

Winter 2016 Vol. 7 No. 2

# benchmarks

mhsaa

From the Sidelines  
To the Spotlight





I have a  
story...

I have a  
story...



I have a  
story...



I have a  
story...



We tell their stories

**SECOND HALF**

by MHSAA



# Cover Story: From the Sidelines to the Spotlight



**4** Once upon a time, there was sideline cheer and less than a handful of sports available for girls interested in athletics. Today, school sports are as much a fabric of the educational experience for girls as boys, leading to numerous opportunities beyond the playing boundaries as well.

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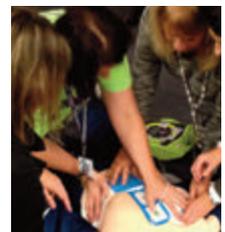
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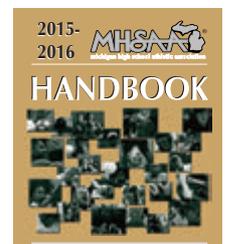
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## Don't Judge Girls Sport Chapter by its Title

**T**itle IX received little notice when it was signed into law in 1972. It never mentioned sports. But shortly after the implementing regulations were published in 1975, and included intercollegiate and interscholastic athletics in their reach, Title IX gained notoriety; and the resulting years of acrimony over athletics have influenced public impression that Title IX was a sports law.

It is impossible to know for sure what's cause and what's effect in girls athletics; but statistically we know that the largest percentage growth in girls high school athletic participation occurred prior to the release of the Title IX implementing regulations in 1975, and almost all the actual growth preceded the effective date of those regulations three years later.

These numbers make the case that the application of Title IX to school sports is the **result** of growth in girls athletics more than the cause of that growth. **Quantitative** advancements in girls athletics may have little to do with Title IX.

Where Title IX has made a large and indisputable difference is in the **quality** of the participation opportunities. Over time, when the "Golden Rule" was not bringing desired and deserved results, Title IX was used to improve the experience of girls in sports. Little by little, girls received better uniforms, equipment, facilities and promotion because Title IX made people consider how girls were being treated compared to boys.

Girls and boys do not want or need, nor are they required to have, the **same** school sports experience. What state and federal laws require, as well as the "Golden Rule," is that we ask what each gender wants and respond the best we can to assure that both girls and boys feel equally valued and supported.

And it's important to remember that, while Title IX may have established mandates, the law hasn't provided one dollar of support. Where teams have been established, uniforms and equipment purchased, coaches and officials paid, transportation provided and facilities improved, it has been the local **school** that did the work.

Today we could abolish Title IX and it would not change things. Dads and moms, many of whom have played school sports, expect high quality school sports experiences for their children of both genders. Schools are taking pride in those programs for both genders. And our society is stronger because of those programs for both genders. There is no turning back.



MHSAA File Photo

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Roberts".

John E. "Jack" Roberts  
MHSAA Executive Director

Girls soccer was added as an MHSAA Championship sport in 1983, and the number now totals 14, with competitive cheer, bowling and lacrosse added after that.

## A Long Journey to Opportunity

*Today's female student-athletes can't go back in time, but some of these quotes leading up the opportunities they now enjoy might offer perspective.*

"External stimuli such as cheering audiences, bands, lights, etc., cause a great response in girls and are apt to upset the endocrine balance. Under emotional stress a girl may easily overdo. There is widespread agreement that girls should not be exposed to extremes of fatigue or strain either emotional or physical."

— 1933, *Agnes Wayman, President, American Physical Education Association*

"In those few remaining schools still sponsoring a program of girls' interscholastic sports, it is recommended that the interscholastic program be dropped and that the Girls' Athletic Association program be installed in its place. The G.A.A. will adequately meet the needs of the girls from a physical and recreational standpoint."

— 1938, *Harold K. Jack, Supervisor of Health and Physical Education, to superintendents and P.E. teachers of Minnesota high schools*

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

— 1972, *Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act (aka Title IX)*

"Women's sports is still in its infancy. The beginning of women's sports in the United States started in 1972, with the passage of Title IX. In the seventies we had to make it acceptable for people to accept girls and

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***"We all know that girls who compete in sports perform better in school, are physically healthier and have a stronger self-esteem."***

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women as athletes. We had to make it okay for them to be active. Those were much scarier times for females in sports."

— *Professional tennis player Billie Jean King*

"Growing up in the time of Title IX – it was passed when I was 10 – I got a front-row seat to so many great moments in women's sports. Of course I didn't know it at the time."

— *Olympic Gold Medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey*

"We all know that girls who compete in sports perform better in school, are physically healthier and have a stronger self-esteem."

— *Author/Politician, Louise Slaughter*

"Growing up, I looked up to major league baseball players, and now young women have amazing, incredible women all across the board, from swimming to gymnastics to softball to basketball. It is incredible how far women have come and women in sports have come.

— *All-America softball pitcher and Olympian Jenny Finch*

"I grew up a little girl in the Soviet Union playing at a small sports club. Tennis gave me my life."

— *Professional tennis player Anna Kournikova*

"This is my soul, my passion . . . going out to the playground every week to get young girls who have never participated on a

team before and have no idea of the concept of team or wearing a jersey or belonging to a group excited about sports. The girls learn how belonging to the team can empower them and get them to be healthy and take charge of their own lives."

— *USA World Cup Soccer champion Brandi Chastain*

"It didn't matter how good I was. It was always, 'You're a girl. You can't play with the guys.' It's always been motivation for me."

— *Professional basketball player Sheryl Swoopes*

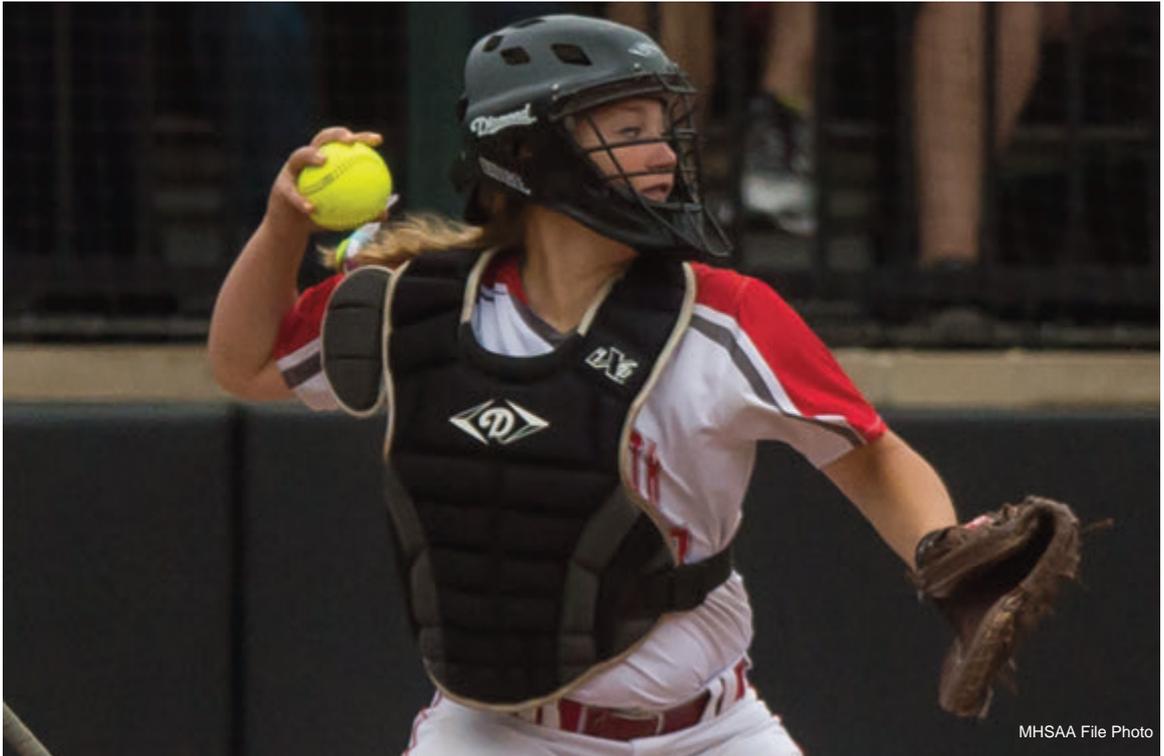
"Not only do the majority of senior women executives have sports in their background, they recognize that the behaviors and techniques learned through sports are critical to motivating teams and improving performance in a corporate environment."

— *Author and businesswoman Beth Brooke*

"Football is thought of as probably the most, quote, 'manly' of sports. But it's like [long-time NFL official] Jack Vaughn told me a long time ago, you don't have to be a man to tell whether somebody jumped off-sides or not. And you don't have to be a man to learn the rules of football."

— *Sarah Thomas, who in 2015, became the NFL's first full-time female official*

**Shots on Goal** offers readers a forum for feedback. Submit your opinions, share your experiences or offer suggestions to [benchmarks@mhsaa.com](mailto:benchmarks@mhsaa.com). Be sure to visit [MHSAA.com](http://MHSAA.com) for MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts' twice-weekly blogs. Comments are encouraged, and may also appear here in **Shots on Goal**.



MHSAA File Photo

# Throw Like a Girl...If You Can

Or run, shoot, jump, spike, bowl, and anything else girls are doing as well as their male classmates. Girls interscholastic athletics have come a long way.

**T**he girls were casting aside warm-up shirts onto the floor at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek during the MHSAA Volleyball Semifinals in November as if tossing paper towels into the trash. After all, it's just *warm-up* gear, not *game* uniforms. In most cases, the shirts are probably just one style of several that the girls have at their disposal.

Such an innocuous act leading up to competition goes as unnoticed as the pregame music blaring in the background, water coolers being filled, and coaches conversing at courtside while spectators move from the concession stand to their seats.

But, on this day – and sporadic other moments throughout her 20-plus years as an assistant director at the MHSAA – Gina Mazzolini takes pause and gives thought to the laundry which lay by the benches, invisible to all else at the venue.

The players walk past the discarded garments and Mazzolini and her tournament staff with equal amounts of disregard.

If only they knew that they just walked past about a dozen people who helped give them the warm-up shirts now off their backs.

## PLAYDAYS

Not to be confused with today's arranged meeting of young children by their parents for some quality play time (play dates), "Playdays" were the gateway to school-related sports for so many of the women who have blazed the trails for current female students, coaches, athletic directors and trainers in gyms and on fields around the country. An organization called the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) filled the void where schools failed.

"Charlotte High School housed 7th through 12th graders, so I became a member of the Girls Athletic Association as a 12-year-old," recalled Suzanne Martin, former MHSAA assistant director who would go on to spearhead the first-ever Women In Sports Leadership Conference in 1989.

"I competed in swimming events and track & field events at every 'playday' our school hosted. Playdays were organized by our physical education teacher and a few other female teachers. Other schools in the geographic area that sponsored GAA programs were invited on a Saturday to participate, and we hosted these events two or three times each school year."

Martin competed in such playdays until she graduated in 1965, and was frequently bestowed top awards of the day.

“The awards were pieces of ribbon my phys ed teacher purchased at the local dry goods store, and then stapled a piece of paper on the back to designate the event and the place, 1st, 2nd or 3rd,” she said.

Current MHSAA Assistant Director Kathy Vrugink Westdorp also participated in GAA activities during middle school, and arrived at Hudsonville High School during the onset of school-based programs in the 1970s. However, there weren’t near the number of teams offered today.

“The GAA was more of a middle school experience for me,” said Westdorp. “I think about the time they had synchronized swimming for girls rather than competitive swimming. The rationale was that girls weren’t expected to swim like the young men. It’s funny, because synchronized swimming is very difficult.”

Hudsonville, now one of the state’s larger schools, had an enrollment of approximately 750 students at the time, and offered field hockey, volleyball and basketball, with softball on the horizon as Westdorp recalls. And, of course, the usual option of the day.

“Sideline cheer was considered athletics and that’s what most girls did if they wanted to be on a team,” she said. “I did it too, because that was what was available to us.”

Up the road a bit in St. Johns where Mazzolini attended high school, similar movements toward school-based girls teams were taking place as well, even to the extent that leagues were being formed.

“The GAA was glorified intramurals, but in St. Johns we actually played other schools which had GAA teams,” Mazzolini said. “What I remember most is that we didn’t have uniforms, but we had gymsuits; those zipper things with the matching pants.”

Fortunately, the stylish attire would be worn for just a year. For Mazzolini’s sophomore year, St. Johns became part of the newly formed West Central Conference (the league was made up of Hastings, Ovid-Elsie, Lake Odessa, Charlotte, Waverly, Holt and Alma).

“I got my first *school* uniform,” Mazzolini said, “and it was good for all my sports: volleyball, basketball and track. Same uniform, all three sports, for three years. I wore it for nine seasons.

“At our Volleyball Finals this year, I was watching the players change in and out of so many warm-up shirts and uniforms and I thought, ‘Man, if they only knew.’”



The apparel for St. Johns’ other offerings – sideline cheer, swimming and gymnastics – certainly would have had a different look, but Mazzolini stuck with three activities. She would have been a natural for a fourth sport, but softball had just entered the club phase during her senior year.



*Such sterling GAA awards like these baubles weren’t always available for girls who excelled in sports. Organizers sometimes made their own awards to present to competitors.*

“I’d go to Little League practices with my brothers when I was younger, and was better than most of the boys, but girls weren’t allowed to play,” she said.

Downstate, Patti Tibaldi was just trying to get to the other side of the basketball court when she began playing organized sports in 7th grade. Tibaldi, who retired from Traverse City Area Public Schools a year ago after 42 years as an athletic administrator in several locations, began her career under the auspices of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) while at Redford St. Mary’s near Detroit.

“Back in the day, we played 6-player basketball, first with the ball being thrown in from center court after every basket,” Tibaldi said. “Players only played either offense or defense and were allowed only three dribbles. The rules then progressed to unlimited dribbles and the institution of the ‘rover’ position, which allowed one player to play full court. I was fortunate enough to be the rover! I played four years of varsity basketball and softball in high school and am very grateful for those opportunities.”

Fortunate indeed, as she graduated from St. Mary’s in 1969. Remember, at that time, the only option for many girls was GAA activities.

“The abolishment of 6-player basketball was a personal landmark for me; I was so jealous. I still remember getting a phone call from a high school player telling me the news that all five players would be able to play full court, ‘just like the guys,’” said Tibaldi.

#### **TITLE IX REFLECTS CHANGING LANDSCAPE**

Perhaps the ultimate irony in this historic period of participation growth and changing landscape in interscholastic and intercollegiate sports is that Title IX mentions nothing of athletics. The portion

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of the United States Education Amendments of 1972 co-authored by Birch Bayh and Patsy Mink states (in part) that:

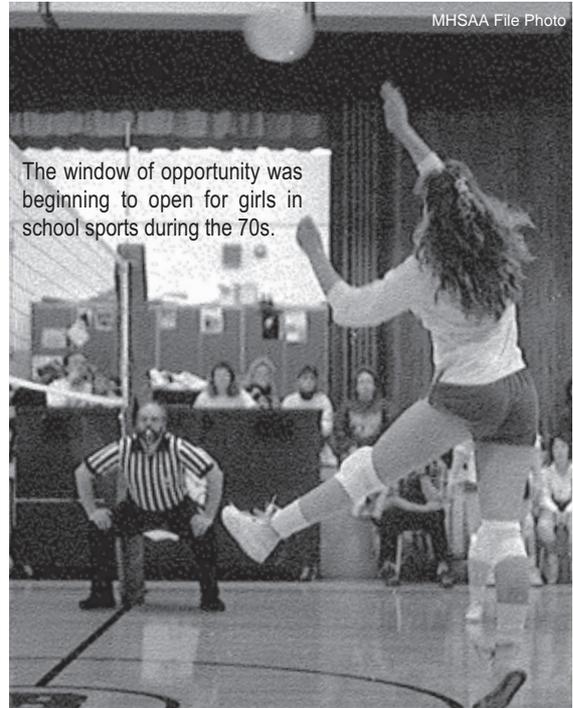
*No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.*

Growth in school-sponsored sports for girls changed the focus of Title IX, and eventually Title IX led to more growth and greater equity.

While the greatest growth in girls athletic participation had already occurred, in 1975, schools and colleges were given three years to comply with Title IX. Without getting into too much legalese or the debates that raged following enactment of the law, basic compliance is three-pronged: institutions must (1) Provide athletic participation opportunities that are substantially proportionate to the student enrollment; (2) Demonstrate a continual expansion of athletic opportunities for the underrepresented gender; (3) Accommodate fully the interests and abilities of the underrepresented gender.

“Programs were expanding at all levels,” Westdorp said. “Allowances in college for scholarships were increasing, followed by the realization that schools needed to add sports that previously had been boys-only.”

Imagine being in on the ground floor of this el-



The window of opportunity was beginning to open for girls in school sports during the 70s.

evator. In 1971, high schools reported roughly 12 male student-athletes for every female. High school participation numbers have risen from 3.6 million in 1971-72 to 4.5 million male athletes in 2010-11. In 1971-72, there were 290,000 girls participating

## From Cheering to Being Cheered



### 1960s - Early 70s

Girls Athletic Association (GAA) provided 'intramural-type' activities in which girls could participate, but they were not school-sponsored. Often, activities such as biking and camping were included.

### June 21, 1975

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare issues regulations regarding Title IX enforcement, particularly as it applies to athletics. High schools and colleges that receive federal funds are given three years to comply.

### Feb. 17, 1976

The NCAA files a lawsuit challenging the legality of Title IX, claiming that no athletic programs receive direct federal funds. The suit is dismissed.

### June 23, 1972

President Nixon signs into law Title IX of the Education Amendments Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex for all educational programs or activities that receive funding from the federal government. Though it's now most closely associated with gender equity in sports, Title IX does not mention athletics.

### 1979

For the first time, women outnumber men in undergraduate enrollment at degree-granting institutions.

The Office for Civil Rights issues a policy interpretation that outlines three ways an institution can prove it is in compliance with Title IX.

in high school sports, and in 2010-11, 3.1 million girls participated in sports.

Helping those numbers were the inroads paved for participation in intercollegiate athletics, as females looked not only to compete beyond high school, but began to realize that there were careers in athletics.

Mazzolini played basketball and volleyball at Central Michigan University in the 70s, while Westdorp played field hockey at CMU during that burgeoning era for women. Tibaldi earned four letters each in cheerleading and tennis at Aquinas College, the only activities offered there by the time she graduated in the early 70s.

"I was introduced to field hockey in high school, and it was a sport so unlike others in terms of involvement because it included teamwork, a bit more of an aggressive nature, and there was contact in the sport similar to basketball," said Westdorp. "For a kid like me who wasn't 5-10, field hockey was the game. We had three physical educators who split all the coaching: Anne MacGregor, Cookie Goodenough and Gloria Stratton, who played at Michigan State. Gloria's the one who helped me realize I could participate in college."

For Mazzolini, it was the roommate of an older sister who provided a spark that turned the lanky freshman into a two-sport collegiate athlete.

"At CMU there were tryouts, if you can believe it now. On campus it was posted they'd have tryouts for the volleyball team. My sister was a junior

***"I got my first school uniform, and it was good for all my sports: volleyball, basketball and track. Same uniform, all three sports, for three years. I wore it for nine seasons." — Gina Mazzolini***

and her roommate (Julie DeCaire) played volleyball. She said, 'You're kind of tall,' and talked me into trying out. I think there were about 100 people trying out. I wound up playing four years of volleyball and basketball," said Mazzolini, whose 10.5 career rebounding average is still good for No. 2 all-time on the Chippewa list.

For both Mazzolini and Westdorp, collegiate athletics brought 'perks' they never dreamed of, and that today's student-athletes take for granted.

"I remember when we received practice uniforms. It was such a *memorable* thing to me that we got practice uniforms, and then I found out they'd be laundered by the University," Westdorp said. "I found that out one day when I put it down and thought I'd lost it. I was devastated, then relieved and surprised to find out it was picked up and being washed."

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**1994**

MHSAA adds competitive cheer as its 12th championship sport for girls. Once one of the only activities for girls (sideline format), cheer is now a recognized as a sport.

**2004, 2005**

MHSAA adds bowling (2004) and lacrosse (2005), reaching its current total of 14 championship sports for girls.

**2010-11**

In the 40 years since Title IX, high school girls sports participation grows from 290,000 to 3.1 million nationally.

**1981-82**

The NCAA crowns Division I national champions for the first time in women's cross country, field hockey, volleyball, swimming, basketball, golf, gymnastics, tennis, outdoor track and softball.

**2005-06**

MHSAA sports participation soars over 300,000, setting records for both genders. 131,662 girls take part, topping the 2004-05 mark of 127,890; and the boy's figure of 181,927 passed the previous year's 176,678. *The totals count students once for each sport in which he or she participates.*



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***“My No. 1 advice to girls looking for a career in athletics is to experience as many sports as possible with as many coaches as possible. Those experiences can serve as a platform for who you become and what kind of leader you want to be. Learn to be strong, to advocate for what is right for ALL kids.” — Patti Tibaldi***

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Mazzolini also reflected on the marvel of having laundry done, as well as the “joy” of five- or six-hour bus rides.

“We got practice gear and we’d go to an equipment manager named Jerry behind the cage in Finch Fieldhouse. We’d get a t-shirt, shorts and pair of socks every day and then turn them in,” Mazzolini said. “Another *big* moment was when we were provided with a pair of shoes in my junior year. And, just being able to go to Purdue or Ball State on a bus . . . that was cool, because the guys in our dorm who played on various teams often went out of state, and now we could.”

Martin just missed the collegiate playing experience, having graduated from Michigan State University in 1970 after first attending Lansing Community College. She nonetheless made the most of her time in college, utilizing intramural programs to stay involved in sports.

“At that time college sports participation consisted of intramural programs where I officiated women’s basketball more than I competed. The rules-governing body at the time was the Division of Girls and Women in Sports; often referred to as DGWS,” Martin said. “I also played on a field hockey team as a wing and got whacked quite often by an opponent’s weapon (her hockey stick). A wing had to run a lot and I could do that quite well. Volleyball was my indoor favorite and because of my lack of height, I was often the setter with a skill level suited for a late 1960s intramural team.”

As Martin and those who followed shortly afterward would find out, it was a perfect time to be a young woman graduating from college with experience in athletics . . . to an extent.

## **BACK TO THE SIDELINES, BUT IN THE GAMES**

Timing is everything, as the old adage goes, and opportunities were bountiful for those in the teaching profession. Combined with the added mandate for schools to become compliant with Title IX, female teaching applicants who had played sports were in demand.

“As the effects of Title IX trickled down to the high schools, programming saw an immediate increase and the expectations of parents for their daughters rose. This included not only the rise of sport offerings, but also the addition of lower level teams based on the demand. Girls were thrilled to be in the athletic world,” said Tibaldi.

Depending on the size of the schools, however, the expectations of numerous teams in a given sport were not always realistic.

“When I applied for the position of girls P.E. teacher at three different high schools in the Flint area, I was always asked if I would agree to coach a sport per season,” Martin said. “Of course the girls physical education teacher was the most likely candidate for *every* varsity coaching job. At the time, recruiting out of the hallways for participants was sometimes the only way a team could be formed. JV and freshman teams were often out of the question when fielding just one team per sport was a plus as Title IX began to be enforced.”

For Westdorp, those early days of coaching meant toting a diverse wardrobe, lest she make the faux pas of wearing a rival school’s colors to her own practice as she criss-crossed Grand Rapids.

“There was a period of time when I coached varsity basketball at Creston, varsity volleyball at Central, and varsity track & field at Creston. I always had to have two sweatshirts and make sure I



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As the women’s sports scene began to burst into action in the 1970s, often times playing experience in *any* sport led to coaching jobs in *all* sports following graduation. MHSAA Assistant Director Kathy Westdorp was a prime example, playing collegiate field hockey at CMU, then coaching volleyball, basketball and track & field (hoisting trophy, opposite).

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had the right one on,” Westdorp said. “Those were the years that when you were hired in, you were hired to teach *and* coach, especially women. There were all male athletic administrators at that time, but there must have been some edict at that time that the coaches of girls teams would be women.”

Quite often, teachers were given no extra pay for the coaching responsibilities.

“A sad reflection is that when I first began coaching, almost all the coaches were women because they were unpaid, even at the varsity level. Now more men than women are coaching girls teams,” Tibaldi said. “Young women now have no idea of the barriers that existed to gain some kind of parity: the fights that had to be fought with a certain percentage of male ADs; the fight for facility use, which went on for decades; the fight for equipment and uniform budgets; the fight for equal programming when numbers demanded it; the fight for equal pay for coaches.”

The trend was not strictly at the high school level. One of the most accomplished collegiate volleyball coaches in the Midwest was CMU’s Marcy Weston, who also coached basketball, taught classes and served as a student advisor.

“It was just expected,” Mazzolini explained.

Luckily, she eventually was allowed to give up the basketball responsibilities, enabling her to dive into another passion: basketball officiating. To say she made her mark in that forum is an understatement. Long regarded as the preeminent rules guru across the nation, she received the National Association of Sports Officials Gold Whistle Award, officiating’s highest honor, in 2008.

Martin also stepped away from coaching and teaching for awhile, and it turned out in her favor as well. She realized she needed to get back into athletics.

“From 1973 to December 1977 I was a Student Financial Assistant Director for the Michigan Department of Education,” she said. “Even though I was helping students, it was a ‘desk job’ with very little student interaction. I was most inspired when I could speak at college fairs held at high schools. The upside of my stint

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### MHSAA Girls Sports and First Year of Championships

- Gymnastics – 1972
- Swimming & Diving – 1972
- Tennis – 1972
- Basketball – 1973
- Golf – 1973
- Skiing – 1975
- Softball – 1975
- Track & Field – 1975
- Volleyball – 1976
- Cross Country – 1978
- Soccer – 1983
- Competitive Cheer – 1994
- Bowling – 2004
- Lacrosse – 2005

Golf was among the first MHSAA girls sports to crown a champion, conducting the sport’s first Finals in 1973.



MHSAA File Photo



### Setting the Standard

During the 2005-06 MHSAA school year, both girls and boys participation were at all-time highs. There were 131,662 girls taking part in high school sports, topping the previous year’s mark of 127,890; and the boy’s figure of 181,927 passed the record of 176,678 from a year earlier. The totals count students once for each sport in which he or she participates, meaning students who are multiple-sport athletes are counted more than once.

While enrollments have declined more than 11 percent at member schools since then, participation figures were still above 280,00 for both genders combined a year ago.



there was that it gave me a leg up when I applied for the assistant director position at the MHSAA. I then had both coaching and administrative experience on my resume'. I believe I was in the right position at the right time, with the onset of girls in sports as I entered my career after college."

Martin would work in that role at the MHSAA from 1977 until retiring in 2003, and she founded the Women In Sports Leadership Conference in 1989, which still goes strong today under Westdorp's guidance (See related story on page 20).

Westdorp, meanwhile, became an administrator in the mid-1980s when she was hired as Grand Rapids Creston's athletic director. One of the first hurdles she'd have to clear was convincing telephone callers that they had the right person.

"I couldn't name another female athletic administrator at the time," Westdorp said. "Those were interesting years because I'd get a phone call transferred and I'd hear, 'No, no, I want to talk to the athletic director.' But overall it was rewarding. Participation opportunity was so much greater for girls, so why not have some female representation in the leadership roles?"

## KEEPING SCORE

Today, she would have company numbering more than 100, as 126 athletic directors in the MHSAA are female, as are more than 4,500 head coaches. Those are numbers, and in sports, we like our numbers. But, in scholastic sports in particular, the lessons last long after the numbers are taken off the board.

"Above all else, I really believe that educational athletics is a cauldron of leadership and athletics is one of the only venues which directly addresses this quality," Tibaldi said. "The life lessons of athletics that have been lauded over the years for young men – commitment, dedication, passion, work ethic, friendship, teamwork, resilience – and supported by communities throughout the years, certainly apply to young women as well."

With a tournament structure modeled the same as the boys, MHSAA Girls Basketball quickly became the most popular female sport in terms of participation. The first Finals were staged in 1973.

The evolution of girls sports to the level of execution to which athletes are playing the games today can be appreciated by even the casual spectator regardless of gender.

"When other folks – people who might only play volleyball in recreation leagues or on the beach – see our girls play volleyball at the tournament level, there's a whole new appreciation for the skill set," Mazzolini said. "When you watch competitive cheer, you see just how athletic, and how fit these athletes are.

"The opportunity in athletics allows us to hone skills and demonstrate the highest levels of fitness and athleticism. Most importantly, it provides chances for young women to be in leadership positions. You get to know yourself and fiends in competition, and take pride in accomplishing goals."

Such pride can be contagious within schools and community. It's not uncommon to see boys in letterjackets cheering on their female classmates throughout the seasons, and vice-versa.

"Having solid boys *and* girls programs really establishes a nice culture in the school. I came up in a nice culture," Westdorp said. "Young men and women were very involved in their schools, and coaches supported each other.

"The sense of camaraderie and being 'one' really showed in the culture; a collegial atmosphere is the best way to put it. And, the multi-sport opportunities were there; there was not so much AAU and community-based sports at the time."

## BACK TO THE FUTURE

The multi-sport mindset that Westdorp alludes to above is fading away, yielding to the single-sport, year-round, chase-the-college-scholarship mentality shared in many households today.

***“There is no greater role outside of faith and family than that of a coach in terms of influence on a person’s life.” — Kathy Vruggink Westdorp***

“My No. 1 advice to girls looking for a career in athletics is to experience as many sports as possible with as many coaches as possible. Those experiences can serve as a platform for who you become and what kind of leader you want to be. Learn to be strong, to advocate for what is right for ALL kids, regardless of the difficulty,” Tibaldi said.

Along with all the positive advancements for girls athletics came the awareness and expectations for daughters as well as sons across communities. With that came the development of non-school teams and increased chances for specialization, which is quickly becoming a “health” concern.

It’s time to turn back the clocks, according to some in the know.

“Sports specialization and year-round competition are on a dramatic rise, resulting in joint overuse injuries and burnout, as well as draining family finances with travel, food and transportation costs and making athletics the haven for advantaged families. Early burnout will result in fewer females gaining the known benefits of athletics,” said Tibaldi.

Mazzolini reflects on her playing days, even in college where she played two sports.

“The perspective is out of focus. A student playing year-round is no guarantee they will be good. And, within that single club sport, they’re most likely playing one position – which actually limits them if they have aspirations for the next level – and leaves them vulnerable to overuse injuries. In eight seasons of varsity sports at CMU, I can remember maybe one or two players getting a bag of ice to treat soreness.”

Additionally, the non-school sports scene is undated with coaches who list “willing” over “able” as their top attributes. Even if most are well-intentioned, few are as qualified as school coaches.

“It’s important that the coach feel a connection to the school and that they can be an influence,” Westdorp said.

“Youth recreational sports are not developmentally appropriate, having children compete in game situations instead of developing skills and providing fun and friendships. Parents are becoming increasingly intrusive, focused on the possibility of college scholarships instead of the incredible life lessons athletics can teach,” Tibaldi said.

## GRASS ROOTS

It’s been a long journey from the GAA playdays to the organized athletic events taking place in schools today. Structure, scheduling, uniforms, coaches, officials, and even laws such as Title IX have secured and provided the opportunity for games to exist well into the future.

But, opportunity has always been there at the grass roots level. And, maybe there is too much organization at times, when all that’s really needed is a ball, a field, and other kids.

“When we were kids, Mom and Dad said, ‘Go outside and play,’” Mazzolini said. “We’d find kids, and play games, and many times the moms and

dads would play. Sunday afternoons were kickball, softball or touch football. It was a small, athletic, tight-knit neighborhood.

“We had a neighbor, Mr. LaChappelle, and he’d ask my Dad about the worn in basebaths in our yard, and how he felt about that. My Dad would just tell him, ‘I’m not raising grass, I’m raising kids.’”

For Sue Martin, it was biking to softball games if her chores on the farm didn’t interfere. Westdorp recalls that on certain days at certain times, it



It’s been a long run for girls interscholastic sports. Cross country is a prime example, as nearly 1,000 female competitors run at the Finals event each year.

was just a given that kids would get together for a marathon softball game. Tibaldi need only look around her house to find enough people for a game, what with nine children in the family.

Maybe things will never get back to the true, impromptu sandlot games, but if today’s athletes move forward and give back the way their predecessors have done, school sports should remain on solid footing.

“There is no greater role outside of faith and family than that of a coach in terms of influence on a person’s life,” Westdorp said. “Very few weeks go by during which I don’t speak to a former athlete and it never has anything to do with Xs and Os. In no other position in life do you have that. If you’re not in it for that, you’re in the wrong business.”

– Rob Kaminski  
benchmarks Editor

# WISL Conference 2016 Aims to Promote Leaders

*“LEAD: I CAN & I WILL” is the Theme for the 22nd Conference*

Aspiring athletic leaders of tomorrow have an opportunity to hear first-hand accounts from an Olympic medalist, motivational messages from NCAA Division 1 coaches and athletes, and a multitude of leadership tips from professionals in the field in one place at one time.

It’s not an ESPN televised special. It’s an interactive, in-person forum brought to student-athletes and coaches throughout Michigan in the form of the Women In Sports Leadership Conference, the highly celebrated and unique gathering of experts hosted by the MHSAA every other year.

This year’s event, Feb. 7-8 in Lansing, promises to be among the best ever in the 22-year history of the conference.



Challenging the audience to find inner-leadership skills. University of Michigan Academic All-America basketball player Nicole Elmlblad will convey the roles that student-athletes have as leaders.

As usual, attendees will be able to exercise their bodies as well as their minds, as several fitness sessions dot the schedule, from zumba and core conditioning to cardio kick-boxing and self-defense.



Following the theme: “Lead: I Can & I Will,” attendees will be challenged to take on leadership roles at their own schools and beyond through a variety of sessions presented by an illustrious group of more than 40 speakers who have made athletic leadership their lives’ passion.

“I believe this year’s conference has the potential to be one of the best ever,” said MHSAA Assistant Director Kathy Vrugink Westdorp, who is coordinating the event. “The variety of sessions and the prestige of our speakers will provide attendees with invaluable insight and the motivation to carry the messages forward in all their endeavors.”

This is the 22nd statewide WISL Conference, which began in 1989 and was held every year until 2004 when the current every-other-year format took hold, allowing for local WISL initiatives in the off years.

Among the many highlights this year will be Allison Schmitt, Olympic swimming medalist from Canton High School discussing the experience of reaching the high of highs, and then the lows in athletics; and how that has made her better. Michigan State University women’s basketball coach Suzy Merchant will deliver a motivational speech chal-

lenging the audience to find inner-leadership skills. For coaches and administrators in attendance, there are topics on social media, over-use injuries, proper nutrition and NCAA eligibility.

“There truly is no other event like this across the country,” Westdorp said. “The expertise, enthusiasm and knowledge base under one roof for these two days is unparalleled.”



The WISL Conference always attracts a capacity crowd of enthusiastic attendees and is unique for its combination of speaking sessions and interactive tracks.

## Notre Dame Prep's Betty Wroubel Named WISL Winner

With more than 2,000 coaching victories combined in volleyball and softball, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep's Betty Wroubel is among the winningest coaches in MHSAA history in both sports. But on-field success has been only a part of her significant impact on athletics as a whole over a career that's stretched 40 years and was celebrated Feb. 7, when she received the MHSAA's 29th Women In Sports Leadership Award during the WISL banquet in Lansing.

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

Wroubel, a 1971 graduate of Clawson High School, returned to teach and coach at her alma mater in 1975 and has continued serving in educational athletics through four decades. She's currently the athletic director, varsity volleyball and softball coach at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, and she also continues to teach sports medicine and leadership classes at the school.

She's served in the athletic department at Notre Dame Prep since the school opened in 1994 and also coached and served as athletic director at the former Pontiac and then Oakland Catholic high schools after her stint as a coach and teacher at Clawson. She's third on the MHSAA coaching victories list for volleyball with a record of 1,306-290-122, and in 2015 she became the 14th coach in MHSAA softball history to win at least 800 games. She sits 12th on that career wins list with a record of 826-293-3.

Wroubel also has been a registered MHSAA official in both volleyball and softball since the 1975-76 school year and has held numerous leadership positions as part of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, her sports' statewide coaches associations and the Detroit Catholic High School League. She's hosted numerous MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program sessions and mentored young officials as part of the MHSAA Legacy Program.

"Betty Wroubel has dedicated much of the last four decades to assisting student-athletes, showing a true passion for the mission of educational athletics," MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. "Education is her life's work, and that remains clear in her emphasis on coaches training and desire to continue teaching students as well – both in the classroom and on the volleyball court and softball diamond. We're pleased to honor her with the Women In Sports Leadership Award."

Wroubel earned a bachelor's degree in education from Central Michigan University and her master's from Michigan State University. She was a five-sport athlete at Clawson High School – participating in basketball, volleyball, track & field, tennis and softball – and went on to play volleyball, tennis and field hockey at CMU.

She's led teams to MHSAA championships in two decades; her Pontiac Catholic softball team

won the Class C title in 1983, and her Notre Dame Prep volleyball teams won Class B titles in fall 2007 and 2013. In 2010, Notre Dame Prep dedicated its new athletic facility in her name: the Betty A. Wroubel Athletic Performance Center.

Wroubel is a member of various Halls of Fame – she's been inducted by the Detroit Catholic League, Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association, Michigan High School Coaches Association, Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association and the Michigan chapter of the United States Specialty Sports Association. She received the MHSAA's Allen W. Bush Award in 2010 for her continuing service to high school athletics, with the WISL Award her second from the association.

"When I look at all of those names (of past WISL winners), knowing what they meant to the advancement of girls sports in schools and the total sports culture, it boggles my mind that I can be mentioned with those," Wroubel said. "I've had great leaders; my high school teachers and coaches were great leaders."

Wroubel served on the Catholic League's executive board and as an officer for the league for more than 30 years and on a variety of MHSAA committees. She has served on boards for the statewide volleyball coaches association for 30-plus years and softball coaches association for more than 25.



### Past WISL Award Recipients

1990 Carol Seavoy, L'Anse  
1991 Dianne Laffey, Harper Woods  
1992 Patricia Ashby, Scotts  
1993 Anita Jo Lake, Grosse Pointe South  
1994 Brenda Gatlin, Detroit Cass Tech  
1995 Jane Bennett, Ann Arbor Huron  
1996 Cheryl Amos-Helmicki, Berkley  
1997 Delores Elswick, Detroit Renaissance  
1998 Karen Leinaar, Delton-Kellogg  
1999 Kathy McGee, Flint Powers Catholic  
2000 Pat Richardson, Grass Lake  
2001 Sue Martin, Perry  
2002 Sue Barthold, East Kentwood  
2003 Nancy Clark, Flint  
2004 Kathy Vrugink Westdorp, Forest Hills  
2005 Barbara Redding, Capac  
2006 Melanie Miller, Lansing  
2007 Jan Sander, Warren Woods  
2008 Jane Bos, Grand Rapids  
2009 Gail Ganakas, Flint  
    Deb Van Kuiken, Holly  
2010 Gina Mazzolini, East Lansing  
2011 Ellen Pugh, West Branch  
    Patti Tibaldi, Traverse City  
2012 Janet Gillette, Comstock Park  
2013 Barbara Beckett, Traverse City  
2014 Teri Reyburn, DeWitt  
2015 Jean LaClair, Bronson

# A Career in Athletics for Women? Opportunities Abound

**D**ecades have passed since the playdays of the Girls Athletic Association era in girls sports, when participants likely could not have dreamed of an athletics-based career.

A handful of the following women who will present sessions at this year's Women In Sports Leadership Conference might remember those days. The rest in this all-star cast owe a debt of gratitude to those who paved the way, and in turn embody what the future holds for today's student-athletes seeking similar career paths.

Here's a look at some of the avenues open to females looking to make their lives a game.

**BAUMGARTNER, HOLLY:** Baumgartner has worked in compliance for the last 12 years at Michigan State University. She earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts at Central Michigan University. She has been instrumental in navigating NCAA academic certification for students.

**BERRY, AMY:** Amy has been dancing practically her entire life and has a passion for all forms of music and dance. She has studied many Latin and international forms of dance and has become fully immersed in the Zumba world by becoming licensed to teach Zumba fitness classes. Berry is a Wetland Ecologist for the State of Michigan and is also a belly dancer in the Lansing-based troupe "Karma Bellydance." She is First Aid, CPR and AED certified.

**BRANDEL-WILHELM, TIA:** Coach Brandel-Wilhelm and the Ferris State University women's volleyball program are deeply intertwined as the Bulldog head coach just completed her 20th year at Ferris. The 2015 Bulldogs finished with a record of 33-3, a GLIAC Championship, Premier Championship, GLIAC Tournament Championship, a NCAA Sweet 16 appearance and held the number one national ranking at times during the season. Coach Brandel-Wilhelm competed in both volleyball and track at Alma College and was an all-conference first-team scholar athlete.



**ELMBLAD, NICOLE:** Two-time academic All-American, three-time academic All-Big Ten, two-time Big Ten Distinguished Scholar, two-time captain and graduated from Michigan as the career leader in women's basketball games played and in wins. Nicole completed her bachelor's degree in biopsychology, cognition and neuroscience and now attends medical school at Michigan.

Elmblad's degree in biopsychology, cognition and neuroscience and now attends medical school at Michigan.

**EWING, MARTY:** A faculty member with MSU's Institute for the Study of Youth Sports, Dr. Ewing is a sport psychology specialist who has studied achievement motivation in young athletes, parental issues in sports, and explored better ways to provide sports experiences for underserved populations. She also has been a coach educator for over 30 years and is a sport psychology consultant to athletes of all ages.

**FAUSTIN, KENDRA:** A Michigan native, who competed collegiately in the GLIAC at Lake Superior State and later served as an assistant coach within the league at Hillsdale, returned to her home state and is coaching the Ferris State University women's basketball program, after serving the past eight years as the head coach at Niagara. Coach Faustin continues to rank among Lake Superior State's all-time leaders in women's basketball. She has a Masters in Sport Administration.

**GAVITT, MARY KAY:** Gavitt has been a Water Safety Instructor for over 40 years. She is currently employed by the Mason Public Schools as the Community Education/Aquatic Director. She is a former high school nurse and also judges Competitive Cheer. Mary Kay is a graduate of MSU and has certification as a Lifeguard, Instructor Training, Water Safety Instructor, CPR and AED.

**GERHARTER, MELISSA:** A part-time lecturer at Eastern Michigan University and personal trainer for 15 years, Melissa has a BS in Dietetics from Ohio State University and a MS in Human Nutrition from Eastern Michigan University. She is also a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She has been a CrossFit coach for the last 10 years and is a certified Health Coach.

**INGALLS, DORENE:** Dorene is long time coach at St. Ignace. The St. Ignace Girls Basketball teams have been to 10 Final Fours and won 5 State Championships and 3 Runner up Finishes. Dorene has been selected to be inducted into the Upper Peninsula Hall of Fame with the 2016 class. She has a BS in Geology from Lake Superior State University.

**JOSEPH, JACQUIE:** Coach Joseph is the Head Softball Coach at Michigan State University. This is her 23rd year as the Head Softball Coach at MSU and her 28th year overall as a softball coach. She is also the Past President of the National Fast-pitch Coaches Association (NFCA) and has a Bachelor of Science and MBA from Central Michigan University.

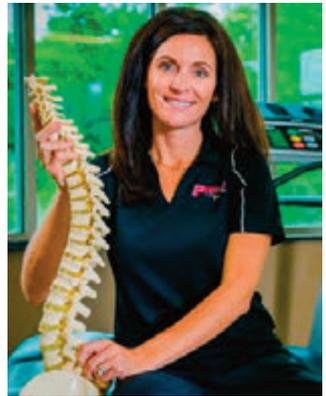
**KENNEDY-ROGERS, CARMEN:** Kennedy-Rogers is the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in Avondale Schools. She is a former principal, assistant principal, athletic director and girls' varsity basketball coach. She played women's basketball at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse where she received her Bachelor of Science. Carmen also has Masters and Educational Specialist degrees from Wayne State University.



**KINNEY, CRYSTAL:** Crystal has been involved in personal training for the last two years and also has certification as a Physical Therapy Technician. She enjoys kickboxing as a workout as it is a great cardio class and combines fitness with self-defense.

**MANKOWSKI, ALLISON:** Allison is a registered dietitian and has been the Sport Dietitian and head of the Eating Disorders Management Team for Eastern Michigan University the last three years. She is a four year cheerleader for the University of Michigan and has coached cheer and track for 11 years. She has a BS from the University of Michigan School of Kinesiology and a MPH in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Michigan.

**MARLAN, JILL:** Marlan is a Board Certified Licensed Physical Therapist and a Certified Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapist who graduated from Wayne State University with a Masters in Physical Therapy and completed the MSU Osteopathic Manual Manipulation Education Program and Oakland's Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy Program. She has worked with a wide variety of clientele including professional hockey, lacrosse, football and basketball players, as well as collegiate and high school athletes from all sports.



**MATTSON, AUTUMN:** Autumn is the Athletic Director/Dean of Students at Cedar Springs High School and has also coached basketball. She was a four year college basketball player at Lake Superior State and has a BA from Lake Superior State University and a MA from Aquinas College. She has served as the Ottawa-Kent Bronze and OK Blue Conference President. Autumn was named the 2014 MIAAA Regional Athletic Director of the Year and the 2014 West Michigan Officials Association Athletic Director of the Year.

**MERCHANT, SUZY:** Coach Merchant is in her ninth season as the head coach of the Michigan State Women's Basketball Program. Through her first



eight seasons, she has brought the Spartan program to a level of consistency at the Big Ten and national level. Merchant was a three-sport standout at Traverse City Central High School, lettering in basketball, volleyball and softball and a four-year starter and three-year captain in basketball at

Central Michigan. She has a Bachelors degree from CMU and a Masters Degree from Saginaw Valley.

**MONTGOMERY, DIANE:** Diane works at Grosse Pointe North High School and is the head coach of boys cross country and assistant coach for girls track. She has been teaching and coaching for 19 years at schools in both Georgia and Michigan and has degrees from Michigan State University and the University of Georgia. In October 2015, she completed her 60th marathon in her 50th state and has a goal to complete 100 marathons.

**NALEPA, JENNIFER:** Jennifer graduated with a BS from Saint Louis University and a MS from Michigan State University. She is affiliated with the MSU Institute for the Study of Youth Sports and is the boys and girls tennis coach at Williamston High School and a tennis instructor at the Michigan Athletic Club.

**OSTERS, ANDI:** Andi is a graduate of Michigan State University where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Communication and Public Relations. She works for the Michigan High School Athletic Association and is a member of the Michigan Society of Association Executives. She also penned an editorial sports column for the Lansing State Journal's NOISE Magazine.

**PEMBERTON, ALISON:** Alison has been a personal trainer and nutrition specialist for the last 14 years. She played volleyball, basketball and softball at Yale High School and has a Bachelor of Health Science from Grand Valley State University and a Masters of Physical Therapy from Central Michigan University.

**PFAUTH, KRISTIN:** Kristin has spent 23 years in the fitness industry as a fitness instructor. She is also a runner who has completed three half-marathons and has a BS in Civil Engineering from MSU. Kristin loves teaching Zumba because of the upbeat world rhythms and easy-to-follow choreography. She is also certified in Kickboxing and Pound Fitness.

**RUBIN, ANNIE:** Annie is an ACE Certified Personal Trainer and has a degree from Eastern Michigan University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has a Positive Psychology for Health and Fitness Professionals Certification and a Human Kinetics Strength Training for Young Athletes Certification. She is the owner of Steeps Fitness, LLC.

**RUIZ, TRACI:** Since 1993, Traci has been a police officer with a Mid-Michigan Policy agency. She is currently an administrative Lieutenant, Field Training Commander, Background Investigator and Recruiter, who specializes in both Self-Defense and Elder Abuse Investigations. Lieutenant Ruiz has a BA and MA from Michigan State University as well as numerous, other law enforcement certifications.

**SCHMIDT, BECKY:** Coach of the 2014 NCAA Division III National Champion Volleyball team at Hope College, Schmidt has twelve years of teaching sport Psychology / Wellness / Exercise Science at Hope College and fifteen years as a Head Volleyball Coach. She holds a BA in Physical Education from Hope College and a MS in Sport Studies from Miami University.



**SCHMITT, ALLISON:** Allison is an Olympic medal winner and holds 18 international medals in swimming. She attended Canton HS and holds Michigan swim records for the 200 Freestyle and 500 Freestyle. She was an eleven time NCAA Division 1 champion at the University of Georgia and a medal winner at the Beijing Olympics. She holds American and Olympic records in the 200 Meter Freestyle and won medals in the 4 X 100 Freestyle Relay, the 400 Meter Freestyle and the 200 Meter Freestyle at the London Olympics. She is also the chocolate milk spokesperson for the United Dairy Industry of Michigan.



**SHIELDS, ASHLEY:** Ashley is the former assistant director and sport psychology consultant at the Center for Sport and Performance Psychology. She has a BA from St. Cloud State University and a MA from Minnesota State University with concentration in sport and exercise psychology.

**SMITH, ALICIA:** Coach Smith has coached high school softball for the past 18 years, including 15 at the varsity level at Mattawan High School which won two state championships in 2011 and 2013 and finished as runner-up in 2012. Over the course of her career, she has held various leadership positions and has a BS in Engineering Design and Graphics Technology and a MA in Coaching Sport Performance from Western Michigan University.

**SPERRY, TRACI:** Traci enjoys informing the public about numerous health and safety topics using social media and classroom instruction. She also provides protection information with a main goal of empowering others and joined Ruiz Consultants as a Self-Defense Instructor. She earned her BS from Central Michigan University and decided to pursue a Law Enforcement career.

**THIEL, MARY:** Mary has been a physical therapist for the last 19 years in rehabilitation and sports medicine. She played soccer at Kalamazoo College and Oakland University and currently also coaches soccer. She serves as the clinical manager and physical therapist at the MSU Rehabilitation Center. Her Masters of Physical Therapy degree is from Oakland University.

**TIBALDI, PATTI:** Tibaldi has been both a high school and college coach and administrator in her 40 year career. She has been a head basketball coach at both high school and college levels for 38 years and has been an athletic director for 21 years. The 2011 MHSAA WISL recipient and an Aquinas College graduate, Tibaldi was inducted into her alma mater's Athletic Hall of Fame as a coach.

**UYL, MARCY:** A physical educator, coach and personal trainer are all a part of Marcy's background. She is presently a personal trainer/group exercise instructor and works with off-season athletes to improve their speed, strength and overall conditioning. She has coached basketball at the high school level for the last 19 years.

**WALKER, LAUREN:** Lauren has an undergraduate degree from Pepperdine University and a BS in Sports Medicine. Her MS is from California Polytechnic State University in Kinesiology. She has coaching experience in swimming, track and field and cross country.

**WHALEN, LAUREL:** Laurel has been involved in athletics as a coach, administrator, consultant, researcher and parent for more than a decade. She currently serves as the program coordinator for graduate degrees in Sports Administration at Wayne State University. Whalen is also a mentor for WSU student-athletes and a PhD student in Kinesiology.

## Michigan Coaching Duo Earns National Honors

A pair of MHSAA girls sport coaches were among 22 high school coaches from across the country selected as 2015 National Coaches of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches Association.



**Cheri Ritz**



**Judy Hehs**

Wayland Union's **Cheri Ritz** (softball) and Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart's **Judy Hehs** (tennis) have been selected for the prestigious honor. Ritz led Wayland to the MHSAA Division 2 Softball title last spring, and also guided the school to a crown in 2006. Hehs' ASH tennis teams have won three MHSAA Division 4 championships in the last four years, including last fall's title.

The NFHS, which has been recognizing coaches through an awards program since 1982, honors coaches in the top 10 girls sports and top 10 boys sports (by participation numbers), and in one "other" sport that is not included in the top 10 listings. The NFHS also recognizes a spirit coach as a separate award category. Winners of NFHS awards must be active coaches during the year for which they receive their award. This year's awards recognize coaches for the 2014-15 school year.

The recipients of the 2015 NFHS national awards for girls sports are: Linda Richter, track and field, Cameron (Texas) C.H. Yoe High School; Anthony Pappas, basketball, Waterloo (Iowa) West High School; Paula Toney, volleyball, Burns (Oregon) High School; Lucas Kollross, soccer, Weston (Wisconsin) D. C. Everest High School; Cheri Ritz, softball, Wayland (Michigan) Union School; Kristin McWilliams, cross country, Winter Park (Florida) High School; Judy Hehs, tennis, Bloomfield Hills (Michigan) Academy of the Sacred Heart; Marty Keating, swimming and diving, Pittsford (New York) Central Schools; Stacie Butler, golf, Youngstown (Ohio) Cardinal Mooney High School; and Jessica Battle, lacrosse, Coronado (California) High School.

## It's a New Day

It is only now that requests have subsided for the MHSAA to reverse the seasons that were changed by court order in 2007.

For the first few years, the MHSAA heard from just about every corner of its constituency, and heard often and loud, that the old way was better. Students, parents, grandparents, media, legislators, coaches, officials and administrators expressed their displeasure over one or more aspects of the changes.

Especially vocal were the Lower Peninsula golf and tennis communities and the Upper Peninsula soccer community who detested then and still dislike that the boys and girls seasons were reversed as a result of a Federal Court order.

For several years after the change of seasons the MHSAA received stacks of letters from students who were completing a high school writing assignment that required them to write a business letter or a persuasive essay about a topic that was important to them. They made passionate arguments for returning girls volleyball to the winter and girls basketball to the fall.

Because I was once a high school English teacher and assigned such exercises to my students, I was patient and polite in my responses to these eager students.

It also occurred frequently that the MHSAA received letters from people who were completely unaware of the decade of litigation that forced the seasons changes, inquiring if we had ever thought about switching girls volleyball and girls basketball seasons, or Lower Peninsula golf or tennis seasons, or Upper Peninsula soccer seasons.

After eight complete school years under the court-ordered schedule, we are unable to point to any quantitative or qualitative improvements in school sports in Michigan. In fact . . .

- Participation is down in girls basketball (18 percent) and girls volleyball (16.5 percent), and the decline is greater than the decline in high school enrollment (11.1 percent).
- Participation is down by more than a quarter – 26 percent! – since Lower Peninsula boys tennis was moved to the fall.
- Upper Peninsula schools are kept out of the MHSAA Soccer Tournament.

- Many coaches who once coached both girls and boys basketball are now forced to choose one or the other.
- Many officials who worked many girls basketball games in the fall and another large batch of boys basketball games in the winter are now doing less of both, and the best quality officials work a lower percentage of games for both genders.
- Schools now fight in the fall with colleges (and usually lose) for the best volleyball officials.
- Basketball games are no longer on predictable nights, but occur in any one of a number of combinations on any one of a number of nights. Total attendance for regular season boys and girls basketball games has plummeted because there is too much basketball compressed into the winter season.



These and a myriad other complaints that are more individual or anecdotal in nature exist but have largely subsided in frequency and vitriol. That's good, for it is far better for the human spirit to look forward than back, and to frame the future in some new ways.

For example, rather than just wring our hands in despair over declining participation in tennis, I'd like us to consider the addition of coed team tennis.

Rather than lamenting the change of Lower Peninsula golf seasons, why not consider the addition of "Ryder Cup-style" golf, and again consider a coed format?

Perhaps there's a place in school sports for other activities – like ultimate Frisbee, snowboarding and other popular activities – which we could offer in a format that combines boys and girls in equal numbers in competitive events. How about bass fishing, or flag football?

While there must always be a place for gender-separate teams in traditional school sports, because that model provides the greatest opportunity for participation for both genders, we should consider the possibility of adding new, fun activities in a coed format where the traditional values of educational athletics can be taught and caught as well as in more traditional school-sponsored sports.

It's a new day, requiring a positive perspective and some creative programming.

# The Spirit of Title IX

## ***From the MHSAA Publication “Legal Aspects of Interscholastic Athletics Unique to Michigan”***

The spirit of the implementing regulations for Title IX promulgated by the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare in July 1975 is that the interests and abilities of female (and male) students should be assessed and accommodated:

“In determining whether equal opportunities are available, the Director will consider, among other factors:

- (1) Whether the selection of sports and levels of competition effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of members of both sexes;”

- 34 CFR S. 106.41(C)

The spirit of the September 1975 Memorandum of the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare to Chief State School Officers, Superintendents of Local Education Agencies and College and University Presidents is that the interests and abilities of female (and male) students should be assessed and accommodated:

“ . . . educational institutions operating athletic programs above the elementary level should...

- (2) Determine the interests of both sexes in the sports offered by the institution ...

- (3) Develop a plan to accommodate effectively the interests and abilities of both sexes,”

The spirit of the 1976 HEW Manual Competitive Athletics: In Search of Equal Opportunity is to evaluate (not dictate) and to accommodate (not duplicate):

“(Title IX) does not require colleges to duplicate their men’s program for women or to offer exactly the same sports in exactly the same fashion for both women and men . . . Rather, it requires overall equal athletic opportunity, with specific athletic offerings being determined primarily by the interests and abilities of female and male students.” (Page 1)

The spirit of the December 1979 Policy Interpretation of HEW for athletics was that the interests and abilities of female (and male) students should be assessed and accommodated:

“*Compliance in Meeting Interests and Abilities of Male and Female Students:* Pursuant to the regulation, the governing principle in this area is that the athletic interests and abilities of male and female students must be equally effectively accommodated.”

- Federal Register/Vol. 44, No. 239, p. 71414

The spirit of the Title IX Athletics Investigators Manual published in 1990 by the Office for Civil Rights of the US Department of Education is not to mandate the male model of sports programs but evaluate interests and accommodate them even if females’ interests differ:

“Institutions are not required to offer the same sports or even the same number of sports to men and women . . . Institutions are required to provide equal opportunity to participate and to equally effectively accommodate the athletic interests and abilities of men and women.”

In the realm of interscholastic athletics, this spirit is advanced when local and state leaders listen both to high school girls and boys and design programs that they want and will support, even if they are different for girls and boys.

## First-Ever WISL Conference Launches Winter Tradition

*This edition of the "Vault" celebrates the MHSAA Women In Sports Leadership Conference, the first, largest and longest-running program of its type in the country. 2016 marks the 22nd edition of the conference, which attracts upwards of 500 participants for each conference, most of them high school female student-athletes. This is how it began . . .*

A fall 1988 issue of the MHSAA *Bulletin* – the forerunner to the publication you currently are reading – asked the following questions in an article promoting the Association's newest initiative:

- "Where do I find women to coach our interscholastic teams?"
- "Where does a woman get training as a sports official, and get assignments to work games?"
- "How can we keep our good women coaches and officials longer?"

It then gave the following answer:

- "These and many other questions will be addressed during the first Women In Sports Leadership Conference sponsored by the MHSAA January 29-31, 1989 . . .

Thus, a tradition was born, and continued yearly until 2004, when the current every-other-year schedule was implemented so local gatherings could take place during the in-between years.

With 175 attendees on hand to hear from speakers such as US Air Force fighter pilot Captain Michelle Johnson and past chair of the NCAA Division 1 Women's Basketball Committee Norah Finch, the event was met with high regard, and higher expectations for the future.

As it does today, the conference opened the eyes of female students to possible career paths in athletics, while also conducting "strategy" sessions, for administrative job candidates in Michigan, as well as those appointed the task of hiring and identifying such individuals.

"In the late 1980s there was another spurt in interscholastic girls sports programs," said Suzanne

Martin, who was an assistant director at the MHSAA during that time. "The Women In Sports Leadership started with several meetings in the offices of (current MHSAA Executive Director) Jack Roberts and myself, as we discussed purposes and goals, and then called upon coaches, athletic administrators of girls sports programs and the Representative Council to guide us in a direction that met the needs and desires of those the MHSAA serves. It was a rewarding experience for myself and for those many women and men who brought ideas to the table for implementation."

The successful first assembly led to a return trip to the Lansing Sheraton Hotel – on the same site where the event still takes place today – the following year, and the creation of a new MHSAA honor: The Women In sports Leadership Award.

"The WISL Award will provide additional recognition for those individuals who have been instrumental in the development of athletic opportunities for females," said Roberts in announcing the new award.

The first honoree was Carol Seavoy of L'Anse High School in the Upper Peninsula, who received

the honor during the 1990 conference. Seavoy's career began in 1971 as girls sports was arriving on the scene. She coached basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, track & field, and the cheerleaders at L'Anse. At the time of the award, she was a teacher, co-athletic director, basketball and volleyball coach, a fitting first winner of the honor. Award winners have been selected every year since, including a humbled Martin who was feted in 2001 at the event she helped bring to fruition.

"I think back on the many coaches and administrators – male and female – who became speakers and contributors at the WISL Conferences, all bringing their best female athletes with them," Martin said. "This included male coaches of girls sports as well, each wanting their athletes to obtain leadership skills, communication skills and to experience an out-of-school facility adventure."

Today, and for many years now, the event has been capped at 500 attendees, allowing as much of a personal touch to remain, while being large



Former MHSAA Assistant Director Sue Martin's journey came full circle in 2001 when she was presented with the WISL Award at the conference which she built into prominence.

*“The WISL conference experience was not only a bonus for female athletes, but for the women coaching them. I watched them blossom as coaches as they participated in leadership roles themselves.” — Suzanne Martin*

enough to offer numerous tracks and a wide array of topics and speakers during a two-day span. Now held in early February, the event is a perfect blend of quality and quantity, and in recent years has offered numerous physical activities to engage the body as well as the mind.

And, it continues to be a great bargain at \$50 per student, same as it was in 1989.

“The WISL conference experience was not only a bonus for female athletes, but for the women coaching them. I watched them blossom as coaches as they participated in leadership roles themselves,” Martin said. “In subsequent years they contributed in developing topics for the future conferences and also were on the lookout for speakers appropriate for the age group this gathering drew.

“They also recognized the importance of seeking mentors for themselves and some became our future athletic directors and school administrators. Others taught officiating and judging skills, and some coaches mentored their athletes as they became future coaches.”



## Women In Sports Leadership Conference

Sponsored by the  
Michigan High School Athletic Association

The first-ever WISL Conference had a different look (above) but the same goals carry the event today: promoting career opportunities in athletics for aspiring female students.



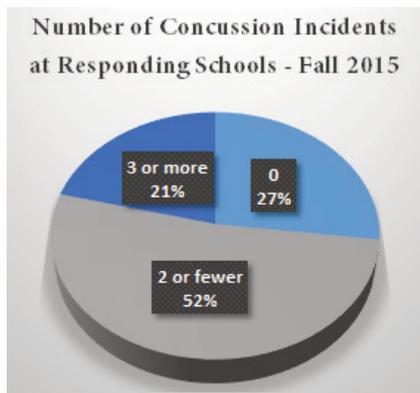
## MHSAA Concussion Care Efforts, Preliminary Data

The Michigan High School Athletic Association this school year requested for the first time that member schools report possible concussions by their student-athletes during both practice and competition. Preliminary data from the fall season shows 2 percent of more than 100,000 high school athletes experienced concussions, and 27 percent of high schools responding reported that none of their athletes experienced concussions while participating in MHSAA sports.

The MHSAA received data from 744 – or 99 percent – of its member high schools at the end of the fall season. The average number of concussions reported by member high schools through Dec. 4, 2015, was 3.2 concussions per school. Fifty-two percent of reporting schools stated they had two or fewer concussions by athletes this fall.

Football, the fall season’s most-played sport with 39 percent of all fall participants, revealed 79 percent of all concussions reported for the season. Boys soccer, with nearly 14 percent of fall sport participants, revealed 11 percent of all concussions reported.

Data collected by the MHSAA remains preliminary, in part, because results noted include pending reports that have not been verified. After completion of these follow-up reports, the final number of concussions that actually occurred this past season may be lower than the preliminary numbers being reported at this time. The data analyzed to date is for high schools only, although middle schools also have the opportunity to report possible concussions. A full breakdown of the data including concussions by gender, sport, team level (varsity through junior high) and setting (practice or event) will be reported after the conclusion of the spring 2016 season.



The reporting of possible concussions is part of a three-pronged advance by the MHSAA in concussion care during the 2015-16 school year, all of which are producing data related to the frequency and severity of head injuries. The MHSAA this fall became the first state association to offer pilot sideline concussion testing, with 62 schools taking part in one of two programs. One of the objectives of the pilot programs was to increase awareness of concussions and improve sideline detection; and preliminary results indicate that the average number of possible concussions reported by pilot schools exceeds the average reported by schools outside the pilot group.

Of 36 schools reporting the most concussions this fall, 11 are part of the MHSAA’s pilot sideline detection programs. Those programs – King-Devick Test and XLNTbrain Sport – utilize technology to provide on-site testing of athletes who have sustained possible concussions, with results of those examinations then

compared against baseline tests taken by athletes previously.

The MHSAA also is the first state association to provide all participants at every member high school and junior high/middle school with insurance intended to pay accident medical expense benefits – covering deductibles and co-pays left unpaid by other policies – resulting from head injuries sustained during school practices or competitions and at no cost to either schools or families. The program will produce additional data about the frequency and severity of head injuries. While it is still early, only 34 claims have been made on the insurance policy designed to assist in payment for concussion care. Twenty of the claims are for football, 11 for soccer.

“These three efforts combined are part of making our good programs better,” MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. “We’re pleased to provide these services to our schools, and we anticipate having a comprehensive report after the end of the school year, with that data then used by the National Federation of State High School Associations and research institutions to continue to make our games safer.”

Schools report possible concussions online via the MHSAA Website. Reports are then examined by members of the MHSAA staff, who follow up with school administrators as those student-athletes continue to receive care and eventually return to play. Student privacy is protected.

Previously, the MHSAA also was among the first state associations to adopt a return-to-play protocol that keeps an athlete out of activity until at least the next day after a suspected concussion, and allows that athlete to return to play only after he or she has been cleared for activity by a doctor (M.D. or D.O.), physician’s assistant or nurse practitioner.

“These pilot programs, and the reporting of potential concussions by all of our schools, have made administrators, coaches and athletes more aware of the possibility of concussions and the importance of immediate detection and care,” Roberts said. “Many of our schools have long had programs in place to detect concussions and provide care. The opportunities to test, report and receive financial assistance in the event of a concussion have encouraged all of our schools to consider additional ways to better care for their student-athletes.

“These latest in a long line of health and safety initiatives will establish a baseline, and eventually allow us to determine if we are making progress year-to-year in Michigan school sports in this critical area of health and safety.”

## Sturgis Receives Safe Sports School Award

**S**turgis High School, for the second time, is the recipient of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Safe Sports School award for its comprehensive athletic injury health care and career oriented education program. The award champions safety and recognizes secondary schools that provide safe environments for student athletes. The award reinforces the importance of providing the best level of care, injury prevention and treatment.



**Jim Lioy**

“It is no surprise to me that Sturgis High School Sports Medicine has been recognized again on the national level. Having been involved in collegiate athletics for 18 years, I can tell you that Jim Lioy, (AT, ATC) has developed a college-level athletic training facility and program to support our student-athletes,” said Sturgis Athletic Director Mark Adams. “We are truly blessed to be able to provide such a high caliber of care, injury prevention, and treatment for our student-athletes.

“Sturgis Public Schools is honored to receive this 1st Team recognition from NATA and we remain committed to keeping our student-athletes safe during physical education classes, team practices, and games so they can accomplish their own goals of great competition, winning records, fair sportsmanship and good health. Our goal is to lead our athletics program to the highest safety standards for our players.”

“We remain committed to the health and welfare of young athletes in competitive sports,” said



NATA President Scott Sailor, EdD, ATC. “This award recognizes the contributions and commitment of schools across the country that are implementing safe sports policies and best practices to ensure athletes can do what they love best and have the appropriate care in place to prevent, manage and treat injuries should they occur.”

In order to achieve Safe Sport School status, as Sturgis High School did, athletic programs must do the following:

- Create a positive athletic health care administrative system
- Provide or coordinate pre-participation physical examinations
- Promote safe and appropriate practice and competition facilities
- Plan for selection, fit function and proper maintenance of athletic equipment
- Provide a permanent, appropriately equipped area to evaluate and treat injured athletes
- Develop injury and illness prevention strategies, including protocols for environmental conditions
- Provide or facilitate injury intervention
- Create and rehearse a venue-specific Emergency Action Plan
- Provide or facilitate psychosocial consultation and nutritional counseling/education
- Be sure athletes and parents are educated of the potential benefits and risks in sports as well as their responsibilities

For more information please visit: [www.athletetrainers.org](http://www.athletetrainers.org).

## Task Force to Form for Multi-Sport Participation

Noting growing concerns for the health risks to young people who specialize too early and narrowly on a single sport, the Michigan High School Athletic Association is creating a task force to work throughout 2016 on promoting the benefits of multi-sport participation.



The task force is expected to develop strategies and tactics for the MHSAA and its member schools to deliver to coaches, athletes and parents that will demonstrate the high risks and limited rewards of early and intense focus on a single sport. A January 2017 campaign launch is anticipated.

The task force will be small in number but consist of both administrators and coaches who represent the diversity of schools and commu-

nities in Michigan. Their discussions will be monitored by MHSAA communications staff, who will be designing tactics to implement the ideas and initiatives that the task force discusses.

“For years it seemed educators were alone in promoting the multi-sport experience as the best for young people,” MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. “Rather suddenly, these voices have been joined by high-profile coaches and athletes and supported by a growing body of research.

“Major college football coaches, members of the USA Women’s World Cup Soccer championship team, Hall of Fame pitcher John Smoltz, PGA golfer Jordan Spieth and others demonstrate to us that the multi-sport experience is the healthiest and happiest way to participate in youth sports.”

More than 40 national and international sports organizations have joined a movement called “Project Play” which advocates the multi-sport experience as the safer, healthier and happier sports journey. The task force also will benefit from its relationship with the Institute for the Study of Youth Sports at Michigan State University and with Sparrow Health Systems.

“The risks of over-specialization in sports – that is, a focus too early and too intense on a single sport – are greater than all other youth sports health risks combined,” Roberts added. “They need at least as much attention as we’ve brought to reducing the risks of heat stroke, cardiac episodes and concussions.”

### “What Can I Do?” – From the Director Blog, Oct.16, 2015

One of the very first chapters that educators wrote on the fundamentals of school-sponsored, student-centered sports described the bad of single-sport specialization and the benefits of multi-sport participation. And the basic policies of educational athletics have flowed for decades from that philosophy.

Sadly, every reasonable restraint that educators placed on school sports was eventually exploited by non-school youth sports organizations and commercial promoters which have seen the world quite differently and have filled almost every gap in school sports programs with alternative or additional programs that started sooner, traveled further, competed longer and ended later than educators believed was healthy for youth and adolescents and compatible with their academic obligations.

Recently (and as reported in this space on Sept. 15, 2015), there has been a chorus of concerns from many different corners echoing the voices of educators who had just about given up on this issue. Suddenly, early single-sport specialization by youth is being attacked from many directions as being injurious for youth, and the multi-sport experience (aka, “balanced participation”) is being advanced as the healthy prescription.

Now I’m being asked by interscholastic athletic administrators: “Yes, I hear the chatter, and I see the evidence and anecdotes; but what can I do?” Well, one idea is to follow the lead of St. Joseph High School Athletic Director, Kevin Guzzo.

Last school year Kevin started the “Iron Bears Club” to recognize and reward the school’s three-sport athletes. And last month Kevin made the multi-sport imperative a central theme in his annual report to the St. Joseph Board of Education.

Little steps in a local community? Perhaps. But multiply Kevin’s efforts by 500 or more schools in Michigan? It could be a sea change. And it would be good for kids.



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.

## School Broadcast Program Drives MHSAA.tv Content

*Fall Viewers Enjoy Nearly 300 Hours of Live Student-Produced Events*

The MHSAA School Broadcast Program provides the opportunity for real life experience in the field, as this Davison student discovered during a Nov. 21 Football Semifinal. But not even the early season snow squall could dampen the enthusiasm of the group, which assisted the NFHS Network at six of the 16 sites that day.



**L**ive streaming ruled on MHSAA.tv during the fall sports season, as participants in the School Broadcast Program delivered nearly 300 hours of live events.

SBP members created over 275 sports events during the fall, over 150 of which were live. The content ran the gamut to not only include football, but soccer, volleyball and swimming and diving. Nearly 300 additional events were streamed of non-athletic programs ranging from school board meetings to daily newscasts to the performing arts and pep assemblies.

A number of schools assisted the NFHS Network with live coverage of postseason tournaments – Calumet, Cedar Springs, Davison, Haslett, Montrose, Mt. Pleasant Tech Center and Rockford – all hit the road to cover Football Playoff games; and the six Lower Peninsula schools braved the elements on Nov. 21 to help deliver the 16 Semifinal contests conducted in blizzard conditions. Three games – Romeo vs. Grand Ledge, Grand Rapids NorthPointe Christian vs. Clinton and New Lothrop vs. Ishpeming – ranked among the top 10 events on the NFHS Network that week in terms of subscriptions.

Heading into the winter season, there are 69 participants in the SBP, and on any given night, you can visit MHSAA.tv to also view live in-game statistics from additional schools using Digital Scout software.

A number of SBP schools participated in the annual Ford Field Trip to the MHSAA Football Finals on Thanksgiving weekend; and the Breslin Center Field Trip will take place on March 18 during the Semifinals of the Girls Basketball Tournament.

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

- Feb. 19-20 – Upper Peninsula Swimming & Diving Finals
- Feb. 26-27 – Team Wrestling Quarterfinals-Semifinals-Finals
- March 3-5 – Individual Wrestling Finals
- March 4-5 – Girls Competitive Cheer Finals
- March 10-12 – Ice Hockey Semifinals-Finals
- March 11-12 – Lower Peninsula Boys Swimming & Diving Preliminaries-Finals
- March 11-12 – Girls Gymnastics Team-Individual Finals
- March 17-18 – Girls Basketball Semifinals (Including Postgame Press Conferences)
- March 19 – Postgame Awards, Press Conferences, On-Floor Award Presentation @ Girls Basketball Finals
- March 24-25 – Boys Basketball Semifinals (Including Postgame Press Conferences)
- March 26 – Postgame Awards, Press Conferences, On-Floor Award Presentation @ Boys Basketball Finals



## Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award in 27th Year



MHSAA File Photo

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 1,400 other outstanding individuals in 2015-16.

Underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance, the Scholar-Athlete Award is now in its 27th 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 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 2015-16 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 1,425 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 26, 2016.

More Info?  
Scan Here



## Battle of the Fans V Heats Up the Winter Scene

**F**ive finalists have been selected for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's "Battle of the Fans V," which will again recognize the top student cheering section from among member schools and culminate in a ceremony including all five finalists during this season's Boys Basketball Finals at Michigan State University's Breslin Center.

Yale, a finalist in 2015, again is in the running and joined by Charlotte, Munising, Muskegon Western Michigan Christian and 2014 finalist Traverse City West. This year's pool of 22 applicants was the second-largest in Battle of the Fans history.

Battle of the Fans V, organized by MHSAA staff and its 16-member Student Advisory Council, will reward the cheering section that best creates the positive and festive atmosphere made possible when students show enthusiasm, togetherness and sportsmanship while rooting for their team. MHSAA staff and Student Advisory Council members will visit all five finalists for home boys basketball games during the second half of this regular season, with coverage and video from those visits and the announcement of the winner all to be published on the MHSAA Second Half website: [second-half.mhsaa.com](http://second-half.mhsaa.com).

Schools were invited in December to submit short videos, via YouTube, of their cheering sections in action. The winner will be announced Feb. 19, and video of all five sections will be played on the Breslin Center HD scoreboard during the Finals in March. The champion and finalists also will be recognized during the Boys Semifinals March 25.

This year's finalists include at least one school from each MHSAA Class – A, B, C and D – and 16 of 22 finalists received at least one top-five vote from a member of the Student Advisory Council.

"This was not only one of the largest, but top-to-bottom it's one of the strongest fields of applicants we've had during the five years of Battle of the Fans," said Andy Frushour, MHSAA director of brand management and advisor to the Student Advisory Council. "It shows this program is growing. Schools know about it and look forward to taking part. And most importantly, the message is continuing to spread that students can have a blast rooting on their classmates in a positive way."

The finalists were chosen by the Student Advisory Council, and the winner will be selected by another Advisory Council vote based in part on activity on the MHSAA's social media sites. All social media postings regarding Battle of the Fans V should include the hashtag #BOTF. The MHSAA will post throughout the finalists tour on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and its Snapchat feed.

This year's group guarantees another first-time winner to go with Frankenmuth (2012), Buchanan (2013), Beaverton (2014), and Dowagiac (2015).

This year's applicants brought the total number of schools that have entered the contest at least once to 75, with Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard – a 2013 finalist – the only one to apply all five years.

The contest is sponsored in part by the United Dairy Industry of Michigan, which promotes Michigan's locally-produced dairy products and nutrition education.



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 these winter sports. Answers appear on the next page.

### Basketball

- Which of the following constitutes an automatic foul committed against a post player?
  - A collapsed arm bar against the post player who has the ball but is not facing the basket
  - Two hands on the post player after he/she has the ball but still has his/her back to the basket
  - One hand in the back of the post player who does not have the ball and is facing away from the basket
  - A defensive player's lower body is in contact with the post player who has the ball but is facing away from the basket; there is no displacement
- A2 is fouled and awarded two free throws. However, A2 is found to be bleeding so A6 replaces him/her and shoots the free throws, both of which are made. Which of the following would be a legal substitution at that point?
  - A7 replaces A6
  - A2 replaces A6
  - Both of these
  - Neither of these
- Team B calls a timeout. During the timeout, player B4 makes a derogatory comment to an official. The penalty is:
  - A team technical foul assessed to Team B
  - A technical foul charged to B4 and also indirectly to the head coach of Team B
  - An administrative technical foul on Team B
  - A player technical foul charged only to B4



- 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.
- 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.



### Gymnastics

- A routine contains two low-level, back-to-back superiors and no second high-level, back-to-back superior or third advanced high superior. The judges award 0.1 for each low-level back-to-back superior for a total of 0.2. Correct?
  - The third category in Bonus is worth 0.2 Low-level back to back superiors are worth 0.1 each for a total maximum of 0.2 in Category 3 of Bonus.
  - All back-to-back superiors are worth 0.2 and the total should be 0.4.
  - If you do not perform back-to-back superiors in all categories, you do not receive any points
- The judges award credit for a direction change in event requirements for a giant with a full turn. Correct?
  - Any turn is considered a direction change.
  - Only an element of value that has a 1/2 turn or 1 1/2 turn and continues in the opposite direction may count as a direction change.



### Competitive Cheer

- A team performs a one-leg extension. Once the stunt is fully extended and held, the stunt becomes braced. The judges award choreography bonus. Correct?
  - The one-leg extension was held and then became braced, therefore the OLE receives choreography bonus.
  - The one-leg extension would not receive credit because one-leg extensions may never be braced in any Rounds of competition.
  - A one-leg extension never receives choreography bonus.

- c. Only an element of value that has a double turn may count as a direction change.
- 3. On uneven bars, a gymnast performs a glide hip mount, back hip circle, back hip circle, climb to high bar, back hip circle, back hip circle, sole circle dismount. The judges deduct 2.0 in neutral deductions for having fewer than five Value Parts. Correct?
  - a. The gymnast performed seven different skills, of course she receives her five Value Parts.
  - b. An element that is repeated a third time does not receive Value Part credit and a routine must have a minimum of five value parts listed in the rules book.
  - c. Any time there is a sole circle dismount, the routine is voided
- 3. During play, a referee notices that a player is not properly wearing a legal tooth and mouth protector. This is the team's second violation. What should the referee do?
  - a. Stop play and assess a minor penalty.
  - b. Nothing.
  - c. Assess a team warning.
  - d. Assess misconduct penalty.

### Wrestling

- 1. A wrestler report to the weigh-in with a prosthesis for the District tournament. As the official, you should...
  - a. Inform the wrestler that he/she may not participate as prosthesis is never allowed in competition. 

MHSAA File Photo
  - b. Inform the wrestler that if he/she chooses to weigh-in with the prosthesis, then the wrestler shall wear the prosthesis during competition at all times.
  - c. Inform the wrestler that he/she may participate wearing the prosthesis if it has been approved by the MHSAA. The wrestler is not required to weigh in with the prosthesis.
- 2. When indicating an infraction, any hold/maneuver with pressure exerted over the opponents mouth, nose, throat or neck that restricts breathing or circulation is considered...
  - a. Potentially dangerous
  - b. Stalemate
  - c. Illegal
  - d. Flagrant misconduct
- 3. Contestants are to be considered inbounds...
  - a. If one supporting point of each wrestler is outside the boundary lines
  - b. If supporting points of Wrestler A are inside or on the boundary lines
  - c. If Wrestler A has one support point in bounds and both of Wrestler B supporting points are outside the boundary lines.

### Ice Hockey

- 1. Player A1 passes the puck to teammate A2, who is in the act of stopping. The puck rebounds off Player A2's skate into the goal while Player A2 is in this act of stopping. What is the ruling? 

MHSAA File Photo

  - a. No goal, the puck cannot go in the net directly off an attacking player's skate, faceoff at nearest neutral zone spot.
  - b. No goal, faceoff in Player A2's defending zone.
  - c. The goal shall be allowed since the player did not intentionally direct the puck into the net.
  - d. No goal, faceoff at center ice.
- 2. If a player receives an offside pass from a teammate, where is the faceoff?
  - a. One of the five neutral zone spots only.
  - b. Center ice.
  - c. Nearest faceoff spot from where puck was last fairly played, not giving any territorial advantage to the team causing the stoppage.
  - d. At the location the pass originated.

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

Cheer Answers: 1. a. (Section Q – Choreography); 2. b. (Mandated Numbers);  
3. a. (Section F – Flatback)

Gymnastics Answers: 1. a. (Rule 4-1-2E 3a); 2. b. (Rule 7-2-2b); 3. b. (Rule 7-3-6d)

Hockey Answers: 1. c. (9-3-3); 2. c. (9-1-10); 3. d. (3-4-4)

Wrestling Answers: 1. b. (4-5-9); 2. c. (5-14-2); 3. b. (5-15)

## Pistone Combines Interests to Find Niche on Gridiron

Having “thick skin” is often cited as a key component to success in officiating, no matter the sport.

The same goes for officials who might have a bit smoother skin than most peers in a game geared for the rugged and played and coached – with few exceptions – by the opposite gender.

“There’s also something to be said for having a good sense of humor. I get called ‘sir’ a lot, and I have been asked out on a sideline before. My crewmates tell me that doesn’t happen to them when they’re on the sideline!”

So it goes for Ann Arbor’s Amy Pistone, one of the MHSAA’s few females who works varsity football games. Also a registered basketball official, Pistone is well aware that there are some additional – if unwarranted – standards that come with officiating a male-dominated sport.

“I think there’s always a bit of a credibility issue when I step on the field, since coaches who don’t know me assume that I may not really understand football, since I didn’t play football” Pistone said. “Plus, female football refs are still something new and different, and there aren’t many of us, so I think that coaches and players aren’t immediately sure how to treat us. And, I’m not a particularly tall woman, so I’m generally smaller than the players and coaches.”



Pistone’s favorite football moments are the ones she spends with her crew, from left: Michael Tunney, Pistone, Eric VanHevel, Jim Neal, and Mike Widen.

Gaining credibility and respect in football, however, is no different than any other sport.

“I think the biggest thing that has helped me is working to improve my mechanics and my rules knowledge so that I look and feel confident on the field. That’s something that really transferred over from working basketball,” she said. “Watching video with mentors and other officials has definitely helped me develop my mechanics and understanding of the game to the level they need to be so people are less likely to question my calls.”

In this, her fourth year of working high school football, Pistone’s work was recognized and rewarded with her first MHSAA tournament assign-

ment. Along with Southfield’s Nicole Randolph, and Waterford’s Gillie David, she became the third female to work a football playoff game.

“Getting my first playoff assignment was really exciting,” Pistone said. “I know it sounds cliché, but there’s really something special about being under the lights and working a big game, and playoffs are as big as it gets.”

As thrilled as she was with the honor, Pistone points to every game with her crew as memorable.

“I think all my favorite moments really have to do with my crew. That’s one of the really great things about football that you don’t get in other sports. You work with the same guys every Friday, and you really develop a lot of camaraderie,” she said.

A Ph.D. student and graduate student instructor in Classical Studies at the University of Michigan, Pistone applies her officiating talents on a daily basis.

“I think teaching and officiating are really complementary things,” she said. “Officiating is so good for building confidence, simply because you can’t officiate if you can’t at least *seem* confident, strong and decisive when you’re on the field or the court. Getting firmer with my voice and my mannerisms was something that I had to do to become a better official, but it absolutely translates into other parts of life.”

Pistone caught the officiating bug as a student at UC-Berkeley while officiating intramural sports. She officiated in California before moving to Michigan to attend grad school at U-M, and then registered with the MHSAA.

“It was a few years later when a friend of mine from intramurals at Berkeley (Ojas Sangameswara) suggested that since I really liked reffing, and watching football, maybe I should put them together and try *reffing* football,” she said. “I went to a rookie clinic at DeWitt High School and have been loving it ever since.”

And, there’s one other thing Pistone loves when she’s on the gridiron during those autumn nights.

“It’s really great for me when someone sees that there’s a woman reffing the game,” she says, “and points it out to their daughter!”



## Fall Council Meeting Emphasizes Health & Safety

Results of recent changes to health and safety policies and possibilities for future work to help keep school sports safe were main topics of discussion by the Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association during its annual Fall Meeting on Dec. 4 in East Lansing.

Generally, Council takes only a few actions during its Fall Meeting, with topics often introduced for additional consideration and actions during its meetings in winter and spring. The Council heard reports on a number of subjects, chiefly the “4 H’s” of health and safety – Health Histories, Heads, Heat and Hearts – and the MHSAA’s recent work on these topics.

Among data most noteworthy, it was reported that 747 of 750 member high schools complied with the first-time requirement this fall that all head coaches have a valid certification in CPR. Eighty percent of high schools arranged in-person CPR training for all of their high school varsity head coaches, and two-thirds of high schools included assistant and subvarsity coaches in school-arranged in-person training.

The Council reviewed the preliminary concussion care data released to the public Dec. 9, recent actions by U.S. Soccer to reduce heading in youth soccer, discussion in the girls lacrosse community regarding head protection and actions taken by other states and the National Federation of State High School Association regarding football practice policies and their similarities to changes adopted for MHSAA schools prior to the 2014 season. Council members also examined results from this fall’s Update Meeting opinion poll, including questions related to the possibility of using electronic forms to track students’ health histories and the possibility of practice limitations for all sports similar to those adopted for football. Poll results are on the following pages.

As a result of the recent amendment of the MHSAA Constitution allowing for membership at the 6th-grade level, a number of potential changes to the *MHSAA Handbook* necessitated by the amendment were presented to the Council, as was a draft of an updated 2016-17 Membership Resolution. Both are expected to be voted on at the March meeting.

The Council also received reports on athletic-motivated and athletic-related transfers, reviewed an updated list of Approved International Student Programs for 2015-16 and discussed concerns regarding the exception to the Transfer Regulation for residential students of boarding schools.

Changes to out-of-season coaching rules were among the most significant efforts taken up by MHSAA staff over the last year, and Council members shared their observations of the impacts of changes including the rule change that allows a school coach to work with up to four athletes at one time instead of the previous three. The Council dis-

cussed whether the MHSAA should consider a policy requiring in all sports athletes to participate in a minimum number of contests against school teams to be eligible for MHSAA tournaments, but declined to take action on the topic beyond policies already in place for skiing, ice hockey and soccer. Council members also were presented with examples of calendars for a balanced school year and possible movement of standardized testing dates, which both have the potential to affect the school sports calendar in the future.



MHSAA File Photo

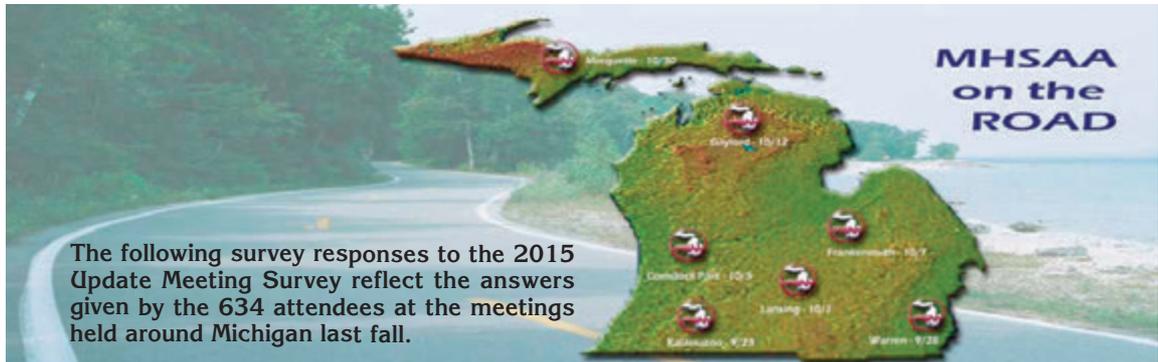
Nearly 100 percent of MHSAA member school head coaches of fall sports complied with the first-time requirement of earning valid CPR certification. Eighty percent of the schools reported arranging in-person CPR sessions.

The Council voted on one matter concerning MHSAA tournaments, approving a recommendation by the Girls Lacrosse Committee to not accept the new overtime rule of U.S. Women’s Lacrosse that grants in tournament play sudden victory to the first team that scores. The MHSAA will retain its current overtime procedure for tournament games, which calls for two full 3-minute halves of stop-clock overtime – and, if the game remains tied after those first two halves – additional 3-minute overtime periods with sudden victory.

The Fall Meeting also saw the addition of Courtney Hawkins, athletic director at Flint Beecher High School, to the 19-person Council. He was appointed to a two-year term and also serves as his school’s varsity football coach. He fills the position formerly held by Maureen Klocke, athletic director at Yale High School, whose term ended. Also, Cheri Meier, principal at Ionia Middle School, was re-appointed for a second two-year term.

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

# 2015 Update Meeting Survey Results



Do you favor any of the following changes in the preparticipation physical examination process:

1. Moving the earliest date permissible for the following school year's physical from April 15 to Jan. 1 (meaning a form signed on or after Jan. 1, 2016 would be good for the entire 2016-17 school year)?

Yes 191 (29.84%)				No 449 (70.16%)			
19	Superintendents (7.85%)	54	Class A (22.31%)	20	Superintendents (5.25%)	90	Class A (37.19%)
29	Principals (11.98%)	71	Class B (29.34%)	54	Principals (14.17%)	112	Class B (46.28%)
182	Ath Directors (75.21%)	50	Class C (20.66%)	293	Ath Directors (76.90%)	96	Class C (39.67%)
2	Coaches (0.83%)	56	Class D (23.14%)	2	Coaches (0.52%)	71	Class D (29.34%)
2	Board Members (0.83%)	8	Jr High/Middle (3.31%)	2	Board Members (0.52%)	11	Jr High/Middle (4.55%)
8	Other (3.31%)	3	Other (1.24%)	10	Other (2.62%)	1	Other (0.41%)

2. Permitting commercially provided electronic forms that accumulate students' health history so that only changes (not entirely new forms) are required each year? This would not change the requirement that a physical exam occur and the form be signed each year by the MD, DO, Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant.

Yes 387 (62.82%)				No 229 (37.18%)			
27	Superintendents (6.98%)	96	Class A (24.81%)	12	Superintendents (5.24%)	48	Class A (12.40%)
53	Principals (13.70%)	112	Class B (28.94%)	29	Principals (12.66%)	70	Class B (18.09%)
288	Ath Directors (74.42%)	87	Class C (22.48%)	181	Ath Directors (79.04%)	58	Class C (14.99%)
3	Coaches (0.78%)	78	Class D (20.16%)	1	Coaches (0.44%)	46	Class D (11.89%)
3	Board Members (0.78%)	11	Jr High/Middle (2.84%)	1	Board Members (0.44%)	6	Jr High/Middle (1.55%)
13	Other (3.36%)	3	Other (0.78%)	5	Other (2.18%)	1	Other (0.26%)

# # #

3. Do you favor a transfer rule that would require a 180 school day period of ineligibility in a particular sport following a transfer if the transfer student participated in a varsity game or scrimmage in that sport during the prior school year, UNLESS the student met one of the stated exceptions for immediate eligibility (such as a full residential change)?

Yes 309 (50.08%)				No 308 (49.92%)			
27	Superintendents (8.74%)	82	Class A (26.54%)	12	Superintendents (3.90%)	63	Class A (20.39%)
43	Principals (13.92%)	96	Class B (31.07%)	38	Principals (12.34%)	86	Class B (27.83%)
224	Ath Directors (72.49%)	68	Class C (22.01%)	248	Ath Directors (80.52%)	77	Class C (24.92%)
1	Coaches (0.32%)	48	Class D (15.53%)	3	Coaches (0.97%)	77	Class D (24.92%)
4	Board Members (1.29%)	12	Jr High/Middle (3.88%)	0	Board Members (0.00%)	4	Jr High/Middle (1.29%)
10	Other (3.24%)	3	Other (0.97%)	7	Other (2.27%)	1	Other (0.32%)

4. Do you favor a transfer rule that would require a 180 school day period of ineligibility in a particular sport following a transfer if the transfer student participated in a varsity game or scrimmage in that sport during the prior school year, EVEN IF the student moved or met another of the stated exceptions that otherwise would allow immediate eligibility?

Yes 58 (12.72%)				No 398 (87.28%)			
3	Superintendents (5.17%)	7	Class A (12.07%)	34	Superintendents (8.54%)	90	Class A (155.17%)
8	Principals (13.79%)	17	Class B (29.31%)	59	Principals (14.82%)	113	Class B (194.83%)
44	Ath Directors (75.86%)	15	Class C (25.86%)	289	Ath Directors (72.61%)	100	Class C (172.41%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	14	Class D (24.14%)	2	Coaches (0.50%)	83	Class D (143.10%)
1	Board Members (1.72%)	4	Jr High/Middle (6.90%)	3	Board Members (0.75%)	11	Jr High/Middle (18.97%)
2	Other (3.45%)	1	Other (1.72%)	11	Other (2.76%)	1	Other (1.72%)

# Update Survey - continued

# # #

5. Section 9(B) of the transfer rule permits immediate subvarsity level eligibility for transferring 9th- and 10th-graders who have not previously participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest since first enrolling in the 9th grade. Do you favor elimination of “scrimmage” – meaning that a 9th- or 10th-grade transfer student who participated in an interscholastic scrimmage previously would no longer be prohibited from immediate eligibility at the subvarsity level?

Yes 404 (65.58%)				No 212 (34.42%)			
23	Superintendents (5.69%)	88	Class A (21.78%)	16	Superintendents (7.55%)	56	Class A (13.86%)
52	Principals (12.87%)	112	Class B (27.72%)	29	Principals (13.68%)	70	Class B (17.33%)
316	Ath Directors (78.22%)	99	Class C (24.50%)	155	Ath Directors (73.11%)	46	Class C (11.39%)
1	Coaches (0.25%)	90	Class D (22.28%)	3	Coaches (1.42%)	34	Class D (8.42%)
3	Board Members (0.74%)	13	Jr High/Middle (3.22%)	1	Board Members (0.47%)	4	Jr High/Middle (0.99%)
9	Other (2.23%)	2	Other (0.50%)	8	Other (3.77%)	2	Other (0.50%)

6. Do you favor a transfer rule that would permit eligibility with a waiver at the subvarsity level for any 9th- or 10th-grade transfer student regardless of their prior high school sports participation? (Generally, this would result in no transfer rule or period of ineligibility for 9th- or 10th-grade.)

Yes 376 (60.94%)				No 241 (39.06%)			
16	Superintendents (4.26%)	77	Class A (20.48%)	22	Superintendents (9.13%)	68	Class A (18.09%)
38	Principals (10.11%)	107	Class B (28.46%)	44	Principals (18.26%)	75	Class B (19.95%)
309	Ath Directors (82.18%)	97	Class C (25.80%)	163	Ath Directors (67.63%)	47	Class C (12.50%)
2	Coaches (0.53%)	82	Class D (21.81%)	2	Coaches (0.83%)	43	Class D (11.44%)
2	Board Members (0.53%)	11	Jr High/Middle (2.93%)	2	Board Members (0.83%)	6	Jr High/Middle (1.60%)
9	Other (2.39%)	2	Other (0.53%)	8	Other (3.32%)	2	Other (0.53%)

# # #

7. Currently, a student must be eligible to participate in a scrimmage or contest. Should eligibility be required for contests only? Should a school be allowed to permit an ineligible student to participate in one of the four allowed scrimmages in a season, but no games or meets? (MHSAA catastrophic and concussion insurance does not cover ineligible students.)

Yes 241 (38.62%)				No 383 (61.38%)			
17	Superintendents (7.05%)	46	Class A (19.09%)	23	Superintendents (6.01%)	100	Class A (41.49%)
28	Principals (11.62%)	63	Class B (26.14%)	55	Principals (14.36%)	121	Class B (50.21%)
185	Ath Directors (76.76%)	61	Class C (25.31%)	290	Ath Directors (75.72%)	84	Class C (34.85%)
2	Coaches (0.83%)	62	Class D (25.73%)	2	Coaches (0.52%)	64	Class D (26.56%)
1	Board Members (0.41%)	7	Jr High/Middle (2.90%)	3	Board Members (0.78%)	12	Jr High/Middle (4.98%)
8	Other (3.32%)	2	Other (0.83%)	10	Other (2.61%)	2	Other (0.83%)

# # #

School buses, vans or other vehicles may not be used to transport a school’s students to athletic practices, camps, clinics or competitions outside the MHSAA defined season for that sport, even if the school is reimbursed by a non-school organization for the expenses of the school vehicle and driver. “School transportation” includes those vehicles owned or leased by the school or those operated by any entity with which the district contracts to provide transportation services. Do you favor allowing school transportation to be used to transport a school’s students to out-of-season sports activities in the summer if the district is reimbursed (approve as many as you support) ...

8. By a non-school entity?

Yes 329 (53.15%)				No 290 (46.85%)			
17	Superintendents (5.17%)	84	Class A (25.53%)	22	Superintendents (7.59%)	62	Class A (18.84%)
39	Principals (11.85%)	90	Class B (27.36%)	44	Principals (15.17%)	91	Class B (27.66%)
264	Ath Directors (80.24%)	70	Class C (21.28%)	207	Ath Directors (71.38%)	75	Class C (22.80%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	75	Class D (22.80%)	4	Coaches (1.38%)	50	Class D (15.20%)
2	Board Members (0.61%)	10	Jr High/Middle (3.04%)	2	Board Members (0.69%)	8	Jr High/Middle (2.43%)
7	Other (2.13%)	0	Other (0.00%)	11	Other (3.79%)	4	Other (1.22%)

– continued next page

# Update Survey - continued

## 9. By a school booster group with fundraised money?

Yes 359 (58.00%)				No 260 (42.00%)			
20	Superintendents (5.57%)	86	Class A (23.96%)	19	Superintendents (7.31%)	60	Class A (16.71%)
46	Principals (12.81%)	102	Class B (28.41%)	37	Principals (14.23%)	79	Class B (22.01%)
279	Ath Directors (77.72%)	75	Class C (20.89%)	192	Ath Directors (73.85%)	70	Class C (19.50%)
1	Coaches (0.28%)	83	Class D (23.12%)	3	Coaches (1.15%)	42	Class D (11.70%)
3	Board Members (0.84%)	11	Jr High/Middle (3.06%)	1	Board Members (0.38%)	7	Jr High/Middle (1.95%)
10	Other (2.79%)	2	Other (0.56%)	8	Other (3.08%)	2	Other (0.56%)

## 10. By parents, independent of the school or booster organization?

Yes 377 (60.90%)				No 242 (39.10%)			
21	Superintendents (5.57%)	90	Class A (23.87%)	18	Superintendents (7.44%)	56	Class A (14.85%)
48	Principals (12.73%)	106	Class B (28.12%)	35	Principals (14.46%)	75	Class B (19.89%)
299	Ath Directors (79.31%)	85	Class C (22.55%)	172	Ath Directors (71.07%)	60	Class C (15.92%)
1	Coaches (0.27%)	87	Class D (23.08%)	3	Coaches (1.24%)	38	Class D (10.08%)
2	Board Members (0.53%)	9	Jr High/Middle (2.39%)	2	Board Members (0.83%)	9	Jr High/Middle (2.39%)
6	Other (1.59%)	0	Other (0.00%)	12	Other (4.96%)	4	Other (1.06%)

# # #

## 11. Do you favor a rule that would prohibit rising 7th- and 8th-graders from participating with high school students at summer team camps or competitions, but permit participation at summer skills camps open to all students in grades 7 through 12?

Yes 274 (44.34%)				No 344 (55.66%)			
18	Superintendents (6.57%)	67	Class A (24.45%)	21	Superintendents (6.10%)	77	Class A (28.10%)
38	Principals (13.87%)	80	Class B (29.20%)	44	Principals (12.79%)	100	Class B (36.50%)
209	Ath Directors (76.28%)	66	Class C (24.09%)	264	Ath Directors (76.74%)	79	Class C (28.83%)
0	Coaches (0.00%)	43	Class D (15.69%)	4	Coaches (1.16%)	83	Class D (30.29%)
1	Board Members (0.36%)	15	Jr High/Middle (5.47%)	2	Board Members (0.58%)	4	Jr High/Middle (1.46%)
8	Other (2.92%)	3	Other (1.09%)	9	Other (2.62%)	1	Other (0.36%)

## 12. Currently only alpine skiing, ice hockey and soccer require a student to participate in at least four regular season contests against MHSAA member school teams before the student has the privilege of participating in the MHSAA postseason tournament in that sport. Do you favor the application of this minimum team membership requirement to students in all sports?

Yes 366 (59.22%)				No 252 (40.78%)			
17	Superintendents (4.64%)	83	Class A (22.68%)	23	Superintendents (9.13%)	61	Class A (16.67%)
43	Principals (11.75%)	102	Class B (27.87%)	38	Principals (15.08%)	80	Class B (21.86%)
295	Ath Directors (80.60%)	88	Class C (24.04%)	177	Ath Directors (70.24%)	56	Class C (15.30%)
1	Coaches (0.27%)	75	Class D (20.49%)	3	Coaches (1.19%)	51	Class D (13.93%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	15	Jr High/Middle (4.10%)	4	Board Members (1.59%)	3	Jr High/Middle (0.82%)
10	Other (2.73%)	3	Other (0.82%)	7	Other (2.78%)	1	Other (0.27%)

## 13. Since 2014, for football only, no single practice may exceed three hours and the total practice time on days with multiple practice sessions may not exceed five hours. Do you favor the same limit for all sports?

Yes 541 (87.40%)				No 78 (12.60%)			
37	Superintendents (6.84%)	120	Class A (22.18%)	2	Superintendents (2.56%)	25	Class A (4.62%)
74	Principals (13.68%)	157	Class B (29.02%)	9	Principals (11.54%)	25	Class B (4.62%)
411	Ath Directors (75.97%)	130	Class C (24.03%)	61	Ath Directors (78.21%)	15	Class C (2.77%)
2	Coaches (0.37%)	114	Class D (21.07%)	2	Coaches (2.56%)	11	Class D (2.03%)
3	Board Members (0.55%)	17	Jr High/Middle (3.14%)	1	Board Members (1.28%)	1	Jr High/Middle (0.18%)
14	Other (2.59%)	3	Other (0.55%)	3	Other (3.85%)	1	Other (0.18%)

## 14. Is your school/district considering changes in the academic calendar, such as an earlier start to classes in August, which will make it more difficult to schedule two-a-day practices during August?

Yes 172 (28.10%)				No 440 (71.90%)			
16	Superintendents (9.30%)	40	Class A (23.26%)	23	Superintendents (5.23%)	103	Class A (59.88%)
34	Principals (19.77%)	56	Class B (32.56%)	47	Principals (10.68%)	124	Class B (72.09%)
116	Ath Directors (67.44%)	44	Class C (25.58%)	350	Ath Directors (79.55%)	99	Class C (57.56%)
3	Coaches (1.74%)	27	Class D (15.70%)	1	Coaches (0.23%)	97	Class D (56.40%)
1	Board Members (0.58%)	4	Jr High/Middle (2.33%)	3	Board Members (0.68%)	14	Jr High/Middle (8.14%)
2	Other (1.16%)	1	Other (0.58%)	16	Other (3.64%)	3	Other (1.74%)

# Update Survey - continued

Baseball (answer only if your school sponsors this sport)

15. Do you favor a more restrictive baseball pitching limitation (i.e. pitch count) than the current "30-out rule"?

Yes 161 (27.43%)			No 426 (72.57%)				
12	Superintendents (7.45%)	39	Class A (24.22%)	27	Superintendents (6.34%)	103	Class A (63.98%)
21	Principals (13.04%)	48	Class B (29.81%)	59	Principals (13.85%)	132	Class B (81.99%)
122	Ath Directors (75.78%)	31	Class C (19.25%)	323	Ath Directors (75.82%)	106	Class C (65.84%)
2	Coaches (1.24%)	38	Class D (23.60%)	2	Coaches (0.47%)	74	Class D (45.96%)
1	Board Members (0.62%)	5	Jr High/Middle (3.11%)	3	Board Members (0.70%)	7	Jr High/Middle (4.35%)
3	Other (1.86%)	0	Other (0.00%)	12	Other (2.82%)	4	Other (2.48%)

Cross Country (answer only if your school sponsors this sport)

16. Rather than placing an equal number of schools in each of four equal divisions for cross country classification, do you favor placing an equal number of complete teams (five runners) in each Region of each division (if either gender had a complete team in the previous year's Cross Country Regionals, both genders would be treated as a complete team)?

Yes 357 (63.41%)			No 206 (36.59%)				
25	Superintendents (7.00%)	93	Class A (26.05%)	13	Superintendents (6.31%)	45	Class A (12.61%)
39	Principals (10.92%)	114	Class B (31.93%)	34	Principals (16.50%)	59	Class B (16.53%)
280	Ath Directors (78.43%)	87	Class C (24.37%)	150	Ath Directors (72.82%)	49	Class C (13.73%)
2	Coaches (0.56%)	51	Class D (14.29%)	2	Coaches (0.97%)	48	Class D (13.45%)
1	Board Members (0.28%)	11	Jr High/Middle (3.08%)	2	Board Members (0.97%)	2	Jr High/Middle (0.56%)
10	Other (2.80%)	1	Other (0.28%)	5	Other (2.43%)	3	Other (0.84%)

17. Do you favor using a modified scoring system in Division 4 cross country where only four runners per team (not five) are scored?

Yes 313 (56.81%)			No 238 (43.19%)				
24	Superintendents (7.67%)	61	Class A (19.49%)	11	Superintendents (4.62%)	66	Class A (21.09%)
40	Principals (12.78%)	100	Class B (31.95%)	36	Principals (15.13%)	72	Class B (23.00%)
236	Ath Directors (75.40%)	76	Class C (24.28%)	183	Ath Directors (76.89%)	62	Class C (19.81%)
3	Coaches (0.96%)	66	Class D (21.09%)	1	Coaches (0.42%)	32	Class D (10.22%)
3	Board Members (0.96%)	7	Jr High/Middle (2.24%)	0	Board Members (0.00%)	5	Jr High/Middle (1.60%)
7	Other (2.24%)	3	Other (0.96%)	7	Other (2.94%)	1	Other (0.32%)

18. Do you favor creating a District level of competition for the MHSAA Cross Country Tournament?

Yes 247 (43.87%)			No 316 (56.13%)				
19	Superintendents (7.69%)	49	Class A (19.84%)	19	Superintendents (6.01%)	87	Class A (35.22%)
34	Principals (13.77%)	70	Class B (28.34%)	41	Principals (12.97%)	103	Class B (41.70%)
185	Ath Directors (74.90%)	68	Class C (27.53%)	243	Ath Directors (76.90%)	70	Class C (28.34%)
2	Coaches (0.81%)	51	Class D (20.65%)	2	Coaches (0.63%)	49	Class D (19.84%)
2	Board Members (0.81%)	7	Jr High/Middle (2.83%)	1	Board Members (0.32%)	5	Jr High/Middle (2.02%)
5	Other (2.02%)	2	Other (0.81%)	10	Other (3.16%)	2	Other (0.81%)

Ice Hockey (answer only if your school sponsors this sport)

19. Do you favor lengthening the Ice Hockey Tournament time period from its current two-week timeframe to three weeks in order to reduce the size of Regional tournaments and create Districts?

Yes 178 (49.17%)			No 184 (50.83%)				
12	Superintendents (6.74%)	60	Class A (33.71%)	9	Superintendents (4.89%)	71	Class A (39.89%)
26	Principals (14.61%)	55	Class B (30.90%)	26	Principals (14.13%)	59	Class B (33.15%)
129	Ath Directors (72.47%)	36	Class C (20.22%)	141	Ath Directors (76.63%)	35	Class C (19.66%)
3	Coaches (1.69%)	19	Class D (10.67%)	1	Coaches (0.54%)	17	Class D (9.55%)
3	Board Members (1.69%)	6	Jr High/Middle (3.37%)	0	Board Members (0.00%)	2	Jr High/Middle (1.12%)
5	Other (2.81%)	2	Other (1.12%)	7	Other (3.80%)	0	Other (0.00%)

## SURVEY TOTALS

Respondents' Title	Respondents' Classification
40 Superintendents (6.31%)	148 Class A (23.34%)
84 Principals (13.25%)	186 Class B (29.34%)
482 Athletic Directors	149 Class C (23.50%)
4 Coaches (0.63%)	128 Class D (20.19%)
4 Board Members (0.63%)	19 Jr High / Middle (3.00%)
20 Other (3.15%)	4 Other (0.63%)

TOTAL SURVEYS RECEIVED = 634

## International Student Eligibility Summary

See 2015-16 Handbook Pg. 38 for the Rule; Pgs. 44 for Interpretations 81, 83-89

\*For J-1 or F-1 visa students enrolling for the 1st time in an MHSAA School in 2015-16.

To be immediately eligible an International Student, either J-1 or F-1 visa, and including incoming 9th-graders, must meet one of two conditions:

1. Meet a residency exception under the transfer rule (1,2,3,5,8,12 or 13)

OR

2. Be placed with a host family in a school district through an Approved International Student Program (AISP). AISP programs generally include those which are CSIET approved and those also approved by the MHSAA after application is made. See MHSAA.com, >Schools, > Administrators. See In-Services, Education, Programming.

The student is eligible at the public school of their residence or the closest nonpublic or charter school for one year and then ineligible for a subsequent year (play one, wait one – no eligibility at any level). Incoming 9th grade international students do not have immediate eligibility unless they meet condition 1 or 2 above.

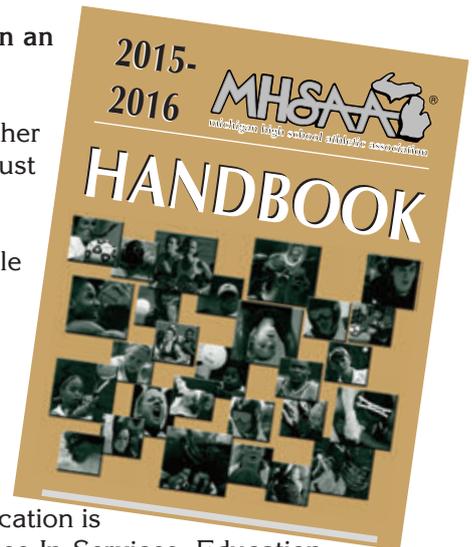
**Note:** A student who was in the US last year (2014-15) and eligible as an AISP foreign exchange student would be ineligible this year (2015-16) under play one, wait one. After the year off under play one, wait one an AISP student could have eligibility remaining at any level but must follow the transfer rule if they change schools, and all other rules such as the 8 semester rule.

An International Student, including an incoming 9th grade student, who did not meet condition 1 or 2 above, is not eligible for varsity competition for up to 4 years. A school may choose to allow International Student eligibility at the sub varsity level after having sat out until MLK or Aug 1, depending on the date of enrollment. No waiver is needed for these students.

International Students must be eligible in all other ways including being an undergraduate and having a sports physical dated after April 15.

**Note:** Students who were in an MHSAA school prior to Aug 1, 2014 when this rule was enacted may operate under the old transfer rule for up to 8 semesters (sit one term and then have normal eligibility). However, CSIET eligible students are still subject to “play one wait one” as that rule has been in place for several years.

*This is a summary; see the exact Handbook regulation and interpretations and consult school athletic director.*



# Academic Eligibility Requirements *Outline of Sections 7 & 8*

## Section 7 Previous Academic Credit Record (See Reg. III -7; Page 83 Middle School)

- 7 (A) Must have credit for classes from the previous semester in 66% full credit load potential for a full time high school student (Int. 46.) [4 of 5 or 6 classes, 5 of 7, 6 of 8 classes]. Rule begins after finishing 1st semester of high school - grade 9. Junior High/Middle School - 50% of full time student's regular class load
- 7 (B) Usual credits allowed by school shall be given but not for previous work.
- 7 (C) Deficiencies may be made up (summer school, credit recovery, online). Eligible when posted to the transcript.
- Int. 42 How long is a student who has not passed 66% ineligible?  
**Trimester Schools** – Student not achieving 66% is not eligible for the next trimester.  
**Semester Schools** – Student not achieving 66% is not eligible for 60 scheduled school days. Can become eligible on the 61st school day if passing 66%. (Special check may be needed)

- Int. 46 Note 2 – Students who travel to offsite courses or enrolled in approved college courses may have their credit load potential reduced to not less than 50%.
- Int. 47 Online courses may be counted if the school gives credit and in measured units over a pre-determined period of time similar to a traditional trimester or semester.
- Int. 48 Non Traditional - Alternative Education may not sponsor any athletics including Alternative Educ. Athletic Assoc. Must count all students in your attendance area and name the alternative program on previous February's Enrollment Declaration Form.
- Int. 48d. If you do count and list nontraditional students they are eligible at their **base/original school only**: School of residency or school that you were enrolled in previously.
- Int. 48 Note Two: An alternative education student who returns the base/original school is NOT considered to be a transfer and has eligibility under the transfer rule.

## Section 8 Current Academic Credit Record (See Reg. III -8; Page 79 Middle School)

- 8 Current academic check must be at least once in 10 weeks for semester school, once in 7 weeks for trimester school (most schools check more frequently). 66% for high school or 50% Junior High. When checked and below minimum, the student is ineligible until passing 66% but at least the next Monday-Sunday

- Int. 49 Adult Education and Night School
- Int. 50 Home School taking shared time - at least 66% at high school they play for
- Int. 51 Dual enrolled, shared time taking - at least 66% at high school they play for

<b>MHSAA Representative Council</b>  <b>Dave Derocher**</b> Athletic Director Reese High School Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula  <b>Scott Grimes**, President</b> Assistant Superintendent of Human Services Grand Haven Public Schools Statewide At-Large  <b>Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio)</b> Director , Coordinated School Health & Safety Programs Unit, Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing Designee  <b>Don Gustafson*</b> Superintendent St. Ignace Area Schools Junior High/Middle Schools  <b>Courtney Hawkins*</b> Athletic Director Flint Beecher High School Appointee  <b>Kris Isom*</b> Athletic Director Adrian Madison High School Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan	<b>Sean Jacques**</b> Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Calumet High School Class C-D — Upper Peninsula	<b>Peter C. Ryan**</b> Athletic Director Saginaw Township Community Schools Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula
	<b>Karen Leinaar*</b> Athletic Director Bear Lake High School Statewide At-Large	<b>Fred Smith**, Vice President</b> Athletic Director Benton Harbor High School Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan
	<b>Orlando Medina**</b> Athletic Director L'Anse Creuse High School Appointee	<b>John Thompson**</b> Athletic Director Brighton High School Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan
	<b>Cheri Meier*</b> Principal Ionia Middle School Appointee	<b>Al Unger*</b> Athletic Director Kingsford High School Class A-B — Upper Peninsula
	<b>Vic Michaels**, Secretary-Treasurer</b> Director of Physical Education & Athletics Archdiocese of Detroit Private and Parochial Schools	<b>Alvin Ward*</b> Administrator of Athletics Detroit Public Schools Detroit Public Schools Position
	<b>Chris Miller*</b> Athletic Director Gobles High School Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan	<b>Pat Watson**</b> Principal West Bloomfield High School Appointee
	<b>Steve Newkirk**</b> Principal Clare Middle School Junior High/Middle Schools	*Term Expires December 2017 **Term Expires December 2016

## 2015-16 MHSAA Budget

The following budget for operation of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., for the 2015-16 school year was considered and approved at the May 2015 Representative Council Meeting.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION .....	\$ 3,074,202
GENERAL PRINTING .....	155,500
GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSES .....	1,397,052
GENERAL MEETINGS .....	84,300
COACHES & OFFICIALS .....	390,400
CORPORATE SALES .....	210,000
STUDENT SERVICES .....	490,667
BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS .....	210,000
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS .....	1,000,000
BOWLING TOURNAMENTS .....	69,000
COMPETITIVE CHEER .....	105,000
CROSS COUNTRY MEETS .....	116,000
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS .....	1,050,000
GOLF TOURNAMENTS .....	40,000
GYMNASTICS MEETS .....	22,000
HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS .....	240,000
LACROSSE TOURNAMENTS .....	43,000
SKI MEETS .....	20,000
SOCCER TOURNAMENTS .....	200,000
SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS .....	200,000
SWIMMING MEETS .....	85,000
TENNIS TOURNAMENTS .....	90,000
TRACK MEETS .....	212,000
VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS .....	260,000
WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS .....	490,000
BROADCASTING .....	5,000
REVENUE SHARING .....	180,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2015-16 .....</b>	<b>\$10,439,121</b>

## 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, 2014-15

**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.

**PARTICIPANTS** – There were approximately 288,230 participants on interscholastic athletic squads of the 753 member high schools during the 2014-15 school year. The MHSAA membership also included 703 junior high/middle schools.

**REGISTERED OFFICIALS** – There were 10,305 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 2014-15 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 2014-15 school year.

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP EVENTS** – Three Sportsmanship Summits and two Captains Clinics were conducted involving almost 1,000 students. The new online Captains Course was launched in July. The ninth class of the Student Advisory Council was appointed. The sixth “Reaching Higher” experiences were provided to help prepare more than 225 male and female basketball players for their college experience. Twenty-one schools participated in the fourth Battle of the Fans.

**COMMITTEES** – Approximately 500 different individuals served on the following association committees during the 2014-15 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

## 2016-17 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, 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 2016-17 school year. If you desire to place yourself as a nominee complete this form and fax it to the MHSAA office by March 31, 2016. 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	
Boys Lacrosse (125)	October & May	
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	
Classification (55)	January	
Cross Country/Track & Field Reg. (70)	January	
Track & Field Site Selection (185)	January	
Football (75)	January	
Ice Hockey (110)	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	

City/School \_\_\_\_\_ School ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Principal (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO MHSAA NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2016**

# Official Report of the Board of Canvassers

East Lansing, September 29, 2015

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

## REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

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

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 6  
 Al Unger, Kingsford. . . . . 6  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 0

**Elected by majority of votes – Al Unger**

### DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS (#2)

Total number of legal ballots received . . . . . 1  
 Alvin Ward, Detroit . . . . . 1  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 0

**Elected by majority of votes – Alvin Ward**

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

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 22  
 Chris Miller, Gobles. . . . . 22  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 1

**Elected by majority of votes – Chris Miller**

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

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 15  
 Kristen M. Isom, Adrian-Madison . . . . . 15  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 0

**Elected by majority of votes – Kristen M. Isom**

### STATEWIDE AT-LARGE (#5)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 361  
 Karen S. Leinaar, Bear Lake. . . . . 296  
 Don McKenzie, Lincoln Park. . . . . 65  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 20

**Elected by majority of votes – Karen Leinaar**

### JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS (#6)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 122  
 Don Gustafson, St. Ignace . . . . . 53  
 Robert Masters, Lincoln Park. . . . . 11  
 Steve Muenzer, Lake Fenton. . . . . 12  
 Kevin O'Rourke, Rockford . . . . . 46  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 6

**No majority – Names of Don Gustafson and Kevin O'Rourke submitted to schools.**

## UPPER PENINSULA

### CLASS D SCHOOLS (#7)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 18  
 Gary Brayak, Rock-Mid Peninsula . . . . . 18  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 0

**Elected by majority of votes – Gary Brayak**

### CLASS A AND B SCHOOLS (#8)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 4  
 Matthew C. Houle, Gladstone . . . . . 4  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 2

**Elected by majority of votes – Matthew C. Houle**

### CLASS C SCHOOLS (#9)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 7  
 Chris Hartman, Iron Mountain . . . . . 7  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 0

**Elected by majority of votes – Chris Hartman**

### BOARD OF CANVASSERS (Signed)

Vicki Groat, Athletic Director, Battle Creek-St. Philip Catholic Central High School

Barry Hobrla, Athletic Director, Pewamo-Westphalia High School

Fr. Leon Olszamowski, President, Pontiac-Notre Dame Preparatory School

Maureen Klocke, Athletic Director, Yale High School

## OFFICIAL REPORT OF SECOND MEETING OF BOARD OF CANVASSERS East Lansing, October 22, 2015

## REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

### JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS (#6)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 152  
 Don Gustafson, St. Ignace . . . . . 79  
 Kevin O'Rourke, Rockford. . . . . 73  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 12

**Elected by majority of votes - Don Gustafson**

### 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 2016-17

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

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

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

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

**Class A and B Schools — 3 openings**

Northern Lower Peninsula  
Southwestern Section  
Southeastern Section

**Class C and D Schools—2 openings**

Upper Peninsula  
Northern Lower Peninsula

**Statewide At-Large —1 opening**

**Jr. High/Middle Schools —1 opening**

**Private and Parochial —1 opening**

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

Elections will be held in the fall for the following:

**Class D U.P. School—1 opening**

**Athletic Coach—1 opening**

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

## Annual Business Meeting of the MHSAA, Inc.

Gaylord, Monday, Oct. 12, 2015

Karen Leinaar

MHSAA Audit and 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 Scott Grimes, Assistant Superintendent of Grand Haven Public Schools; Pete Ryan, Athletic Director for the Saginaw Township Schools; 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 just over \$30,000 during the 2014-15 fiscal year. This was an amazing finish after last fall's Football Playoffs when terrible weather caused gross revenues to decline more than \$400,000.

The Expense Budget for 2015-16, which was adopted by the Representative Council on May 4, 2015, is enclosed for your review as Appendix 1. An operating surplus of less than 1% of budget is anticipated in 2015-16.

The most significant new expense for 2015-16 is for the concussion care insurance purchased by the MHSAA for all eligible athletes in all sports. This includes grades 7 and 8 **provided** the school has joined the MHSAA at that level. I urge you to do so if you have not done so already.

## “You Didn’t Earn Those Chairs . . .”

Anyone who has ever been to a sporting event or tuned in to a broadcast of a contest in any sport has witnessed the following scenes during the pregame National Anthem: players swaying, swinging arms, looking at the ground, chatting with teammates, or any combination.

That’s if you, yourself, happen to be paying attention during a tradition that unfortunately has become “routine,” for too many.

Virginia Tech Men’s Basketball Coach Buzz Williams is one person who decided to do something about it. He recently had his team practice their positions and demeanor during The Star-Spangled Banner with help from several area “recruits.”

The team gathered for a 6:30 a.m. practice in November and was joined by enlisted men and women, and a few officers. The veterans stood intermingled with the players as service personnel set team chairs in place on the court.



Williams delivered a poignant message to his young men, which – in part – was this:

“We didn’t earn those chairs. Your talent didn’t earn those chairs. How tall you are and how fast you run and how well you shoot didn’t earn those chairs . . . These people – when they were your age – *interrupted* their lives; they *paused* their education; they *changed* their careers; and they *gave* their lives for those chairs. Do you guys understand what I’m saying?”

He then delivered expectations to the team as to their posture and attention during the National Anthem, and as a group, players and veterans, they practiced and stood in observance during a rendition of the song.

It is powerful stuff, and a reminder to all just who is responsible for the games and privileges we enjoy, all too often without a second thought.

Scan this code or visit the [hokiesports Facebook page](#) for this incredibly moving video



*“We didn’t earn those chairs. Your talent didn’t earn those chairs. How tall you are and how fast you run and how well you shoot didn’t earn those chairs.” — Virginia Tech Men’s Basketball Coach Buzz Williams*

### The Multi-Sport Advantage

I was four-sport athlete out of Sault Area High School, and I have just read an article online that the MHSAA is trying to push for student-athletes to play multiple sports. I, myself, have a great amount of insight on this matter. I was an All-America wrestler while at the same time, an all-conference, starting point guard in basketball. I played baseball with all-region honors, and football with all-UP honors. Had I not played all of these sports, I wouldn’t be near the athlete I am today, much less would I have received a scholarship to a Top 20 Division 2 football school.

— Michael James  
Michigan Technological University  
Houghton, MI

*The days of GAA are long gone, but the smiles still accompany girls participating in sports today.*





# INTRODUCING

## UNDER ARMOUR® HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK ON THE NFHS NETWORK

Join host Rashan Ali every Monday afternoon for a fast-paced and entertaining look at some of most memorable moments, record-breaking performances and amazing feats of athleticism from the thousands of regular season, playoff and championship high school events on the NFHS Network.

Viewers can take part in the action by voting on the weekly Wildcard Matchup.

Fans have three easy options for submitting clips to the show:

- Use the **"Clip and Share"** feature on the NFHS Network site
- Tag videos with **#UAHighlights** on social networks
- Email a link to the video to **UAHighlights@nfhsnetwork.com**



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