



**2019 SKI COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
East Lansing, October 24, 2019 – 9:30 am

**Members Present:**

Cory Anderson, Grand Rapids  
Anna Braymer, Grand Haven  
Fred Bryant, Cadillac  
Mike Cowdrey, Bloomfield Hills  
Mike Foyteck, Clarkston (MHSSCA)  
Aaron Frank, Birmingham  
Nick Kocsis, Detroit

Linda Kozacki, Portage  
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake  
Zac Stevenson, Traverse City (MIAAA)  
Jeff Street, Brighton  
Josh Vandruska, Orchard Lake (MHSSCA)

**Staff:** Cody Inglis  
Guest: Don Tyrell

The ski committee met on October 24, 2019 at the MHSAA office in East Lansing. The committee was reminded of its responsibility and the process from which rules changes occur. The following discussion and action took place.

**Representative Council Review**

While there were no Representative Council items from the ski committee, the committee reviewed last year's ski meeting minutes including staff recommendations that were additions to the MHSAA ski tournament in 2019. These included electronic submission for running orders for ski teams, a standardized results document that was used by all Regional sites and hosts and an updated change form for ski coaches to use in Regionals and Finals. The committee agreed that these improvements were a good first step in seeking consistency across all six Regional sites, in addition to the two Finals races.

**General Discussion items**

The committee reviewed the Limited Team Membership rule, as well as the list of approved USSA races that Michigan skiers can compete in as a part of their 17 race dates. This list is posted online at MHSAA.com. Committee members were reminded of the MHSAA rule of submission of the ski racer profile sheet to the MHSAA and to their own athletic director prior to any races occurring.

A financial review of Regional sites and Finals expenses was completed for the committee so that all could get a picture of the expense realities that occur as a part of hosting an MHSAA event. The committee agreed that timely review of and expediency in coordinating the collection of invoices and people to be paid must be a priority of host schools. This financial coordination usually involves many different groups and areas including: race officials, school officials, ski resorts, equipment rental, food and lodging. Ski hosts have worked with the MHSAA about allowable reimbursements in these areas while establishing standard rates for all no matter where and when an MHSAA ski race is conducted.

Mike Foyteck, Michigan High School Ski Coaches Association President, updated the committee on topics that the ski association board is discussing and planning. Mike updated the committee on plans to have a JH/MS ski invitational for Michigan racers on the Saturday before the ski Finals at Nub's Nob. The MHSSCA, with the support from the MHSAA, wants to try to reach JH/MS kids prior to their enrollment in HS and help promote the sport of high school ski racing as a viable and important way to represent your school and community while enjoying the benefits of a lifelong sport. The MHSSCA will work together with the MHSAA to ensure that all rules are being followed. The race will use NASTAR timing to identify the racers that will compete in this race. In addition, Nub's Nob has been a gracious host and partner for this upcoming event.

## **Results, Run Orders and Timing Updates**

Don Tyrell, an invited guest who has served as an MHSAA region timer, was asked to update the committee on the Regional run order submission form for ski teams that Don helped develop with the MHSAA. This standardized form allowed ski timers the ability to communicate with Don after the races were complete. MHSAA staff will update running form submission to an all-electronic form for regionals. In addition, Don will continue to work with regional managers on a common standardized results file to submit when races are completed. Finally, after much deliberation, the committee would like the MHSAA to standardize language about changes that occur to run orders between Regionals and Finals. To submit running order changes, a deadline between the regional and state finals races must be met. This allows Final host schools to gather accurate information from schools and this change form needs to be submitted prior to leaving the Regional site. The change form will be located online at MHSAA.com under the Ski page. The ski committee feels these suggested changes will help bring needed standardization and consistency to a difficult process for regional and state final host schools and managers.

Don also updated the Ski committee on a hand timing “pilot” program that he is working on to help in this very complicated and oft-misunderstood area of backup timing for ski races. Don will continue to work on this program during the regular season in an effort to “clean up” the inconsistencies that arise during the timing process.

### **Ski Finals Discussion**

The committee continued discussion from last year’s meeting on the longstanding MHSAA policy of allowing racers that compete in the Ski Finals to only compete in the event (Giant Slalom or Slalom) that they actually qualified for at the regional meet. Ski coaches on the committee continue to feel that this rule has been discussed by coaches, ski committee and others throughout the years without any change despite what they feel is an overwhelming sentiment to change the rule and allow skiers to compete in both events at the Finals. For proposals to be passed, discussed and changed at the Representative Council level, there needs to be at minimum data presented along with the proposal for change. This data included research on how it will impact the sport of ski racing, a survey of coaches, how many skiers this will impact, what impact it will have on the length of a state finals and any past data or proposals that could give historical context to this request.

Don Tyrell put together data to show evidence for the first time of how a proposed change of allowing individual qualifiers in one discipline to also compete in the other discipline. Using this assembled data, Don was able to show that if a change was made, between 1-7 additional racers would be added to each race. This would add anywhere between 5-22 minutes of time to each race day. The average increase would be 5 extra racers through each course, adding 14 minutes to the day. This compelling and data was critical to the committee supporting a proposal for change to the Representative Council.

### **Regional and Final Sites and Hosts**

#### **2020 Finals**

Division 1 at Boyne Highlands, Harbor Springs – Host, Bloomfield Hills  
Division 2 at Nub’s Nob, Harbor Springs – Host, East Grand Rapids

The committee reviewed and approved the tentative MHSAA regional assignments. The responsibility of assignment rests with MHSAA staff and goes to the school athletic director who works to confirm details with the home hill of that school. Site selection for regional assignments is done by MHSAA staff based upon enrollment and geography as well as the number of schools assigned to each regional.

The committee worked on protocols for site selection and regional assignments based upon a school’s home hill during the regular season. While assignment based solely on a school ski team’s home hill would not work because of the sheer number of teams on some hills, it is a desire of the committee to develop a rotation for regionals that allow teams to see their home hill in a regional on a more regular basis. Geography and enrollment will still drive this assignment process, but looking at other factors such as an accurate listing of school ski teams home hills will assist the MHSAA in the development of an accurate process as change is desired by schools sponsoring ski teams whom have to move to another hill for regionals and thus incur a significant cost to ski programs, schools

and parents. MHSAA staff with the help of the MHSSCA will develop an accurate list of ski hills that ski programs use throughout the state for use in future assignments.

### **Regionals**

- R1 – @ Cannonsburg hosted by Forest Hills Northern HS
- R2 – @ Pine Knob hosted by Clarkston HS
- R3 – @ Alpine Valley hosted by Hartland HS
- R4 – @ Marquette Mt. hosted by Houghton HS
- R5 – @ Caberfae hosted by Cadillac HS
- R6 – @ Pine Knob hosted by Cranbrook Kingswood HS

### **2020 Approved MHSAA/USSA Meets**

1. January 3-6 US/FIS Spirit Mt. MN (MHSAA 600-mile round trip rules apply)
2. January 4-5 US Boyne Highlands MI
3. January 17-19 US Marquette Mt. MI
4. January 25-26 US Nubs Nob MI
5. January 25-26 US LaCrosse WI
6. February 3 US Indianhead MI
7. February 7-9 US/FIS LaCrosse WI
8. February 8 US Nubs Nob MI
9. February 21-23 US Marquette Mt. MI

### **Recommendations for MHSAA Staff**

Recommend to MHSAA staff to use a new Change Form for changes made by coaches between Regionals and Finals in ski racing.

### **Recommendations to the Representative Council**

**If an individual skier qualifies in one discipline (Giant Slalom or Slalom) at the MHSAA Regional, the skier will ski both disciplines at the MHSAA Final. (10-0)**