

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**SWIMMING & DIVING COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
East Lansing, February 8, 2018

Members Present:

Jock Ambrose, Kentwood  
Jason Black, Brighton  
Connie Cantrell, Mason  
Ben Farkas, Holland  
Darin Ferguson, Haslett  
Tom Flynn, Birmingham (MIAAA)  
Michael McHugh, Dexter (MISCA)  
Andrea Murphy, Plainwell  
John Pearson, Romeo  
Eric Talsma, Hamilton  
Michael Venos, Bloomfield Hills

Members Absent:

Rob Brownell, Battle Creek  
Brad Huttenga, Ann Arbor  
Pete Ryan, Saginaw

MHSAA Staff:

Andi Osters (recorder)

The 2017-18 MHSAA Swimming & Diving Committee met on Feb. 8, 2018 at the MHSAA office in East Lansing. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision making process and charge of the Swimming & Diving Committee. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members and the coaches' association.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **INCLUSION OF PARA-ATHLETES AT FINALS MEETS**

The committee welcomed a presentation from Mr. Brett Austin, who previously met with the MHSAA Athletic Equity Committee in October 2017. Mr. Austin explained that student athletes with ambulatory, cognitive and visual impairments are currently participating in high school swimming without exception or limitation, but typically do not score points for their respective teams. Mr. Austin requested that the committee consider adding additional scoring heats for para-athletes to each division of the MHSAA Swimming & Diving Championships. The committee discussed a need for better understanding of types of para-athletic classification, and how individual classifications would be determined prior to Championship meets. Additionally, there are questions about safety: namely, how coaches and meet officials will receive training on proper coaching technique, water safety and judgment of strokes for para-athletes. The committee requested further study. The Michigan Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association (MISCA) has agreed to conduct a survey of their membership to gauge current participation numbers related to para-athletes at the high school level.

#### **REGULAR-SEASON EXHIBITION HEAT PROTOCOLS**

Several leagues and conferences include parameters (number of heats allowed, officials' fees, etc.) for exhibition swimming in their guidelines and/or bylaws. Schools should develop official's fee structures that include additional compensation for multiple exhibition events. The committee encouraged MHSAA staff to stress the importance of exhibition heats to officials. Exhibition heats are permitted by NFHS playing rules, and are not limited in number.

#### **QUALIFYING TIMES**

Members of the committee expressed a need for succession planning with respect to the development of annual qualifying times and rankings. The committee recommended that qualifying times be posted during the summer months (instead of spring), after divisions are determined and most opt-ups have been identified by MHSAA staff.

### **CHAMPIONSHIP HOST SITES**

Host sites for MHSAA Finals Meets were reviewed by the committee, with special attention paid to Meet Information materials, timing system upgrades, competitor deck space, spectator seating, and meet management. The committee discussed the possibility of altering the Finals Meet schedule to afford member schools hosting opportunities, if need be.

### **OFFICIALS SELECTION FOR MHSAA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The committee agreed that more input is needed from coaches prior to officials' selection for MHSAA Finals meets. Several committee members offered to provide feedback on area officials (representative of their leagues/conferences) prior to assignments in the fall of 2018.

### **JUNIOR HIGH / MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION**

Citing strong participation numbers in both the boys and girls seasons, the committee believes that youth interscholastic swimming is in good health in Michigan. While MISCA does conduct a Middle School Invitational Meet, there was no support for an MHSAA-sponsored regional or state competition at the junior high level.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS – NO ACTION**

1. Identification of Finals Meet Committees prior to event
2. Consideration times ("A and B cuts"), size of state meets
3. Allowance for diving alternates after the Qualification Meet

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO MHSAA STAFF**

1. Work with MISCA reps to determine both (a) three-coach Meet Committees, and (b) Diving judges prior to each Finals Meet.
2. Direct coaches to the Participating School Team Information document during the MHSAA Online Rules Meeting.
3. Continue to emphasize swim suit coverage to coaches.

### **NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**