michigan high school athletic association

PARALYMPIC SWIMMING EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITY

The MHSAA invites current high school swim team participants who hold a current classification U.S. Paralympic Swimming classification to participate in an exhibition event at the LP MHSAA Swimming & Diving Finals in November of 2024 (Girls) and March of 2025 (Boys).

At Final locations where one or more classified Paralympic swim athletes register, two exhibition races will be conducted during the Final session on Saturday. During that session, a public address announcement will provide information and background on Paralympic swimming while introducing the registered athletes as they prepare to compete. Freestyle exhibition heats (50 and 100) will be held with all participants being recognized by the announcer following the race with medals being presented. The number of heats will be proportionate to the number of entries and classifications.

The goal for this exhibition opportunity at the Final meet will be to bring awareness to Paralympic swimming opportunities while providing an avenue to collect data and identify classified participants within MHSAA member schools. There will be no qualification time required; the only requirement is that each exhibition participant hold a current U.S. Paralympic swim classification (S1-S14).

This classification can be obtained by attending a traditional in-person Paralympic classification, or by completing the following steps:

1) Complete the US Paralympic NMDF: National Medical Diagnosis Form
2) Create a short video of the athlete completing the following:
    a. Swimming all four strokes
    b. Starts
    c. Turns
3) Submit Form and Video to NPCUSAclassification@usopc.org
4) Athletes who obtain a U.S. Paralympic Swimming classification are welcome to register with the MHSAA for this exhibition event by emailing andi@mhsaa.com prior to the deadline listed below. (Please include the athlete's full name, school, grade and Paralympic Classification standard.)

Here is the timeline that will be used:

- Notification to member swim schools and launch of athlete registration at start of season
- **Athlete registration deadline**: November 1 (GSW) and March 1 (BSW)
- Finals Date: November 23, 2024 (GSW) and March 15, 2025 (BSW)

Future opportunities will be made based on the participation data through these exhibition heats at MHSAA Final meets. The MHSAA Swimming Committee will review the data and information on an annual basis during the duration of the exhibition opportunities.