



2017-18 SKI COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
East Lansing, October 31, 2017 – 9:30 am

Members Present:

David Corcoran, Saginaw
John Deibel, Pontiac
Mike Foyteck, Clarkston
Mark Grosvenor, Harbor Springs
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Mark Mattson, Traverse City (video conference)
Duane Petrosky, Caledonia
Bruce Rosengren, Bloomfield Hills
James Styf, Grand Rapids

Josh Vandruska, Orchard Lake
Kerry Weber, Commerce
Betty Wroubel, Pontiac

Staff

Cody Inglis

The committee met on October 31, 2017 at the MHSAA office in East Lansing. The ski committee was reminded of its responsibility and the process from which rules changes occur. The following discussion and action took place.

Representative Council review

The committee reviewed last year's Representative Council action taken with skiing. This included a recommendation from the ski committee on the maximum of 15 meets for a team or individual. Discussions on why this recommendation did not pass the Representative Council occurred and evolved into discussion about the philosophy behind the start rule and non-school ski racing vs. high school ski racing.

The Michigan High School Ski Coaches Association brought forward discussion on last year's rule proposal that came from the MHSAA ski committee and the reasons why it was not approved by the MHSAA Representative Council. The number of 15 races or starts was the centerpiece of this discussion. The Ski Coaches Association and their membership, through surveys and their annual coaches' clinic believe that this number should be increased. Last year's proposal was made to try to help simplify a process that in many schools was complicated and led to the increased separation between the ski program and the school athletic office. The intent of the rule proposal was not to do this but the committee agreed that the rule proposal would have been hard to track and was complicated.

MACC races – a race series not allowed under MHSAA start date rules, was discussed and the committee was in agreement that MACC has the option to change their structure to fit within the MHSAA guidelines and not the other way around. This philosophy change amongst the committee was key in moving the discussion forward to focus on what the MHSAA ski committee should work on to improve high school ski racing not non-school ski racing.

Currently a ski team and individual is allowed 15 races, 4 scrimmages and up to 2 outside or non-high school ski races under the contest limit and limited team membership rules of the MHSAA. The committee focused on issues such as season length, the amount of hill time, weather and the number of USSA skiers in a program as reasons why the 15 race limit should be increased. A proposal to increase the number of contests in ski racing to 17 while decreasing the number of scrimmages to 2 (from 4) was unanimously approved by the committee. The committee believes that this is a good compromise number for the right reasons while still keeping in mind the philosophy of school sports and keeping high school ski racing a priority.

MHSAA Ski Rules and Ski Manual

In last year's MHSAA ski committee meeting discussion centered on a process for looking at the existing MHSAA ski rules and the MHSAA ski manual to review those rules and determine if they need to be updated or revised as it has been several years since a thorough review has been done.

The ski coaches association worked tirelessly in a complete and thorough review of the existing ski manual and rules to ensure that they were up to date with USSA ski rules while fitting the MHSAA philosophy and verbiage. The ski manual has been periodically updated throughout the years but no complete review has been done such as this one since the ski manual was initially developed. The ski rules committee formed by the coaches association spent hours of times both ensuring accuracy of the document as well as an organization structure of the document. Additionally, MHSAA staff was a part of this process as well as met with the group to go over MHSAA specific situations that need to occur in this document. The MHSAA ski committee unanimously proposes that the revised MHSAA ski manual with MHSAA staff edits be approved at the new MHSAA ski manual starting with the 2018-19 ski season and with MHSAA Representative Council approval.

Ski racing future discussion

The ski committee conversed about the state of downhill ski racing in Michigan and with the MHSAA. With recent discussion surrounding the sport of ski racing and its future the Michigan High School Ski Coaches Association has reached out to work on several key factors for the current and future success of the sport. This includes increasing the participation rate of ski racing in Michigan while also working to battle the real issues of non-school facilities, coaches and funding challenges. One of the key ways that the MHSSCA can continue to help MHSAA member schools who sponsor ski racing is to ensure that there is a connection from the ski program to the high school Athletic Director. The more closely aligned that the school AD is to their ski program the less issues and the more success that program has in the long term. This includes ensuring the MHSAA rules and regulations are followed as well as the school showing interest in the team and the ski program so that the student-athletes on that team feel valued and supported by their school. In addition, the ski coaches association will be looking strongly at supporting a Junior High race program in ski racing to build the sport at the lower levels.

Non-Conforming team rule revision discussion

The current MHSAA rule for ski racing is that it does not allow a school to have a team with less than 4 students in each discipline. This has been a topic for several years with no committee push to change the current team format. Surveys continue to support discussion on the topic. Future discussion on whether or not the current number of a minimum of 4 racers is correct may be where it goes next. The committee felt that at this time that changing or adjusting the number racers needed for a team should not be moved forward.

Regional and Final Sites and Hosts

2018 Finals

Division 1 at Boyne Mountain – Host, Clarkston with co-host Bloomfield Hills

Division 2 at Schuss Mountain – Host, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep with co-host Orchard Lake St.

Mary's

Hosting responsibilities as well as the process was discussed by the committee. A two year commitment to the host school was discussed as a way to have some continuity in the process and have the school "get better" in the second year of hosting responsibilities at the state finals level. In addition, the MHSAA will work to continue to communicate with the host site and confirm things at the MHSAA level to ensure that the commitment is on both sides. The responsibility of assignment rests with the MHSAA and goes to the school Athletic Director who works to confirm things with the home hill of that school. Site selection for regional assignments is done by the MHSAA based upon enrollment and geography as well as the number of school assigned to each regional.

Regionals

- R1 – @ Crystal Mt. hosted by Traverse City Central and West HS or Cannonsburg hosted by Forest Hills Northern/Eastern - To be determined by the MHSAA
R2 – @ Pine Knob hosted by Bloomfield Hills HS
R3 – @ Alpine Valley hosted by Novi
R4 – @ Nubs Nob co-hosted by Petoskey HS and Harbor Springs HS
R5 – @ Caberfae hosted by Cadillac HS
R6 – @ Pine Knob hosted co-hosted by Detroit Country Day and Orchard Lake St. Mary's

2018 Approved MHSAA/CUSSA Meets

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. January 6-7 | Boyne Highlands |
| *January 6-7 | Spirit, MN |
| 2. *January 12-14 | Spirit, MN |
| January 13-15 | Marquette Mt. |
| 3. January 20-21 | Nub's Nob |
| *January 20-21 | LaCrosse, WI |
| 4. January 27-28 | Mt. Holly |
| 5. February 1-5 | Nub's Nob |
| 6. February 10-11 | Crystal Mt. |
| 7. February 23-25 | Marquette |

*These races are approved for Region 2 only.

Recommendations to the Representative Council

Increase the maximum number of contests in skiing from 15 to 17 while decreasing the number of scrimmages from 4 to 2. (12-0)

Approve the revised MHSAA ski manual with MHSAA staff edits starting with the 2018-19 ski season. (12-0)