

MHSAA

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

(5/15/13)

This summary does not include all Council action. Minutes of the Nov. 30, 2012 and March 22, 2013 meetings were published on MHSAA.com. Minutes of the May 5-6, 2013 meeting have been sent to all superintendents; and all high school and junior high/middle school principals, athletic directors and citywide athletic directors have been emailed a link to a download location on mhsaa.com. **Changes take effect Aug. 1, 2012, unless otherwise indicated.**

November 30, 2012

- I. Basketball – Beginning with the 2013 Finals, the schedule for the boys Finals on Saturday was changed from three sessions to two, similar to girls with Classes D and A in the first session and Classes C and B in the second session; and the ticket price for each Saturday session of both tournaments was raised to \$10.
- II. Girls Gymnastics – Beginning with the 2013 Finals, both divisions of the Individual Meet were combined into a single session starting at 12 Noon on Saturday, but separate awards were retained for the two divisions.
- III. Girls Lacrosse – Implementation of new national rule requirements for players' uniforms was delayed from the 2013 to the 2014 season.

March 22, 2013

- I. Health & Safety – The “Model Policy for Managing Heat & Humidity” was adopted. It will appear in the 2013-14 *MHSAA Handbook* under recommendations for MHSAA member schools. It is required policy for MHSAA tournaments. See Appendix “A” for policy.
- II. Wrestling – In years in which there are only 15 Saturdays after the first day allowed for practice until the Individual Finals, the total days of practice before first competition is reduced from 23 to 19. In 2013-14, the earliest day allowed for competition moves from Wednesday, Dec. 11 to Saturday, Dec. 7. The minimum requirement of seven days of team practice before competition is unchanged.

May 5-6, 2013

- I. Health & Safety – The first of three proposed enhancements to the health and safety training of high school coaches was approved:

By 2014-15, schools must attest that prior to established deadlines, all assistant and subvarsity coaches at the high school level have completed annually the same MHSAA rules meeting required of all varsity head coaches or, in the alternative, one of the free online sports safety courses posted on or linked from MHSAA.com and designated to fulfill this requirement.

- II. Handbook Regulations –
 - A. Regulation I, Section 3 – Interpretation 20 of the 2012-13 *Handbook* is revised to read (under-scored is new): “In cases of serious injury or extended illness, including concussion or suspected concussion and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest, students are to be reexamined by a physician (MD or DO) before again being allowed to practice or competition, and then only after a written release is provided by a physician (MD or DO).”

- B. Regulation I, Section 8 – Note 2 of 2013-14 *Handbook* Interpretation 47 is revised to provide eligibility at a school other than the base school for a first-time 9th grader whose first 9-12 grade enrollment is in a non-traditional school or program, provided that student registered at that other school prior to enrollment in the non-traditional school or program listed by that school on its Enrollment Declaration Form.
- C. Regulation I, Section 9 – Effective Aug. 1, 2014, a new Section 9(F) requires ineligibility for 180 scheduled school days for a student whose circumstances do not fit one of the 15 stated exceptions of Section 9(A) and whose previous activities include one of those listed that demonstrates the change of school is related to athletics. See Appendix “B.”
- D. Regulation II, Section 8(B) is revised to read (underscored is new): “. . . An administrator or faculty member designee of that school shall be present with supervisory capacity over the school’s competitors when the head coach is unable to do so for failure to complete the rules meeting requirement.”
- E. Regulation II, Section 11(H) – Interpretation 226 of the 2013-14 *Handbook* is revised to read in part (underscored is new): “Booster clubs, alumni groups, parent organizations and groups that exist because of the school, and high school administrators (including athletic directors) acting on their own in programs involving students in grades 9-12, may not sponsor or support out-of-season programs or perform out-of-season functions which the school itself is prohibited from doing.”
- F. Regulation II, Section 11(H) – Interpretation 231 of the 2013-14 *Handbook* is revised to allow coaches of bowling and golf to be present at a non-school bowling or golf facility when more than three students of their school district in grades 7-12 are present, even if the coach is not an employee of the facility, provided the coach is directly coaching or teaching no more than three players and the presence of more than three students is coincidental and not prearranged by the coach.

III. Junior High/Middle Schools –

- A. The earliest start date for fall sports under Regulation IV, Section 10(B) is established as the 14th Monday before Thanksgiving (always two weeks after the earliest date of high school football practice).
- B. The maximum season length for all sports is 13 weeks under Regulation IV, Section 10, effective in the 2014-15 school year.
- C. The following topics are among those being studied from now through the 2013-14 school year:
 1. The application of MHSAA rules and services to sixth graders.
 2. Limitations on the number of length of contests at the junior high/middle school level.

IV. Sports –

- A. Baseball/Softball – The season limitation for teams and individuals is 38 contests beginning in the 2014 season.
- B. Girls Competitive Cheer –
 1. The host timer is eliminated. Safety judges will be the official timers for all regular season and MHSAA tournament competitions.

2. Additional policies and penalties have been adopted to assure teams utilize the correct number of competitors in all three rounds of competition.

C. Golf –

1. Devices that measure distance only (not “smart” phones) may be utilized in MHSAA tournaments beginning in 2013-14.
2. Beginning in 2014, the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Boys Golf Tournament starts and ends one week earlier.

D. Soccer – The National Federation rule that requires a team to play short-handed after one of its players receives a second yellow card has been adopted for Michigan; and Michigan’s ten-minute substitution penalty after a yellow card has been discontinued.

E. Girls Volleyball – The royal blue, gray and white ball is required for all high school level regular season and MHSAA postseason matches effective with the 2014-15 school year.

MODEL POLICY FOR MANAGING HEAT & HUMIDITY Adopted March 22, 2013
For 2013-14 MHSAA Handbook and MHSAA Tournaments

A

1. Thirty minutes prior to the start of an activity, and again 60 minutes after the start of that activity, take temperature and humidity readings at the site of the activity. Using a digital sling psychrometer is recommended. Record the readings in writing and maintain the information in files of school administration. Each school is to designate whose duties these are: generally the athletic director, head coach or certified athletic trainer.
2. Factor the temperature and humidity into the Heat Index Calculator and Chart to determine the Heat Index. If a digital sling psychrometer is being used, the calculation is automatic.
3. **If the Heat Index is below 95 degrees:**
 - All Sports
 - Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
 - Optional water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.
 - Ice-down towels for cooling.
 - Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.

If the Heat Index is 95 degrees to 99 degrees:

- All Sports
 - Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
 - Optional water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.
 - Ice-down towels for cooling.
 - Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Contact sports and activities with additional equipment:
 - Helmets and other possible equipment removed while not involved in contact.
- Reduce time of outside activity. Consider postponing practice to later in the day.
- Recheck temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index.

If the Heat Index is above 99 degrees to 104 degrees:

- All Sports
 - Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
 - Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.
 - Ice-down towels for cooling.
 - Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
 - Alter uniform by removing items if possible.
 - Allow for changes to dry t-shirts and shorts.
 - Reduce time of outside activity as well as indoor activity if air conditioning is unavailable.
 - Postpone practice to later in the day.
- Contact sports and activities with additional equipment
 - Helmets and other possible equipment removed if not involved in contact or necessary for safety. If necessary for safety, suspend activity.
- Recheck temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index.

If the Heat Index is above 104 degrees:

- All sports
 - Stop all outside activity in practice and/or play, and stop all inside activity if air conditioning is unavailable.

Note: When the temperature is below 80 degrees there is no combination of heat and humidity that will result in need to curtail activity.

Over for Heat Index PDF 

SECTION 9(F) – (Effective Aug 1, 2014) A student who changes schools and is ineligible under Section 9(A) is ineligible for 180 scheduled school days to participate in an interscholastic contest for the high school to which that student transferred if any one of the following circumstances existed during the previous 12 months:

1. That student participated at an open gym at that high school to which the student has transferred.
2. That student participated on a non-school team coached by any of that high school's coaches including contact permitted under Regulation II, Section 11(H) 2 b (summer days of competition). A transfer student's participation in otherwise allowed out-of-season or summer activity prior to being on the written or electronic records of the school that the student transfers into would cause the student to be ineligible for 180 school days. A new student's enrollment information must be on file in the offices of the superintendent or principal or athletic director prior to participation in otherwise allowed out-of-season or summer activity.
3. One of that high school's coaches served as a personal sport trainer, conditioner or instructor (paid or volunteer) for that student.
4. That student transfers to a school where the coach of his/her previous high school is employed.

This applies only to students who have participated in a game or scrimmage on any interscholastic team of the previous high school of enrollment and only in the sport or sports in Items 1 through 4 above.

Even if the student's circumstances subsequently satisfy one of the exceptions of Section 9(A) that would normally allow a transfer student immediate eligibility, the student shall remain ineligible for 180 scheduled school days at this MHSAA member school.

A student's new school may petition the MHSAA Executive Director for eligibility as under Section 9(D) when an adult described in #2, 3 or 4 becomes a school coach at the new school **after** a student has enrolled or under compelling circumstances. The school must provide the basis for the request with sufficient documentation to make a decision. The Executive Director will make eligibility determinations on a case-by-case basis as to the student's period of ineligibility and possible forfeitures. The student's period of ineligibility could be as under Section 9(D) or 180 scheduled school days from the point of discovery or 180 scheduled school days from the date of enrollment.