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benchmarks

Examining Out-of-Season Issues



Cover Story: Examining Out-of-Season Issues



4 For more than a decade now, concerns about the demise of multi-sport participation and rise of specialization have been roundly voiced in educational athletics. Out-of-season coaching restrictions can have an impact on choices made by student-athletes, but what is the precise balance to achieve the missions of schools?

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The Vault – 24

Michigan Multi-Sport Marvel
 Richie Jordan was a special athlete who didn't specialize. His exceptional high school athletic career landed him in NFHS Hall of Fame.



MHSAA News – 35

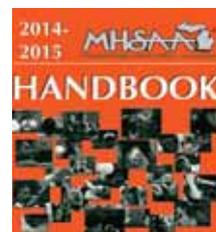
6th-Grade Inclusion Ahead?
 Among the topics discussed at the December Representative Council Meeting was the possibility of allowing 6th-graders to compete in JH/MS sports.



Regulations Review – 40

School Sports 101

A refresher course outlining some of the main *Handbook* Regulations that MHSAA school administrators need to know.



Departments

Wide Angle	2
Shots on Goal	3
Outside Shots	19
Health & Safety	26
Getting I.T.	29
Student Spotlight	30
Officially Speaking	32
MHSAA Business	42
Extra Points	48
The Buzzer	48

Winds of Change Create Calendar Conundrum

Decades ago, schools developed policies and procedures for competitive athletics that educators knew were best for both schools and students.

Schools believed that for every sport a period of guided practices to prepare students for competition was important to minimize risks and maximize performance. Maximum numbers of competitions per day and per week reinforced these beliefs and tended to assure students also had time for their studies.

Schools believed that the season should not run on forever, and maximums were established on the total number of weeks and competitions.

Schools believed that at least a short break between sports was good for both the bodies and minds of students, and that an extended break in the summer was also good, providing opportunities to engage in other sports, or for summer employment, or for family time and travel.

On every count, schools were correct.

Unfortunately, over time, sports programs of non-school groups have moved into every month, week, day or half-day that schools have not programmed for students. Most of it is competition without preparation (lots of games, few practices). And parents far too often have been far too willing to pay any amount and drive any distance to facilitate their child's interest or force their child's play.

What do educators do when what their heads tell them is the best no longer resonates in the hearts of so many people their schools are to serve?

And that question is at the heart of this issue of *benchmarks*.



John E. "Jack" Roberts
MHSAA Executive Director



All too often, every minute of every day is being filled with sport-related activities, both in school and out. Schools are challenged more than ever to fulfill the desires of the people they serve.



Planting the Seeds

The MHSAA's "From the Director" Blog of Dec. 9 discussed the possibility of seeding at various MHSAA Tournament levels. The issue was introduced at Update Meetings around the state this fall, and is gaining support.

Personally, I struggle to see any values-based reason not to seed teams at each geographic level of that sport's tournament. So long as the teams are all gathering at a common site, whether the District, Regional, or Final tournament, I cannot see how it is inconsistent with the MHSAA's values to seed the teams. Again, this presumes that the geographic groupings come first, fol-

"So long as the teams are all gathering at a common site, whether the District, Regional, or State tournament, I cannot see how it is inconsistent with the MHSAA's values to seed the teams."

lowed by seeding only after geographic groupings have been established.

Of course, if there is no consensus as to how to seed teams, such that doing so would be impractical, that is another matter.
- Adam Pavlik

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**.

How You Help Us Operate

This issue of *benchmarks* has a slightly different look than previous issues. Readers will notice that it's a bit heavy on the data-side, providing in-depth results to a couple of expansive and important surveys sent to schools in the fall. One is the annual Update Meeting Survey. The other, at the crux of this edition of the magazine, reveals opinions regarding potential changes to the MHSAA's out-of-season coaching regulation.

As it turns out, the timing is perfect for such an issue, because the winter months are laden with committee meetings at the MHSAA Office, the lifeblood for affecting change in the rules and regulations which serve our constituents so well and provide level playing fields (and courts, pools mats, diamonds, etc.) for the vast span of enrollments and demographics that make Michigan so unique. Following is MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts' "From the Director" blog of Jan. 6. Keep it in mind in the coming weeks as the committees are putting their best efforts forward on your behalf.

Committee Work

The winter months are the busiest for MHSAA committees, especially for those that must review or prepare recommendations for changes for the following school year.

Each year, up to 20 MHSAA committees consider proposals for Representative Council action relative to MHSAA tournament policies or procedures or Handbook regulations or interpretations.

During school year 2014-15, wherever applicable, the committees are being asked to address health and safety issues as well as policies and procedures relative to subvarsity and junior high/middle school students; and as a result of positive 2014 Update Meeting Opinion Poll responses, each sport committee is being asked to respond during calendar year 2015 and beyond to several concepts for MHSAA tournament seeding.

MHSAA committees are dominated by coaches, but they are not a rubber stamp for proposals that proceed from that sport's high school coaches association. The difference of opinion often results from the committee seeing things differently than a coaches association leadership that the committee believes is not representative of schools of diverse size, location and demographics.

It is appropriate for committees to ask: Who was not in the room when this recommendation was drafted? Who will not be served well by this change?

When committees go through this process, they tend to reduce the quantity but improve the quality of recommendations to the Representative Council, which increases the percentage of recommendations the Council adopts.



'Tis Out of the Season

The Potential for Changing Participation Trends Could Lie in Revamping Out-of-Season Coaching Regulations

Those who live in close proximity to high schools throughout Michigan don't even need a calendar to know what time of year it is. Whistles piercing through the hum of their air conditioners on the first Monday morning in August mark the start of fall from nearby football facilities. The ping of aluminum as sidewalks and grass re-appear from winter's grip signifies the start of spring.

Office supply stores could see calendar sales soar in those households – or occupants might at least do a double-take when checking smartphone calendars – in the near future if MHSAA out-of-season coaching regulations are modified. The familiar sounds of the seasons could resonate in non-traditional months as well.

A major topic of the recent MHSAA Update Meetings and AD In-Services in the fall was the possibility of revamping the regulations regarding out-of-season contact for school coaches with school teams *during* the school year. The Summer

Dead Period would remain in place and has been largely supported by membership since it was implemented for the 2007-08 school year.

It should be noted that out-of-season revision is not a certainty, but simply in the exploratory stage at this point, and recommendations have not yet been formulated, much less brought before the MHSAA's Representative Council.

Yet, the time was ripe to initiate discussion on this topic in the fall. The growth of non-school athletic programs and demands placed upon students by such entities in recent years was one factor. The difficulty the MHSAA has enforcing – and schools have interpreting – current out-of-season coaching regulations is another factor.

"The fundamental question is how to allow more contact between coaches and students out of season without encouraging single-sport participation," mused MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts.

Can this be done? Can trends toward special-

ization and away from multi-sport participation be reversed through *greater* contact periods for each sport within the school year?

Proponents of this school of thought believe that time otherwise spent with non-school coaches would be best served with education-based coaches who, in theory, would be on the same page with peers at their school, all encouraging multi-sport participation.

“Part of the explosion of AAU and Club involvement has been the perpetuation of the notion that without additional training and competition, students will not reach their potential nor maximize their chances of being recruited by colleges,” said Scott Robertson, athletic director at Grand Haven. “When our high school coaches have the ability to provide a similar experience, but with an education-first mindset regulated by athletic directors, the expectations of student-athletes by coaches can be tempered.”

It is a lively debate that will be picking up momentum for the remainder of this school year and into the next.

Following are some of the concepts and comments from the fall, along with results from a statewide survey on pages 10-17. Further Council discussion is slated for March with possible action during its final meeting of the school year in May.

LET’S BEGIN

Perhaps the most criticized, misinterpreted, ignored, and/or difficult to enforce rule in the MHSAA *Handbook* resides in Regulation II, Section 11 (H): the three- and four-player rule for coaches out of season during the school year. A portion of that rule appears in the box below.

Debate has long spiraled in dizzying circles around definitions such as “open gyms,” “under

one roof,” “conditioning,” “drills,” and other components.

“One of the problems is the MHSAA finds this specific rule difficult to enforce and interpret,” MHSAA Associate Director Tom Rashid said. “Another perceived problem is that there might be a disconnect between school coaches and students out of season, which might be driving students toward non-school programs.”

It’s simple to recognize lightning rods, but quite another to construct a device for harvesting the sparks in a productive manner. To that end, Rashid prepared an outline for discussion on the topic as he hit the trails around Michigan this fall for Update Meetings and AD In-Services.

“We felt we needed to see if we could do better. Rather than say to 600 ADs, ‘What do you think about out-of-season coaching rules?’, we asked about a new concept. We created a starting point for discussion.” — Tom Rashid, MHSAA Associate Director

“We felt we needed to see if we could do better,” Rashid said. “Rather than say to 600 ADs, ‘What do you think about out-of-season coaching rules?’, we asked about a new concept. We created a starting point for discussion.”

The basic premise brought forward to the masses was this: a *voluntary* contact period of one month to six weeks with a limit of 10 or 15 days of contact in that period – and perhaps three in any

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Current Out-of-Season Rule (Three- or Four-Player Rule)

From MHSAA Handbook, Regulation II, Section 11(H):

2. These limitations out of season apply to COACHES:
 - a. **Outside the school season during the school year** (from Monday the week of Aug. 15 through the Sunday after Memorial Day observed), school coaches are prohibited from providing coaching at any one time under one roof, facility or campus to more than three (or four) students in grades 7-12 of the district or cooperative program for which they coach (four students if the coaching does not involve practice or competition with students or others not enrolled in that school district). This applies only to the specific sport(s) coached by the coach, but it applies to all levels, junior high/middle school and high school, and both genders, whether the coach is paid or volunteer (e.g., a volunteer JV boys soccer coach may not work with more than three girls in grades 7-12 outside the girls soccer season during the school year).



Allowing coaches to work with more than three or four students at a time could promote greater team concept over individual development.

one week – between a coach and his/her athletes out of season with any number of students, grade 7-12. Due to large participation numbers in football, some consideration was given to limiting the number of players in any one out-of-season session to 11, thus not creating “spring football.”

A straw poll from the gatherings in the fall indicated nearly 70 percent of attendees in favor of “contact periods” versus the current rule, prompting a detailed survey to all member schools sent in October to further measure the climate and hone in on specifics for desired changes.

“It was a very open process with great discussion,” Rashid said. “All size schools, all demographics, and all corners of the state weighed in.”

As always, the devil is in the detail, and the October survey yielded plenty of detail.

NUMBERS FAVOR NO NUMBERS

As mentioned earlier, nearly 70 percent of attendees at MHSAA fall gatherings indicated that they might prefer a rule that specified coaching contact periods outside their sport during the school year, as opposed to limiting the number of student-athletes per session.

The ensuing survey sent to member schools in late October reflects that sentiment in schools of all sizes, and in all zones of the state. On the topic of counting contact days out of season with no limit on the number of students involved, more than 72 percent of 514 responding schools favored the plan. Class A schools led the way with nearly 76 percent in support. Class D schools chimed in at 69 percent in favor. Support was strong across the zones of the state as well, led by the Detroit metro area (Zone 3) at 76.5. The middle of the state (Zone 5) was the low, but still found close to 60 percent in favor of such a revision.

The survey revealed consistencies across the board relative to the amount of three- and four-player sessions currently utilized by schools of different sizes, and the support and opposition to questions regarding revised regulations on the topic. For instance, nearly 50 percent of Class A schools indicate that their coaches work with students under the current rule most every week during the offseason, while 40 percent of Class D schools report that most of their coaches *never* utilize the three- or four-player rule at all out of season. Not surprisingly then, in questions posed where three- and four-player stipulations might still exist, the larger schools favored such changes at a higher rate than the smaller schools.

Survey data also reveals a reason for such opposition at lower-enrollment schools: a simple numbers game. In Class C and D, the majority of schools report that 60-80 percent of their student-athletes participate in more than one sport. So, with more students busier year-round than at their larger school counterparts, there are fewer people to attend out-of-season sessions.

Similarly, the concept of extending the current preseason down time for all sports was supported more in Class C and D schools than Class A and B.

“It is always a challenge for individual schools to see things from the other schools’ perspectives,” Rashid said. “It’s hard for people to say, ‘It might be different for us, but for the greater good, we might have to change our culture here.’”

But, that line of thinking is certainly understood at Chelsea High School, a Class B school of more than 800 students. Athletic director and football coach Brad Bush is an advocate of multi-sport participation, regardless of school size.

“The current three- or four-player rule benefits kids by developing skills, but does *not* force kids to feel pressure to be at a full practice,” Bush said.

“Changing this rule could reduce the number of multiple-sport athletes. Our staff and league is united in believing that changing this rule could be a big mistake.”

OUTSIDE INFLUENCE

Part of the balancing act in attempting to revise out-of-season rules is to encourage greater participation on school teams, while not promoting specialization.

Interestingly, a number of schools in the survey reported that they have policies in place limiting in-season athletes from attending sports-specific training from out-of-season coaches. The percentages ranged from 27.6 percent in Class D to 41 percent in Class B.

Most schools allow weightlifting during the season, followed in decreasing order by three- or four-

player workouts, conditioning and open gyms. However, more than 40 percent of responding schools have in place a policy prohibiting *non-school* competition for in-season athletes. The message seems to be that if activity is taking place, the preference is for it to be under supervision, and for that supervision to come from school coaches.

“If a coach is going to hold three workouts per week out of season, a student may leave another sport to play in the offseason of their preferred sport,” Rashid said. “As such, many ADs identified that it would be the role of each school to regulate out-of-season coaching. Right now, the ADs have to keep a handle on out-of-season activities and if the rules change, depending on their demographic, they might need to be involved even more.”

With advance planning, an environment can be created in which all of a school’s sports can exist in harmony and encourage multi-sport membership.

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Framing the Discussion

What might revised out-of-season coaching regulations look like if administrators, leagues and conferences can reach a consensus concluding that change is indeed necessary? MHSAA Associate Director Tom Rashid offered the following scenarios as a launching pad for discussion during the recently completed Update Meetings and AD In-Services in the fall.

During the school year, (Aug. 1 to the Monday after Memorial Day) out-of-season contact among coaches and students in grades 7-12 of the district shall be divided into Voluntary Contact Periods and No-Contact Periods. These periods shall differ for each season. Voluntary Contact Periods would begin weeks into the other sports’ seasons and are similar to what is permitted during the summer (competition and voluntary practices).

Season	Voluntary Contact Period <i>Sport-specific activity and coaching to any number of students to a maximum number of days in the period; no more than 3 days in a week</i>	No-Contact Period <i>Voluntary weights and non-sport-specific conditioning only.</i>	
Fall Sports	*Dec. 26-Feb. 28 (or Jan.-Feb) *April 16-June 1 (or May)	Aug. 1 to start of fall practice	Nov. 1-Dec. 24 March 1-April 15
Winter Sports	Sept. 16-Oct. 31 (or Oct) April 16-June 1 (or May)	14 days prior to start of winter practice	Aug. 1-Sept. 15 March 1-April 15
Spring Sports	Sept. 16-Oct. 31 (or Oct) Dec. 26-March 1 (or Jan.-Feb)	March 1 to start of spring practice	Aug. 1-Sept. 15 Nov. 1-Dec. 24

ANOTHER VIEW . . .

- **Fall sports** No Contact Aug 1 to start of practice
Nov 1-Christmas Break (start of winter sports)
March 1-April 15 (start of spring sports)
Contact : Dec 26 to March 1 and Mid April to June 1
- **Winter sports** No Contact 14 days prior to start of practice
Aug 1 - Sept 15 (start of fall sports)
March 1- April 15 (start of spring sports)
Contact: Sept 16- Oct 31 and April 16-June 1
- **Spring Sports** No Contact March 1 to start of practice
Aug 1 - Sept 15 (start of fall sports)
Nov. 1 - Dec 24 (start of winter sports)
Contact: Sept 16-Oct 31 and Dec 26-March 1

“Part of the explosion of AAU and Club involvement is the notion that without this additional training and competition, students will not reach their potential nor maximize their chances of being recruited by colleges. When our high school coaches have the ability to provide a similar experience but with an education-first mindset regulated by athletic directors, the expectations of student-athletes by coaches can be tempered.” – Grand Haven Athletic Director Scott Robertson

“Athletic directors can guide all coaches on their staffs to work together to create 12-month calendars that focus on the needs of kids and respect the desire of many to participate in multiple sports,” Robertson said. “In doing so, coaches can work to avoid overlaps in important opportunities where kids may be put in win-lose situations. With careful planning student-athletes will be afforded more opportunities to train and develop with their classmate peers and within their own communities.”

Chris Ervin, athletic director at St. Johns High School, is one of many in the camp that believes the current system accomplishes a school’s missions when properly supervised.

“Our coaches have ample opportunities to coach in the three- or four-player setting, and our athletes have plenty of opportunities to improve their skill sets through open gyms which are not coach-directed,” Ervin said.

Others agree that any change might introduce unwanted consequences. One source, an administrator in a strong football community, speculates in that town and others like it, football programs could smother other sport programs by scheduling full workouts on top of other in-season sports. Voluntary or not, it is opined that kids would gravitate toward the out-of-season football workouts if that’s the signature sport in town.

Ervin can see the same point. “I don’t see this affecting my role too much, but I do believe this could lead to even more specialization. For example, if football coaches are able to work with their players 11 at a time in the offseason, I believe athletes will feel more pressure to be part of that football workout while they are in-season with another sport.”

Under another scenario, school coaches might someday be allowed to coach non-school teams during the school year. The rationale is that if students are participating outside the school campus anyway, wouldn’t it be better that they are coached by school personnel so that the educational message is delivered appropriately?

Add to this the fact that 100 percent of surveyed schools reported conducting open gyms in basketball, and 66 percent in volleyball – the two most high-profile AAU sports – would it benefit schools to have trained personnel in those non-school leadership roles?

“This would connect our coaches to school kids but also could have the unintended consequence of specialization,” Rashid said. “However, the coaches in place would be *our* coaches, whereas currently we don’t have a say in the AAU coaches of our students.”

Not yet. This topic on the survey was favored by roughly 60 percent overall, but an equal 20.4 percent were at opposite ends of the spectrum strongly in favor and strongly against, with the highest percentage falling just above luke-warm.

By Class, the C and D schools were slightly more opposed to this idea than Class A and B. Why? Very often, in the smaller communities, there are no non-school opportunities; school sports are the only option.

Robertson believes that incorporating a revised out-of-season coaching plan could assist families financially in the long run.

“By having the ability to include larger numbers of kids in development activities and allowing for a limited number of competitions, there is a strong likelihood that students and their families will choose the out-of-season activities offered by their



High School Sports Scene

All 508 respondents indicated that basketball was a sport in which open gyms were held at their school. Next in line was volleyball, at 66 percent. Both are high-profile AAU sports.

schools over the AAU/Club activities that exist,” Robertson said. “In doing so, there will be no rental of outside gyms, no mandatory club fees, and reduced costs to families.”

Not all ideas have elicited opposing views. One item on the docket that schools uniformly opposed was the possibility of scrimmages within the out-of-season contact period. Most schools indicate a preference for these periods to be instructional only.

JUST A TWEAK

Perhaps the current rule just needs a splint and not a full cast. Maybe it’s not broken after all.

The most popular proposal to emerge from the survey was simply the removal of three little words in the current regulation: “under one roof.”

More than 80 percent of schools favored removing the phrase “under one roof” from Regulation II, Section 11(H) 2. a., which means as long as only three or four students are receiving coaching, then others may be in the facility working on conditioning, or in groups on their own.

Football has a high number of participants among member schools, but relatively few non-school opportunities exist at the high school age. What trends – if any – might result if changes are made to the current three- or four-player rule?

Receiving close to 70 percent support from schools is the prospect of removing the portion of *Handbook* Interpretation 237 which currently prohibits schools from setting up rotations. This would allow a coach to work with dozens of players, three and four at a time.

And, Robertson says, in less time than coaches are currently expending.

“Most high school coaches already commit an enormous amount of time to the offseason development of student-athletes,” he said. “By removing the limit on number of athletes they can have contact with at one time and by placing a limit on the number of dates they can actually have this direct instructional contact, the net gain will be fewer dates, but with a greater impact.”

Rashid forecasts slight modifications of current rules rather than wholesale changes, at least in the near future.

“It wouldn’t surprise me if a few changes come sooner than later,” Rashid said. “One, allow rotations in the three- or four-player rule. Two, allow more than three kids under one roof as long as only three kids are receiving coaching. These two are a broader interpretations of our current rules.”

Simpler could be the answer. Perhaps over the course of time, in trying to be everything to all schools, the rule became more difficult for schools to follow, and for the MHSAA to oversee. Outside influences that could not have been predicted a generation ago have crept into the picture as well.

“These rules are very old, and that doesn’t mean not good,” Rashid said. “They were written at a time when the majority of students played multiple sports; before students began playing in 3rd and 4th grades, and before the non-school sports explosion.”

Even with the current trends and abundance of choices for some athletes, there are strong feelings from various leaders to leave things status quo.

“Our staff and league believes there needs to be a greater emphasis on the current rules with



High School Sports Scene

stronger punishments,” Bush said. “The answer is to enforce to current rules that we have, and not change the rules.”

There is a certain irony to this topic in front of athletic administrators and coaches, who spend so many hours in the here and now; in-season, in practices, in games.

“Who would think that what you do *out of season* could be the most critical piece of school sports discussion that we’ve had?” Rashid ponders. “It’s not what happens during the season, but in the off-season, that might be at the core of encouraging and maintaining school sports participation.”

– Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

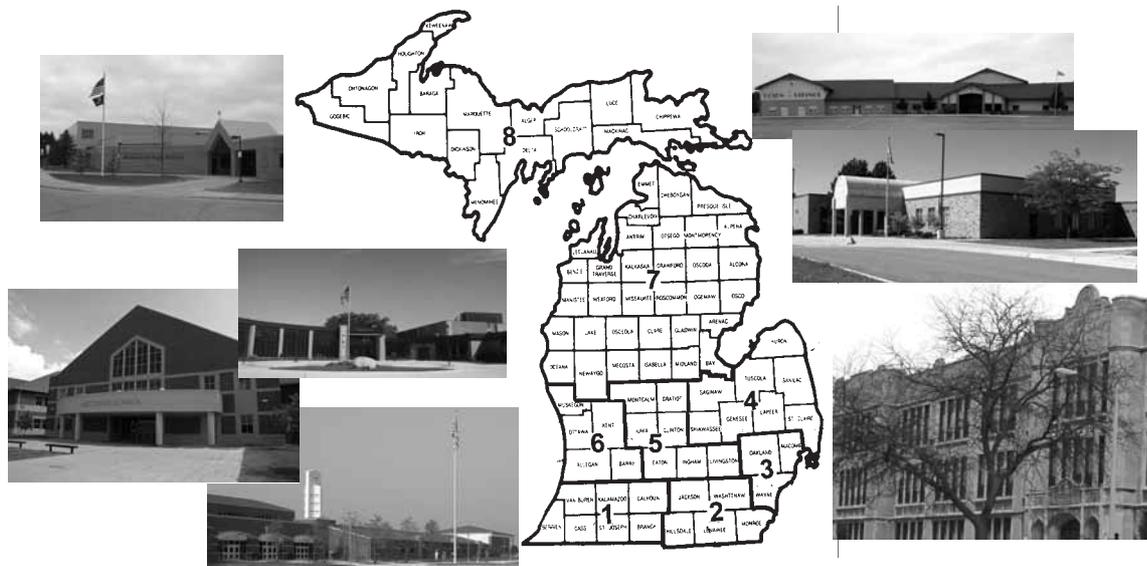
A Sprinkle of Seasoning

Survey Reveals Food for Thought on Out-of-Season Menu

A survey of MHSAA member schools in the fall of 2014 aimed to determine opinions for and against a myriad of out-of-season coaching/contact period topics within the school year.

In the questions which follow, the first portion of the responses represent numbers and percentages by Enrollment Class; the second portion of the responses indicate the Zone of respondents, so that results can be categorized by both school size and location across the state.

A Zone Map of Michigan appears below:



1. What percentage of student-athletes in your team sports would you estimate are involved in non-school out-of-season organized athletic activity or competition such as indoor soccer or lacrosse, indoor batting cages, AAU basketball, club volleyball, fall baseball or softball, fall or spring ice hockey?

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
0-20	16 12.5%	38 28.4%	57 44.2%	82 66.7%	193 37.5%
20-40	28 21.9%	51 38.1%	41 31.8%	23 18.7%	143 27.8%
40-60	42 32.8%	25 18.7%	14 10.9%	12 9.8%	93 18.1%
60-80	42 32.8%	20 14.9%	17 13.2%	6 4.9%	85 16.5%
80-100	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
	128	134	129	123	514

Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
0-20	20 38.5%	22 44.0%	24 21.6%	25 33.3%	14 37.8%	17 26.6%	43 51.2%	28 68.3%	193 37.5%
20-40	17 32.7%	15 30.0%	26 23.4%	26 34.7%	12 32.4%	20 31.3%	23 27.4%	4 9.8%	143 27.8%
40-60	9 17.3%	3 6.0%	29 26.1%	14 18.7%	6 16.2%	13 20.3%	11 13.1%	8 19.5%	93 18.1%
60-80	6 11.5%	10 20.0%	32 28.8%	10 13.3%	5 13.5%	14 21.9%	7 8.3%	1 2.4%	85 16.5%
80-100	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514

2. Check the comment which best describes how frequently your team sport coaches work with students out of season in allowed three- or four-player workouts.

- A. 164 (31.9%) Generally, most every week during the off season.
- B. 270 (52.5%) A few weeks in the month just before the season begins.
- C. 80 (15.6%) Most coaches don't work out under the three-player rule.

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
A	61 47.7%	48 35.8%	40 31.0%	15 12.2%	164 31.9%
B	59 46.1%	82 61.2%	70 54.3%	59 48.0%	270 52.5%
C	8 6.3%	4 3.0%	19 14.7%	49 39.8%	80 15.6%
	128	134	129	123	514

Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
A	19 36.5%	16 32.0%	38 34.2%	21 28.0%	11 29.7%	26 40.6%	27 32.1%	6 14.6%	164 31.9%
B	26 50.0%	29 58.0%	63 56.8%	41 54.7%	24 64.9%	27 42.2%	40 47.6%	20 48.8%	270 52.5%
C	7 13.5%	5 10.0%	10 9.0%	13 17.3%	2 5.4%	11 17.2%	17 20.2%	15 36.6%	80 15.6%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514

3. How often during a week (Monday to Sunday) are three- or four-player workouts held by coaches (not necessarily with the same athletes)?

- A. 408 (79.4%) 1 or 2 days a week.
- B. 80 (15.6%) 3 days a week.
- C. 26 (5.1%) More than 3 days in a week.

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
A	81 63.3%	104 77.6%	110 85.3%	113 91.9%	408 79.4%
B	37 28.9%	22 16.4%	15 11.6%	6 4.9%	80 15.6%
C	10 7.8%	8 6.0%	4 3.1%	4 3.3%	26 5.1%
	128	134	129	123	514

Zone	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
A	43 82.7%	39 78.0%	80 72.1%	56 74.7%	29 78.4%	48 75.0%	75 89.3%	38 92.7%	408 79.4%
B	9 17.3%	9 18.0%	23 20.7%	13 17.3%	6 16.2%	12 18.8%	6 7.1%	2 4.9%	80 15.6%
C	0 0.0%	2 4.0%	8 7.2%	6 8.0%	2 5.4%	4 6.3%	3 3.6%	1 2.4%	26 5.1%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514

4. Check the sports in which open gyms are held in your school facilities.

- A. 205 of 444 (46.2% of survey respondents) **Baseball Schools**
- B. 508 of 508 (100.0% of survey respondents) **Basketball Schools**
- C. 87 of 407 (21.4% of survey respondents) **Cross Country/Track & Field Schools**
- D. 41 of 82 (50.0% of survey respondents) **Lacrosse Schools**
- E. 127 of 326 (39.0% of survey respondents) **Soccer Schools**
- F. 191 of 437 (43.7% of survey respondents) **Softball Schools**
- G. 326 of 491 (66.4% of survey respondents) **Volleyball Schools**

5. Check the comment which best describes how frequently your team sport coaches hold open gyms out of season.

- A. 114 (22.2%) **Generally, most every week during the off season.**
- B. 282 (54.9%) **A few weeks in the month just before the season begins.**
- C. 118 (23.0%) **Except for basketball, we don't hold open gyms in other sports.**

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
A	37 28.9%	30 22.4%	25 19.4%	22 17.9%	114 22.2%
B	77 60.2%	82 61.2%	69 53.5%	54 43.9%	282 54.9%
C	14 10.9%	22 16.4%	35 27.1%	47 38.2%	118 23.0%
	128	134	129	123	514

Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
A	13 25.0%	11 22.0%	15 13.5%	12 16.0%	7 18.9%	18 28.1%	24 28.6%	14 34.1%	114 22.2%
B	28 53.8%	27 54.0%	69 62.2%	48 64.0%	26 70.3%	29 45.3%	40 47.6%	15 36.6%	282 54.9%
C	11 21.2%	12 24.0%	27 24.3%	15 20.0%	4 10.8%	17 26.6%	20 23.8%	12 29.3%	118 23.0%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514



6. How often during a week (Monday to Sunday) are open gyms held in your school facilities in the off seasons?

- A. 437 (85.0%) 1 or 2 days a week.
- B. 60 (11.7%) 3 days a week.
- C. 17 (3.3%) More than 3 days a week.

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
A	94 73.4%	111 82.8%	120 93.0%	112 91.1%	437 85.0%
B	25 19.5%	19 14.2%	6 4.7%	10 8.1%	60 11.7%
C	9 7.0%	4 3.0%	3 2.3%	1 0.8%	17 3.3%
	128	134	129	123	514

Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
A	47 90.4%	43 86.0%	90 81.1%	67 89.3%	33 89.2%	52 81.3%	72 85.7%	33 80.5%	437 85.0%
B	4 7.7%	5 10.0%	13 11.7%	6 8.0%	3 8.1%	10 15.6%	11 13.1%	8 19.5%	60 11.7%
C	1 1.9%	2 4.0%	8 7.2%	2 2.7%	1 2.7%	2 3.1%	1 1.2%	0 0.0%	17 3.3%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514

Out of Season Survey - continued

7. What percentage of students in your school athletic program would you estimate participate in more than one sport for your school?

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
0-20	13 10.2%	3 2.2%	2 1.6%	7 5.7%	25 4.9%
20-40	33 25.8%	32 23.9%	19 14.7%	14 11.4%	98 19.1%
40-60	61 47.7%	59 44.0%	35 27.1%	25 20.3%	180 35.0%
60-80	18 14.1%	36 26.9%	58 45.0%	38 30.9%	150 29.2%
80-100	3 2.3%	4 3.0%	15 11.6%	39 31.7%	61 11.9%
	128	134	129	123	514

Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
0-20	6 11.5%	3 6.0%	7 6.3%	2 2.7%	4 10.8%	1 1.6%	1 1.2%	1 2.4%	25 4.9%
20-40	10 19.2%	7 14.0%	28 25.2%	17 22.7%	11 29.7%	13 20.3%	9 10.7%	3 7.3%	98 19.1%
40-60	11 21.2%	17 34.0%	49 44.1%	27 36.0%	14 37.8%	26 40.6%	23 27.4%	13 31.7%	180 35.0%
60-80	16 30.8%	19 38.0%	22 19.8%	19 25.3%	6 16.2%	19 29.7%	36 42.9%	13 31.7%	150 29.2%
80-100	9 17.3%	4 8.0%	5 4.5%	10 13.3%	2 5.4%	5 7.8%	15 17.9%	11 26.8%	61 11.9%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514

8. Our school has a practice, policy or rule that limits in-season athletes from attending out-of-season activities (for example, a volleyball player would not be allowed to attend an open gym or three- or four-player workout in basketball). See the next question also for some specific questions.

Class >>	A	B	C	D	Total
Y	36 28.1%	55 41.0%	43 33.3%	34 27.6%	168 32.7%
N	92 71.9%	79 59.0%	86 66.7%	89 72.4%	346 67.3%
	128	134	129	123	514

Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Y	18 34.6%	15 30.0%	44 39.6%	26 34.7%	11 29.7%	20 31.3%	22 26.2%	12 29.3%	168 32.7%
N	34 65.4%	35 70.0%	67 60.4%	49 65.3%	26 70.3%	44 68.8%	62 73.8%	29 70.7%	346 67.3%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514

Give some specifics to your practice, policy or rule on the following (NOTE: for the categories which follow, Y=Allowed; N=Not Allowed):

A. In-season athlete attending off-season open gyms

Class >>	A	B	C	D	Total
Y	87 68.0%	81 60.4%	83 64.3%	82 66.7%	333 64.8%
N	41 32.0%	53 39.6%	46 35.7%	41 33.3%	181 35.2%
	128	134	129	123	514

Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Y	26 50.0%	33 66.0%	63 56.8%	51 68.0%	25 67.6%	45 70.3%	59 70.2%	31 75.6%	333 64.8%
N	26 50.0%	17 34.0%	48 43.2%	24 32.0%	12 32.4%	19 29.7%	25 29.8%	10 24.4%	181 35.2%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514



B. In-season athlete attending off-season weightlifting sessions

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
Y	108 84.4%	116 86.6%	107 82.9%	103 83.7%	434 84.4%
N	20 15.6%	18 13.4%	22 17.1%	20 16.3%	80 15.6%
	128	134	129	123	514

Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Y	45 86.5%	46 92.0%	85 76.6%	63 84.0%	33 89.2%	52 81.3%	74 88.1%	36 87.8%	434 84.4%
N	7 13.5%	4 8.0%	26 23.4%	12 16.0%	4 10.8%	12 18.8%	10 11.9%	5 12.2%	80 15.6%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514

C. In-season athlete attending offseason conditioning sessions

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
Y	82 64.1%	88 65.7%	84 65.1%	84 68.3%	338 65.8%
N	46 35.9%	46 34.3%	45 34.9%	39 31.7%	176 34.2%
	128	134	129	123	514

Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Y	27 51.9%	38 76.0%	68 61.3%	51 68.0%	28 75.7%	40 62.5%	59 70.2%	27 65.9%	338 65.8%
N	25 48.1%	12 24.0%	43 38.7%	24 32.0%	9 24.3%	24 37.5%	25 29.8%	14 34.1%	176 34.2%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514

D. In-season athlete attending three- or four-player workouts

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
Y	93 72.7%	95 70.9%	85 65.9%	89 72.4%	362 70.4%
N	35 27.3%	39 29.1%	44 34.1%	34 27.6%	152 29.6%
	128	134	129	123	514

Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Y	32 61.5%	38 76.0%	70 63.1%	54 72.0%	29 78.4%	48 75.0%	63 75.0%	28 68.3%	362 70.4%
N	20 38.5%	12 24.0%	41 36.9%	21 28.0%	8 21.6%	16 25.0%	21 25.0%	13 31.7%	152 29.6%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514

E. In-season athlete attending non-school competitions

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
Y	79 61.7%	78 58.2%	66 51.2%	69 56.1%	292 56.8%
N	49 38.3%	56 41.8%	63 48.8%	54 43.9%	222 43.2%
	128	134	129	123	514

Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Totals
Y	29 55.8%	27 54.0%	61 55.0%	43 57.3%	29 78.4%	37 57.8%	47 56.0%	19 46.3%	292 56.8%
N	23 44.2%	23 46.0%	50 45.0%	32 42.7%	8 21.6%	27 42.2%	37 44.0%	22 53.7%	222 43.2%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514

9. What percentage of high school coaches in your school athletic program coach more than one sport in a school year for your school (grades 7-12)?

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
0-20	72 56.3%	53 39.6%	63 48.8%	65 52.8%	253 49.2%
20-40	43 33.6%	49 36.6%	33 25.6%	25 20.3%	150 29.2%
40-60	10 7.8%	26 19.4%	23 17.8%	23 18.7%	82 16.0%
60-80	3 2.3%	5 3.7%	7 5.4%	6 4.9%	21 4.1%
80-100	0 0.0%	1 0.7%	3 2.3%	4 3.3%	8 1.6%
	128	134	129	123	514

Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
0-20	24 46.2%	21 42.0%	59 53.2%	38 50.7%	24 64.9%	34 53.1%	35 41.7%	18 43.9%	253 49.2%
20-40	19 36.5%	17 34.0%	33 29.7%	14 18.7%	6 16.2%	23 35.9%	29 34.5%	9 22.0%	150 29.2%
40-60	6 11.5%	6 12.0%	13 11.7%	17 22.7%	6 16.2%	7 10.9%	16 19.0%	11 26.8%	82 16.0%
60-80	2 3.8%	4 8.0%	6 5.4%	4 5.3%	1 2.7%	0 0.0%	2 2.4%	2 4.9%	21 4.1%
80-100	1 1.9%	2 4.0%	0 0.0%	2 2.7%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	2 2.4%	1 2.4%	8 1.6%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514

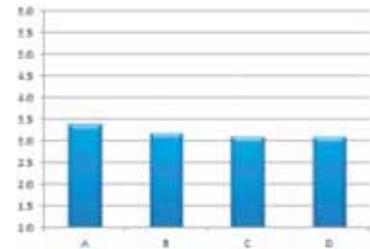


Out of Season Survey - continued

10. On a scale of 1-6, what policy features of this plan do you like most? (1 = I like the concept. 6 = I do not like that concept at all. NOTE: Charts represent Average by Enrollment Class; the lower the bar, the more in favor of that particular category)

A. Creation of a No Contact Period for all sports at the start or every season (extend the preseason down time to all sports).

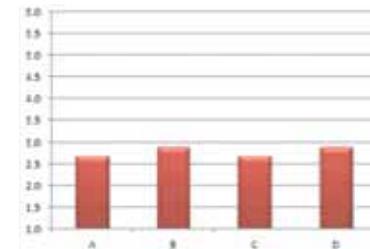
Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
1	29 22.7%	34 25.4%	36 27.9%	30 24.4%	129 25.1%
2	17 13.3%	18 13.4%	19 14.7%	20 16.3%	74 14.4%
3	26 20.3%	31 23.1%	25 19.4%	30 24.4%	112 21.8%
4	13 10.2%	13 9.7%	18 14.0%	10 8.1%	54 10.5%
5	12 9.4%	15 11.2%	13 10.1%	11 8.9%	51 9.9%
6	31 24.2%	23 17.2%	18 14.0%	22 17.9%	94 18.3%
	128	134	129	123	514
AVG	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.2



Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1	10 19.2%	13 26.0%	23 20.7%	26 34.7%	10 27.0%	18 28.1%	18 21.4%	11 26.8%	129 25.1%
2	8 15.4%	6 12.0%	16 14.4%	6 8.0%	10 27.0%	9 14.1%	12 14.3%	7 17.1%	74 14.4%
3	11 21.2%	9 18.0%	23 20.7%	15 20.0%	5 13.5%	12 18.8%	30 35.7%	7 17.1%	112 21.8%
4	8 15.4%	8 16.0%	9 8.1%	5 6.7%	2 5.4%	7 10.9%	9 10.7%	6 14.6%	54 10.5%
5	6 11.5%	3 6.0%	15 13.5%	10 13.3%	3 8.1%	5 7.8%	5 6.0%	4 9.8%	51 9.9%
6	9 17.3%	11 22.0%	25 22.5%	13 17.3%	7 18.9%	13 20.3%	10 11.9%	6 14.6%	94 18.3%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514
AVG	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.2

B. Creation of a Contact Period: A start and end to the contact allowed by coaches with athletes (even if it is still with three or four players, the time period has a beginning and an end).

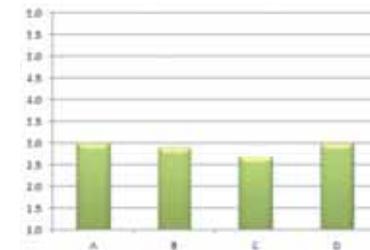
Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
1	40 31.3%	34 25.4%	33 25.6%	23 18.7%	130 25.3%
2	31 24.2%	30 22.4%	33 25.6%	32 26.0%	126 24.5%
3	20 15.6%	29 21.6%	29 22.5%	38 30.9%	116 22.6%
4	16 12.5%	17 12.7%	15 11.6%	11 8.9%	59 11.5%
5	5 3.9%	11 8.2%	7 5.4%	4 3.3%	27 5.3%
6	16 12.5%	13 9.7%	12 9.3%	15 12.2%	56 10.9%
	128	134	129	123	514
AVG	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.8



Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1	11 21.2%	16 32.0%	24 21.6%	20 26.7%	17 45.9%	14 21.9%	19 22.6%	9 22.0%	130 25.3%
2	15 28.8%	10 20.0%	21 18.9%	23 30.7%	8 21.6%	15 23.4%	22 26.2%	12 29.3%	126 24.5%
3	20 38.5%	8 16.0%	25 22.5%	14 18.7%	8 21.6%	12 18.8%	21 25.0%	8 19.5%	116 22.6%
4	4 7.7%	4 8.0%	20 18.0%	6 8.0%	1 2.7%	8 12.5%	11 13.1%	5 12.2%	59 11.5%
5	0 0.0%	5 10.0%	4 3.6%	6 8.0%	1 2.7%	7 10.9%	3 3.6%	1 2.4%	27 5.3%
6	2 3.8%	7 14.0%	17 15.3%	6 8.0%	2 5.4%	8 12.5%	8 9.5%	6 14.6%	56 10.9%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514
AVG	2.5	2.9	3.1	2.6	2.1	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.8

C. Setting a limit to the number of days contact would be allowed in a Contact Period, such as 15 dates over 6 weeks (even if it is still with three or four players).

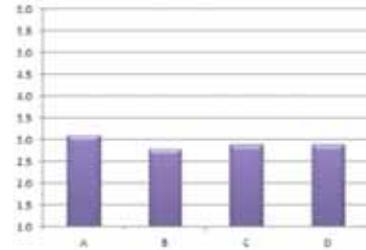
Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
1	35 27.3%	40 29.9%	41 31.8%	29 23.6%	145 28.2%
2	30 23.4%	24 17.9%	27 20.9%	27 22.0%	108 21.0%
3	16 12.5%	25 18.7%	25 19.4%	24 19.5%	90 17.5%
4	14 10.9%	16 11.9%	13 10.1%	16 13.0%	59 11.5%
5	11 8.6%	11 8.2%	6 4.7%	7 5.7%	35 6.8%
6	22 17.2%	18 13.4%	17 13.2%	20 16.3%	77 15.0%
	128	134	129	123	514
AVG	3.0	2.9	2.7	3.0	2.9



Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1	15 28.8%	11 22.0%	25 22.5%	31 41.3%	17 45.9%	14 21.9%	23 27.4%	9 22.0%	145 28.2%
2	13 25.0%	11 22.0%	24 21.6%	15 20.0%	7 18.9%	12 18.8%	18 21.4%	8 19.5%	108 21.0%
3	10 19.2%	3 6.0%	26 23.4%	9 12.0%	2 5.4%	14 21.9%	18 21.4%	8 19.5%	90 17.5%
4	8 15.4%	5 10.0%	11 9.9%	7 9.3%	5 13.5%	7 10.9%	12 14.3%	4 9.8%	59 11.5%
5	2 3.8%	8 16.0%	6 5.4%	4 5.3%	0 0.0%	7 10.9%	5 6.0%	3 7.3%	35 6.8%
6	4 7.7%	12 24.0%	19 17.1%	9 12.0%	6 16.2%	10 15.6%	8 9.5%	9 22.0%	77 15.0%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514
AVG	2.6	3.5	3.1	2.5	2.5	3.2	2.8	3.3	2.9

D. Setting a limit to the number of days of contact in a week (even if it is still with three or four players).

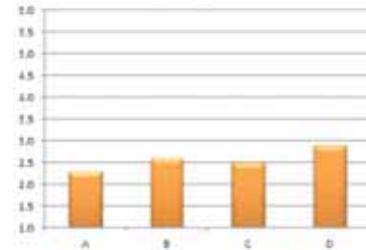
Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
1	32 25.0%	42 31.3%	36 27.9%	37 30.1%	147 28.6%
2	24 18.8%	25 18.7%	26 20.2%	19 15.4%	94 18.3%
3	27 21.1%	26 19.4%	27 20.9%	29 23.6%	109 21.2%
4	12 9.4%	15 11.2%	12 9.3%	12 9.8%	51 9.9%
5	8 6.3%	9 6.7%	10 7.8%	8 6.5%	35 6.8%
6	25 19.5%	17 12.7%	18 14.0%	18 14.6%	78 15.2%
	128	134	129	123	514
AVG	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9



Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1	14 26.9%	16 32.0%	20 18.0%	27 36.0%	16 43.2%	19 29.7%	25 29.8%	10 24.4%	147 28.6%
2	11 21.2%	10 20.0%	23 20.7%	14 18.7%	4 10.8%	6 9.4%	20 23.8%	6 14.6%	94 18.3%
3	11 21.2%	7 14.0%	30 27.0%	14 18.7%	8 21.6%	12 18.8%	15 17.9%	12 29.3%	109 21.2%
4	6 11.5%	4 8.0%	10 9.0%	5 6.7%	4 10.8%	7 10.9%	12 14.3%	3 7.3%	51 9.9%
5	3 5.8%	4 8.0%	7 6.3%	6 8.0%	0 0.0%	9 14.1%	3 3.6%	3 7.3%	35 6.8%
6	7 13.5%	9 18.0%	21 18.9%	9 12.0%	5 13.5%	11 17.2%	9 10.7%	7 17.1%	78 15.2%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514
AVG	2.9	2.9	3.2	2.7	2.5	3.2	2.7	3.1	2.9

E. Counting days instead of counting players; that is, allowing practice with any number of students on a set number of days in a window of a month or possibly six weeks.

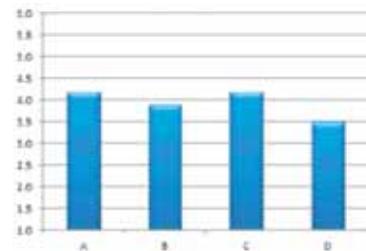
Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
1	62 48.4%	58 43.3%	54 41.9%	43 35.0%	217 42.2%
2	25 19.5%	22 16.4%	27 20.9%	19 15.4%	93 18.1%
3	10 7.8%	17 12.7%	13 10.1%	23 18.7%	63 12.3%
4	13 10.2%	9 6.7%	13 10.1%	8 6.5%	43 8.4%
5	3 2.3%	10 7.5%	4 3.1%	10 8.1%	27 5.3%
6	15 11.7%	18 13.4%	18 14.0%	20 16.3%	71 13.8%
	128	134	129	123	514
AVG	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.9	2.6



Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1	19 36.5%	19 38.0%	51 45.9%	38 50.7%	17 45.9%	29 45.3%	31 36.9%	13 31.7%	217 42.2%
2	13 25.0%	6 12.0%	19 17.1%	13 17.3%	3 8.1%	12 18.8%	17 20.2%	10 24.4%	93 18.1%
3	5 9.6%	10 20.0%	15 13.5%	7 9.3%	2 5.4%	6 9.4%	10 11.9%	8 19.5%	63 12.3%
4	6 11.5%	1 2.0%	10 9.0%	8 10.7%	3 8.1%	4 6.3%	10 11.9%	1 2.4%	43 8.4%
5	0 0.0%	3 6.0%	5 4.5%	2 2.7%	3 8.1%	7 10.9%	3 3.6%	4 9.8%	27 5.3%
6	9 17.3%	11 22.0%	11 9.9%	7 9.3%	9 24.3%	6 9.4%	13 15.5%	5 12.2%	71 13.8%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514
AVG	2.7	2.9	2.4	2.3	3.0	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.6

F. Allowing scrimmage competition: any number of students enrolled in your school could compete with a coach present against individuals not enrolled in your school.

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
1	20 15.6%	23 17.2%	13 10.1%	23 18.7%	79 15.4%
2	12 9.4%	14 10.4%	14 10.9%	14 11.4%	54 10.5%
3	11 8.6%	26 19.4%	19 14.7%	30 24.4%	86 16.7%
4	17 13.3%	14 10.4%	16 12.4%	16 13.0%	63 12.3%
5	16 12.5%	11 8.2%	20 15.5%	12 9.8%	59 11.5%
6	52 40.6%	46 34.3%	47 36.4%	28 22.8%	173 33.7%
	128	134	129	123	514
AVG	4.2	3.9	4.2	3.5	3.9

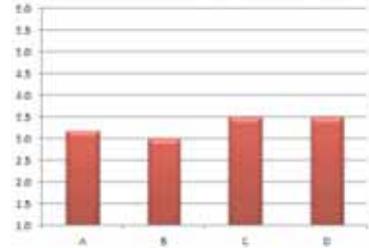


Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1	3 5.8%	8 16.0%	20 18.0%	10 13.3%	8 21.6%	11 17.2%	14 16.7%	5 12.2%	79 15.4%
2	7 13.5%	4 8.0%	4 3.6%	10 13.3%	2 5.4%	11 17.2%	10 11.9%	6 14.6%	54 10.5%
3	9 17.3%	4 8.0%	21 18.9%	12 16.0%	5 13.5%	7 10.9%	18 21.4%	10 24.4%	86 16.7%
4	11 21.2%	3 6.0%	10 9.0%	8 10.7%	4 10.8%	9 14.1%	11 13.1%	7 17.1%	63 12.3%
5	4 7.7%	4 8.0%	18 16.2%	9 12.0%	4 10.8%	8 12.5%	6 7.1%	6 14.6%	59 11.5%
6	18 34.6%	27 54.0%	38 34.2%	26 34.7%	14 37.8%	18 28.1%	25 29.8%	7 17.1%	173 33.7%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514
AVG	4.2	4.4	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.9

Out of Season Survey - continued

G. Allowing a school coach to coach a non-school team within a contact period; that is, a team with students from our school and others but not supported by school funds, administration, insurance, uniforms, etc. Untie the coaches' hands and let the eager beavers have at it within the MHSAA contact period.

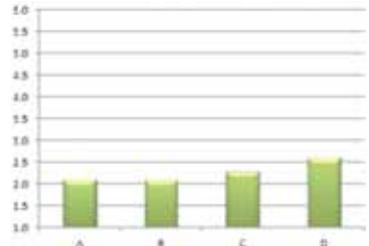
Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
1	29 22.7%	33 24.6%	21 16.3%	22 17.9%	105 20.4%
2	28 21.9%	24 17.9%	16 12.4%	15 12.2%	83 16.1%
3	26 20.3%	34 25.4%	38 29.5%	35 28.5%	133 25.9%
4	11 8.6%	12 9.0%	14 10.9%	11 8.9%	48 9.3%
5	7 5.5%	9 6.7%	13 10.1%	11 8.9%	40 7.8%
6	27 21.1%	22 16.4%	27 20.9%	29 23.6%	105 20.4%
	128	134	129	123	514
AVG	3.2	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.3



Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1	4 7.7%	11 22.0%	30 27.0%	14 18.7%	12 32.4%	12 18.8%	15 17.9%	7 17.1%	105 20.4%
2	9 17.3%	5 10.0%	18 16.2%	10 13.3%	6 16.2%	14 21.9%	12 14.3%	9 22.0%	83 16.1%
3	21 40.4%	11 22.0%	25 22.5%	21 28.0%	6 16.2%	18 28.1%	20 23.8%	11 26.8%	133 25.9%
4	6 11.5%	7 14.0%	10 9.0%	3 4.0%	2 5.4%	7 10.9%	9 10.7%	4 9.8%	48 9.3%
5	4 7.7%	4 8.0%	6 5.4%	10 13.3%	1 2.7%	3 4.7%	9 10.7%	3 7.3%	40 7.8%
6	8 15.4%	12 24.0%	22 19.8%	17 22.7%	10 27.0%	10 15.6%	19 22.6%	7 17.1%	105 20.4%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514
AVG	3.4	3.5	3.1	3.5	3.1	3.1	3.5	3.2	3.3

H. Remove the phrase "under one roof" of Regulation II, Section 11 (h) 2 a. (Page 66): Out-of-season rules are only violated when coaching is actually being provided to more than three students under one roof.

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Totals
1	62 48.4%	59 44.0%	45 34.9%	41 33.3%	207 40.3%
2	23 18.0%	32 23.9%	23 17.8%	23 18.7%	101 19.6%
3	23 18.0%	24 17.9%	43 33.3%	34 27.6%	124 24.1%
4	9 7.0%	10 7.5%	11 8.5%	7 5.7%	37 7.2%
5	4 3.1%	5 3.7%	3 2.3%	5 4.1%	17 3.3%
6	7 5.5%	4 3.0%	4 3.1%	13 10.6%	28 5.4%
	128	134	129	123	514
AVG	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.3



Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1	14 26.9%	18 36.0%	51 45.9%	32 42.7%	19 51.4%	29 45.3%	34 40.5%	10 24.4%	207 40.3%
2	15 28.8%	7 14.0%	19 17.1%	12 16.0%	9 24.3%	13 20.3%	16 19.0%	10 24.4%	101 19.6%
3	13 25.0%	14 28.0%	21 18.9%	21 28.0%	5 13.5%	14 21.9%	20 23.8%	16 39.0%	124 24.1%
4	6 11.5%	5 10.0%	8 7.2%	4 5.3%	0 0.0%	3 4.7%	7 8.3%	4 9.8%	37 7.2%
5	2 3.8%	2 4.0%	5 4.5%	3 4.0%	1 2.7%	1 1.6%	3 3.6%	0 0.0%	17 3.3%
6	2 3.8%	4 8.0%	7 6.3%	3 4.0%	3 8.1%	4 6.3%	4 4.8%	1 2.4%	28 5.4%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514
AVG	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.3

I. Remove the portion of Interpretation 237 that prohibits rotations from conditioning, open gyms, weightlifting to three- or four-player workouts. Note: This will in effect permit dozens of students to be coached by several coaches in limited activity that may not be so attractive to the in-season athlete that he or she would skip practice or not play his or her sport next year. It may also be that some are doing this circuit training already.

Class>>	A	B	C	D	Total
1	50 39.1%	42 31.3%	22 17.1%	26 21.1%	140 27.2%
2	21 16.4%	25 18.7%	28 21.7%	19 15.4%	93 18.1%
3	32 25.0%	32 23.9%	29 22.5%	31 25.2%	124 24.1%
4	11 8.6%	12 9.0%	21 16.3%	18 14.6%	62 12.1%
5	6 4.7%	8 6.0%	12 9.3%	10 8.1%	36 7.0%
6	8 6.3%	15 11.2%	17 13.2%	19 15.4%	59 11.5%
	128	134	129	123	514
AVG	2.4	2.7	3.2	3.2	2.9



Zone>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Totals
1	12 23.1%	10 20.0%	44 39.6%	18 24.0%	10 27.0%	22 34.4%	18 21.4%	6 14.6%	140 27.2%
2	14 26.9%	9 18.0%	18 16.2%	15 20.0%	11 29.7%	12 18.8%	12 14.3%	2 4.9%	93 18.1%
3	6 11.5%	12 24.0%	29 26.1%	21 28.0%	8 21.6%	9 14.1%	26 31.0%	13 31.7%	124 24.1%
4	10 19.2%	7 14.0%	9 8.1%	5 6.7%	2 5.4%	10 15.6%	10 11.9%	9 22.0%	62 12.1%
5	2 3.8%	6 12.0%	5 4.5%	6 8.0%	1 2.7%	5 7.8%	6 7.1%	5 12.2%	36 7.0%
6	8 15.4%	6 12.0%	6 5.4%	10 13.3%	5 13.5%	6 9.4%	12 14.3%	6 14.6%	59 11.5%
	52	50	111	75	37	64	84	41	514
AVG	3.0	3.2	2.4	2.9	2.7	2.7	3.1	3.6	2.9

Survey Summary and Highlights

Question 1

- The **larger** the school, the **higher** the percentage of students who are involved in organized non-school sports.
- The Detroit metro area (Zone 3) has the **highest percentage of respondents** in each of the two groups in which the **highest percentage of students** are involved in organized non-school sports . . . the 60 to 80% and 40 to 60% groups. The Grand Rapids area (Zone 6) ranks second.
- The northern Lower Peninsula (Zone 7) and the Upper Peninsula (Zone 8) have the **highest percentage of respondents** in the group in which the **lowest percentage of students** are involved in organized non-school sports . . . the 0 to 20% group. This is also true of Zones 1, 2 and 5, although less dramatically.

Question 2

- In the majority of schools, coaches work with students out of season under the three- or four-player rule for a few weeks just before the season. This is generally true regardless of school classification or geographic zone.

Question 3

- In nearly 80% of schools, the frequency of coaches working with students out of season under the three- or four-player rule is 1 or 2 days a week.

Question 4

- 100% of schools that sponsor basketball hold open gyms for basketball. Two-thirds of volleyball schools hold volleyball open gyms. Half of lacrosse schools hold lacrosse open gyms. Open gyms in baseball, softball and soccer occur in 40 to 45% of responding schools. Open gyms are less common for other sports.

Question 5

- More than half of all schools conduct open gyms for only a few weeks, just before the season begins.

Question 6

- In 85% of schools, the frequency of open gyms is 1 or 2 days a week.

Question 7

- The multi-sport athlete is common in schools of every classification, but more common in Class C and D schools than in Class A and B.
- The multi-sport athlete is common in schools of every geographical zone, but more common in Zones 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8 than in Zones 3, 5 and 6.

Question 8

- Two-thirds of schools do not ban athletes from out-of-season workouts while in-season in a different school sport. Permitting weightlifting is most common (84%), then three- or four-player workouts (70%), then conditioning (66%) and open gyms (65%), and finally non-school competitions (57%).

Question 9

- Single-sport coaches are more common in smaller schools than larger (perhaps because fewer sports are sponsored in smaller schools).

For Question 10, schools were asked to rate ideas from 1 (I like the concept) to 6 (I do not like the concept). Average would be 3.5. For the purpose of this analysis, we considered a rating of 1, 2 or 3 a favorable response.

Question 10-A

- More than 60% of schools favor a **no-contact** period for all out-of-season sports at the start of every other sport's season. (Support ranges from 55% for Class A schools to 65% for Class D schools and from 56% for Zones 1 and 3 to 71% for Zone 7.)

Question 10-B

- More than 72% of schools favor (in conjunction with 10-A) a **defined contact period** out of season. Support ranges from 69% for Class B schools to 76% for Class D schools and from 64% in Zone 6 to 88% in Zone 1.

Question 10-C

- Two-thirds of schools favor **setting a limit on the number of contact days** for out-of-season coaching. Support ranges from 63% for Class A schools to 72% for Class C schools and from 50% for Zone 2 to 73% for Zone 1.

Question 10-D

- More than 68% of schools favor **setting a limit on the number of contact days in a week**. There's almost no difference based on school class. Support ranges from 58% in Zone 6 to 76% in Zone 5.

Question 10-E

- **Counting days more than players** – that is, allowing practice with any number of students for a defined number of days over a period of time – is favored by more than 72% of schools. Support ranges from 69% for Class D to 76% for Class A and from 59% for Zone 5 to 76.5% for Zone 3.

Question 10-F

- The **least** support of any idea surveyed was for allowing scrimmage competition (allowing the coach to coach any number of students from that coach's school in competition against individuals not enrolled in that school).

Question 10-G

- More than 62% of schools favor a rule that would allow a school coach to coach a non-school team within a defined contact period; that is, a team with students from the coach's school (and possibly other schools too), but not supported with school funds, administration, insurance, uniforms, etc. Support ranged from 58% for Class C schools to 68% for Class B schools. Support ranged from 54% for Zone 2 to 69% for Zone 6.

Question 10-H

- **This is the most popular proposal** (doesn't preclude others being approved too): 84% of schools favor removing the phrase "**under one roof**" from Regulation II, Section 11(H) 2 a (page 66). Support ranged from 80% for Class D schools to 86% for Class C school and from 78% in Zone 2 to 89% for Zone 5.

Question 10-I

- Removing the portion of Interpretation 237 which prohibits setting up rotations that would allow a coach to work with dozens of players who rotate to his/her direct attention in groups of three or four is favored by 69% of schools, but with a distinct large school vs. small school difference of opinion: Class A (80.5% favorable), Class B (72.9%), Class C (61.3%) and Class D (61.7%).

High School a Time for Key Plays . . . of All Kinds

At end of season or school year banquets attended by student-athletes and their parents, I often tell this short story about my mother that never fails to get a good laugh, especially from mothers:

“At the end of my junior year of high school I attended the graduation ceremony for the senior class on a hot and humid early June evening in our stuffy high school gymnasium. The bleachers on each side were filled to capacity, as were several hundred folding chairs placed on the gymnasium floor.

“The public address system, which was wonderful for announcing at basketball games or wrestling meets, was awful for graduation speeches. Person after person spoke, and the huge audience wondered what they had to say.

“I was present because I was the junior class president; and as part of the ceremony, the senior class president handed me a small shovel. It had something to do with accepting responsibility or carrying on tradition.

“In any event, the senior class president spoke briefly; and then it was my turn. I stepped to the podium, pushed the microphone to the side, and spoke in a voice that was heard and understood in every corner of the gymnasium.

“Whereupon my mother, sitting in one of the folding chairs, positioned right in front of my basketball coach – who had benched me for staying out too late on the night before a game, because I had to attend a required school play rehearsal – my mother turned around, pointed her finger at the coach and said, ‘See there? That’s what he learned at play practice!’

“And she was heard in every corner of the gymnasium too.

“But my mother knew – she just knew – that for me, play practice was as important as basketball practice. And she was absolutely correct.”

This old but true story about in-season demands of school sports actually raises two of the key issues of the debate about out-of-season coaching rules.

One is that we are not talking only about **sports**. School policies should not only protect and promote opportunities for students to participate in more than one sport; they should also allow for opportunities for students to participate in the **non-athletic** activities that comprehensive, full-service schools provide.

This is because surveys consistently link student achievement in school as well as success in later life

with participation in **both** the athletic and **non-athletic** activities of schools. Proper policies permit students time to study, time to practice **and** play sports and time to be engaged in **other** school activities that provide opportunities to learn and grow as human beings.

A second issue the story presents is that parents have opinions about what is best for their children. In fact, they feel even more entitled to express those opinions today than my mother did almost 50 years ago. In fact, today, parents believe they are uniquely entitled to make the decisions that affect their children. And often they take the attitude that everyone else should butt out of their business!

The MHSAA knows from direct experience that while school administrators want tighter controls on what coaches and students do out of season, and that most student-athletes and coaches will at least tolerate the imposed limits, parents will be highly and emotionally critical of rules that interfere with how they raise their children.

No matter the cost in time or money to join elite teams, take private lessons, travel to far-away practices and further-away tournaments, no matter how unlikely any of this provides the college athletic scholarship return on investment that parents foolishly pursue, those parents believe they have every right to raise their own children their own way and that it’s not the MHSAA’s business to interfere.

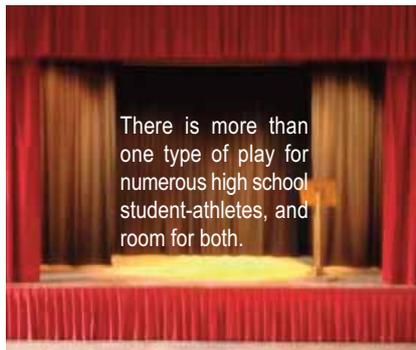
It is for this very reason that MHSAA rules have little to say about what **students** can and can’t do out of season. Instead, the rules advise member **schools and their employees** what schools themselves have agreed should be the limits. The rules do this to promote competitive balance. They do this in order to avoid never-ending escalating expense of time and money to keep up on the competitive playing field, court, pool, etc.

Every example we have of organized competitive sports is that, in the absence of limits, some people push the boundaries as far as they can for their advantage, which forces other people to go beyond what they believe is right in order to keep up.

If, during the discussions on out-of-season rules, someone suggests that certain policies be eliminated, thinking people will pause to ask what life would be like without those rules.

Our outcome cannot be mere elimination of regulation, which invites chaos; the objective must be shaping a different future.

A good start would be simpler, more understandable and enforceable rules. A bad ending would be if it forces more student-athletes and school coaches to focus on a single sport year-round.



The Graduation of the Multi-Sport Athlete

Editor's Note: Boyne City High School Athletic Director David Smith submitted this article in the fall for the Petoskey News-Review.

I'd like to start by thanking Jeremy Speer and the *Petoskey News-Review* for taking such an interest in the local high schools and their athletic programs.

There are many important topics today that relate to high school sports. I was honored when asked to write a brief column about a current topic of my choice in the high sports world. This particular topic, student-athletes specializing in one sport, is something that is happening more and more. It's hard to pinpoint exactly why this is, but it often times seems to boil down to unrealistic expectations from several parties that an athlete is capable of being a legitimate college or higher-level athlete.

Don't get me wrong, we have a plethora of outstanding athletes in Northern Michigan. The facts are, however, that about 98 out of 100 high school athletes never play collegiate sports of any kind at any level. Also, less than 1 percent of high school athletes receive a scholarship of any kind to a Division I school. I don't want to tell someone not to have that dream. In fact, I think that is an awesome dream to have. I had that goal growing up and was fortunate to be able to play a few different sports at a small Division III college. It helped me grow immensely as a person and I'm very thankful for that experience. I just can't emphasize enough how we need to all have realistic expectations for our student-athletes, whether it's the athletes themselves, or parents, coaches, administrators, etc.

I think one thing we can all do to help this is to emphasize the process more than the outcome. The funny thing is getting the process right and enjoying it almost always leads to positive outcomes. The process is where all the hard work is put in. The process is where good character is developed and that's one of the most important traits we can help young individuals develop.

Many high school athletes are also too busy and compete too much. The amount of young athletes competing year-round for sports is getting out of control. Sure, sometimes it works out and an athlete will really improve by doing this, but more often than not, they get burned out and when it's actually that sport in-season, they are toast and go through the motions. I know from a coaching standpoint I want athletes hungry to compete every time out.

Being that busy also means very little time for athletes to improve their overall athleticism (stronger, faster, quicker, more explosive, better endurance, etc.). Skills take a back seat too because most athletes are just playing games and not focusing on skill work. I'd rather take an athlete who trains to become more athletic and works

on skills for several months than one who plays AAU or something of that nature. I know that has its place for a very few individuals, but most young athletes need way more work on their athleticism and skills before being ready for something like AAU.

I get specializing in one sport if you are undoubtedly a Division I athlete who will likely play professionally. Or maybe it's someone who goes to a big high school and has limited skills so they focus really hard on one sport. I get those occurrences. I would argue, however, that even the Division I-type individuals will nine times out of 10 benefit more from playing another sport because they aren't going to work hard enough by themselves to make the gains. They would then also be refreshed and ready get after it once the season arrives. Additionally, our schools up here will always have a hard time competing at the Regional and Final level if we don't have all of our best athletes playing two or three sports. It blows me away how good some of our teams in the area could fare if this happened.

This column is not meant to be negative. It's just some food for thought. I haven't been at this very long, but it's something I've seen happen more and more in the last 10 years. I've just always been a big fan of the multiple-sport athlete and experienced first-hand how much a school can benefit when a group of talented athletes comes through and they all play a minimum of two sports.

At the end of the day, we cannot forget what I'd consider the main purpose of athletics at this level. That is, to help young individuals leave our schools with experiences and life lessons that will help them as they pursue careers and go on with other facets of their lives.

The high school setting offers a wide range of athletic activities for students, who should be encouraged to experience as many as possible.



Confronting Specialization

Why more athletes are choosing one sport, and what you can do to stop it

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in Coach & Athletic Director magazine and reprinted with permission.

We have lost the sandlot. It used to be that parents sent their youngsters out the door to play in the neighborhood with the stipulation to be back by dinner or when it gets dark. Kids happily left the home with enough gear to play several sports throughout the day.

Rules were made up by those participating rather than the adults, and disputes were all settled by the children involved. Kids had to make it up as they went along, negotiate and make things work. It was the “sandlot,” a welcoming haven for kids all over the neighborhood — not a place for parents. The sandlot was some out-of-the-way haven where kids were free to make things work for themselves. It was a place where kids learned to get along and used the sport opportunity as way to grow up and build lasting rivalries and friendships.

The sandlot hardly exists anymore. An estimated 30 to 40 million American children ages 6 to 17 participate in some form of athletic activity on a regular basis. According to a 2014 survey by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, 53 percent of kids aged 6 to 14 play in a team sport. A University of Michigan study found that from 1981-97, children doubled the time they spent playing or practicing an organized sport.

Free play has become a rarity as the big business of youth sports now runs the show.

“The current structure of youth sports in this country is designed to serve just the five to 10 percent of the population that might play varsity athletics”, said Mark Hyman, a former sports writer who now teaches sport management at George Washington University.

“I think youth sports are an incredibly important part of the kids’ experience growing up” he added. “There are so many valuable lessons to be learned there. I want to do everything I can to encourage kids to play sports, but what I am suggesting is that the system that is set up now is doing just the opposite.

“Seventy percent of kids drop out of youth sports by age 13. Of course you expect some attrition. Some kids are going to prefer to play violin or the piano, while others spend their time at the mall. You wouldn’t expect 100 percent retention, but 70 percent is astonishing and disturbing. Kids, in a sense, have voted and are voting every day when they decide to do something else than be a part of organized sports.”

Many young athletes are burning out, pushed by parents who see the gold at the end of the rainbow in the form of an athletic scholarship. As unrealistic as this goal might be, we have lost the sandlot. The joy is leaving the game for many kids who enter high school with multiple sport experi-



Fields that used to entertain endless pick-up games are all-too-often neglected and barren in today’s era of specialization.

ences that are quickly truncated by a loss of interest due to stress, time management, loss of friends in a particular sport, burnout, injury and the growth of non-traditional or emerging sports.

The Club Effect

The past two years, elite high school soccer players in the Pacific Northwest are being asked to make a decision: play for your club team or for your high school team. You cannot do both.

Several Portland area soccer players have chosen their high school team, but that’s not an easy decision. While the club impact has not reached critical mass in football and basketball, it seems headed that way, especially in the summer months. Volleyball, soccer, swimming, water polo, tennis and golf have been impacted by the involvement of high school students in club sports. With the training and practice demands becoming so significant, many high school student-athletes are forced to make critical decisions on their athletic futures by their sophomore year of high school.

The impact on high school athletic programs is significant. National publications have decreed that it’s time to get rid of high school sports, claiming club sports (the European model) are the truest path to a college scholarship. I would agree with the path and disagree with reason to take that path. High school sports are not for the elite athlete alone. The goal of high school sport is not college scholarships, it’s teaching social and moral skills that will last a lifetime. It’s learning that the team is more important than the individual, that you must deal with the ups and downs of life and that you must be willing to be coached by someone who is not always complimentary of your efforts or attitudes.

Former Division 1 basketball coach Len Stevens is one of those voices calling for a stop to

high school sports. There are several reasons why Stevens, now the executive director of the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce, feels the way he does, and they all revolve around how our changing culture has led to changes in high school sports.

He argues that when high school sports were introduced, they were designed as an inclusive part of the educational experience, and for decades they remained that way. Now, that takes a back seat.

Stevens points out:

- Coaches were supposed to be teachers. Now fewer than half of them are.
- Each passing year, fewer and fewer students attend their school's games. Stevens referenced a recent study showing fewer than 10 percent attend games.
- At almost every school, principals tell you their greatest headache is dealing with parents who have complaints about their child's experience in sports. Those often revolve around playing time, the coach's record or the coach's personality.

I understand what Stevens is saying, but I disagree with his position. Sports in our communities build pride and a needed sense of connection. Sports bring that community together and they often teach life lessons. High school sports demand academic accountability, self-sacrifice and challenges each participant to put others first. High school sports teach student-athletes how to become teammates, a skill useful in any career they might pursue. High school sports are fun for those that participate in whatever way they choose, whether it's being an athlete, band member, cheerleader, dance team member or fan. And it's not about the elite athlete driven by a college scholarship. It's about the other 98 percent who are taking part for all the right reasons.

According to the NCAA, about 2 percent of high school athletes are awarded athletic scholarships to compete in college. And for the 25th straight year, participation numbers are up nationwide, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations.

It's the pressure to earn athletic scholarships that is leading to athlete burnout, overuse injuries and specialization. When you play on a high school team where several potential scholarship winners come and go to meet their individual needs, teams become discouraged and disoriented. Kids signing up for high school sports want to do their best to succeed, and that's difficult to do when high-profile athletes are following their own plan versus that of the overall group.

Having an elite athlete on your team is exciting. College coaches send mail, call and all the other forms of communication allowed under NCAA rules. Teammates might even think this could result in exposure for themselves, potentially leading to their own scholarship.

Many colleges now discourage multi-sport participation. A football player who wants to join rugby, track or lacrosse is often discouraged from doing so by the recruiting coach due to potential injury.

Parents knowingly and unknowingly push their

children toward specialization whether it's due to finances, time restraints or family issues. Costs are becoming more prohibitive in club and high school sports, so to combine the two can put families in a tough spot.

In Oregon, a club sport can cost anywhere from \$2,000 to \$7,000 annually depending on the sport and depth of commitment required. A majority of Oregon schools require some type of participation fee to take part in athletics. Some districts might offer the third sport free or some type of individual/family cap for those taking part. Fees in Oregon school districts range from \$100 to \$250 per person, per sport. When you add summer camp, team camp, special gear, team pictures and related outings, the numbers go way up.



Hockey Weekly Action Photos

THE GREAT OUTDOORS Does your school have athletes who move from the court, to open gyms, and back to the court the following year? Perhaps an introduction to fellow coaches would provide a breath of fresh air.



High School Sports Scene

Increased parent involvement in the youth and high school sports scene is forcing some kids to participate in new and emerging sports where parents have little experience and therefore cannot coach or interfere. In the Northwest, lacrosse is growing by leaps and bounds from the youth levels on up, and other students are pursuing more "X-game" type sports like biking, skiing, snowboarding, kite surfing and surfing.

- continued next page

Confronting Specialization - continued

The American Medical Society for Sports Medicine defined burnout as the “result of chronic stress that causes a young athlete to cease participation in a previously enjoyable activity.” The organization included these recommendations for decreasing burnout and the potential for injury:

- Limit weekly and yearly competition in a particular sport as well as sport-specific training
- Emphasize skill development more than competition and winning
- Monitor training workload during the adolescent growth spurt, when injury risk seems to be greater
- Encourage sport diversification at young ages

Encouraging Participation

There are several things coaches and athletic administrators can do to encourage athletes to participate in multiple sports.

First, high school athletic departments must be on the same page. Multiple sport participation must become a department-wide value and not an individual sport value. If students are to be encouraged to participate in more than one sport, coaches must make it an achievable goal. The department attitude must be, “We are about what is best for the athlete and not the individual sport.”

This is especially important in the offseason where sports often overlap. Athletic directors must be the leaders of this effort and constantly work to hire likeminded people for the department and create clear expectations for those within the program regarding multiple sport participation by student-athletes.

Schools should also make it affordable to play more than one high school sport. Take into consideration all the expenses that are involved and find a way to make it work. Team gear, travel, summer tournaments, shoes and sweats are all reasons for families to opt out. Athletic directors must be sensitive to socioeconomic issues in families.

Athletic directors can impact the youth level feeder sports by leading the discussion regarding multi-sport participation by youth athletes. Taking a long-term view and what is best for individual and team sports youth athletes need to be encouraged and allowed to experience multiple sports growing up.

Talk with parents about the issue of specialization and what the realities are as they related to college, health and athlete enjoyment. Make the parents part of the dialogue.

While serving as an interscholastic athletic administrator, I gave a presentation every year called “Your Athletic Future” that laid out the different ways kids might take part in college sports after high school. It was a great way of giving parents a wakeup call with general and clear information about the various opportunities that exist for their athletes’ futures.

“Schools should also make it affordable to play more than one high school sport. Take into consideration all the expenses that are involved and find a way to make it work. Team gear, travel, summer tournaments, shoes and sweats are all reasons for families to opt out.”

It’s also important to reward three-sport athletes. Give a special end-of-the-year award to those who have played three sports, especially if they have done this throughout all of high school. Have a special place for them to have their picture posted in your athletic recognition area. Have a recognizable name for this special place and make sure it’s well known in the press and community.

Lastly, involve your team members in helping sell the concept to younger high school athletes. If you have a “Captains Club” or “Student Athlete Leadership Team,” let them speak with other athletes in your program regarding the benefits of multiple sport participation.

Three-sport athletes used to be the norm around the country, but times have changed. If we want to encourage and make it possible for our high school athletes to participate in multiple sports, we must get away from doing the same things day after day and expecting different results.

It’s our job to make it possible financially, and we must be united within our schools to make sure that all of our coaches are together on multiple sport student-athlete participation. Talk is cheap, and it’s our actions that show our true commitment.

– Kevin Bryant, CMAA
Thrive Athletic Consulting, LLC
Portland, Oregon

Kevin Bryant, CMAA, is the President and Founder of Thrive Athletic Consulting, LLC, a company focused on assisting, encouraging, and challenging high school athletic administrators to be the best they can be. He is the author of “The Athletic Director Survival Guide; a practical guide for interscholastic athletic administrators,” and he is working on his Ph.D in sport pedagogy and character education at the University of Idaho. He can be reached at kevin.bryant024@outlook.com.

Raising the Flag for Football

Throughout my career I have always argued that most schools/youth programs start tackle football too early. Most are putting young children in full pads and letting them have full contact as early as 3rd or 4th grades. At this stage in life I don't believe that children are physically prepared for that type of contact. At this age many of these kids are too big to touch the ball on offense. What fun is that?

But I understand why it is what it is. Every football program feels the need to do the same, if not more, than our competition. Every program feels it must do what our neighbors are doing to remain competitive. In today's society everyone believes that our programs must start early, practice often and hit hard, to win championships.

In today's society we have more science than ever before. We know more about concussions, knee injuries, heat stress, etc. If the NFL, college football, and high school football are making changes as a result of these concerns, why should we not look at current practices of youth football?

I believe that if there was a study conducted with high school football coaches, most would prefer more flag than tackle football for younger children. I believe that most coaches would buy into starting tackle football later in life. But I also believe that coaches will not change unless change occurs across the board, in every community, in every program, to ensure an equal playing field.

Legendary Fowler Football Coach Steve Spicer won championships. He experienced great success even though Fowler started tackle football in the 9th grade for many years. Coach Spicer was able to coach athletes his way. He taught them proper tackling techniques and all of the necessary football skills in merely four years. And for that his teams won championships and were feared as one of the greatest small school football programs in Michigan.

So why flag football instead of tackle football? My take on this is that we start tackle football too early in life. Kids figure out quickly that hitting or getting hit hurts. They do this for six or seven years and then arrive in our high schools. Many of these kids have had enough of getting hit at this point and then hang up their cleats for another activity, work, girlfriend, etc. Some stay with football and enjoy the next four years, but too many go in a different direction due to burnout.

I keep hearing a common theme in Michigan and I suspect this is the case throughout the entire country. Football participation numbers are plummeting. Is this a result of kids having so many opportunities these days, starting school after Labor Day (football practice takes away their August vacation time), or the almost daily coverage by the media about the impact of concussions? All of these are factors.



Flag football can provide a viable introduction to the game without risks inherent in tackle football, particularly at the youth level where parental concerns are often the greatest, and collisions can discourage kids from continuing in the sport.

So what is the solution to saving tackle football? I view this as an easy answer: Flag Football. We need to rally the troops (ADs, Football Coaches Associations, youth football programs, legislatures, parents, children) to take a philosophical stance that supports flag football across the board until at least middle school, and then transition into tackle football for the following years. We all talk about this, but we need action. Maybe a social media campaign is how we get the ball rolling.

Flag football is fun for kids. Flag football provides an opportunity for kids to learn the necessary skills so that later in life they are physically able to handle tackle football. And maybe they will enjoy the football experience so much that they will stick around and be part of our high school programs.

– Chris R. Ervin
Director of Activities/Athletics
St. Johns High School

Fennville Flash Richie Jordan was Multi-Sport Marvel

This edition of the "Vault" celebrates one of the MHSAA's all-time multi-sport standouts, Richie Jordan, who became the state's first athlete inducted into the NFHS Hall of Fame in 2001. Jordan was a four-sport athlete at Fennville High School. In basketball, he was an all-state guard for four consecutive years and averaged an incredible 44.4 points a game during his senior year. Despite standing only 5-7, Jordan dunked the ball regularly. He also was an all-state running back in football, where he set numerous state rushing records. In track, Jordan was a conference and regional champion for three years in the pole vault, high jump and long jump. He batted .550 during his senior baseball season, and he hit .360 for his career. This story appeared in the 2001 MHSAA Boys Basketball Program.

Not long ago, I came across an article written by Hal Schram, the legendary prep journalist for the *Detroit Free Press*. It was penned during the winter of 1977, and Schram had decided to look back at the history of Michigan High School basketball and pick his top 20 high school players from the past quarter century.

"The Swami" had followed the high school circuit since the 1940s.

Schram began with a larger list, paring the roster from 44 to 20. The sports-writer went one step further and decided to single out one member of the squad for the ultimate honor – "the greatest of them all."

As one would expect, final selections included many of the state's most memorable names: Earvin "Magic" Johnson; Dave DeBusschere; Chet Walker; Spencer Haywood; Ralph Simpson, Rudy Tomjanovich; Campy Russell. Their exploits are legendary, and even the most casual fan of basketball could agree they belong on the list.

However, looking back from the millennium, Schram's choice for state's greatest player is stunning. "The Swami" himself admitted at the

time that his No. 1 pick would surprise many.

Hal's top pick never played professionally in either the NBA or ABA. That can be overlooked, as the criteria was simple – the state's greatest prep player.

But when I state that Schram's selection played ball at a Class C school, that his teams never advanced to the final rounds of the tournament, and that he stood a mere 5-7 1/2 and weighed only 160 pounds in his prime, most basketball fans shake their head in disbelief.

But those are only physical attributes.

Ask Richie Jordan himself. Schram's pick as the state's greatest high school ballplayer, Jordan will tell you that it doesn't matter what race, religion or how tall you are. He'll state that anything is possible with imagination and hard work.

Many may dispute Swami's selection, but few will debate Jordan's talents as an all-around ath-

lete. A four-sport star at Fennville High School, he earned 16 letters during his prep career. He is considered by many to be the finest student-athlete ever turned out by the state of Michigan.

The family lived in Bangor when Jordan started school.

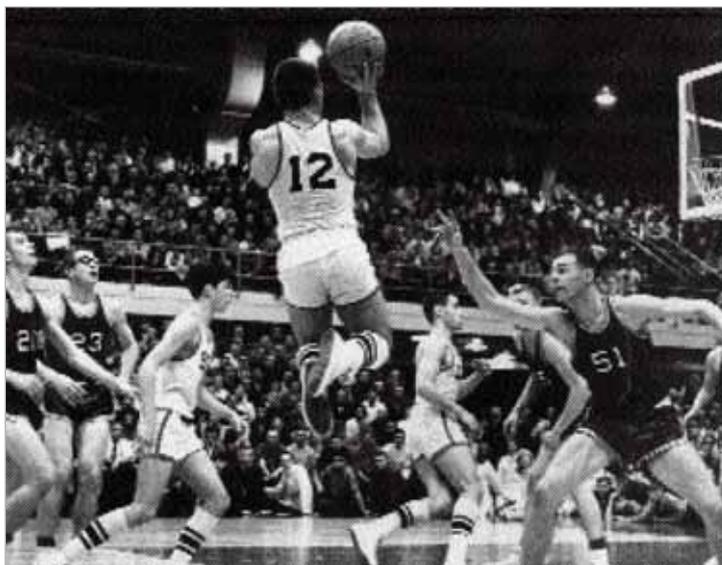
On the playground one day, Richie wandered over to a high jump pit, where the older kids were practicing

their leaps during recess. Much to his delight, he was offered the chance to jump by one of the older kids. The bar was lowered, and Jordan took his shot.

"I easily jumped over the bar and the older kids made comments on how easy I jumped. They kept moving the bar up until it was as high as my head. A crowd started to gather and I cleared the bar. The older kids made me feel real special."

Before entering the 3rd grade, the Jordan family moved to Fennville, a small town in west Michigan.

"Fennville was a wonderful place to grow up and I have the best of memories," recalled Jordan. "We had a group of kids who played together and



Though just 5-7, Jordan could elevate on the basketball court. His talents in numerous additional sports carried him even higher, to the NFHS Hall of Fame in 2001.

loved each other from the 3rd grade on.”

Like so many kids, he imagined himself duplicating the feats of his idols. Many have similar dreams, but few worked as hard as Richie to achieve them.

By the time he reached high school, Jordan had evolved into a stellar all-around athlete. His drive to excel worked around the clock. Through the years he accumulated new sports heroes and studied their movements in his mind.

“I was at the 1962 finals game where (Saginaw High School's) Ernie Thompson scored 42 points against Benton Harbor. I went home and worked on my double clutch for days after that.

“I loved all those guys and respected their talent,” said Jordan, “but I wanted to be better than all of them.”

His hard work paid off with stellar athletic performances. An all-state halfback in football in his junior year, Jordan averaged a whopping 35.6 points in 16 basketball contests and was a unanimous first team all-state selection at guard in the winter of 1963.

In the spring he excelled on the baseball diamond, and in track and field.

Jordan continued his rigid regime of weightlifting and working out. Word of his athletic exploits trickled out of Fennville. In the fall of 1964 he rushed for 1,246 yards on 86 carries, and tallied 25 touchdowns, to cap an outstanding gridiron career. His total of 5,132 career rushing yards was tops in the state at that time, and the mark still ranks in the top 10. Again, he reaped all-state accolades.

But the basketball court was where the Jordan legend was defined. His vertical jump was phenomenal, and he could dunk with both hands. Scouts reported that he was lightning fast and excellently coordinated.

Early in 1965, the *Kalamazoo Gazette* sent a photographer to Fennville to snap photos of Jordan for a feature article on the Black Hawks' upcoming cage contest in Kalamazoo against Hackett High School. Fennville entered the game with a 3-1 mark, the only mar being a 95-93 loss to Saugatuck in which Jordan scored 54 points.. The newspaper printed a shot of Richie dunking the basketball, and the image caught the imagination of many. An overflow crowd packed the 2,200 seat Irish Gymnasium to watch the matchup.



Jordan played basketball briefly at MSU, then concentrated on baseball, leading to a tryout with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Jordan and his teammates trounced the favored Irish 99-73, as Richie scorched the nets for 47 points.

In April of his senior year he was named prep All-American by *Coach & Athlete* magazine, earning the distinction of “smallest” on the squad.

“Weep not for him, however,” stated the article, announcing the honor, “as he can dunk the ball and with his 44.4 season's scoring average, he has scholarship offers from 58 colleges and universities.”

Richie finished out his unbelievable prep career by batting .550 on the baseball field, and by leading his track team to a third-place finish at the state meet. On May 20, 1965, the city of Fennville honored the prep hero and his teammates for their outstanding athletic careers and their contribution to the community.

Jordan spent two years with the Michigan State basketball program, earning a letter in 1967, then walked away from basketball to concentrate on baseball with the Spartans. Following graduation, he landed a contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates, but a shoulder injury ended his pursuit of a major league career.

Today, the “Fennville Flash” is known as “Mr. Jordan” by his students at Cardinal Mooney High School in Sarasota, Fla. A strength and conditioning coach, daily he preaches the merits of weight training and the benefits of hard work to his students.

Married and the father of three, he has enjoyed coaching and watching his children participate and excel in athletics.

He cherishes the memories of his youth, and the friends he made along the way.

“All my teammates and I felt very special,” said Jordan, now 53, “but we also were very humbled by the admiration we were shown. We all felt an obligation to our community to conduct ourselves in a way that would reflect kindly on our small town. I'm still very proud that we all understand that.”

– Ron Pesch

Ron Pesch is the historian for the MHSAA

CPR Requirements Set for 2015-16

The next step in MHSAA coaches' preparedness is on the horizon for the 2015-16 school year, as CPR certification for all high school varsity head coaches will be required beginning next fall. High schools will be required to attest that this requirement has been met.

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, which went into effect this past fall, called for 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.

The third action will 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.

"We believe Stage 1 of our coaches' educational program in regards to health and safety has heightened risk minimization awareness and rules knowledge throughout our coaching ranks this fall and winter, and will continue to do so in the seasons ahead," MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. "We expect the CPR requirement to yield similar benefits."



FAQs Regarding the 2015-16 CPR Requirement

Q Which coaches are required to have CPR certification?

A Effective with the 2015-16 school year, all varsity head coaches must have a valid current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification by the established dead-line for completion of the rules meeting, for the first sport in which the coach is a head coach during the school year.

Q Who is authorized to provide CPR certification?

A The MHSAA does not dictate which organization or individual must provide CPR education and certification. However, the Michigan Department of Human Services lists the following organizations that are approved to provide CPR training:

American CPR Training - americancpr.com
 American Heart Association - americanheart.org
 American Red Cross - redcross.org
 American Safety & Health Institute - hsi.com/ashi/about
 American Trauma Event Management - atem.us
 Cardio Pulmonary Resource Center - 800-900-2772
 Emergency Care and Safety Institute - ecsinstitute.org

Emergency First Response Corp. - emergencyfirstresponse.com
 EMS Safety Services - emssafety.com
 FreeCPR.Org - freecpr.org
 Medic First Aid - medicfirstaid.com
 National Safety Council - nsc.org
 ProCPR, LLC - procpr.org

Q How expensive is the certification?

A \$0 to \$95.

Q How long does certification take?

A Two to five hours.

Q How long does the certification last?

A Generally, two years.

Q Does the MHSAA specify the age level for the CPR training?

A No. Generally, the course for adults alerts candidates of the necessary modifications for children and infants, and vice versa.

Q Does an online course satisfy the requirement?

A Yes. While not as effective as face-to-face courses, an online course does satisfy the requirement that begins in 2015-16.

Q Is it necessary for varsity head coaches to also have training in AED?

A AED training is often a part of CPR certification. AED training is preferred, but not required.

IHSA Football Under Attack; How We Can Help

Our neighbors at the Illinois High School Association have been receiving some unwanted publicity of late, brought on by a lawsuit involving a former prep football player who alleges he has lingering health issues due to concussions suffered while playing the sport more than 10 years ago.

Unfortunately, it's a fairly common refrain these days. Not all result in lawsuits or have quite the notoriety that this case has gained, but football in general continues to face opposition.

As leaders in educational athletics, our game-plan should be just that: education. At every opportunity, administrators and coaches need to reinforce the positive aspects of football, including the measures taken to help make the game safer at the scholastic level than any other.

Here are some speaking points, courtesy of the MHSAA.

Quick Hitters:

- o We believe high school sports are fundamentally good for our sons and daughters.
- o We work to make the experience as positive, healthy and safe as we can.
- o This is an assault on high school football – part of the fabric of our communities.
- o High school football should not be dismantled, reassembled, and run by courts.
- o The legislature and local school boards are already addressing these issues.
- o We are not a multi-billion-dollar, money-making business.
- o We help make sports affordable so that everyone has a chance to play.

It will always be the case that when rule changes are implemented to make a sport safer, hungry attorneys will bring lawsuits alleging that the rule makers should have acted sooner.

- o A spate of lawsuits, mostly unsuccessful, followed for a decade after the rule changes of the mid-1970s that changed the rules of blocking and tackling.
- o Rule makers are damned if they do and damned if they don't. Fortunately, at the high

school level, the rule makers have continued to strengthen safety rules in spite of the risk.

The lawsuit claims the IHSA is negligent for its failure to adopt policies and procedures 15 years ago that no entity was aware of then.

- o The Plaintiff's lawyers face an uphill battle to prove the IHSA had a duty to do those unheard of things, and that its failure to do so is the direct cause of injuries that occurred so many years ago.

School-based football has never been freer of injuries than today.

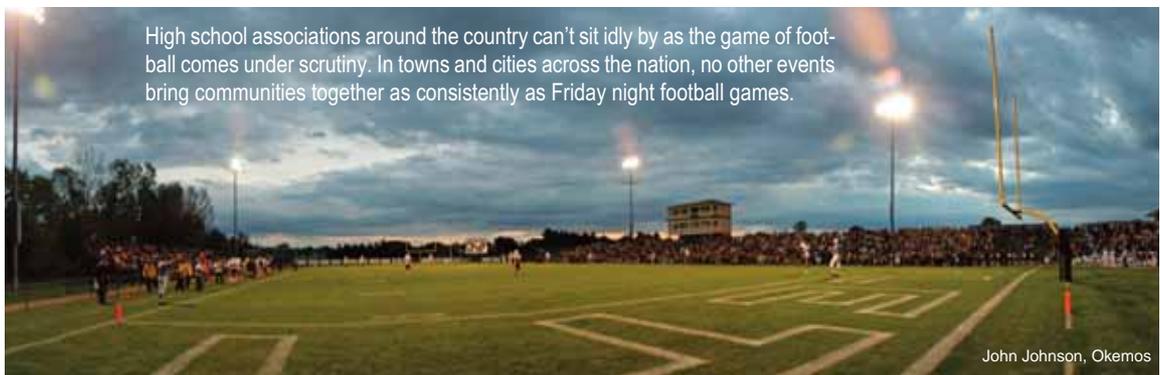
- o **fewer facial and dental injuries** than its earliest years as helmets and facemasks and mouth guards became required;
- o **fewer spinal cord injuries** since changing blocking and tackling rules in the 1970s;
- o **fewer knee injuries** since elimination of most below-the-waist blocking in more recent years.

We can stand on a positive record for reducing the risk of injuries in school-sponsored football.

- o Rules have never been more safety conscious and officials have never had more authority and encouragement to enforce those rules than today.
- o Coaches have never had more health and safety education than today.
- o Equipment has never been better than it is today.

Everyone's time and money would be better spent if it were not wasted in judicial proceedings, but invested in continuing research and development that actually reduces risks of all types of injuries in all kinds of sports.

- o Every day and every dollar we spend on litigation is a distraction . . . a detour that slows efforts to improve the experience students have in school sports.



High school associations around the country can't sit idly by as the game of football comes under scrutiny. In towns and cities across the nation, no other events bring communities together as consistently as Friday night football games.

John Johnson, Okemos

OK2SAY Has Resources to Assist Schools/Students

The MHSAA recently endorsed OK2SAY through links on its website to provide valuable resources for schools and students.

OK2SAY is a program designed to empower Michigan students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, and law enforcement to share and respond to student safety threats.

A Culture of Silence

In the majority of violent incidents that occur in our schools, someone other than the wrongdoer knows of a threat before it's carried out but fails to report it. Often, students choose to keep quiet because they fear retaliation or stigmatization by their peers. The result is a culture of silence in which students suffer harm that could have been prevented if another had chosen to speak out.

A Commitment to Safety

The goal of OK2SAY is to stop harmful behavior before it occurs by encouraging students to report threatening behavior to caring adult authorities who can help. Featuring a comprehensive communication system that facilitates tip



submissions through telephone, text, website, e-mail, and multimedia technologies, OK2SAY enables Michigan residents to confidentially report student safety threats to trained program operators, who forward tips on to local law enforcement agencies, school officials, or community mental health service programs for a timely response.

A Call to Say

Ultimately, it's about early intervention and prevention. When students make the courageous decision to break the code of silence and speak out against harmful behavior, they equip authorities with the information needed to respond to threats and avert tragedy. And that's a good thing for Michigan schools, communities, and families.

Schedule a Presentation at Your School

The Michigan Department of Attorney General offers to educate students about OK2SAY through its Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative (CSI). The CSI program is an Internet safety education program that offers customized presentations for K-12 students.

The following descriptions explain what will be covered in each presentation:

6th - 8th Grade: Students view two videos based on the stories of actual teenage Internet predator victims and are cautioned about revealing personal information on social networking sites. Students also learn the consequences of "sexting," and they are advised to think about and protect their reputations before they send such messages. They also learn about bullying and cyberbullying and how to respond to it if they or someone they know are being bullied. The students also see a video that features Michigan bullying victims who died by suicide. Lastly, the students are introduced to the OK2SAY confidential tip hotline service, which is an early warning system in our schools to stop tragedies before they start.

9th - 12th Grade: Students view a video explaining how the OK2SAY program works, what kinds of tips they can submit, how to submit a tip, and to reassure them that something will happen with their filed tip. Students also view a video that challenges them to change their perspective on their behaviors and actions, and empowers them to make a positive difference by being understanding of their peers. Students learn the consequences of sexting, and how it impacts their future. The students also view a video featuring Michigan bullying victims who died by suicide. Lastly, the students will view a video by Michigan State University Women's Basketball Coach Suzy Merchant.

If you would like to schedule an OK2SAY presentation at your school, or if you are interested in learning more about the Michigan CSI program, please visit the Attorney General's CSI website at: www.mi.gov/csi.



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.

MHSAA.tv Continues to Grow in Popularity

More Content, More Value, More Subscribers



Hockey Weekly Action Photos

The MHSAA Volleyball Finals was one of the spotlight events that helped spike MHSAA.tv ratings and subscriptions during the fall.

An increase in tournament coverage and more content creation as a result of growth in the School Broadcast Program led to a big Fall season for the Michigan portal – MHSAA.tv – on the NFHS Network Website.

The number of hours of live tournament content more than tripled from 2013 to 2014, with over 180 hours of live streaming taking place, highlighted by District and Regional coverage of the Girls Volleyball and Lower Peninsula Boys Soccer Tournaments; and weekly Football Playoff coverage, including all 16 Semifinal games on Nov. 22.

As a result, the MHSAA.tv portal was the fourth most visited of all NFHS Network state portals last fall, and new subscribers rose nearly 240 percent compared to the previous year.

Participants in the MHSAA School Broadcast Program live streamed over 100 events during the fall, and began participating in the sale of annual passes for the NFHS Network, raising revenue for their local program. Several schools – Cedar Springs, Davison and Montrose – helped crew the 16 Football Semifinal games on Nov. 22 that were streamed live on the MHSAA.tv and FoxsportsDetroit.com websites; and those schools also benefited financially for their assistance. Schools interested in joining the School Broadcast Program should contact John Johnson at the MHSAA Office.

Regular-season content on MHSAA.tv during the winter will be enhanced by schools using Digital Scout statistics software. Schools using Digital Scout can stream statistics from their games in real time to MHSAA.tv subscribers. For those games with live streaming video from SBP schools, the live stats will be incorporated with the video player.

MHSAA.tv coverage of Winter tournaments begins in February with the Upper Peninsula Swimming & Diving Finals. Here's the complete schedule:

- Feb. 20-21 – Upper Peninsula Swimming & Diving Finals
- Feb. 27-28 – Team Wrestling Quarterfinals-Semifinals-Finals
- March 2, 4 – Girls Basketball District First Round-Semifinals
- March 5-7 – Individual Wrestling Finals
- March 6-7 – Girls Competitive Cheer Finals
- March 9, 11 – Boys Basketball District First Round-Semifinals
- March 10 – Girls Basketball Regional Semifinals
- March 12-14 – Ice Hockey Semifinals-Finals
- March 13-14 – Lower Peninsula Boys Swimming & Diving Preliminaries-Finals
- March 13-14 – Girls Gymnastics Team-Individual Finals
- March 17 – Girls Basketball Quarterfinals
- March 18 – Boys Basketball Regional Semifinals
- March 19-20 – Girls Basketball Semifinals (Including Postgame Press Conferences)
- March 21 – Postgame Awards, Press Conferences, On-Floor Award Presentation @ Girls Basketball Finals
- March 24 – Boys Basketball Quarterfinals
- March 26-27 – Boys Basketball Semifinals (Including Postgame Press Conferences)
- March 28 – Postgame Awards, Press Conferences, On-Floor Award Presentation @ Boys Basketball Finals

Scholar-Athlete Award in 26th Year



Thousands of students voluntarily extend their classroom day by taking part in extra-curricular activities, often improving their academic achievements in the process.

The value that such programs play in the total education of a high school student is highlighted through the Michigan High School Athletic Association/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award, which will award \$1,000 scholarships to 32 top student-athletes and recognize over 2,000 other outstanding individuals in 2014-15.

Underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance, the Scholar-Athlete Award is now in its 26th year, and presents scholarships to students in every MHSAA enrollment classification. The scholarships may be used at any institution of higher learning.

“It is amazing to see the number of young people who are proven achievers in academics and activities,” said John E. “Jack” Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. “At a time when our educational system is coming under fire, the Scholar-Athlete Award is something that proves how important athletics are to the development of a well-rounded person.”

Students applying for the Scholar-Athlete Award must be graduating during the 2014-15 school year, carry a 3.5 grade-point average, and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport that the MHSAA sponsors postseason competition.

Applicants will also be required to show involvement in other school- community activities and submit an essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Application materials can be found on the MHSAA Website, MHSAA.com.

Each MHSAA member school is allowed to nominate a number of student-athletes based on the size of the school. Class A schools can nominate six boys and six girls, Class B four boys and four girls, Class C three boys and three girls and



Class D two boys and two girls. The first 30 scholarships will be awarded based on this graduated scale, with two additional scholarships intended for minority applicants.

This year, a total of 1,585 applications were submitted by student-athletes across the state.

A committee composed of school administrators from across the state will select regional and statewide winners.

Farm Bureau Insurance, a long-time supporter of MHSAA activities, also sponsors other educationally oriented programs. Executive Vice President Jim Robinson notes the company's pleasure with the awards program.

“All of us at Farm Bureau Insurance are proud to reward special, well-rounded young people who have developed both physical and academic skills,” Robinson said. “To accomplish both while giving themselves to their schools and their communities are outstanding traits that must be recognized and rewarded.”

The 32 scholarship recipients will be recognized at the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing on March 28, 2015.

More Info?
Scan Here



Battle of the Fans Back for Season Four

Looking to build on the hugely successful “Battle of the Fans” which took place during the last three basketball seasons, the MHSAA is sponsoring “Battle of the Fans IV” this winter, seeking the most spirited and sportsman-like 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 will select the 2015 finalists. Members of the Student Advisory Council and MHSAA staff then visit all five finalists on a home game night. MHSAA Staff records additional video, and meets 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 determines 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 27 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.



Geoff Kimmerly, 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

Rules of the Games

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

Basketball

- Which of the following would be illegal?
 - B1 is wearing black tights with a white stripe down the sides.
 - A4 is wearing beige pre wrap around her head and teammate A2 is wearing black wristbands.
 - B2 is wearing a black elastic wrap around his/her knee while teammate B5 is wearing a white sleeve on his/her lower leg.
 - All of these are illegal.
- Which of the following would be a violation during a free throw attempt?
 - A4 dribbles the ball prior to his/her free throw attempt; the ball deflects off his/her foot and rolls outside the free throw semicircle.
 - B2 occupies a marked lane space, he/she enters the lane after the release of the attempt and before the ball reaches the rim.
 - A3 lines up in a marked lane space with his/her arms extended over the adjacent lane space with no contact to other players.
- Which of the following would NOT be a foul against a ball handler/dribbler?
 - Using an extended arm bar.
 - Touching the dribbler with one hand to “measure distance” and then immediately removing the hand.
 - Touching the dribbler with both hands at the same time as the dribbler is moving parallel to or away from the basket.
 - Making hand contact with the dribbler as he/she makes a move to the basket.



- In a legal flatback, a flyer in a vertical position transitions to a horizontal position:
 - Between at least two bases and, at least two catchers to protect the head and shoulders area of the flyer.
 - Between at least one base and one catcher to protect the head and shoulders area of the flyer.
 - Between two bases and at least one head and shoulder catcher.
- The Round 2 mandated number is not met. In Round 1, a coach has competed with more competitors than the mandated number. What is the total penalty?
 - 0 points. It's okay to exceed the mandated number in Round 1, even though the mandated number has not been met in Round 2.
 - 22 point penalty in Round 1 and 10 point penalty in Round 2.
 - Void all rounds.
 - Total penalty is 10 points.



Competitive Cheer

- In Round 2, all team members perform a connected back-handspring, back tuck.
 - Legal. A connected back-handspring, back tuck is must easier to do.
 - Legal. In Round 2 (the Compulsory Round), you may doing anything you want.
 - Illegal. Compulsory Round 2 skills must be performed independently. The team would receive a penalty for each competitor who connected the skills.

Gymnastics

- On bars, which is NOT an event requirement?
 - Superior release/flight element (excludes dismount).
 - One direction change (excludes mount/dismount).
 - LA (longitudinal twist/turn element of at least 180 degrees (excludes mount/dismount)).
 - Superior dismount.
- A gymnast performs a front walkover directly connected to an aerial cartwheel on beam. The judges award 0.2 for an AHS and 0.2 for a HL BBS under bonus.
 - Correct. An AHS acro element directly connected to a S acro element (before or after) receives 0.2 as a HL BBS on beam.



- b. Incorrect. A S acro element never qualifies under bonus.
3. A gymnast performs the following acro pass: round-off, back handspring, Arabian salto. The judges award 0.1 in composition for including an acro element in each of 2 different directions, backward and forward.
- Correct. Although both elements are considered a straddle shape, the event requirement is two different Group 1 leaps/jumps rather than two different shapes.
 - Incorrect. These are not two different shapes.

Ice Hockey

1. A delayed penalty is being assessed during the first period, the goalkeeper has been removed from the game and a teammate throws a stick, not in the direction of the puck or the goal. What is the correct ruling?
- Penalty Shot
 - Minor Penalty
 - Award a goal to the other team
 - Nothing
2. Player A1 contacts player B1 away from the boards. The contact violently throws Player B1 into the boards. What is the ruling?
- Minor penalty and game misconduct
 - Game misconduct
 - Major penalty with officials discretion of additional misconduct or game disqualification
 - Coach is assessed a misconduct.
3. Team A does not commence play with the same players announced as its starting line-up. Is there a penalty?
- Yes, a minor.
 - Yes, to the coach, a misconduct.
 - Yes, a misconduct to the team.
 - No penalty for changing a starting lineup.



MHSAA File Photo

Wrestling

1. A match is tied 16-16 at the end of regulation. The coach of Wrestler A believes that his wrestler was shorted an escape, and should have been the winner by a score of 17-16. However, the official and scorekeeper have the score at 16-16, overtime begins. Wrestler B scores a takedown in the Sudden Victory period and wins the match 18-16. Everyone leaves the mat area, and coach A returns five minutes later with a video phone that shows the escape his wrestler scored in the 3rd period, proving that his kid won 17-16. What is the correct ruling?
- Since the offended wrestler and coach left the mat area, there is nothing that can be done. Wrestler B wins 18-16.
 - The official can view the video and change the result of the match because an official's ultimate job is to get the call correct; Wrestler A wins 17-16.
 - The official can have the tournament manager view the video; if the tournament manager sees the missed escape, he or she can declare Wrestler A the winner by a score of 17-16.
 - None of the above.
2. Which of the following would not be considered an act of flagrant misconduct?
- Kicking an opponent
 - Accidental biting of an opponent.
 - Elbowing an opponent.
 - Illegal hold/maneuver.
3. Any hold/maneuver with pressure exerted over the opponent's mouth, nose, throat or neck that restricts breathing or circulation is considered...
- Potentially dangerous
 - Stalemate
 - Illegal
 - Flagrant misconduct



MHSAA File Photo

Basketball Answers: 1. d. (3-5); 2. a. (9-1-4); 3. b. (10-6-12)

Cheer Answers: 1. c. (Section 4, Round 2 skills); 2. a. (Section F, Flatback); 3. b. (Part III, Mandated Numbers)

Gymnastics Answers: 1. c. (7-2); 2. a. (8-3-5); 3. a. (9-2-2)

Hockey Answers: 1. b. (6-37-1); 2. c. (6-4-1); 3. d. (2-4-1)

Wrestling Answers: 1. a. (1-1-3; 6-6-5); 2. d. (5-12; 5-14); 3. c. (5-14-2)

Weekly Officials Program Gains Momentum

In an effort to promote education and awareness of contest officials throughout Michigan, and at the same time attempt to recruit new officials, the MHSAA's "Be the Referee" weekly radio spots have garnered attention while covering a variety of current topics.

The program and MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl, who heads up the Association's officiating initiatives, were recently featured in *Referee* magazine.

"Be The Referee" is a series of one-minute messages designed to help educate people on the rules of different sports, to help them better understand the art of officiating, and to recruit officials. "Be The Referee" features MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl's insights on officiating. These weekly messages can be heard on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the school year on The Drive With Jack Ebling on WQTX-FM (92.1), Lansing.

Audio and text from each show is archived in the officials section of MHSAA.com. Scan the code below to access the page.

Following are some excerpts from a sampling of the shows thus far this school year.



Assignment to the MHSAA Finals doesn't just happen. Officials must meet numerous criteria to earn an invitation.

Concussions

It is important to know that a game official will never make a diagnosis of whether or not an athlete has suffered a concussion. However, those game officials do have an important role to play when it comes to keeping athletes safe.

Officials must be not only aware during the play but especially just after the play for any athlete that appears to be disoriented, unsteady on their feet, or even appears dizzy to where the game must be stopped.

Be The Referee

Tournament Selection

Just as the best teams advance in the tournament week after week, the best officiating crews advance in the tournament in much the same way.

For a crew to be eligible for assignment, many requirements have to be met prior to the season. Verification that the crew has worked a full schedule, making sure that the crew has completed the annual rules meeting, as well as a football rules test. Much weight is given to ratings – each crew is rated by schools on a 1-5 scale following each game as well as observation reports where officiating experts go out and either watch crews work live or on video in making sure that the best crews advance throughout the tournament.

Legacy Program

One of the best ways for young people to get involved in officiating is through the MHSAA Legacy official program. This is open to any high school junior or senior who is interested in sports and officiating.

The Legacy official is paired with a Mentor official. That Mentor official is an established, veteran official for many years. The Legacy and Mentor official both go out and officiate together at the subvarsity level, where that new person learns the rules, mechanics, coverages, and basically is learning the ropes of officiating from that Mentor official and getting them off on the right foot in the world of officiating.

Ratings

Just about every sports fan, at one time or another, has left a game wondering – how do the officials get evaluated or graded for their performance during a game?

At the high school level, the MHSAA has the school rating system to where following each game, both teams submit a rating for the official's work. The rating is then sent to the MHSAA Office and these ratings are compiled over a three-year period. An official then has a rating average, and the schools can also indicate areas for improvement or growth that they deem are appropriate.

Those rating numbers then help to determine what officials are first used in postseason play.

6th-Grade Discussion Leads Fall Council Meeting

The promotion of junior high and middle school athletics and possibility of allowing younger students opportunities to compete in certain sports highlighted topics discussed by the Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association during its annual Fall Meeting on Dec. 5 in East Lansing.

Although no action was taken, the Council heard findings of the Junior High/Middle School task force created at the 2013 Fall Meeting to consider how the MHSAA should continue to encourage multi-sport experiences at that level and review the possibility of serving 6th-grade students in addition to those in the 7th and 8th grades.

The task force met four times during the 2014 calendar year. It provided support for longer quarters in basketball and football that were recommended by the MHSAA's Junior High/Middle School Committee and approved by the Representative Council in March. The Junior High/Middle School Committee will consider another task force recommendation in January that would allow 6th-graders to participate against 7th and 8th-graders in all sports except football and ice hockey without seeking annual waivers from the MHSAA in order to do so. The Council could then review that recommendation when it reconvenes in March. Currently, the MHSAA serves 725 member schools at the 7th and 8th-grade level.

The Council also continued to examine the impact of increasing numbers of international students and additional rules approved in March to equalize the treatment of J-1 and F-1 visa students and standardize their opportunities at both public and non-public high schools.

A package of proposals adopted at the Council's March 2014 meeting in part allowed for the MHSAA to approve school-operated international student placement programs if they were not listed by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). The MHSAA for 2014-15 approved five such programs, with the notion that all programs would require CSIET approval moving forward. However, the Council will determine in March if the MHSAA will retain the ability to approve non-CSIET school-operated programs again in 2015-16.

An update also was provided on work to determine if rules regulating out-of-season coaching by school staff should be changed to allow coaches more involvement with student-athletes out of season. MHSAA staff discussed possible changes with member school administrators at league meetings and then athletic director in-service and update meetings this fall and surveyed athletic directors on the desirability of potential changes in late October.

The Council reviewed results of the survey and input from meetings and a schedule of upcoming discussions with coaches associations and league and conference leaders. Further discussion is slated for March with possible action during its final meeting of the year in May.

The Council voted on two matters concerning MHSAA tournaments. E-cigarettes and other smoking devices were added to the list of substances prohibited at MHSAA tournament events. The Council also approved the opportunity for presentation of awards by a sport's coaches association at MHSAA Finals for that sport so long as awards are to recognize students.

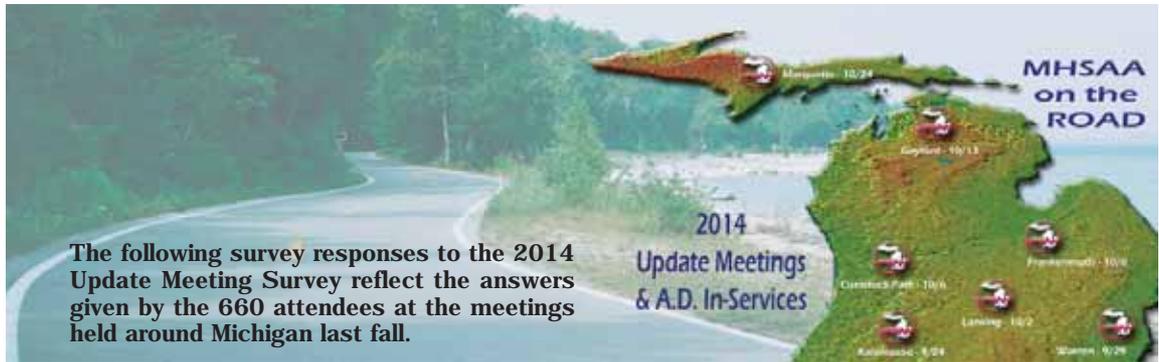


The Representative Council could review the possibility of 6th-graders participating with 7th and 8th-graders in certain sports during its upcoming March meeting.

The Fall Meeting also saw the addition of Pat Watson, principal at West Bloomfield High School, to the 19-person Council. He was appointed to a two-year term and previously served as his school's athletic director and coached baseball and girls and boys basketball. He fills the position formerly held by Carmen Kennedy, principal at St. Clair Shores South Lake High School, whose term ended. Also, Orlando Medina, athletic director at Harrison Township L'Anse Creuse High School, was reappointed for a second two-year term. Don Gustafson, superintendent of St. Ignace Area Schools, was appointed to the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee for 2015.

The Council elected Scott Grimes, assistant superintendent of human services for Grand Haven Area Public Schools, as its president; Buchanan athletic director Fred Smith was elected vice president and Vic Michaels, director of physical education and athletics for the Archdiocese of Detroit, was elected secretary-treasurer.

2014 Update Meeting Survey Results



The following survey responses to the 2014 Update Meeting Survey reflect the answers given by the 660 attendees at the meetings held around Michigan last fall.

1. Do you favor an increase in the maximum number of regular season basketball games from 20 to 22?

Yes 191 (29.84%)				No 449 (70.16%)			
10	Superintendents (5.24%)	46	Class A (24.08%)	31	Superintendents (6.90%)	109	Class A (57.07%)
35	Principals (18.32%)	68	Class B (35.60%)	56	Principals (12.47%)	119	Class B (62.30%)
133	Ath Directors (69.63%)	40	Class C (20.94%)	336	Ath Directors (74.83%)	120	Class C (62.83%)
1	Coaches (0.52%)	33	Class D (17.28%)	3	Coaches (0.67%)	89	Class D (46.60%)
4	Board Members (2.09%)	3	Jr High/Middle (1.57%)	2	Board Members (0.45%)	6	Jr High/Middle (3.14%)
8	Other (4.19%)	1	Other (0.52%)	21	Other (4.68%)	6	Other (3.14%)

2. Presently, schools may host schools from or travel any distance to compete in events that involve schools only from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin and Ontario. Should schools be allowed to travel further or compete against schools that have traveled from more distant locations?

Yes 252 (39.38%)				No 388 (60.63%)			
10	Superintendents (3.97%)	70	Class A (27.78%)	31	Superintendents (7.99%)	87	Class A (34.52%)
33	Principals (13.10%)	76	Class B (30.16%)	58	Principals (14.95%)	110	Class B (43.65%)
194	Ath Directors (76.98%)	53	Class C (21.03%)	276	Ath Directors (71.13%)	105	Class C (41.67%)
1	Coaches (0.40%)	45	Class D (17.86%)	2	Coaches (0.52%)	77	Class D (30.56%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	3	Jr High/Middle (1.19%)	6	Board Members (1.55%)	7	Jr High/Middle (2.78%)
14	Other (5.56%)	5	Other (1.98%)	15	Other (3.87%)	2	Other (0.79%)

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NOTE: Questions 3-6 pertain to Out-of-Season Coaching Periods more detailed in the survey data on pages 10-17 of this issue.

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Currently, the Executive Committee may grant eligibility at the subvarsity level to 9th- or 10th-grade transfer students who have never played in a scrimmage or a game since starting the 9th grade. This only serves students participating in sports with subvarsity teams.

7. Do you favor expanding the opportunities for students who are granted subvarsity waiver requests to participate as exhibition, non-scoring participants in individual sports (e.g., cross country, swimming & diving, track & field) and not in MHSAA tournaments?

Yes 427 (67.03%)				No 210 (32.97%)			
32	Superintendents (7.49%)	119	Class A (27.87%)	9	Superintendents (4.29%)	36	Class A (8.43%)
67	Principals (15.69%)	134	Class B (31.38%)	23	Principals (10.95%)	51	Class B (11.94%)
300	Ath Directors (70.26%)	96	Class C (22.48%)	169	Ath Directors (80.48%)	64	Class C (14.99%)
1	Coaches (0.23%)	66	Class D (15.46%)	1	Coaches (0.48%)	54	Class D (12.65%)
5	Board Members (1.17%)	7	Jr High/Middle (1.64%)	1	Board Members (0.48%)	3	Jr High/Middle (0.70%)
22	Other (5.15%)	5	Other (1.17%)	7	Other (3.33%)	2	Other (0.47%)

Update Survey - *continued*

8. Do you favor expanding the opportunities for students who are granted subvarsity waiver requests to participate on varsity teams in schools which do not sponsor subvarsity levels, but not permit those students to participate in MHSAA tournaments?

Yes 230 (35.83%)			No 412 (64.17%)		
14	Superintendents (6.09%)	47	Class A (20.43%)	27	Superintendents (6.55%)
43	Principals (18.70%)	74	Class B (32.17%)	48	Principals (11.65%)
163	Ath Directors (72.87%)	55	Class C (23.91%)	310	Ath Directors (75.24%)
1	Coaches (0.43%)	46	Class D (20.00%)	1	Coaches (0.24%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	5	Jr High/Middle (2.17%)	6	Board Members (1.45%)
9	Other (3.91%)	3	Other (1.30%)	20	Other (4.85%)
				110	Class A (47.83%)
				113	Class B (49.13%)
				105	Class C (45.65%)
				75	Class D (32.61%)
				5	Jr High/Middle (2.17%)
				4	Other (1.74%)

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9. Would you favor a regulation that allows credit for online courses for athletic eligibility purposes only if the student is residing in Michigan at the time the credit is earned?

Yes 317 (50.08%)			No 316 (49.92%)		
22	Superintendents (6.94%)	78	Class A (24.61%)	19	Superintendents (6.01%)
48	Principals (15.14%)	86	Class B (27.13%)	43	Principals (13.61%)
230	Ath Directors (72.56%)	81	Class C (25.55%)	232	Ath Directors (73.42%)
1	Coaches (0.32%)	65	Class D (20.50%)	3	Coaches (0.95%)
1	Board Members (0.32%)	5	Jr High/Middle (1.58%)	5	Board Members (1.58%)
15	Other (4.73%)	2	Other (0.63%)	14	Other (4.43%)
				77	Class A (24.29%)
				94	Class B (29.65%)
				79	Class C (24.92%)
				56	Class D (17.67%)
				5	Jr High/Middle (1.58%)
				5	Other (1.58%)

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10. Do you think schools should be able to have 6th-graders compete with and against 7th- and 8th-graders without seeking MHSAA Executive Committee approval?

Yes 410 (63.86%)			No 232 (36.14%)		
25	Superintendents (6.10%)	98	Class A (21.71%)	16	Superintendents (6.90%)
53	Principals (12.93%)	104	Class B (25.37%)	38	Principals (16.38%)
310	Ath Directors (75.61%)	109	Class C (26.59%)	161	Ath Directors (69.40%)
3	Coaches (0.73%)	99	Class D (24.15%)	1	Coaches (0.43%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	4	Jr High/Middle (0.98%)	6	Board Members (2.59%)
19	Other (4.63%)	5	Other (1.22%)	10	Other (4.31%)
				67	Class A (16.34%)
				82	Class B (20.00%)
				51	Class C (12.44%)
				24	Class D (5.85%)
				6	Jr High/Middle (1.46%)
				2	Other (0.49%)

11. Do you think schools should have this autonomy for all sports, both contact and non-contact, team and individual?

Yes 319 (49.92%)			No 320 (50.08%)		
19	Superintendents (5.96%)	75	Class A (23.51%)	22	Superintendents (6.88%)
42	Principals (13.17%)	86	Class B (26.96%)	49	Principals (15.31%)
240	Ath Directors (75.24%)	82	Class C (25.71%)	229	Ath Directors (71.56%)
3	Coaches (0.94%)	70	Class D (21.94%)	1	Coaches (0.31%)
1	Board Members (0.31%)	5	Jr High/Middle (1.57%)	5	Board Members (1.56%)
14	Other (4.39%)	1	Other (0.31%)	14	Other (4.38%)
				79	Class A (24.76%)
				100	Class B (31.35%)
				79	Class C (24.76%)
				51	Class D (15.99%)
				5	Jr High/Middle (1.57%)
				6	Other (1.88%)

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– *continued next page*

Update Survey - *continued*

12. Would you like the MHSAA to conduct Regional tournaments for 7th- and 8th-grade teams of MHSAA member schools in track & field?

Yes 190 (29.64%)			No 451 (70.36%)				
14	Superintendents (7.37%)	40	Class A (21.05%)	27	Superintendents (5.99%)	115	Class A (60.53%)
24	Principals (12.63%)	56	Class B (29.47%)	66	Principals (14.63%)	131	Class B (68.95%)
143	Ath Directors (75.26%)	51	Class C (26.84%)	328	Ath Directors (72.73%)	110	Class C (57.89%)
1	Coaches (0.53%)	34	Class D (17.89%)	3	Coaches (0.67%)	87	Class D (45.79%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	5	Jr High/Middle (2.63%)	6	Board Members (1.33%)	5	Jr High/Middle (2.63%)
8	Other (4.21%)	4	Other (2.11%)	21	Other (4.66%)	3	Other (1.58%)

13. In cross country?

Yes 187 (29.17%)			No 454 (70.83%)				
14	Superintendents (7.49%)	39	Class A (20.86%)	27	Superintendents (5.95%)	117	Class A (62.57%)
23	Principals (12.30%)	56	Class B (29.95%)	67	Principals (14.76%)	131	Class B (70.05%)
142	Ath Directors (75.94%)	50	Class C (26.74%)	329	Ath Directors (72.47%)	111	Class C (59.36%)
1	Coaches (0.53%)	34	Class D (18.18%)	3	Coaches (0.66%)	86	Class D (45.99%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	4	Jr High/Middle (2.14%)	6	Board Members (1.32%)	6	Jr High/Middle (3.21%)
7	Other (3.74%)	4	Other (2.14%)	22	Other (4.85%)	3	Other (1.60%)

14. In wrestling?

Yes 161 (25.16%)			No 479 (74.84%)				
12	Superintendents (7.45%)	32	Class A (19.88%)	29	Superintendents (6.05%)	124	Class A (77.02%)
21	Principals (13.04%)	50	Class B (31.06%)	69	Principals (14.41%)	137	Class B (85.09%)
120	Ath Directors (74.53%)	44	Class C (27.33%)	350	Ath Directors (73.07%)	117	Class C (72.67%)
1	Coaches (0.62%)	27	Class D (16.77%)	3	Coaches (0.63%)	92	Class D (57.14%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	4	Jr High/Middle (2.48%)	6	Board Members (1.25%)	6	Jr High/Middle (3.73%)
7	Other (4.35%)	4	Other (2.48%)	22	Other (4.59%)	3	Other (1.86%)

15. In basketball?

Yes 157 (24.45%)			No 485 (75.55%)				
12	Superintendents (7.64%)	27	Class A (17.20%)	29	Superintendents (5.98%)	129	Class A (82.17%)
21	Principals (13.38%)	48	Class B (30.57%)	69	Principals (14.23%)	139	Class B (88.54%)
116	Ath Directors (73.89%)	42	Class C (26.75%)	356	Ath Directors (73.40%)	119	Class C (75.80%)
2	Coaches (1.27%)	34	Class D (21.66%)	2	Coaches (0.41%)	87	Class D (55.41%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	2	Jr High/Middle (1.27%)	6	Board Members (1.24%)	8	Jr High/Middle (5.10%)
6	Other (3.82%)	4	Other (2.55%)	23	Other (4.74%)	3	Other (1.91%)

16. In girls volleyball?

Yes 150 (23.44%)			No 490 (76.56%)				
12	Superintendents (8.00%)	24	Class A (16.00%)	29	Superintendents (5.92%)	131	Class A (87.33%)
19	Principals (12.67%)	47	Class B (31.33%)	71	Principals (14.49%)	140	Class B (93.33%)
112	Ath Directors (74.67%)	42	Class C (28.00%)	358	Ath Directors (73.06%)	119	Class C (79.33%)
1	Coaches (0.67%)	30	Class D (20.00%)	3	Coaches (0.61%)	90	Class D (60.00%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	3	Jr High/Middle (2.00%)	6	Board Members (1.22%)	7	Jr High/Middle (4.67%)
6	Other (4.00%)	4	Other (2.67%)	23	Other (4.69%)	3	Other (2.00%)

17. In girls competitive cheer?

Yes 134 (21.00%)			No 504 (79.00%)				
11	Superintendents (8.21%)	24	Class A (17.91%)	30	Superintendents (5.95%)	131	Class A (97.76%)
18	Principals (13.43%)	42	Class B (31.34%)	72	Principals (14.29%)	144	Class B (107.46%)
99	Ath Directors (73.88%)	37	Class C (27.61%)	369	Ath Directors (73.21%)	123	Class C (91.79%)
1	Coaches (0.75%)	25	Class D (18.66%)	3	Coaches (0.60%)	95	Class D (70.90%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	2	Jr High/Middle (1.49%)	6	Board Members (1.19%)	8	Jr High/Middle (5.97%)
5	Other (3.73%)	4	Other (2.99%)	24	Other (4.76%)	3	Other (2.24%)

18. In soccer?

Yes 145 (22.73%)			No 493 (77.27%)				
12	Superintendents (8.28%)	26	Class A (17.93%)	29	Superintendents (5.88%)	130	Class A (89.66%)
21	Principals (14.48%)	45	Class B (31.03%)	68	Principals (13.79%)	141	Class B (97.24%)
106	Ath Directors (73.10%)	40	Class C (27.59%)	363	Ath Directors (73.63%)	119	Class C (82.07%)
1	Coaches (0.69%)	28	Class D (19.31%)	3	Coaches (0.61%)	92	Class D (63.45%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	3	Jr High/Middle (2.07%)	6	Board Members (1.22%)	7	Jr High/Middle (4.83%)
4	Other (3.45%)	3	Other (2.07%)	24	Other (4.87%)	4	Other (2.76%)

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Update Survey - continued

19. Do you support the seeding of MHSAA tournaments in those team sports in which there is actual head-to-head competition at those levels for which the current format has all schools assigned to that level of the tournament to be playing at the same site, thus requiring no additional travel (e.g., Team Wrestling Districts, Team Wrestling Regionals, Girls Volleyball Semifinals and Finals, Girls and Boys Basketball Semifinals and Finals, Baseball and Softball Semifinals and Finals, Ice Hockey Semifinals and Finals)?

Yes 437 (68.71%)			No 199 (31.29%)		
30	Superintendents (6.86%)	118 Class A (27.00%)	11	Superintendents (5.53%)	38 Class A (8.70%)
64	Principals (14.65%)	127 Class B (29.06%)	26	Principals (13.07%)	57 Class B (13.04%)
314	Ath Directors (71.85%)	100 Class C (22.88%)	153	Ath Directors (76.88%)	56 Class C (12.81%)
1	Coaches (0.23%)	81 Class D (18.54%)	3	Coaches (1.51%)	42 Class D (9.61%)
6	Board Members (1.37%)	6 Jr High/Middle (1.37%)	0	Board Members (0.00%)	4 Jr High/Middle (0.92%)
22	Other (5.03%)	5 Other (1.14%)	6	Other (3.02%)	2 Other (0.46%)

20. Do you support seeding within each geographic district and region in team sports – District and Regional tournaments in soccer, basketball, girls volleyball, baseball and girls softball and Preregional and Regional tournaments in ice hockey – where the best records go on top and bottom of bracket as determined by the coaches in that district or region?

Yes 417 (65.57%)			No 219 (34.43%)		
29	Superintendents (6.95%)	117 Class A (28.06%)	12	Superintendents (5.48%)	39 Class A (9.35%)
64	Principals (15.35%)	121 Class B (29.02%)	26	Principals (11.87%)	64 Class B (15.35%)
299	Ath Directors (71.70%)	95 Class C (22.78%)	168	Ath Directors (76.71%)	61 Class C (14.63%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	74 Class D (17.75%)	4	Coaches (1.83%)	48 Class D (11.51%)
6	Board Members (1.44%)	5 Jr High/Middle (1.20%)	0	Board Members (0.00%)	5 Jr High/Middle (1.20%)
19	Other (4.56%)	5 Other (1.20%)	9	Other (4.11%)	2 Other (0.48%)

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21. Do you support having the MHSAA office schedule all varsity football games during the regular season to provide all schools a nine-game schedule, using proximity in location and similarity of enrollment as the criteria for scheduling?

Yes 185 (29.23%)			No 448 (70.77%)		
6	Superintendents (3.24%)	40 Class A (21.62%)	35	Superintendents (7.81%)	116 Class A (62.70%)
28	Principals (15.14%)	56 Class B (30.27%)	60	Principals (13.39%)	128 Class B (69.19%)
140	Ath Directors (75.68%)	47 Class C (25.41%)	327	Ath Directors (72.99%)	109 Class C (58.92%)
3	Coaches (1.62%)	37 Class D (20.00%)	1	Coaches (0.22%)	83 Class D (44.86%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	3 Jr High/Middle (1.62%)	6	Board Members (1.34%)	7 Jr High/Middle (3.78%)
8	Other (4.32%)	2 Other (1.08%)	19	Other (4.24%)	5 Other (2.70%)

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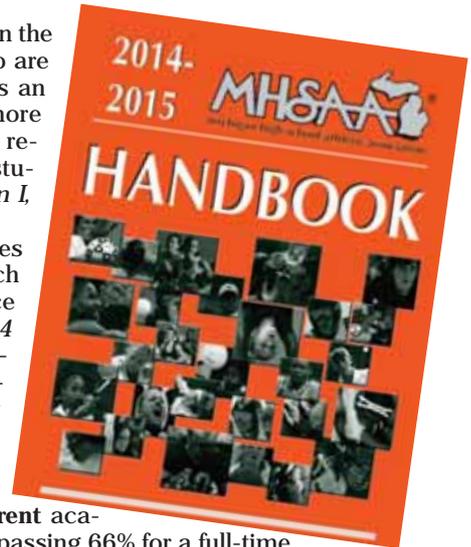
SURVEY TOTALS

Respondents' Title	Respondents' Classification
41 Superintendents (6.21%)	165 Class A (25.00%)
93 Principals (14.09%)	192 Class B (29.09%)
480 Athletic Directors (72.73%)	161 Class C (24.39%)
5 Coaches (0.76%)	125 Class D (18.94%)
6 Board Members (0.91%)	10 Jr High / Middle (1.52%)
35 Other (5.30%)	7 Other (1.06%)

TOTAL SURVEYS RECEIVED = 660

School Sports 101: An Introduction to Some Basic Elements

1. **Enrolled:** Everyone participating in school sports is enrolled in the school they play for – this includes tax-payers, students who are home-schooled or go to religious schools. One exception is an MHSAA approved cooperative program – where two or more member schools combine to form one team. Enrolled means receiving credit from that high school in 66% of a full-time student’s course load, 50% in middle school. *P 26 - Regulation I, Section 1 (A) 3. Regulation I, Section 7*
2. **Eligibility** is a “temporary state of being” for student-athletes who are compliant with several rules besides enrollment, such as age and the maximum enrollment/competition allowance (8 semesters or 12 trimesters). *PP 30 & 31 Reg. I, Sections 4 & 5.* To ensure that only eligible students are participating, administrators must prepare eligibility lists signed by the principal or superintendent at the start of every season and every semester or trimester. *PP 55, 74 - Regulation II, Sections 4 & 15 (E)*
3. **Academic Eligibility:** Sports participation is directly tied to performance in the classroom in both the **previous** and **current** academic record. The MHSAA rules are minimums: taking and passing 66% for a full-time high school student; 50% in middle school. Many schools have tougher standards and procedures for grades such as a GPA or passing all classes. Many schools check the current record more often than the MHSAA rules require (weekly, for example). *PP 32-36 - Regulation I, Section 7 (previous record) and Section 8 (current record)*
4. **Age and Year in School:** Middle school students must be under either 14 or 15 years of age (depending on 7th- or 8th-grade team) except that a student whose 14th or 15th birthday falls on or after Sept. 1 can finish that year; under 19 for high school. There is an Eligibility Advancement Application for students who will be too old to get in four years of high school sports (or two years of middle school) to start a year early. Except with special MHSAA permission for very small schools, 6th-graders cannot participate with or against 7th- and 8th-grade students. High school students can share a facility, but not any activity with middle school students and vice versa. *HS - P 29, Reg. I, Section 2. JH/MS - P 77 Reg. III, Section 2*
5. **Physical Exams:** Before practicing or tryouts, a student must have a current physical exam (one completed on or after April 15 of the previous school year) on file with the school. Any school-approved form may be used; the MHSAA provides physical cards free to member schools (also available online). *P 29 - Regulation I, Section 3*
6. **Recruiting:** Unlike the college world of athletics, it is against the rules for people directly or indirectly associated with a school to attempt to secure or encourage the attendance of a student at a school because of athletics. Be careful of people who attempt to load up a team. The penalty involves suspension or disconnection of the adult and possibly ineligibility of the student-athlete. We don’t recruit in school sports. *P 44 - Regulation I, Section 10*
7. **Amateur Status & Awards:** Once a student plays any MHSAA school sport, he or she may not receive cash, merchandise or other “valuable consideration” for participation in any MHSAA sport, all year round - all the sports. This rule also limits the value of any symbolic award to \$25, exclusive of engraving (plaque, trophy, t-shirt). *P 46 - Regulation I, Section 11*
8. **Coaches of Teams** may only be compensated by the school for school coaching. Funds may be raised by an outside group and donated to the school with the payment coming from the school. A school coach must be over 18 years of age and not a high school student. *P 54 - Regulation II, Section 3*
9. **Rules Meetings & Official Ratings:** There is a growing list of requirements for high school coaches to enter MHSAA statewide tournaments. All coaches must complete an MHSAA rules meeting for their sport prior to set deadlines in order to coach in MHSAA tournaments. The tracking and reporting differs for head and assistant/subvarsity coaches. *P 58 - Regulation II, Section 8.* In future years, head varsity coaches must have CPR certification and first-time newly hired head varsity coaches must have completed Level 1 or 2 of CAP by the 2016-17 school year. *P 54 - Regulation II, Section 3 (B, C).* Online officials ratings must be submitted by first of the month deadlines each season for high schools and strongly recommended for middle schools. *P 58 - Regulation II, Section 7 (B)*
10. **Limited Team Membership:** Once a student practices in a team sport with a school team, he or she may not compete in a non-school competition in that sport during that season. **Individual sports**



(e.g., golf or tennis) activate this rule at different times in different sports (generally first contest) and then permit a student two non-school events during that season. This rule also prohibits participation in national high school or middle school championships events. School sports are about “team” – beware of all-star, national and regional events. *P 50-53 - Regulation I, Section 12*

11. **Contest & Travel Limits:** In every sport there are limits to when practices may begin, how long the season runs, and how many games can be played in a week or in a season (e.g., high school basketball allows a total of 20 games exclusive of the MHSAA tournament, no more than one game in a day, three in a week – Monday through Sunday). *P 60-65 - Regulation II, Sections 10 & 11.* There are travel limits for teams and events in and out of Michigan. Every team at an event must be within 300 miles from the location of the event, or all teams must be from a listed bordering state. *PP 56-57 - Regulation II, Sect 6.*
12. **Out-of-Season Coaching Limits:** During the school year before and after a season, a school coach is limited to coaching three students in grades 7-12 in any setting including clinics or camps (four allowed if all involved are enrolled in your school district). This is the famous “three-player rule.” A school coach also cannot “coordinate or assist” in planning or arranging events to get around the three-player rule. Open gyms, non-sport-specific conditioning programs or weightlifting are allowed off season provided they are voluntary and are not part of selection to the school team. On Aug. 1 for fall sports, March 1 for spring sports and 14 days before winter sports and each middle school season, open gyms or school-sponsored clinics or camps are prohibited (this is the **preseason down time**). In the summer, there are fewer limits as the three- (or four-)player period ends the Monday after Memorial Day so there are opportunities for summer camps, clinics and competitions. *PP 66-72 - Regulation II, Section 11*
13. **Registered Officials:** Only MHSAA registered officials may officiate contests when at least one member school is present. Member schools may play non-member schools, but must follow MHSAA contest rules (generally those of the National Federation of State High School Associations: NFHS). The MHSAA.com online Officials Directory provides the most up-to-date officials information. *P 57 - Regulation II, Section 7*
14. **Sportsmanship:** Unlike some levels of sport, unsporting behavior in school sports is not acceptable and penalties for an unsporting action, such as an ejection, are prompt and not subject to appeal. If a player or coach is ejected from a contest, he or she is not eligible for the remainder of that day and the next day of competition in that sport. *P 92 - Regulation V, Section 3*

MHSAA Representative Council		
Dave Derocher** Athletic Director Reese High School Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula	Karen Leinaar* Athletic Director Bear Lake High School Statewide At-Large	Peter C. Ryan** Athletic Director Saginaw Township Community Schools Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula
Scott Grimes**, President Assistant Superintendent of Human Services Grand Haven Public Schools Statewide At-Large	Orlando Medina** Athletic Director L'Anse Creuse High School Appointee	Fred Smith**, Vice President Athletic Director Buchanan High School Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan
Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio) Director, Coordinated School Health & Safety Programs Unit, Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing Designee	Cheri Meier* Principal Ionia Middle School Appointee	John Thompson** Athletic Director Brighton High School Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan
Kris Isom* Athletic Director Adrian Madison High School Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan	Jason Mellema* Superintendent Pewamo-Westphalia Schools Junior High/Middle Schools	Al Unger* Athletic Director Kingsford High School Class A-B — Upper Peninsula
Sean Jacques** Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Calumet High School Class C-D — Upper Peninsula	Vic Michaels**, Secretary-Treasurer Director of Physical Education & Athletics Archdiocese of Detroit Private and Parochial Schools	Alvin Ward* Administrator of Athletics Detroit Public Schools Detroit Public Schools Position
Maureen Klocke* Athletic Director Yale Public Schools Appointee	Chris Miller* Athletic Director Gobles High School Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan	Pat Watson** Principal West Bloomfield High School Appointee
	Steve Newkirk** Principal Clare Middle School Junior High/Middle Schools	*Term Expires December 2015 **Term Expires December 2016

2014-15 MHSAA Budget

The following budget for operation of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., for the 2014-15 school year was considered and approved at the May 2014 Representative Council Meeting.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 3,059,504
GENERAL PRINTING	133,500
GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSES	1,378,052
GENERAL MEETINGS	86,000
COACHES & OFFICIALS	440,760
CORPORATE SALES	250,000
STUDENT SERVICES	104,000
BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS	210,000
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS	1,000,000
BOWLING TOURNAMENTS	67,000
COMPETITIVE CHEER	106,000
CROSS COUNTRY MEETS	118,000
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS	1,100,000
GOLF TOURNAMENTS	35,000
GYMNASTICS MEETS	23,000
HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS	241,000
LACROSSE TOURNAMENTS	43,000
SKI MEETS	22,000
SOCCER TOURNAMENTS	201,000
SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS	205,000
SWIMMING MEETS	80,000
TENNIS TOURNAMENTS	90,000
TRACK MEETS	211,500
VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS	260,000
WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS	460,000
BROADCASTING	5,000
REVENUE SHARING	200,000
TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2014-15	\$10,129,316

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, 2013-14

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. Record attendance of more than 700 participated in the 21st Women in Sports Leadership Conference, which is now held in alternating years.

PARTICIPANTS - There were approximately 293,921 participants on interscholastic athletic squads of the 751 member high schools during the 2013-14 school year. The MHSAA membership also included 725 junior high/middle schools.

REGISTERED OFFICIALS - There were 10,495 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 colleges and universities and at school sites throughout the state during the 2013-14 school year.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS IN-SERVICE - Approximately 900 athletic directors participated in the Athletic Directors In-Service programs at sites throughout the state during the 2013-14 school year.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP EVENTS - Five Captains Clinics were conducted involving 800 students. The eighth class of the Student Advisory Council was appointed. The fifth "Reaching Higher" experiences were provided to help prepare more than 225 male and female basketball players for their college experience. Thirteen schools participated in the third Battle of the Fans.

COMMITTEES - Approximately 500 different individuals served on the following association committees during the 2013-14 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

2015-16 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 2015, 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 2015-16 school year. If you desire to place yourself as a nominee complete this form and fax it to the MHSAA office by March 31, 2015. 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, 2015

Official Report of the Board of Canvassers

East Lansing, September 23, 2014

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

NORTHERN SECTION - CLASS A AND B SCHOOLS (#1)

Total number of legal ballots received. 7
 Peter Ryan, Saginaw Township. 27
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 2
Elected by majority of votes – Peter Ryan

SOUTHWESTERN SECTION - CLASS A AND B SCHOOLS (#2)

Total number of legal ballots received. 60
 Tony Petkus, Comstock Park 24
 Fredrick J. Smith, Buchanan 36
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 2
Elected by majority of votes – Fredrick J. Smith

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION - CLASS A AND B SCHOOLS (#3)

Total number of legal ballots received. 95
 John Thompson, Brighton 74
 Sean Zaborowski, St. Clair Shores 21
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 5
Elected by majority of votes – John Thompson

UPPER PENINSULA - CLASS C AND D SCHOOLS (#4)

Total number of legal ballots received 41
 Don Gustafson, St. Ignace 11
 Chris Hartman, Iron Mountain 9
 Sean Jacques, Calumet 12
 Dee Jay Paquette, Munising 7
 Robert Ryan, Manistique. 2
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 0
No majority – Names of Don Gustafson and Sean Jacques Submitted to Schools

NORTHERN SECTION - CLASS C AND D SCHOOLS (#5)

Total number of legal ballots received. 44
 Dave Derocher, Reese 44
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 0
Elected by majority of votes – Dave Derocher

STATEWIDE AT-LARGE (#6)

Total number of legal ballots received. 412
 Scott C. Grimes, Grand Haven. 316
 Andrew Laboe, Kalamazoo 96
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 25
Elected by majority of votes – Scott C. Grimes

JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS (#7)

Total number of legal ballots received. 116
 Steve Newkirk, Clare 116
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 10
Elected by majority of votes – Steve Newkirk

PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL HIGH SCHOOLS (#8)

Total number of legal ballots received. 52
 Vic Michaels, Detroit. 52
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 0
Elected by majority of votes – Vic Michaels

UPPER PENINSULA

ATHLETIC COACH (#9)

Total number of legal ballots received. 46
 Mike Berutti, Iron River 46
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 0
Elected by majority of votes – Mike Berutti

CLASS D SCHOOLS (#10)

Total number of legal ballots received. 30
 Jeff Markham, Baraga 30
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 0
Elected by majority of votes – Jeff Markham

BOARD OF CANVASSERS (Signed)

Eric Albright, Athletic Director, Midland High School
 Vicky Groat, Athletic Director, Battle Creek-St. Philip Catholic Central High School
 Barry Hobrla, Athletic Director, Pewamo-Westphalia High School
 Maureen Klocke, Athletic Director, Yale High School
 Leon Olszamowski, Superintendent, Pontiac-Notre Dame Preparatory School

OFFICIAL REPORT OF SECOND MEETING OF BOARD OF CANVASSERS East Lansing, October 14, 2014

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL UPPER PENINSULA- CLASS C AND D SCHOOLS (#4)

Total number of legal ballots received. 34
 Don Gustafson, St. Ignace 16
 Sean Jacques, Calumet. 18
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 0
Elected by majority of votes - Sean Jacques

BOARD OF CANVASSERS (Signed)

Barry Hobrla, Athletic Director, Pewamo-Westphalia High 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 2015-16

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 September, and on the ballot mailed to member schools in September.

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

Class C and D Schools — 2 openings
Southwestern Section
Southeastern Section

Class A and B Schools—1 opening
Upper Peninsula

Statewide At-Large —1 opening

Jr. High/Middle Schools —1 opening

City of Detroit —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

Class C U.P. School—1 opening

Class A-B U.P. School—1 opening

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

Annual Business Meeting of the MHSAA, Inc.

Frankenmuth, Oct. 8, 2014

Peter Ryan, 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 moved its conference to a venue where the MHSAA does not conduct events, the MHSAA has attached required 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 also includes President Jim Derocher, Superintendent of Negaunee Public Schools; Karen Leinaar, Athletic Director at Bear Lake High School; and Vic Michaels, Director of the Catholic High School League of Detroit – I have this brief financial report.

The good news is that the MHSAA produced an operating surplus of nearly \$147,000 (1.5% of budget) during the 2013-14 fiscal year. The not-so-good news is that after several consecutive years of **increasing** the percentage of revenue from diversified non-tournament revenue, the MHSAA became more dependent on tournament ticket sales during 2013-14 than during any of the previous half-dozen years.

Both broadcast revenue and corporate sponsorship revenue declined significantly in 2013-14; but new strategies for corporate sales appear already to be correcting that trend for 2014-15. Returning broadcast revenues to levels of three years ago will be harder, and slower to accomplish.

The Expense Budget for 2014-15, which was adopted by the Representative Council on May 5, 2014, is enclosed for your review as Appendix 1. An operating surplus of approximately 1% of budget is anticipated in 2014-15.

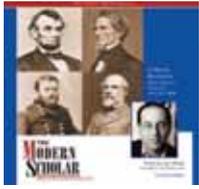
The bottom line is that the MHSAA is not wealthy, but it's healthy. Beyond revenue diversification and the objective of operating in the black year to year, the MHSAA has these financial priorities:

- 1) Keep MHSAA tournaments inexpensive for schools to participate in and for students and families to attend. The year 2014-15 is the **13th** consecutive year that the MHSAA has frozen **Regional** ticket prices for both **football** and **basketball** tournaments, and the **12th** consecutive year for doing so at the **District** tournament level.
- 2) Continue to increase revenue-sharing programs for member schools.
- 3) Develop sufficient reserves to insure the MHSAA's assets and services if or when the commercial insurance marketplace no longer provides necessary protection.

History Lessons

There is no darker period in the history of the United States than the Civil War, when countrymen turned on countrymen in a devastating four-year war which left more than 600 thousand Americans dead.

Unlike nearly all other civil wars in history, however, the conflict did not permanently divide



the United States, primarily due to the leadership and foresight of a weary Abraham Lincoln as the war came to an

end in April 1865.

The miraculous days surrounding the end of the war are keenly illuminated by historian Jay Winik in his lecture entitled, "A House Reunited: How America Survived the Civil War."

A regular contributor to *The Wall Street Journal*, Winik's writing also appears frequently in *The New York Times* and *The*

"It used to be said in the parlance of the day that the United States are . . . somehow in the final days, weeks and months leading to April 1865, it became the United State is. The United States went from being plural to singular."

Washington Post.

In "A House Reunited," Winik suggests that at the forefront of Lincoln's mind throughout the bloody conflict – and especially in the closing months – was how to instill a compassion in both camps which would allow the United States to stand together at the war's end, rather than remain apart. Winning graciously was paramount.

"It used to be said in the parlance of the day that the United States are . . . somehow in the final days, weeks and months leading to April 1865, it became the United State is. The United States went from being plural to singular," Winik said.

In today's educational athletics climate, coaches' demands on student-athletes year-round can create division within departments. Our most valuable commodity, the student-athlete, is in the middle of this tug-of-war.

As leaders in athletics, we can take a page from the history books and unite our ranks when necessary. School sports programs should always be singular rather than plural.

Read any good books lately? News articles? We'd love to know. Submit recommendations to benchmarks@mhsaa.com.



Hailey Deyo, Fowlerville HS