

benchmarks

Winter 2017 Vol. 8 No. 2

mhsaa

Gazing into the MHSAA's Winter Sports Wonderland





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: MHSAA's Winter Sports Wonderland



4 To discover the hidden winter wonder of the MHSAA cold-weather tournament season, a look beyond the basketball court reveals an expanse of opportunity for student-athletes who excel in an array of sports somewhat unique to Michigan. Attendance and participation figures illustrate the popularity of the season.

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The Vault – 18

One Crazy Weekend

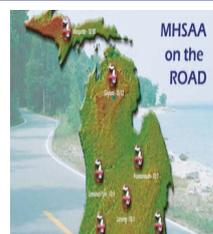
Many a March weekend create a hectic schedule for MHSAA Staff, but none busier than March 6-8, 2008.



MHSAA News – 32

Survey Says . . .

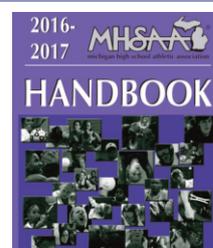
The 2016 Update Meeting Opinion Poll focused on preferences for junior high/middle schools, and requirements for coaches and officials.



Regulations Review – 36

The Season for Co-Ops

For many MHSAA member schools, winter sports offer prime opportunities for Co-Op programs. Know the Regulation prior to forming a team.



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A Kaleidoscope

School sports is much more a kaleidoscope than a microscope. Our programs offer a diverse array of activities for students of all sizes, shapes, colors and customs.

When the focus is on one sport, one team or one athlete, the work is easy; but the mission of educational athletics is missed.

When the focus is on multiple levels of multiple sports, the work is much harder. It means complicated scheduling of facilities for practices and events. It means sharing precious resources fairly. It involves bickering, bargaining, brainstorming and budgeting.

It requires an open mind. For example, we raised some eyebrows in Michigan with sponsorship of boys and girls bowling tournaments; now a few state associations have bass fishing tournaments. We hang onto a postseason tournament for alpine skiing but wonder if snowboarding should be added or should replace alpine skiing. We conduct traditional state tournaments for golf and tennis but wonder if a Ryder Cup format for golf or a team tennis tournament – in both cases coed – would be cooler and rejuvenate these sports in schools.

It's impossible to do everything for everybody; but as this issue of *benchmarks* demonstrates, school sports in Michigan is closer to achieving its full potential today than at any time since its founding.



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

John E. “Jack” Roberts
MHSAA Executive Director



The MHSAA's Winter Sports Seasons illustrate the kaleidoscope of school sports.

Eight is Enough . . . And Then Some

Following is the "From the Director" blog of Nov 22 pondering the popularity of 8-Player Football and what the future holds.

Two things happened during the 2016 football season that were not unexpected but which now require discussion leading to action:

1. The 2016 football season was the first during which the number of Michigan High School Athletic Association Class D high schools sponsoring 8-player teams exceeded the number of Class D schools sponsoring 11-player teams: 48 playing 8-player football; 40 playing the 11-player game.
2. The 2016 8-Player Football Playoffs was the first to exclude a six-win team . . . in fact, two of them . . . from the 16-team field and four-week format.

The original plan for the 8-player tournament called for expansion to a 32-team field and a five-week format when the number of MHSAA Class D member schools sponsoring a full season of the 8-player game exceeded 40 for several years. Having now reached the point of expansion, many questions are being raised. For example:

Are Class D schools served well by a 32-team field and a five-week format, like the 11-player tournament?

Or, would two 16-team divisions and continuing the four-week format be best?

The two 16-team divisions would have the benefits of smaller enrollment differences between the largest and smallest schools of each division, as well as a one-week shorter season – both of which might be preferred from the standpoint of participant health and safety.

Under neither format is it likely that the championship game(s) would be held at Ford Field. The facility has a long-standing commitment for the Fri-

day and Saturday before Thanksgiving, when the four-week format concludes; and there is not room for a fifth game on either Friday or Saturday after Thanksgiving when the eight championship games of the 11-player tournament are conducted.

These discussions regarding the 8-player tournament field and format will invite other discussions. For example, Class C schools that sponsor 8-player teams which are ineligible for the 8-player tournament that is limited to Class D schools only, will ask for a tournament opportunity; but their inclusion in the 8-player tournament will be resisted by Class D schools.

There are people who will advocate that the 11-player tournament should be reduced from eight divisions to seven; and that Division 8 be for the 8-player tournament, with 32 teams and a five-week format concluding at Ford Field on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Of course, this reduces by 32 the total number of teams that will qualify for the MHSAA Football Playoff experience.

We must keep in mind that every enhancement of the 8-player experience invites more conversions from the 11-player to 8-player game, and every conversion makes life a little more difficult for remaining 11-player teams, especially for smaller schools. For example:

- Remaining Class D 11-player schools have fewer like-sized opponents to schedule during the regular season, and they must travel further to play them.
- Some remaining 11-player schools in Classes D, C and B find themselves playing in playoff divisions with larger schools than was the case a few years ago.

The reintroduction of 8-player football in Michigan high schools in 2011 was generally

praised; but we knew even then that the day would come when the new benefits for some would create new hardships for others. The discussions needed now will require coaches and administrators to examine the effects of change on others as well as on themselves, and to be fair with their responses and recommendations.

COMMENTS:

"I agree. As an average size Class D high school I would favored the two 16-team divisions. This would make an even playing field for the small Class D high schools and the larger ones. I would prefer schools that are Class C would not be allowed to play in the postseason. I am afraid if we allow the Class C in where does it stop. Bigger schools would want to get in too."

— Terry Evanish, AD
International Academy of Flint

"I support the original plan for the 8-player tournament: to be expanded to a 32-team field and a five-week format. I am hopeful such a playoff format will be enacted for 2017. Some alternate indoor facility should be sought in place of Ford Field for the 8-Player Final. Since 8-player participation is more northerly, where low enrollments are common, possibly the Superior Dome at NMU in Marquette should be looked at for hosting the Final."

— Loren Vannest, Superintendent
Hale Area Schools

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

Winter Games

of the



michigan high school
athletic association

Temperatures may plunge, but the MHSAA tournament season heats up to offer a carnival of events for MHSAA member schools each winter.

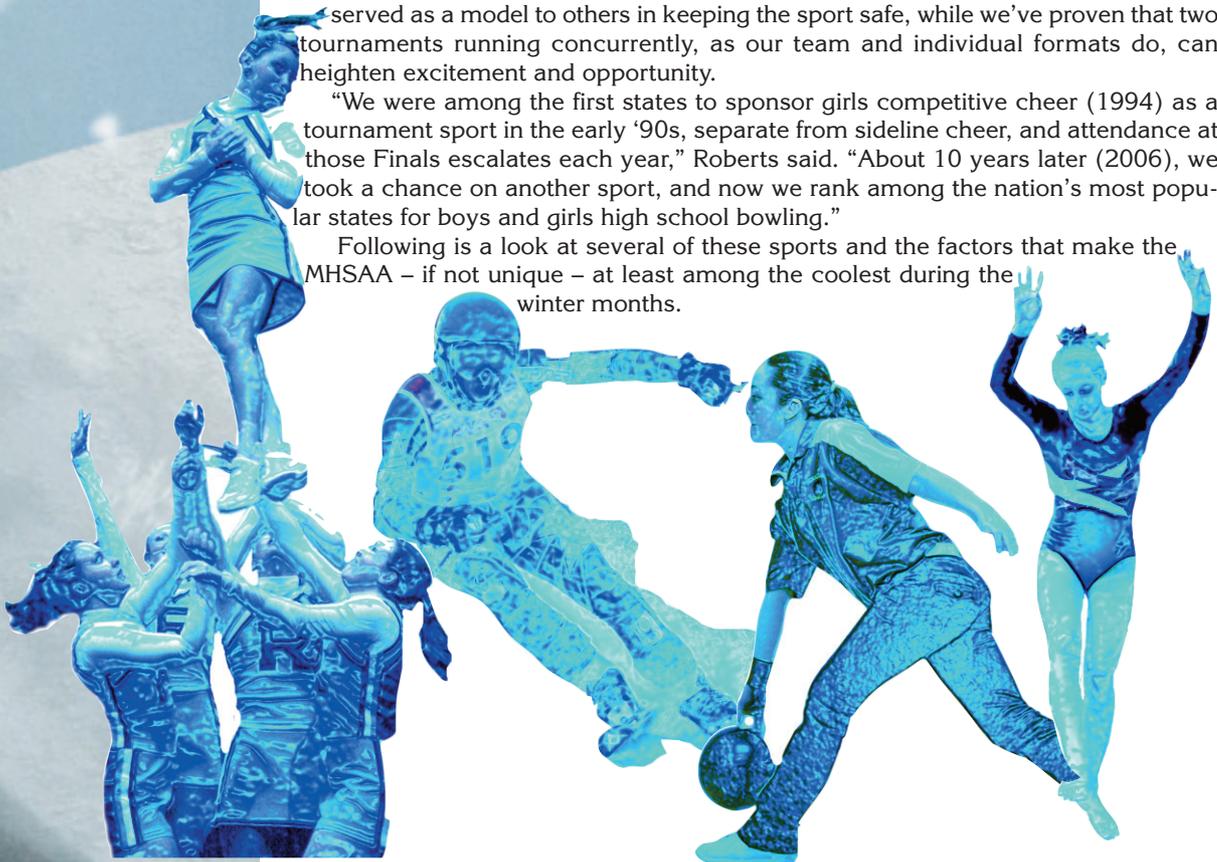
Quick, which season showcases the greatest number of MHSAA Tournaments? As the layout of this issue decidedly gives away the answer, it is the winter season, with 12 championship events taking place; 14 when considering Wrestling's team *and* individual tournaments, and when splitting Upper Peninsula swimming and diving into each gender.

While much focus is placed on scholastic hoops during these months – and with more than 37,000 participants and the highest percentage of schools sponsoring basketball teams, that sport does command proper attention – the MHSAA offers unique participation opportunities in several other sports, bolstering its national figures which annually rank among the top.

“Our winter sports offerings are second to none when considering the opportunities afforded to our diverse communities throughout Michigan,” said MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts. “From the rolling, rural land in our Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula where winter weather is embraced – even depended upon from an economical standpoint – alpine skiing and ice hockey might be the sports of choice. We have a rich history in wrestling, and our Weight Monitoring Program has served as a model to others in keeping the sport safe, while we’ve proven that two tournaments running concurrently, as our team and individual formats do, can heighten excitement and opportunity.

“We were among the first states to sponsor girls competitive cheer (1994) as a tournament sport in the early ‘90s, separate from sideline cheer, and attendance at those Finals escalates each year,” Roberts said. “About 10 years later (2006), we took a chance on another sport, and now we rank among the nation’s most popular states for boys and girls high school bowling.”

Following is a look at several of these sports and the factors that make the MHSAA – if not unique – at least among the coolest during the winter months.



Ranking the MHSAA Winter Sports

National Federation of State High School Associations



Following are the MHSAA Winter Sports participation national rankings according to the 2015-16 National Federation of State High School Associations survey. Note: Some sports might take place in different seasons in other states. For those sports ranking among top seven, the states ahead of Michigan are listed.

Sport	Schools	Participants	Rank	Sport	Schools	Participants	Rank
Boys Basketball <i>(behind Texas, California, Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania)</i>	728	21,509	6th	Boys Ice Hockey <i>(behind Massachusetts, Minnesota and New Jersey)</i>	227	3,346	4th
Girls Basketball <i>(behind Texas, California, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio)</i>	653	15,573	7th	Boys Skiing <i>(behind Massachusetts and Minnesota)</i>	85	719	3rd
Boys Bowling <i>(behind New York and Ohio)</i>	369	3,853	3rd	Girls Skiing <i>(behind Massachusetts and Minnesota)</i>	92	652	3rd
Girls Bowling <i>(behind Ohio and Illinois)</i>	350	3,054	3rd	Boys Swimming & Diving	238	4,732	9th
Girls Competitive Cheer <i>(behind North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, California and Illinois)</i>	336	7,062	6th	Wrestling <i>(behind California, Illinois, New York, Texas, Ohio and Pennsylvania)</i>	463	9,396	7th
Girls Gymnastics	67	638	11th	<i>NOTE: The MHSAA Girls UP Swimming & Diving Finals are in the Winter, LP is in the Fall.</i>			

CHILLIN' NEAR THE TOP

For the eighth straight year, Michigan ranked seventh nationally in high school sports participation, according to statistics for the 2015-16 school year released by the National Federation of State High School Associations. That level of participation exceeds Michigan's national ranking for total number of high-school aged residents, which remained ninth. Michigan also again ranked ninth or higher in participation in 26 of 28 sports in which the MHSAA conducts a postseason tournament.

Michigan's participation ranking was based on a number of 295,436, with 126,160 girls and 169,276 boys taking part, and included NFHS sports in which the MHSAA does not conduct postseason tournaments.

The totals count students once for each sport in which he or she participates, so multiple-sport athletes are counted more than once.

The state's girls participation remained seventh nationally for the fifth consecutive year, while the boys participation figure continued to rank sixth. According to the latest U.S. Census Bureau figures from 2015, Michigan ranks ninth in both females and males ages 14 through 17.

Of the state's 13 sports that bested the state's overall national participation ranking of seventh by placing sixth or higher on their respective lists, seven take place in the winter. Another two placed seventh on the national ladder.

Among the winter wonders, Michigan girls bowling, and girls and boys skiing improved from fourth to third in national participation rankings from the previous year, while wrestling improved to seventh and gymnastics one spot to 11th.

Girls competitive cheer slipped slightly from fifth to sixth, but still remained above population rank.

The other Michigan winter sports that ranked sixth or higher equaled their national rankings from 2014-15 and included boys basketball at sixth, boys bowling third, and ice hockey fourth (third in number of schools playing the sport). Girls basketball stayed the same from the year before at seventh while boys swimming & diving cracked the top 10 in ninth, and gymnastics just missed at No. 11.



- continued next page

GOING TO THE MAT FOR PARTICIPATION

With origins dating to 1948, wrestling is among the most established sports highlighting the MHSAA's winter calendar. As the sport's popularity continued to grow over the decades, those most closely involved with the sport began to notice the truly individual nature of the sport, resulting in schools being lauded as "team" champions based on the accomplishments of an exceptional few.

So, in 1988, a great tournament got twice as good by doubling itself. That winter marked the first season of MHSAA-sponsored Team and Individual Wrestling Tournaments, putting increased emphasis on deep rosters at all weight classes, while still recognizing the best student-athletes at each weight class at various sized school classifications. It also opened the doors for increased participation opportunities.

2017 marks the 30th year the two formats have existed side by side. MHSAA wrestlers today know of no other system, but one of the Association's newest employees, Dan Hutcheson, has seen the transformation from its inception, literally from the inside out.

"I remember when the first MHSAA Wrestling Team Finals took place (1988). I was a senior in high school," said Hutcheson of his experience as a wrestler at Holt High School in the Team Quarterfinals that year.

"I recall some hand-wringing and concern with coaches worried about having wrestlers make weight 'again,' and also the possibility for injury with the added high level competitions. Now, those items are not even given a second thought because of the MHSAA's Weight Monitoring Program which



The Grand March at the Individual Wrestling Finals is annually one of the MHSAA's great tournament spectacles.

provides for healthy and limited weight loss, and also because coaches and athletes understand the opportunities presented by two events," he said.

It is a showcase which should not be taken for granted.

"Two of my favorite athletic memories are rooted in our two wrestling tournaments," said Mark Uyl, MHSAA assistant director who coordinated both tournaments for more than a decade. "No other event is like the Team Wrestling Finals for bringing a team and community together. It's such

Team Effort Highlights Opportunity

How does the MHSAA Team Wrestling Tournament provide Michigan wrestlers with a unique opportunity? Let the numbers below illustrate.

- 32 Team Districts x 2 possible dual meets = 64 potential duals
- 64 potential duals x 14 possible weight classes = 896 potential matches
- 896 potential matches x 2 potential wrestlers = 1,792 potential wrestlers
- 1,792 opportunities to wrestle x 4 Divisions = 7,168 potential students that could have the opportunity to personally step on the mat and compete in an MHSAA Team District!

"If you think about it, every wrestling team in the MHSAA has an opportunity to compete in a Team District. It is obvious that opportunities for big and small schools are abundant," said MHSAA Assistant Director Dan Hutcheson. "We have heard our whole lives that wrestling is an 'individual' sport, which is true, but with our team concept, your individual results – win or lose – may greatly affect the outcome for the team."

The 2017 Team Wrestling Tournament marks the 30th year of the event. Entering this year, 47 different schools have claimed titles and countless individuals have had the opportunity to wrestle under championship lights previously reserved for the elite of the elite.

a loud and intense atmosphere. It is our best team event of the year in terms of the arena atmosphere.

“The Individual Finals are so neat because it takes nearly 200 individuals over three days to pull off the event. The work of the tournament staff and volunteers shows how many moving parts there are, and so many event staff have been with the one-site Finals since day one.”

It is a feeling echoed by many in the wrestling community.

“In my opinion, our Team Finals are the envy of many in the United States. It affords so many wrestlers the opportunity to actually compete and be part of a postseason or Finals experience,” Hutcheson added.

Longtime wrestling official Sam Davis, currently coordinating an expansion of services and support for officials with the MHSAA, has officiated numerous Team and Individual Finals and couldn’t agree more.

“Without question one of the best things that was done for wrestling was to create an opportunity for teams to participate in the Finals,” Davis said. “There are a number of wrestlers who will never make it to the Individual Finals who are very talented and have just the right attributes to help a team to become successful. This would have gone untapped on the big stage without the Team Finals. Case in point, I saw a female wrestler in Battle Creek who was critical in helping her team to win the Team Finals. She did not qualify for the individuals, but the teams created that opportunity for her to become an MHSAA champion.”

Hutcheson, meanwhile, would return to Kellogg Arena as head coach at Howell HS in 1998. From

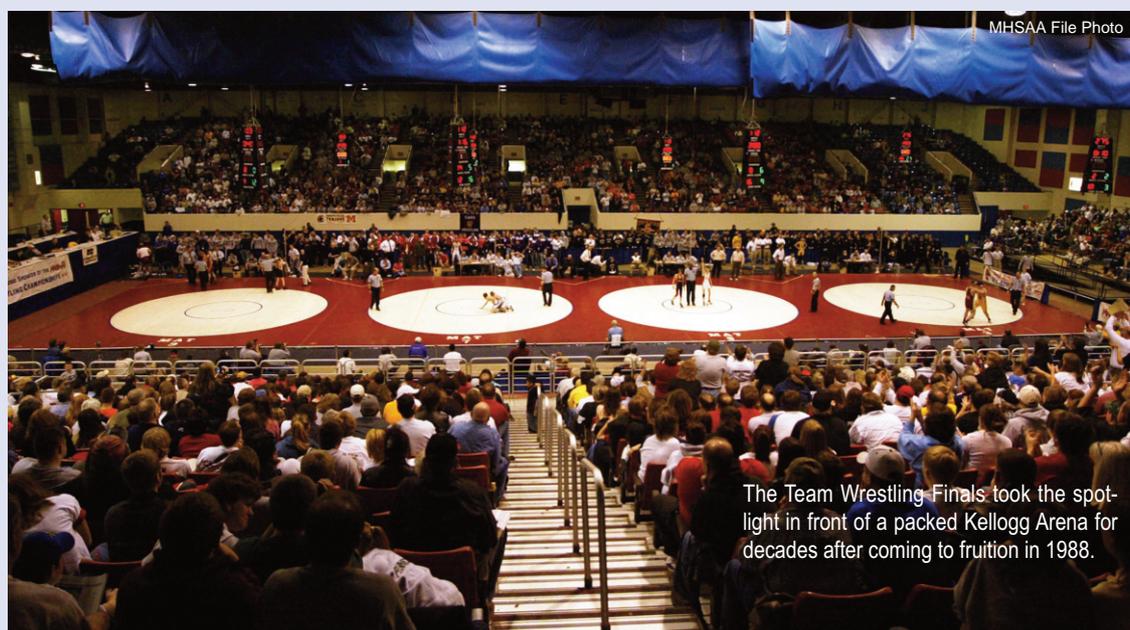
competing in the ring, to guiding his athletes just outside of it, he has come full circle to this year, when he will administer both tournaments in his official role as an assistant director at the MHSAA. His experiences at the Team Finals remain special.

“In my first year as a high school coach, our team was fortunate enough to qualify for the MHSAA Team Finals in Battle Creek,” he said. “When I look back on our Team Regional experience, it truly was a team effort that got us to the Finals. From our 189-pound wrestler Matt Culver going up to 215 and out-conditioning his opponent for a huge win, to our heavyweight Josh Shuh (now Dr. Shuh) looking at me during the final deciding match of the night, in overtime, telling me, ‘I got this...’ But one of the most important matches was Brian Scott at 145 pounds, who was a tough underclassman. He repeatedly fought off his back and managed to ‘lose close,’ saving us crucial team points that ultimately helped us narrowly edge our opponent by one point, sending us to Battle Creek.”

The split format has created equally important opportunities for more officials to enjoy the spotlight and get a taste of a coveted Finals assignment. And, there are some innate differences to calling the action in each setting.

“The two tournaments are uniquely different and the skills required to officiate one tournament do not always transfer to the other tournament,” said Davis, who will assist Hutcheson with operations for both tournaments this year. “For instance, the Individual Finals allow officials whose forte’ might not be in carrying a series of dual meet events the opportunity to work in a venue where

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The Team Wrestling Finals took the spotlight in front of a packed Kellogg Arena for decades after coming to fruition in 1988.

they switch from school to school and focus weight class to weight class, match to match. All officials assigned to both events are qualified, and we have more than enough who earn their assignments. Some might feel that one tournament has a higher quality of official than the other, but I certainly don't agree with that sentiment, nor have I seen any evidence of that."

It is a select group of officials indeed, for both events, just as the athletes are elite. The Individual Finals take place a week after the Team Finals, with 896 qualifiers statewide over four Divisions and 14 weight classes per Division taking center stage, beginning with the Grand March, an annual spectacle of the MHSAA Winter season.

"This event (held at the Palace of Auburn Hills since 2002) is the icing on the cake, as it is one of the best-run competitions in the country that features our state's finest," Hutcheson said. "It's a show that is unparalleled."

SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT

In the early 1990s when the MHSAA was looking to add another girls sport to its menu of winter championship events, "cheerleading" took on a whole new meaning with the formation of a Girls Competitive Cheer Tournament in 1994.

"Girls competitive cheer is firmly in place as one of the most popular team sports in Michigan, offering great opportunities for female students," said MHSAA Assistant Director Kathy Vrugink Westdorp, who coordinates the sport for the Association.

"Michigan was ahead of most states when the MHSAA welcomed girls competitive cheer to its list of tournament sports. It was created with the specific purpose of providing an additional winter sport for girls, who had fewer athletic opportunities in the winter than in the fall or spring seasons."

While *sideline* cheerleaders still accompany and supports select sport teams during the school year, girls competitive cheer offers unique participation opportunities previously untapped for young women who wished to challenge themselves against other schools in an athletic environment. And, make no mistake, the sport commands a rigorous skill set.

"Girls competitive cheer does not replace, nor is it intended to conflict with, *sideline/game* cheerleading squads," Westdorp said. "Girls competitive cheer teams condition, practice and prepare solely for competition while the objective for *sideline/game* cheerleading squads is to lead cheers for school sports fans."

It might seem to go without saying, but before it could become a *tournament* sport, the MHSAA first had to have girls competitive cheer meet the definition of a *sport*. To that end, a format was created by Michigan cheer coaches and athletic administrators with the purpose of providing consistent

rules, allowing teams to perform all aspects of cheer techniques and styles designed to promote athleticism. Having met the criteria of a sport provided by the Office of Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education, the MHSAA further worked to create a rules manual exclusive to Michigan and the safety rules provided in the Manual were designed for high school teams with modifications included for middle school/junior high teams.

"A girls competitive cheer meet shows the increasingly athletic skill-set of the young women who compete," said Westdorp.

It is a format and platform which continues to fly high, thanks to school administrators and coaches who take ownership in the sport, the athletes, and hosting of competitions.

Now closing in on 25 years, the sport is stronger than ever, both for competitors and those who follow the event. The number of schools and partici-

"Those who haven't been to a girls competitive cheer meet should take the time to do so. They will see incredible athleticism and competition at its finest." — MHSAA Assistant Director Kathy Vrugink Westdorp

pants has easily tripled since that first year, with nearly 350 schools and more than 7,000 girls competing this season.

"It has provided a great opportunity for girls to participate in a sport that is distinctive and exciting to watch while including the spectators in a vocal response," Westdorp said. "It has created a tournament for many girls who may not otherwise have participated in a school sport. What we see in many cases is that students come into their schools in 7th or 9th grade to find MHSAA Competitive Cheer as a new, exciting option which had not previously existed for them."

As participation boomed, so, too, did the pool of quality coaches, judges and talent level. And, certainly, with the sport now built, people have come; in masses.

No other MHSAA Tournament sport can boast a current string of 13 straight years in which overall tournament attendance records have been eclipsed. Beginning with 10,369 spectators from Regionals-Finals in 2003, to 39,986 from Districts-Finals last winter, spectatorship has nearly quadrupled, further proof that the sport has a solid base.

"I was just amazed when I looked at last year's tournament attendance, almost 9,000 more than

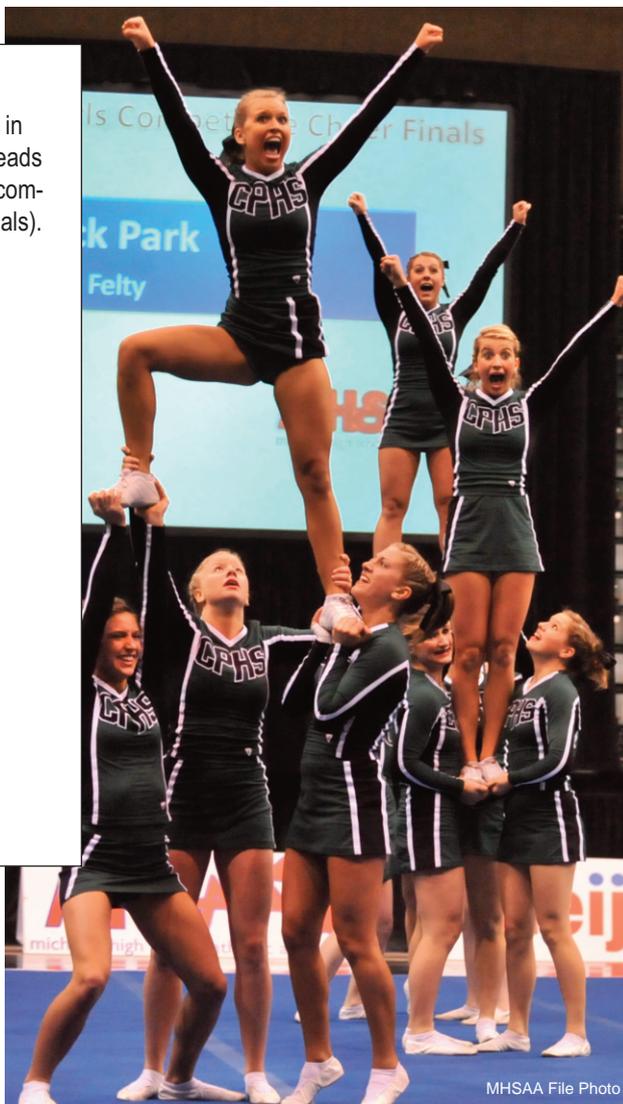
Leading the Cheers

No MHSAA sport can match Girls Competitive Cheer in terms of rising tournament attendance, as the sport leads all others with increases in 13 consecutive years for combined tournament attendance (first round through Finals).

Following are the numbers worth shouting about:

Tournament Year	Total Attendance
2003	10,369
2004	12,498
2005	13,027
2006	13,188
2007	15,829
2008	18,635
2009*	20,752
2010	22,907
2011	23,019
2012	23,511
2013	25,290
2014	25,996
2015	31,284
2016	39,986

*First Year of District Competition



the previous year, and that one was significantly higher than the year before,” Westdorp said. “The participation and spectator growth has been spectacular throughout the years, making the tournament an event unlike many others.”

The growth has created expansion of the tournament format as well. With gyms and staffs pushed to the limits, the MHSAA Competitive Cheer Tournament added a District level in 2009, offering yet another postseason weekend during which the girls can shine.

There’s little doubt that it’s the high school scene which has created the buzz for the sport in Michigan. It’s the chance to participate in a school setting for MHSAA District, Regional and Finals experiences that continues to draw student-athletes.

Just as local success in longer-established sports has created a culture for youth sports to emulate in countless communities across the state, girls competitive cheer has also made its mark on various school districts around Michigan.

“The success of some of our perennial Finals participants helps to generate interest in the sport not only within those communities, but in neighboring schools as well,” Westdorp said. “From the first years with three champions in a single day of

competition to now to having four divisions over two days for the Finals, the popularity is evident.”

Such clamoring makes the Finals ticket at the DeltaPlex in Grand Rapids among the toughest MHSAA Winter Finals ticket, and necessitated the move to a two-day format in 2007 (as did the addition of a fourth Final) to accommodate the spirited following.

“People have lined up at the doors to get to their preferred seats for each session,” Westdorp said. “The demand is unique and challenging, but the layout of the DeltaPlex has offered the perfect venue for the event with its stage-like configuration.

“Those who haven’t been to a girls competitive cheer meet should take the time to do so. They will see incredible athleticism and competition at its finest.”

In Michigan, that number of people who haven’t been to a competition continues to dwindle with each MHSAA Competitive Cheer Tournament.

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MHSAA File Photo

NEWEST WINTER SPORT STRIKES IT BIG

Funny how one topic can roll into the next, creating a snowball effect that eventually strikes it big.

MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts and then-Assistant Director Randy Allen were on the road during the fall of 2002 exploring potential sites to replace Flint's IMA Arena and become the new home for the MHSAA Hockey Finals when Roberts hit Allen with an unrelated question.

"Jack, sort of off-the-cuff, asked, 'What do you think about the MHSAA adding bowling as a tournament sport?'" Allen recalled. "I told him that I grew up in the bowling environment. My parents were involved in the sport, I bowled, and was always around bowling alleys. I don't think he realized it when he asked about bowling, but naturally I was all for it."

Allen had just recently begun his term at the MHSAA, arriving in 2001 to a post he would maintain until his retirement in 2013. The timing was not only right in that Allen would serve as a natural for the MHSAA's director of the sport, but surveys were proving that the timing was right for schools as well.

Interest far exceeded the 64 schools required for sponsorship of an MHSAA Tournament sport, and in December 2012, the Representative Council announced that boys and girls bowling would become the newest winter sport during the 2013-14 school year. Statewide bowling leaders were able to present impressive credentials to the MHSAA.

With more than 100 separate boys and girls teams being sponsored by schools or school communities at the time, Allen recalls a smooth transition into the scholastic setting, as the state high school bowling association had been conducting championships for a few years prior to the announcement from the MHSAA.

"I'd consider it more of a handoff to the MHSAA from local associations and club leaders rather than a start from scratch," Allen said of that inaugural year. "We just had to emphasize bowling fitting into some of our regulations, like length of season,

The MHSAA Boys and Girls Bowling Finals quickly outgrew the single-site setting of the formative years, and now enjoys competition at four houses during Finals weekend to accommodate four Divisions of championships.

number of contests, amateur status; rules which shape all school sports.

"The coordination of the state proprietors association, and their willingness and ability to step up to the plate, that was one of most important factors during the formative years. We also had some great local coaching leadership. Each traditional bowling area of the state had some key coaches who helped pave the way. Most youth leaders were enthusiastic, but some saw us as a threat. The proprietors and those coaches made sure that people understood we didn't want to draw lines in the sand; we wanted to embrace and welcome everyone into a great situation, and by and large it has become embraced."

Proprietors affected by the economic slides of a decade ago also saw school bowling as an opportunity to attract future generations and create a healthier future.

"Bowling centers recognized that high school bowlers were the bowlers of the future including their leagues and tournaments counted on to fill their centers on Michigan winter weekends," said MHSAA Assistant Director Cody Inglis, who has taken charge of the sport since Allen's retirement. "They quickly realized that promoting high school bowling by opening their doors to teams, coaches and athletes was the best way to make sure that they had future bowlers in their centers."

And, there are plenty of schools in need of facilities. The MHSAA now boasts 371 boys teams and 364 girls teams this winter, both figures up from last year's figures which led the nation in terms of school sponsorship, and were third in terms of participants.

There are several factors in attracting new blood to bowling, including cost, scheduling and a wide range of athletic experience.

“Bowling really has taken its place alongside all of our other great programs in terms of legitimacy, enthusiasm and participation.” — former MHSAA Assistant Director Randy Allen

“We have seen bowling take on all kinds of student-athletes from a school, from the non-team sport participant who joins, to the student-athlete who is not regularly a winter sport athlete who gets involved at the urging of their friends to come out to have fun,” Inglis said. “It truly is a melting pot of athletic participation and at its core reflects the best in high school sports, representing your school in competition, a lifelong sport whose benefits translate to any walk of life.”

The relationship between bowling houses and participants continues to strengthen, generating a healthy forecast for scholastic bowling. On the administrative side, it is a sport which offers low-cost participation with little of the scheduling conflicts innate to other activities. School facilities aren’t taxed, nor is the pool of officials; there are none.

“We saw schools quickly adding the sport even when athletic budgets were being cut around the state, because of the relatively low cost per student-athlete in bowling,” Inglis said. “Each student has their own bowling ball, while uniforms, lane fees and transportation costs are comparatively low against other sports.”

Timing and location play a role too, both of which play into Michigan’s well-placed mitten during the long winter months.

“If you live in an area where winters can be extreme, you’ve got to do something, and bowling is one of those activities from the time kids are young,” Allen said. “It’s something that they’ve grown up doing, in an atmosphere that is fun and recreational.”

That environment has carried over into school-based bowling. Students compete for Regional and Finals championships as others do in so many other sports, but there is a noticeably different atmosphere during the MHSAA Bowling Finals.

“The comradery among schools and bowlers is unique in bowling. It is not about wishing your opponent misses a shot as much as it is celebrating a great shot. Some of the most enjoyable times are when a student-athlete is seeking perfection during a 300 game and watching and listening as the center becomes hushed at every approach,” Inglis said. “There is a true feeling of wanting your opponent to do their best while obviously you, yourself, also

want to perform well on the biggest stage.”

The format of the MHSAA Bowling Tournament offers singles competition on Friday, followed by team competition on Saturday during Finals weekend, which includes a combination of traditional scoring along with “Baker” games, in which team members alternate rolling specified frames to accumulate a team score. Such a format yields a tremendous team effort and enthusiasm for schools and spectators.

“The excitement, energy and school spirit rivals any gym, rink or stadium that I have been in for other high school sports,” Inglis said. “If people don’t think that bowlers care about representing their school, doing their best or being competitive, they simply need to set foot into an MHSAA Bowling Finals venue to have their minds changed.”

It is the type of setting which Allen envisioned from the onset.

“The types of turnouts we had didn’t surprise me,” Allen said, “Regional sites were packed, and in early days at Sunnybrook Lanes (Sterling Heights) where all three levels were at same site, we had 2,000 or 3,000 in attendance. That illustrated the popularity, and also showed the need to split up the Finals sites.”

Of course, Allen – with his strong bowling lineage – played an influential role in the success.

“The seamless transition to a school-based sport was done with the work of many like Randy Allen, who made MHSAA Bowling what it is today,” Inglis said.

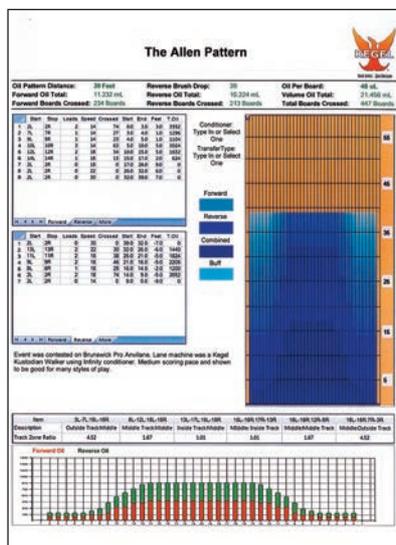
From its single-site, three-classification origins, today’s Finals are four Divisions at four sites. It was an unexpected question on a routine trip that got the ball rolling, and now Allen’s name continues to be linked to the MHSAA Bowling Tournament.

Kegel, renowned bowling oil-pattern developer, tailored a pattern specifically for high school

bowling called the “Allen Pattern,” (inset left) named after Allen, and utilized for the 2016 MHSAA Bowling Tournament.

“Bowling really has taken its place alongside all of our other great programs in terms of legitimacy, enthusiasm and participation,” Allen said. “By any standards of measurement, high school bowling has become a real success story in Michigan.”

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Andrew Knapik, Southgate

There's no denying that popularity of high school hockey is on the rise, as evidenced by this standing-room-only crowd in Plymouth at the 2013 MHSAA Division 1 Final between Brighton and Detroit Catholic Central.

CHANGING CULTURE NETS ASSIST ON ICE

More than an hour before the puck dropped for the 2013 MHSAA Division 1 Ice Hockey Final between Brighton and Detroit Catholic Central, word was out that a standing-room-only crowd could be expected as MHSAA and Compuware Arena (now USA Hockey Arena) staffs braced themselves for a throng of more than 4,000.

What followed was a classic, closely fought 2-1 Brighton win, but what resonated long afterward was just how far high school hockey had come in Michigan.

"Historically high school hockey has been a lower-cost alternative to travel hockey with the added benefits of playing for your school and playing in front of your peers," said MHSAA Assistant Director Cody Inglis. "Now we are seeing the overall strength and quality of high school hockey become much deeper across the state because of more kids playing for their high school instead of the non-school alternative."

A prime example is last year's Division 1 champion, Romeo, which hails from Macomb County, traditionally a non-school hockey market for parents and kids. Romeo's title is further proof that students can represent their school, have success and create lifelong memories while enjoying the benefits of playing for local schools.

Last year, more than 220 schools across Michigan's peninsulas were involved in ice hockey programs, and the 3,000-plus participants ranked fourth nationally. Co-op teams increase opportunity on the ice, attracting skaters looking for alternatives to non-school teams closer to home.

"Recently we have seen an uptick in high school hockey *participants* even though our overall *teams* have gone down slightly," Inglis said. "Hockey programs and schools use the cooperative program

rule to their benefit to add schools to their already existing program. We are seeing the number of schools involved in hockey increase because of this as well as bigger cooperative programs."

Stronger relationships with non-school entities are also strengthening the MHSAA product.

The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, the governing body for youth hockey in the state, is in its third year of split seasons for Midget-level play, which affects players aged 15-17 years old, prime high school ages. This allows those wishing to play non-school hockey to do so while still playing for their school, as the MAHA seasons take place before and after the MHSAA season.

Of even greater assistance, perhaps, is the mission of USA Hockey's American Development Model.

"The American Development Model has been widely accepted not just in the hockey world but in the athletic Olympic sport world as the development model for all sports," Inglis said. "In short, the ADM promotes multi-sport participation which is right in line with high school hockey and school-based sports where hockey players can also play football or soccer in the fall, play hockey for in the winter and then play baseball or run track in the spring. This acceptance and the accompanying scientific evidence that supports the ADM program shows that high school sports, including hockey, are the way to go for well-rounded athletes."

Combine that philosophy with the fact that USA Hockey purchased Plymouth's Compuware Arena – home to the MHSAA Semifinals and Finals since 2003 – prior to the 2015-16 season, and MHSAA Ice Hockey received another assist toward greater goals. The MHSAA went from not knowing where its Semifinals and Finals would be played two years ago, to playing on the home ice of the governing

body of amateur hockey in the country without moving locations. Puck luck, as the game's purists would say.

"It wasn't just a renaming of the building, but millions of dollars worth of an upgrade which made an already nice arena among the best facilities in the state for viewing hockey," said Inglis. "At this point we have a willing partner in USA Hockey Arena that wants our Semifinals and Finals, and we expect that to continue. The partnership has been great for high school hockey and both sides want to see it grow to enhance the Finals experience for fans and teams coming to the arena."

A growing number of officials also are getting to experience the three-day championship weekend first-hand, thanks to the implementation of a two-referee system employed for the first time during the 2016 Semifinals and Finals. That means nine extra officials are rewarded for a fantastic season to get a taste of the championships.

"This acceptance and the accompanying scientific evidence that supports the ADM program shows that high school sports, including hockey, are the way to go for well-rounded athletes." — MHSAA Assistant Director Cody Inglis

"The move from a three-person system to a four-person system was been met with rave reviews from officials, coaches and administrators alike," said Inglis. "This new system allows the referees to be referees and the linesmen to be linesmen, which results in a better called and officiated game."

Getting to the Finals as an official takes as much skill and work as it does a team. From the Keweenaw Peninsula to Detroit and everywhere in between, the MHSAA challenges officials, associations, coaches and athletic directors to submit the names of top officials in their areas. The MHSAA then monitors and evaluates those deserving of the highest level and extends invitations to the Semifinals and Finals.

Once in Plymouth at USA Hockey Arena, the evaluation spotlight only intensifies.

"We wanted to enhance their experience while at the Finals, so we developed an observation process and form for our Semifinal and Final officials," said Inglis. "This allows us to give them instant feedback from veteran high school hockey

officials who understand the game and can provide constructive, real-time feedback for these officials to take back with them to their local associations in order to help expand expertise in the high school hockey officiating world."

All of these components have combined to keep ice hockey among the most popular winter sports. Attendance for the championship weekend hit an all-time high in 2013-14, drawing 14,595 fans for the three days.



MHSAA File Photo

The implementation of a four-official system for last year's MHSAA Semifinals and Finals was met with high marks.

SCOPE ON THE SLOPES

Michigan's winter snow does its best to drive people indoors and has played more than a cursory role in generating new options for students and spectators in the state's most inclement season on the calendar.

But, one of the MHSAA's oldest winter sports – and quite possibly one of its future sports – depends upon as much white stuff as the skies will yield.

Since 1975, Michigan's high school students have been able to race against peers, the clock and the elements in MHSAA Alpine Skiing postseason competition. One of just 13 states across the country to offer downhill skiing, the sport truly adds to the MHSAA's unique winterfest.

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“It’s really a no-cut sport. If someone wants to participate, they’re on the team. And, most coaches are going to find (a way) for each skier to compete, so they all get a chance to ski in a tournament setting.” — former MHSAA Assistant Director Gina Mazzolini



Alpine skiing provides a unique opportunity for MHSAA student-athletes during the winter months. The future could be far from downhill if other snow activities are added.

Often times, the participants are equally as unique.

“The typical skier is a high-risk athlete. By that I mean kids who like and are challenged by risk like divers or pole vaulters,” said former MHSAA Assistant Director Gina Mazzolini, who retired in July after 24 years with the Association.

“To go 30-40 miles per hour down a hill around the gates takes a risk-taking, fun-loving kid. They are great athletes, so quick and agile. They are really amazing to watch, and for the most part always seem to have smiles on their faces.”

Ironically, though a degree of recklessness serves these downhill daredevils well on the slopes, the overall traits of scholastic skiers over the years has done anything but reflect that nature.

“There were rarely any ‘troublemakers’ in terms of conduct during our ski tournaments,” Mazzolini said. “Throughout all of my years, I can remember having to deduct conduct points maybe three times.”

That demeanor might be developed due to the ownership the students have in the sport. Not only do they fearlessly soar down those hills, but they have a great appreciation for the course. After all, the students and coaches have the responsibility of setting up the course as well.

“The coaches and the kids have to set up the hills for practice every day and then take it back down,” Mazzolini said. “You set up training lanes and take it down yourself, so they have a lot invested into it besides practice and meets.”

While there is a certain cost factor involved in the sport not inherent in other activities – some facilities might charge \$1,500 to reserve lanes for practice – season passes for school skiers often come at a discounted rate for the season.

There also are several benefits that come with skiing, including two big ones: the sport does not cramp already crowded indoor school venues dur-

ing the winter, and ski teams simply do not cut any participants.

“It’s really a no-cut sport. If someone wants to participate, they’re on the team. And, most coaches are going to find one of the disciplines – slalom or giant slalom, for each skier to compete in, so they all get a chance to ski in a tournament setting,” Mazzolini said.

Although just a small fraction of MHSAA schools sponsor skiing, the future on the slopes appears bright. The equipment strapped to competitors’ feet, however, could change.

“We’ve talked about snowboarding for about a decade, but there are questions that need to be answered. Do we make it another discipline with GS and Slalom, or make it another sport? Do kids just run a course for time, or do we get into half-pipes and jumps where judging is involved? It’s another level of officiating that would be involved. Coming up with the parameters will be the key to future outdoor sports,” Mazzolini said.

ALL-AROUND EFFORT

Now in its 46th year as an MHSAA Tournament sport, girls gymnastics is matched only by girls swimming and diving as the longest-running post-season opportunity for girls in Michigan.

For a sport on many people’s radar only every four years during the Olympics, the MHSAA provides opportunity for student-athletes to continue a sport that many girls were introduced to at a young age in various settings, both competitive and recreational.

“Gymnastics is a spectacular event, or should I say ‘events,’” said MHSAA Assistant Director Kathy Vrugink Westdorp. “It’s really numerous sports in one, with vaulting, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise offering a variety of unique skills for competitors.”

As the international level familiar to casual

Olympic onlookers is targeted to the elite and is forever trending younger, high school gymnastics affords an option for older girls of various skill levels, and the chance to perform for their schools.

“The MHSAA format is unique, in that our tournament is split into two divisions,” Westdorp said. “Division 1 gymnasts likely have a background that includes a higher level of club experience for girls looking to continue the enjoyment of competition, and the Division 2 gymnast is a bit more of a novice. This format showcases both in one setting and is an attractive option for our student-athletes.”

Like many MHSAA sports, the tournament awards team and individual achievement and hosting the event in high school facilities keeps the emphasis and atmosphere in proper perspective. In 2016, attendance was up 2 percent over the previous year and, with more than 600 participants, its popularity remains steady.

“If you are looking for a sport where athleticism, sportsmanship and excitement all are on display, that would be girls gymnastics,” Westdorp said. “Equally committed to the sport’s success are the coaches and judges, combining for an all-around

positive experience. If you haven’t seen it, swing by for a look this winter. You won’t be disappointed in the level of competition and comradery on display.”

– Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor



Gymnastics is among the oldest of the MHSAA Winter Tournament sports, with a 45-year history of medal moments.

Getting Your Sites in Our Sights

To hear MHSAA Assistant Director Cody Inglis on his way out of the office on any given day might lead to quite a misconception. He really isn’t leading the life of leisure.

“I joke with Laura (MHSAA receptionist and officials registrar) when I am leaving the building for a meeting that I am either going to a golf course, hockey rink, bowling center or ski hill; and usually I do on my way to meetings!”

He’s not complaining either. It’s truly a labor of love, and a necessity for Inglis and other MHSAA Staff seeking non-school settings for many MHSAA Tournament sports; particularly during the winter due to the nature of the sports.

The built-in benefit for many sports at this time of year is that they do not over-crowd the limited indoor facilities at MHSAA member schools. However, that also means fitting into a third-party schedule.

“The challenge with that at times is that you first must usually connect with the bowling center, the hockey arena and the ski hill to ensure that they can, and will, host an event for you,” Inglis said.

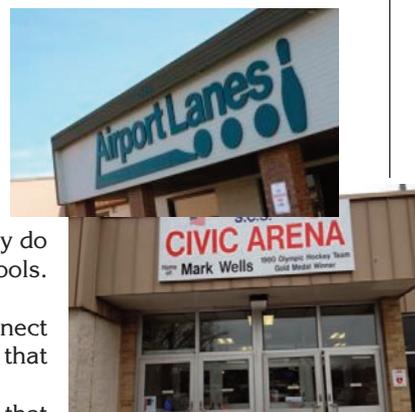
Personnel matters become the next concern, particularly ensuring that the school-sports setting and message be maintained at non-school sites.

“Usually the host school coach must take on a big management role in the process since they are usually more familiar with the outside venue than the athletic director is,” Inglis said.

With ample coordination on both ends, it’s a marriage that works well for all parties.

“Almost all managers and owners of these outside venues truly enjoy having high school events and contact me early and often about future years and hosting,” Inglis said. “This is a credit to the student-athletes and coaches who treat and use these facilities with care, and understand that these sites are businesses which have opened their doors to high schools.

“I will often stop by facilities unannounced and introduce myself to the general manager or staff and take a look around. This usually helps me when it comes time to select sites and hosts for tournaments, as I’m familiar with these venues.”



Many MHSAA Tournament sports depend on off-campus sites, and staff members are always on the lookout during their many travels.

Better By Far

The profile of high school sports peaked in the 1950s.

This was before there was a television in most houses or in any bars and restaurants. This was before professional sports franchises spread to most states across the US. This was when college football was played only at 1 p.m. on Saturday and professional football was played only at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

This was before there were health clubs and fitness centers. Before shopping malls and mega-movie complexes. When a typical town had but one theater that showed only one film (and maybe a cartoon) that changed every two weeks or so. This was before anybody could

was not when high school sports maximized its potential to engage and educate students.

Over the past 60 years, school sports have become increasingly inclusive – not only additional sports for boys, but just as many sports for girls.

Over the past two dozen years, the MHSAA has added tournaments that have promoted growth in girls competitive cheer, and bowling for both boys and girls, and lacrosse for both boys and girls. MHSAA tournaments are now available in 14 sports for girls only and 14 sports for boys.

Sometimes people complain that football and basketball crowds are not as large today as in



High school sports attendance is alive and well, just more dispersed over the many options afforded MHSAA students today.

make money from youth sports – not coaches, trainers, agents, colleges, clubs, convention and tourism bureaus, the AAU or national sports governing bodies.

This was when there was little to do in most communities but attend local high school events.

This was a great time to be a high school athlete . . . if you were a boy, and if you enjoyed football, basketball or perhaps track or baseball. If not, you cheered for the boys who played those sports.

So while the 1950s may have been the time when high school sports peaked in profile, this

the “good ol’ days.” But that fails to take into account that spectators are spread over many more sports today.

Sometimes people observe that football and basketball squads are not as large today and students don’t attend games like they once did. But that ignores that students are playing other sports.

In fact, overall attendance and overall participation are many times greater in Michigan high school sports today than 60 years ago.

Moreover, of the two types of engagement by students in school sports – playing or watching – playing is better by far.

This is the golden age of school-sponsored sports – the much more inclusive and active age.

Numbers Game

Editor's Note: The following is the "From the Director" blog of Dec. 23, 2016, on MHSAA.com

One of the features of school sports that is unmatched by non-school youth sports travel teams is that school events usually draw crowds of spectators. Not just family members, but classmates and citizens of the local community are drawn to attend school sports events.

Among proof of the enduring importance and high profile of school-sponsored sports is that Michigan High School Athletic Association tournament attendance continues to climb despite all the distractions of modern society. Here are highlights reported by the MHSAA's Geoff Kimmerly in October:

- Girls postseason events set a record for attendance for the third straight school year in 2015-16, and overall tournament attendance spiked to its highest total of the last five years.
- Total attendance for 2015-16 was 1,484,095 fans, an increase of 6.8 percent over the previous year. Girls attendance was 473,241 fans, an increase of 10,141 (or 2.2 percent) over the record total from 2014-15. Boys attendance was 1,010,854 fans, a four-year high helped notably by an increased football crowd in 2015.
- The third straight girls record showing got a boost from **girls competitive cheer**, which set an overall attendance record for the 13th straight season with 39,906 fans and also set attendance records at the Final (19,993) and District (12,867) levels. The **track & field** and **bowling** tournaments, which include attendance for girls and boys events combined, also set overall records. Track & field broke a 2011-12 record with 37,773 fans overall and a Regional record of 22,413, and bowling set an overall attendance record for the fifth straight season with 13,919 fans and a Regional record of 9,948.
- **Football** attendance rebounded significantly after a snowy opening weekend in 2014 resulted in the lowest playoff attendance since the 256-team 11-player field was introduced in 1999. Overall football attendance jumped to a three-year high of 389,897, a 25.4 percent increase from the 2014 postseason and with increases seen at the Predistrict, District and Regional levels.
- Ten more tournament series showed increases in total attendance over the 2014-15 school year: **girls gymnastics** (2.0 percent), **girls softball** (2.8 percent), **baseball** (0.5 percent), **girls swimming & diving** (12.7 percent), **boys swimming & diving** (14.6 percent), **boys basketball** (1.5 percent), **girls and boys cross country** (combined, 2.1 percent), **boys soccer** (2.4 percent), **team wrestling** (1.6 percent) and **individual wrestling** (1.7 percent) all saw increases in overall attendance from the previous school year. **Girls Volleyball** fell just shy of equaling the previous year's record, drawing 110,638 fans, a decrease of 293 from the 2014 season but still the second-most since records first were kept in 1990-91. Girls volleyball did, however, set attendance records at the Regional (26,445) and Semifinal (4,765) levels of the tournament.
- The **Boys Basketball Finals** draw of 47,407 was a five-year high and a 16.9 percent increase from 2014-15. The **Girls Basketball Finals** drew 22,301 fans, the most for a Semifinals/Finals weekend since 2004-05 and an increase of 12 percent over 2014-15. Girls basketball's overall tournament attendance of 169,523 was a decrease of 1.2 percent from 2014-15, but still the second-highest attendance for the sport since 2005-06.
- Overall **girls softball** attendance increased for the third straight year to 44,515, the highest total since the record-setting spring of 1994-95.
- **Team Wrestling Regionals** reached a seven-year high and individual wrestling's rise was fueled by increases at all three levels of that tournament, including five-year highs at the Regional and Final levels.
- **Boys Soccer Finals** drew 4,906 fans, the most for that event since 2007-08.

Not included in these figures are those who attend MHSAA tournaments in **golf**, **skiing** and **tennis** for which admission typically is not charged and likely pushed the total attendance over 1.5 million for the 2015-16 school year.



Join the Crowds! Visit the MHSAA Ticket page by scanning the code at right, or visiting MHSAA.com/tickets



One Crazy Weekend

This edition of the “Vault” recalls the most action-packed Finals weekends the MHSAA has seen, March 6-8, 2008.

Like tracking a weather system, MHSAA staff could see it coming well in advance: a perfect storm of Finals activity scheduled for the first weekend in March 2008.

Annually the busiest Finals weekend each year, the fact that Easter was falling on March 23 of that year gave cause for the MHSAA to maneuver its tournament schedule clear of the holiday. Boys basketball moved to March 13-15, and girls hoops then moved to the already jam-packed weekend of March 6-8 providing a prep-a-poolooza for high school sports fans around the state like no other.

Little could fans anticipate at that time, however, that it would also be the longest, with the last title being decided – or undecided – just before March 8 turned into March 9.

On the docket during that stretch were the following MHSAA Finals:

- Individual Wrestling at the Palace of Auburn Hills March 6-8
- Ice Hockey Semifinals and Finals at Compuware Arena in Plymouth March 6-8
- Girls Basketball Semifinals and Finals at Eastern Michigan University’s Convocation Center March 6-8
- Girls Competitive Cheer at the DeltaPlex in Grand Rapids March 7-8
- Girls Gymnastics at Canton High School in Plymouth March 7-8
- Boys LP Swimming & Diving Prelims and Finals at Oakland University, Eastern Michigan University and Holland Aquatics Center March 7-8

“We will likely never see a repeat of that weekend. Tournament policies have changed to avoid such over-scheduling, and ice hockey overtime rules no longer allow a game to go to the extreme of that evening. It was great to live through, but once is enough,” said MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts.

The action began at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, with the MHSAA Class C Girls Basketball Semi-

“We will likely never see a repeat of that weekend. Tournament policies have changed to avoid such over-scheduling, and ice hockey overtime rules no longer allow a game to go to the extreme of that evening. It was great to live through, but once is enough.” — MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts

finals on the campus of EMU, and was shortly followed by the Individual Wrestling Finals Grand March at the Palace at 2:30 pm. That evening, the puck dropped for the Ice Hockey Semifinals at Compuware Arena in Plymouth, the same place all MHSAA action would end late that Saturday night.

“That weekend was a giant blur, considering everything that goes into basketball and individual wrestling alone in terms of advance preparation,” said MHSAA Communications Director John John-



After eight overtimes and 109 minutes of championship hockey, the 2008 MHSAA Division 1 Final was declared a 1-1 tie between Marquette and Orchard Lake St. Mary’s. Fittingly, the longest game in Finals history closed out the busiest MHSAA Winter Finals weekend on the books.



The MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals Grand March at the Palace of Auburn Hills on March 6, 2008, helped signal the start of the busiest three-day Finals span the MHSAA has known.

son. “Plus, we were embarking for the first time in live streaming video for the basketball Semifinals – and having to do it at a new venue.”

In between, there were plenty of highlights.

In competitive cheer, Grandville snapped Rochester’s three-year hold on the Class A/Division 1 reign, as the two schools remained the only two ever to win the big-school competition.

In the pools, Nicholas Evans of Rochester set a Division 2 record in the 500-yard freestyle in 4:31.78, while Division 1 action saw Ann Arbor Huron edge crosstown rival and perennial power Ann Arbor Pioneer for team honors.

At Canton High School, meanwhile, Grand Ledge was just beginning its run of six straight team titles under Coach Duane Haring. Leading the way was Meaghan McWhorter, who won every event but the floor exercise en route to all-around medalist.

On the mats of a different kind, Goodrich’s Mark Weber nailed down his fourth MHSAA individual title, becoming the 13th in the history of the sport to do so. Two grapplers notched their third crowns during the weekend, Rockford’s Kyle Waldo and Oak Park’s Marcel DuBose.

The girls basketball season moved to the winter months for the first time, and also had a new home (the first of two years) at the Convocation Center at EMU in Ypsilanti. The change in scenery offered new-look champs in Class A and Class D, as Grosse Pointe North and New Lothrop brought the hardware back to their schools.

“I remember being at Eastern Michigan for the three days of basketball, and deciding to go out be-

tween Finals sessions to get fresh air and change views for an hour or so, I drove to Plymouth to watch some hockey,” said Rob Kaminski, MHSAA web site and publications coordinator. “I told Andy Frushour (on site for the MHSAA at Compuware Arena that day) that I was a little envious because it was almost certain he’d be back home in Lansing before me. It didn’t quite happen that way.”

On the ice that night, the busiest championship weekend the MHSAA has known came to an end with the longest game in the history of the Finals. Marquette and Orchard Lake St. Mary’s skated for 109 minutes and eight overtimes before administrators ruled the game a 1-1 tie and awarded co-championships in the name of safety for two exhausted teams who had earned victory.

Ironically, the contest was just 1:32 from ending when Tim Hooker of St. Mary’s knotted the score at 1-1. His tally equaled a power-play goal by Marquette’s Mike Peterson in the second period.

“Coming home at the end of the weekend, and feeling like everything was wrapped up as I got closer to Lansing, I’ll never forget my phone blowing up with calls from folks wondering about what was happening with hockey,” Johnson said. “And then rushing into the house to punch up the audio of the game on the computer, I listened to a very hoarse John Kreger announcing that co-champions had been declared.”

And, thus, just prior to midnight, one crazy, memorable weekend came to a successful close.

Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award in 28th 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 2016-17.

Underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance, the Scholar-Athlete Award is now in its 28th 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 2016-17 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



Michigan's Insurance Company



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 1,515 applications were submitted by student-athletes from 409 schools 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 25, 2017.

More Info?
Scan Here



Battle of the Fans VI Heats Up the Winter Scene

Five finalists have been selected for the MHSAA’s “Battle of the Fans VI,” 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.

Reigning champion Traverse City West will attempt to repeat as BOTF champion, competing this time against student sections from Boyne City, Charlotte, Frankenmuth and Petoskey. This year’s pool of 24 applicants was the second-largest in Battle of the Fans history and largest since 2013.

Battle of the Fans VI, 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.

Schools were invited in December to submit short videos, via YouTube, of their cheering sections in action. The winner will be announced Feb. 17, 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 Semifinals on March 24.

This year’s group of finalists is mostly a mix of familiar contenders with a new hopeful joining in. Traverse City West is a finalist for the third time, as is Frankenmuth – the champion of the inaugural Battle of the Fans in 2012. Charlotte and Petoskey are finalists for the second time, and Boyne City is making its debut among the top five.

Although there were no applications from Class D schools this year, the 24 were spread almost evenly over the other three classes – seven from Class A, nine from Class B and eight from Class C. Seven schools got at least one first-place vote and 16 received at least one top-five vote from members of the Student Advisory Council.

“We were thrilled to have our second-largest group of applicants in BOTF history, and we’re eager to visit some familiar stops and check out a new section as well,” said Andy Frushour, MHSAA director of brand management and advisor to the Student Advisory Council. “Traverse City West created some incredible momentum last year, and Charlotte just missed earning the championship. Frankenmuth and Petoskey bring years of tradition back to this contest, and Boyne City should be another fantastic addition while adding to the strong student section presence from northern Michigan.”

Video submissions included explanations on how each section met the following contest criteria: positive sportsmanship, student body participation, school spirit, originality of cheers, organization of the group and section leadership.

The finalists were chosen by the SAC and the winner is selected by another Advisory Council vote based in part on activity on the MHSAA’s social media sites. The MHSAA will post throughout the finalists tour on its Facebook, Twitter and Instagram sites and Snapchat feed.

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



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

Przystas Helps 'Shape' Fitness For Future

Scott Przystas had plans earlier this winter to “crash” a Grand Haven schools party with vegetables grown in his classroom’s hydroponic garden. It may be freezing outside, but in his physical education class, it’s time to harvest.

And, the Michigan chill doesn’t mean his students – ranging from Young 5s to fourth grade – will be restricted to the gym the entire time. When they returned in 2017, they headed outside to give snow-shoeing a try.

ketball and leads the middle school track & field teams. But he also provides an important voice for physical education, an area the task force considers crucial to growing interest in playing many sports instead of specializing in one – which studies have shown can lead to chronic injuries when playing that one sport while leading those children to become adults who are less likely to be physically active and fit. He is in his eighth year in the Grand Haven district and has taught in nine build-



Teaching includes a lot more than daily dodgeball or rolling out the basketballs for Przystas, a member of the MHSAA Multi-Sport Task Force and this fall’s honoree as Michigan Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the state’s chapter of Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE).

The task force over its first few months has determined that the message on the many benefits of participating in multiple sports must be delivered to students and their families long before these students reach high school and even junior high – making passionate educators like Przystas especially key. He passes on a perspective that “PE is the most important thing we can teach kids, how to be physically active for life” while teaching students at Grand Haven’s Mary A. White and Rosy Mound elementary schools.

“That’s our goal with the elementary PE department in Grand Haven, to make it relevant again,” Przystas said. “Because it’s really easy in our profession (to say) here’s the ball kids, do you want to do. But it’s not gratifying at all. It’s not satisfying to the kid or the teacher.”

Przystas brings the MHSAA task force a wealth of experience as a coach – he’s in charge of the high school’s girls cross country team, serves as freshman coach and varsity assistant for girls bas-

ketball and leads the middle school track & field teams. But he also provides an important voice for physical education, an area the task force considers crucial to growing interest in playing many sports instead of specializing in one – which studies have shown can lead to chronic injuries when playing that one sport while leading those children to become adults who are less likely to be physically active and fit. He is in his eighth year in the Grand Haven district and has taught in nine build-

ings at the elementary, middle, high school and alternative education levels.

“Scott has been instrumental in leading changes to the PE program in Grand Haven,” Mary A. White principal Valerie Livingston said in a report for the *Grand Haven Tribune*. “His excitement about life-long fitness and nutrition is contagious in the school. Under Scott’s direction we have students who look forward to smoothie bars at lunch and are excited to see our new tower garden grow.”

Many Teachers

Przystas’ philosophy is deeply-rooted in the positive experience he had growing up in Gladwin, a much smaller community than Grand Haven located north of Midland and Mount Pleasant.

His father Ronald – who formerly worked at the *Lansing State Journal* and *Cadillac Evening News* before becoming a reporter, editor at later publisher at the *Gladwin County Record* – died in a car crash in 1996. But he left his then 10-year-old son a love for sports photography – Scott minored in journalism at Michigan State University – and also plenty

of familiarity with athletics. A track & field meet hosted by Gladwin JHS bears Ron's name.

Sports provided an outlet during that tough time. During middle school, Scott would go from a basketball game to hockey practice that same night, filling his time with those sports, golfing and a variety of other like activities.

A few years after his dad's death, Przystas became a manager for the Flying G's boys basketball varsity coached by Kirk Taylor, who had gotten to know Ron well over the years. Ron had made sure Kirk understood the importance of Gladwin beating county rival Beaverton – they play for a trophy dating back to 1937 – and so it was memorable when Scott, as a senior during the 2005-06 season, scored a career-high 25 points to help the Flying G's beat the Beavers despite the fact he really wasn't a scorer as much as a solid all-around player.

"Scott was part of the best group of captains I have had here at Gladwin in the past 23 years," Taylor said. "One of his co-captains was quiet and out-worked everybody. Another of his tri-captains was very direct with players. Scott was a little of both, but he always delivered the message with the most positive manner."

Przystas made the all-Jack Pine Conference second team as a senior in 2004 while also earning all-league honors in golf and serving as a pinch-runner in baseball for a couple of seasons. At MSU, as he worked toward a degree in kinesiology, Przystas played on the practice scout team that daily took on the women's basketball team as the Spartans made multiple NCAA Tournament runs, an experience which got him interested in coaching.

He graduated from MSU and before the fall of 2009 latched on at Grand Haven. His first call was to Buccaneers girls hoops coach Katie Kowalczyk-Fulmer, and was on her bench as an assistant for the back-to-back Class A championships in 2012 and 2013 – while also for a time living in her basement before marrying his wife Renee.

Przystas also inherited the high school's girls cross country program, which he coaches with Renee, and which has made the MHSAA Finals 17 straight seasons. In addition, he became the Lakeshore Middle School track & field coach – and he sees all of these as being related.

Passing Those Lessons On

Przystas – who has served a two-year term on the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports – teaches from a philosophy based on a pyramid. The bottom level is health and knowing how to take care of oneself, with the middle level physical literacy and the body's ability to solve movement problems to avoid injury. The top of his pyramid is adventure, and that's what he's trying to deliver to his students.

But to do so, he also has to be able to relate and communicate with them.

"Scott makes it fun. He's just very organized – and he connects with whatever age group, whether it's kindergarten kids or high school girls," said Kowalczyk-Fulmer, recalling how excited her 5-year-old son was to have "Coach P" as a teacher. "Freshman girls can sometimes be an interesting group to coach ... but he never changes who he is."

Przystas noted how SHAPE America is pushing for today's generation of children becoming an "active" next generation, and as a newer father this hits home – and also helps fuel his desire to help.

He said it's harder to plant that seed when students are older – but that's where his responsibility as a cultivator at the elementary level comes in.

"I had a great childhood experience," Przystas said. "That's why I promote to kids in middle school, elementary school, to go check out a lacrosse game. Go to swim camp. Be active this summer. Don't just be sitting around. We've just got to get them outside more and have kids be active."

— Geoff Kimmerly

MHSAA Second Half Editor

HEARTSafe Applications Available to Schools

With an emphasis and focus on health and safety in school sports today, it is important for administrators to take advantage of every resource available. One such program is the **MI HEARTSafe School** initiative.

A HEARTSafe designation recognizes a school's efforts to prevent sudden cardiac death of the young (SCDY) by screening its athletes for inherited syndromes that predispose to sudden cardiac arrest and preparing for a cardiac emergency. Members of this school community know how to recognize the signs of a sudden cardiac arrest and respond quickly by calling 9-1-1 and using CPR and an automated external defibrillator (AED) until EMS arrives.



The MI HEARTSafe School designation is awarded for a period of three school years.

To apply for MI HEARTSafe School designation at no cost, download and follow the instructions on the application here: <https://migrc.org/Resources/ViewResource.aspx?rid=1302> or scan the code at left.

For questions about MI HEARTSafe Schools Award Program please contact Deb Duquette at (517)335-8286 or email duquettet@michigan.gov.



Check-In Champ App Offers Prizes, Scholarships

The MHSAA and SuperFanHigh, a leading fan loyalty and engagement company, have launched a mobile app that will allow students, faculty, alumni, community members and all fans to earn prizes and college scholarships by showing support for high school basketball teams.

To participate, fans simply need to download the “Check-in Champ” app for free from the Apple

iTunes or Google Play online stores and then check in at high school girls and boys basketball games they are attending this season. SuperFanHigh will track these check-ins and provide standings of fans who attend the most events statewide.

Fans “checking in” accrue points toward prizes including a total of \$5,000 in college scholarships sponsored by MI Student Aid.

“The ‘Check-in Champ’ contest provides an exciting opportunity for our schools to promote their regular-season girls and boys basketball games,” MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. “We’re eager to see

how this will build more excitement at games, both during the regular season and the MHSAA tournament, and we’re appreciative of MI Student Aid for adding significant incentive for students and their families who support their classmates and communities.”

For the remainder of this Michigan high school boys and girls basketball season, fans who attend games will earn points. When registering on the app, fans must select their favorite school. Schools will be divided by Class: A, B, C and D. A \$3,000 scholarship will be awarded to the fan who earns the most points overall across all four classes, and \$500 scholarships will be awarded to fans who earn the most points in each class.

Only student fans will be eligible to use the college scholarships; however, fans who are not students may still compete for the scholarships and designate them for specific students should they win the contest. All fans, including those who are not students, will be able to earn app “badges” as they accrue points, and the top 100 point-getters will receive shirts printed to celebrate their accomplishment in the contest.

“We are excited about partnering with the MHSAA to launch this new app,” said Anne Wohlferf, Director of the Student Financial Services Bureau at the Michigan Department of Treasury. “We are pleased to offer \$5,000 in scholarship dollars to the students who attend the most games. This joint venture aligns with our goals to provide high school students and their families with student financial resources and information.”

The app provides other information for students and fans including their selected schools’ boys and girls basketball team schedules, MHSAA news and an opportunity

to share photos through a ‘fan cam.’ Participants may accrue bonus points by answering MHSAA basketball trivia questions and promoting their “check-ins” on social media.

SuperFanHigh is a division of its parent company, SuperFanU and provides fan experiences for more than 300 high schools and colleges/universities across the country. The company is leading the market in developing innovative platforms that allow the communication and marketing between students/fans and schools to be more engaging and efficient.

“We know that our partnership with MHSAA will yield lots of excitement this year across the state of Michigan,” says Kayla Mount, co-founder and COO of SuperFanU.

School Broadcast Program Has You Covered



The MHSAA School Broadcast Program provides the opportunity for real life experience in the field, as students discover at the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at Michigan State University's Breslin Center each March.

The MHSAA will again recognize the efforts of its members participating in the School Broadcast Program through the fourth annual SBP Excellence Awards, which is now accepting applications for content produced during the 2016-17 school year.

SBP schools can submit up to three entries in each of six categories: Best single-camera production; best multicamera production; best use of graphics; best produced local commercials/features; best student play-by-play announcers; and best highlight clip.

The SBP Excellence Awards will be used in selecting the Program of the Year. Other criteria for Program of the Year include quantity and quality of productions and sports covered; best command of graphics software; initiative to cover home and away athletic contests; and initiative/creative in selling local advertising and subscriptions.

Montrose High School has won the Program of the Year award the past three years.

More details about the 2016-17 SBP Excellence Awards can be found on the School Broadcast Program page of the MHSAA Website.

In its eighth year, the School Broadcast Program gives members an opportunity to showcase excellence in their schools by creating video programming of athletic and non-athletic events; with students gaining skills in announcing, camera operation, directing/producing and graphics.

The program also gives schools the opportunity to raise money through advertising and viewing subscriptions.

All sporting events – live or delayed – are available on a subscription basis only for their first 72 hours online. They become available for free, on-demand viewing approximately 72 hours following their completion.

The NFHS Network has announced new pricing for 2016-17, eliminating the Day Pass and lowering the cost of a Month Pass to \$9.95. Subscribers will have access to all live video and streaming statistics across the country. All content becomes available for free, on demand viewing 72 hours after being shown live. Some schools will also be selling Annual Passes at a discounted rate. A portion of every subscription sold by a school goes to its program.

A complete list of participating schools can be found on the School Broadcast Program page of the MHSAA website.

Fans can also access scores of games in-progress on the NFHS Network website via ScoreStream.

A weekly staple on the MHSAA.tv website and the MHSAA Sports Channel on YouTube is back for another year with highlights of selected games last week produced by members of the Association's School Broadcast Program.

Schools interested in becoming a part of the School Broadcast Program should contact John Johnson at the MHSAA Office: (517) 332-5046 or john@mhsaa.com

The MHSAA Network's weekly radio show/podcast *This Week In High School Sports*, now has over 85 radio stations and audio webcast outlets as part of their weekly prep coverage.

This Week In High School Sports is posted on Tuesday each week by Noon, and can be found on the home page of the MHSAA Website.

Be The Referee is also posted as a standalone podcast on Tuesday each week, and can be found on the home page of the MHSAA Website.



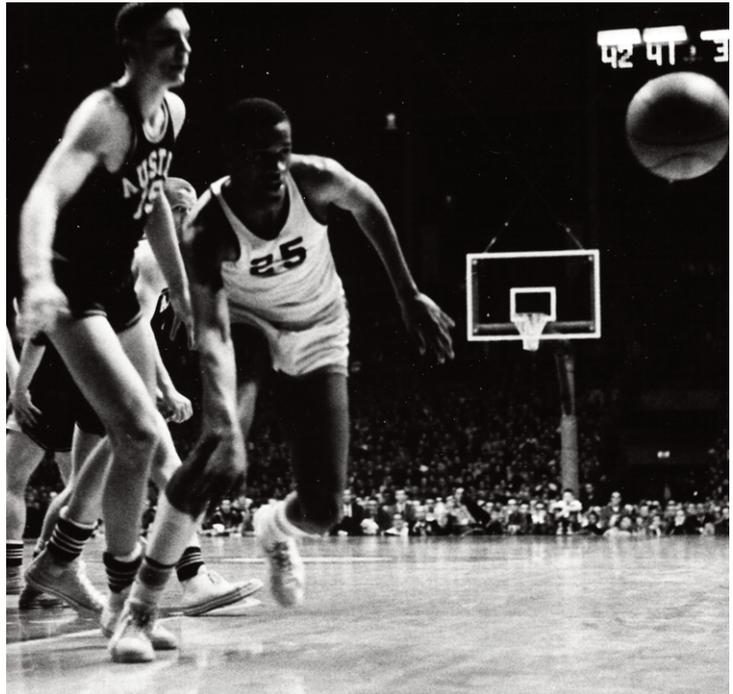
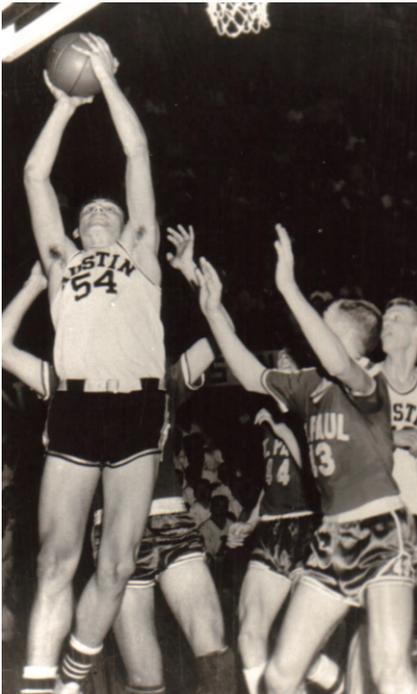
Reflecting on Michigan's Hoop Heritage

This story is about Michigan high school basketball and just some of its vast contributions to the game.

In 1958 Dave DeBusschere, from Austin Catholic High School, battled Chet Walker of Benton Harbor for the MHSAA Class A championship and DeBusschere's team prevailed. Chet Walker moved on to Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, and was a consensus first-team All American in 1961 and 1962. DeBusschere stayed at home and graduated from the University of Detroit and then played for the Detroit Pistons and became the youngest coach/player in NBA history, at age 24. In 1969, he was traded to the New York Knicks, the missing link that engendered NBA Championships in 1970 and 1973. In 2003 DeBusschere suffered a fatal heart attack and is in basketball heaven. The National Basketball Retired Players Association in

NBA Philadelphia 76ers and Chicago Bulls has been overlooked and underappreciated for election to the NBA Hall of Fame. By comparison with many enshrinees, he absolutely belongs.

Detroit, the 18th largest city in America was of course once tabbed The Automotive Capital of the World. The Motor City is where Henry Ford built his first automobile in 1896. Three years later, Ransom E. Olds established Michigan's first automobile factory. In 1941 the Chrysler Corporation mass-produced tanks for the war and the entire auto industry switched from cars to manufacturing tanks, planes, and other war materials. In 1963 Detroit produced something else, not off the assembly line, with its rollers, hooks and chains but instead, a prep phenom, dubbed "Chain." This was none other than 6-3 Cliff Williams of Southwestern High School who averaged 36 points per game with a



Dave DeBusschere's meteoric rise to basketball fame began at Detroit Austin Catholic High School, a prep career that included one of the top games in MHSAA history, a battle with Chet Walker's Benton Harbor team (right) in the 1958 MHSAA Class A Final.

which Dave was a founder renamed its scholarship fund to The Dave DeBusschere NBRPA Scholarship Fund. The purpose is to provide scholarships to former professional basketball players and their children to help them meet the costs of higher education. Chet Walker, the quiet one, yet a prolific scorer and rebounder with the

then, city single-game record of 61 points. Cliff got his nickname from practicing year-round in snow, sleet or rain at local playgrounds that had chain nets. Every schoolboy of this era knows the sweet sound of a dead center shot, in a chain net. Cliff Williams was so prolific with jumpers and other shots that he was M.C. Hammer be-

fore Hammer – U Can't Touch This! Although Cliff didn't know it at the time, he put Michigan high school basketball and Detroit basketball in particular, on the map.

When college coaches came looking in large numbers in 1966 the place was Hamtramck. And, the look-see was 6-7 Rudy Tomjanovich, who could face the basket and fill all the 20-foot jumpers any college coach could desire. Rudy's total game and numbers were 25 points per game and 22 rebounds. Off to the University of Michigan and then to the NBA Houston Rockets. Rudy continued with his stellar play and after retirement became a scout for the Rockets and later head coach. As a coach, he authored back-to-back NBA Championships in 1994 and 1995.

If you were standing in front of the building on 18875 Ryan Road in Detroit, in the academic year of 1966-67, you would have seen two special Doughboys enter Pershing High School. One a senior, standing 6-8 and the other a junior, 6-4, two players of such extraordinary ability that the entire team is regarded by many, then and now, as the best in state history. These two players, Spencer Haywood and Ralph Simpson, were coached by Will Robinson. By the way, Haywood's 1970 legal case opened the door for undergraduates to enter the NBA. All of the starters on the 1967 team played professional sports: Haywood & Simpson (ABA-NBA), Glen Doughty & Paul Seal (NFL) and Marvin Lane (Baseball). Yes, this is the same Will Robinson associated with the Detroit Pistons Basketball Operations. Robinson also coached Ira Hodge and Mel Daniels at Pershing and Doug Collins (NBA) and Bubbles Hawkins (NBA) at Illinois State. Robinson also coached at old Miller High School (Sammy Gee, Charlie Primus and Bob "Showboat" Hall – Harlem Globetrotters) and at Cass Tech. in the mid 1940s and the 1950s. Will Robinson was a legend in his own lifetime; a man who has touched hundreds from all backgrounds, not only in sports, but in the enduring values of life. On April 28, 2008 Will Robinson passed into basketball heaven.

If you think this is too much Detroit ink, let's consider other areas: Traverse City (Dan Majerle 1983 & NBA, Suzy Merchant 1987 & 2008 MSU Women's Head Coach), River Rouge (Blanche Martin 1955, Ken Wilburn 1962, Willie Betts 1964, Frank Price 1966, Leighton Moulton 1972, Duez Henderson 1998, Charles Kage 1998, Rodney Hughes 1999, Brent Darby 1999); Ecorse

(George Peeples 1962, Archie Clark 1959 & NBA), Highland Park (Bobby Joe Hill 1961, George Trapp 1966, Terry Duerod 1975 & NBA, Cedric Olden 1978, Percy Cooper 1981, Renardo Brown 1982, Glen Blackwell 1984, Veltra Dawson 1984); Fennville (Richie Jordan 1965); Jackson (Gary Thompkins 1984, Maurice Poole 1985); Kalamazoo (Sam Mitchell 1989, Corey Person 2007, Cetera Washington 2007); Alpena (Ray Feher 1972); Cadillac (Dirk Dunbar 1972); Detroit Country Day (Chris Webber 1991, Shane Battier 1997, Jonas Gray 2008, Da'Shonte Riley 2009); Rochester (Paul Davis 2002-NBA Clippers); Wyoming Park (Drew Neitzel 2004 & 2008 Artland Dragons in Germany); Saginaw (Draymond Green-NBA Golden State Warriors).

This game is played from the UP to the LP in big cities and small towns played by both boys and girls; Miss Basketball (2013-Tori Jankosa-Freeland, 2012 Madison Ristovski-Gross Pointe Liggett, 2006-Brenna Banktson-Frankfort). It is the participation that counts and not so much how many points you score. Basketball participation not only builds character, it reveals character. For example, on Sept. 11, 2007 Detroit Country Day retired Shane Battier's No. 55 jersey. Sportsmanship, discipline, character building, and leadership are just some of the enduring values that can be derived from this wonderful game of basketball.

Special mention must be given to Curtis Jones of Detroit Northwestern H.S. in 1967. His story has not been completely told and space constraints preclude me from setting it out. However, when I interviewed a bevy of people for this story the name Curtis Jones kept popping up more often than Ralph Simpson and Spencer Haywood. That is enough to demonstrate just how prolific and highly skilled Curtis Jones was as a high school basketball player.

Lastly, is the Clarkston connection: father Dan Fife and sons Jeremy, Dugan and perhaps the best, Dane. In 1998, Dane was All-State First Team, Gatorade Circle of Champions Midwest Player of the Year and Michigan's 18th recipient of Mr. Basketball. Dane matriculated at the University of Indiana under the tutelage of Bobby Knight. Today Dane Fife is an assistant coach under Tom Izzo at Michigan State.

— James A. Johnson
Southfield free-lance writer
and former student-athlete

Rules of the Games

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

Basketball

- During a live ball, the officials recognize that TEAM B has six players on the court. As they do, TEAM B player #20 runs off the court to his/her bench. The officials should:
 - Charge #20 with a technical foul.
 - Assess a team technical foul to TEAM B
 - Require the technical foul free throws to be shot by a TEAM A player on the court.
 - After the technical free throws have been attempted, resume play at the Point of Interruption.
- It is late in the game, and Team A's Head Coach calls her remaining 60-second timeout. She immediately notifies the officials that it is a "substitution-only timeout." The officials will:
 - Reduce the length of the timeout and resume play immediately because Team A controls the length of the timeouts it calls.
 - Reduce the length of the timeout and resume play immediately because either team can require the other to be ready to resume play when one team is ready.
 - Resume play only when the entire length of the timeout has expired.
 - Reduce the length of the timeout if both teams are ready to play before the timeout has fully expired.
- Which is TRUE about a closely guarded situation?
 - The defender must be within 3 feet of the offensive player with the ball.
 - The count continues when the offensive player gets a step on his/her defender to the basket.
 - The count applies to a player holding the ball anywhere on the court.
 - The count continues even if a new defender replaces the original defender as long as the required distance from the offensive player is maintained.



Competitive Cheer

- A double braced flyer performs a double braced forward suspended roll holding on to the hands of the bracers. In addition to the hand to hand contact, the flyer places her foot on the bracer(s) arms/hands/legs and steps up while she is flipping. Legal or Illegal?



- A braced flyer with hand-to-hand or hand-to-arm contact with the bracer completes a suspended roll (hips over head) to a sponge. Legal or Illegal?
- A team performs a one-leg extension. Once the stunt is fully extended and held (held indicates a controlled position), the stunt becomes braced. Legal or Illegal?

Gymnastics

- Which of the following directly connected Value Parts receive superior credit from the judge on beam?
 - Cartwheel, cartwheel
 - Backward roll, backward roll
 - Cartwheel, back walkover
 - Handstand, handstand
- T or F: A gymnast performs two directly connected back handsprings in her routine and a round-off back tuck dismount. The judges award the first back handspring and the round-off high superior credit.
- T or F: A gymnast performs a switch leap 180 with a 1/2 twist. The judge awards advanced high superior credit.



Ice Hockey

1. T or F: A Team A player checks a Team B player directly in the head area. Ruling: This is direct head contact, which is a flagrant foul. Penalty: Major or Game Disqualification
2. T or F: Goalkeeper A is replaced on the ice with Goalkeeper B at a stoppage of play. Ruling: Goalkeeper A may not return to the ice prior to the next stoppage of play. Goalkeeper B may be replaced during the ensuing play with a player or with another goalkeeper other than Goalkeeper A.
3. T or F: Only five players must be eligible to begin the game. If for any reason a team is unable to place four players on the ice the game must be terminated.



MHSAA File Photo

- a. Remind Wrestler A that they are in control and must return Wrestler B safely to the mat.
- b. Wait for both of Wrestler B's feet to be clearly off the mat before stopping action.
- c. Stop the match immediately as the move has become a Potentially Dangerous position.
- d. Only stop action if Wrestler A is lifting Wrestler B on the side of the trapped arm.



3. When must errors requiring bad time to be wrestled be corrected?
 - a. Prior to the start of any subsequent period.
 - b. As long as the offending coach stays mat side it can be corrected.
 - c. Within 45 minutes after the match is completed.

Wrestling

1. As an official arrives at the school, he sees three wrestlers from School A coming out of a sauna with jump ropes and rubber suits on. It is obvious that these kids were working out in the sauna, just prior to the onsite, shoulder-to-shoulder weigh-in. The official shall:
 - a. Do nothing as his jurisdiction has not yet begun.
 - b. Do nothing as the rules only state that this type of weight loss activity is prohibited in the weigh-in area only.
 - c. Disqualify these three individuals from competition.
 - d. None of the above.
2. Wrestler A has Wrestler B in a body lock (rear standing position) with Wrestler B's arm trapped. As soon as Wrestler A begins to lift Wrestler B, the official should...

Correction: The Fall issue of *benchmarks* listed an incorrect answer for the soccer quiz. The answer for the question below should be (a).

4. Player A2, in taking a penalty kick, approaches the ball and then stops abruptly. The goalkeeper dives to the side. A2 then kicks the ball, but it is deflected by the goalkeeper and the ball stays in the field of play.
 - a. The referee shall award an indirect free kick to the defending team.
 - b. The referee shall order the kick to be re-taken.
 - c. The referee shall award a goal kick to the defending team.
 - d. The referee shall allow the play to continue.

Basketball Answers: 1. b. (10-2-2; 7-4-2; 8-3; 8-5-2); 2. d. (5-11-2); 3. d. (4-10)

Cheer Answers: 1. Illegal. (Page 41, stunt limitations, 2016-18 Girls Competitive Cheer Manual); 2. Legal. (Page 68, Rolls and Tumbling Limitations, 2016-18 Girls Competitive Cheer Manual); 3. Legal. (Page 69, Choreography, 2016-18 Girls Competitive Cheer Manual)

Gymnastics Answers: 1. a. & c. (8-6); 2. F (8-6); 3. T (8-6-2)

Hockey Answers: 1. T (7-6-2); 2. T (2-5-11); 3. F (2-1-1; 4-9)

Wrestling Answers: 1. c. (3-1-3); 2. c. (7-2-2g. MHSAA interpretation requires official to stop action when one foot leaves mat.); 3. a. (5-1-4)

Northern Michigan Officials Honor “Pioneer” Beckett

Barb Beckett was in a familiar spot – center circle at the Traverse City St. Francis gymnasium – for a boys varsity basketball game.

The longtime Michigan High School Athletic Association referee was not tossing up another ball to start the Dec. 17 contest with visiting Cadillac, but she was nonetheless the center of attention.

The Northern Sports Officials Association, and St. Francis athletic officials, honored Beckett for her decades of officiating service at halftime. A 34-year official and longtime president of the NSOA, she received plaudits, a trophy and a bouquet of flowers.

“To be recognized by your peers is probably the greatest thrill that one could hope for,” Beckett said. “It was a totally unexpected and humbling experience.

“I could never give back as much as the NSOA has given to me. And looking up and seeing a sea of officials and generations that I had officiated in my career was amazing.”

“Barb has been instrumental in mentoring, developing, and coaching officials to be the best they can be,” said Bill Parker, who succeeded Beckett as the association’s president earlier this year. “She has always had a great passion for high school sports and her way to stay involved has been officiating and as a leader in NSOA.”

Parker said honoring Beckett was a great way to show her that the NSOA appreciated her efforts.

“When someone devotes so much time to an association, it is great to acknowledge their contributions,” Parker said.

Beckett is well known in statewide officiating circles. The first woman to officiate an MHSAA Boys Basketball Final (1995) was awarded the MHSAA’s Vern Norris Award in 2000 and Women In Sports Leadership Award in 2013.

“Barb has been a true pioneer in what she, along with the other leaders of the Northern Sports Officials Association, has been able to accomplish in areas of recruiting, training and retaining sports officials,” said MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl, the association’s director of officiating. “At her core, Barb is a people person. The relationships that she has built with fellow officials, school administrators, coaches and student-athletes have been exemplary.”

Uyl said he was not surprised to see Beckett honored by her fellow officials.

“It’s a true testament of the kind of person Barb is,” Uyl said. “She has blazed an incredible trail as a leader in high school officiating. We need more people like Barb; true advocates and supporters of those that are officiating games in school sports.”

Although Beckett turned in her whistle more than a decade ago, she is still involved in the NSOA as an assignor, advisor to the board and mentor.

“I knew many years ago that I was here to serve,” said Beckett, who also has been program director for the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA. “I have been able to fulfill that life expectation of myself.”

Beckett, who officiated numerous high-level basketball and softball tournament games, said getting the association to assign games through a

web-based system and getting officials better trained are two major accomplishments from her presidency.

“The assigning system has completely changed the way in which we operate and so has the training,” she said. “We emphasize the importance of educating and we wanted our officials to have the best and most comprehensive rules, mechanics and game-situation knowledge of anyone in the state.”

Beckett said she got into officiating like a lot of others because she thought she could make a difference and do better than those she had watched.

Beckett said working her first MHSAA Softball Final and the Class C Boys Basketball Final were among her officiating highlights.

“The boys Final was the best experience ever,” Beckett said. “I didn’t get any sleep the night before the game and I was never comfortable with all the attention of being the first female to work a boys Final.

“I saw myself as being just another official, not a female official.”

Beckett said she’s always had the “greatest partners ever,” and “they made me look way better than I actually was.” Among the greats were Joe Lemieux, Tom Post, Kenny Allen, Scott Jones, Clint Kerr and “many more, too,” she added.



Barb Beckett stands with her trophy and bouquet of flowers during the ceremony in her honor Dec. 17 during halftime of the Traverse City St. Francis boys basketball game against Cadillac. She is with Northern Sports Officials Association president Bill Parker (left) and secretary Mark Stewart.

Mike Spencer

— Mike Spencer
Special for MHSAA Second Half

Is the Game Stressing You Out? Focus on Breathing

When I attend a sporting event as a fan, the actual game and its outcome tend to become secondary. Instead, I find myself watching the officials. Perhaps that is because I am married to one.

While I don't get fixated on what kind of game they are calling, I do watch the evolution of what is happening physically to an official as a game progresses. From the stands, I can see the creases tighten around their eyes, the clenching of their lower jaws and sense the grinding sensation when the officials toot their whistles.

As angst is heightened and intensity seemingly building with each stoppage of play, I want to shout from the stands, "Concentrate on your breathing!" Breathing is the root of calmness in a sea of trouble, whether in life or for a contest official.

During a timeout, or any other game stoppage, that small moment can restore a sense of focus and reclaim an aura of calm. Focusing on your breathing isn't difficult and the benefits can be immense.

Too often, shallow and quick breaths are exhibited in times of stress and strain. Instead, try deep, bold and fulfilling breaths that clear the mind and

chase away the negativity. Take a moment to feel each breath. There is a beginning, middle and end to each breath we take. Don't miss any of it, even as you prepare for a 60-second timeout to expire.

There are other moments when officials can focus on their breathing in preparation for working a game. When an official arrives at an assignment, he or she should consider taking a couple of minutes of quiet time in the car. (Unclutter the mind with deep cleansing breaths.)

After the pregame conference with the crew, focusing on your breathing while stretching is a healthy recipe to calmness, being less anxious, lowering blood pressure and exuding more patience. Calming the nervous system means better concentration and a general feeling of bliss as we go about our endeavors.

You've worked hard at becoming an official. When you reach into your tool bag to work a game, don't forget your breathing. There are moments when it can become your most important tool of all.

— Denise Leighton
NFHS.org

Why They Don't Officiate Anymore

"From the Director" Blog, Dec. 16, 2016

Several years ago, the Michigan High School Athletic Association produced a series of radio and television spots in which MHSAA registered officials explain why they officiate. For the third time in the past 12 years (2004, 2012, 2016), the MHSAA conducted an extensive survey of former MHSAA officials to identify the reasons individuals have left the avocation of high school officiating.

From the 1,065 responses to the 2016 survey, it is demonstrated that career and job changes continue to be the top reason why individuals leave officiating. This has been the No. 1 reason in all three surveys.

Local association politics was again the No. 2 reason, which was the same second place reason in 2012. However, in the 2004 survey results, local association politics was sixth. This illuminates the reality that over the past 12 years there has been a significant shift from local schools hiring officials to using assigners in many, if not all, sports. The concerns are not so much with the association itself (training, recruiting, retaining) but with the assigning dynamic within the association or local area. Many recent MHSAA policy changes and most MHSAA in-service training have focused directly on assigners, and this survey confirms that this must continue and expand.

The next three most common reasons for leaving MHSAA officiating continue to be lack of sportsmanship by coaches, lack of sportsmanship by spectators, and low game compensation. The sportsmanship concerns from these adults must be continually addressed by all MHSAA constituent groups to improve the working conditions for officials.

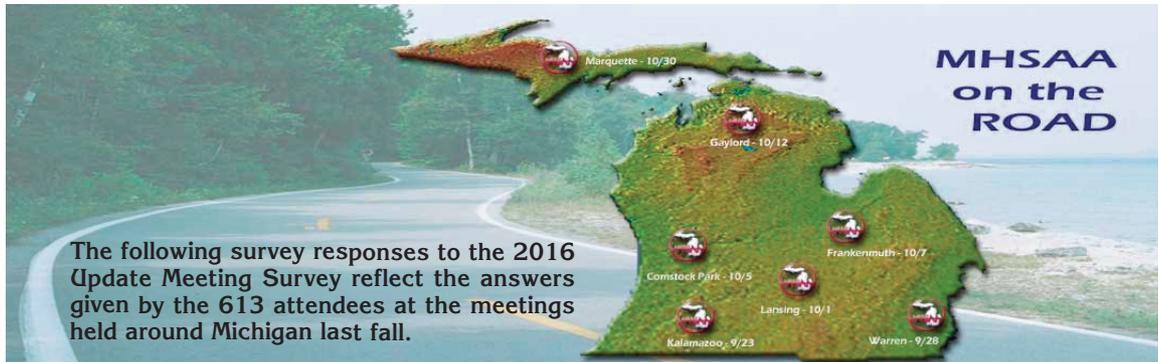
The MHSAA increased tournament officiating fees at the start of the 2016-17 school year, and many local leagues and conferences have done the same. The reality is that many leagues and conferences are still playing "catch up" from the long fee freezes in the late 2000s and early 2010s when Michigan schools were in historically bad financial shape.

A significant reason to leave officiating seen in all three surveys is the official's family situation. Many have indicated they left officiating due to time away from their spouse or children, or because of travel time or a family move. These reasons have been in the top ten in all three surveys, and could have ranked higher had these individual questions been combined into one single category.

One troubling trend from the 2016 survey is that lack of sportsmanship by players was inside the top ten (No. 7) for the first time since 2004. In 2012, this issue with students was No. 11. This may show that players are much more apt to argue, criticize or demonstratively disagree with calls than years ago.

(This posting was prepared with the assistance of MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl.)

2016 Update Meeting Survey Results



The following survey responses to the 2016 Update Meeting Survey reflect the answers given by the 613 attendees at the meetings held around Michigan last fall.

1. Do you have responsibility for junior high/middle school athletics of your district?

Yes 389 (65.05%)				No 209 (34.95%)			
25	Superintendents (6.43%)	68	Class A (17.48%)	14	Superintendents (6.70%)	96	Class A (24.68%)
26	Principals (6.68%)	98	Class B (25.19%)	40	Principals (19.14%)	62	Class B (15.94%)
327	Ath Directors (84.06%)	110	Class C (28.28%)	137	Ath Directors (65.55%)	36	Class C (9.25%)
2	Coaches (0.51%)	103	Class D (26.48%)	4	Coaches (1.91%)	12	Class D (3.08%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	10	Jr High/Middle (2.57%)	2	Board Members (0.96%)	0	Jr High/Middle (0.00%)
9	Other (2.31%)	0	Other (0.00%)	12	Other (5.74%)	0	Other (0.00%)

2. Do you favor a change in football playing rules that would eliminate the kickoff at the junior high/middle school level?

Yes 164 (28.82%)				No 405 (71.18%)			
19	Superintendents (11.59)	37	Class A (22.70%)	20	Superintendents (4.94%)	123	Class A (75.46%)
15	Principals (9.15%)	48	Class B (29.45%)	46	Principals (11.36%)	106	Class B (65.03%)
126	Ath Directors (76.83%)	52	Class C (31.90%)	318	Ath Directors (78.52%)	89	Class C (54.60%)
2	Coaches (1.22%)	25	Class D (15.34%)	3	Coaches (0.74%)	77	Class D (47.24%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	1	Jr High/Middle (0.61%)	2	Board Members (0.49%)	8	Jr High/Middle (4.91%)
2	Other (1.22%)	0	Other (0.00%)	16	Other (3.95%)	0	Other (0.00%)

3. Do you favor a change in soccer playing rules that would reduce the frequency of heading the ball at the junior high/middle school level?

Yes 249 (44.54%)				No 310 (55.46%)			
18	Superintendents (7.23%)	67	Class A (27.24%)	20	Superintendents (6.45%)	94	Class A (38.21%)
22	Principals (8.84%)	65	Class B (26.42%)	40	Principals (12.90%)	87	Class B (35.37%)
194	Ath Directors (77.91%)	68	Class C (27.64%)	239	Ath Directors (77.10%)	66	Class C (26.83%)
4	Coaches (1.61%)	43	Class D (17.48%)	1	Coaches (0.32%)	57	Class D (23.17%)
2	Board Members (0.80%)	3	Jr High/Middle (1.22%)	0	Board Members (0.00%)	6	Jr High/Middle (2.44%)
9	Other (3.61%)	0	Other (0.00%)	10	Other (3.23%)	0	Other (0.00%)

4. Do you favor increasing the maximum number of basketball games allowed during the junior high/middle school season from 12 to 15 games and increasing the number of dates when two middle school games can be played on the same non-school day from two to four?

Yes 334 (56.51%)				No 257 (43.49%)			
27	Superintendents (8.08%)	109	Class A (32.63%)	15	Superintendents (5.84%)	53	Class A (15.87%)
42	Principals (12.57%)	89	Class B (26.65%)	22	Principals (8.56%)	68	Class B (20.36%)
249	Ath Directors (74.55%)	76	Class C (22.75%)	210	Ath Directors (81.71%)	68	Class C (20.36%)
3	Coaches (0.90%)	57	Class D (17.07%)	2	Coaches (0.78%)	58	Class D (17.37%)
1	Board Members (0.30%)	3	Jr High/Middle (0.90%)	1	Board Members (0.39%)	7	Jr High/Middle (2.10%)
12	Other (3.59%)	0	Other (0.00%)	7	Other (2.72%)	0	Other (0.00%)

Update Survey - continued

5. Do you favor increasing the maximum number of soccer games allowed during the junior high/middle school season from 12 to 15 games and permitting four rather than two multi-team events on non-school days?

Yes 281 (50.72%)				No 273 (49.28%)			
24	Superintendents (8.54%)	100	Class A (35.71%)	15	Superintendents (5.49%)	58	Class A (20.71%)
36	Principals (12.81%)	72	Class B (25.71%)	26	Principals (9.52%)	80	Class B (28.57%)
209	Ath Directors (74.38%)	57	Class C (20.36%)	220	Ath Directors (80.59%)	73	Class C (26.07%)
2	Coaches (0.71%)	49	Class D (17.50%)	2	Coaches (0.73%)	54	Class D (19.29%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	2	Jr High/Middle (0.71%)	2	Board Members (0.73%)	6	Jr High/Middle (2.14%)
10	Other (3.56%)	0	Other (0.00%)	8	Other (2.93%)	0	Other (0.00%)

6. Do you favor extending the two-competition allowance of the limited team membership rule at the junior high/middle school only to both team as well as individual sports?

Yes 313 (54.91%)				No 257 (45.09%)			
23	Superintendents (7.35%)	83	Class A (26.60%)	18	Superintendents (7.00%)	79	Class A (25.32%)
36	Principals (11.50%)	81	Class B (25.96%)	27	Principals (10.51%)	72	Class B (23.08%)
239	Ath Directors (76.36%)	82	Class C (26.28%)	201	Ath Directors (78.21%)	58	Class C (18.59%)
3	Coaches (0.96%)	61	Class D (19.55%)	2	Coaches (0.78%)	41	Class D (13.14%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	5	Jr High/Middle (1.60%)	2	Board Members (0.78%)	5	Jr High/Middle (1.60%)
12	Other (3.83%)	0	Other (0.00%)	7	Other (2.72%)	0	Other (0.00%)

7. Do you favor a requirement that all head coaches at the junior high/middle school level must have a valid (current) certification in CPR (same as the rule for high school head coaches)?

Yes 480 (80.94%)				No 113 (19.06%)			
33	Superintendents (6.88%)	139	Class A (29.14%)	9	Superintendents (7.96%)	25	Class A (5.24%)
50	Principals (10.42%)	129	Class B (27.04%)	14	Principals (12.39%)	30	Class B (6.29%)
375	Ath Directors (78.13%)	117	Class C (24.53%)	86	Ath Directors (76.11%)	26	Class C (5.45%)
3	Coaches (0.63%)	82	Class D (17.19%)	2	Coaches (1.77%)	32	Class D (6.71%)
1	Board Members (0.21%)	10	Jr High/Middle (2.10%)	1	Board Members (0.88%)	0	Jr High/Middle (0.00%)
18	Other (3.75%)	0	Other (0.00%)	1	Other (0.88%)	0	Other (0.00%)

8. Do you favor reducing the number of interscholastic scrimmages from four to two in all sports (ice hockey remains at one scrimmage)?

Yes 170 (28.38%)				No 429 (71.62%)			
13	Superintendents (7.65%)	53	Class A (31.74%)	28	Superintendents (6.53%)	111	Class A (66.47%)
24	Principals (14.12%)	46	Class B (27.54%)	43	Principals (10.02%)	115	Class B (68.86%)
123	Ath Directors (72.35%)	34	Class C (20.36%)	341	Ath Directors (79.49%)	112	Class C (67.07%)
1	Coaches (0.59%)	32	Class D (19.16%)	3	Coaches (0.70%)	83	Class D (49.70%)
1	Board Members (0.59%)	2	Jr High/Middle (1.20%)	1	Board Members (0.23%)	8	Jr High/Middle (4.79%)
8	Other (4.71%)	0	Other (0.00%)	13	Other (3.03%)	0	Other (0.00%)

9. Do you favor a rule that limits both teams and individuals to participation in not more than one interscholastic football game or scrimmage during any five consecutive calendar days?

Yes 426 (72.08%)				No 165 (27.92%)			
32	Superintendents (7.51%)	133	Class A (31.44%)	9	Superintendents (5.45%)	31	Class A (7.33%)
49	Principals (11.50%)	137	Class B (32.39%)	17	Principals (10.30%)	24	Class B (5.67%)
322	Ath Directors (75.59%)	85	Class C (20.09%)	136	Ath Directors (82.42%)	60	Class C (14.18%)
5	Coaches (1.17%)	60	Class D (14.18%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	48	Class D (11.35%)
2	Board Members (0.47%)	8	Jr High/Middle (1.89%)	0	Board Members (0.00%)	2	Jr High/Middle (0.47%)
16	Other (3.76%)	0	Other (0.00%)	3	Other (1.82%)	0	Other (0.00%)

10. Do you favor a rule that would count a scrimmage the same as a game under the weekly limitations on competition – for example, in basketball no more than three games or scrimmages would be allowed, Monday-Sunday?

Yes 281 (46.83%)				No 319 (53.17%)			
25	Superintendents (8.90%)	77	Class A (27.60%)	17	Superintendents (5.33%)	85	Class A (30.47%)
37	Principals (13.17%)	81	Class B (29.03%)	30	Principals (9.40%)	80	Class B (28.67%)
207	Ath Directors (73.67%)	68	Class C (24.37%)	258	Ath Directors (80.88%)	79	Class C (28.32%)
2	Coaches (0.71%)	48	Class D (17.20%)	2	Coaches (0.63%)	69	Class D (24.73%)
1	Board Members (0.36%)	5	Jr High/Middle (1.79%)	1	Board Members (0.31%)	5	Jr High/Middle (1.79%)
9	Other (3.20%)	0	Other (0.00%)	11	Other (3.45%)	0	Other (0.00%)

Update Survey - continued

11. Do you favor changing the transfer regulation to limit ineligibility to a specific sport or sports during the next school year for a transfer student who does not meet an exception (generally a residential change) but who played that sport at the varsity level in the previous school year?

Yes 297 (50.34%)				No 293 (49.66%)			
21	Superintendents (7.07%)	93	Class A (31.42%)	21	Superintendents (7.17%)	69	Class A (23.31%)
26	Principals (8.75%)	83	Class B (28.04%)	39	Principals (13.31%)	75	Class B (25.34%)
236	Ath Directors (79.46%)	61	Class C (20.61%)	220	Ath Directors (75.09%)	81	Class C (27.36%)
2	Coaches (0.67%)	54	Class D (18.24%)	3	Coaches (1.02%)	63	Class D (21.28%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	5	Jr High/Middle (1.69%)	2	Board Members (0.68%)	3	Jr High/Middle (1.01%)
12	Other (4.04%)	0	Other (0.00%)	8	Other (2.73%)	0	Other (0.00%)

12. Section 9(B) of the transfer rule permits MHSAA Executive Committee approval of 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 deleting “scrimmage” – meaning that a 9th- or 10th-grade transfer student who participated in an interscholastic scrimmage previously (but not in a game or meet) would no longer be prohibited from immediate eligibility at the subvarsity level, provided the school’s request for waiver is approved by the Executive Committee?

Yes 410 (69.02%)				No 184 (30.98%)			
26	Superintendents (6.34%)	107	Class A (26.23%)	16	Superintendents (8.70%)	55	Class A (13.48%)
47	Principals (11.46%)	122	Class B (29.90%)	19	Principals (10.33%)	39	Class B (9.56%)
327	Ath Directors (79.76%)	100	Class C (24.51%)	133	Ath Directors (72.28%)	45	Class C (11.03%)
1	Coaches (0.24%)	76	Class D (18.63%)	4	Coaches (2.17%)	39	Class D (9.56%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	3	Jr High/Middle (0.74%)	2	Board Members (1.09%)	5	Jr High/Middle (1.23%)
9	Other (2.20%)	0	Other (0.00%)	10	Other (5.43%)	0	Other (0.00%)

13. *Handbook Interpretation 74* states that a first-time 9th-grade student who practices with a 9-12 team in August before school begins but has not attended class or participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest is not immediately eligible in that sport at any school if he or she actually enrolls at a high school other than the one with which he or she practiced or unless another of the 15 stated exceptions to the transfer regulation applies. Do you favor eliminating the word “scrimmage” from this Interpretation?

Yes 356 (60.03%)				No 237 (39.97%)			
27	Superintendents (7.58%)	93	Class A (26.20%)	14	Superintendents (5.91%)	69	Class A (19.44%)
39	Principals (10.96%)	97	Class B (27.32%)	26	Principals (10.97%)	64	Class B (18.03%)
279	Ath Directors (78.37%)	87	Class C (24.51%)	181	Ath Directors (76.37%)	57	Class C (16.06%)
2	Coaches (0.56%)	74	Class D (20.85%)	3	Coaches (1.27%)	41	Class D (11.55%)
1	Board Members (0.28%)	4	Jr High/Middle (1.13%)	1	Board Members (0.42%)	4	Jr High/Middle (1.13%)
8	Other (2.25%)	0	Other (0.00%)	12	Other (5.06%)	0	Other (0.00%)

14. Do you favor a limit (e.g., 1% of a school’s enrollment or 5, whichever is greater) on the total number of students on J-1 and F-1 visas who may participate in varsity level sports at any school during a school year?

Yes 266 (45.16%)				No 323 (54.84%)			
23	Superintendents (8.65%)	79	Class A (29.70%)	19	Superintendents (5.88%)	83	Class A (31.20%)
30	Principals (11.28%)	60	Class B (22.56%)	35	Principals (10.84%)	98	Class B (36.84%)
203	Ath Directors (76.32%)	62	Class C (23.31%)	253	Ath Directors (78.33%)	80	Class C (30.08%)
1	Coaches (0.38%)	60	Class D (22.56%)	4	Coaches (1.24%)	55	Class D (20.68%)
0	Board Members (0.00%)	5	Jr High/Middle (1.88%)	1	Board Members (0.31%)	4	Jr High/Middle (1.50%)
9	Other (3.38%)	0	Other (0.00%)	11	Other (3.41%)	0	Other (0.00%)

15. Do you favor a requirement that high school coaches who are disqualified from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct more than once in a season must complete a free online sportsmanship course before they may return to coaching?

Yes 566 (94.02%)				No 36 (5.98%)			
41	Superintendents (7.24%)	150	Class A (26.64%)	0	Superintendents (0.00%)	14	Class A (2.49%)
65	Principals (11.48%)	154	Class B (27.35%)	2	Principals (5.56%)	7	Class B (1.24%)
432	Ath Directors (76.33%)	140	Class C (24.87%)	34	Ath Directors (94.44%)	7	Class C (1.24%)
4	Coaches (0.71%)	110	Class D (19.54%)	0	Coaches (0.00%)	7	Class D (1.24%)
2	Board Members (0.35%)	9	Jr High/Middle (1.60%)	0	Board Members (0.00%)	1	Jr High/Middle (0.18%)
22	Other (3.89%)	0	Other (0.00%)	0	Other (0.00%)	0	Other (0.00%)

Update Survey - continued

16. Do you favor the requirement that an MHSAA registered official must attend an MHSAA- conducted or approved camp or clinic (three-hour minimum duration) during the first three years before that official may renew registration for a fourth year?

Yes 454 (75.54%)				No 147 (24.46%)			
35	Superintendents (7.71%)	131	Class A (28.98%)	7	Superintendents (4.76%)	33	Class A (7.30%)
53	Principals (11.67%)	123	Class B (27.21%)	12	Principals (8.16%)	39	Class B (8.63%)
345	Ath Directors (75.99%)	108	Class C (23.89%)	120	Ath Directors (81.63%)	38	Class C (8.41%)
3	Coaches (0.66%)	82	Class D (18.14%)	2	Coaches (1.36%)	34	Class D (7.52%)
2	Board Members (0.44%)	8	Jr High/Middle (1.77%)	0	Board Members (0.00%)	2	Jr High/Middle (0.44%)
16	Other (3.52%)	0	Other (0.00%)	6	Other (4.08%)	0	Other (0.00%)

SURVEY TOTALS

Respondents' Title	Respondents' Classification
43 Superintendents (7.01%)	170 Class A (27.73%)
68 Principals (11.09%)	163 Class B (26.59%)
470 Athletic Directors (76.67%) 147	Class C (23.98%)
6 Coaches (0.98%)	120 Class D (19.58%)
2 Board Members (0.33%)	10 Jr High / Middle (1.63%)
24 Other (3.92%)	0 Other (0.00%)

TOTAL SURVEYS RECEIVED = 613

Not So Great

"From the Director" Blog, Feb. 7, 2017

The Michigan High School Athletic Association leadership can sometimes be like the leadership of the United States of America. We can boast a bit too boldly about how great we are.

That's why a trip to Europe, most recently for me to the country of Spain, can be a humbling reminder that no matter how good we may seem to be regarding some things, there is very much room for improvement on others.

The USA is a leader in many ways, but a distant laggard when it comes to community place-making and the quality of our roads and bridges and mass transportation systems. The USA is embarrassingly behind the needs and times in these important ways of improving life for millions of its citizens.

This obvious observation begs for consideration of ways and means the MHSAA may lag behind its counterpart organizations in serving and supporting school-sponsored sports. And these are the two most obvious observations:

We trail the nation's most progressive states with respect to requirements to coach and a few other most progressive states with respect to requirements to officiate.

It was no huge surprise that the 2016 MHSAA Update Meeting Opinion Poll demonstrated that attendees were more supportive of proposals to change those rules than any other policies or procedures of the organization.

The most popular proposal surveyed was a requirement that high school coaches who are disqualified from a contest more than once in a season must complete a free online sportsmanship course before they may return to coaching . . . 94 percent of 602 respondents favored that policy.

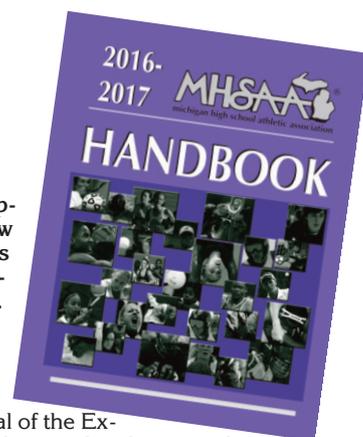
The second most popular proposal surveyed would require all head coaches at the junior high/middle school level to have a valid (current) certification in CPR (same as the rule for high schools) . . . 80 percent of 593 respondents favored that.

And the third most popular proposal surveyed would require an MHSAA registered official to attend an MHSAA-conducted or approved camp or clinic (three-hour minimum duration) during the first three years before that official may renew registration for a fourth year . . . 75 percent of 601 respondents were in favor.

There are some obvious flaws in these requirements as stated on the Opinion Poll, and the respondents tend to come from larger schools and under-represent the opinion of small school administrators; but the responses of constituents are valuable nevertheless because they indicate a general direction that respondents believe is necessary to improve school sports, or at least to keep pace with the changing needs.

Cooperating with Co-Op Regulations

For many MHSAA member schools, the winter season is the busiest for cooperative programs. Following are senior high school policies and procedures. New this year was a three-year experiment in some sports in multi-school districts whose combined enrollment is over 1,000 students and expansion of cooperative agreements at the sub varsity level only without the usual deadlines. Please see the *MHSAA Handbook* for interpretations and complete regulation.



I. POLICIES

SECTION 1 (E)—In any sport, two or more member high schools whose combined enrollment does not exceed 1,000 students may conduct, with the approval of the Executive Committee, a Cooperative Program in the specific sports for which application has been made and approval has been granted.

1. The Executive Committee may approve a cooperative program agreement at the subvarsity level only in any sport for two or more member high schools, regardless of student enrollment. There must be a demonstrated history of inadequate numbers of participants and will not be approved based on financial concerns. Students who participate in these programs would have varsity eligibility only with their school of actual enrollment should they be brought up to a varsity team. A student who participates in a subvarsity cooperative program and transfers into another school involved in that program may not be subject of a waiver request under Regulation 1, Section 9(C.) Deadlines for high school cooperative programs and the two year minimum length for operating do not apply.
2. The Executive Committee may approve a cooperative program agreement regardless of the combined student enrollment maximum in the sports of baseball, bowling, girls competitive cheer, cross country, golf, soccer, girls softball, tennis and wrestling for two or more schools of the same public school district (same governing board). There must be a demonstrated history of inadequate numbers of participants and will not be approved based on financial concerns. Note: This is an experiment for the 2016-17 through 2019-20 school years. This experiment does not apply to public school academies. Approval by the Executive Committee is on a case-by-case basis and as with all cooperative program applications, requires league or conference approval. Deadlines for high school cooperative programs apply. These cooperative agreements may not extend beyond 2019-20 without additional Representative Council action.

SECTION 1 (F)

1. Two or more member high schools whose combined enrollment does not exceed 3,500 students may conduct, with the approval of the Executive Committee, a Cooperative Program in the following specific sports (sponsored by 250 or fewer schools) for which application has been made and approval has been granted: girls gymnastics, ice hockey, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys alpine skiing, girls alpine skiing, boys swimming & diving, and girls swimming & diving.
2. For the eight sports listed in No. 1, if none of the schools involved in a proposed cooperative agreement sponsored the sport at any level on an interscholastic basis during the previous school year, then the 3,500 maximum enrollment may be waived by the Executive Committee. However, the cooperative agreement may not exist beyond three school years.
3. The Executive Committee may approve a cooperative program agreement in excess of the 3,500-student enrollment maximum for up to three years in sports sponsored by 250 or fewer schools if, during the previous year, the school or the cooperative program in which a school was a part dropped the sport because of a demonstrated lack of participation. The cooperative agreement in excess of 3, 500 students may not exist beyond three school years.

II. PROCEDURES

A. Application for a cooperative relationship must be made on MHSAA forms by the administration of the cooperating MHSAA member schools and must be received (even if partially completed) by the deadline stated above. Applications for cooperative programs will be submitted to the MHSAA Executive Committee for approval. Among the criteria to be considered are:

1. Lack of numbers of students to support a program.
2. Lack of qualified staff to coach.
3. Lack of facilities.
4. Evidence of a desire to increase opportunities for participation, not win/loss records of existing programs

B. The application must be accompanied by the following:

1. A resolution of authorization by each board of education of the cooperating schools including a board member's signature shall indicate which school or district will be responsible for overseeing its administration locally (primary school) and the names of individuals who shall serve as the Cooperative Agreement Board of Control.
2. For cooperative agreements at the high school level, resolutions of support from each league or conference in which the cooperating schools will participate. If the applying schools do not belong to a league, then support from at least four future opponents must be collected and submitted.

C. One school must be designated as the primary host school on the application and will be considered the official team name. A primary school may be changed by mutual agreement and written notification to the MHSAA. While a cooperative team may select a non-school name reflecting its makeup (e.g. Northern Thunder), the MHSAA may not publicize or print this name in all situations.

D. All requested signatures must be provided on the application (Board Member, Superintendent, Principal and Athletic Director) as well as enrollment figures as submitted on the most recent MHSAA Enrollment Declaration Form.

CPR in Schools at Public Act Beginning in 2017-18

The CPR in Schools law (Public Act 388 of 2016) was signed into law on Dec 28, 2016. The goal is very simple – to save lives, and to empower Michigan’s youth to be those lifesavers by giving them the skills and confidence needed to help during a cardiac emergency.

Each day in the U.S., approximately 1,000 people suffer cardiac arrest outside the hospital setting. Of those witnessed by another person, less than half receive CPR prior to EMS arriving, oftentimes because the person witnessing the arrest doesn’t know what to do. This leads to a dismal survival rate of 11 percent. We can and must do better.

Schools present an opportunity to teach our youth basic, compressions-only CPR. The training can be done in as little as 30 minutes, and it can easily be incorporated into the school day. Many schools across the state already have model programs in place, and there are several resources available to help schools just getting started.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

The law requires schools incorporate training, at a minimum, in hands-only CPR into any health curriculum offered between 7th and 12th grades. The law gives schools much flexibility over how they implement the training within their school. The three main requirements are:

1. The training must be based on the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or another nationally recognized organization’s evidence-based guidelines.
2. The training must include hands-on-a-manikin practice. Watching a training DVD alone is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the law.
3. The training must include education on Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

The training does not need to be hands-on-an-AED practice, but instead simply needs to be education on AEDs. For example, education regarding what they look like, how they work, and why they are needed if someone is suffering a cardiac arrest.

It is important to note the training requirement is for hands-only CPR. Hands-only CPR training is different from CPR certification, which is a much more in-depth training required for public safety professionals, doctors, nurses, and other professions. CPR certification cards are issued to individuals who complete the certification training. Cards are not issued for hands-only training.

It is also important to note the individual teaching hands-only CPR in the classroom does not need to be a certified CPR instructor. This law goes into effect in the 2017-18 school year.

MHSAA Representative Council		
Dave Derocher** Athletic Director Reese High School Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula	Kris Isom* Athletic Director Adrian Madison High School Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan	Peter C. Ryan** Athletic Director Saginaw Township Community Schools Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula
Scott Grimes**, President Assistant Superintendent of Human Services Grand Haven Public Schools Statewide At-Large	Sean Jacques** Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Calumet High School Class C-D — Upper Peninsula	Fred Smith**, Vice President Athletic Director Benton Harbor High School Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan
Vicky Groat** Principal/Athletic Director Battle Creek St. Philip High School Appointee	Karen Leinaar* Athletic Director Bear Lake High School Statewide At-Large	John Thompson** Athletic Director Brighton High School Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan
Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio) Director, Coordinated School Health & Safety Programs Unit, Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing Designee	Cheri Meier* Principal Ionia Middle School Appointee	Al Unger* Athletic Director Kingsford High School Class A-B — Upper Peninsula
Don Gustafson* Superintendent St. Ignace Area Schools Junior High/Middle Schools	Vic Michaels**, Secretary-Treasurer Director of Physical Education & Athletics Archdiocese of Detroit Private and Parochial Schools	Alvin Ward* Administrator of Athletics Detroit Public Schools Detroit Public Schools Position
Courtney Hawkins* Athletic Director Flint Beecher High School Appointee	Chris Miller* Athletic Director Gobles High School Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan	Pat Watson** Principal West Bloomfield High School Appointee
	Steve Newkirk** Principal Clare Middle School Junior High/Middle Schools	*Term Expires December 2017 **Term Expires December 2018

2016-17 MHSAA Budget

The following budget for operation of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., for the 2016-17 school year was considered and approved at the May 2016 Representative Council Meeting.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 3,280,828
GENERAL PRINTING	155,500
GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSES	1,177,000
GENERAL MEETINGS	86,100
COACHES & OFFICIALS	446,500
CORPORATE SALES	330,000
STUDENT SERVICES.	644,000
BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS	212,000
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS	1,020,000
BOWLING TOURNAMENTS	72,000
COMPETITIVE CHEER	105,000
CROSS COUNTRY MEETS	120,000
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS	1,050,000
GOLF TOURNAMENTS	42,000
GYMNASTICS MEETS.	22,000
HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS.	240,000
LACROSSE TOURNAMENTS.	42,000
SKI MEETS	22,000
SOCCER TOURNAMENTS.	200,000
SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS	200,000
SWIMMING MEETS.	86,000
TENNIS TOURNAMENTS	90,000
TRACK MEETS.	217,000
VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS.	255,000
WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS	513,000
BROADCASTING	6,000
REVENUE SHARING	130,000
TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2016-17	\$10,763,928

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, 2015-16

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. A Task Force on Multi-Sport Participation was appointed.

PARTICIPANTS – There were approximately 282,623 participants on interscholastic athletic squads of the 755 member high schools during the 2015-16 school year. The MHSAA membership also included 705 junior high/middle schools.

REGISTERED OFFICIALS – There were 10,043 officials registered in one or more sports during the year. The MHSAA conducted camps for basketball and football officials.

UPDATE MEETINGS – Approximately 800 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 2015-16 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 2015-16 school year.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP EVENTS – Three Sportsmanship Summits and two Captains Clinics were conducted involving almost 1,000 students. The 10th class of the Student Advisory Council was appointed. The seventh “Reaching Higher” experiences were provided to help prepare more than 225 male and female basketball players for their college experience. The fifth Battle of the Fans was conducted.

COMMITTEES – Approximately 500 different individuals served on the following association committees during the 2015-16 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

2017-18 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 2017-18 school year. If you desire to place yourself as a nominee complete this form and fax it to the MHSAA office by March 31, 2017. 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 27, 2016

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

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

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

Total number of legal ballots received 23
 Peter Ryan, Saginaw Township..... 23
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 2
Elected by majority of votes – Peter Ryan

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

Total number of legal ballots received 31
 Fredrick J. Smith, Benton Harbor..... 31
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received..... 3
Elected by majority of votes – Fredrick J. Smith

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

Total number of legal ballots received..... 56
 John Thompson, Brighton..... 56
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received..... 2
Elected by majority of votes – John Thompson

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

Total number of legal ballots received 30
 Sean Jacques, Calumet..... 30
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received..... 0
Elected by majority of votes – Sean Jacques

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

Total number of legal ballots received..... 52
 Dave Derocher, Reese..... 30
 Adam Stefanski, Mackinaw City..... 22
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 2
Elected by majority of votes – Dave Derocher

STATEWIDE AT-LARGE (#6)

Total number of legal ballots received 82
 Scott C. Grimes, Grand Haven 382
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 20
Elected by majority of votes – Scott C. Grimes

JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS (#7)

Total number of legal ballots received 138
 Steve Newkirk, Clare 138
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 5
Elected by majority of votes – Steve Newkirk

PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL HIGH SCHOOLS (#8)

Total number of legal ballots received. 49
 Vic Michaels, Detroit. 49
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 0
Elected by majority of votes – Vic Michaels

UPPER PENINSULA

ATHLETIC COACH (#9)

Total number of legal ballots received..... 2
 Mike Berutti, Iron River 32
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received. 0
Elected by majority of votes – Mike Berutti

CLASS D SCHOOLS (#10)

Total number of legal ballots received 19
 Jeff Markham, Baraga 19
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 0
Elected by majority of votes – Jeff Markham

CLASS A AND B SCHOOLS (1-Year Term)

Total number of legal ballots received 2
 Dan Flynn, Escanaba 0
 Bruce Horsch, Houghton 2
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received..... 0
Elected by majority of votes – Bruce Horsch

BOARD OF CANVASSERS (Signed)

Vicky Groat, Athletic Director, Battle Creek-St. Philip Catholic Central High School
 John Hartley, Athletic Director, St. Clair Shores-Lake Shore High School
 Barry Hobria, Athletic Director, Pewamo-Westphalia High School
 Maureen Klocke, Athletic Director, Yale High School
 Ronald Stoneman, Superintendent, Manistee 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 2017-18

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

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

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

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

Class C and D Schools — 2 openings

Southwestern Section
Southeastern Section

Class A and B Schools—1 opening

Upper Peninsula

Statewide At-Large —1 opening

Jr. High/Middle Schools —1 opening

City of Detroit —1 opening

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

Elections will be held in the fall for the following:

Class D U.P. School—1 opening

Class C U.P. School—1 opening

Class A-B U.P. School—1 opening

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

Annual Business Meeting of the MHSAA, Inc.

Gaylord, Monday, Oct. 10, 2016

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 nearly \$332,000 during the 2015-16 fiscal year. This was an amazing finish after taking on significant new expenses, including a \$300,000 premium for concussion care gap insurance that Jack will review in his report.

The Expense Budget for 2016-17, which was adopted by the Representative Council on May 2, 2016, is enclosed for your review as Appendix 1. An operating surplus of less than 1% of budget is anticipated in 2016-17.

The most significant new expenses for 2016-17 are for officials recruitment, junior high/middle school support, and professional public relations services, all of which Jack will describe in his report.

Re-Thinking the Risk-Benefit Balance of Sport

The longer I live the more certain I am that the healthiest life is one lived with both passion and balance . . . passion that is not extreme and balance that is not dull.

One can be passionate about his or her work without destroying a work/family balance. One can be passionate about a hobby without it taking over every waking hour. One can be passionate about a conversion to faith without inserting it into every conversation.

I look for these two traits in coaches. I look for it in coworkers for it helps them be both productive and popular.

I also look for it in those who bring ideas to the Michigan High School Athletic Association – enthusiasm for their proposal but broad enough perspective to see a bigger picture and others' points of view.

Which is why I like and recommend the book, *Back in the Game: Why Concussion Doesn't*

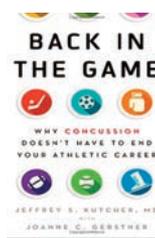
Have to End Your Athletic Career (Oxford Press, 2017), by Jeffrey S. Kutcher, MD, with Joanne C. Gerstner.

Dr. Kutcher, among other credentials, is founder of the American Academy of Neurology's Sports Neurology Section. He has been on the front line of intercollegiate and Olympic sports without being out of touch with interscholastic athletics.

Dr. Kutcher and Gerstner, a journalist, take on everything from the myths to the messaging of concussions in sports. The doctor is clearly passionate about brain injury in sports, but demonstrates the requisite balance. He writes:

"If you had asked me in the beginning of my career, I would have said that improving the neurological health of athletes meant mainly protecting them from injury and treating them with the best possible medical care when they were hurt.

"What I came to appreciate later were the real negative health effects that can come from not playing sports. As my appreciation for this side of the risk-benefit balance grew, I began to see a larger picture. Every person has his or her own set of traits that add up to a uniquely individual relationship with sports. Sure, you can put people into groups: the recreational athletes, the 'serious' ones, and the elite or professional players. You can group sports into different risk profiles too: collision, contact, or non-contact. But you also have to consider different personalities, psychologies, and ways of thinking."



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

overtime Here's the Pitch . . .

The MHSAA Representative Council took actions at its Fall Meeting on Dec. 2 in East Lansing that will affect baseball and Upper Peninsula golf teams this spring.

A rules change approved in baseball was required by the National Federation of State High School Associations before the start of the spring 2017 season, while the golf change is a result of multiple years of discussion concerning classifications for MHSAA Upper Peninsula Finals.

Beginning this upcoming baseball season, pitchers will be required to follow a pitch count limit, instead of the previous rule that limited their innings based on the number of outs thrown. In July, the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee mandated that all states adopt a pitch count rule in an effort to further prevent pitcher arm injuries, effective with the 2016-17 school year. Pitchers will be allowed to throw a maximum of 105 pitches in one day; they will be required to rest three days if they throw more than 75. Pitchers must rest two days after throwing 51-75 pitches, one day after throwing 26-50, and will not be required to rest if they throw 25 or fewer pitches in one day. The MHSAA pitch count rule was the result of work by a task force made up of current and former coaches and administrators, including representatives of the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association.

For Upper Peninsula Golf, both the girls and boys tournaments, the Council approved a change classifying participating schools into three equal divisions beginning in the spring of 2017. Previously, Class A, B and C schools were split evenly into Divisions 1 and 2, with Division 3 reserved for Class D schools. However, Class D had grown to include nearly twice as many participating schools as both Division 1 and 2, complicating tournament logistics. This proposal was advanced by the U.P. Athletic Committee.





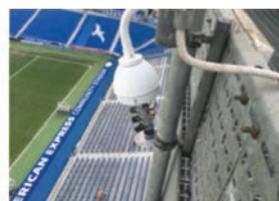
AUTOMATED SPORT PRODUCTION

The NFHS Network has partnered with **Pixellot** to offer a new hardware & software solution for automated live event production.

- One-time installation in your athletic venue
- All events can be live broadcasted to the NFHS Network
- Fully automated *(no people required)*

HOW IT WORKS

- Panoramic 4-camera view captures the whole playing field
- Auto-tracking feature enables cameras to follow the action (panning and zooming)
- No camera operator required
- Score graphics sync with venue scoreboard
- All events stream to your branded school page on NFHSnetwork.com



HARDWARE

Fixed installation includes:

- **Camera unit** – 4 weatherproof HD cameras in a single mounted unit
- **Scoring device** – plugs into scoreboard for automated score integration into the broadcast
- **Desktop Computer** – for production integration & video processing

PRICING

- Exclusive pricing only through NFHS Network

Contact Tom Neiman for more information: tom.neiman@nfhsnetwork.com

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL
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