Committee, provided updates, including a discussion on hand timing and secondary timing equipment. Two Regionals at Pine Knob used secondary timing last winter at Regionals with a two-wand finish system, and Don Tyrell presented a thorough report to the Ski Committee. The Ski Committee recommended that new language be placed in the *Ski Manual* about secondary timing and that secondary timing be used at the Ski Finals this winter.

Ski cooperative programs were discussed, including the process and protocols for establishing MHSAA regulations and the checks and balances to ensure that they are done for the right reason, like a school's lack of ski racers.

The committee discussed ski helmets and chin bar usage, and it recommended to the Ski Coaches Association Ski Manual Committee that this aspect of the *Ski Manual* more clearly define when a chin bar is mandated and when it can't be used.

A lengthy discussion on emergency action planning as a significant emphasis for MHSAA ski hosts, as a new requirement for all MHSAA schools, teams and events was completed. The MHSSCA was ahead of this MHSAA requirement and established an emergency action plan template for use by ski venues hosting MHSAA Ski Regionals or Finals starting last school year. The template will continue to be updated and shared with school hosts, ski hills, and race administration. Communication between ski patrol, ski coaches, and race administration is key to knowing who is responsible for all aspects of health and safety at a ski race.

Other health and safety topics include reviewing the cold weather/wind chill guidelines, the requirement of MHSAA head injury reporting, and cut kits at each venue for skier accidents.

MHSAA ski bibs have exceeded expectations, and while this topic has continued to be discussed, the committee felt strongly that it is time to investigate new bibs before the current bibs are unusable. The committee recommended that the MHSAA immediately purchase new bibs that will be used at MHSAA ski events.

REGIONAL AND FINAL SITES AND HOSTS' CONFIRMATION

2025 Finals – February 24, 2025

Division 1 at Nubs Nob– Host: Traverse City West HS

Division 2 at Boyne Highlands – Host: TBD

2025 Regional sites and assignments – Feb. 10-14, 2025

R1 – Schuss Mt. hosted by Traverse City Central

R2 – Mt. Holly hosted by Holly

R3 – Mt. Brighton hosted by Birmingham Seaholm

R4 – Boyne Mt. hosted by Boyne City

R5 – Cannonsburg hosted by Grand Rapids Christian

R6 – Alpine Valley hosted by Orchard Lake St. Mary

2024-25 APPROVED MHSAA/USSS MEETS

The USSS meet schedule was provided and approved. The committee was reminded that a racer profile form for each USSS skier needed to be on file with the school athletic director and MHSAA. MHSAA staff will update MHSAA materials to reflect the schedule and allowed non-school ski races.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MHSAA STAFF

- Ensure that there is a portable AED at the top of each Ski Finals race hill.
- Add language to the *Ski Manual* for secondary timing systems.
- Work on a gate judge video, including video and script, that can be shared with ski schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

No proposals from the committee.