

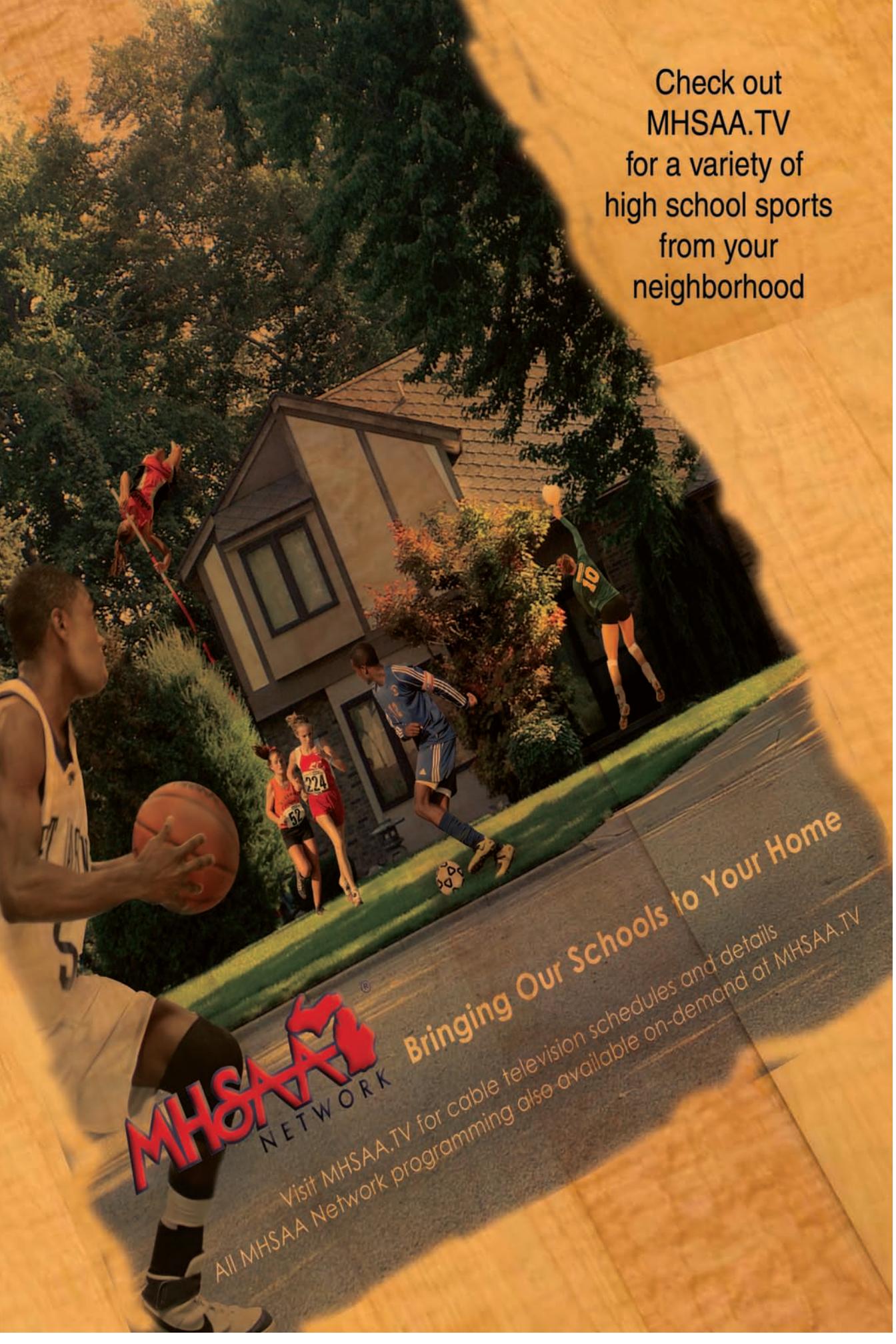
Making Waves

**Fall Season Splashed
with Swimsuit
Controversy**



benchmarks
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Cover Story: Swimsuit Ruling Creates a Splash



4 People speak metaphorically of the fabric of school sports. Never before has the literal uniform *fabric* been more of a centerpiece in the rules of school competition than it's been with the recently mandated swimsuit regulation.

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The Vault – 14

Trophy Games Take a look back at an MHSAA football feature which chronicles some long-running gridiron rivalries. To the victors go some very unique spoils.



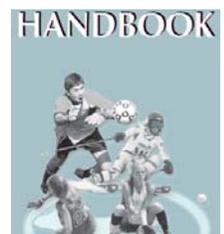
MHSAA News – 17

Web Gem The MHSAA launched its renovated website in August with a rejuvenated design and a bevy of online services which will benefit constituents and fans.



Regulations Review – 28

Why all the Stupid Rules? Believe it or not, there is solid rationale behind the rules and regulations which provide the foundation for MHSAA schools.



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“benchmark . . . a standard or point of reference . . .”



Welcome to the first issue of *benchmarks*. It is both surprising and perfectly natural that the MHSAA would launch a new publication at this time.

Surprising in that this issue marks the end of the MHSAA *Bulletin* which has served as the organization’s official publication since its first issue in 1925. At its height during the 1989-90 through 1991-92 school years, there were nine issues of the *Bulletin*, August through May. During the 2008-09 school year, there were five issues.

This issue also marks the end of *Mentor* which was first published for coaches in February of 1987 and then three times each school year beginning in 1987-88. The publication *Stripes* was launched for officials in March of 1987 and then published three times each school year. The two publications were combined under the *Mentor* title after the 2002-03 school year, and the three-seasons release was reduced to two issues in 2008-09.

So while it is surprising to observe the end of these familiar titles and formats, it makes perfect sense in this electronic age (see pages 17-18) that the MHSAA would be trending away from print and toward electronic communications. From a high of three different publications issued a total of 15 times during the school year, there is now a single publication issued three times each school year.

The publishing objective of *benchmarks* is to present news and discuss issues important to the leadership of school sports in Michigan, and the editorial staff plans to do so with greater style and substance than any previous periodical in MHSAA history. It is being provided free of advertising support or subscription cost to MHSAA member school superintendents, principals, athletic directors, head coaches and registered officials . . . the 30,000 most influential people in Michigan school sports.

We intend benchmarks to provide “standards or points of reference” as these leaders design and deliver educationally based athletic programs for the benefit of the more than 300,000 participants, the most important people in Michigan school sports.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John E. “Jack” Roberts
MHSAA Executive Director

Where Did It Go?

Mainstays from the MHSAA *Bulletin* such as Representative Council and Executive Committee minutes are still accessible to our member schools and the general public at MHSAA.com from Schools/Administrators. Sport-specific minutes, tournament information and brackets can all be found under the sport pages at MHSAA.com. Other MHSAA operational matters previously featured in the *Bulletin* will appear toward the back of each *benchmarks* issue in our “business” section.

To promote this new publication, first-year editions will be delivered to schools in bulk for administrators to distribute to coaching staffs as they see fit.

Basketball Fan Becomes Fan of School's Values

The following is a letter to Ann Arbor Skyline Superintendent Dr. Todd Roberts which was copied to the MHSAA

I have been attending high school basketball games in the South Central Michigan area on a regular basis for several years as I have a friend who is a referee. Most of the games I attend are played by Class C and D schools. In addition to watching and listening to the reaction of the crowds to the calls being made, I enjoy watching the coaching and the sportsmanship of the athletes participating.

I happened to attend a game between your team and East Jackson. I have to say that I was very impressed with both the coaching and the performance of the Skyline team members. Having only freshmen athletes has to put the team at a tremendous disadvantage. However, the coaches, especially Coach Bilbie-Bekius, remained positive and enthusiastic throughout the game. I was also impressed that she seldom sat on the bench and instead, actually did her job by actively coaching her team. The coach seemed able to always find something positive to say about the contribution of each member of the team. Her actions from the sideline were never negative and she found positive things in actions that most teams take for granted. I do not remember her saying anything negative to a player, nor did I see her criticize any player during the game or when they came off the floor. If a player made a basic mistake, the coach did not change her demeanor. From what I could see, the coach frequently went up to a player when she came off the court to explain or coach that person about her actions on the floor. I did not notice any time when she seemed to substitute a

"I think what most of us want for our young athletes is for them to develop a love of the game that they can take with them when their high school playing days are over. "

player because they made a mistake. Not many coaches can say that. I assume that Coach Bilbie-Bekius used these same coaching skills throughout the season. In fact, my friend mentioned to me after the game that all three of the officials were impressed by the performance of both the coach and the players .

The actions and demeanor of the coach are also reflected in the members of her team during and after the game. It is very clear that the athletes enjoy playing for Coach Bilbie-Bekius. She has allowed them to learn the game but enjoy what they are doing without the focus always being on getting the win. In the end, I think what most of us want for our young athletes is for them to develop a love of the game that they can take with them when their high school playing days are over.

The Ann Arbor Skyline school district was very fortunate in its' hiring of Coach Bilbie-Bekius. I hope you are equally successful in hiring coaches for other sports so your district can continue to a positive perspective in the athletic programs you offer.

*– Lauren Grinage
Concord*

Future Sports?

The following are comments in response to MHSAA.com's "From the Director" Blog on Aug. 18 regarding the most popular non-MHSAA tournament sports. Among them were archery, snowboarding, figure skating and weightlifting.

Sure, those may be the "cool" sports, but they also seem like they go against the concept of "school-centered opportunities with maximum bang for the buck," as most of them would require significant costs to use an already-limited number of facilities, especially for snowboarding and figure skating.

Has anyone every actually seen an archer? I wonder how that showed up on both boy's and girl's lists.

I am not also big on weightlifting. My guess is that w'lifters already play one of the "contact" sports (FB, Lacrosse, maybe Hoops), and will not bring any different athletes into athletics.

I'm surprised that boys volleyball didn't emerge as a future sport. On the other hand, we're not in California where everyone plays on the beach. I think other states have boys VB among their choices, but what season would be suitable if it became a reality?

Shots on Goal offers readers a forum for feedback. Submit your opinions, share your experiences or offer suggestions to benchmarks@mhsaa.com. Be sure to visit MHSAA.com for MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts' twice-weekly blogs. Comments are encouraged, and may also appear here in ***Shots on Goal***.



A tidal wave of records and concern for the future of swimming ultimately doomed a trendy fabric and style of swimsuits.

Visual image Photography

Metaphorically speaking, the *fabric* of school sports is a woven textile comprising student-athletes, coaches, administrators, parents and officials; the people who pump life into our competitions.

But none of those groups have attracted nearly as much attention at the outset of the 2009-10 athletic season as, well, actual *fabric*. Literally speaking.

Long a sport which operates under the radar – and to a large extent under water – swimming & diving has generated far-reaching waves thanks to recent regulations regarding the fabric of competitors’ swimsuits.

The vortex of these suddenly turbulent waters was given birth by record-setting performances. Lots of ‘em. The wake produced by swimmers encased in polyurethane as slick as snake oil and buoyant as a liferaft ultimately created a whirlpool which could no longer be ignored. The only part missing from this equipment – it was hardly fair to call it a uniform any longer – was a motor; the athletes had to do something, after all.

While that hyperbole seems extreme, so were the suits. And thus, one by one, swimming governing bodies took note and began drafting legislation to calm the waters and return the sport and the credi-

bility of its records back to the athletes who train so hard each day rather than those who wriggled themselves into shiny new suits for the biggest dances.

“These high-tech suits had fundamentally altered the sport and become more similar to equipment, rather than a uniform,” said Becky Oakes, National Federation of State High School Associations assistant director on Aug. 11, the day the NFHS ruled on such suits. “The rules of swimming have always prohibited the use or wearing of items that would aid in the swimmer’s speed and/or buoyancy. The technical suits and styles had evolved to a point where there was little compliance with these basic rules.”

Anatomy of a Rule

Feb. 2008

Speedo’s polyurethane-paneled LZR suits make a splash

Aug. 2008

23 World Records are set in LZR suits at Beijing Olympic Games.

Winter 2008

Speedo competitors respond with X-Glide and Jaked, with polyurethane foil and rubber coating

March 2009

A combined 70 NCAA records fall at Division I, II and III Championships

To be fair, the high school legislation is more preventative rather than reactive. The biggest culprits and the most widespread abuse of the swimsuit craze were found at the international level, most recently at the FINA World Championships this summer where a dizzying 43 records were set. But, in the copycat world of athletics – especially when results are proven – the trickle-down effect was imminent as the propensity for polyurethane dripped from the world-class level, to NCAA, to the prep ranks, albeit modestly so in the high school pools.

“At the high school level, I don’t think there were many – or any – of the LZR, and the Jaked suit was introduced after last high school season,” said MHSAA Assistant Director Gina Mazzolini. “The rule change that is most overlooked from our standpoint, is the ‘one-suit-only’ rule. The new rule regulating length of the suit and the ‘one-suit’ rule will have more impact on our high school swimmers than the textile rule.” (see box on page 7).

MHSAA swimming official Sue Barthold (Kentwood) agrees. “Last year some schools bought three or four suits and the kids shared them in the big meets. So one kid would swim and then take it off and someone else would use the same suit, wearing their own suit underneath the speed suit.”

Fellow official John Leidlein (Detroit) thinks the high-tech suits created more gamesmanship than actual physical advantages for most school-aged swimmers.

“At the high school level I believe the full body suits had more of a psychological impact on the competition rather than an outright advantage. Leveling the playing field, so to speak, probably will make all swimmers feel they have a chance to compete at an equal level,” Leidlein said. “For some swimmers, full body suits would not make any more difference than motion lotion did in the past, but psychologically the participant thought they had a greater chance to perform better.”

Just how many of the now-banned suits would have made their way into high schools is hard to predict. But the allure of records and personal bests pre-

viously unthinkable would certainly have created temptation.

Apparently, the display from the world’s best swimmers in Rome was enough for FINA to pull the plug before the issue began to fill school pools. FINA announced on July 31, during its World Championships, that the ban on the high-tech suits would take place Jan. 1, 2010, giving manufacturers enough time to develop suits conforming to the new regulation. Styles such as the Speedo LZR Racer, Arena X-Glide and Jaked 01 are on the way out.

Other organizations were quick to follow FINA’s lead.

The NCAA – which saw a combined 70 meet records fall at the Division I, II and III men’s championships in March 2009 – announced plans to restrict suits following the FINA decision, as did USA Swimming, and then the NFHS on Aug. 11.



Visual image Photography

Leg-length suits are one of the outlawed styles by the recent swimsuit regulation.

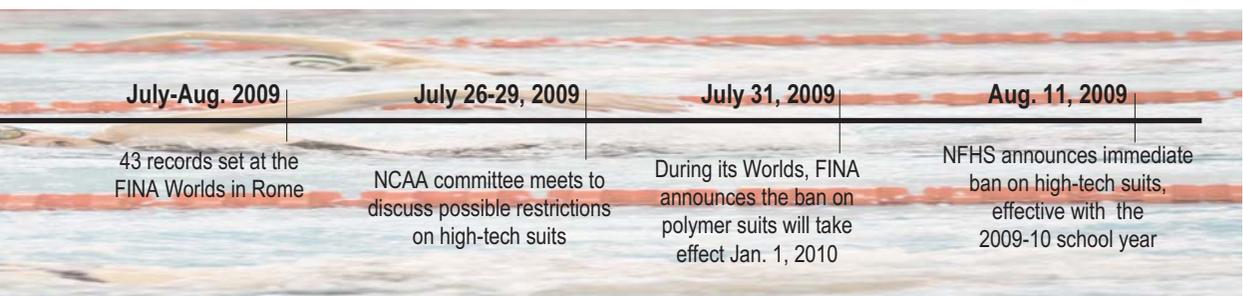
“Normally on NCAA sport committees, you have two or three conference calls a year, you go to the championships and you have an annual meeting,” said Tracy Huth, Oakland University athletics director and

chair of the NCAA Division I Swimming Committee, in a recent NCAA News. “In this case, I can’t count the number of conference calls and impromptu meetings we’ve had since the suit issue emerged.

“All I know is that this is something that could have fractured us across the board in swimming in this country, but a lot of people have made a concerted effort to move in the right direction.”

While the regulations may vary slightly from FINA to the NCAA to the NFHS, the essence of the rule is the same: suits will be made of textile fabric rather than polymers, and restrictions on length and body coverage also will apply. As a general rule in style, men’s suits may no longer go above the waist nor below the knees; women’s suits may not go

– continued next page



below the knees nor cover the neck or extend beyond the shoulders (see box on next page for the abridged requirements).

The question might arise, so what's the big deal with technologically aided performances? Advanced equipment in golf and

tennis has altered those sports. Why such controversy over swimsuits? One of the answers centers on swimming's lifeline: the record books.

"I'm really in favor of the suits, because we're the most popular boring sport in the world, and so we need and only survive on records," Austrian swimmer Markus Rogan told the *New York Times*. "So we're going to need whatever we can do to keep doing records."

On the other hand, such a heaping number of records potentially served only to cheapen them and leave a lasting black eye on the sport. And, perhaps the only numbers more staggering than the records are the prices for the suits, ranging in the hundreds of dollars per.

USA swimming sensation Michael Phelps, in the same article, said, "Now it's not swimming. The headlines are always who's wearing what suit."

"I think most coaches were expecting a rule change but not until 2010. All in all, there hasn't been any negative feedback." — MHSAA Assistant Director Gina Mazzolini

fabric regulation bring to the decks, and how easy is it to recognize illegal fabric?

"Determining the legality of a suit should fall on the coach and athlete," Leidlein emphasized. "If a coach allows one of their swimmers to wear illegal

equipment they are not doing a very good job of being a coach or mentor to their athletes. Every official should feel they can walk on deck and expect the coach has already reviewed the attire and determined that all comply with the regulation."

Organizations such as the NCAA and the NFHS are seeking composite listings for legal and illegal suits much like the ones provided for approved baseball and softball bats. At this printing, such a list is still in the works, but there are suggested guidelines for swimming officials (see box on next page).

Dark clouds hover in regards to the records set by swimmers wearing the now-banished suits. There will be no asterisks, no rescinded records; all times will stand.

"The question remains about the records that were set with the speed suits," Barthold said. "Now it may take a while for the records to fall. Also, what



Visual image Photography

The long and short of the ruling: A more uniform look to competitions.

An even stronger opinion comes from American Swimming Coaches Association Executive Director John Leonard, in the *Washington Post*: "The rise in suits has been more destructive than anything the sport has seen in 50 years, including doping."

At the prep level, the coaching community appears relieved that all athletes will now be in the same competitive pool.

"In communication with coaches, some were surprised with the new ruling, but fine with the adjustment," Mazzolini said. "I think most coaches were expecting a rule change but not until 2010. All in all, there hasn't been any negative feedback."

So now that a ruling is in place to suit the large majority of swimming world, the onus shifts to those officiating the meets. What new challenges does the

about the (MHSAA Finals) qualification times for this year which were lowered when the suits might have been used last year?"

There is no measurable data to determine the extent to which high-tech suits impacted times and records in MHSAA competition during the past two years; most feel the effect was miniscule compared to higher levels of competition. Thus, the NFHS regulation is being lauded for its preventative nature, quelling the potential storm that muddied FINA and the NCAA waters.

Now, at all levels, the focus is back on the swimmers and calmer seas ahead.

— Rob Kaminski
MHSAA Website and Publications Coordinator

Swimsuit Rule “Lite” — Officiating Tips

New Article 2...Suits worn by swimmers shall be limited to the following requirements:

1. Only one swimsuit shall be permitted in competition.
2. The swimsuit shall be:
 - a. Constructed of a woven/knit textile material;
 - b. Permeable (100 percent to air and water);
 - c. Not to aid in buoyancy
 - d. No zippers or other fastening devices (exception; waist tie for brief or jammer and elastic material within casing/ribbing in the terminal ends, for example straps and leg openings.
 - e. Size restriction
 1. *Males*: shall not extend above the waist nor below the top of the kneecap
 2. *Females*: shall not extend beyond the shoulders or below the top of the kneecap, nor cover the neck.



“The challenges are for officials to determine which suits are legal. The biggest clue was that the speed suits had zippers in the back that poured the swimmer into the suit. It will be easy to see those. The style of suit should be evident, too. For example, boys cannot wear full suits, or leg-length suits. One challenge is to make sure officials do their job before the meet to check suits.” — MHSAA swimming official Sue Barthold



When an official discovers a competitor wearing an illegal suit by the wearing of two suits, a suit longer than the size restriction or a suit of illegal construction, the swimmer is disqualified (see penalty for ART.2).

How to identify the violation:

1. Two suits should be relatively easy to identify.
2. A suit that doesn't meet the size restriction should be easy to identify.
3. A zipper running up the back is a good indication of a violation.
4. The construction should be identifiable.
 - a. “Textile” is defined as a material consisting of natural and/or synthetic, individual non consolidated yarns used to constitute a fabric by knitting, weaving or braiding.
 - b. Lycra, spandex, Polyridge, SpeedLine, StreamLine and PBT (texturized polyester) are considered textile material.
 - c. Any suit that has a coating on it (ie. plastic, rubber, foreign substance) that can be clearly seen may not be used for competition.

Related Readings

- Full NFHS Ruling – visit either the Boys or Girls Swimming pages at MHSAA.com
- “Swimsuits Stir Controversy,” MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts’ Blog at MHSAA.com, Aug. 21, 2009
- “End of an Error,” Brian Cazeneuve, *Sports Illustrated*, Aug. 10, 2009
- “New Swimsuits Roil Waters Again,” Vicki Michaelis, *USA Today*, July 22, 2009
- “Swimming fighting to keep new suits from ruining records,” Tim Dahlberg, *Associated Press*, July 25, 2009
- “Swimming committees prepare for suit issues,” Gary Brown, *NCAA News*, July 23, 2009



Our Own Little Stimulus Package

This is the first of a series dealing with the business of interscholastic athletics in Michigan.

Communities across Michigan have begun to look to our business to bolster theirs. They are trying to bring MHSAA events to their communities to stimulate their local economies.

As communities have lost manufacturing as their core economic engines, some have found convention, tourism and the sports and recreation businesses suitable replacement enterprises. And they have started to work more imaginatively to host MHSAA tournaments.

When scheduling conflicts at Michigan State University's Breslin Student Events Center caused the MHSAA to relocate its Girls Basketball Tournament from East Lansing to Ypsilanti in 2007, the projected economic impact lost to the greater Lansing area was \$500,000 for that single weekend.

In 1996, a marketing firm retained by the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau estimated direct spending during the three-day Boys Basketball Tournament was \$10.4 million, with a total economic impact of at least \$26 million.

More recently, and using more conservative analyses, an economics professor at Webster University retained by the Lansing CVB estimated the 2009 MHSAA Boys Basketball Tournament generated \$2.2 million in economic impact upon the local economy. (See "Invade Breslin," next page.)

The Battle Creek/Calhoun County Convention and Visitors Bureau has estimated that over \$13 million is spent annually by out-of-town guests attending MHSAA tournaments: girls volleyball in the fall; team wrestling in the winter; and baseball and softball in the spring.

Even with numbers like these, the MHSAA doesn't respond to communities' hosting interests with demands for lucrative paydays. Unlike colleges and professional events, we don't ask a community what they will pay us to host our tournaments; we ask what they can save us. How low can they keep expenses so that the events can be inexpensive for schools to participate and spectators to attend?

During the past year, Battle Creek and Lansing have responded with proposals to host MHSAA tournaments virtually free of any facility expenses. The local CVB led the effort to retain girls volleyball, team wrestling, baseball and softball in Battle Creek; MSU's athletic department led the effort to retain boys basketball and return girls basketball to their campus and the Breslin Center.

The MHSAA is grateful to the community leaders who have made it possible to keep MHSAA Final tournaments in their communities and to help us keep MHSAA tournament ticket prices the lowest for organized sport on any level.



MHSAA File Photo

High School Champs Invade Breslin

Boys Basketball Tourney Brings Buzz, Big Bucks to Area

While Michigan State was rolling through the NCAA Tournament last March, the Breslin Center played host to 16 basketball teams with their own championship dreams.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association crowned four titlists and created lasting memories for hundreds of players, coaches and fans with the 2009 Semifinals and Finals.

The local economy was another big winner. The event brought a different kind of electricity to the community – a measurable buzz while the Spartans were in Indianapolis. As people checked in and out of hotel rooms, enjoyed area restaurants and explored other opportunities, a quick check of the math demonstrates the impact.

Over 58,000 fans, many from other parts of the state, came to campus for 12 games. And just as spring melted the gray winter doldrums to make way for new growth, the success of this tournament brought similar signs of life and reawakening to a sluggish economy.

“We’re always excited to see the return of the boys basketball tournament,” said Mike Price, manager of sports development with the Greater Lansing Sports Authority. “It means warmer weather is around the corner, we get treated to some fantastic basketball games, and businesses throughout the community get a big shot in the arm.”

According to an economic impact study tabulated by SportsImpacts Inc., 91 percent of attendees for the Semifinals and Finals were from outside Ingham and Eaton counties. That bodes well for regional restaurants and hotels, as fans traveling far from home tend to rely more on hospitality services. The study showed that fans spent an average of \$62 daily per person on meals and entertainment. Research also indicated that of the 58,112 in attendance, 28 percent stayed at least one night at a Lansing-area hotel. The total economic impact on the community was just over \$2.2 million.

“We enjoyed a ton of additional business because of the tournament,” said Aaron Weiner, general manager of Buffalo Wild Wings in East Lansing. “We didn’t have to offer big discounts or anything, but placing take-out menus and promotional flyers at the March Magic Hoopfest

event and in a lot of the partnering hotels was really successful. The cross-promotion did a lot to help businesses while the tournament was in town.”

Just like successful teams, local service providers worked together to serve the region’s influx of high school hoop enthusiasts and drive their individual business goals.

“The increased room nights we get out of the MHSAA boys basketball tournament are huge, but also there is something extra special about



...fans spent an average of \$62 daily per person on meals and entertainment during the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals

hosting this particular group,” said Scott Smith, director of sales for the area’s Quality Suites hotel. “The kids are so positive it just sets an upbeat tone throughout the entire region.

“It has been absolutely spectacular working with the GLSA to bring sports groups into our hotel. It’s a fast-growing market for our whole community, and it has done some good things for our weekend business. We feel our hotel and the Greater Lansing community are perfectly positioned to host sports groups. We look forward to a long-term relationship with the GLSA.”

Price couldn’t agree more. After it appeared that the tournament might leave Mid-Michigan, it stayed in Breslin and again produced a win-win situation for all concerned.

“When we’re out there selling Greater Lansing as a host city for tournaments, we’re selling a lot more than just our athletic venues,” Price said. “Area hotels, restaurants and retailers play a big part in the process and stand to do really well when groups arrive. When these sports groups come to town, the whole community wins.”

– Brendan Dwyer
Excerpted with permission from the Greater Lansing Sports Authority

Marshall Thomas: Class was Always in Session

The end of Marshall Thomas' official affiliation with the Saginaw school system could not have been more appropriate.

Thomas, who began teaching and coaching in his hometown in 1972, was planning to retire at the end of this school year. But like every district in Michigan, Saginaw was in a financial pinch and layoffs were planned before the second semester was to begin in January.

"We had this one person who was going to lose her job and she was the only one working in her family," said Saginaw High assistant principal Don Durrett. "Marshall said forget it. He'd retire then."

Thomas, 61, downplayed his abrupt change of plans.

"I was going to retire anyway," he said. "I'm a firm believer that you're only as strong as your people."

That may be why Thomas knew from a young age that the only place he wanted to teach and coach was at Saginaw.

And after 37 years of doing so, Thomas has been selected by the *Free Press* as its 2009 Prep Person of the Year.

Born and raised in this blue-collar town, Thomas played football, basketball and baseball at "The High."

He attended Western New Mexico University on a basketball scholarship, but he also wound up playing football and running track. After earning his education degree in math and social studies, Thomas had job offers in Houston, Los Angeles and Minneapolis.

They were all nice places, but they weren't Saginaw.

When Saginaw didn't have a job to offer him upon graduation, he stayed at Western New Mexico and worked on his master's degree before returning to Saginaw in 1972 to teach and coach at Arthur Eddy Junior High.

Three years later, he moved to the high school to become Charles Coles' junior varsity basketball coach and varsity assistant for the next six years. But he came on one condition.

"I wasn't going to come if I had to teach gym," he said. "I wanted to teach math."

So he made his way back to Saginaw High, and it is safe to say the place was never the same.

Winning a Title

To most people, Thomas is the man who guided Saginaw High's basketball team for 22 seasons, compiling a 381-133 record, including the 1996 Class A MHSAA championship.

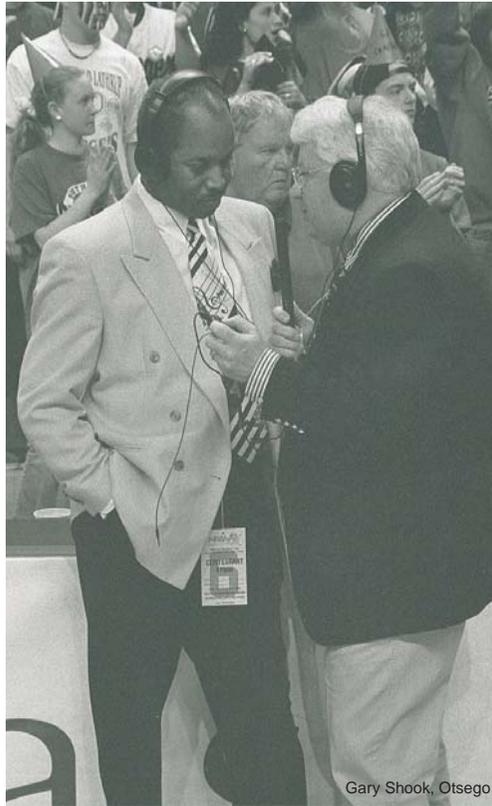
But winning games was just a small part of Thomas' value to Saginaw – the school, the community, the city.

He also coached the girls basketball team for three years and put the program in position to win the 1986 Class A title for Jim Milam.

Additionally, Thomas strongly encouraged his basketball players to play football, which resulted in the 1999 Division 2 state championship.

Durrett had replaced George Genyk as Saginaw's football coach, and he knows whom to thank for the success he enjoyed.

"To be truthful, we would never have won the state championship without Marshall," Durrett said. "He asked what time we were going to practice in



Gary Shook, Otsego

Thomas (left) impacted scores of students at Saginaw High in his 37 years, and leaves shoes that can never be filled.

the summer and he scheduled his practice for before that. He'd walk the kids out to the football field. He told them they needed to be tough to play on his basketball team. When Marshall started doing that, my career started."

Unlike some coaches, Thomas never discouraged his basketball players

from playing football. And he took a more active role in helping the football program under Genyk, and it carried over into Durrett's tenure.

"The only way to be successful is for the coaches to work hand-in-hand," Thomas said. "All of the previous coaches used to say the basketball coach did not want his best players playing football. It was never true. They used that as an excuse.

"George was an early riser, too. We would meet in the morning at Dawn Donuts, and we started talking. He brought up the question whether I was against my basketball players playing football. I wasn't against it and I had to show my support – even try to entice the guys go out for football."

Perennial Contenders

Thomas was a wildly successful coach. The Trojans were state contenders every season.

The person who knew the Trojans would continue to be a power under Thomas was Coles, now basketball coach at Miami of Ohio.

Coles noted that Thomas was a tremendous game coach, but his success was not just a byproduct of his knowledge of Xs and Os. Rather, it was his relationships with his players.

"The kids knew he was fair, and they also knew he meant business," Coles said. "Marshall was not going to waste words. He understood the kids very well and a lot of times he knew things others didn't know and he would operate with that in mind."

When Thomas left the classroom, he became athletic director and later an assistant principal who dealt with discipline.

Thomas brought a unique approach to discipline, one that showed his egoless devotion to Saginaw's students.

"I was a disciplinarian with love," he said. "If I ever had to get on someone, it was a teaching moment. If it was ever me or a student, I had to be the one to lose. I had to lose while they won – not me lose and they lose. I had to give them a way to save face, so they could walk out of the situation and at the same time maybe turn them around."

The 1996 basketball title was Saginaw's first in 34 years, and it firmly entrenched Thomas as local legend.

Naturally, he was overjoyed with winning the championship, but it was hardly the defining moment of his life.

"To be honest with you, when I was coaching, it was never about winning the state," he said. "You tried to win the state, don't get me wrong, but when I won it, it didn't fulfill me, and when I didn't win it, it didn't not fulfill me. What individual kids were doing after ball had a lot bigger impact on me.

"They didn't have to be a doctor or a lawyer, but they needed to lead a constructive life. Those were the things that always pushed me."

The key player on the '96 Saginaw team never played a minute of college basketball. Instead, DeRonnie Pitts played football at Stanford and in the NFL before an injury ended his career.

Pitts earned his MBA in finance at Stanford, where he is employed in the school's development office.

Pitts remembers Thomas as a hard-nosed, old-school, no-nonsense type of coach who demanded more than players knew they were capable of delivering.

"I never pushed myself harder than I did playing basketball for him," Pitts said. "The mental toughness I got from him is why I went on to play college ball and in the NFL for a little bit. It got me through business school, and that was just as hard as any of those other things.

"He's really the first coach that put that high a level of responsibility on me when I was in the 10th grade, and I loved it. I loved him depending on me and pushing me, and it developed me into a person who wants to be successful and a very driven person."

A Top Teacher, Too

Another of Thomas' more notable players was Lou Dawkins, who was Thomas' JV coach for six seasons before taking over the varsity five years ago.

Like most people who are asked about Thomas, Dawkins talked about Thomas in the classroom, not on the basketball court.

"He was a teacher," Dawkins said. "Once you listened to him you started to understand where he was coming from – and not just about basketball, but about life and becoming a man. When you took that, and combined with what he knew about basketball, he was extraordinary."

Thomas was extraordinarily generous. He certainly was not burned out when he gave up coaching. He easily could have coached another seven or eight seasons.

But Thomas knew Saginaw's talent level was going to be good for several years, and he wanted Dawkins to have immediate success. Dawkins' first team advanced to the MHSAA Semifinals, and he won consecutive titles in his third and fourth seasons.

"Here's what I didn't want to do," Thomas said. "I didn't want to get out and say, 'Lou, it's yours,' and the talent goes down. It was a time we felt he won't have as many problems. We had been successful enough that when the next coach came in, people were going to be dogmatic about it if he did not win. We knew we had people coming. Who could tell you'd get to the Semifinals – that was Lou's coaching."

Perhaps the most impressive statistic associated with Thomas is that he had accumulated more than 390 unused sick days when he retired. The handful of sick days he actually took were for family funerals.

It isn't difficult to figure out why two of Thomas' three daughters chose education as their careers.

"It wasn't a job to me," he said. "It was something you loved going to – every day. Not only did I enjoy working with the kids, I enjoyed working with my co-workers. We just enjoyed each other's company."

By retiring in January, Thomas was able to fulfill one of his goals – take part in a winter golf trip down south.

For years, Thomas' golfing buddies had encouraged him to accompany them on their annual outing, but Thomas couldn't bring himself to take the time off from school.

"I was never going to cheat and go out when I wasn't supposed to," Thomas said. "When I was golfing I loved that, but when I was at school I loved that also. We'll make it an annual thing now."

Durrett was right – they don't make them like Marshall Thomas anymore.

– Mick McCabe
Detroit Free Press
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Olivet Leader Embodies Character in Tough Time

Mark Twain once wrote, "It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world, and moral courage so rare."

Rare, perhaps, but not extinct, as showed in a situation involving the Olivet softball team last spring.

The Eagles were forced to end their season after Olivet Athletic Director Tom Sowles discovered that the team had played more than the permitted number of games before starting District play, rendering them ineligible for the MHSAA tournament.

The problem was, what was essentially an arithmetic error wasn't found until after the team had already won its District and Regional tournaments, and was three wins away from possibly being crowned champions.

But, once the error was discovered, Sowles faced the team, admitted his mistake, and told them that, because of the error, for which he took full responsibility, they would have to forfeit their state Quarterfinal game, and that their year was done.

I wonder how strong the temptation was to overlook the error, to let it slide, and hope that nobody else would catch it. If nobody else did, then things would have been a lot easier for everyone.

If someone did find out, Sowles could have simply thrown up his hands, said, "Oops," and the result would have been no different.

I can't sit here and tell you for certain that I would be able to resist the temptation in that situation. My experience with human nature tells me that few people could.

Sports teaches people a lot of things, but most of them boil down to the rewards derived from choosing to forsake that which is easy for that which is hard.



An opportunity for a championship slipped by, but the opportunity to do the right thing presents itself everyday. What one does with it could leave lasting impressions.

Integrity has been famously and anonymously defined as doing the right thing, even when nobody is watching. Sowles chose to do the right thing and report the violation to the MHSAA, even though nobody was watching.

I can't imagine how hard that must have been, especially when the inevitable sentiment that the girls deserved better was uttered. I'm sure the thought had already occurred to Sowles.

Unfortunate Result

I wonder how strong the temptation was to overlook the error, to let it slide, and hope that nobody else would catch it. If nobody else did, then things would have been a lot easier for everyone.

After all, says the guy standing on the wrong shoulder, it's not like there was any real competitive advantage gained by the extra game or games. There was no ineligible player or anything else that helped them win the District and Regional games.

An athlete endures hardship and pain, overcomes obstacles placed by opponents and rules, and emerges better off than if he or she had not attempted to endure and overcome, win or lose.

I hope that when the sting of this injustice wears off, this team can understand the lessons to be learned here, that doing the right thing is doing the right thing even when, or especially when, it's hard.

I also hope they learn it from Sowles' experience, and not their own; that nobody on this team is ever forced to look someone whom they care for in the eye and tell them, "I messed up, and because of it, you suffer, even though you did everything right."

I hope that, because, like Sowles, they deserve better.

– Scott Yoshonis
Lansing State Journal
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Help Our Future Leaders Make Good Choices

The following is excerpted from Saginaw Township Athletic Director Pete Ryan's address to Saginaw Valley League Coaches on Aug. 19.

Each year we come back to new challenges whether it is as a student, coach, administrator or fan. The challenges last year were gas prices at \$4 per gallon and how to become more efficient without losing quality in our programs. This year gas is more reasonable, but our state has seen a tremendous downswing in the economy. Budget cuts are forcing registration and participation fees or reductions in opportunities for our students.

Who would have thought we would see GM and Chrysler go bankrupt in the same year? How did our banking system almost crash, wiping out billions of dollars in investments? Where are the values and morals of folks who make decisions solely based on what is best for their stock price or their individual wealth? How do we teach kids when they see these issues every day?

With these challenges come choices for students, coaches and administrators. Now more than ever, we need to help students make good choices, because they are making a choice to participate. Now there is a cost, a fixed price on their participation. More than ever we have to sell **educational athletics**, not the off-brand of AAU or non-sanctioned leagues and programs trying to steal our kids. Our time in educational athletics is now, we need to stand up and fight for our students more than ever if we want to save athletics in this state. You as coaches will have to step up and lead our children by teaching them core values.

The Sporting News ranked the 50 greatest coaches in a recent article. These unique coaches shared one common characteristic; they knew how to get the most out of their teams. Our greatest coaches in Educational Athletics do more than just win. They are people like Marshall Thomas, selected as the *Detroit Free Press* Prep Person of the Year (see page 10).

You have that chance to be a great coach, but more importantly you have a chance to be a great person. You may not ever make *The Sporting News* top 50, but you can make thousands of kids' top 10. Remember why you are in this profession and why you chose to work with our youth. Why did you pick this profession where you work hundreds of hours for pennies on a dollar? Before I came in I checked the parking lot and there was not one Lamborghini parked out there. You're not here for the money, you're here for our future generation.

In this age when the pressures on student-athletes to compete come from all directions, it is important that we focus on not only improving their athletic skills, but also their skills to survive in

“Before I came in I checked the parking lot and there was not one Lamborghini parked out there. You’re not here for the money; you’re here for our future generation.” — Pete Ryan, Saginaw Township Athletic Director

today's world. We need to teach them to compete by following the rules and by making the right choices. Look at the negative headlines from pro and college sports that students are blasted with constantly. How can you make athletics a positive moment in your students' lives?

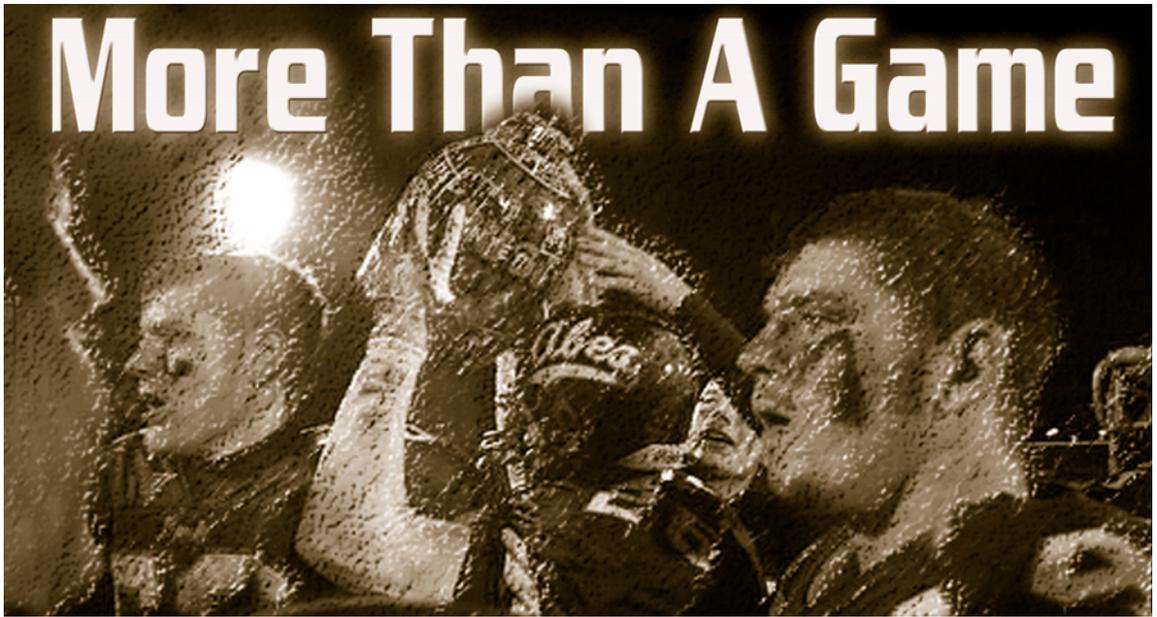
Many of us are facing huge budget shortfalls, or lack of interest by students, but it is still our job – no, our responsibility – to actively lead these students in a morally positive direction and to guide them to be our future leaders.

Coaching is one of the most important professions in the world because you have the opportunity to mold beliefs and values. Athletics should provide the opportunity for character growth. You need to help students develop character and improve it. It is okay to teach lifelong values in educational athletics, but you must remember that the experience alone does not teach the value.

Coaches no longer have the luxury of just coaching. You are now a fundraiser, a counselor, a parent, a friend, a planner, and a builder of the next generation of leaders. In your free time you have to do all of those things for your family and maintain your real job.

Remember that you are always being watched. Set a positive example for your student athletes both on and off the field. You represent your school, your community, the Saginaw Valley League and the MHSAA every day that you coach, teach or serve as an administrator. Take **pride** in what you do and do it to the best of your ability and show class when you win and lose. Respect each other and the job that each of you do. Follow the rules and teach your students to do the same even when it means a personal or team sacrifice.

Above all make it fun. Put yourself in a position to be a top 10 coach for thousands of our future leaders and be more than a coach on the field; be a leader in your community and in your school.



Pristine trophy cases around Michigan are marred by objects that wouldn't get \$1 at a garage sale. But, for the teams earning the right to place them there, they are crown jewels that outshine all the rest. It's more than a game . . . it's the Trophy Game!

In the fall of 1903, back in the days when touchdowns counted for five points and a point-after conversion was often called a goal, University of Michigan coach Fielding Yost and his point-a-minute gridiron warriors rode into Minneapolis for a showdown with the University of Minnesota. Brandishing a 28-game winning streak, Yost's squad held a 6-0 lead when, with a minute to play, the hosts knotted the score. Unbridled pandemonium from the crowd of 20,000 caused the game to be called. Left behind upon Michigan's departure was a five-gallon water jug, "neither little nor brown."

Found by Minnesota custodian Oscar Munson, the prize was emblazoned with the words, "Michigan Jug - Captured by Oscar, October 31, 1903." The score, "Minnesota 6, Michigan 6" was added, with the Minnesota score purposely dwarfing the Michigan score beside it. After a five-year break, Minnesota challenged Michigan to another game. "We have your Little Brown Jug. Come up and win it." So began one of college football's legendary trophy games.

More than 100 years later, the battle for the "Little Brown Jug" continues. Yet, in Michigan it is no longer unique. Spurred on by the excitement generated by the rivalry, the Great Lakes State now hosts at least seven additional battles for a Brown Jug. And, as is the case with their namesake, these jugs are seldom little or brown.

In the state's Upper Peninsula, Newberry High

School first played Sault Ste. Marie on the gridiron in 1911 and, for the most part, have squared off annually since 1923. To commemorate the battle between these schools, legend has it that in 1925, a Newberry druggist donated a Jug to serve as a trophy. The prize was to be retained by the winning team until the next meeting would determine ownership. The idea, of course, came from the Michigan-Minnesota rivalry.

In 1934, for reasons unknown, a new jug debuted. Fittingly, that game between the rivals ended in a 7-7 tie.

Over the years, the rivalry has generated many classic contests between the larger school from the Soo and the smaller Newberry district. The series was interrupted in 1940 and 1959, and then went on a five-year hiatus between 1999 and 2003. As school officials recognized the importance of series to the residents of the area, the rivalry was resumed in 2004 when the Blue Devils joined Newberry in the Straits Area Conference.

After suffering through eight defeats in the previous nine meetings, the Indians posted two straight victories once the series restarted. The 2006 season marked the 90th meeting between the schools, and, with a 27-7 win, the Blue Devils clinched a spot in the MHSAA playoffs

In the northwest part of the Lower Peninsula, Kingsley and Suttons Bay also play for a "Little Brown Jug." However, the prize has been repainted so many times there's no brown remaining.

The series began in 1968, but was interrupted the following year when Suttons Bay did not field a team. The squads returned the following year and they've been at it ever since. The contest also evolved into a nice little rivalry between good friends and former high school teammates for a spell, Suttons Bay coach Joe Trudeau and Kingsley coach Tim Wooer (currently no longer at the school). In an interesting twist, Suttons Bay also holds a 3-1 advantage in playoff games against the Kingsley, although possession of the Jug is not up for grabs in postseason contests.

Not far away, Northwest Conference rivals Manton and Mesick play for yet another "Little Brown Jug," as do Center Line and Warren Lincoln, and Union City and Athens.

In Union City, area resident Eli Hooker pitched to the Union City Athletic Union the idea of presenting a perpetual gridiron trophy to the winner of the high school's annual Little "C" Conference showdown with Athens. With the idea embraced by the group, Eli purchased a large jug from the Plantation Antique Shop in Union City. Following the 1947 game, members of the Athletic Union presented the "Little Brown Jug" to Athens, a 12-6 winner in the contest.

In southern Michigan, Brooklyn Columbia Central and Napoleon clash for custody of their own version of the "Little Brown Jug." The regional rivalry dates to 1967 and the opening of Columbia Central, which was formed through the consolidation of the Brooklyn, Cement City and Clark Lake school systems. The Golden Eagles lead the series in what is now the traditional season-opening game for the teams.

Traveling trophies take on all shapes and come in all sizes. Sometimes the award is linked with local folklore. Often, the prize serves as a memorial to accomplishment or remembrance. From time to time, the prize relates to the known landscape or to local industry. Occasionally, the reward is simply an object, large or small, that will serve the teams well.

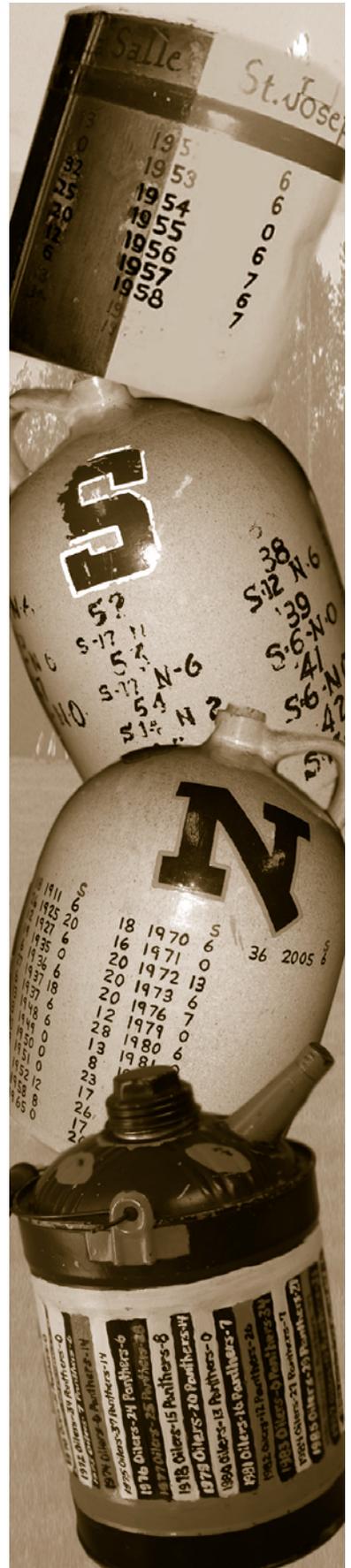
While these trophies seldom possess much monetary value, without question, their real importance grows beyond compare with each hard-fought victory and painful defeat. Their sentimental value is enormous, as they represent tangible evidence of conquest over a sometimes loved and occasionally a bitter rival. Memories are made of these.

The Michigan-Minnesota prize was inspiration for yet another trophy – this one a gargantuan "Cowbell." According to 94-year-old Frederic Hilbert, Wayland-area blacksmith Virgil Losey created the fully-functional facsimile in 1938 for use at a Wayland festival called the Cowbell Carnival. The arrival of World War II brought an end to the carnival and the giant Cowbell was stored away. On a train ride to Minneapolis for the 1948 "Little Brown Jug" game, Hilbert had the chance to view the famous trophy, and it stirred thoughts for using the idle Cowbell for a similar purpose. Hilbert brought the bell to a local artist "and asked him to gild it and arrange spaces to record" the results of the annual contest with Wayland Union High School's greatest rival, Caledonia. School officials accepted the Cowbell and with a 7-0 win in the fall of 1949, the Terriers took possession.

To the southeast, Constantine and White Pigeon square off annually for the right to exhibit the "Tomahawk." According to Con-

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Some trophies have outlasted the school's existence, like the Detroit St. Joseph-Warren DeLaSalle oil can above right (Detroit St. Joseph no longer exists). Others remain in circulation, such as the Newberry-Sault Ste. Marie jug (middle). Still other rivalries just die out, rendering artifacts to the corner of the trophy case, as the Alma-Mt. Pleasant Little Red Oil Can (below right) had its last owner in 2004.



stantine historian, David Horn, Belle the Mule unearthed an old stone Indian arrowhead while pawing the ground during a break from plowing a field on Whabememe Farm in White Pigeon. White Pigeon residents Leon Holsinger and Ervin Meltzer donated the find while local physicians Dr. Albert Wade of White Pigeon and Dr. George Sweetland of Constantine hatched the idea of adding a handle and turning it into a traveling trophy. In 1930, the first “Tomahawk Game” was played. Constantine emerged with a 14-6 win to claim possession of the new trophy.

The friendly rivalry was hosted on Thanksgiving Day each year until the early 1950s when the teams joined the upstart St. Joseph Valley League. In 1965, the game was moved to Saturday night where it has remained ever since.

Adding color to the tale of the Tomahawk, the trophy was reported stolen one summer in the mid 1970s. After some detective work, it was found in a pawn shop in Chicago and was returned home.

The closing of Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher ended “The Christian Brothers Classic,” a battle with the Pilots of Warren DeLaSalle for a 100-pound airplane propeller. Run by the same religious order, the schools started their series in 1969 thanks to the efforts of two Detroit St. Joseph alums, Al Baumgart, head coach of DeLaSalle and Tom Martilotti, coach of Bishop Gallagher. A metal propeller, painted blue and white on one side and purple and yellow on the other was selected to serve as the award, a play on DeLaSalle’s physical location – across the street from old Detroit City Airport.

Escanaba and Menominee once played for possession of the “Hinker Bell.” Salvaged from a scrapped logging train and donated for use by dedicated high school sports fan, John Hinker of Menominee, the bell was first awarded around 1948. While the series lives on, the battle for the Bell came to an abrupt halt in the 1980s when it came up missing. Rumor has it the bronze bell was stolen and was sold for scrap.

The winner of the Mendon and Centreville game earns the rights to a pair of Bullhorns; a play on the team nicknames – the Mendon Hornets and the Centreville Bulldogs. In 2006, Centreville snapped a 21-game losing streak to claim the ‘horns.

In many instances, a single event can forge long-term friendship or a Hatfield-and-McCoy-style feud. With each passing year, those accomplishments and incidents often grow in legend and meaning.

Since the fall of 1994, Reese and Unionville-Sebewaing have played for the Pioneer “Sugar Bowl.” Michigan Sugar Company, a cooperative of around 1,300 area sugar beet farmers, donates \$350 annually to the winning school. According to press reports, USA marched in for a touchdown late in the 2005 game even though the game was in hand. The following year, Reese, comfortably ahead, ran three plays inside the five in the final minute of action trying to score one more as payback.

Quite often, long-time rivals will add a traveling trophy to the mix.

In the Kalamazoo Central-Battle Creek Central series, a game that dates to 1893, a totem pole is up for grabs. The original version, hand carved by students from both schools, was stolen in the 1950s. A one-foot tall replica is now the prize.

In one of the state’s longest standing rivalries, Saginaw and Saginaw Arthur Hill once played for the “Lettermen’s Trophy.” First awarded in 1948, the handsome award featured the actual football used in the 1909 contest between the schools. They now play for possession of a traveling trophy sponsored by *The Saginaw News*, a plaque commemorating their 100th gridiron prep meeting.

Holland and Grand Haven began their long series back in 1901. Since 1948, the teams have challenged each other for the right to display a pair of oversized Wooden Shoes honoring the strong Dutch origins of the area. Estimates indicate that over 3,000 athletes have played in this heated battle that has occasionally boiled over into the theft of the Shoes, one painted Buccaneer Blue and Gold, the other Dutch Crimson and White from the winner’s trophy case.

A split of a school district also offers the opportunity to mark the occasion with the creation of a new trophy.

With the division of Traverse City High School, once the state’s largest, into Central and West in 1997, the new cross-town rivals began competition for a traveling trophy. The Nowak-Olson Memorial Trophy honors former Central and West students who lost their lives before graduation.

In Ann Arbor, Pioneer and Huron high schools meet in the Ted Heusel Bowl, with the winner taking hold of a trophy honoring the former school board president who initiated the annual football game between these crosstown schools.

Still, there’s nothing like a jug. In the western suburbs of Detroit, the winner of the Novi-Northville contest earns the right to display “The Baseline Jug” among the hardware in their trophy cases. The schools began playing each other in 1971, but this “Jug” was not awarded until 1988. Named for the section of 8 Mile Road that separates the two cities, the trophy was created by the *Novi News/Northville Record*, and in this case, the award was an authentic old milk jug. However, like others before it, the original jug was stolen sometime during the 1990s. A new trophy was commissioned and continues to be awarded to the victor.

“In all seriousness,” notes Novi Athletic Direct Curt Ellis, “this is a tremendously positive rivalry shared by two fantastic neighboring communities.”

It is a sentiment shared by many schools across Michigan.

— Ron Pesch
Ron Pesch is the historian for the MHSAA

Renovated MHSAA.com Hits Computer Screens

The beginning of a new school year brings a new look, new features and improved functionality to the Michigan High School Athletic Association’s website – MHSAA.com – which launched with a new design on Aug. 3.

Over two years in development, using input from schools, officials, media and the “Have Your Say Survey” conducted in the fall of 2007, the redesigned site will offer a variety of new ways for all parties to obtain information and services from the Association; with the one feature most requested – schedules and scores – at the forefront.

Beginning with the launch of the revamped site, MHSAA member schools can input their varsity competition schedules and team scores in all sports. Future plans include giving schools a platform for inputting schedules and scores at the sub-varsity level as well, and for providing additional statistical details from an event.

For the past few years, the MHSAA Website has become a go-to place on Friday nights during the football season for scores, with over 80 percent of games being reported by 11 p.m.. The popularity of the schedules and scores feature in football bodes well for expansion into other sports.

“Our website statistics show that of over 20 million page views in a school year, approximately 11 million of those views are for football schedules and scores. When we talk to schools, officials, the media, fans and student-athletes, they all tell us the



“...the MHSAA Website should be the location that centralizes that information in all sports.” – MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts

MHSAA Website should be the location that centralizes that information in all sports,” said John E. “Jack” Roberts, executive director of the Association. “With the relaunch of our website, the cooperation of

schools, and the phenomenon of crowdsourcing, we think what has taken place in football will improve and be replicated in all sports.”

Schools have been responsible for the input of information in the past for football, and will be the primary force in other sports, but the crowdsourcing element will provide a big boost in pushing the results-gathering process.

“We expect that schools will take the leadership in making the MHSAA Website the first place that people go for schedules and scores, either through an athletic administrator providing the information, or by delegating that task to a coach or responsible individual associated with the team that will keep the information current,” said Roberts. “Then through crowdsourcing, followers of a team or sport will be able to help fill the gaps to everyone’s benefit.”

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MIAAA Website to Receive Boost from MHSAA

One of the many beneficiaries of the renovated MHSAA.com is MIAAA.com, the official site of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, long an MHSAA partner in promoting scholastic athletics.

With the increased server capacity for MHSAA.com and a database conversion necessitated by many of the renovated website’s new features, the MHSAA will incorporate MIAAA data and member services into its programming this fall.

“We’ll gain more horsepower; more behind-the-scenes technological advancements to assist with our website,” said George Lovich, MIAAA executive Director. “And, we benefit from the database conversion because we no longer have a duplication of efforts. When we enter personnel changes into our site, they automatically are reflected in the MHSAA’s system. It’s a win-win situation.”



Individuals will be able to become a registered user at MHSAA.com, enabling them to be able to provide scores. “It would not be unusual for several registered users sitting the in stands at their local games to use their handheld device to provide us with the final score at a game’s conclusion,” Roberts said. “The ‘crowd’ provides the information and polices itself to make sure that the information submitted is accurate.”

The revamped site will also include new content, such as a regular blog from Roberts; will feature ways for visitors to support their favorite school through e-commerce solutions; be integrated with the MHSAA Network websites to audio and video broadcasts of regular-season and post-season tournaments; and utilize connections to social media such as Facebook and Twitter, set to debut later this fall.

“Our students are better connected in some ways than ever before,” says Roberts. “We believe that using some of the social networking elements of the Internet will promote positive interaction between young people well after our student leadership events are over; and it’s those personal connections that get converted on game day into great sportsmanship.”

From an administrative standpoint, school personnel and registered game officials will find improved navigation to existing tools to help them better communicate with the MHSAA; tools which will expand in the future to assist them in their day to day operations of their work with educational athletic programs.

Video Streaming Pilot Produces School-Generated Content

The MHSAA Network also has a redesigned website for the 2009-10 school year, and kicked off its schedule of MHSAA Game Night events on Aug. 28 when Watervliet and Coloma met for a 100th anniversary contest in football at Panther Stadium in Watervliet.

Last year, the MHSAA Network televised over 400 events on the MHSAA.tv website and with its cable television partner, Comcast Cable. This year, the weekly featured Friday regular-season contests will generally be available online Saturday morning; and other coverage will generally debut online late each week.

The MHSAA.tv website will also be the home to video content being created by member schools. **A pilot video streaming program is being undertaken involving schools from the Capital Area Activities Conference in mid-Michigan, plus Carsonville-Port Sanilac High School, which will chronicle its first season of eight-player football online.**

The schools voluntarily participating in the pilot are being provided at no cost the equipment necessary to create video and stream it to the MHSAA.tv website. When We Were Young Productions, which powers the MHSAA Network, and its technical partner, PlayON! Sports, are providing the equipment and the robust streaming platform.

Schools participating in the pilot will be paid for their participation, and will be allowed to use the equipment and the streaming solution to distribute their regular-season events in any sport they choose, at any level they wish. CAAC schools will have portal pages on the MHSAA.tv website which fans can directly access to see the content created by and for their school. Their only participation requirement is to stream those indoor MHSAA tournament games they host.

Based on this fall’s pilot, the MHSAA plans to expand the streaming program to include those schools hosting many of its winter sports tournaments.

“The proliferation of streaming video on the web has schools excited about the possibilities this has to bring recognition to their programs and stay in contact with their alumni, their communities and their fans,” said John E. “Jack” Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. “It also has schools contacting our office to seek guidance about putting their games on the Internet, and that conversation usually ends with the callers asking ‘why doesn’t the MHSAA just do it?’”

“With the vision of When We Were Young Productions and PlayON! Sports, we’re pleased that we can provide schools with a safe place where they can stream their athletic events; give students some hands-on experience in a growing field; and provide our schools with revenue for their programs without them having to hold their hand out in the community.”

Content created by schools for the MHSAA.tv website will generally become available for viewing online at 11:30 p.m. the day of the contest, or the following day. Most CAAC schools involved recently were trained on the use of the production kits and the streaming solution, and Roberts said those schools will begin to stream games as they become comfortable using the equipment.



Sports Participation Tops 300,000 Mark Once Again

For the fifth straight year in 2008-09, participation numbers for sports in which post-season tournaments are sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association topped the 300,000 mark, even as overall numbers dropped less than a percentage point.

The total for the 2008-09 school year was 304,343, a number that is down 0.9 percent from the 307,112 figure of a year ago and is the fifth highest total in the Association's history. Girls participation was down 1.3 percent from a year ago with 126,366 – its lowest point since 2003-04; and the boys total of 177,977 was down 0.6 percent – its lowest point since 2004-05. The totals count students once for each sport in which he or she participates, meaning students who are multiple-sport athletes are counted more than once.

For the second straight year, records for participation were set in five sports – three for girls and two for boys. Bowling and lacrosse each hit again a high-water mark for both boys and girls; and girls tennis also set a new mark.

Fall participation took the biggest single season dip at 2.7 percent, with football and girls swimming and diving each dropping over 1,100. The drop of 1,121 in swimming represented a 17 percent decrease, while the 1,102 slip in football was a 2.4 percent fall. Girls golf participation dropped 6.4 percent. The only fall sport on the plus side was boys tennis by eight players over the previous year.

Winter and spring numbers were relatively stable with a 0.5 percent increase in participation in the winter; and a 0.03 percent decrease in the spring. Girls gymnastics – one of the smallest sports in terms of participation – rebounded from a drop a year ago with a 156 increase in student-athletes – a 25 percent raise. Boys bowling was up 9.1 percent (309 increase), and girls bowling was up 6.7 percent (170 increase). In the springtime, girls tennis had the biggest jump percentage-wise and in raw numbers with an increase of 580 players – 6.1 percent. Between the two seasons, 11 sports saw increases and 9 sports had decreases in participation.

Also of note in this year's survey in other sports of interest:

- Basketball participation from 2007-08 to 2008-09 remained stable. Girls numbers were down 0.2 percent, and boys participation was up 0.3 percent; the girls figure of 18,187 the lowest since the Association began tracking the numbers in 1991-92, the boys total of 23,233 the second lowest in that same time span and the lowest in 10 seasons. Since the 2006-07 survey, girls participation is down 5 percent and the boys number is down 3.6 percent.



Visual Image Photography

Bowling for both boys and girls was once again one of the more rapidly growing sports in terms of participation numbers.

- Girls volleyball participation saw a 0.4 percent drop in 2008-09; the lowest it has been since the 1997-98 school year. Since 2006-07, volleyball participation has dropped 3.5 percent.
- Boys tennis, after a sharp decrease in players a year ago, had an increase of 0.4 percent this past school year. However, since the 2006-07 survey, the sport has had a 12.8 percent drop in participation. By comparison, girls tennis participation is up 2.4 percent in the same period.
- Boys golf saw an increase of 238 players over a year ago (3.1 percent) and is on the positive side since the 2006-07 survey, up 0.19 percent. Girls golf numbers are off 1.8 percent since the 2006-07 survey.
- And to put these numbers in better perspective, enrollments at MHSAA member schools are down 1.44 percent since the 2006-07 participation survey, and overall participation is down 2.8 percent.

The participation figures are gathered annually from MHSAA member schools to submit to the NFHS for compiling its national participation survey. Results of the Michigan survey from the 2000-01 school year to the present are at MHSAA.com. Click on "Schools," then "Administrators."

For complete 2008-09 participation numbers, visit the News page of MHSAA.com

Girls Tourney Attendance at All-Time High in 2008-09



Visual image Photography

Buoyed by a reformatted District and Regional tournament schedule in volleyball, attendance at Michigan High School Athletic Association postseason tournaments for girls set a new record during the 2008-09 school year, and contributed to an overall increase at the gate over the previous season.

Total attendance for 2008-09 was 1,487,514 with 1,097,918 fans at boys tournaments; and 389,596 spectators at girls tournaments. Attendance is kept for all sports except golf, skiing and tennis, where admission is typically not charged.

A reformatted girls volleyball tournament was instrumental in drawing record crowds for the sport last fall.

The girls attendance figure broke the old record of 384,646 in 2002-03, and was a 14.1 percent increase over 2007-08. The boys figure was a drop of 2.4 percent over the previous year, but for boys and girls combined there was an overall tournament attendance increase of 1.5 percent.

It was the MHSAA's work to reformat the tournament schedule by having schools play only one match per day that led to a record attendance at the District and Regional rounds of the girls volleyball tournaments, where 54,910 fans attended District matches and 17,766 were at Regionals. The Quarterfinals of the tournament also set a record with 7,463; and the tournament series hit a new high with 86,689. Ironically, the combined Semifinals and Finals attendance of 6,550 was the second lowest since the Association began compiling such figures during the 1990-91 school year; the 2007 Fall Finals total of 6,070 being the bottoming-out point.

Other girls tournaments setting new overall attendance records in 2008-09 were competitive cheer with 20,752; lacrosse with 3,897, and swimming and diving with 5,009. Boys tournaments to set overall marks were baseball with 49,411; and swimming and diving with 6,539. The MHSAA Bowling Tournament, at which boys and girls compete simultaneously, also set a new spectatorship mark with 11,442.

The overall attendance figure was up for the second straight year, but was still the third lowest since 1999-00, the first year of the eight-division football playoffs. Basketball was at an all-time low for boys with 340,370; and the girls mark of 153,287, while a 1.4 percent increase over the previous year, was its second lowest. The football playoffs had its second poorest year since the 256-team, five-week tournament began in 1999 with 449,162.

Online Ticketing For Selected MHSAA Finals Available in 2009-10



Fans will be able to purchase tickets online in advance of selected MHSAA Finals during the 2009-10 school year through an agreement reached this summer between the MHSAA and TicketLeap.

The service will initially be offered at the Finals level only in several sports, but it will expand to the Finals of most sports in the future, as well as to pre-Finals levels of some sports. In addition, constituents may utilize TicketLeap for advance registration to many MHSAA meetings and other non-competitive events.

"TicketLeap is proud to partner with the MHSAA as its exclusive online ticketing provider," said Mike Vaughan, Vice President of Business Development at TicketLeap. "Together, we will provide convenience and accessibility for MHSAA fans, families and friends to purchase tickets online for the first time."

It is anticipated the MHSAA 2009 Lower Peninsula Cross Country Finals at Michigan International Speedway and the Girls Volleyball Semifinals and Finals at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena will be the first tournaments to utilize TicketLeap. Details will appear on sport pages of MHSAA.com as the tournaments approach.

Student-Advisory Council in Place for 2009-10

Eight student-athletes who will be juniors at their schools during the 2009-10 academic year were selected in May to serve a two-year term on the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council.

The Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student's perspective, and is also involved in the operation of Association championship events and other programming. Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. Eight new members are selected annually to serve on the SAC, with nominations made by MHSAA member schools. The incoming juniors will join the group of eight seniors-to-be appointed a year ago.

Selected to begin serving on the Student Advisory Council in 2009-10 are: **Alexa Bean**, Livonia Clarenceville; **Dustan Craig**, Buchanan; **Elizabeth Gupton**, Lapeer West; **Charles Hengesbach**, Pewamo-Westphalia; **Jay Miller**, Ionia; **Benjamin Olson**, Troy; **Amanda Smith**, Bellevue; and **Chloe Weaver**, Climax-Scotts.

The Student Advisory Council will meet five times each school year. In addition to assisting in the promotion of the educational value of interscholastic athletics, the council will discuss issues dealing with the 4 S's of educational athletics: scholarship, sportsmanship, safety (including health and nutrition), and the sensible scope of athletic programs. There will also be a fifth S discussed by the group -- student leadership.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2010 member who were selected a year ago: **Mackenzie Lawler**, Okemos; **Andrea McIntosh**, Ann Arbor Greenhills; **Elyse McKenna**, Algonac; **Ryan Moore**, Central Lake; **Taylor Schultz**, Richland Gull Lake; **Nicole Trevarthen**, Iron Mountain; **Alex Van Tiem**, Detroit U-D Jesuit; and **Daniel Yats**, Clare.

SAC Application Process

To be eligible for the committee, candidates must:

- Complete the official application, including the three short answer questions.
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.
- Be available for all scheduled meetings, and possibly available for other commitments.
- Submit a letter of recommendation from an athletic director, principal or other school administrator stating why the candidate should be selected to the committee.

In addition, candidates should:

- Show a history of leadership on athletic teams as well as with other extracurricular activities, community service projects, or in the workplace.
- Show an understanding of the role of school sports, and have ideas for promoting a proper perspective for educational athletics.
- Applications for students in the graduating class of 2012 will be available this winter and due in mid April. Check back later for more information.

QUESTIONS? Contact Andy Frushour at the MHSAA – 517-332-5046 or afrushour@mhsaa.com.

SAC Belief Statement

As the voice of Michigan's student-athletes, the Student Advisory Council's role is to convey the message of how high school sports are supposed to be played. We are responsible for helping the MHSAA maintain a positive and healthy atmosphere in which interscholastic athletes can thrive.

*We believe **athletes** should be competitive, sportsmanlike and excel academically. We believe **students** in the stands should have fun, but not take the focus away from the game. We believe **coaches** should act as teachers, helping student-athletes develop while still keeping high school sports in perspective. We believe that **parents** should always be positive role models and be supportive of their child's decisions. We believe **officials** commit their own time to high school sports and respect should always be shown and given to them.*

The most important goal for student-athletes is to enjoy high school sports while keeping a high level of respect between all those involved in the games.

– Written by the Student Advisory Council,
adopted by MHSAA Representative Council
November 2007

Updated Tournament Officials Assignment Procedures

The MHSAA Representative Council has approved a change in tournament assignment procedures in all sports for the 2009-2010 school year. The revised process will consist of two steps.

- (1) The first step consists of initial, tentative assignments made by MHSAA staff using the following data: rules meeting completion, school ratings, number of ratings, years of registration, number of previous tournament assignments, consideration of highest tournament levels worked, submission of season schedule and the rules test score submitted by the official in each sport. In some sports, officials also must be members-in-good standing of a local Approved Association.

A key factor in this first assignment step will also be the number of recommendations that an official receives from a local Approved Association, MHSAA Registered Assignor and league/conference. These recommendations will be compiled to provide staff and selection committee members data as to how an official is perceived within the officiating community. The officials that are highly rated by schools and have outstanding data, along with recommendations from these three groups, will receive the strongest tournament assignment consideration.

- (2) Once these initial, tentative assignments have been prepared, members of each sport's tournament officials committee will review the assignments by zone and will offer input, suggestions and edits to make the strongest tournament assignments possible. This committee review will be done electronically and once this consensus on assignments has been reached, MHSAA staff will invite those selected officials through the online tournament invitation system.



This new approach to assigning tournament officials will rely on using all available data and input to make the best assignments and decisions possible. This process will also allow more time to make the best decisions as the on-site tournament selection meetings tended to be rushed because of the high volume of assignments made in a one-day meeting. Additionally, this process will be more efficient as tournament officials committee members will have more time to review all assignments while not being absent from their own local school districts.

The updated process has kept the best of past practice while enhancing new technology and available data to provide the best possible tournament officiating to MHSAA member schools. For more information, please contact the MHSAA.

Make The Right Call! Get Involved in Officials for Kids!



Officials For Kids began in early 2003 as a small group of mid-Michigan officials dedicated to the future of children's healthcare & the Children's Miracle Network. The ultimate hope for the program is that officials personal & association pledges, along with participation in fundraising events & initiatives, will make Officials for Kids a name synonymous with the continued improvement of children's healthcare across the state.

For a step-by-step startup guide for your association, information on the "Give-A-Game" program and a promotional video, visit the Officials for Kids page at MHSAA.com on the Officials page. Contact Andi Osters at the MHSAA for further information: aosters@mhsaa.com.

2008-09 Officials Registration Near Record Number

After a record-setting year for officials registrations in 2007-08, the 2008-09 number fell just shy, but the figure still bodes well for officiating's future in Michigan.

A record 12,743 signed up during the 2007-08 school year, and last year's total of 12,719 just fell short. Registrations were up in eight of 14 sports.

Here is a sport-by sport listing of officials registrations for the 2008-09 school year and the increase or decrease over the 2007-08 school year:

Baseball - 2,973 (up 141)
 Basketball - 5,855 (down 82)
 Competitive Cheer - 280 (up 17)
 Football - 2,880 (down 2)
 Gymnastics - 83 (down 7)
 Ice Hockey - 663 (up 9)
 Boys Lacrosse - 251 (up 51)
 Girls Lacrosse - 149 (up 35)
 Swimming & Diving - 381 (down 9)
 Track & Field - 770 (down 31)
 Volleyball - 2,431 (down 294)
 Wrestling - 618 (up 32)
 Soccer - 1,459 (up 40)
 Softball - 2,852 (up 77)

The number of soccer officials was up during the 2008-09 school year, one of eight sports to show an increase.



Online registrants for this year receive a \$5 discount off their processing fees, regardless of when they submit their application. MHSAA registration fees are among the lowest in the nation. A \$12 fee is charged for each sport in which an official wishes to register, and the online processing fee is \$25. Officials submitting registration forms by mail or on a walk-up basis will incur a \$30 processing fee. The processing fee includes liability insurance coverage of up to \$1 million for officials while working contests involving MHSAA schools.

There is an officials' registration test for first-time officials and officials not registered in the past year. The test consists of 50 questions derived from the *MHSAA Officials Guidebook*, which is available on the Officials page of the MHSAA Website, and may be used during the open-book test. The MHSAA Office has a lobby kiosk available for online registrations.

Online registration can be accessed by clicking "Officials" on the Home Page of the MHSAA.com. More information about officials registration may be obtained by contacting the MHSAA at 517-332-5046 or register@mhsaa.com.

Bad Economy Nets More Officials

One of the certainties of these uncertain economic times is that more people register to officiate school sports in bad times than in good.

MHSAA officials registrations during 2008-09 totaled 12,719 individuals, just short of the record 12,743 who registered in 2007-08 when numbers were bolstered by waiving fees for the first time for new volleyball and basketball registrants to help schools overcome one of the problems created by the switch in seasons for girls basketball and volleyball.

Totals were up in 2008-09 versus the year before in eight of the 14 sports for which the MHSAA registers officials. The big gainer was baseball (up 141), and the biggest decline was in girls volleyball (down 294).

More than 1,500 individuals do not renew their registration each year – an astonishing number – and each year they must be replaced and those new recruits must receive training in order to adequately serve school sports in Michigan. Here are several of the "truths" we've learned about recruiting and retaining officials:

1. The most effective recruitment is one on one. Like any effective evangelism, it's one person who is already involved and excited about something, inviting another person to join him or her in the group.
2. The dropout rate for officials declines with each year they serve; and once an official reaches the fifth year, he or she is very likely to still be officiating in the 15th year.
3. The high dropout rate of the early years is related to many factors over which schools have little control (jobs and families, for example); but there are contributing factors we can influence: like the initial training officials receive so they are less likely to be unprepared for an unpleasant experience that cuts their officiating careers short, and the environment maintained at events – the sportsmanship. The more prepared the official and the more pleasant the atmosphere schools provide, the more likely that official is to remain active in school sports officiating, and keep improving, regardless of the economy.

–“From the Director” Blog, MHSAA.com, Aug. 14

Rules of the Games

Sharpen your skills with the following rules questions for Soccer, Volleyball and Football officials. Answers appear at the bottom of this page.

Volleyball

- It is the referee's responsibility to call for a pre-match conference. The teams may be represented by:
 - Any number of captains and any coach;
 - Any team representative;
 - The head coach and the captain(s) from each team;
 - None of the above
- A player shanks a pass toward her bench. Another player pursues it as the substitutes on the bench move as she saves the ball with a pass to one of her teammates. That player then crashes between the chairs on the bench. The play is:
 - Legal, since the player played the ball over a non-playable area with a body part in contact with the playable area;
 - Illegal, since she entered a non-playable area;
 - Illegal, since it became a restricted play once the substitutes moved;
 - None of the above
- Legal requests for substitutes may come from:
 - The team captain;
 - The assistant coach;
 - The head coach;
 - All of the above
- Team A has a very energetic student cheering section. Five members of the cheering section have "thunder sticks" and other assorted noisemakers. These spectators may:
 - Not use noisemakers at any time during the match;
 - Use the noisemakers but only during pregame, time-outs and between games
- After the whistle/signal to serve, Team A's RB drops the ball in an attempt to get a re-serve. As soon as the whistle sounds and the official signals re-serve, the libero replaces a back-row player. The official should:
 - allow the replacement;
 - whistle and signal unnecessary delay;
 - whistle and signal illegal alignment;
 - None of the above



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Soccer

- T or F:** Clock was stopped to allow Referee to check on injured player. Because clock was stopped, player must leave game.
- Team A goalkeeper has the ball in their hands when the Referee stops play to check on an injured player. The correct restart is?
 - Team A keeper throws ball out of bounds
 - Direct Free Kick for A where keeper had ball when play was stopped
 - Indirect Free Kick for A where keeper had ball when play stopped
 - Drop ball where team A keeper was standing
 - Drop ball where injured player was
- If a player is unconscious or deemed unconscious by the officials, whose authorization is needed to allow that player to return to compete that day?
 - Any official working the game
 - A certified athletic trainer assigned to the game
 - Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner
 - Any physician
 - Answer b) or c)
 - Answer c) or d)
 - All of the above after examining the athlete
- T or F:** Officials' jersey colors need only contrast with the field players of both teams NOT those of the goalkeeper.
- T or F:** The team roster must now include the names of all personnel who are going to be in the team box, such as players, coaches, trainers, managers, etc. and any team member may give roster to Referee.

Football

- A kickoff goes out of bounds and the receiving team elects to take the ball on the 35 yard line. Where should the officials place the ball on the 35 yard line?
 - In the middle of the field;
 - The receiving team has the option of where to place the ball within the hash marks;
 - The ball is placed on the closest hash mark to where the kick went out of bounds;
 - None of the above
- B27 intercepts a ball in his own end zone. While attempting to run the ball out, he is hit from behind and fumbles while still in the end zone. The ball is fumbled forward and rolls out of bounds at the B 2-yard line. The correct call is:
 - Safety; award Team A two points;
 - Touch-back; 1st and 10 for Team B at the 20-yard line;
 - Award Team A possession; 1st and Goal for Team A at the 2-yard line;
 - First and 10 for Team B at the 2-yard line
- Team K punt is blocked on fourth down with the game clock running. K87 picks up the ball behind the line of scrimmage and advances it 20 yards for a first down. The clock should next start on the:
 - Ready for play;
 - Snap;
 - None of the above
- During a try for point, A20 is tackled on the 8-yard line. B72 grasps but does not twist the face mask of A20. If the penalty is accepted, the try for point is replayed from the:
 - 1 1/2-yard line;
 - 3-yard line
 - 4-yard line;
 - 8-yard line

Volleyball Answers: 1. c. (1-6-3); 2. a. (2-4-2); 3. c. (10-1-2a); 4. a. (1-8); 5. c. (8-1-5; 10-4-5a)
 Soccer Answers: 1. F; 2. c.; 3. d.; 4. T; 5. T
 Football Answers: 1. c. (6-1-8 b; 4-3-2); 2. d. (7-4-3 a); 3. b. (3-4-3 c); 4. c. (10-4-4; 10-3-2)

Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport

The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) regularly discusses and reviews the latest medical evidence regarding sports-related concussions in high school athletes. The past decade has witnessed significant changes in the management of sports-related concussions as new research findings have been published. Consequently, the NFHS SMAC has recently updated the “Concussion” section of the *NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook* (2008) and the 2009 NFHS brochure: “Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports.”



In November of 2008, a panel of experts convened for the 3rd International Conference on Concussion in Sport in Zurich, Switzerland. The group has now published the Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport. Previous consensus statements released in 2001 and 2004 have helped shape and define state of the art management of the concussed athlete during this decade.

After a thorough review of the newly released document, there are no substantial changes to report from the position the NFHS SMAC and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) articulated in 2005. However, the NFHS SMAC would like to emphasize three of their conclusions.

“A player with diagnosed concussion should not be allowed to return to play on the day of an injury.”

While consistent with the recent recommendations of the NFHS SMAC, this statement represents a significant change from the previous statement released after the 2nd International Conference on Concussion in 2004. In the past, many medical experts stated that an athlete could return to play in an event if he or she no longer had any “symptoms” of a concussion 15 minutes after the time of the injury. The “15 minute rule” had come under increasing scrutiny by concussion experts as studies have found that most athletes are not

fully recovered from a concussion within 48 hours of the injury, let alone 15 minutes. Therefore, over the past few years, the NFHS SMAC has maintained a policy of no same day return to play for high school athletes who have suffered a concussion.

While specific helmet and headgear brands cannot eliminate the risk of concussion, maintenance and a proper fit can reduce risks.



“The cornerstone of concussion management is physical and cognitive rest until symptoms resolve, then a graded program of exertion prior to medical clearance and return to play.”

Cognitive rest is a relatively recent concept which highlights the need for the concussed athlete to refrain from strenuous physical and mental activity while having concussion symptoms. Experts believe that allowing the brain to rest by limiting reading, studying and other forms of “mental exertion” will result in quicker recovery. Other activities to avoid include playing video games, text messaging, listening to loud music and using a computer. In some instances, individuals who have suffered a

concussion may be told by their health care provider to take a few days off from school to allow symptoms to lessen.

Once all symptoms have resolved and the athlete has been cleared by a health care provider, the athlete may then begin a slow

increase in physical activity over several days. If symptoms do not recur over this period of time, the athlete may then return to full activity. The NFHS SMAC and the CDC have advocated this approach to managing concussed athletes.

“There is no good clinical evidence that currently available protective equipment will prevent concussion.”

The group of experts emphasized that there is currently no good evidence to support the notions that certain football helmets will eliminate the risk of concussion, or that soccer headgear or mouthguards will do so. Of course, well maintained and properly fitted equipment are always appropriate to reduce risk.

Invasive Medical Procedures on the Game Day

The NFHS SMAC was formed in 1996 to assist the NFHS in ensuring the safety of high school athletes across the nation. The SMAC investigates numerous issues, rules, and situations and considers their potential risks to athletes. Recently, the SMAC has reviewed the issue of invasive medical procedures such as intravenous (IV) rehydration and the use of injectable anesthetic/analgic drugs during or before athletic contests and events.

While we believe these practices are not widespread at the high school level, a handful of such incidents have been reported to the SMAC over the past year. It is reported that these procedures are carried out at the college and professional levels. The SMAC is very concerned that occurrence of, or the desire for, such medical procedures will continue to "trickle down" to high school athletics.

The SMAC encourages a philosophy that high school athletics serve the purpose of providing young men and

the use of injectable anesthetic/analgic drugs performed on the day of competition with the sole purpose of enabling a student-athlete to participate are inconsistent with the philosophy of high school sports.

cedure and should be treated as such. Thus, a medical facility is the proper venue for any such invasive procedures to be carried out.

Finally, while our primary concern is with protecting the

We believe that invasive procedures such as the administration of IV fluids and the use of injectable anesthetic/analgic drugs performed on the day of competition with the sole purpose of enabling a student-athlete to participate are inconsistent with the philosophy of high school sports.

This position applies to any athlete requiring a local (example: lidocaine) or systemic (example: Toradol) pain-killing medication to enable him or her to play. This practice increases the risk of further injury to the affected body part. The use of prescription medication that is administered by injection for chronic medical conditions (such as insulin for diabetes or Imitrex for migraine headaches) is appropriate, and will not be affected.

health of the young athlete, we believe this is also a matter of participation equity. Due to a variety of factors, few high school sports programs have team physicians attending their competitions and in many instances these volunteers do not have special training in sports medicine. Thus, teams and individuals who have a physician or other medical provider willing and able to provide such services will have a significant competitive advantage over their opponents who may not have such a specialist available.

After a review of the potential risks, consequences, and limited medical benefits of these invasive procedures, the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee takes the position that there is no proper role for these procedures in high school athletics. We strongly recommend to coaches, school administrators, athletic trainers, and team physicians that athletes should not be allowed to participate in athletic contests or events if they have received IV hydration or been injected with an anesthetic or analgic medication on that same day.

Locker rooms are not intended to serve as makeshift facilities for last-minute medical procedures.

Second, performing medical procedures in a locker room,

training room, or other facility is fraught with the potential for infection and other complications. The placement of an intravenous catheter or the administration of an intramuscular or subcutaneous injection is a medical pro-



women the opportunity for personal growth in a controlled environment. The pursuit of victory is not, by itself, justification for medical intervention. We believe that invasive procedures such as the administration of IV fluids and

In Focus for 2009-10: Wrestling Home Weigh-Ins

Michigan is currently the only state to allow a home weigh-in procedure. As such, at its May 2008 meeting, the Representative Council directed the Wrestling committee to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the current home weigh-in procedures. All wrestling schools were made aware of the Representative Council's concerns as the issue was addressed at all 2008-09 rules meetings. As a result, several pieces of correspondence were received from member schools highlighting the benefits of home weigh-in. After a lengthy committee discussion in January of 2009, the consensus was that the benefits of the home weigh-in for wrestlers still outweighed the concerns of some schools not being forthright with data or some schools administration being lax in following all published requirements of the current rule. The directive of the group was to make no changes at this time to the current home weigh-in procedures but directed MHSAA staff to aggressively review all school requirements for the home weigh-in prior to the 2009-10 school year for all school administrators and coaches.

The home weigh-in is *not required* for any regular season competition (and is *not allowed* for MHSAA Tournaments). Home weigh-in procedures are allowed for MHSAA member schools for regular season competition as a deviation from National Federation rules under the following conditions:

- A. Leagues and conferences may adopt home weigh-in procedures by written mutual consent prior to the regular season for all league/conference competition.
- B. For regular season duals meets and invitational tournaments, home weigh-in procedures shall be specified on contracts or other written correspondence as a condition of participation. Schools that agree to the conditions of the competition agreement may not subsequently request an on-site

weigh-in. **Note:** Agreements and consent for home weigh-in procedures shall be done through school athletic administration.

- C. For regular season competition not governed by league or conference adoption or contractual agreements between schools that specify a home weigh-in as a condition of participation, an on-site weigh-in on the day of competition shall be conducted.

The biggest area of concern deals with the administration of the home weigh-in. The home weigh-in must be conducted by the high school principal, or his or her adult designee. This designee may not be a wrestling coach in any way, shape or form (paid coach, volunteer coach, parent assistant/volunteer, etc). The form must be signed by the principal or designee in order to be a valid home weigh-in for any regular season



Visual image Photography

competition. Any reported irregularities or issues of dishonesty will be brought to the immediate attention of the high school principal as this supervisory duty is vitally important to health and welfare of all wrestling student-athletes. All of this tends to insure that all teams and wrestlers are competing at fair, bona fide weights that have been witnessed by the principal or his or her designee. It is critical that everyone in the wrestling community work together to perform accurate weigh-ins so that home weigh-in may remain a regular season option in future seasons.

Please refer to the 2009-10 Weight Monitoring Brochure on the Wrestling page of the MHSAA website for further information regarding home weigh-in procedures.

Michigan Schools AED Weeks Set for Fall & Winter

Over the past several years approximately 30 Michigan school age children have died from sudden cardiac arrest. Studies have shown that early 911, early CPR, early defibrillation and early advance life support can help save lives. **Michigan Schools AED Drill Week** is a voluntary, grassroots effort to promote the importance of school medical emergency response procedures involving a potential sudden cardiac arrest thereby improving school safety, heightening AED Awareness, and helping to save lives. This year's school drill weeks are Nov. 9-13 and Feb. 1-5.

Michigan Schools AED Drill Weeks help encourage AED Coordinators to conduct AED Practice Drills during the designated weeks. It also gives administrators an opportunity to improve its program before an actual emergency arises. Participating Certified CPR/AED instructors, Fire and EMS responders, and Local Hospital Community Relations personnel may contact schools to offer their assistance. These events will also provide a great opportunity for school and community relations and serve as a benchmark for continued practice throughout the school year.

For more information about participating in AED Drill Week, please visit www.aedrill.com.

“Why Do You Have All Those Stupid Rules”

Administrators of school sports need a good answer to this question that will be posed by some people after they have discovered that a student is ineligible or a contest is forfeited.

We restate here important parts of the answer.

First and foremost, we have rules because we care about kids and the outcomes of our programs.

Rules contribute to the value of participation. Much of the value of school sports results from the standards of school sports. Many of the benefits of school sports result from the requirements of school sports. If we raise the bar – for example, raise the standards of eligibility and conduct – we raise the value. If we lower the bar, we tend to lower the value of participation in interscholastic athletics.

Athletics are much less capable of doing good things for kids and good things for schools and good things for their communities where there are lower standards of eligibility and conduct.

It's the difference between tough and easy, between interscholastic and intramural, between programs with significant requirements and programs without them.

It is because we have raised the bar for interscholastic athletics, because we have rules and standards and consequences for failure to meet them, that interscholastic athletics have value to students, schools and society.

The value is not merely in participation; the value is more in the requirements for participation.

That's the first reason we have rules, and we should make no apologies for those rules. They're essential to good outcomes in school sports.

Second, we have rules where the stakes are higher and agreement is lower.

This explains why there are more rules and interpretations for students in secondary school athletics than in speech, debate and drama, or band, orchestra and chorale music. Why there are more rules and more interpretations for high school athletics than for junior high/middle school sports. Why there are more rules and interpretations for some sports than others. Why there are more rules and longer interpretations for some issues than for other issues of school sports.

The higher the stakes and the greater the resulting tendency of some people to try to gain un-

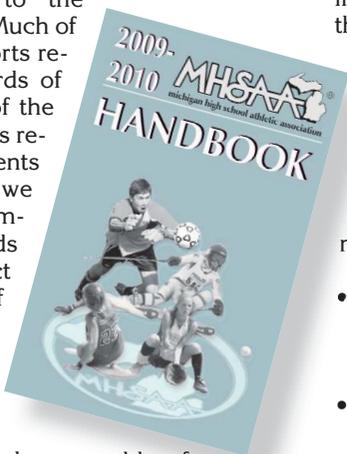
fair competitive advantage, the greater the need for rules. Raise the stakes – keep records, hand out trophies, publicize results, herald stars – and you raise the need for rules.

As Jeffrey H. Orleans, Executive Director of the Ivy Group, told the National Collegiate Athletic Association Presidents Commission National Forum in the summer of 1988, "We choose to regulate those areas in which we compete most strenuously and can agree least readily."

And those words go to the heart of the history, rationale and application of rules which most secondary schools of Michigan have adopted for their administration of interscholastic athletics. Schools choose to have rules for those activities in which they tend to compete most strenuously and agree upon least frequently.

- It is why a certain amount of controversy is unavoidable in state high school association work: if there is no argument, there is little effort to work on the things that need to be addressed.
- It is why there are more and lengthier eligibility rules for students in secondary school athletics than in speech, debate and drama, or band, orchestra and choral music.
- It is why, for a long time, there were more and lengthier rules for out-of-season basketball than other sports, and why that is now changing for volleyball, soccer, golf, tennis, swimming and other sports.
- It is why the sections and interpretations of transfer/residency rules are so much longer and deal with so much more minutiae than is the case with other rules.

There would be no need for rules if we didn't care about the outcomes of our program; but in educational athletics, that is, in sports sponsored by schools, we care that the program contributes to the mission of schools, which is to help prepare young people for the benefit of society.



Efficiency is Effective...

The MHSAA is always willing to assist with issues concerning Association regulations. Please remember, however, the most efficient method of communication with the MHSAA on eligibility questions is through the athletic director or principal. Athletic directors should gather all information necessary on a question and then call or write the MHSAA. Coaches or parents calling the MHSAA on eligibility matters can create confusion and delay. ADs or principals are encouraged to contact the MHSAA office directly. Please follow this efficient path of communication.

The Only Official Interpretations are Those Received in Writing

Out-of-Season Coaching Limits Change in 2009-10

Four changes take effect for the 2009-10 school year regarding out-of-season coaching limitations.

1. The three-player rule has changed to four players but only in situations where students from the same school district are involved in individual skill development in a practice situation with the school coach. The “in-house, all enrolled in the same school district” **four**-player rule is a more efficient use of time and facilities. The **three**-player limit continues in situations where coaches are present in practice or competition with students **not** enrolled in that school district, such as club volleyball and AAU basketball or other competitions which may involve such as two-on-two tournaments.
2. The three- (or four-)player rule begins on Monday, Aug. 9, 2009, and will now end for all schools on the same date: Monday after Memorial Day observed: Monday, June 7, 2010. “Summer rules” (which is more an absence of rules) now begin on this Monday which follows the Baseball/Softball District Tournament and Track & Field Finals. Schools are reminded that allowed summer competitions may not take place after Aug. 1 and must follow the 600-mile travel limit if held outside Michigan.
3. It is no longer required that open gyms offer a diversity of activity. A basketball-only or volleyball-only open gym is acceptable provided it is recreational, student-conducted and is open to all students. Open gyms may not be mandatory and may not have anything to do with team selection. A further emphasis clarifies that open gyms are not early practice sessions. After school activities out of season are to be student-conducted, coaches may not coach, instruct, critique, direct, evaluate or participate in a sport they coach. These activities or open gyms are to have a recreational emphasis, not an organized program of instruction and/or competition. There must not be any organized drills, practice structure or instruction regarding offensive or defensive schemes by any person, including team captains or parents.
4. Out-of-season students may wear **non-competition practice** jerseys regardless of whether the school is identified or if the practice jerseys are school owned or issued.

For more on this ruling, see Regulation II, Section 11 (H), beginning on page 68 of the 2009-10 MHSAA Handbook.

two years, surveyed and led to eventual action by the Representative Council in May of 2009. The second phase of discussion and review will occur in 2009-10 and includes the calendar placement of the preseason down time when open gyms are not allowed. Currently the preseason down time is just before the start of each season in each sport.

The changes enacted by the Council continue to maintain the underlying concept that school teams only operate in-season. Limited out-of-season activities that involve students and school coaches are permitted out of season during the school year and to a greater extent in the summer when school is not in session; but these are not school teams. Generally, MHSAA out-of-season

rules restrict school coaches, not individual students. Regulations continue to prohibit the “big four” out of season: 1) no school transportation, 2) no school competition uniforms 3) no school general funds (limited fund-raised money is acceptable), and 4) out-of-season work may not

be mandatory or part of team selection.

Long-standing regulations have attempted to maintain proper perspective. Out-of-season coaching should not result in year-long sports seasons which detract from the academic mission of schools and from students’ involvement in other school and sports activities. The rules assist in developing well-rounded students and athletes rather than one-sport specialists where an athlete can overdo out-of-season practice.

It may be that the unintended consequences of limiting school coaches out of season has been that students are driven to non-school programs and people that are less beneficial to a student’s overall development. This delicate balance between healthy levels of school coach out-of-season activity and a proper scope and perspective are at the root of this tremendous challenge and internal review. Opinions on out-of-season issues often vary depending on school size, location, and from one sport to another, and contribute to the importance of this timely statewide evaluation.

One final out-of-season technology clarification was enacted regarding Internet-based or digital programming which is similar to the rules regarding coaches showing game films (or DVDs). Coaches may not show or provide Internet/digital opportunities to more than four students of the same school district “assembled at one time, in person or electronically, if that coach provides any instruction during or within the presentation.”

The above changes reflect the first of a two-phase out-of-season coaching review that began with task force meetings of coaches, administrators and MHSAA staff in the spring of 2008. Several recommendations were discussed statewide over

The following pages include business news from the MHSAA, including some items formerly found in the *Bulletin*.

Following is a guide to the information previously in fall *Bulletins* now solely on MHSAA.com. As you'll note, most information has moved to the "Administrators" page under "Schools."

- **Representative Council, Executive Committee and UP Athletic Committee Minutes:** "Administrators"
- **Sport Committee Minutes:** on corresponding "Sport" page
- **Officials Committees:** "Officials"
- **All other Committees:** "Administrators"
- **Cooperative Program Listings:** "Administrators"
- **Opt-Ups and Classification:** "Administrators"
- **Regulations Violations:** under "Administrators"
- **MHSAA Committee Members:** "Administrators"
- **Non-Faculty Coaches:** "Coaches" & "Administrators" pages

MHSAA Endorses GradeCheck.net



GradeCheck.net, a Michigan startup company that reinforces the academic aspect of school sports, has earned a rare endorsement from the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

GradeCheck.net provides an Internet-based program that assists students, parents, school counselors and administrators monitor academic progress and helps high school students qualify for National Collegiate Athletic Association member and other college scholarships. In 2008, GradeCheck worked with educators and parents to facilitate more than \$2 million in scholarships for their students.

GradeCheck.net founder Shelia McBride states: "Our innovative, national system provides benefits to all high school students. We provide a national college admissions information database, an applications checklist, a scholarship application checklist, as well as a Grade Point Average calculator. These tools help students know if they are on track to meet the entrance requirements of a college or university long before they start submitting applications."

GradeCheck.net will be introduced to MHSAA constituents at upcoming Athletic Director In-Service programs, Captains Clinics and throughout the Association's year-round "Reaching Higher" initiative intended to help students aspire to and reach their full potential in high school athletics.

"We are pleased and excited about this new partnership. This opportunity has the potential to reach students all across the state of Michigan to provide a clear advantage for achieving academic success and for securing a college education," says McBride.

MHSAA Representative Council

Renee Bird*

Board of Education
Tawas Area Schools
Appointee

James Derocher**, President

Superintendent
Negaunee Public Schools
Class C-D — Upper Peninsula

Ken Dietz*

Athletic Director
Watervliet High School
Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

Lafayette Evans*

Director of Athletics
Detroit Public Schools
City of Detroit

Eric Federico**

Superintendent
Gibraltar Schools
Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan

Dan Flynn*

Faculty Member/Coach
Escanaba High School
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio)

Director
Coordinated School, Health & Safety
Programs Unit, Michigan Dept. of
Education, Lansing
Designee

Rudy Godefroid*

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Hemlock Public Schools
Junior High/Middle Schools

Scott Grimes**, Vice President

Principal
Grand Haven High School
Statewide At-Large

Robert A. Hansen**

Superintendent
East Jordan Public Schools
Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula

Kris Isom*

Athletic Director
Adrian Madison High School
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

Karen Leinaar*

Athletic Director
Benzie Central High School
Statewide At-Large

Vic Michaels**, Secretary-Treasurer

Director of Physical Education & Athletics
Archdiocese of Detroit
Private and Parochial Schools

Steve Newkirk**

Principal
Clare Middle School
Junior High/Middle Schools

Peter C. Ryan**

Athletic Director
Saginaw Township Community Schools
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

Fred Smith**

Athletic Director
Buchanan High School
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

Arnetta Thompson*

Dean of Students
Grand Rapids Union High School
Appointee

Mark Woodson**

Director of Student Development and Athletics
Romulus High School
Appointee

Wendy Zdeb**

Principal
Rochester High School
Appointee

*Term Expires December 2009

**Term Expires December 2010

MHSAA Tournament Ball Agreements

“Official Ball” adoptions for MHSAA tournament sports will continue with the same manufacturers in 2009-10 with one new addition as Rawlings will be the “Official Football” for all playoff games in 2009. Here’s a summary of the MHSAA ball agreements with changes in contract terms and levels of tournament adoption.

FOOTBALL – A new agreement initiated in 2009 identifies Rawlings as the “Official Football” of the MHSAA playoffs. As part of the agreement, all schools sponsoring football received their choice of two footballs for the 2009 season, and additional footballs will be provided to the MHSAA during the football playoffs. All playoff games will require Rawlings footballs to be used exclusively. The MHSAA also receives an annual cash payment from Rawlings and the agreement runs through the 2013 season.

VOLLEYBALL - Baden Sports is the “Official Volleyball” of the MHSAA Semifinals and Finals. The agreement with Baden has been extended through the 2012-13 school year. The MHSAA receives an annual cash payment and complimentary Baden LEXUM® volleyballs for use at the Semifinals and Finals.

BASKETBALL - In both girls and boys basketball, the MHSAA has extended its agreement with Rawlings with significant changes. Rawlings will now be the “Official Basketball” at all levels of the MHSAA Tournament, i.e. Districts, Regionals, Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Finals. The agreement will be in effect through the 2014-15 school year. Rawlings will provide an annual cash payment and complimentary product to tournament managers as well as Semifinals and Finals. In addition, COMPMICH and COMPMICH285 basketballs with the MHSAA logo will be available for purchase by schools through distributors.



BASEBALL - Rawlings is the “Official Tournament Baseball” for all levels of the MHSAA Tournament. The agreement is through the 2009-2010 school year. The MHSAA will receive an annual cash payment and Rawlings will provide baseballs to host schools for all levels of the tournament as well as baseballs for the MHSAA Semifinals and Finals.

SOFTBALL - Wilson is the “Official Tournament Softball” for all levels of the MHSAA Tournament. The agreement runs through the 2009-2010 school year. The MHSAA will receive an annual cash pay-

ment and Wilson will provide softballs to host schools for all levels of the tournament as well as softballs for the MHSAA Semifinals and Finals.

SOCCER - The MHSAA is in the fourth year of a five-year agreement with Brine as the “Official Ball” of the MHSAA Boys & Girls Soccer Semifinals & Finals. Brine has been the Official Soccer Ball of the MHSAA Semifinals and Finals since 2002. The agreement runs through the 2010-2011 school year. The MHSAA receives an annual cash payment and complimentary Brine soccer balls for all Semifinal and Finals games.



TENNIS – Wilson is the “Official Ball” of the boys and girls tennis tournament at all levels. Wilson provides the MHSAA with complimentary tennis balls for the LP and UP Finals and preferred pricing for tennis balls at the Regional level that the MHSAA purchases and sends to managers.

Each sport in which the MHSAA has a ball adoption is as follows with manufacturer, length of agreement and level of tournament use.

Football – Rawlings - Initial year of a five year agreement requiring use of Rawlings football at all MHSAA playoff games through 2013.

Girls & Boys Basketball - Rawlings - Renewal extension agreement runs through 2013-14. Rawlings COMPMICH and COMPMICH285 used and provided at MHSAA District, Regional, Quarterfinal, Semifinals and Finals

Baseball – Rawlings - Final year of a five-year agreement running through 2009-2010,

Rawlings baseballs will be used and provided at all tournament levels.

Softball – Wilson - Final year of a five-year agreement running through 2009-2010,

Wilson softballs (.47 COR, 375 compression) will be used and provided at all tournament levels.

Volleyball – Baden - New renewal extends agreement through 2012-13,

Baden LEXUM® ball will be used at MHSAA Semifinals and Finals

Girls & Boys Soccer – Brine - Fourth year of a five year agreement running through the 2010-11 school year. Brine soccer balls will be used at MHSAA Semifinals and Finals.

Tennis – Wilson - Final year of an agreement with Wilson tennis balls used at all levels of the MHSAA Tournament.

Teams Practicing Out-of-State Required to Submit Out-of-State Travel Form

The tradition of taking a team on a “spring trip” for practice only is a separate issue from sanctioning a competition (see Sanction guidelines on next page). Any school which conducts practice sessions out of state at a site more than 600 miles round-trip must submit to the MHSAA office a Travel Form for Out-of-State Practice at least 30 days in advance of departure. This does not allow schools to compete in a scrimmage, practice or competition with a team from another school.

The following interpretation was adopted at the May 2004 Representative Council meeting and became effective for the 2004-05 school year:

“When a school-sponsored team, or group of students which resembles the school team, intends to conduct practice sessions out of state at a site

more than 600 highway miles round-trip from that school, the Travel Form for Out-of-State Practice is required. For the purpose of this Section, it shall be considered a practice for a school team if a school coach in that sport is present with any number of players from that school's team, other than his/her family members.”

MHSAA catastrophic insurance does not cover such events.

The form can be found on the MHSAA Website. Pursuant to action of the Representative Council in May 2003, all schools which complete this form will be listed in *benchmarks* at the end of the school year.

A list of schools which completed the form in 2008-09 appears below.

Schools Submitting Out-of-State Travel Forms for 2008-09

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>FALL</p> <p>Cross Country Utica</p> <p>WINTER</p> <p>Boys Swim/Dive Brighton</p> <p>Skiing Detroit Country Day Manistee</p> <p>SPRING</p> <p>Baseball Adrian Lenawee Christian Allendale Benzie Central BH Cranbrook-Kingswood Caledonia Charlevoix Chelsea Clawson Coldwater Croswell-Lexington Detroit Country Day DeWitt East Kentwood Essexville Garber Farmington Gibraltar Carlson Grand Ledge</p> | <p>Grandville Harbor Springs Harbor Light Holt Howard City Tri-County Hudsonville Jackson Northwest Lake City Lansing Catholic Lapeer East Madison Heights Lamphere Mason Portland Otsego Richland Gull Lake Saginaw Swan Valley Saline Sand Creek Shepherd Wyoming Kelloggsville Zeeland East</p> <p>Softball Allendale Alma Bath Bay City Western Bellevue Bridgman Chelsea Clinton Coldwater Coopersville East Kentwood Eaton Rapids</p> | <p>Farmington Hills Mercy Flint Kearsley Frankfort Grand Ledge Grandville Harbor Springs Harbor Light Hemlock Holland-West Ottawa Holt Hudsonville Jenison Lake Odessa Lakewood Lowell Muskegon Catholic Central Portland Saginaw Swan Valley Temperance Bedford Wyoming Park Wyoming Rogers</p> <p>Boys Golf Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker</p> <p>Girls Soccer Eaton Rapids Jackson Northwest Montrose</p> <p>Track & Field Romeo</p> |
|--|--|--|

Failure to Rate Officials

Member schools of the Michigan High School Athletic Association have agreed through Regulation II, Section 7(B) to rate officials in several of the sports for which the MHSAA conducts a postseason tournament and to be subject to penalties when a school fails to rate any officials in a sport that requires it.

Recent surveys indicate schools value the opportunity to rate officials and do not want that opportunity eliminated.

Most officials would prefer an evaluation process over ratings by participating schools; but

under our current system, officials need schools to rate them so they can amass the number of ratings necessary to be considered for advancement and tournament assignments.

On March 23, 2001, the MHSAA Representative Council adopted the policy of publishing the names of schools which fail to rate any officials in a sport and to do so as soon as possible following the season

Following are schools failing to rate officials for winter and spring of the 2008-09 school year.

Failure to Rate Officials - Winter 2009

Boys Basketball

Alma
 Auburn Hills Christian
 Burton-Valley Christian
 Cadillac Heritage Christian
 Carney-Nadeau
 Cedarville
 Center Line
 Dearborn-Riverside Academy
 West
 Detroit-Central
 Detroit Midtown Academy
 Detroit-Frederick Douglass
 Detroit-Henry Ford
 Detroit-Kettering
 Detroit-Old Redford Preparatory
 Detroit-Pershing
 Detroit-U of D Jesuit
 Detroit-Universal Academy
 Essexville-Garber
 Farmington Hills-Harrison
 Ferndale-Academy of Oak Park
 Ferndale-University
 Glen Arbor-The Leelanau
 School
 Grand Marais-Burt Township
 Greenville-Grattan Academy
 Inkster-Cherryhill School of Per-
 forming Arts
 Jackson-The Da Vinci Institute
 Kalamazoo Central
 Kalamazoo-Phoenix
 Kinross-Maplewood Baptist
 Academy
 Lake Leelanau-St. Mary
 Lansing-New Covenant
 Christian
 Marcellus-Howardsville
 Christian
 Onkama

Pentwater
 Redford-Michigan Technical
 Academy
 Saginaw-Arthur Hill
 Saginaw
 Sterling Heights-Utica Ford II
 Taylor-Baptist Park
 White Lake-Lakeland
 Zeeland East

Girls Basketball

Auburn Hills Christian
 Brooklyn-Columbia Central
 Buckley
 Burton-Valley Christian Acad-
 emy
 Carney-Nadeau
 Cedarville
 Comstock Park
 Dearborn-Riverside Academy
 West
 Detroit-Central
 Detroit-Cleveland Intermediate
 Detroit-Consortium College
 Prep
 Detroit International Academy
 Detroit Midtown Academy
 Detroit-Pershing
 Eau Claire
 Ellsworth
 Essexville-Garber
 Farmington Hills-Harrison
 Ferndale-Academy of Oak Park
 Flint-International Academy
 of Flint
 Grand Rapids-Creston
 Greenville-Grattan Academy
 Kalamazoo-Phoenix

Girls Basketball

Lansing New Covenant
 Christian
 Martin
 Pickford
 Rapid River
 Redford-Michigan Technical
 Academy
 Romulus-Summit Academy
 North
 Saginaw-Arthur Hill
 Saginaw-Nouvel
 St. Clair
 Ypsilanti-Calvary Christian
 Academy

Competitive Cheer

Bloomfield Hills-Andover
 Bloomington
 Brethren
 Capac
 East Lansing
 Eaton Rapids
 Farmington Hills-Harrison
 Goodrich
 Grand Haven
 Grand Rapids-Ottawa Hills
 Jackson-The Da Vinci Institute
 Jenison
 Martin
 Michigan Center
 Parma-Western
 Romeo
 Saranac
 Springport
 Warren-Fitzgerald
 White Lake-Lakeland
 Zeeland East
 Zeeland West

Ice Hockey

Allen Park
Lansing Catholic
Linden-Lake Fenton
Macomb-Lutheran North
Oxford
West Bloomfield
Ypsilanti-Willow Run

Wrestling

Adrian-Madison
Alma
Alpena
Ann Arbor-Huron
Birch Run
Bloomington
Cedar Springs
Comstock Park
Dundee
Farmington Hills-Harrison

Frankfort
Grand Rapids-Creston
Imlay City
Lawrence
Manistique
Perry
Shepherd
Temperance-Bedford
West Bloomfield
Ypsilanti-Willow Run

Failure to Rate Officials - Spring 2009

Baseball

Akron-Fairgrove
Benton Harbor
Breckenridge
Burton-Bentley
Burton-Genesee Christian
Burton-Valley Christian Academy
Cedar Springs
Chesaning
Covert
Detroit Community
Detroit-Kettering
Detroit-Martin Luther King
Detroit-Mumford
Detroit-Renaissance
Detroit-Southwestern
Ecorse
Flint Northern
Flint-Hamady
Fowler
Grand Haven
Grand Rapids-East Grand Rapids
Grosse Ile
Hamtramck
Harbor Springs
Hemlock
Highland Park
Hillsdale
Hudsonville-Freedom Baptist
Jackson
Kingsley
Lake City
Southfield-Lathrup
Muskegon-Orchard View
Muskegon Heights
New Lothrop
Niles-Brandywine
North Muskegon
Novi-Franklin Road Christian
Okemos

Pittsford
Saginaw-Buena Vista
Saginaw
Saline-Washtenaw Christian Academy
South Lyon
Southgate Anderson
Spring Lake
Trenton
Twining-Arenac Eastern
Vanderbilt
Warren-De La Salle
Warren Woods-Tower
Whittemore-Prescott
Wyoming-Godwin Heights

Boys Lacrosse

Ann Arbor-Greenhills
Ann Arbor-Pioneer
Detroit Country Day
Bloomfield Hills-Andover
Bloomfield Hills-Brother Rice
Brighton
Canton-Salem
Grosse Ile
Madison Heights-Bishop Foley
Novi
Romeo
West Bloomfield

Girls Lacrosse

East Lansing
Holt
Livonia-Ladywood
Okemos

Girls Soccer

Ann Arbor-Greenhills
Battle Creek-Calhoun Christian
Benton Harbor
Birmingham-Seaholm
Brown City

Burton-Genesee Christian
Burton-St. Thomas More
Dearborn-Fordson
Detroit-Renaissance
Detroit-Western International
Dexter
Fremont-Providence Christian
Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Central
Grand Rapids-Union
Grass Lake
Hamtramck
Hudsonville-Unity Christian
Kalamazoo Central
Kimball-New Life Christian Academy
Lansing Christian
Linden
Marine City
Mt. Morris-E. A. Johnson
Muskegon-Orchard View
New Boston-Huron
Niles-Brandywine
Okemos
Pontiac Academy for Excellence
Redford Union
Redford-Thurston
Richland-Gull Lake
Riverview-Gabriel Richard
Rochester-Adams
Saginaw-Arthur Hill
Southgate-Washtenaw Christian Academy
Southgate Anderson
Spring Lake
Tawas City-Tawas Area
Taylor-Truman
Waterford-Our Lady of the Lakes
Wyoming-Rogers
Wyoming-The Potters House

Softball

Alba
 Ann Arbor-Huron
 Auburn Hills-Oakland Christian
 Birmingham-Seaholm
 Boyne City
 Brimley
 Burton-Bentley
 Comstock Park
 Detroit-Crockett Technical
 Detroit-Kettering
 Detroit-Martin Luther King
 Detroit-Renaissance
 Detroit-Southwestern
 Eben Junction-Superior Central
 Ecorse
 Fairview
 Fennville

Flat rock
 Fowler
 Grand Haven
 Hamtramck
 Kingsley
 Lansing-J. W. Sexton
 Lansing Christian
 Livonia-Ladywood
 Marcellus-Howardsville Christian
 Melvindale
 Midland-H. H. Dow
 Millington
 Mt. Clemens
 Muskegon Heights
 New Lothrop
 Niles-Brandywine
 Novi-Franklin Road Christian

Oak Park
 Okemos
 Ovid-Elsie
 Portage Northern
 Potterville
 Redford-Thurston
 Rudyard
 Saginaw-Arthur Hill
 Southfield
 Spring Lake
 Trenton
 Walled Lake Western
 Webberville
 Wyoming-Godwin Heights
 Wyoming-Lee
 Wyoming Tri-unity Christian
 Ypsilanti-Willow Run

WANTED: More Officials Ratings in 2009-10

A point of emphasis for the MHSAA, and its registered officials, is to receive more ratings from member schools.

Starting with the 2005-06 school year, the MHSAA transitioned from the old “paper and pencil” method of receiving ratings to the current online system. The hope at that time was the online process would be faster and easier for school personnel, and that hope was confirmed with a record number of ratings received in that school year.

Officials had never been more pleased with the number of ratings received; but over the past three years, the list of schools that have failed to rate any officials during a season for a sport has grown. The submission of ratings is required in the sports sponsored by each member school by *MHSAA Handbook*, Regulation II, Section 7 (B). Failure to rate officials in a sport for two consecutive years results in the loss of tournament participation in that sport. This is a shared responsibility for coaches and athletic administrators. Remember that coaches can rate officials as the season progresses, with the athletic director approving those ratings before transmitting to the MHSAA.

Ratings really do matter to officials and coaches because this data is one of the primary factors used by various MHSAA staff and officials assignment committees. By making the submission process a 2009-10 point of emphasis, the MHSAA expects to see more ratings for each official during this season. The MHSAA is frequently contacted by officials with the concern that they worked a full schedule of games, but only received a handful of ratings from schools. This renewed emphasis on receiving more ratings will address that concern.

Specific instructions for schools and coaches can be found at MHSAA.com.

Officials ratings play a vital role in selecting the best possible officials for MHSAA Tournaments.



2008-09 Officials Reports Listing

(Schools that received 3 or more negative Reports)

In accordance with the May 1996 Representative Council adoption of the “Comprehensive Sportsmanship Package” the names of schools that received three or more “concern” or “ejection” Officials Reports in the school year are listed in this report.

| SCHOOL | CITY | NO. OF REPORTS |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Huron HS | Ann Arbor | 9 |
| Southgate Anderson HS | Southgate | 9 |
| Eastern HS | Lansing | 8 |
| Monroe HS | Monroe | 8 |
| Walled Lake Central HS | Walled Lake | 8 |
| Allen Park HS | Allen Park | 7 |
| Holt HS | Holt | 7 |
| Howell HS | Howell | 7 |
| Mattawan HS | Mattawan | 7 |
| Stoney Creek HS | Rochester Hills | 7 |
| Romeo HS | Romeo | 7 |
| Dearborn HS | Dearborn | 6 |
| Freeland HS | Freeland | 6 |
| Grand Blanc HS | Grand Blanc | 6 |
| Kalamazoo Central HS | Kalamazoo | 6 |
| Loy Norrix HS | Kalamazoo | 6 |
| Marquette HS | Marquette | 6 |
| Parchment HS | Parchment | 6 |
| Royal Oak HS | Royal Oak | 6 |
| Avondale HS | Auburn Hills | 5 |
| Central HS | Battle Creek | 5 |
| Fordson HS | Dearborn | 5 |
| Farmington HS | Farmington | 5 |
| Carman-Ainsworth HS | Flint | 5 |
| Grandville HS | Grandville | 5 |
| Hastings HS | Hastings | 5 |
| Comstock HS | Kalamazoo | 5 |
| Waverly HS | Lansing | 5 |
| Franklin HS | Livonia | 5 |
| Novi HS | Novi | 5 |
| Portage Central HS | Portage | 5 |
| Rochester HS | Rochester Hills | 5 |
| Roseville HS | Roseville | 5 |
| Troy HS | Troy | 5 |
| Alma HS | Alma | 4 |
| Central HS | Bay City | 4 |
| Belding Area HS | Belding | 4 |
| Andover HS | Bloomfield Hills | 4 |
| Woodhaven HS | Brownstown | 4 |
| Buchanan HS | Buchanan | 4 |
| Walled Lake Northern HS | Commerce | 4 |
| Comstock Park HS | Comstock Park | 4 |
| Divine Child HS | Dearborn | 4 |
| DeWitt HS | DeWitt | 4 |
| Ferndale HS | Ferndale | 4 |
| Flushing HS | Flushing | 4 |
| Grosse Pointe North HS | Grosse Pointe | 4 |
| Highland Park Community HS | Highland Park | 4 |
| Churchill HS | Livonia | 4 |
| Oscoda HS | Oscoda | 4 |
| Petoskey HS | Petoskey | 4 |
| Pinckney HS | Pinckney | 4 |
| Northern HS | Pontiac | 4 |
| Rockford HS | Rockford | 4 |
| Romulus HS | Romulus | 4 |
| Sault Area HS | Sault Ste Marie | 4 |
| South Lyon HS | South Lyon | 4 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Sterling Heights HS | Sterling Heights | 4 |
| Bedford HS | Temperance | 4 |
| Traverse City West HS | Traverse City | 4 |
| Walled Lake Western HS | Walled Lake | 4 |
| John Glenn HS | Westland | 4 |
| Lee HS | Wyoming | 4 |
| Willow Run HS | Ypsilanti | 4 |
| Ypsilanti HS | Ypsilanti | 4 |
| Cadillac HS | Cadillac | 3 |
| Clio HS | Clio | 3 |
| Escanaba HS | Escanaba | 3 |
| Harrison HS | Farmington Hills | 3 |
| Fruitport HS | Fruitport | 3 |
| OA Carlson HS | Gibraltar | 3 |
| Central HS | Grand Rapids | 3 |
| Creston HS | Grand Rapids | 3 |
| East Grand Rapids HS | Grand Rapids | 3 |
| Kenowa Hills HS | Grand Rapids | 3 |
| Northview HS | Grand Rapids | 3 |
| University Liggett HS | Grosse Pointe Woods | 3 |
| Hartford HS | Hartford | 3 |
| Hartland HS | Hartland | 3 |
| Hazel Park HS | Hazel Park | 3 |
| Holland HS | Holland | 3 |
| Ithaca HS | Ithaca | 3 |
| Jackson HS | Jackson | 3 |
| Everett HS | Lansing | 3 |
| Lapeer East HS | Lapeer | 3 |
| Lapeer West HS | Lapeer | 3 |
| Lawton HS | Lawton | 3 |
| Lincoln Park HS | Lincoln Park | 3 |
| Linden HS | Linden | 3 |
| L'Anse Creuse North HS | Macomb | 3 |
| Manistee HS | Manistee | 3 |
| Marshall HS | Marshall | 3 |
| Mesick HS | Mesick | 3 |
| Jefferson HS | Monroe | 3 |
| Reeths-Puffer HS | Muskegon | 3 |
| Huron HS | New Boston | 3 |
| New Buffalo HS | New Buffalo | 3 |
| New Haven HS | New Haven | 3 |
| Newberry HS | Newberry | 3 |
| Niles HS | Niles | 3 |
| North Muskegon HS | North Muskegon | 3 |
| Mona Shores HS | Norton Shores | 3 |
| Detroit Catholic Central HS | Novi | 3 |
| Lakeville Memorial HS | Otisville | 3 |
| Otsego HS | Otsego | 3 |
| Notre Dame Preparatory School | Pontiac | 3 |
| Pontiac Central HS | Pontiac | 3 |
| Redford Union HS | Redford | 3 |
| Riverview Community HS | Riverview | 3 |
| Adams HS | Rochester | 3 |
| Arthur Hill HS | Saginaw | 3 |
| Heritage HS | Saginaw | 3 |
| Saline HS | Saline | 3 |
| St Clair HS | St Clair | 3 |
| Swartz Creek HS | Swartz Creek | 3 |
| John F Kennedy HS | Taylor | 3 |
| Cousino HS | Warren | 3 |
| De La Salle Collegiate HS | Warren | 3 |
| Warren Mott HS | Warren | 3 |
| Waterford Mott HS | Waterford | 3 |
| Whitehall HS | Whitehall | 3 |
| Lincoln HS | Ypsilanti | 3 |

2008-09 Officials Reports Summary

| Sport | CODE: P = Player C = Coach O = Other | | | | | Taunting | Sportsmanship |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------------|
| | Concern | Praise | P-Eject | C-Eject | O-Eject | | |
| Baseball | 112 | 6 | 70 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Boys Basketball | 107 | 16 | 65 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| Boys Cross Country | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Boys Lacrosse | 30 | 0 | 27 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Boys Soccer | 285 | 13 | 259 | 26 | 2 | 0 | 17 |
| Boys Swimming | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Boys Track | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Football | 125 | 56 | 111 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| Girls Basketball | 37 | 8 | 13 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Girls Lacrosse | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Girls Soccer | 74 | 0 | 34 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Girls Swimming | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Girls Tennis | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ice Hockey | 121 | 4 | 129 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Softball | 16 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Volleyball | 7 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Wrestling | 64 | 5 | 40 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 10 |

Distribution of Reports

| Reports of Concern | No. of Schools | Reports of Praise | No. of Schools |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 203 | 1 | 85 |
| 2 | 120 | 2 | 10 |
| 3 | 57 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | 32 | | |
| 5 | 19 | | |
| 6 | 7 | | |
| 7 | 7 | | |
| 8 | 5 | | |
| 9 | 2 | | |

2008-09 Officials Violations

(From August 1, 2008 through July 31, 2009)

The following registered officials have violated officiating regulations as defined in the *Officials Guidebook*. Censure is a written reprimand. Probation results in MHSAA tournament opportunities being withheld or suspended by the MHSAA. The MHSAA no longer publishes the names of officials who have been suspended for any reason. With schools and officials using the online directory, which is updated in "real time," individuals can easily identify those officials who are currently registered. **When confirming an official's registration status, simply use the online directory.**

| NAME | CITY | VIOLATION | DURATION |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Robert Allen II | Wayne | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 7/20/10 |
| Demeatrice Brooks | Belleville | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 8/6/09 |
| Lavon Brown | Detroit | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 7/14/10 |
| Jack Carter | Grosse Pointe Woods | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 10/14/09 |
| Aaron Christensen Jr | Sidney | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 7/7/10 |
| Robert Eisiminger Jr. | Ortonville | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 7/13/10 |
| Edwin Emans Sr | Adrian | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 9/9/09 |
| William Fleck | Brighton | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 4/13/10 |
| Christopher Furlong | Hickory Corners | Worked Unreg. | Probation thru 8/14/09 |
| Donald Hancock | Prudenville | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 7/7/10 |
| Johnnie Hicks Jr | Highland Park | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 11/24/09 |
| Kendrick Houston | Muskegon | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 8/26/09 |
| Dennis Irvine | Redford | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 2/9/10 |
| Kevin Kowalewski | Grand Rapids | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 4/22/10 |
| Odell Moore | Detroit | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 3/31/10 |
| James Naughton | Dearborn Heights | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 8/28/09 |
| Joshua Peterson | Midland | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 7/7/10 |
| Kenneth Phillips III | Rockford | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 11/25/09 |
| Alex Sleeman | Otsego | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 1/22/10 |
| Barney Sprague | Taylor | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 9/29/09 |
| Randy Straub | Jackson | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 7/15/10 |
| Scott Straub | Chesterfield | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 2/12/10 |
| Shawn Thompson | Warren | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 2/2/10 |
| Norman Webster Jr. | Canton | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 1/22/10 |
| Larry Williams | Southfield | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 9/26/09 |
| Vernon Williams Jr | Detroit | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 6/23/10 |
| Zachary Williams | Wyoming | Worked Unreg. | Probation Thru 9/19/09 |

DEADLINES, DEADLINES

Following are important deadlines to put on your calendars for 2009-10.

OFFICIALS RATINGS:

- Fall — Dec. 1
- Winter — April 1
- Spring — June 1

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD APPLICATIONS:

For over 20 years, Farm Bureau Insurance has sponsored the MHSAA's Scholar-Athlete Award. In 2009-10, 32 \$1,000 scholarships will be available to high school seniors who meet the eligibility requirements listed at MHSAA.com on the "Students" page.

- Applications Available Online — Oct. 1
- Applications Due to MHSAA — Dec. 4

STUDENT LEADERSHIP GRANTS

The MHSAA has earmarked \$20,000 to help students become better leaders. This fund originated from a gift to the MHSAA from student leadership training leader, the former W.B.A. Ruster Foundation. Scholarships are available to students to attend existing student leadership camps, and schools can receive grant money to create student leadership programs in their communities. Funding is available NOW. There is no deadline – applications are accepted, and money is distributed, year round. Visit the "Students" page at MHSAA.com.

CAPTAINS CLINICS

The MHSAA is always looking for leagues & conferences that wish to host a Captains Clinic. Simply contact Andy Frushour (afrushour@mhsaa.com) or Andi Osters (aosters@mhsaa.com) at the MHSAA office. The MHSAA coordinates the registration process, books facilities, provides the curriculum and supplies, works with the caterers, and brings facilitators to the clinic. Conferences already on-board for this year are the Flint Metro League (completed), Macomb Area Conference, Capital Area Activities Conference and the Southwest Michigan Athletic Conference.

SPORTSMANSHIP MINI-GRANTS

In the 2009-10 school year, the MHSAA will once again be awarding sportsmanship mini-grants. Thanks to the generosity of MHSAA corporate sponsor, MEEMIC Insurance Company, the pool of grant dollars available to Michigan schools has been raised to \$15,000. Applications are available now on the sportsmanship page of MHSAA.com. There is no deadline for receiving applications, and the mini-grants (ranging from \$50 to \$750) will be distributed throughout the year. For more information contact Andy Frushour (afrushour@mhsaa.com) at the MHSAA, or contact your local MEEMIC agent.



Captains Clinics are great educational events, allowing your student-athletes to interact with those from neighboring communities. Team leaders gather to network and share ideas, then relay the experience to teammates when they return to their respective schools.

Good Leaders Remain Students of Their Work

How the Mighty Fall (And Why Some Companies Never Give In) (Harper Collins, 2009) is the latest from Jim Collins who also gave us *Built To Last* and *Good To Great*. It follows his proven best-seller format: compare companies and try to discern the traits common to those which succeed that are absent from those which don't.

Collins writes ". . . the best corporate leaders we've researched remain students of their work . . ." which is reason enough to read his works, for doing so should cause the reader to learn from the fate of others and reflect on his or her own enterprise.

The book's best lines are these: "The point of the struggle is not just to survive, but to build an enterprise that makes such a distinctive impact on the world it touches, and does so with such superior performance, that it would leave a gaping hole – a hole that could not be easily filled by any other institution – if it ceased to exist."

If they don't already, it should be our goal to have these lines describe school sports in Michigan, an enterprise of such distinctive impact on the world and of such superior performance, a huge gaping hole would be apparent in any community where it is lacking.

Visit jimcollins.com.

Read any good books lately? News articles? We'd love to know. Submit recommendations to benchmarks@mhsaa.com.

"...the best corporate leaders we've researched remain students of their work..."

– Jim Collins, in *How The Mighty Fall*

Engaging Leaders

Seth Godin may get paid more per word than any other popular author of the non-fiction business genre; and readers won't need a dictionary to discover the meaning of a single word. Yet once again his short and simple approach is effective in *Tribes – We Need You To Lead Us* (Portfolio, 2008).

Godin – author of *The Dip*, *Permission Marketing*, *Meatball Sunday* and the particularly effective *Purple Cow* – tells us in *Tribes*: "In unstable times, growth comes from leaders who create change and engage their organizations, instead of from managers who push employees to do more with less."

Visit sethgodin.com.

Dig Yourself a Hole

One of the barriers to thinking creatively and acting collaboratively is thinking and acting only vertically, not also laterally.

In *Conceptual Blockbusting – A Guide To Better Ideas* (Basic Books, 2001), James L. Adams takes an illustration of hole digging from the book *New Think* by Edward de Bono: "Logic is the tool that is used to dig holes deeper and bigger to make them altogether better holes. But if the hole is in the wrong place, then no amount of improvement is going to put it in the right place. No

matter how obvious this may seem to every digger, it is still easier to go on digging in the same place than to start all over again in a new place. Vertical thinking is digging the same hole deeper; lateral thinking is trying again elsewhere."

Says Adams in *Conceptual Blockbusting* (now in its fourth printing), ". . . breakthroughs usually result from someone abandoning a partly dug hole and beginning a new in a different place."

Monday Morning QB

We've all heard of Monday Morning Quarterbacks, and don't think much of them.

David Cottrell's *Monday Morning Choices* (Collins, 2007) is nothing like that. It's a worthy little 12-week guide that has nothing to do with second guessing and a lot to do with how to think and act more constructively to life's dips and curves.

Visit cornerstoneleadership.com.



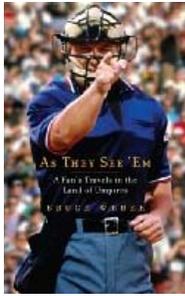
Digging a hole isn't inherently bad, if one ceases to dig pointless holes deeper.

A Good Call

As the majority of the 2009 Major League Baseball season's boys of summer yield to the fortunate few still in the running for the Fall Classic, so too, do most umpires find themselves becoming spectators while the elite work the postseason.

What most sports fans fail to realize, however, is that just umpiring a single MLB game is exponentially more unlikely than becoming a player who reaches the playoffs.

In *As They See 'Em: A Fan's Travel's in the Land of Umpires* (Scribner 2009), Bruce Weber unearths a gem where most baseball enthusiasts would never



think to look – behind the plate and on the baselines – providing a new perspective on our pastime.

From an act as seemingly simple as putting on a mask and removing it, to the complexities of the rules, to the mix of politics, personalities and skill sets involved in potential ascension to the Major Leagues, Weber throws a strike on the corner (a part of the plate he's glad to provide the origins of while discussing the nuances of the game's fulcrum: the strike zone).

Weber gets as far into this reclusive society as its guarded members will allow, deep enough for a variety of tales from the field through the men who preside

over the game. It is a group which toils on an island, as Weber points out, scarcely supported and even less often appreciated by the czars who run the game, the millionaires who play it, or the fans who pay for it.

By-and-large umpires and sports officials are expected to be unparalleled when it comes to ethics, fair play and integrity, no matter the surroundings.

"Why don't you ask baseball about the perception for the last ten years of the umpires being the aggressors on the field when we now know that most players were on either steroids or amphetamines?" one umpire asks Weber.

In *As They See 'Em*, the umpire is offered the chance to take a turn at bat.

Bulletin Board Material

*"Stand tall and proud
Sink your roots deeply into the earth
Reflect the light of a greater source
Think long term
Go out on a limb...
Be flexible
Remember your roots
Enjoy the view!"
– Ilan Shamir
Advice from a Tree*

"NFL officials are no more competent than their counterparts in other sports, but they do their jobs without making themselves noticeable. They toss their flags, pick them up and return quickly to the background..." – Sports Illustrated columnist Phil Taylor, "Hey Ump, Just Make the Call," Aug. 17, 2009 issue

"Most of our coaches . . . were former players. Now many of our coaches don't show up until 3:30 for practice. That's what we're missing. The physical education department used to run the lunch room; these people would handle the discipline problems. So, if you were a child and you were caught doing something you weren't supposed to be doing, the last person you wanted to see was your coach. You knew what you were going to get. That's why it's important to have the coaches in the building." – Lafayette Evans, recently retired director of athletics for the Detroit Public School League

Softball Stepping Back? 8-Player Football Steps Up?

Here's the Pitch

The national rules committee for high school softball is moving pitchers a few steps further from home plate. Effective for school year 2010-11, the pitching rubber must be 43 feet from home – three feet further.



The rationale is to put more balls in play and to get more defense involved. Schools in Florida and Oregon have conducted experiments with the 43-foot distance during the past

two seasons; and coaches have reacted positively to the greater distance.

After more than a decade of discussion and nearly unanimous opposition year after year, the change passed the national rules committee in June. At least two states, including Michigan, requested that the change not be imposed on the high school game at this time. Several concerns were cited, including that the facilities used for the high school game are also used for other levels of softball that retain the 40-foot distance.

Although a 43 foot pitching distance at the high school varsity level may have merit and create more balance between offense and defense, concerns remain about the longer distance for subvarsity and junior high/middle school programs that must be addressed.

The Amateur Softball Association uses the 43-foot distance for competitions involving players over 18 years of age. The distance is currently 40 feet for 16 to 18-year-olds competition; but the ASA has a vote scheduled in November that could change that for 2010. Colleges utilize the 43-foot distance.

The MHSAA Baseball/Softball Committee will review the change in January and should it recommend that the national change not be imposed in Michigan in 2011, that recommendation will be considered by the MHSAA Representative Council in May.

“During the MHSAA Softball Rules meetings at the annual Softball Coaches Association Clinic in January, coaches may give feedback on how the change will be implemented for the 2011 season,” said Randy Allen, MHSAA assistant director. “While some states are opting for an earlier adoption of the 43-foot pitching distance, waiting until the mandatory year of 2011 for adoption in Michigan will give our schools and committee process valuable and necessary time to make decisions, and for school and non-school facilities to plan.”

Travel Savings Add Up

We all read news accounts of economic plight and watch the stock market on a daily basis with one hand over our eyes and the other with fingers crossed, many times feeling helpless against the current tide.

Yet, if we step back and ask ourselves, “What can one person, or one group of people, do to help turn things around just a little bit?” we can find some answers and begin to effect change. At the MHSAA, we believe we've found a way to help realize significant cost savings for the constituents in our little corner of the world.

For the first time during the 2009-10 school year, MHSAA

rules meetings for coaches and officials will be available in an online format in all sports for which meetings are conducted by the MHSAA.

With only a partial list of sports served with the online format during the 2008-09 school year, approximately 6,000 more persons participated in the meetings (both face to face and online) than in 2007-08, when only track & field had the online format available.

It is estimated conservatively that the travel savings from the convenience of online meetings during 2008-09 was 966,000 miles – **39 times around the**

earth – reducing fuel consumption by approximately 39,000 gallons of gas, and saving about \$100,000 for coaches and officials.

Was something lost during this process? Yes indeed: we miss seeing coaches and officials face



to face, and they miss the camaraderie of being together. But overwhelmingly the response has been far more positive than negative from the participants who have been able to “attend” meetings when they find it convenient and can take as long as they would like to consider the meeting material.

Online Rules Meetings schedules and deadlines can be found from a variety of pages at MHSAA.com, including the “Training & Education,” “Administrators,” “Coaches,” and “Officials” pages. An on-site Rules Meetings schedule also is posted.

Is 8 Enough?

In December 2008, the MHSAA Representative Council authorized the exploration of less-than-11 player football for its member schools. Planning meetings in January 2009 and Council action in March yielded the option for schools to play 8-player football beginning this fall.

Ten schools have at least one such contest on this year's schedule. One school, Carsonville Port Sanilac, will play the 8-man game the entire year. The first-ever MHSAA 8-player game took place on Aug. 27 at Owendale-Gagetown, with Washtenaw Multicultural Academy defeating the hosts, 44-30.

The MHSAA could potentially add an 8-player division and subsequent championship to the equation for 2010. Following are stipulations.

- Twenty schools will be the established minimum number of committed 8-player schools in order for the MHSAA to sponsor an 8-player tournament in 2010.
NOTE: This does not mean that schools cannot continue to play 8-player games during the regular season if a tournament is not established.
- The maximum Class D enrollment (223 and below for 2009) may sponsor and enter the 8-player tournament.
NOTE: Schools of all enrollment ranges may at any level compete in 8-player football but varsity teams competing in the MHSAA tournament may not be larger than the minimum Class D enrollment.
- The MHSAA must receive a letter not later than Nov. 15, 2009, stating that schools intent to support/sponsor 8-player football in 2010.
- April 1, 2010, is the deadline for school district superintendents to submit a commitment letter for 2010 sponsorship of 8-player teams.
- If a tournament is established, the playing field size will be 100 x 40 yards.
NOTE: During the regular season teams may compete on either 100 x 40 or 100 x 53 (11-player) or 80 x 40.
- The MHSAA will facilitate a meeting for all 8-player teams to assist in developing regular-season schedules. (May 2010)
- A minimum of seven regular-season games in the 8-player format will be required to qualify for the MHSAA 8-player tournament (same as 11-player)
NOTE: Varsity teams, all classes, could possibly play up to two 8-player or 11-player games and still have an opportunity to qualify for the other tournament.
- The MHSAA recommends the use of five officials and the traditional mechanics for the 8-player football game.



Nate Hampton, MHSAA

History was made at Owendale-Gagetown Aug. 27, as the Bulldogs (on offense) squared off vs. Washtenaw Multicultural Academy in the first MHSAA-sponsored 8-player game.

8-Player FAQs

- In the 2009 season may a school of any enrollment size, play 8-player football games: a) Varsity games or b) Subvarsity games? **ANSWER:** Yes, varsity or subvarsity but, the 8-player varsity games played will not count in the MHSAA Tournament average calculations.
- How will the MHSAA Tournament calculations be affected by schools playing both 8-player and the traditional 11-player games? **ANSWER:** No 8-player games will be considered for tournament points. Tournament calculations will be based on the number of 11-player games only.
- What happens in 2009 if a school forfeits an 11-player game to an opponent (because of limited player numbers) then asks that same opponent to play an 8-player game? **ANSWER:** The 8-player game will be allowed. A school may receive win forfeit points and play an 8-player game instead (for 2009 only). Or, rules would allow for these schools to scrimmage in the 8-player format.



TALENT



ATHLETIC ABILITY



DRIVE



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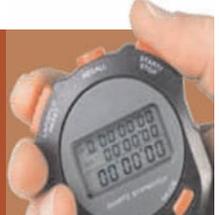
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- Doug Chickering
Executive Director of WIAA

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