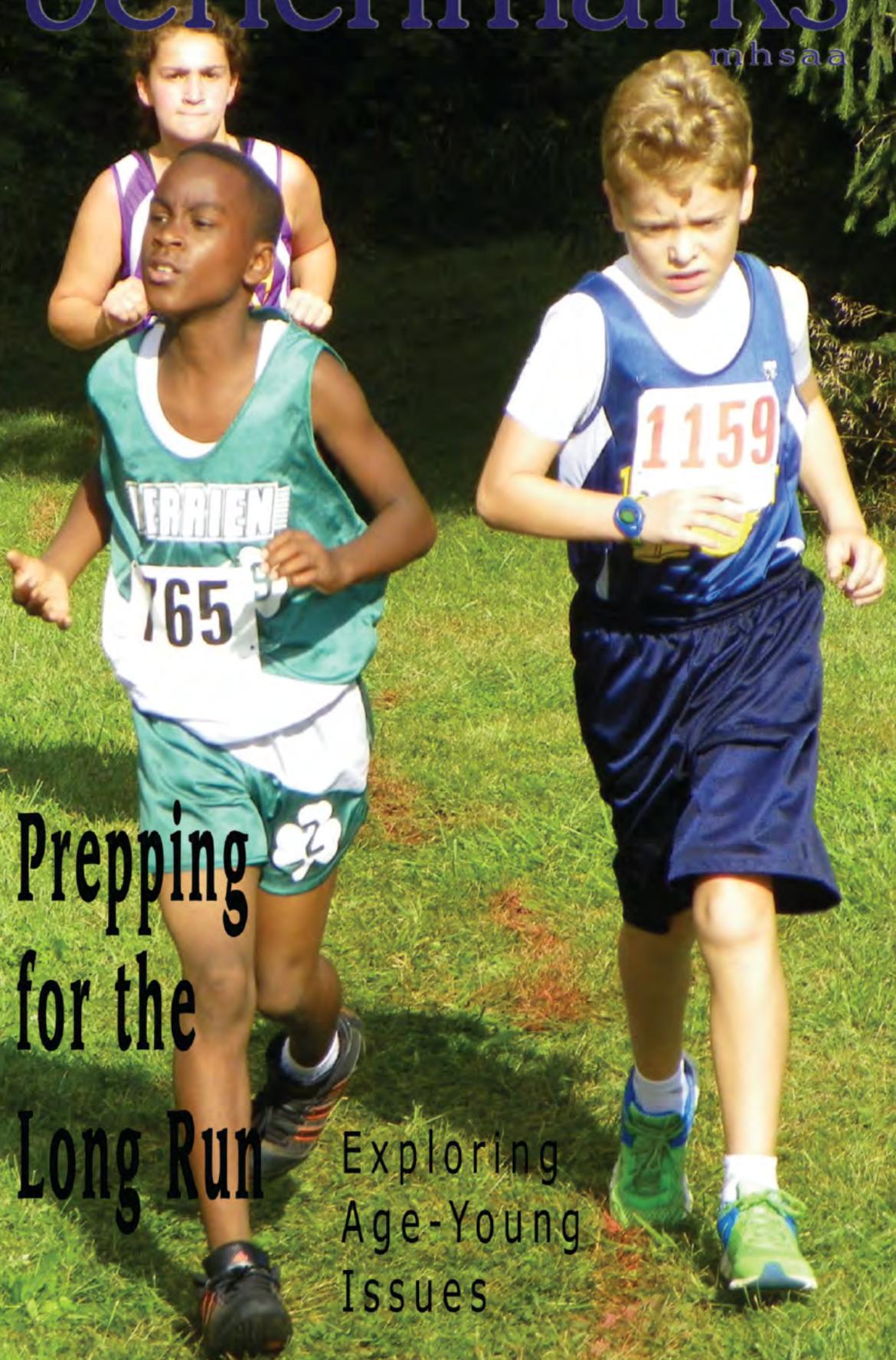


Winter 2014 Vol. 5 No. 2

benchmarks

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Prepping for the Long Run

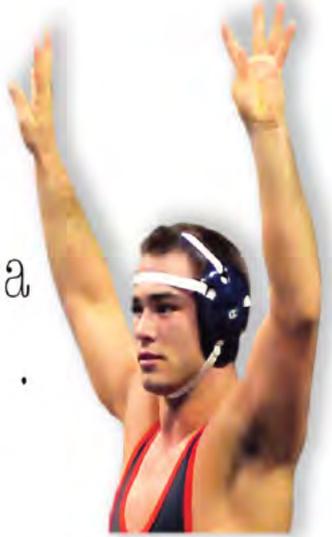
Exploring
Age-Young
Issues



I have a
story...



I have a
story...



I have a
story...

I have a
story...



We tell their stories



by MHSAA



Cover Story: Exploring Age-Young Issues



4

Junior high and middle school student-athletes under MHSAA auspices have long had more limited competition regulations than their high school cohorts. Is it time to expand the limitations for current grades, and invite a 6th-graders into the mix? The students in the middle are attracting attention as 2014 begins.

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In the Beginning . . .
 Speaking of age, readers will be surprised to discover the age limitations prescribed by the 1925 MHSAA *Constitution and Eligibility Rules*.



MHSAA News – 28

Net Gains are Costly
 For the first time, participation fees within the MHSAA membership rose significantly over 50 percent during the 2012-13 school year.



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Coming of Age
 Rules and regulations for MHSAA member schools are slightly different for high school and junior high school/middle school students.

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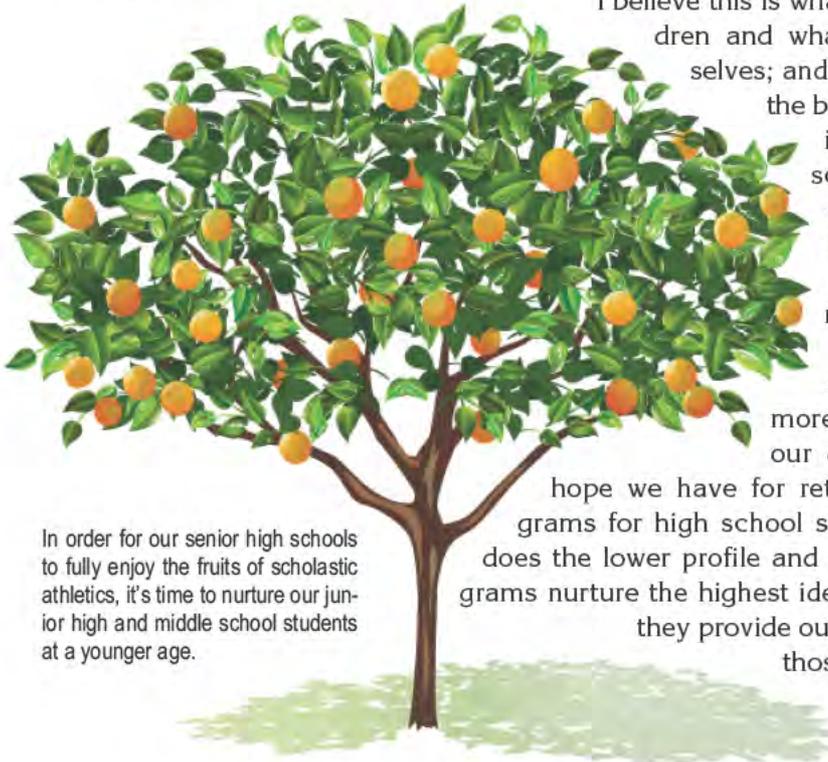
Nurturing Our Lower Level Programs

When I've been faced with the most difficult choices as to different courses of action for the MHSAA, I've tried to face up to this re-framing of the issue: "If we were creating the MHSAA for the first time today, would we do this, or would we do that?"

For example, would we or would we not limit coaches' contact with athletes out of season? Would we have a 90-day period of ineligibility for transfer students or would it be 180 days?

There are other examples of such "either, or" questions I could provide, but none is as difficult or defining as the one we focus on in this issue of *benchmarks*: Should school sports under the MHSAA's auspices provide more opportunities for 7th- and 8th-graders and new opportunities for even younger students?

I won't be coy about what I think our answer should be. I haven't always felt this way, and I recognize it is a different opinion than some who are quoted in this publication; but today it's my belief that if we were creating the MHSAA for the first time in 2014, the MHSAA would allow more contests and longer contests for 7th- and 8th-graders, and the MHSAA would have competition policies and programs for younger middle schoolers too.



In order for our senior high schools to fully enjoy the fruits of scholastic athletics, it's time to nurture our junior high and middle school students at a younger age.

I believe this is what parents want for their children and what students want for themselves; and I believe, within reason, that the better we serve these students in their junior high/middle school years, the stronger high school sports will be and the better these programs will support the educational missions of schools.

I believe we must begin to serve middle school students more comprehensively, and that our doing so today is the best hope we have for retaining comprehensive programs for high school students tomorrow. Not only does the lower profile and pressure of lower level programs nurture the highest ideals of educational athletics, they provide our highest hope for preserving those ideals at the high school level. I state this case more fully on page 18.

John E. "Jack" Roberts
MHSAA Executive Director

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

Coming of Age

The MHSAA's "From the Director" Blog addressed Junior High School/Middle School participation on several occasions during the past fall and early winter, drawing various responses.

Over the past 15 years I have watched my own kids and many others turned away from participation in extracurricular school-sponsored athletic programs. Basketball is the sport that poses the greatest challenge to include all those who are interested and willing to put forth the effort required. After unsuccessfully trying to convince our local junior high coaches, principal, athletic director, superintendent and prior school board to include more kids, I ran for the school board with the mission to change the policy. After now serving four years on the Gladstone School District Board of Education, I am proud to say that two years ago we unanimously implemented a very reasonable no-cut policy for the middle school, and a policy that encourages coaches at the higher levels to "include as many students as possible."

One suggestion I would have for the MHSAA is to consider extending the season length, increasing the maximum number of games, or time limits at the middle school level to help compete with the ever-encroaching threat of postseason travel ball.

– Paul Capodilupo

As a long-time middle school coach, I think the football season is too short compared to our younger Rocket Football counterparts and the quarters are also shorter. With shrinking numbers, it would also be beneficial to include our 6th-graders in our football program to build more cohesiveness within the building and improve our numbers.

– Bill Tiefenbach

"There are only positive reasons to have 6th-grade school sports (begin to learn fundamentals of game, good exercise, etc.). There are no reasons why we shouldn't, but many reasons why we should."

Why not give 6th-graders (parents) and each middle school the option of moving their student-athletes up to the 7th-grade sport they choose. Should be a parent, coach, athlete decision.

– Matt Crowley

Other states have 6th-grade sports and Michigan should also. There are only positive reasons to have 6th-grade school sports (begin to learn fundamentals of game, good exercise, etc.). There are no reasons why we shouldn't, but many reasons why we should. Sixth-graders should have their own teams at the school; kids are playing team sports anyhow, so let them play for their school during the 2014-15 season.

– Kita Carter

Parental Guidance

The following are responses to the "Parent Problem" blog of Oct. 29.

Succinctly and eloquently put! It's a shame that we have gotten to the point at which we have to include "parental guidance" in our athletic handbooks and parent communications.

As an educational administrator for over 25 years, one of the biggest changes I have noticed is the over-involvement (or

lack of appropriate parental involvement) of parents in the lives of their students. The abdication of personal responsibility on the part of both parents and students, and the sense of entitlement that parents/students have, not only in athletics, but also in the academic arena, has gotten out of hand.

Keep fighting the good fight!

– David R. Bouck

I think it starts way before high school. What has happened to one team winning and one team *losing*? Little leagues aren't allowed to keep score; both teams get to win . . . everyone gets a ribbon. By the time these kids get to high school, their parents have coddled them into believing they are the best because they've gotten ribbons all along. Now these kids are in high school and when kids don't play, or their team doesn't win, the parents complain that their kids didn't play enough, the coaches didn't coach enough, the refs weren't fair enough. The parents didn't have to "learn" with their kids the lessons of winning and losing; they always just got to tell them they were the best!

Fix the kids and parents from 5 years old forward, then by high school we won't see the parents behaving the way they do.

– Rhonda Owens

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*.



Middle Management

Exploring factors that hold keys to ushering in a new age of junior high/middle school membership in the MHSAA

Case studies of Middle Child Syndrome range far and wide in the world of family psychology, but at the center of most dialogue regarding those affected is a feeling of being ignored or left out.

Within the family tree of scholastic sports, however, there's no better time to be in the middle than right now, as the tween and early teen generation is commanding the MHSAA's utmost attention as 2014 begins.

While participation numbers for high school athletics continue to hold steady in Michigan, junior high/middle school membership in the MHSAA is on the decline. In just the last seven years, membership among the vital group has dropped by exactly 100 buildings, from 831 schools in 2005-06 to 731 this year. That figure represents just 36.5% of the nearly 2,000 schools in the 2013 *Michigan Education Directory* serving 7th- and 8th-graders.

The number of high schools comprising the MHSAA now is greater than that of the feeder

schools, bewildering when considering that a large percentage of high schools draw students from at least two junior high/middle schools.

To reverse the trend, the first order of business is to identify reasons junior highs and middle schools are leaving the MHSAA, or in more numerous cases, not joining to begin with.

Armed with data from the 2013 MHSAA Update Meeting Survey and positions advanced by the MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee, a task force has been formed to examine problems and recommend solutions.

"We didn't have an overwhelming 'Yes' or 'No,' or definitive answers, through the Update Meeting Survey on the various junior high/middle school topics (see page 11). There are so many models in existence throughout the state. Some have grades 5-8, some 6, 7 and 8, some K-12," said MHSAA Representative Council member Karen Leinaar, explaining her motion at the December Council meeting that a task force be formed.



“We hope the task force can provide information and direction by putting different minds together to narrow down some action plans to encourage more junior high/middle school membership,” said Leinaar, athletic director at Bear Lake, a K-12 building.

“When you see the numbers, it makes you scratch your head and think, ‘What can we do to get that number to at least 50 percent,’” said fellow Council member Jason Mellema, superintendent at Pewamo-Westphalia Schools. “I’d like the task force to approach schools which aren’t members currently and ask, ‘Why?’ Those responses will be valuable.”

“If we’re jumping into this attempting to control something that we can’t control, that’s not the right reason. But, if we can increase participation in some schools which otherwise wouldn’t have programs, then we need to figure out how to do that.” — Steve Newkirk, MHSAA Representative Council Member and Principal at Clare Middle School

At the heart of the matter are separate but parallel discussions aimed at making junior high/middle school membership more attractive. Implementing either of the two requires different measures of MHSAA protocol.

The first matter would require MHSAA Representative Council action. These issues pertain to lengths of contests and seasons at the middle school level. Lengthening seasons and/or contests could provide more ample playing time for schools which currently find it difficult to mete out opportunities for all students in the program.

The second consideration involves the inclusion of 6th-graders into school athletic programs. Such action would require an MHSAA Constitutional change which would be effected by a two-thirds favorable vote on a ballot authorized by the Representative Council.

Extending the arm of MHSAA membership to 6th-graders might enable smaller school districts to begin programs and teams where currently none exist due to low enrollments.

In communities of all sizes, 6th-grade participation could encourage students to join school teams at an earlier age, exposing them to the values and benefits of school-based sports vs. community sports in which many youngsters are already participating.

“AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) and community-based sports aren’t going away,” said MHSAA Council member Steve Newkirk, principal at Clare Middle School. “What is our rationale when we examine lengthening seasons or extending our role to include 6th-graders? If we’re jumping into this attempting to control something that we can’t control, that’s not the right reason. But, if we can increase participation in some schools which otherwise wouldn’t have programs, then we need to figure out how to do that.”

In a nutshell, the keys to increasing membership among the MHSAA’s younger students are speculative at this point.

There does seem to be growing consensus, however, that when a new model is unveiled, it will be up to local leadership to grab the keys and drive the vehicle down the right roads.

A MATTER OF MINUTES

Like an older or younger sibling, “burnout” gets a lot of attention from sports study professionals as a significant reason many young people walk away from sports. Too much, too soon; too much specialization. Data certainly exists to support that.

Often overlooked is exclusion. Not getting enough playing time, not feeling like part of the team, practicing just as hard but only playing the meaningless “fifth quarter.”

The MHSAA sets forth season and contest limitations for both its senior high schools and junior high/middle schools.

Survey data illustrates that Michigan is more restrictive than some neighboring states, and there seems to be growing momentum among constituents to lengthen contests rather than seasons.

“It’s interesting to see what some of the other states have in place, and in many instances we allow significantly fewer contests,” said Mellema. “Maybe increasing the number of contests would be the hook for increasing our membership.”

A look at the chart on page 7 indeed indicates the Michigan’s restrictions on the number of contests are a bit more stringent from others surveyed. However, the mood from January’s Junior High/Middle School Committee Meeting at the MHSAA (see page 16), along with the flavor from last fall’s Update Meetings, seems to signify little desire for change.

When invested personnel were asked whether they would favor increased basketball and soccer

– continued next page



Photo courtesy of Ionia MS

One suggestion which would allow for 6th-grade participation in MHSAA Junior High/Middle School sports programs is to allow them to participate in non-contact sports such as cross country.

schedules at the middle school level, the answer was 'No,' to the tune of 60 percent regarding basketball, and 68 percent when it came to soccer.

"Our coaches want practice time, and increasing the number of games would actually take away from practice time," said Kevin Polston, who heads the athletic department at a 7th-8th-grade building in Grand Haven. "Increasing the *length* of contests would be favored over playing more actual games."

Early dismissal from school, increased transportation, contest officials and game management expenses also work against the notion of upping the number of events.

"When we talk about adding games, I see dollar signs," said Blissfield's Steve Babbitt. "More buses, more officials, more game management."

Adding dates to schedules might also bring unwanted consequences to the school calendar.

"If we were to add contests, particularly in the fall, then the practice start dates might become an issue to get in the proper number of days before the season begins," said Joe Alessandrini of Livonia. "We'd have to start practice before school begins."

One problem inherent to late summer practice at the junior high/middle school level is that, unlike high school, many coaches use the first weeks of school simply to recruit kids to try out for their teams.

Gaining far greater momentum at the recent Committee Meeting was the advocacy for longer games through the addition of a couple minutes per quarter.

That position is further bolstered by the Update Meeting Survey, which revealed respondents' favoring an increase in basketball quarters from six to 8 minutes, and for a "fifth quarter" in football to allow more students the opportunity to compete.

Just over half of the survey takers (52-48 percent) were more reluctant to add minutes to football quarters, but several JH/MS Committee

Members point to longer football games as a key to participation. On many occasions, it was reported, football teams have run nearly all the time out of a quarter without the other team touching the ball. And, kids who only play the "fifth quarter" aren't fooled by their roles if they only play when the game is over and nothing counts. Incorporating them into the flow of the game is preferred.

Others in the meeting discussed ways in which coaches rotated team units during a contest, and conference guidelines which have been established to promote participation while still allowing teams to be competitive at the ends of the games.

"My concern when looking at game times is that we need to be specific and put constraints on how many minutes or quarters kids can play. That becomes tricky," said Mellerna.

"I'd like to have this meeting recorded to show that our opinions are not isolated; that we all share the same views, values and issues throughout the state," said Constantine's Mike Messner during the January meeting.

And that's where influence at the local level from experienced school leaders is paramount.

"Our good intentions sometimes are not carried out the way we meant for them to be," Leinaar said. "We have to impress on our schools why these changes are taking place, if we change things like length of seasons or contests.

"If it's about winning, adding eight or 10 minutes to each game won't change anything. If we add games, we see it as increased opportunities for kids, but coaches might not use it that way."

Former MHSAA Assistant Director Randy Allen, who presided over JH/MS Committee Meetings in recent years, added, "The details of this can never be carried out or achieved by the state Association. We can provide a tool to help achieve the goal of increased participation, but our schools have to implement it to be effective."



PLEADING THE 6TH

Even altering season and contest limits won't address participation issues if kids can't play.

Enter the debate over welcoming 6th-graders into the scholastic sports mix, an even hotter and more divided topic than game and season duration.

Whereas support for amending the MHSAA Constitution once lingered just below level ground, the most recent Update Meeting Survey is creating a groundswell, if not yet of seismic proportions.

In 2008, 47.5 percent of member schools indicated a desire to include 6th-graders in the *MHSAA Handbook*. Last fall, that figure rose to 59.4 percent overall, and up to 61.1 percent for just those individuals responsible for 7th and 8th-grade students in their districts.

It is worth noting that in more nearly 80 percent of school districts which include MHSAA member schools, 6th-graders share the same building with

7th- and 8th-graders.

Let the opening arguments begin.

"We're talking 60 percent who are in favor of amending the Constitution. That's a significant number," Mellema said. "For larger schools with good numbers and only 7th- and 8th-graders in the buildings, it's not an issue. But some smaller schools wouldn't have teams without 6th-graders."

Yet, in most places, 6th-graders are playing anyways, just not wearing the school colors.

"Because there are so many outside groups that have keyed in on kids at such a young age, I think it's time reach out to the younger grades to maintain educational athletics" said Leinaar. "Fewer kids are on the playgrounds. Parents have them scheduled for soccer, judo, piano, and anything else you can think of. So, we should take the opportunity to develop the team concept in an educational setting without the little league mom and dad coaches."

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Sampling of Junior High/Middle School Contest Limits

Sport	Illinois	Michigan	New York	Ohio	Wisconsin
Baseball/Softball	No Limit Pitching Limits	10 Dates	14 Games Pitching Limits	17 Games	12 Games/10 Weeks
Basketball	22 Games, 110 Qtrs include scrimm	12 Games	14 (7 Min Qtrs)	16 Games, 64 Qtrs	17 Games, 15 Weeks, 68 Qtrs
Competitive Cheer	N/A	8 Dates	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cross Country	No Limit Approx 9 Weeks	10 Meets	10 Meets	12 Meets	8 Meets/10 Weeks
Football	N/A	6 Games	7 (10 Min Qtrs)	8 if 1 Scrimm 7 if 2 Scrimm	7 Games/10 Weeks
Lacrosse	N/A	12 Dates	12 Games	N/A	N/A
Soccer	N/A (Emerging)	12 Games	12 (15 Min Qtrs)	14 Games	12 Games/10 Weeks
Swimming	N/A	12 Dates	14 Meets	12 Meets	12 Meets/15 Weeks
Tennis	N/A	12 Dates	14 Meets	16 Contests	12 Meets/10 Weeks
Track	No Limit Approx 12 Weeks	10 Dates	10 Outdoor 10 Indoor	12 Meets	12 Meets/10 Weeks
Volleyball	22 Matches/72 Sets 4 Matches/Day	12 Dates	14 Matches	20 Matches, 16 Dates	13 Meets/10 Weeks
Wrestling	16 Dates, 37 Match, incl tourns	12 Dates, 42 Matches	12-Point System	17 Pts Team/Individual	12 Meets/15 Weeks 36 Matches

Illinois has a separate Elementary School Association governing grades 7-8, which includes postseason (see story page 20). Students in 5th and 6th grades may participate on teams with the 7th- and 8th-graders. In sports where no contest limits are stated, the short season length keeps contests under control. Pitching restrictions in baseball/softball also dictate the number of games possible.

In **Michigan**, all junior high/middle school season lengths are 13 consecutive weeks.

In **Ohio**, all junior high/middle school season starts/lengths are the same as the high school season. Also allows one postseason event in soccer, basketball, baseball/softball, cross country, track & field and volleyball. Wrestling has various match limits based on the type of event.

“Fewer kids are on the playgrounds. Parents have them scheduled for soccer, judo, piano, and anything else you can think of. So, we should take the opportunity to develop the team concept in an educational setting without the little league mom and dad coaches.” — Karen Leinaar, MHSAA Representative Council Member and Bear Lake Athletic Director

There is sentiment that the work needs to be focused in-house, or in the hallways, with deference to non-school athletic opportunities.

“It’s not about competing with outside entities,” said Brian Swinehart, Walled Lake. “It’s about providing the best experience for those who are in our schools; getting them more opportunity to play.”

And, getting them to play with structured coaching regulations. Within the MHSAA, members are strongly encouraged to hire coaches who are employed by the school district. Non-faculty coaches are required to be listed on forms submitted to the MHSAA, and in the very near future, all MHSAA coaches will be required to complete Coaches Advancement Courses, and courses in basic safety and first aid.

“I coach my son in AAU wrestling, and my eyes opened up when I found that anyone with \$18 and a computer could be a coach,” said Newkirk. “Anyone under the sun can coach.”

“We need to get to the root of what it is we’re trying to accomplish. Is our goal the opportunity to play school sports or is the undercurrent to impact AAU sports? Maybe there’s a way to work with the coaches who are coming into our buildings and collaborate with them to have them buy into our values and philosophies.”

Polston echoed those sentiments at the JH/MS Committee meeting.

“If adding 6th-graders is to further our competitive nature versus non-school activities, I don’t think we’re ever going to do well at that,” said Polston. “Their philosophy is to win, and ours is education and value based.”

Just as school-based athletics differ from outside organizations, there also can be marked differences in the lives of youths as they move from elementary school to junior high and middle

schools. Such social transition periods are also considered.

“We’re already asking kids to grow up way too fast,” said Newkirk, whose school in Clare is 5th-8th grade. “It used to be Hot Wheels, Barbie Dolls and G.I. Joes, and now it’s all cell phones and texting and dating. Adding sports to those dynamics might create just another source of stress.”

The counterpoint could spotlight the exclusion factor again.

“I’m in a 6th-8th-grade building, and there’s a void for 6th-graders,” said Alan Alsbro of Berrien Springs.

Messner reiterates concerns that 6th-grade sports might be too much, too soon at a pivotal age for students, and also mentions certain buzzwords that are like nails on a chalkboard to all levels of school sports leaders: finances and facilities.

“We’re a 6-8 building, and we’ve always felt that the 6th-grade year is a year of adjustment academically and socially, so let’s start athletics in 7th grade,” Messner said. “And, we’ve already had to budget out freshman-level sports at the high school, so how can we justify 6th-grade? We’re not going to find a pot of money.”

Cash will always be a concern for school programs, but the facilities and transportation arguments are quickly debunked by some.

“We have 5th- and 6th-grade teams that are school-based right now. We don’t pay the coaches, don’t collect participation fees or take physicals, but they do use our facilities, and we find room and time in the schedule,” Mellema said.

“Some schools treat the lower grades as intramurals, still hosting the events in their facilities, so it can be done if we expand our programs down a grade,” Leinaar said. “People say, ‘Oh that’d be a lot of work.’ Yeah. It would, but you just have to fig-

Part of the dilemma facing decision-makers on the junior high/middle school issues is that the size of the districts and grades within each school can vary drastically from community to community.





ure out a way to do it.”

The facility and finance issue could, in fact, be a moot point. A change to the Constitution would not necessarily force schools to sponsor stand-alone 6th-grade teams. In fact, the change might not mandate that schools include 6th-graders at all.

A change would simply provide the opportunity for participation. The underlying feeling within the JH/MS Committee was that local boards and conferences would determine the extent of 6th-grade participation.

“I think the fear of 6th-grade stand-alone teams could deter some districts from having their middle schools join the MHSAA,” said Sean Zaborowski of St. Clair Shores. “It’s not viable to have 6th-grade-only football teams, basketball teams, etc. The question becomes whether to allow them to participate with 7th- and 8th-graders.”



For some, it might simply be a question of need, on a sport-by-sport basis.

“We have enough numbers that we don’t need 6th-graders to fill out rosters,” said Muskegon’s Todd Farmer of his 7-8 building. “Only the cross country people are asking about it. And, if we allow 6th-graders to participate, then do we allow 7th-graders to play with 8th-graders?”

That is another piece to the puzzle which administrators are wrestling with; in some cases quite literally.

CONTACT LIST

Wrestling is one of the sports most in need of 6th-grade participants, if for nothing more than filling the lightest weight classes.

The Update Meeting Survey showed nearly 42 percent in favor of 6th-graders competing with 7th- and 8th-graders in wrestling. Among “contact” sports, only basketball received slightly more support at 52 percent.

“Non-contact sports is where the focus should be,” said Alsbro. “In the non-contact sports, I think it’s a no-brainer to get students exposed to competition without getting their brains knocked out.”

The fall survey backs that sentiment with support as high as 73 percent in cross country, and 67 percent in track & field. Football, ice hockey and lacrosse yield percentages of 72 or above opposed to 6th-graders playing with 7th- and 8th-graders.

Leinaar speculates that it might be time to include 6th-graders in all “non-combative” sports.

Wrestling certainly falls in the contact category, but it is individual in nature. The JH/MS Committee suggested that the MHSAA Task Force consider the merits of team vs. individual sports as the natural division as to the inclusion of 6th-graders on the same teams as their 7th- and 8th-grade classmates.

Putting 6th-graders on the same fields with 7th- and 8th-graders in contact sports such as football is roundly opposed within the junior high/middle school community. But, there is great support for such participation in non-contact and individual sports.

Recent MHSAA waiver requests indicate a movement for such action to be taken. Consider the following:

- During the 2011-12 school year, 40 different school districts made requests to the MHSAA Executive Committee to waive Regulation III, Section 1, pursuant to what is now Interpretation 262 so that 6th-graders could compete with and against 7th- and 8th-graders. The Executive Committee approved 37 of those requests.
- During the 2012-13 school year, 50 different school districts made this request to allow 6th-graders on 7th- and 8th-grade teams, and 46 requests were approved.

The majority of these requests came in the sports of basketball, cross country, and track &

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Wrestling poses an interesting conundrum for those trying to pin down 6th-grade participation solutions. While certainly a contact sport, it is individual in nature and pairs up athletes by weight class.

field. On several occasions, schools were granted permission in all sports other than football, ice hockey and wrestling.

Interpretation 262 also states that requests may be submitted by the administration of “smaller member junior high/middle schools.” This might have deterred some districts from seeking 6th-grade participation and, in turn, eliminated the possibility of fielding a team in some cases.

In light of such history and language, the JH/MS Committee asked to forward the following positions to the Task Force and beyond:

- Change the current 6th-grade waiver process to allow schools of any enrollment size to be considered for waivers on a case-by-case basis that is need-specific, not granted only to small enrollment schools.
- Eliminate the waiver requirement for 6th-grade participation in individual sports, and maintain the waiver process and criteria for team sports.

Even with a Constitutional amendment to include 6th-graders in programs statewide, decisions would have to be made locally as to which teams they may be a part of.

OUTSIDE THE HALLWAYS

In addition to the primary topics of season and contest limitations and 6th-grade participation, the JH/MS Committee was asked for suggestions on how the MHSAA could retain current JH/MS members and make membership more attractive to schools not currently members. The following thoughts were expressed for consideration:

- Make membership required for those junior high/middle schools of MHSAA senior high schools. In other words, require district-wide membership (fully recognizing the difficulty with private school members).

- Provide MHSAA CAP courses at no charge or at a greatly reduced cost to JH/MS members.
- Modify the Limited Team Membership Rule at grades 7-8 to allow *some* participation in the same sport with non-school programs during the school season. Such allowance would have restrictions, to be determined.
- Give member schools flexibility on the start of fall football practices.
- Allow more local league and conference decision-making within broad statewide MHSAA regulations.

This input from the JH/MS Committee will be an important voice in the deliberations of the JH/MS Task Force that will convene multiple times during 2014 to bring a breadth and depth of study unprecedented on this topic in the MHSAA’s long history.

The quest for increased membership among the state’s junior high/middle schools – and thus, increased participation within the framework of educational athletics – is of utmost importance to the health and future of high school athletics.

Quoting MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts from his blog of Oct. 8 on MHSAA.com, “School sports needs to market itself better, and part of better is to be available earlier – much sooner in the lives of youth.”

It is an age group that can no longer be ignored, or take a back seat to its older brothers and sisters.

– Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

In the Middle of the 2013 Update Survey

Responses from those with 7th- and 8th-Grade Responsibilities

The following survey responses to the 2013 Update Meeting Survey reflect the answers given by the 374 people who indicated that they have responsibility for 7th- and 8th-grade athletics in their school districts. The number represents 68.6 percent of all attendees for last fall's gatherings.

1. Do you have responsibility for 7th- and 8th-grade students in your school district?

Yes 374 (68.62%)				No 171 (31.38%)			
28	Superintendents (7.49%)	79	Class A (21.12%)	8	Superintendents (4.68%)	67	Class A (17.91%)
30	Principals (8.02%)	107	Class B (28.61%)	49	Principals (28.65%)	57	Class B (15.24%)
305	Ath Directors (81.55%)	104	Class C (27.81%)	101	Ath Directors (59.06%)	29	Class C (7.75%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	74	Class D (19.79%)	2	Coaches (1.17%)	14	Class D (3.74%)
2	Board Members (0.53%)	10	Jr High/Middle (2.67%)	1	Board Members (0.58%)	0	Jr High/Middle (0.00%)
9	Other (2.41%)	0	Other (0.00%)	10	Other (5.85%)	4	Other (1.07%)

The following answers are only for those 374 who answered "Yes" to Question No. 1

Do you favor allowing 6th-grade students in MHSAA member junior high/middle schools the opportunity to participate with and against 7th- and 8th-grade students, without specific approval of the MHSAA Executive Committee, in the following sports:

2. Baseball/Softball?

Yes 176 (48.09%)				No 190 (51.91%)			
17	Superintendents (9.66%)	37	Class A (21.02%)	10	Superintendents (5.26%)	40	Class A (22.73%)
17	Principals (9.66%)	43	Class B (24.43%)	13	Principals (6.84%)	62	Class B (35.23%)
134	Ath Directors (76.14%)	39	Class C (22.16%)	164	Ath Directors (86.32%)	63	Class C (35.80%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	54	Class D (30.68%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	18	Class D (10.23%)
1	Board Members (0.57%)	3	Jr High/Middle (1.70%)	1	Board Members (0.53%)	7	Jr High/Middle (3.98%)
7	Other (3.98%)	0	Other (0.00%)	2	Other (1.05%)	0	Other (0.00%)

3. Basketball?

Yes 194 (52.15%)				No 178 (47.85%)			
18	Superintendents (9.28%)	37	Class A (19.07%)	10	Superintendents (5.62%)	41	Class A (21.13%)
20	Principals (10.31%)	49	Class B (25.26%)	10	Principals (5.62%)	58	Class B (29.90%)
147	Ath Directors (75.77%)	43	Class C (22.16%)	156	Ath Directors (87.64%)	61	Class C (31.44%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	61	Class D (31.44%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	12	Class D (6.19%)
1	Board Members (0.52%)	4	Jr High/Middle (2.06%)	1	Board Members (0.56%)	6	Jr High/Middle (3.09%)
8	Other (4.12%)	0	Other (0.00%)	1	Other (0.56%)	0	Other (0.00%)

4. Bowling?

Yes 210 (58.50%)				No 149 (41.50%)			
19	Superintendents (9.05%)	48	Class A (22.86%)	7	Superintendents (4.70%)	26	Class A (12.38%)
19	Principals (9.05%)	54	Class B (25.71%)	10	Principals (6.71%)	51	Class B (24.29%)
163	Ath Directors (77.62%)	48	Class C (22.86%)	130	Ath Directors (87.25%)	52	Class C (24.76%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	54	Class D (25.71%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	16	Class D (7.62%)
1	Board Members (0.48%)	6	Jr High/Middle (2.86%)	1	Board Members (0.67%)	4	Jr High/Middle (1.90%)
8	Other (3.81%)	0	Other (0.00%)	1	Other (0.67%)	0	Other (0.00%)

5. Girls Competitive Cheer?

Yes 184 (50.97%)				No 177 (49.03%)			
15	Superintendents (8.15%)	40	Class A (21.74%)	12	Superintendents (6.78%)	35	Class A (19.02%)
18	Principals (9.78%)	46	Class B (25.00%)	11	Principals (6.21%)	60	Class B (32.61%)
143	Ath Directors (77.72%)	44	Class C (23.91%)	151	Ath Directors (85.31%)	57	Class C (30.98%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	50	Class D (27.17%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	19	Class D (10.33%)
1	Board Members (0.54%)	4	Jr High/Middle (2.17%)	1	Board Members (0.56%)	6	Jr High/Middle (3.26%)
7	Other (3.80%)	0	Other (0.00%)	2	Other (1.13%)	0	Other (0.00%)

6. Cross Country?

Yes 271 (73.24%)				No 99 (26.76%)			
20	Superintendents (7.38%)	62	Class A (22.88%)	7	Superintendents (7.07%)	16	Class A (5.90%)
23	Principals (8.49%)	73	Class B (26.94%)	7	Principals (7.07%)	33	Class B (12.18%)
219	Ath Directors (80.81%)	68	Class C (25.09%)	83	Ath Directors (83.84%)	36	Class C (13.28%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	63	Class D (23.25%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	9	Class D (3.32%)
1	Board Members (0.37%)	5	Jr High/Middle (1.85%)	1	Board Members (1.01%)	5	Jr High/Middle (1.85%)
8	Other (2.95%)	0	Other (0.00%)	1	Other (1.01%)	0	Other (0.00%)

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Update Survey - *continued*

7. Football?

Yes 98 (26.49%)				No 272 (73.51%)			
9	Superintendents (9.18%)	24	Class A (24.49%)	19	Superintendents (6.99%)	55	Class A (56.12%)
10	Principals (10.20%)	23	Class B (23.47%)	20	Principals (7.35%)	83	Class B (84.69%)
75	Ath Directors (76.53%)	22	Class C (22.45%)	226	Ath Directors (83.09%)	81	Class C (82.65%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	28	Class D (28.57%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	44	Class D (44.90%)
1	Board Members (1.02%)	1	Jr High/Middle (1.02%)	1	Board Members (0.37%)	9	Jr High/Middle (9.18%)
3	Other (3.06%)	0	Other (0.00%)	6	Other (2.21%)	0	Other (0.00%)

8. Golf?

Yes 205 (57.10%)				No 154 (42.90%)			
17	Superintendents (8.29%)	48	Class A (23.41%)	10	Superintendents (6.49%)	26	Class A (12.68%)
18	Principals (8.78%)	52	Class B (25.37%)	11	Principals (7.14%)	54	Class B (26.34%)
161	Ath Directors (78.54%)	47	Class C (22.93%)	131	Ath Directors (85.06%)	53	Class C (25.85%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	54	Class D (26.34%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	15	Class D (7.32%)
1	Board Members (0.49%)	4	Jr High/Middle (1.95%)	1	Board Members (0.65%)	6	Jr High/Middle (2.93%)
8	Other (3.90%)	0	Other (0.00%)	1	Other (0.65%)	0	Other (0.00%)

9. Girls Gymnastics?

Yes 179 (50.28%)				No 177 (49.72%)			
16	Superintendents (8.94%)	41	Class A (22.91%)	11	Superintendents (6.21%)	32	Class A (17.88%)
16	Principals (8.94%)	44	Class B (24.58%)	13	Principals (7.34%)	61	Class B (34.08%)
139	Ath Directors (77.65%)	41	Class C (22.91%)	151	Ath Directors (85.31%)	59	Class C (32.96%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	50	Class D (27.93%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	18	Class D (10.06%)
1	Board Members (0.56%)	3	Jr High/Middle (1.68%)	1	Board Members (0.56%)	7	Jr High/Middle (3.91%)
7	Other (3.91%)	0	Other (0.00%)	1	Other (0.56%)	0	Other (0.00%)

10. Ice Hockey?

Yes 83 (23.18%)				No 275 (76.82%)			
10	Superintendents (12.05%)	24	Class A (28.92%)	17	Superintendents (6.18%)	50	Class A (60.24%)
10	Principals (12.05%)	18	Class B (21.69%)	19	Principals (6.91%)	87	Class B (104.82%)
59	Ath Directors (71.08%)	14	Class C (16.87%)	233	Ath Directors (84.73%)	86	Class C (103.61%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	26	Class D (31.33%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	43	Class D (51.81%)
1	Board Members (1.20%)	1	Jr High/Middle (1.20%)	1	Board Members (0.36%)	9	Jr High/Middle (10.84%)
3	Other (3.61%)	0	Other (0.00%)	5	Other (1.82%)	0	Other (0.00%)

11. Lacrosse?

Yes 97 (27.64%)				No 254 (72.36%)			
9	Superintendents (9.28%)	23	Class A (23.71%)	16	Superintendents (6.30%)	50	Class A (51.55%)
11	Principals (11.34%)	22	Class B (22.68%)	17	Principals (6.69%)	83	Class B (85.57%)
72	Ath Directors (74.23%)	14	Class C (14.43%)	216	Ath Directors (85.04%)	83	Class C (85.57%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	36	Class D (37.11%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	30	Class D (30.93%)
1	Board Members (1.03%)	2	Jr High/Middle (2.06%)	1	Board Members (0.39%)	8	Jr High/Middle (8.25%)
4	Other (4.12%)	0	Other (0.00%)	4	Other (1.57%)	0	Other (0.00%)

12. Skiing?

Yes 179 (50.28%)				No 177 (49.72%)			
17	Superintendents (9.50%)	42	Class A (23.46%)	10	Superintendents (5.65%)	32	Class A (17.88%)
17	Principals (9.50%)	46	Class B (25.70%)	12	Principals (6.78%)	59	Class B (32.96%)
138	Ath Directors (77.09%)	43	Class C (24.02%)	152	Ath Directors (85.88%)	57	Class C (31.84%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	45	Class D (25.14%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	22	Class D (12.29%)
1	Board Members (0.56%)	3	Jr High/Middle (1.68%)	1	Board Members (0.56%)	7	Jr High/Middle (3.91%)
6	Other (3.35%)	0	Other (0.00%)	2	Other (1.13%)	0	Other (0.00%)

13. Soccer?

Yes 164 (45.30%)				No 198 (54.70%)			
15	Superintendents (9.15%)	36	Class A (21.95%)	12	Superintendents (6.06%)	39	Class A (23.78%)
17	Principals (10.37%)	45	Class B (27.44%)	12	Principals (6.06%)	61	Class B (37.20%)
124	Ath Directors (75.61%)	30	Class C (18.29%)	172	Ath Directors (86.87%)	70	Class C (42.68%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	49	Class D (29.88%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	22	Class D (13.41%)
1	Board Members (0.61%)	4	Jr High/Middle (2.44%)	1	Board Members (0.51%)	6	Jr High/Middle (3.66%)
7	Other (4.27%)	0	Other (0.00%)	1	Other (0.51%)	0	Other (0.00%)

14. Swimming & Diving?

Yes 192 (53.19%)				No 169 (46.81%)			
17	Superintendents (8.85%)	47	Class A (24.48%)	11	Superintendents (6.51%)	29	Class A (15.10%)
17	Principals (8.85%)	52	Class B (27.08%)	12	Principals (7.10%)	55	Class B (28.65%)
149	Ath Directors (77.60%)	40	Class C (20.83%)	144	Ath Directors (85.21%)	60	Class C (31.25%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	50	Class D (26.04%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	18	Class D (9.38%)
1	Board Members (0.52%)	3	Jr High/Middle (1.56%)	1	Board Members (0.59%)	7	Jr High/Middle (3.65%)
8	Other (4.17%)	0	Other (0.00%)	1	Other (0.59%)	0	Other (0.00%)

Update Survey - continued

15. Tennis?

Yes 200			(55.56%) No 160			(44.44%)		
16	Superintendents (8.00%)	50	Class A (25.00%)	11	Superintendents (6.88%)	25	Class A (12.50%)	
16	Principals (8.00%)	56	Class B (28.00%)	13	Principals (8.13%)	50	Class B (25.00%)	
159	Ath Directors (79.50%)	39	Class C (19.50%)	134	Ath Directors (83.75%)	61	Class C (30.50%)	
0	Coaches (0.00%)	51	Class D (25.50%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	18	Class D (9.00%)	
1	Board Members (0.50%)	4	Jr High/Middle (2.00%)	1	Board Members (0.63%)	6	Jr High/Middle (3.00%)	
8	Other (4.00%)	0	Other (0.00%)	1	Other (0.63%)	0	Other (0.00%)	

16. Track & Field?

Yes 251 (67.65%)			No 120 (32.35%)				
18	Superintendents (7.17%)	55	Class A (21.91%)	10	Superintendents (8.33%)	23	Class A (9.16%)
20	Principals (7.97%)	71	Class B (28.29%)	10	Principals (8.33%)	36	Class B (14.34%)
204	Ath Directors (81.27%)	61	Class C (24.30%)	98	Ath Directors (81.67%)	43	Class C (17.13%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	60	Class D (23.90%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	12	Class D (4.78%)
1	Board Members (0.40%)	4	Jr High/Middle (1.59%)	1	Board Members (0.83%)	6	Jr High/Middle (2.39%)
8	Other (3.19%)	0	Other (0.00%)	1	Other (0.83%)	0	Other (0.00%)

17. Girls Volleyball?

Yes 195 (52.28%)			No 178 (47.72%)				
18	Superintendents (9.23%)	38	Class A (19.49%)	10	Superintendents (5.62%)	41	Class A (21.03%)
20	Principals (10.26%)	49	Class B (25.13%)	10	Principals (5.62%)	58	Class B (29.74%)
149	Ath Directors (76.41%)	43	Class C (22.05%)	155	Ath Directors (87.08%)	61	Class C (31.28%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	61	Class D (31.28%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	12	Class D (6.15%)
1	Board Members (0.51%)	4	Jr High/Middle (2.05%)	1	Board Members (0.56%)	6	Jr High/Middle (3.08%)
7	Other (3.59%)	0	Other (0.00%)	2	Other (1.12%)	0	Other (0.00%)

18. Wrestling?

Yes 152 (41.76%)			No 212 (58.24%)				
12	Superintendents (7.89%)	37	Class A (24.34%)	16	Superintendents (7.55%)	40	Class A (26.32%)
14	Principals (9.21%)	47	Class B (30.92%)	15	Principals (7.08%)	60	Class B (39.47%)
122	Ath Directors (80.26%)	28	Class C (18.42%)	175	Ath Directors (82.55%)	72	Class C (47.37%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	37	Class D (24.34%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	33	Class D (21.71%)
1	Board Members (0.66%)	3	Jr High/Middle (1.97%)	1	Board Members (0.47%)	7	Jr High/Middle (4.61%)
3	Other (1.97%)	0	Other (0.00%)	5	Other (2.36%)	0	Other (0.00%)

19. Do you favor increasing the maximum number of basketball games allowed during the junior high/middle school season from 12 to 15 games?

Yes 150 (40.11%)			No 224 (59.89%)				
11	Superintendents (7.33%)	29	Class A (19.33%)	17	Superintendents (7.59%)	50	Class A (33.33%)
14	Principals (9.33%)	52	Class B (34.67%)	16	Principals (7.14%)	55	Class B (36.67%)
121	Ath Directors (80.67%)	34	Class C (22.67%)	184	Ath Directors (82.14%)	70	Class C (46.67%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	31	Class D (20.67%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	43	Class D (28.67%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	4	Jr High/Middle (2.67%)	2	Board Members (0.89%)	6	Jr High/Middle (4.00%)
4	Other (2.67%)	0	Other (0.00%)	5	Other (2.23%)	0	Other (0.00%)

20. Do you favor increasing the length of quarters for junior high/middle school basketball games from 6 to 8 minutes?

Yes 204 (54.55%)			No 170 (45.45%)				
13	Superintendents (6.37%)	48	Class A (23.53%)	15	Superintendents (8.82%)	31	Class A (15.20%)
15	Principals (7.35%)	69	Class B (33.82%)	15	Principals (8.82%)	38	Class B (18.63%)
170	Ath Directors (83.33%)	53	Class C (25.98%)	135	Ath Directors (79.41%)	51	Class C (25.00%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	27	Class D (13.24%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	47	Class D (23.04%)
1	Board Members (0.49%)	7	Jr High/Middle (3.43%)	1	Board Members (0.59%)	3	Jr High/Middle (1.47%)
5	Other (2.45%)	0	Other (0.00%)	4	Other (2.35%)	0	Other (0.00%)

21. Do you favor increasing the length of quarters for junior high/middle school football games from 8 to 10 minutes?

Yes 177 (47.97%)			No 192 (52.03%)				
13	Superintendents (7.34%)	42	Class A (23.73%)	15	Superintendents (7.81%)	37	Class A (20.90%)
13	Principals (7.34%)	56	Class B (31.64%)	17	Principals (8.85%)	50	Class B (28.25%)
146	Ath Directors (82.49%)	51	Class C (28.81%)	154	Ath Directors (80.21%)	53	Class C (29.94%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	22	Class D (12.43%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	48	Class D (27.12%)
1	Board Members (0.56%)	6	Jr High/Middle (3.39%)	1	Board Members (0.52%)	4	Jr High/Middle (2.26%)
4	Other (2.26%)	0	Other (0.00%)	5	Other (2.60%)	0	Other (0.00%)

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Update Survey - continued

22. Do you favor increasing the maximum number of soccer games allowed during the junior high/middle school season from 12 to 15 games?

Yes 113 (31.39%)				No 247 (68.61%)			
10	Superintendents (8.85%)	22	Class A (19.47%)	17	Superintendents (6.88%)	54	Class A (47.79%)
9	Principals (7.96%)	43	Class B (38.05%)	21	Principals (8.50%)	62	Class B (54.87%)
90	Ath Directors (79.65%)	24	Class C (21.24%)	202	Ath Directors (81.78%)	75	Class C (66.37%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	22	Class D (19.47%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	48	Class D (42.48%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	2	Jr High/Middle (1.77%)	2	Board Members (0.81%)	8	Jr High/Middle (7.08%)
4	Other (3.54%)	0	Other (0.00%)	5	Other (2.02%)	0	Other (0.00%)

23. Do you favor a "fifth quarter" rule for the junior high/middle school level that matches the subvarsity high school rule (fifth quarters which do not count in the final score are allowed for students who did not participate in the regulation game)?

Yes 207 (55.80%)				No 164 (44.20%)			
17	Superintendents (8.21%)	48	Class A (23.19%)	11	Superintendents (6.71%)	30	Class A (14.49%)
18	Principals (8.70%)	60	Class B (28.99%)	12	Principals (7.32%)	47	Class B (22.71%)
165	Ath Directors (79.71%)	64	Class C (30.92%)	138	Ath Directors (84.15%)	40	Class C (19.32%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	31	Class D (14.98%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	41	Class D (19.81%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	4	Jr High/Middle (1.93%)	2	Board Members (1.22%)	6	Jr High/Middle (2.90%)
7	Other (3.38%)	0	Other (0.00%)	1	Other (0.61%)	0	Other (0.00%)

24. Do you favor changes in soccer playing rules that would reduce the frequency of heading the ball at the junior high/middle school level (e.g., in specified areas of the pitch [e.g., outside the penalty area] or on certain plays [e.g., first touch after the ball has traveled from the other half of the pitch])?

Yes 174 (49.01%)				No 181 (50.99%)			
14	Superintendents (8.05%)	33	Class A (18.97%)	13	Superintendents (7.18%)	41	Class A (23.56%)
15	Principals (8.62%)	49	Class B (28.16%)	14	Principals (7.73%)	55	Class B (31.61%)
139	Ath Directors (79.89%)	50	Class C (28.74%)	150	Ath Directors (82.87%)	47	Class C (27.01%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	38	Class D (21.84%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	32	Class D (18.39%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	4	Jr High/Middle (2.30%)	2	Board Members (1.10%)	6	Jr High/Middle (3.45%)
6	Other (3.45%)	0	Other (0.00%)	2	Other (1.10%)	0	Other (0.00%)

25. Do you favor a change in football playing rules that would eliminate the kickoff at the junior high/middle school level (e.g., the ball would be placed at the "receiving team's" 35-yard line)?

Yes 135 (36.78%)				No 232 (63.22%)			
14	Superintendents (10.37%)	30	Class A (22.22%)	14	Superintendents (6.03%)	46	Class A (34.07%)
13	Principals (9.63%)	40	Class B (29.63%)	17	Principals (7.33%)	66	Class B (48.89%)
106	Ath Directors (78.52%)	33	Class C (24.44%)	194	Ath Directors (83.62%)	71	Class C (52.59%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	27	Class D (20.00%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	44	Class D (32.59%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	5	Jr High/Middle (3.70%)	2	Board Members (0.86%)	5	Jr High/Middle (3.70%)
2	Other (1.48%)	0	Other (0.00%)	5	Other (2.16%)	0	Other (0.00%)

26. Would you support an amendment to the MHSAA Constitution that would change the MHSAA's definition of a junior high/middle school from 7th and 8th grades only to 6th, 7th and 8th grades?

Yes 228 (61.13%)				No 145 (38.87%)			
15	Superintendents (6.58%)	50	Class A (21.93%)	13	Superintendents (8.97%)	29	Class A (12.72%)
20	Principals (8.77%)	65	Class B (28.51%)	10	Principals (6.90%)	42	Class B (18.42%)
184	Ath Directors (80.70%)	43	Class C (18.86%)	120	Ath Directors (82.76%)	60	Class C (26.32%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	63	Class D (27.63%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	11	Class D (4.82%)
1	Board Members (0.44%)	7	Jr High/Middle (3.07%)	1	Board Members (0.69%)	3	Jr High/Middle (1.32%)
8	Other (3.51%)	0	Other (0.00%)	1	Other (0.69%)	0	Other (0.00%)

27. Would you support the MHSAA organizing Regional tournaments for member junior high/middle school teams in three to six sports for girls and an equal number of sports for boys?

Yes 123 (32.98%)				No 250 (67.02%)			
10	Superintendents (8.13%)	28	Class A (22.76%)	18	Superintendents (7.20%)	50	Class A (40.65%)
14	Principals (11.38%)	39	Class B (31.71%)	16	Principals (6.40%)	68	Class B (55.28%)
93	Ath Directors (75.61%)	27	Class C (21.95%)	212	Ath Directors (84.80%)	77	Class C (62.60%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	22	Class D (17.89%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	52	Class D (42.28%)
2	Board Members (1.63%)	7	Jr High/Middle (5.69%)	0	Board Members (0.00%)	3	Jr High/Middle (2.44%)
4	Other (3.25%)	0	Other (0.00%)	4	Other (1.60%)	0	Other (0.00%)

Wave Goodbye to Waivers?

Among the discussion topics related to potential 6th-grade participation is what to do with the current waiver process. Some suggest that the option be opened to all junior high/middle schools, regardless of size, while others opine that no waivers be necessary for individual sports, while maintaining status quo for team sports.

The following numbers are derived from those waivers approved in the last two years, when more than 90 percent of requests to allow 6th-graders to compete with 7th-and 8th-graders in certain sports were approved.

Waivers Approved by Sport 2012-13: 6th-Graders to participate on 7th-8th-Grade Teams



The following indicates the number of these waivers granted according to school enrollment

JH/MS Enrollment of 50 or fewer = 60

JH/MS Enrollment of 51 or more = 22

High School Enrollment of 100 or fewer = 47

High School Enrollment of 101 or more = 25

**Note: Not all JH/MS which were granted waivers during this period had MHSAA member high schools from that district.*

Junior High/Middle School Committee Minutes

MHSAA, January 17, 2014

Members Present

Joe Alessandrini, Livonia	Alan Alsbro, Berrien Springs
Steve Babbitt, Blissfield	Jeff Dassance, Eaton Rapids
Todd Farmer, Muskegon	Dave Mammel, Coleman
Jason Mellema, Pewamo-Westphalia	Mike Messner, Constantine
Steve Newkirk, Clare	Jim Okler, Grosse Ile
Kevin Polston, Grand Haven	Brian Swinehart, Walled Lake
Sean Zaborowski, St. Clair Shores	

Staff Members Present

Randy Allen, Recorder	Cody Inglis
Rob Kaminski	Mark Uyl

The MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics suggested for discussion by the MHSAA Staff and member schools.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

The 2013 JH/MS Committee proposal and subsequent Representative Council approval that fixed the fall sports start date as the 14th Monday prior to Thanksgiving was reviewed. Some committee members expressed concern that the date does not allow schools to meet minimum practice requirements prior to their first football game without weekend or holiday practices. The change to a 13 consecutive week season in all sports was viewed as satisfactory under current regulations for maximum contests/meets.

HANDBOOK REGULATIONS

The Committee discussion focused on three major topics: changing MHSAA JH/MS membership to a grade 6-8 definition in the Constitution; eliminating the waiver requirement for 6th-grade participation with grade 7-8 teams, and increasing the maximum number of contests and length of contests. The Committee was also apprised of the formation of a JH/MS Task Force that will have more comprehensive and frequent meetings on these subjects, with reports to both the Representative Council and JH/MS Committee for review prior to any final proposals and decisions.

Contest Limits/Length: The committee was unified in opposition to increasing contest maximums, as adding games or meets would mean less practice time, longer seasons, difficulty in a four-season schedule and added expense. An increase in individual game length was preferred to allow greater participation opportunities for students. Leagues and conferences would be required to adopt policies and coaching guidelines regarding playing time and participation opportunities.

In reviewing sports typically sponsored at the JH/MS level, it was recommended to increase lengths of quarters in basketball to eight minutes, football to 10 minutes and allow students to participate in four events in track & field.

6th-Grade Participation: Much discussion took place regarding a change in regulations governing 6th-grade participation at the grade 7-8 level. Current regulations do not allow students in grade 6 to be on a member school grade 7-8 team unless a waiver is obtained in certain sports through the MHSAA Executive Committee, typically given only to small enrollment schools. The Committee was in agreement that any change in current regulations regarding 6th-graders, or increasing contest maximums or length of contests would not diminish the attraction to or existence of competing non-school programs, and that changes should be considered based solely on school sports philosophy and membership needs and preferences.

Recent survey results on these subjects were shared with the Committee, showing a trend of more favorable opinion regarding 6th-grade inclusion over the past 10 years. Results of a previous study committee on the 6th-grade topic were also reported, with opinion at that time split between smaller schools favoring change and larger schools favoring the status quo. Several concerns were expressed regarding a more liberal approach to the 6th-grade question as follows:

- Adding 6th grade to MHSAA membership would cause pressure to include 5th-graders.
- Although 6th-grade-only teams would probably not be a result of any change, more students in 6-8 programs would mean more coaching, added expense and stress on facilities for practice.
- A grade 6-8 program may risk “displacement” of average players with more talented 6th-grade students.

- Would such a change be done for the “right reasons”?
- Would skills levels of a 6th-grader competing with or against grade 7-8 students be compatible?
- Would local leagues and conferences be given maximum flexibility to adopt their own policies to make such a change workable?
- Would parent expectations and pressures be heightened with a grade 6-8 program?

Although there was no consensus on the major topics of discussion, the Committee in general favored a change in the current JH/MS regulations and policies regarding 6th-grade students and supported the following options for Task Force study and consideration:

- A Constitutional amendment for MHSAA JH/MS membership to be grades 6-8 with local leagues and conferences to determine specific regulations an emphasis on broader participation opportunities for students. Although not unanimous, this option was the preferred choice of the Committee if a change was to take place.
- Change the current 6th-grade waiver process to allow schools of any enrollment size to be considered for waivers on a case by case basis that is need specific, not granted only to small enrollment schools.
- Eliminate the waiver requirement for 6th-grade participation in individual sports, keeping the waiver process and criteria for team sports.

MEMBERSHIP

The committee was asked for suggestions on how the MHSAA could retain current JH/MS members and make membership more attractive to schools not currently members. The following thoughts were expressed for consideration:

- Make membership required at the 7-8 level for 9-12 members (i.e. required district membership), fully recognizing the difficulty with private school members.
- Provide MHSAA CAP courses at no change or a greatly reduced cost to JH/MS members.
- Modify the Limited Team Membership rule at grades 7-8 to allow some participation with restrictions in same-sport, non-school programs during the school season.
- Give member schools flexibility on the start of fall football practices.
- Allow more local league and conference decision-making within broad statewide MHSAA regulations.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Committee suggested consideration for a pitching count limit for JH/MS baseball. Also suggested was more flexibility for schools to determine weight classes, opponents and meet procedures for JH/MS wrestling.

GENERAL TOPICS

On the subject of the MHSAA conducting regional postseason tournaments in some sports at the JH/MS level, there was no support and unanimous opposition to such a plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Given the forthcoming deliberations by the planned JH/MS Task Force on several of the same subjects on this agenda, the Committee did not have specific proposals for the Representative Council. However, it was suggested that the Council consider increasing the length of contests in some sports as follows for the 2014-15 school year while awaiting more comprehensive study and proposals from the JH/MS Task Force:

Basketball – 8-minute quarters, 32 minutes maximum for the game.

Football – 10-minute quarters

Track & Field – 4 events per individual in a meet



The Committee identified basketball and football as sports which would benefit from longer games, increasing the likelihood of greater participation.

Photo courtesy of Eaton Rapids MS

The Lasting Impact of First Impressions

The over-arching question before us is how to maintain policies that encourage multiple sport experiences for students at the junior high/middle school level while at the same time adjusting those policies in terms of grade level served and the numbers and lengths of contests allowed in order to be more attractive to junior high/middle school parents and to school districts which desire additional competition opportunities in the school setting for students prior to high school.



There is a good healthy discussion in our midst about the scope of junior high/middle school athletics – how much should occur and how young it should commence; and the result of these discussions may have long-lasting effect on students, schools and the MHSAA.

Here are two central issues:

1. Contest Limits

Many people over many years have contributed to developing the current season limitations for the number of contests permitted by MHSAA member junior high/middle schools. These good people have believed in a philosophy of sports at this level that encourages students to try multiple sports.

“Kids haven’t fully matured yet,” they say. “Kids haven’t been exposed to some sports yet. They don’t know what they might like or be good at. So let’s have policies and programs that encourage new opportunities and experiences at this level.”

The season limits that have been put in place allow some junior high/middle schools, or their entire leagues, to fit four distinct seasons in a nine-month school year, consistent with this over-arching philosophy to encourage these students to try new things and learn.

There is another educationally grounded and equally astute group of administrators and coaches who are concerned that the current limits are too severe in comparison to non-school youth sports programs. For example, community/club basketball or soccer programs may schedule 15 or 18 or more games per season versus the MHSAA limit of 12 at the junior high/middle school level.

These folks think these restrictive limitations create a disincentive for kids to play school sports, and that many of those who have no place in junior high/middle school sports have no interest later in high school sports.

Some might be surprised to discover that volleyball ranks second among sports granted waivers allowing 6th-graders to participate with 7th- and 8th-grade classmates during the last two years. A total of 42 JH/MS volleyball teams in the MHSAA included 6th-graders.

2. 6th-Graders

Historically, the popular opinion among educators has held that 7th and 8th grade is early enough for schools to provide competitive athletics, early enough to put youth into the competitive sports arena, and early enough to pit one school against another in sports.

Today, however, many educators and parents point out that such protective philosophies and policies were adopted about the same time “play days” were considered to be the maximum exertion females should experience in school sports. Some administrators and coaches argue that both our severe limits on contest limits at the junior high/middle school level, and our refusal to serve 6th-graders, are as out of date and inappropriate as play days for females.

Today, in nearly four of five school districts with MHSAA member schools, 6th-graders go to school in the same building with 7th- and 8th-graders. But MHSAA rules don’t allow 6th-graders to participate with and against 7th- and 8th-graders. In fact, the MHSAA Constitution doesn’t even acknowledge that 6th-graders exist.

Today, in many places, 6th-graders have aged-out of non-school, community sports, but they are not permitted to play on MHSAA junior high/middle school teams.



ates a distraction to the core educational mission of schools. Others may challenge school-sponsored sports on a financial basis – that interscholastic athletics competes for the limited resources communities have to support their schools.

Last school year, 50 different school districts requested this rule be waived for them, and the MHSAA Executive Committee approved 46 of 50 waivers, allowing 6th-graders to compete on 7th- and 8th-grade teams. During 2011-12, 37 of 40 requests for waiver were approved, in all cases for small junior high/middle schools. Many of these schools want, and some of them desperately need, these 6th-graders to fill out junior high/middle school teams.

Today there also exists among our member schools a small percentage of administrators who have come to their leadership roles without involvement in school sports and who either desire and believe that interscholastic sports will be moved from schools to communities or who do not want but predict that such will occur as resources for schools continue to shrink.

Young people are starting sports much younger today than 100 years ago when the MHSAA was created. Younger than even 50 years ago when the MHSAA was incorporated. If the MHSAA were created today to serve any students before 9th grade, I'm certain it would not leave out 6th-graders who are walking the same halls with 7th- and 8th-graders, and who have been playing competitive sports almost since the first day they starting walking at all.



I believe this is more likely to happen, or to happen sooner, if we do not change our approach to junior high/middle school sports. If we continue to

The MHSAA JH/MS Committee positioned itself in favor of longer quarters for some sports with time limits. In track & field, the Committee believes that allowing students to participate in four events rather than three will increase participation, and in some cases allow for teams where currently none exist.

The most important thing we can do to enhance high school sports is to grow junior high/middle school sports programs. The earlier we disconnect young people from non-school sports and engage them in school-sponsored sports, the better our chances are of keeping high school athletic programs healthy, and the better our prospects are of keeping both participation rates and conduct standards high.

restrict 7th- and 8th-graders to so few contests of such limited length compared to what those students have in non-school sports, and if we continue to

School sports are in competition for hearts and minds of young people. Our competition includes movies, jobs, cars, video games, boyfriends and girlfriends and club sports . . . especially club sports. School sports needs to market itself better, and part of better is to be available earlier – much sooner in the lives of youth. More contests at the junior high/middle school level and more opportunities for 6th-graders should be parts of our marketing strategies on behalf of educational athletics generally.

offer nothing for younger students, we essentially and effectively force these students to non-school sports.

It is an often cited statistic that between 80 and 90 percent of all young people who ever begin playing competitive athletics stop playing before they reach the age of 13, meaning the vast majority of young people never, ever are involved in school programs. Thus, it is no mystery why people question the future of school sports. We're doing nothing to make programs available to them. They have no experience in them.

For at least 50 years there have been predictions by people outside of our member schools that the system of school-sponsored sports that is almost unique to the United States would someday give way to the system of most countries where youth sports is provided by non-school community groups and private athletic clubs. Some people challenge school-sponsored sports on a program basis – for example, that competitive athletics cre-

Our restrictive and possibly outdated policies and procedures regarding contest limits and lengths and the age at which we begin to serve junior high/middle school students may assure that the dire predictions about school sports' future will be accurate. We are doing too little, too late. It is marketing at its worst.

In my mind there is little doubt that we are doing too little too late with junior high/middle school students. Now the challenge before us is to think beyond "we can't afford it" and make some necessary changes, while still avoiding a system that allows or even encourages schools doing too much too soon.

A League of Their Own

Illinois Association in 9th Decade of Service to JH/MS Students



Imagine the scene: thousands of spectators roaring their approval as hundreds of cross country runners hit the finish line. A couple thousand others cascade applause on the wrestling mats as referees raise the hands of 19 champions.

Now, here's the kicker, imagine this is taking place during postseason play for junior high/middle school student-athletes.

Again, that's *postseason*, and *junior high/middle school*.

"I guess when you see a kid cross the finish line in first place and 5,000 people are cheering, or watch a student run a race, throw the shot, or pole vault in front of that many at our track & field series, the proof is in the pudding," said Steve Endsley, executive director of the Illinois Elementary School Association.

"The environment, the feedback we get; it's the greatest thing in world to some who experience our tournaments. But, I temper that in saying this is not the Olympics, the pros, or even high school. Success at our level doesn't guarantee future success. We want you to do your best, we want to prepare you to do your best, but understand this is *junior high*."

If understanding that is difficult for some athletes and parents involved in IESA athletics, it's also a foreign language to state high school asso-

ciations across the country. The IESA is the only organization in America which exclusively governs interscholastic activities for grade levels 7-8.

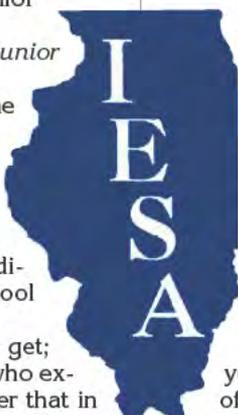
Most states include junior high/middle schools in their rules and regulations, but few, if any, conduct tournaments.

"We've been doing it for so long, it's accepted. Schools know that at the end of the regular season, they enter Regional play. The payoff is we have state series, a culminating activity, and it's a good thing that's going on," Endsley said.

From the organization's first tournament in 1930 during which boys basketball tournaments took place in a lightweight (boys less than 100 pounds) and a heavyweight division, the IESA has grown to sponsoring more than 20 boys and girls activities.

Measures have been taken in recent years to alleviate travel concerns at the end of the season. The IESA has added classifications in some sports, while keeping the number of teams which advance to the Finals the same. So, for instance, where 16 teams might have gone to two different sites in the past, now four different sites host eight schools.

Admittedly, Endsley adds that the tournament series might add to some competitiveness, but since all schools enter the tournament, there might



be less emphasis on winning during the regular season, and thus, heightened participation for those of all skill levels.

"If you don't want the win-at-all-cost mentality, then step up to the plate at your member school and handle it that way," Endsley said.

The refrain from association leaders around the country is that success in conveying the values and ideals of school sports is totally dependent on those in charge at the local level. Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, the IESA put more of that load squarely on the individual schools by making it a local decision as to whether students could participate with the school team and a club team in the same sport during the same season.

"From an association standpoint, it seemed like only people we were penalizing when had the limitations were the honest schools which self-reported," Endsley said. "It was difficult to penalize those schools while everyone else knew the school down the street didn't report.

"In a perfect world, the participation rule would be in place. But, it's not a perfect world. Club sports schedule in accordance with high school seasons, but disregard our level when it comes to non-school activity. It's year-round. So it's practically impossible to equitably enforce it from a state level."



Photo courtesy of IESA

One of the ways in which the IESA and IHSA work together is through the use of registered contest officials.

There are more than 800 member schools in the IESA, which is an affiliate member of the National Federation of State High School Associations, but a separate entity from the Illinois High School Association.

Endsley estimates the IESA comprises 50-60 percent of eligible schools in Illinois, bolstered by unique membership options which differ from the IHSA and many state associations.

"We offer a la carte membership. A school can offer activities and maybe not participate in our state series. It's only in those activities in which schools participate in the IESA state series that they must abide by our rules and regulations. Schools want some control. I think a la carte way is the way to go.

"If they join the IESA for one sport, they receive all mailings and information, so maybe one sport gets them in, but they may later add activities. If

"It's only in those activities in which schools participate in the IESA state series that they must abide by our rules and regulations.



Schools want some control. I think a la carte way is the way to go." — IESA Executive Director Steve Endsley

they are not a member, they don't know about us."

Yet, while separate bodies, the IESA and IHSA work hand-in-hand in many respects since nearly 100 percent of the IESA's students will matriculate into IHSA schools.

"We attend the IHSA activity advisory meetings so we can keep a finger on pulse of topics they are discussing and items they are considering. From the student standpoint, we will take our champions and introduce them in ceremonies at the IHSA Finals when our calendars line up," Endsley said. "They get tickets, halftime introductions, pictures in the program, and it's well-received recognition."

Such activities are possible because the IESA seasons are different than the IHSA's in some sports, or end sooner. For instance, the IESA plays baseball and softball in the fall, so its champions are recognized at the IHSA Finals in the spring.

"These activities create exposure and help build interests and aspirations for our schools," Endsley said. "It's nice P.R. for both associations."

Whether different seasons or same seasons, the multitude of events throughout Illinois provides ample opportunity for the state's contest officials as well. That's another area in which the IESA and IHSA work together.

"We don't license officials in the IESA, but we require our schools to use IHSA officials," Endsley said. "We get great cooperation from the IHSA, it's a good situation for our schools, and it's a really good thing for officials. There are always plenty of games, and new officials gain valuable experience."

Now in the midst of its ninth decade, the IESA continues to expand, adding boys and girls bowling and golf to its roster of activities in 2011.

The Association sponsors athletics for 7th- and 8th-graders, but 5th- and 6th-graders enrolled in a member school may participate with 7th- and 8th-grade teams within that building without a waiver. If such students are in an elementary school which feeds a member school, waivers are necessary.

—Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

Youth Is Served

SAC Members Tackle the Junior High/Middle School Issues

MHSAA Student Advisory Council members were asked their opinions on several of the current issues facing the MHSAA JH/MS Committee and the MHSAA JH/MS Task Force. Students also shared experiences from their junior high/middle school days, and from participation with non-school teams. Following is a sampling of responses.

LENGTH OF CONTESTS AND SEASONS

Based on your junior high/middle school experiences, would you favor an increase in the number of contests/events that a junior high/middle school is allowed to play? Would you favor longer game times?

Kiersten Mead, Saginaw Swan Valley: "I personally don't believe that longer season are necessary. In middle school, student athletes are just starting to learn how to balance sports and school so I think that the season time is already pretty reasonable.



"I do, however, believe that longer games would be really beneficial to all ages. It would allow more students to play and participate."

Jonathan Perry, McBain Northern Michigan Christian: "When I was playing I wish my season would have been longer, but it is at a reasonable length. It would be harder on parents having a middle school player and a high school player, but it would get you more ready for a high school-length schedule.

"The games are at a reasonable length also. The one benefit of having more games and longer games is that more kids get to play who otherwise might not if they had a shorter game or season."



Connor Thomas, Marlette: "As a player, I would be totally in favor. If I were an adult, I would say no because of the traveling. As for the lengths of games, again, I'd favor it as a player, but with schools that have A and B teams for both grades, that could be a late night."

Kristen Law, Bloomfield Hills Andover: "I really enjoyed playing in middle school, and I would have loved to be able to play more. Increasing the length of games might depend on the sport. For tennis, from what I remember, the matches were a shortened version of what we play in high school, and I thought they were appropriate given the level of the majority of the players that were competing."

Zack Nine, Pinconning: "Based on my middle school sports experience, I would favor an increase in the number of contests and a longer game time. These changes would give athletes who do not get much playing time a chance to gain more experience. I also believe that more games and a longer game length would keep our youth in better shape and better prepare them for high school athletics through an easier transition."

Mandy Paull, Cheboygan: "I think that middle school sports should be allowed to play more games, but I do not think that the length of games should be increased."

Coby Ryan Manistique: "I would favor an increase in the number of contests. The seasons are quite short and go by too quickly, in my opinion.

"I would also favor longer game time. With this, more kids will get the opportunity to play, and it will also make the travel and the time invested more worthwhile."

6TH-GRADE PARTICIPATION

Is it time to also include 6th-graders at junior high/middle schools under MHSAA guidelines? Consider enrollments, sports and participation with 7th- and 8th-graders.



Eliza Beird, Holland Black River: "I would favor the addition of 6th-graders in all sports. This would allow for the possibility of two teams in some sports and it gets the kids playing with people they might be playing with for the rest of their high school careers.

"It is definitely easier to put 6th-graders with 7th- and 8th-graders at a smaller school because one grade usually won't out-number another grade. In a big school, a bunch of 8th-graders will try out for the team because more go to a school. In larger schools, 6th-graders would have a chance to make only a 6th-grade team.

Hayden Smith, Hamilton: "I think it's time for 6th-graders to be included, but not in all sports; just the non-contact ones. The various sizes of schools

would make it easier for some to compete and harder for others, but it shouldn't matter overall. All schools' 6th-graders should be able to play. I think that would be a great experience for them."



Mandy Paull, Cheboygan: "I think that 6th-grade students should be able to play middle school sports. Sports are a good way to initiate incoming elementary students to the middle school as well as provide a fun, constructive activity that they can participate in with their friends, and a way to make new ones as well.

"The 6th-grade athletes should only be mixed with the 7th and 8th grade in cross country and track, and have their own teams for sports like volleyball and basketball, just as the 7th- and 8th-graders do. Only non-contact sports should mix all grades."

Connor Thomas, Marlette: "Coming from a smaller community, I think the MHSAA should include 6th-graders in only the schools that need them, such as small Class D schools. They should be allowed to play with 7th- and 8th-graders as long as the schools need them, and aren't bringing them up to have a 'dream team.' Enrollment has to be a factor; the schools should be struggling for numbers in order to have a 6th-grader on a team."

Zack Nine, Pinconning: "I believe that 6th- graders should not be held accountable to MHSAA regulations. My opinion largely stems from the fact that not every school includes 6th grade as part of its middle school. I know mine does not. It would be difficult to regulate the participation of 6th-graders in some schools (because they're considered middle schoolers) while other schools cannot let their 6th-grade elementary students compete."



Jonathan Perry, McBain Northern Michigan Christian: "I think all sports should be included if 6th-graders were allowed to play. I think it's more helpful to small schools, but wouldn't limit it based on enrollment. I go to a small school last year my school did not have enough kids for a 7th-grade team."

Kiersten Mead, Saginaw Swan Valley: "I understand the monetary considerations schools may have with 6th-grade teams through the MHSAA, but I do believe that the MHSAA should start setting guidelines for the schools which see it as feasible. Middle schools don't *have* to go through the MHSAA, but I believe that by including 6th-graders, it may generate a positive reaction from member schools."

"I feel like as long as the coaches don't see a major physical disadvantage to it, then it would be okay for 6th-graders to participate with the 7th and 8th grade in all sports. Non-contact sports would most definitely be alright, because in high school, you compete against all ages anyways."



Coby Ryan Manistique: "I believe that it is time for 6th-graders to get the chance to participate in athletics, regardless of school size. By choice, a child should always be given the opportunity to be active, stay out of trouble, learn about teamwork and leadership, and build a foundation for fundamentals that will be used for the rest of their athletic careers. Many schools do not have locally run programs, and the MHSAA running it would give thousands of more kids a chance to play."

"The 6th-grade athletes should only be mixed with the 7th and 8th grade in cross country and track, and have their own teams for sports like volleyball and basketball, just as the 7th- and 8th-graders do. Only non-contact sports should mix all grades."

Kristen Law, Bloomfield Hills Andover: "When I was in 6th grade, I was competing against 7th- and 8th-graders (on community teams), and I probably would have been upset if I couldn't compete against them. Sixth-grade participation should definitely be allowed in non-contact sports, but I don't know too much about contact sports and the risk of injury to 6th-graders if it were to be allowed."

"I don't think the size of the school should determine whether or not 6th-graders can compete against 7th- and 8th-graders."

COMMUNITY AND CLUB SPORTS

If you played community sports during your JH/MS years, how did the experience compare with school sports? If you could have played MHSAA-based sports in 6th grade, would you have done so?

Emileigh Ferguson, Bear Lake: "I played little league softball prior to middle school, until 5th-grade. I prefer MHSAA sports over other kinds because they are more serious and organized. My school has basketball for 5th and 6th grade so we don't play with middle school."



Eliza Beird, Holland Black River: "I played soccer and basketball from Kindergarten through 6th - grade and still play club sports. My outside of school sports tended to be a bit better."

"If there were MHSAA sports in 6th-grade, I would have definitely played basketball. I already played with a bunch of girls from school so playing for my school would not have been much different. Plus it's fun to play for my school. I probably would not have played soccer because the club team I was on at the time was quite a bit better than the school team."

- continued next page

SAC Members Tackle the Junior High/Middle School Issues



Hayden Smith, Hamilton: "In my experience (community sports) was somewhat similar, but still different. School sports weren't coached by parents anymore; the best players got to start. Also, it was different in that a lot of kids stopped playing, only the ones who really liked it kept playing. However, it was similar because there were always people (parents and kids) complaining about playing time. It was similar in that there was always a strong community at your back.

"If I could have played school sports earlier, I would have done so because of the aspect of representing my community and school. I think I still would have done the travel baseball stuff, but that is always in the summer."

Mandy Paull, Cheboygan: "I played girls little league softball from 3rd to 5th grade, and house hockey from 1st grade to 9th. In middle school the sports were more serious and I enjoyed them much more. As a team we would dress up for our games, and we got to travel on a bus to away games. There was a much stronger bond and all the players were more serious. The teams were also better in middle school due to tryouts.

"I definitely would have played middle school sports in 6th grade as opposed to community teams."



Jonathan Perry, McBain Northern Michigan Christian: "I did not notice a huge difference between community sports and school sports. The big difference in community sports is that you get a wide range of kids, not just the kids in your school. I like playing the school sports better because I knew that the kids I was playing with were who I would play high school sports with.

"I would have played school sports in 6th-grade or earlier if the option was there. A lot of community sports I played on was all about winning. The school team sports provide learning sessions for both sports and life. It's an extension of the classroom. I saw that more with school sports than community sports."

Kiersten Mead, Saginaw Swan Valley: "I did not play anything prior to middle school, but in 6th grade I was a part of an AAU volleyball team since my school did not offer a 6th-grade team. I also bowled in leagues at a few different bowling alleys.

"I definitely would have played with my school versus community. We really didn't have a solid AAU program in our area so the school team was much more organized. I found that the volleyball teams through my school were much more beneficial to me. We practiced on a regular basis, and it was nice to play with girls that I was already friends with. We were able to grow more as a team and gain a greater sense of unity. I believe that my school team made me a better athlete as well."



Kristen Law, Bloomfield Hills Andover: "I enjoyed being able to play sports with my friends in middle school, but I also liked the competitiveness of the community-based sports I participated in. The middle school sports atmosphere didn't feel as competitive.

"When I was in 6th grade, I played tennis on the middle school team, but it was not affiliated with the MHSAA."

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

Battle of the Fans Back Season 3

Looking to build on the hugely successful "Battle of the Fans" which took place during the last two basketball seasons, the MHSAA is sponsoring "Battle of the Fans III" this winter, seeking the most spirited and sportsmanlike cheering section in the state.

Sportsmanship is an important part of educational athletics, and student cheering sections can be a key factor in having a festive high school event. Conducted by the MHSAA Student Advisory Council with supervision from MHSAA Staff, the contest focuses on student sections which contribute to a fun and positive experience.

Schools were encouraged to submit videos of student sections making noise on game night. The intent is to collect videos which reflect enthusiasm and togetherness within cheering sections. The MHSAA encourages cheers that pump up the atmosphere without disrespecting anyone involved in the sporting event.

Entries were judged on the following criteria:

- Positive Sportsmanship
- Student Body Participation
- School Spirit
- Originality of Cheers
- Organization of the Group
- Student Section Leadership
- Overall Impression/Fun

Videos between 90 seconds and three minutes long each contained two components. First, all must include at least 30 seconds of a student (or students) explaining how their student section embodies the elements listed in the judging criteria and why it should be named as the top student section in the state. Second, the clip must include at least

60 seconds of the student section in action. Sportsmanship is a key component to having one of the top student groups in Michigan.

Videos were uploaded to YouTube, and the link was then emailed to the MHSAA, which created a YouTube playlist highlighting all of the videos.

Entries were posted by mid-January, and the MHSAA Student Advisory Council selected the 2014 finalists. Buchanan – the 2013 champion – along with Bridgman, Frankfort, Traverse City West and Beaverton were selected as finalists for this year's "Battle of the Fans III."

Members of the Student Advisory Council and MHSAA staff then visited all five finalists on a home game night. MHSAA Staff recorded additional video, and met with the school's student leaders. Videos and stories can be found on the MHSAA's Second Half website, and links appear on Twitter and Facebook for other students to see.

The MHSAA Student Advisory Council determined a winner based on the judging criteria and also conducted a vote using a Facebook poll to help in their decision-making. They do not use the absolute number of votes from the Facebook poll; rather they used the number of votes in comparison to the size of the school. For example, 500 votes for a school with 1,000 students is better than 500 votes for a school with 2,000 students.

This year's winner will be invited to the Class B Boys Basketball Semifinals at the Breslin Center on March 21 to be recognized with a championship banner. The MHSAA also will play a compilation of all five finalist videos on the Breslin Center HD scoreboard throughout the Girls & Boys Basketball Finals in March.

In the Middle of the Herd

When the 2013 Battle of the Fans championship went to Buchanan High School's Herd of Bucks, the enthusiasm spread throughout the town – and the school district.

As the school made a run at its second consecutive spirit title this winter, the throng was bolstered by the addition of a section with a distinctively higher pitch, known as the "Junior Herd," started by a pair of sixth graders – Carter Aalfs and Sam Riley.

The section – directed by a committee of 18 students and seven adults – was started in December and the students try to attend 7th- and 8th-grade games. The Junior Herd also fills a section at the high school games adjacent to the high school Herd.

"We're influenced by a the big Herd. They cheer on the teams and have good sportsmanship, and we wanted to bring that to the middle school and elementary school so when we're in the higher grades we can know what to do, have good sportsmanship and be good leaders," said Riley. "We hope to be what they are some day."



Buchanan's rooting section now includes a healthy turnout of middle schoolers on a routine basis, exposing students to school spirit at an earlier age.

“You’re How Old?” Grades Same, Ages Have Changed

This edition of the “Vault” takes a look at the early years of the publication which membership now knows as the MHSAA Handbook.

MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts mused in his Oct. 8 blog, “Marketing Through Middle Schools,” how things might be done differently if the MHSAA was just now being founded.

He starts, “Often, when I’m not sure that a big change in a policy or procedure of the Michigan High School Athletic Association would be good or bad for school sports in Michigan, I ask myself: ‘If we were creating the MHSAA for the first time today, would we do this? Would this change be what we do today?’”

The premise of the blog was that since most junior high/middle schools in Michigan now include 6th-graders, it might be time to include them in the Constitution.

The question of starting the MHSAA today was hypothetical, of course. Just as curious to those in school sports might be: “What *was* the MHSAA like in the beginning?”

The answer is contained in a 22-page, 6 x 3 1/2 inch publication entitled *MHSAA Constitution and Eligibility Rules* found in the library at the MHSAA Office in East Lansing.

Perhaps they most stark difference – aside from its governing publication being less than one-quarter the physical size, 102 pages fewer, and 230 or so interpretations less than today’s *Handbook* – can be found in age limitations for students.

If it is true, as Roberts blog points out, “Young people are starting sports much younger today than 100 years ago when the MHSAA was created,” then it certainly is fact that they are at least starting *school* earlier.

The grades then are as they are now, but students now are receiving college degrees at nearly the same age they would have still been eligible for high school athletics in 1925.

Article I, Section 2 (high school regulations) of the 1925 book stated, “Every student competing in any contest must be under twenty-one (21) years of age at the time of the contest. NOTE—On September 1, 1926, the words ‘21 years’ will be changed to read ‘20 years.’”

Relating to junior high schools, the maximum age limit was 18, to be changed to 17 beginning in 1926.

That children might enter school at a later age during those times was common, as secondary schools really sprouted throughout the country from 1910 to 1940.

Statistics reveal that less than 20 percent of those aged 15-18 years old were enrolled in high

schools in 1910. By 1940, that figure rose to nearly 75 percent.

Accordingly, MHSAA age limits fell in line with such trends. By 1950-51, the junior high limit was a maximum of 16 years old. In 1973-74 – the Golden Anniversary of the MHSAA – the regulation put in print has carried forward to this day: 7th-graders must be 14 years old or less, and 8th-graders can be no older than 15 years.

The students might have been older, but even the earliest rules-makers had restrictions regarding which grades were allowed to participate on the same teams, and there have always been distinct sections of regulations for those in high school and those in junior high/middle schools.

“Senior high schools are not permitted to use junior high school students, except that senior high schools of Classes B, C and D may draw on the ninth grade of junior high school for athletes when the junior high school is in the same building or an adjacent building on the same campus,” reads an Interpretation in the 1925 annals.

Likewise, Limited Team Membership has been a concern since the infancy of the MHSAA. “Any member of a Junior High School team who participates in any athletic contest as a member of any other similar team in the same season, shall be ruled ineligible to compete under these rules for the remainder of that season.”

Similarly, the lengths of contests have remained steadfast since 1925, and the concern for the physical nature of some sports at the JH/MS level were pronounced then as they are now. Consider the following advisory statements from the 1925 volume regarding football.

“There is grave doubt in the minds of this council as to the advisability of any intercity Junior High School football (Rugby). During the interim, of indecision, the strictest safeguards should be taken.

- “a. A rigid physical examination by a physician
- “b. Exclusion of all but boys of compact and settled physique.
- “c. Limit to boys of a similar age”

It is clear to see that the missions and directives of scholastic athletics have remained fairly constant over the course of time.

As population has grown and enrollments have increased, so, too, has the size of the *MHSAA Handbook* and the breadth of its regulations. The question ahead is whether or not to make room for another grade within its pages.

– Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor



Retired Executive Director Allen W. Bush Dies at 90

Retired Executive Director Allen W. Bush, who led the Michigan High School Athletic Association from the fall of 1968 through the summer of 1978, died Sept. 9 in Traverse City. He was 90.

Bush oversaw some of the most significant developments in MHSAA history, chiefly the addition of girls sports – MHSAA tournaments existed for nine girls sports when he retired – plus the addition of football playoffs in 1975 and MHSAA tournaments in baseball, ice hockey and skiing.

He began his tenure at the MHSAA on March 1, 1960, as Assistant State Director of Athletics to Executive Director Charles E. Forsythe. Bush's designation changed to Associate Director in 1963, and on July 10, 1968 he was appointed to replace the retiring Forsythe as leader of the association.

An award bearing Bush's name is bestowed by the MHSAA each spring to an administrator, coach, official, trainer, doctor, or member of the media who has at least 15 years of experience in Michigan interscholastic athletics with unusually frequent and significant contributions to the MHSAA.

"He led the MHSAA during simultaneously one of the most stressful and most exciting times as schools responded to federal legislation promoting opportunities for minorities and females," current MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. "Al Bush was among leaders who saw the opportunities instead of burdens of those laws."

Prior to joining the MHSAA, Bush taught mathematics, coached four sports and served as athletic director at different times during tenures at Battle Creek Central, Kalamazoo University, Dearborn and Bay City Handy high schools. Bush was a graduate of Kalamazoo University and later earned multiple bachelor's degrees from Western Michigan University and a master's in school administration from the University of Michigan. He was captain of the football team at WMU and received its Most Valuable Player and Athletic-Scholarship awards as a senior, and later was named Man of the Year in 1975 by WMU's Alumni W Club.



Allen Bush, right, with another former MHSAA Executive Director, Vern Norris, pose with trophies prior to an MHSAA Basketball Tournament at Jenison Field House.

Bush also studied at Princeton University and the University of Arizona and served six years of active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and the Korean War. He was discharged with a rank of first lieutenant.

While at the MHSAA, Bush was a frequent contributor to the National Federation of State High School Associations. He served as chairperson of the committee that wrote the NFHS's first swimming and diving rule book and also was a representative to the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Concussion Correction

A story reprinted from an outside publication in the fall issue of *MHSAA benchmarks* included a map of the United States depicting states which recently enacted concussion statutes. The corrected map appears here.



Participation Fees Hit All-Time High in Schools

The use of participation fees to help fund interscholastic athletics in Michigan high schools for the first time rose significantly above 50 percent during the 2012-13 school year, according to the most recent survey taken by the Michigan High School Athletic Association of its member institutions.

Use of fees had held steady at just above 50 percent over the last two school years, 2010-11 and 2011-12. But the most recently completed survey indicated that of 450 member schools participating, 249 schools – 55.3 percent – charged participation fees during the 2012-13 school year.

There were 758 senior high schools in the MHSAA membership in 2012-13 – the survey generated a response rate of 59 percent. This was the ninth survey of schools since the 2003-04 school year, when members reported that fees were being charged in 24 percent of schools.

The largest surge of charging fees in 2012-13 came at Class B schools, with 61 percent reporting fees after 54 percent reported using them in 2011-12. Class A schools saw a five percent jump to 71 percent, Class C saw a three percent rise to 49, and Class D schools saw a slight increase to 37 percent assessing fees.

Charging a standardized per-team fee for each on which a student participates remains the most popular method among schools that assess fees – although those doing so in that way dropped to 36 percent, a decrease of more than five percent. The median fee among those schools was \$65, a decrease of \$10 from the previous year.



The net gains of interscholastic athletics are coming at a cost more frequently in recent years. More than 50 percent of schools responding to a 2012-13 survey are charging participation fees.

Building on a trend that emerged during the 2011-12 survey, the use of fees incurred by students who paid once for an entire year of participation increased again to 29 percent of schools that charge. Families as a whole are facing higher fees as well; although an increasing number of schools are setting a maximum fee a family can be assessed, the amount of that fee increased in 2012-13 to a median of \$300.

The survey for 2012-13 and surveys from previous years can be found here



DeWitt's Teri Reyburn Named 2014 WISL Honoree

As leader of one of the Lansing area's most successful athletic programs and a key voice in the creation and growth of the Capital Area Activities Conference, Teri Reyburn has contributed significantly to mid-Michigan sports during 15 years as athletic director at DeWitt High School. Those successes and her continuous service to MHSAA programs were celebrated Sunday, Feb. 2, as she received the MHSAA's 27th Women In Sports Leadership Award during the WISL banquet at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West.

Each year, the Representative Council considers the achievements of women coaches, officials and athletic administrators who show exemplary leadership capabilities and positive contributions to athletics.

Both DeWitt's girls and boys golf teams have won two MHSAA Finals championships apiece during Reyburn's tenure. The football program has played in four Finals, and both the boys basketball team and competitive cheer teams also have finished as MHSAA runners-up. The Panthers girls basketball team has advanced to three MHSAA Semifinals, and the boys and girls soccer teams and baseball team have combined for five Semifinal appearances during her time there.

Reyburn also has hosted more than 80 MHSAA tournaments at various levels in various sports, plus more than 20 rules meetings and a number of clinics for coaches and officials associations.

"Teri Reyburn has provided nearly two decades of quiet, steady leadership in her school district and serves as a mentor for those who are following her in the athletic director role," said Jack Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA.

A complete recap of the 2014 WISL Conference will be featured in the spring issue of *benchmarks*.



Teri Reyburn

MHSAA Welcomes Inglis as Allen Retires

Anyone in sports will tell you that transition is part of the game. At the MHSAA this winter, the staff is going through one of its own phases with excitement and some sadness.

Cody Inglis, an athletic director, coach and later assistant principal at multiple northern Lower Peninsula schools during the last two decades, began working as an assistant director at the MHSAA in January.

Randy Allen, who served the MHSAA in that capacity for 13 years said goodbye at the end of January to pursue other interests in retirement. Please see more on Randy on page 44.



Cody Inglis

Inglis had served as athletic director and assistant principal at Traverse City Central High School since February 2008, taking over after 11 years as athletic director at Suttons Bay High School. He also has served as secretary for both the Big North and Northwest Conferences and for 13 years as the northern Lower Peninsula representative of 125 athletic directors for the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

His variety of experiences while serving schools of vastly different sizes – first formerly-Class C Suttons Bay, then Class A Traverse City Central – and as a respected voice for the MIAAA will help Inglis fill a number of roles for the MHSAA.

Inglis will serve as director of ice hockey, girls and boys cross country, girls and boys golf, and girls and boys bowling. In addition, he will assist in the direction of girls and boys skiing and girls and boys track and field, and be in charge of the junior high and middle school committee. Inglis also will assist with the administration of the MHSAA's Coaches Advancement Program and provide his expertise as an instructor.

"We had more than 100 candidates, including a half dozen of the finest ADs in America – not just Michigan. They couldn't be any better," MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. "Cody's selection was based in part on his being just a slightly better fit to the job description we had in mind."

Inglis has supervised a group of more than 100 coaches while at Traverse City Central, plus a group of more than 20 teachers and staff as part of his assistant principal duties.

He's managed more than 100 MHSAA Tournaments, including Ski Finals, Football Semifinals and

Hockey Quarterfinals, and a variety of lower tournament levels for hockey, wrestling, track and field, cross country, basketball and golf.

While at Suttons Bay, Inglis led an athletic program that won the Northwest Conference sportsmanship trophy nine times and earned two MHSAA Finals championships. He also redeveloped athletic boosters programs, oversaw construction projects and was instrumental in the rewriting of athletic policies at both schools.

He was recognized in the spring with the MHSAA's Allen W. Bush Award, which recognizes those who serve in high school athletics but do not always receive attention for their contributions.

A number of personal experiences should prove valuable as Inglis takes on his MHSAA duties. The son of one-time Buffalo Sabres (NHL) coach Bill Inglis, Cody was instrumental in the creation and later served as an assistant coach for the Traverse City Bay Reps ice hockey team, a co-operative headed by Traverse City St. Francis High School that's now been in existence 15 seasons.

He also coached both cross country and track and field at Suttons Bay and was named Division 4 Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year in 2002 by the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association after leading his team to a runner-up finish at the MHSAA Finals. Inglis coached a string of girls cross country teams that made the top 10 at MHSAA Finals five straight seasons, plus 25 all-state athletes in cross country and track and field including three individual MHSAA champions.

Inglis has been a member of seven MHSAA sport committees, including for ice hockey. He's been a frequent presenter at the MIAAA's annual conferences, and has taught MIAAA Leadership Training Courses.

While following his father's professional hockey career, Inglis' family moved 17 times during his childhood before settling in Kalamazoo when Cody was in 8th grade. He graduated from Portage Northern High School in 1989 and went on to Hope College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in physical education and his teaching certification. He also was the captain of Hope's 1992 men's cross country team and captain of the men's track & field team in both 1992 and 1993, and earned academic All-America honors for cross country. Inglis received minor degrees at Hope in business administration and communications, and has completed a number of courses toward a master's in athletic administration from Ohio University.

Inglis is married to Carrie (Ham) Inglis, an MHSAA Finals cross country individual champion for Big Rapids in 1987. They have three sons.

Rules of the Games

Sharpen your skills with the following rules questions for the following winter sports. Answers appear on the next page.

Basketball

1. A4 is dribbling the ball in the front court near the division line. Defender B5 slaps the ball into the air. The ball crosses the division line into the backcourt where A4 catches it before the ball touches the floor. Which statement is false?



- This is a backcourt (over-and-back) violation.
 - This is not a backcourt violation since B5 caused the ball to go into the backcourt.
 - This would not be a backcourt violation if the ball had touched the floor before being recovered by A4.
2. A near fight breaks out on the court between A5 and B5 as they are “jawing” at each other after a stoppage of play. Officials quickly whistle both players for flagrant unsporting technical fouls, and the players are separated. However, two players from the Team A bench rush onto the court (A6 and A7) but do NOT engage in the scuffle. Which is NOT part of the correct administration of this play?
- Charge both A6 and A7 with flagrant technical fouls.
 - No free throws are awarded for the flagrant technical fouls on A5 and B5.
 - The coach of Team A is charged with two indirect technical fouls for A6 and A7 leaving the bench.
 - A total of two free throws are awarded to Team B.
3. There is no team control:
- When the ball is at the disposal of a thrower.
 - When a live ball is being passed between teammates.
 - During an interrupted dribble.
 - Once the ball has been released on a shot attempt.

Competitive Cheer

1. Twelve girls compete in Round 1. A competitor is injured or becomes ill. The coach puts in a substitute for Round 3 who is unable to perform the same routine as the injured/ill competitor and the routine is changes for this new competitor.

- Legal, there is no need to update the Round 3 Routine Description Form.
- Legal, if the coach submits a new Round 3 Routine Description Form with the updated changes.
- Illegal, a coach may never change Round 3.
- None of the above.

2. A Division 2 Team competes as follows: Round 1 – 15 competitors, Round 2 – 9 competitors, Round 3 – 6 competitors.

- There is no penalty with this amount of competitors.
- This team has not met the mandated number in Round 2 and will receive a 22 point penalty in Round 1, a 10 point penalty in round 2 and a 10 point penalty in Round 3.
- This team receives a penalty only in Round 2 for not meeting the mandated number.
- None of the above.



3. A braced flyer with hand-to-hand or hand-to-arm contact with the bracer completes a suspended roll (any direction – feet over head) to a sponge.
- Not allowed in Competitive Cheer.
 - Legal, this meets all of the requirements of a braced released transition.
 - Only allowed to the floor.

Gymnastics

1. A gymnast performs two identical high-level back-to-back superiors (HL BBS) and the judges award 0.4 in Bonus (0.2 for each series).
- Correct – High level back-to-back superiors are not required to be different.
 - In-correct – High level back-to-back superiors must be different.
 - None of the above.
2. On floor, a gymnast performs a front tuck salto directly connected to a flyspring and receives high superior credit as one of her required acro passes.
- Correct – a front tuck salto directly connected to a flyspring receives high superior credit.

- b. Incorrect – To receive high superior credit, the flyspring must precede the front tuck salto. Therefore, the series would receive S + S and 0.1 for a low level back-to-back superior.
- c. None of the above.
3. On bars, a gymnast on the high bar facing out performs an underswing forward followed by a backswing toward the low bar. She then swings forward into a flyaway dismount. The judge deducts 0.3 for an extra swing.
- a. Correct – The underswing a performed in this example cannot be directly connected to a backward fly-away dismount.
- b. Incorrect – No deduction should be taken.
- c. None of the above.



Ice Hockey

1. During play, a referee notices that a player is not properly wearing a proper tooth and mouth protector. This is the team's second violation. What should the referee do?
- a. Stop play and assess a minor penalty.
- b. Nothing.
- c. Assess a team warning.
- d. Assess misconduct penalty.
2. Player B1 receives a penalty for checking an opponent from behind in to the boards. The referee shall assess which of the following to the player guilty of the infraction?
- a. A team warning.
- b. A minor penalty.
- c. A game disqualification.
- d. A major and misconduct penalty, and if in the officials' judgment the infraction is flagrant, a game disqualification.



3. When an intentional offside is called, where is the ensuing faceoff?
- a. The attacking team's defending zone.
- b. Center ice spot.
- c. The attacking team's attacking zone.
- d. Nearest faceoff spot where offside occurred.

Wrestling

1. As an official arrives at the school, he sees three wrestlers from school A coming out of a sauna with jump ropes and rubber suits on. It is obvious that these kids were working out in the sauna, just prior to the onsite, shoulder-to-shoulder weigh-in. The officials shall:
- a. Do nothing as his jurisdiction has not yet begun.
- b. Disqualify these three individuals from competition.
- c. Do nothing as the rules only state that this type of weight loss activity is prohibited in the weigh-in area only.
- d. None of the above.
2. At the end of the 2nd period, the score is tied 6-6 with Wrestler B having choice. Before the start of the 3rd period, Wrestler A takes his second injury timeout. Which of the following is the correct procedure?
- a. Once the injury time is stopped, wrestling begins in the neutral position as the 3rd period will start in the neutral position.
- b. Once the injury time is stopped, Wrestler B gets his choice of starting positions for the start of the 3rd only by virtue of Wrestler A taking his second injury timeout.
- c. Once the injury time is stopped, Wrestler B gets his choice of starting positions for the start of the 3rd period and the first re-start in the 3rd period by virtue of Wrestler A taking his second injury timeout.
- d. None of the above.
3. When indicating an infraction, any hold/maneuver with pressure exerted over the opponents mouth, nose, throat or neck that restricts breathing or circulation is considered:
- a. Potentially dangerous.
- b. Stalemate.
- c. Illegal.
- d. Flagrant misconduct.

Basketball Answers: 1. b. (9-9); 2. c. (10-4); 3. d. (4-12)

Cheer Answers: 1. b. (Case Play – Number of Competitors); 2. b. (Mandated Round 2 requirements have not been met: 2013-14 Change); 3. b. (Competitive Cheer Manual - pages 63 & 74: Braced released transitions)

Gymnastics Answers: 1. a (4-1-2E) 2. b. (9-6-6 6.302b) 3. a. (7-3-4c (8))

Hockey Answers: 1. d. (3-4); 2. d. (6-7-2); 3. a. (6-14-11)

Wrestling Answers: 1. b. (4-4-3); 2. c. (6-3-3 NOTE); 3. c. (7-1-5)

CPR Requirement Tops Actions Taken During Fall Meeting of MHSAA Representative Council

The addition of a CPR certification requirement for all high school varsity head coaches highlighted actions taken by the Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association during its annual Fall Meeting on Dec. 6 in East Lansing.

Raising expectations for coaches' preparedness is one of four current thrusts of the MHSAA's ongoing focus on health and safety issues in school



Beginning in 2015-16, MHSAA schools will be required to attest that high school varsity head coaches have met CPR requirements.

sports, and this Council action requires all varsity head coaches at the high school level to have a current CPR certification beginning with the 2015-16 school year. High schools will be required to attest that this requirement has been met by all of their varsity head coaches.

This is the second of three actions the Council is considering to enhance the preparation of coaches with respect to health and safety issues. The first action, adopted last May, requires all assistant and subvarsity coaches at the high school level to complete the same rules and risk minimization meeting requirement as high school varsity head coaches beginning with the 2014-15 school year.

The third action, scheduled for the Council's Winter Meeting in March, would require all persons hired as a high school varsity head coach for the first time at an MHSAA member school after July 31, 2016, to have completed the MHSAA's Coaches Advancement Program Level 1 or 2.

Hockey Rules Changes Address Safety: Starting this winter, "blind-side" hits, checks to an unsuspecting or vulnerable player, were penalized; and the rule prohibiting a player from pushing, charging, cross or body-checking an opponent from behind into the boards or goal frame has reinstated the discretion for the official to issue a game disqualification when flagrant. Another safety change stops play when the goalkeeper's glove is displaced – expanding a rule where the displacement of the keeper's mask or helmet stops play.

Additionally, an embellishment rule has been added to discourage players from taking dives to draw penalties and exaggerating the severity of the impact of a play in which a penalty is called. Finally, when the attacking team bats the puck directly on goal, it shall result in an immediate whistle and a resulting faceoff.

AED Awareness & Action Posters Available

Over the past decade, 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. Each year, Michigan Schools are invited to take part in an AED Drill Week, 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.

In truth, one week is probably not enough. As a reminder to emergency procedures, HeartAED has developed AED posters for schools to purchase in quantity and hang in their hallways so procedures are easy to follow when the need arises. Quantities from one to nine posters sell for \$7; 10 or more are \$5 each with all proceeds from sales in Michigan donated to the Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation.



Visit the Health & Safety page of MHSAA.com or scan the code at left for a library of valuable resources involving athletic health & safety procedures. A link to the posters may be found under "Cardiovascular Resources" on that page.

MDCH Offers Concussion Checklist

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has developed a website with information and resources to help people who are involved in youth sports, along with parents and young athletes, to comply with the Sports Concussion Law which went into effect last June.

While existing MHSAA concussion protocols remain in effect for all member schools, the MDCH provides an excellent checklist among its many resources which schools might find valuable while navigating the course of concussion education and preparedness.

Following is that checklist.

-
- Learn about the new law and how it affects you and your organization.**
Please visit www.michigan.gov/sportsconcussion.
 - Plan how this new law will be implemented in your organization before it sponsors or operates an athletic activity in which youth athletes will participate.**
Understand what is required and make sure those provisions are implemented.
 - Ensure that required training is completed.**
Coaches, employees, volunteers, and other adults who are involved with a youth athletic activity sponsored by or operated under the auspices of the organizing entity must complete a concussion awareness on-line training program.
 - Provide educational materials to youth athletes and parents.**
The organizing entity is responsible for providing educational materials to each youth athlete who participates in a sponsored athletic activity and their parents/guardians.
 - Document and maintain receipt of educational materials by youth athletes and parents.**
The organizing entity should obtain a signed statement by each youth athlete and parent/guardian that acknowledges receipt of educational materials on concussions and their consequences. Signed statements should be maintained in a permanent file for the duration of the youth athlete's participation in the athletic activity or until the youth athlete is 18 years of age.
 - Immediately remove from play any youth athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion.**
The coach or other adult employed by, volunteering for or acting on behalf of the organizing entity during an athletic event sponsored or operated by that entity shall immediately remove an athlete from physical participation who is suspected of sustaining a concussion during the athletic activity.

An athletic activity means a program or event, including practice and competition, during which youth athletes participate or practice to participate in an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club, entity or individual. Athletic activity includes participation in physical education classes that are part of a school curriculum.
 - Before returning a youth athlete to play, obtain written clearance from an appropriate health professional.**
The youth athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion is not allowed to return to any physical activity until they have been evaluated by an appropriate health professional and must receive written clearance from an appropriate health professional authorizing return to physical activity.

The organizing entity shall maintain the Written Clearance to Return to Play Forms in a permanent file for the duration of the participation of the youth athlete in a physical activity or until the youth athlete is over 18 years of age.
 - Keep information and resources about the law on hand.**
Information about the law and resources are available at: www.michigan.gov/sportsconcussion.

Get Prepped for the Finals at MHSAA.tv

Frustrated with the post-Super Bowl dearth of sports programming on your local cable networks? MHSAA.tv has just what you need to make that final push through one of the harshest Michigan winters in recent memory, and you don't even need to leave the house.

And, in the process, you'll be an expert on the MHSAA sports scene when you purchase tickets to your favorite MHSAA Final in the coming weeks.

Since its launch in the fall of 2008, the MHSAA Network has created thousands of hours of original programming of regular-season and MHSAA tournament contests.

Last fall, production and distribution received increased stability and visibility. The MHSAA is now one of 32 members of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) that has joined the NFHS Network, the new all-digital network devoted to coverage of high school sports and performing arts through the Internet at MHSAA.tv and NFHSnetwork.com.

The NFHS Network officially launched on Aug. 1. With coverage of boys and girls sports and activities initially in at least 32 states during the 2013-14 school year, the NFHS Network is the largest aggregated destination for coverage of high school sports in the country. Through a digital service that is at least partially subscription-based available at MHSAA.tv and NFHSnetwork.com, more students, parents and fans will be able to watch high school sports than ever before.

"We believe this is one of the greatest opportunities in the 94-year history of the NFHS as we are able to take advantage of new technology and showcase high school sports and performing arts across the United States," said Bob Gardner, NFHS executive director. "We are excited to provide viewership opportunities for fans of high school sports that have never existed before."

"For more than a century, school sports has had the highest profile of all youth sports," said Jack Roberts, MHSAA executive director. "We feature pep assemblies, pep bans, marching bands, cheerleaders, homecoming parades and dances, letter jackets and other traditions, with large crowds of classmates, neighbors and families cheering on students. Done right, this network will solidify interscholastic athletics as the most popular and principled youth sports experience for generations."



The MHSAA Network will stream the following events for winter and spring on MHSAA.tv and NFHSNetwork.com (video) and MHSAANetwork.com (audio):

Winter

- Upper Peninsula Swimming & Diving Finals (Video only)
- Team Dual Wrestling Quarterfinals, Semifinals & Finals (Video only)
- Individual Wrestling Finals (Video only)
- Girls Competitive Cheer Finals (Video only)
- Ice Hockey Semifinals & Finals
- Lower Peninsula Boys Swimming & Diving Finals (Video only)
- Girls Basketball Semifinals
- Girls Basketball Finals (Audio only)
- Boys Basketball Semifinals
- Boys Basketball Finals (Audio only)

Spring

- Boys & Girls Lacrosse Finals
- Baseball & Softball Semifinals (Audio only)
- Baseball & Softball Finals
- Girls Soccer Finals

Excellence Awards To Honor Content-Producing Schools

One of the features of the MHSAA's School Broadcast Program is that it provides students with a hands-on opportunity to learn about video production, and now those efforts will be rewarded with the creation of the SBP Excellence Awards, underwritten by Herff Jones, a partner of PlayOn! Sports and the NFHS Network.

The program is open to school participating in the School Broadcast Program across the state. Individuals will be honored in five categories, and a Program of the Year award will be presented as well.

"What sets our School Broadcast Program apart from some other platforms on which schools can stream video is being under a common umbrella with other schools; a safe location away from content incompatible with the nature of school schools; the ability to archive longer; and now, not only being an educational program for students, but one that rewards those which demonstrate excellence," said Jack Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. "We feel that our School Broadcast Program is the most attractive option available to our members wishing to reach out to their immediate and worldwide constituents and tell the many stories of what's happening in their buildings."



Students involved in the School Broadcast Program will have their creative work recognized with the creation of the SBP Excellence Awards.

The School Broadcast Program, powered by PlayOn! Sports, is a platform which schools can utilize to reach members of their community about activities taking place in their buildings, providing recognition for students while at the same time giving them hands-on opportunities to gain broadcasting experience and providing schools an opportunity to realize additional revenues for their programs. Schools interested in becoming a part of the School Broadcast Program should contact John Johnson at the MHSAA Office.

"Herff Jones is pleased to be partnering with the MHSAA in helping to recognize the efforts our schools and young people," said Dave Loney, a Lansing-based representative for Herff Jones. "School and school activities are about making memories and preparing kids for tomorrow, and our involvement in School Broadcast Program across Michigan and across the country is exciting."

Submissions for the SBP Excellence Awards will be accepted online through the MHSAA Website until April 15. The entry form, contest rules and other information are available on School Broadcast Program page of the MHSAA Website.

Each week, packages of highlights produced by schools in the School Broadcast Program are featured on the MHSAA.tv website and the MHSAA YouTube Channel.

Highlights on MHSAA.TV

The new school year brings with it a return to weekly packages of highlights produced by schools in the MHSAA's School Broadcast Program.

The School Broadcast Program gives member schools an opportunity to create video programming, with students gaining skills in announcing, camera operation, and graphics, using the software provided by PlayOn! Sports. The program also gives schools the opportunity to raise money through advertising and viewing subscriptions. As many as 60 MHSAA member schools annually participate in the program, now in its fifth year.

Schools interested in becoming a part of the School Broadcast Program should contact John Johnson at the MHSAA Office: john@mhsaa.com

Listen to the weekly radio commentary, *MHSAA Perspective* – presented by the Michigan Army National Guard – which has now grown to a total of 81 radio stations and audio webcast sites across the state. The program runs for 30 weeks through the end of the winter sports season. *MHSAA Perspective* can also be accessed from the home page of the MHSAA Website.

MHSAA JH/MS Regulations: Principal Differences from High School Regulations

Regulation III, Basic Eligibility — Regulation IV, Rules for Contests

Age limits – Regulation III, Section 2(A) & 2(B)

7th-grader must be under 14 by Sept. 1 to be eligible for 7th-grade participation – An 8th-grader must be under 15 by Sept. 1 to be eligible for 8th-grade participation (7th grader may be on an 8th-grade team).

Eligibility Advancement – Regulation III, Section 2(C)

Over-age students may apply for Eligibility Advancement which allows for four years of varsity (HS) eligibility beginning in grade 7 or 8, and/or two years of eligibility in grades 7-8 (JH/MS) beginning in the 6th grade

Season dates, contest limits – Regulation IV, Section 10

MHSAA regulates start of fall sports practice, earliest start is the 14 Monday before Thanksgiving, all other subsequent season start dates are determined by local schools/conferences. MHSAA regulates length of season (a maximum of 13 consecutive weeks for all sports from the start of practice) and maximum number of games/contests. Example: Basketball may be 13 consecutive weeks from season start date, maximum 12 contests. (JH/MS basketball may play two games on a non-school day).

Co-op teams at the 7th- and 8th-grade levels are allowed between member schools and can offer opportunity where it otherwise may not exist.



Photo courtesy of Eaton Rapids MS

Academic standards – Regulation III, Section 7 & 8

Students must pass a minimum of 50 percent of a full class load in the previous and current semester/trimester to maintain athletic eligibility (HS standard is 66 percent). Grade-checks of 10 weeks required in current semester/trimester. All other HS interpretations apply.

Semesters of Enrollment, Maximum Competition – Regulation III, Section 4 & 5

Students in grades 7-8 are not limited in the number of semesters/trimesters of enrollment or competition.

Eligibility at varsity level (HS) for 7-8 grade students – Regulation I, Section 1(D)

Students in grades 7-8 are not eligible for high school (9-12) participation. Exception: 8th-grade students in schools of less than 100 total enrollment in grades 9-12, or 7th-grade students in schools with total enrollment in grades 9-12 of less than 50 students are eligible to participate at the 9-12 (varsity) level. Such students must meet the HS academic standard of passing 66 percent of classes. (See Interpretation 11 for restrictions on grade 7-8 students practice with 9-12 students).

The semesters/trimesters in which students in grades 7 or 8 compete at the 9-12 level do not count against the maximum enrollment/competition limits. Such students may attend any HS of their choice as 9th-graders and be eligible immediately.

Transfer Rule – Regulation III, Section 9

Does not apply for transfer students in grades 7-8 – transfer students are immediately eligible.

6th-grade rules, participation & practice – Regulation III, Section 1(C), Interpretation #260, 261
 6th-grade students may not compete with or against students in grades 7-8. Students in grade 6 may be present and observe grade 7-8 practices but not engage in direct completion with grade 7-8 students. Smaller enrollment schools may request Executive Committee waiver to allow 6th-grade participation on 7-8-grade teams – Reg. III, Section 1, Interpretation 262. Students in grades 7-8 may not engage in direct participation in a high school (9-12) practice as stated in Interpretation 11.

Cooperative teams - Regulation III, Section I(D)
 Schools may form co-op teams at the grade 7-8 level, provided all schools in the co-op are MHSAA members. The HS co-op deadlines for application do not apply although it is recommended that JH/MS co-op applications be filed with the MHSAA 90 days in advance of a season.

Multiple sports participation – Regulation IV, Section 8
 It is up to each middle school to determine if students may participate in more than one sport at the same time (same as HS rule on multiple sports participation).

Limited Team Membership - Regulation III, Section 12
 Minimum penalty for participation in non-school competition during the season is that the student is ineligible for the next two dates of competition (the HS minimum penalty is three dates of competition). The maximum penalty for non-school participation for both JH/MS and HS is the entire season.

MHSAA Representative Council

Dave Derocher**
 Athletic Director
 Reese High School
 Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula

James Derocher, President**
 Superintendent
 Negaunee Public Schools
 Class C-D — Upper Peninsula

Scott Grimes, Vice President**
 Assistant Superintendent of Human Services
 Grand Haven Public Schools
 Statewide At-Large

Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio)
 Director, Coordinated School Health & Safety
 Programs Unit, Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing
 Designee

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

Carmen Kennedy**
 Principal
 St. Clair Shores South Lake High School
 Appointee

Maureen Klocke*
 Athletic Director
 Yale Public Schools
 Appointee

Karen Leinaar*
 Athletic Director
 Bear Lake High School
 Statewide At-Large

Orlando Medina**
 Athletic Director
 L'Anse Creuse High School
 Appointee

Cheri Meier*
 Principal
 Ionia Middle School
 Appointee

Jason Mellema*
 Superintendent
 Pewamo-Westphalia Schools
 Junior High/Middle Schools

Vic Michaels, Secretary-Treasurer**
 Director of Physical Education & Athletics
 Archdiocese of Detroit
 Private and Parochial Schools

Chris Miller*
 Athletic Director
 Gobles High School
 Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

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

John Thompson**
 Athletic Director
 Brighton High School
 Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan

Al Unger*
 Athletic Director
 Kingsford High School
 Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

Alvin Ward*
 Administrator of Athletics
 Detroit Public Schools
 City of Detroit

*Term Expires December 2015
 **Term Expires December 2014

2013-14 MHSAA Budget

The following budget for operation of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., for the 2013-14 school year was considered and approved at the May 2013 Representative Council Meeting.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 3,130,180
GENERAL PRINTING	31,000
GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSES	1,378,052
GENERAL MEETINGS	80,500
COACHES & OFFICIALS	402,471
STUDENT SERVICES	128,000
BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS	210,000
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS	,000,000
BOWLING TOURNAMENTS	67,000
COMPETITIVE CHEER	105,000
CROSS COUNTRY MEETS	115,000
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS	1,100,000
GOLF TOURNAMENTS	40,000
GYMNASTICS MEETS	23,000
HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS	240,000
LACROSSE TOURNAMENTS	42,000
SKI MEETS	19,000
SOCCER TOURNAMENTS	205,000
SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS	205,000
SWIMMING MEETS	72,000
TENNIS TOURNAMENTS	85,000
TRACK MEETS	220,000
VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS	250,000
WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS	460,000
BROADCASTING	5,000
REVENUE SHARING	175,000
TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2013-14	\$ 9,889,203

Out-of-State Travel Form Required

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.

Report of Activities of the MHSAA, 2012-13

PUBLICATIONS - *benchmarks* distributed to junior and senior high schools and registered officials; *Officials' Directory* and *School Directory* and calendars prepared; *Association Handbook* distributed to junior and senior high schools; rule books distributed to schools and registered officials; blanks and forms were distributed to schools. The *Officials Guidebook* was published online. The *Coaches Guidebook* was published online.

RULES MEETINGS/CLINICS - General meetings and rules meetings (online and face to face) were held in baseball/softball, competitive cheer, football, basketball, bowling, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, golf, wrestling, gymnastics, volleyball, soccer, and ice hockey for coaches and registered officials. The Officials' Awards and Alumni Banquet honored 20-, 30-, 40-, 45- and 50-year officials. Special meetings were conducted for coaches association presidents and league and conference executives. Tournament managers meetings were held in some sports. Meetings were held with representatives of local officials associations. In-service programs for officials assigners and sessions to train the basketball, football, volleyball, wrestling, soccer, baseball and softball trainers of approved officials associations were conducted. More than 1,100 officials attended "Officiate Michigan Day" preceding the Sports Officiating Summit of the National Association of Sports Officials in July 2013 in Grand Rapids.

PARTICIPANTS - There were approximately 297,317 participants on interscholastic athletic squads of the 758 member high schools during the 2012-13 school year. The MHSAA membership also included 751 junior high/middle schools.

REGISTERED OFFICIALS - There were 10,826 officials registered in one or more sports during the year. The MHSAA conducted camps for basketball and football officials.

UPDATE MEETINGS - Approximately 900 people attended meetings during the fall in Frankenmuth, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Gaylord, Warren, Comstock Park, and Marquette.

CAP SEMINARS - There were approximately 2,000 participants who completed one or more courses in the Coaches Advancement Program at sites throughout the state during the 2012-13 school year.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS IN-SERVICE - Approximately 800 athletic directors participated in the Athletic Directors In-Service programs at sites throughout the state during the 2012-13 school year.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP EVENTS - Five Sportsmanship Summits or clinics were conducted, involving 1,100 students; and five Captains Clinics were conducted involving 800 students. The seventh class of the Student Advisory Council was appointed. The fourth "Reaching Higher" experiences were provided to help prepare more than 225 male and female basketball players for their college experience.

COMMITTEES - Approximately 500 different individuals served on the following association committees during the 2012-13 school year:

Representative Council	Competitive Cheer Judges Selection	Scholar/Athlete
Executive Committee	Cross Country/Track & Field	Ski
Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee	Cross Country Site Selection	Soccer
Athletic Equity	Football	Soccer Off. Selection (B & G)
Awards	Football Playoff Officials Selection	Swimming
Baseball/Softball	Golf	Tennis
Baseball/Softball Umpires Selection	Golf Managers	Tennis Seeding (Boys)
Basketball	Gymnastics	Tennis Seeding (Girls)
Basketball Tournament (Boys)	Gymnastics Officials Selection	Track & Field Standards
Basketball Tournament (Girls)	Hockey	Track Managers
Boys Basketball Officials Selection	Hockey Officials Selection	Volleyball
Girls Basketball Officials Selection	Junior High/Middle School	Volleyball Off. Selection
Board of Canvassers	Lacrosse (Boys)	Wrestling
Bowling	Lacrosse (Girls)	Wrestling Head Referees
Classification	Officials Review	Wrestling Managers
Competitive Cheer		Wrestling Off. Selection

2014-15 MHSAA Committee Membership Nominations

A procedure has been adopted and recently refined by the Representative Council to select MHSAA committee members. In the early spring of 2013, all superintendents, principals, athletic directors, coaches and board of education members who desire to serve on MHSAA committees may submit their names for nomination. This is a summary of the make-up and responsibilities of MHSAA standing committees:

SPORT COMMITTEES

Baseball/Softball, Basketball, Bowling, Competitive Cheer, Cross Country/Track & Field, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Skiing, Soccer, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Volleyball, Wrestling

Consist of a balance of administrators and varsity coaches in the particular sport, plus the president of the coaches association for that sport. Responsible for: (a) recommending to the Representative Council changes regarding MHSAA regulations relative to the sport. (b) recommending to the staff procedures, sites, and assignments for the MHSAA tournament in that sport. **Note:** Some sport committees serve multiple functions including officials selection, tournament sites, and seeding.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEES

Girls & Boys Basketball, Cross Country/Track & Field Site Selection, Track & Field Standards, Volleyball
Consist of administrators responsible for selecting sites and assigning teams for all levels of MHSAA tournaments in the particular sport.

SEEDING COMMITTEES

Girls Tennis Area Seeding Directors, Boys Tennis Area Seeding Directors

Consist of tournament managers and varsity coaches responsible for determining seeded players and their positions in each flight and for assisting tournament managers in conducting the tournament draw.

OFFICIAL SELECTION COMMITTEES

Baseball and Softball, Boys and Girls Basketball, Competitive Cheer, Football, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Volleyball, and Wrestling

Consist of tournament managers, athletic directors and coaches responsible for selecting officials for most levels of tournaments in most sports.

OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES (Established and appointed by the Representative Council)

1. **Athletic Equity Committee** - Committee is to meet once a year to recommend to the Representative Council annual objectives designed to encourage participation by more women and minorities in interscholastic coaching, officiating and administrative positions.
2. **Awards Committee** - This committee meets once as a group and corresponds throughout the year to extend nominations, establish policies and procedures and to nominate and screen candidates for four MHSAA awards: Forsythe, Bush, Norris, and Women in Sports Leadership.
3. **Classification Committee** - The committee meets annually to study and make recommendations to staff and Council regarding policies and procedures of classifying schools for tournaments and elections.
4. **Board of Canvassers** - Comprised of a superintendent, two high school principals, one junior high/middle school principal, and one athletic director. Members are responsible for counting the ballots for the election of Representative Council members and members of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee.
5. **Junior High/Middle School Committee** - This committee is comprised of junior high/middle school principals and athletic directors to review rules and regulations as they pertain to junior high/middle schools.
6. **Officials Review Committee** - This committee meets for the purpose of reviewing issues and concerns related to all officials in order to put forth recommendations to the MHSAA Representative Council.
7. **Scholar-Athlete Committee** - Established to administer the MHSAA Scholar-Athlete program, this committee consists of approximately 80 people to review award applications.

Criteria for Nomination and Selection of MHSAA Committee Members

There are several criteria to consider before completing the Nomination Form:

1. Coaches must be employed by the school and be able to obtain release time from school.
2. The nominee should have at least two years of experience in the position currently holding.
3. Most committees require only a one meeting date commitment at the MHSAA building in East Lansing. Committee meetings are held during the work week.

Appointments to committees are based on the following criteria:

1. Committees should have male, female, and minority membership which reflects the total pool of available personnel.
2. Committees should maintain geographic and class size representation.
3. Some administrators will be appointed to sport committees.
4. The coaches association president/secretary of each sport is appointed to that sport committee, if the person is a school employee. If the President/Secretary is not a school employee, the Association must send a designee who is an administrator, faculty member or board of education member of an MHSAA member school.

Names of nominees will be submitted to the Representative Council for selection.

Over 500 people will be selected from the list of nominees submitted to serve on MHSAA committees.

— USE THE FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE —

MHSAA Committee Membership Nomination Form

Member school superintendents, principals, athletic directors, board of education members and coaches are eligible to be a member of any one of the following MHSAA committees for the 2014-15 school year. If you desire to place yourself as a nominee complete this form and fax it to the MHSAA office by March 31, 2014. THE PRINCIPAL MUST sign this form for it to be considered a valid nomination for athletic directors and coaches. Schools may choose to use this form for more than one nomination. The following form lists the committee and the month in which the meeting will be held. Please print the nominee's name and title (specify boys or girls if a coach) on the appropriate line.

Committee	Meeting Month	Nominee's Name & Title
Board of Canvassers (35)	September	
Athletic Equity (5)	October	
Awards (10)	October	
Boys Tennis Seeding (50)	October	
Girls Lacrosse (130)	October	
Gymnastics (100)	October	
Ski (150)	November	
Baseball/Softball Site Selection (25)	December	
Golf (95)	December	
Basketball Rules (30)	December	
Track & Field Standards (190)	December	
Volleyball Rules (200)	December	
Baseball/Softball Rules (20)	January	
Boys Lacrosse (125)	January & May	
Classification (55)	January	
Cross Country/Track & Field Reg. (70)	January	
XC/TR & FD Site Selection (185)	January	
Football (75)	January	
Junior High/Middle School (120)	January	
Tennis (180)	January	
Wrestling (215)	January	
Competitive Cheer (60)	February	
Scholar-Athlete (145)	February	
Soccer (155)	February	
Swimming & Diving (175)	February	
Bowling (40)	March	
GBB/BBB/GVB Site Selection (135)	May	
Girls Tennis Seeding (90)	May	
Ice Hockey	May	

City/School _____ School ID No. _____

Principal (Signature) _____

RETURN TO MHSAA NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2014

Official Report of the Board of Canvassers

East Lansing, September 24, 2013

We, whose signatures appear below, declare the following to be nominees for, or members-elect of, the Representative Council or the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., as a result of ballots received in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Section 6 of the Constitution, or as authorized by the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee at its meeting on October 3, 1941.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

UPPER PENINSULA - CLASS A AND B SCHOOLS (#1)

Total number of legal ballots received	7
Al Unger, Kingsford	7
Illegal or incomplete ballots received	2
Elected by majority of votes – Al Unger	

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS (#2)

Total number of legal ballots received	1
Alvin Ward, Detroit	1
Illegal or incomplete ballots received	0
Elected by majority of votes – Alvin Ward	

SOUTHWESTERN SECTION - CLASS C AND D SCHOOLS (#3)

Total number of legal ballots received	32
Ken Dietz, Watervliet	12
Chris Miller, Gobles	17
John Norton, Bridgman	3
Elected by majority of votes – Chris Miller	

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION - CLASS C AND D SCHOOLS (#4)

Total number of legal ballots received	21
Kristen M. Isom, Adrian-Madison	21
Illegal or incomplete ballots received	0
Elected by majority of votes – Kristen M. Isom	

STATEWIDE AT-LARGE (#5)

Total number of legal ballots received	499
Karen S. Leinaar, Bear Lake	499
Illegal or incomplete ballots received	21
Elected by majority of votes – Karen Leinaar	

JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS (#6)

Total number of legal ballots received	133
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace	42
Jason Mellema, Pewamo-Westphalia	48
Steve Muenzer, Lake Fenton	12
Kevin O'Rourke, Rockford	25
Don Watchowski, Ortonville-Brandon	6
Illegal or incomplete ballots received	6
No majority – Names of Don Gustafson and Jason Mellema submitted to schools	

UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

CLASS D SCHOOLS (#7)

Total number of legal ballots received	21
Gary Brayak, Rock-Mid Peninsula	12
Dave Duncan, Cedarville	9
Illegal or incomplete ballots received	0
Elected by majority of votes – Gary Brayak	

CLASS A AND B SCHOOLS (#8)

Total number of legal ballots received	7
Matthew C. Houle, Gladstone	7
Illegal or incomplete ballots received	1
Elected by majority of votes – Matthew C. Houle	

CLASS C SCHOOLS (#9)

Total number of legal ballots received	11
Chris Hartman, Iron Mountain	7
Sean Jacques, Calumet	4
Illegal or incomplete ballots received	0
Elected by majority of votes – Chris Hartman	

BOARD OF CANVASSERS (Signed)

Rick Dorn, Athletic Director, Waterford School District
Vicki Groat, Athletic Director, Battle Creek-St. Philip

OFFICIAL REPORT OF SECOND MEETING OF BOARD OF CANVASSERS

East Lansing, October 16, 2013

JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS (#6)

Total number of legal ballots received	147
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace	71
Jason Mellema, Pewamo-Westphalia	76
Illegal or incomplete ballots received	4
Elected by Majority of Votes – Jason Mellema	

BOARD OF CANVASSERS (Signed)

Leon Olszamowski, Superintendent, Pontiac-Notre Dame Preparatory School

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 school 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.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL & UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE NOMINATION PROCEDURES FOR 2014-15

The Representative Council has established procedures for indicating the intention to run for elected positions on the MHSAA Representative Council.

1. Any individual who is a representative of a member school (administrator, faculty member or board of education member) may submit his or her name to the MHSAA office by March 15.
 - A. Candidates must have superintendent or principal approval in writing.
 - B. It is essential that candidates be qualified for the position they seek.
 - 1) If the position is for a representative of a certain area of the state, they must represent a school of the appropriate class (A and B or C and D) in that geographic area.
 - 2) If they seek the position of a statewide at large representative, they must be a faculty or board of education member of an MHSAA member school. This includes administrators but not non-faculty coaches.
 - 3) If they seek the position of statewide representative of junior high/middle schools or private and parochial high schools, they must be faculty (teacher or administrator) or board members for such schools.

2. Names submitted will be published on **MHSAA.com** in **May**, in the fall issue of benchmarks in August, and on the ballot mailed to member schools in September.

Elections will be held in the fall for the following positions:

Class A and B Schools — 3 openings

Northern Lower Peninsula
Southwestern Section
Southeastern Section

Class C and D Schools—2 openings

Upper Peninsula
Northern Lower Peninsula

Statewide At-Large —1 opening

Jr. High/Middle Schools —1 opening

Private and Parochial —1 opening

The procedures established for indicating the intention to run for elected positions are the same for the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee as those stated above for the Representative Council.

Elections will be held in the fall for the following:

Class D U.P. School—1 opening

Athletic Coach—1 opening

NOTE: Candidates will first appear on the Administrators page of **MHSAA.com** in **May**.

Annual Business Meeting of the MHSAA, Inc.

Lansing, Oct. 10, 2013

Vic Michaels, MHSAA Secretary-Treasurer, MHSAA Audit & Finance Committee

For many years, the MHSAA made its Annual Business Meeting a part of the fall conference of the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, even sponsoring a breakfast at the MASSP conference for several years for this purpose. Since MASSP has moved its conference to a venue where the MHSAA does not conduct events, the MHSAA has attached Annual Business Meeting elements to one of the scheduled Update Meetings. Jack will address program and policy matters in his usual presentation; and as a member of the MHSAA Audit & Finance Committee – which includes President Jim Derocher, Superintendent of Negaunee Public Schools; Karen Leinaar, Athletic Director at Bear Lake High School; Pete Ryan, Athletic Director at Saginaw-Heritage High School; and me as Secretary-Treasurer – I have this brief financial report.

The MHSAA's finances quantify the hard work of MHSAA Council and staff over the past five years to meet extraordinary obligations during very difficult economic times. Positive results have come from reduction in many areas of expenses and diversification of revenue streams. In 2012-13, the result was an operating surplus of \$547,712.

The Expense Budget for 2013-14, which was adopted by the Representative Council on May 6, 2013, is enclosed for your review as Appendix 1. Barring terrible weather for tournaments, a modest operating surplus is anticipated in 2013-14.

With the Council's advice and consent, the MHSAA staff is continuing to search for ways to trim internal operating expenses and to expand revenue sources, with three major objectives: (1) build resources to be ready for whatever the future provides as the next big problem or project; (2) support the association's personnel, facilities and equipment; and (3) redistribute more funds to more member schools. Fiscal year 2012-13 was another step toward accomplishing these objectives.

Allen Leaves Legacy of Friendship Around the State

Randy Allen was a face seen and a voice heard by thousands during the first two decades of his career in athletics, when he worked as a TV sports anchor and radio play-by-play personality.

But it's fair to assume his son Dean has watched his dad at work more than anyone over the latter's most recent 20-plus years serving high school athletic associations, including the last 13 as an assistant director at the MHSAA.

Dean Allen, now an assistant athletic director at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, remembers many trophy presentations over the years and how his dad would step back and make sure the tournament manager or athletic director was the one handing the hardware to those who deserved the spotlight.

Randy Allen embraced a behind-the-scenes role after joining the high school association side in 1992. And as he retired from the MHSAA on Jan. 31, it was no doubt the athletic directors, officials and coaches who worked with him behind the scenes over the last 13 years who most appreciated his many contributions.

"The biggest smile you'd see on him was when the tournament was over and the kids were out there tackling each other, the excitement, the smiles on their faces when they get their medals and raise the trophy," Dean Allen said. "For him, that's most worth it. When it's over, seeing the kids and the community and parents and coaches, celebrating the successes they've had."

Randy Allen's name surely wasn't as recognizable to sports fans in Michigan as it was during the 1970s and 80s in Wisconsin.

Allen knew only a handful of Michiganders when he joined the MHSAA staff. But he knew the job – and was ready for the challenges while gaining knowledge of his new home on the fly. His roots in high school athletics already dug deep.

Allen officiated baseball and softball for 25 years and also some of both at the college level. He also worked as a TV sports anchor at multiple stations near Madison, Wis., for 15 years while radio broadcasting high school football, basketball, baseball and hockey games on three networks and University of Wisconsin hockey games during the era of legendary coach Bob Johnson.

Allen went on to produce Wisconsin high school tournament games – which led in part to his joining the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association staff as communications director in 1992.

In 2000, Allen became a seven-state regional director for iHigh.com. But an opportunity at the MHSAA two years later allowed him to pursue a goal going back to his days at the WIAA.

"I had always hoped I would get a chance to manage a sport in a state association," Allen said. "When I came here, I went to heaven. I got to manage sports, and they were sports I knew like the back of my hand."

Allen joined the MHSAA as assistant director in charge of baseball, softball, hockey and team wrestling. He later traded baseball and wrestling for golf and played a leading role in the addition of bowling, which he has directed since its inception.



Whether on the ice, alleys, diamonds or links, the MHSAA's Randy Allen left an indelible mark on the people he worked with during his tenure. Above, Allen (left) shares a moment with official Dan DiCristofaro at the 2013 MHSAA Ice Hockey Finals.

"Randy has been a perfect fit for his major sport responsibilities here," MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. "He is a very hard worker, and he is very well liked by the coaches, officials and administrators he has served so well."

It was during a trip to visit potential Hockey Finals sites roughly a decade ago that Roberts first brought up to Allen the possibility of bowling becoming the next MHSAA tournament addition – and the question of who on staff could run it. Roberts asked if Allen had experience in the sport.

Allen had an uncle in the bowling business and had been rolling since he was 4. "Bowling has been in my DNA since I was (a child)," Allen said. "I speak their language."

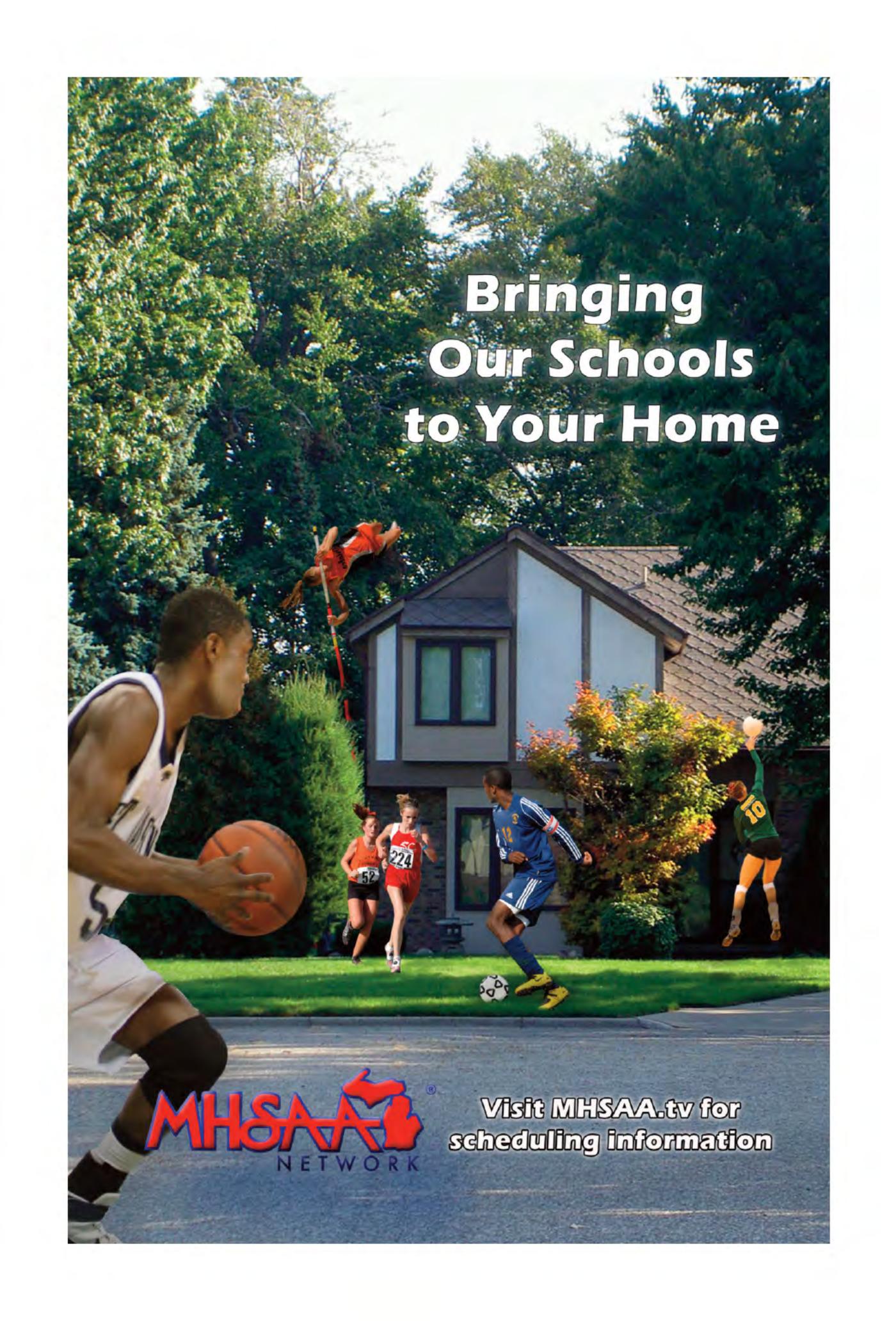
He directed the MHSAA's first Bowling Finals in 2004. Participation in the sport has continued to grow, reaching 6,700 students in 2012-13.

Bowling also played a big part in making Allen something of an ambassador for the MHSAA, in that he reached out to an entire group of people who had not been in MHSAA conversations before.

He played a similar key role in serving others who also often work under the radar, providing training to the athletic department secretaries and middle school athletic directors during MIAAA conferences. And his experience in multiple states allowed him to provide valuable perspective.

"He always was willing to talk to someone – answer an MHSAA rules or regulation question, provide a quick fix to a school/league issue, give an anecdote to make a bad day better with a smile," said Bear Lake Athletic Director Karen Leinaar, who also serves on the MHSAA Representative Council and is assistant to the executive director of the MIAAA. "And he always was a welcoming voice on the phone. No question, no person was ever a bother. He always took time and provided some type of direction."

– Geoff Kimmerly
MHSAA Second Half.com Editor



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