

Winter 2019 Vol. 10 No. 3

benchmarks

mhsaa

A UNIFIED EFFORT

Welcoming New Teams to the Stage





I have a
story...



I have a
story...



I have a
story...



I have a
story...

We tell their stories



by MHSAA



Cover Story: A Unified Effort



4 As schools around Michigan and the nation strive for a culture of inclusion and acceptance within hallways, the MHSAA and Michigan Special Olympics put on an event in November which embodies that spirit when select Unified Champion Schools competed as part of the MHSAA Football Finals at Ford Field.

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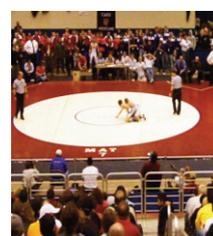
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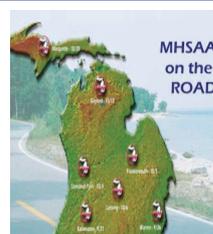
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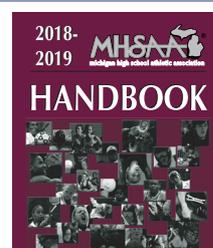
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A Unified Goal

At its best, sport breaks down barriers and differences through promoting teamwork, inclusiveness and humility. At its worst, we've seen sport do the opposite.

Obviously those involved in school sports aim to create a culture within every school which fosters the best of what all of us can be. Those places that do this best have created a culture in every hallway, classroom, playing field and gymnasium filled with diverse students pulling for one another and working together regardless of the different backgrounds, races, religions, abilities, physical stature or academic acumen of each person. A culture of understanding and acceptance is what we strive for in each of our school communities.

On Nov. 24, such a scene played out on the grand stage of the playing surface at Ford Field in Detroit. In what we hope will be the launching pad for many more such events, Unified Sports competitors from four MHSAA member schools competed simultaneously in two games prior to the MHSAA Division 7 Football Final.

Unified Sports is an inclusive sports program within Special Olympics which pairs students with and without intellectual disabilities as teammates for training and competition.

From the time competitors walked through the tunnel to perform in front of family, friends, and the appreciative crowds from New Lothrop and Madison Heights Madison awaiting kickoff for the 10 a.m. game, the enthusiasm was unmatched.

Following competition these Unified teams were given tours of the facility, including a visit to the Detroit Lions locker room. We intended to deliver a day filled with an experience and memory for a lifetime for our guests, and feedback suggests that was accomplished. But, make no mistake, the session left lasting impressions on the staff here at the MHSAA, as well.

Brighton, Holt, Mason and Sparta – schools represented at the 2018 Football Finals – are among the 300-plus schools statewide which are Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools®, and it is our hope that the number continues to grow around Michigan and throughout the country.

The MHSAA and Michigan Special Olympics have a wonderful relationship and we will continue to plan with our valued partner for future events as opportunities present themselves.

There is no limit to the benefits of these games and such a partnership. And, no limit to the enthusiasm of its participants who are helping to redefine school cultures by helping us break down barriers and build inclusive school communities around this great state.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Uyl".

Mark Uyl
MHSAA Executive Director

Unified Championship School athletes from select schools got memories to last a lifetime on their visit to Ford Field during Thanksgiving Weekend.



Changing Culture

As this issue shines a spotlight on the MHSAA and Michigan Special Olympics teaming up to provide a memorable event in November, at the core of such events was the desire to develop initiatives which promote inclusion and acceptance among student population in our schools. Becoming a Special Olympics Unified Champion School® can be a giant step in that direction. For more information, visit the Michigan Special Olympics website or contact one of the 300-plus schools in Michigan which sponsor programs. Schools can also contact Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools Coordinator: **Jamie Cotter - (989)774-1993** or cotte1jm@cmich.edu

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools®



How You Help Us Operate

The winter months are laden with committee meetings at the MHSAA Office, the lifeblood for affecting change in the rules and regulations which serve our constituents so well and provide level playing fields (and courts, pools, mats, diamonds, etc.) for the vast span of enrollments and demographics that make Michigan so unique. We encourage you to keep the following in mind in the coming weeks as the committees are putting their best efforts forward on your behalf.

Committee Work

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

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

Committees are asked to keep in mind health and safety issues as well as policies and procedures relative to subvarsity and junior high/middle school students while also concentrating on Annual Update Meeting Opinion Poll responses on hot topics around the state.

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

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

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

A UNIFIED EFFORT

The MHSAA and Michigan Special Olympics teamed up to provide a memorable event to cap the 2018 Fall Season



John Johnson, MHSAA



John Johnson, MHSAA

The pass was lofted high, and floating toward the end zone nearest the tunnel where teams enter the playing surface at Ford Field. As players from both teams converged, the intended receiver came away with the ball, clutching his prize and raising his arms in jubilant triumph.

It was arguably the best catch of the Thanksgiving weekend football feast in Detroit, and undoubtedly a memory this player will never forget. Moments later, the ear-to-ear grin remained as he high-fived spectators and family members on the way to the tunnel and up to the locker room.

And, all of this happened *before* the MHSAA Football Finals kicked off for the second day of championship games Saturday, Nov. 24.

The play was one of many memorable moments to take place during the first-ever Unified Champion School event held in conjunction with the MHSAA Football Finals. If this year's exhibition was any indication, it will be the first of many to come.

"The event far exceeded our expectations, and in discussions with the students, coaches and parents involved, I think it exceeded their expectations as well," said MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl. "The feedback was positive, and the thanks and appreciation we received was overwhelming."

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® (UCS) is an education-based project that uses sports and education programs to activate young people to develop school communities where all youth are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities.

Last summer, as Uyl was settling into his role as executive director at the MHSAA, Tim Hileman was acclimating himself to a similar role with Michigan Special Olympics. Both were replacing long-time leaders, Jack Roberts at the MHSAA and Lois Arnold at Special Olympics, each of whom served their organizations for more than three decades. The similarities brought them together, and they began to nurture seeds that had been planted by their predecessors.

"Mark reached out when the announcement was made that I was to become CEO of Michigan Special Olympics," said Hileman. "We strongly believed in the benefits of a partnership between the two organizations. We talked about long-term plans and the goal of growing a culture of inclusion within our schools. A more immediate component was exploring existing opportunities to highlight a partnership, and what greater way to do that than at Ford Field during one of the most prominent weekends of the MHSAA sports season?"

The inaugural event included students from Brighton, Holt, Mason and Sparta school districts, each of which sponsor Unified teams.

Special Olympics Michigan



“The whole idea is to change the culture; eliminate barriers and encourage inclusion.” — Tim Hileman, President and CEO Michigan Special Olympics

Brighton, which has been in the game since 2016-17 and involves combined 75 general education students and students with intellectual disabilities (I.D. students), recently earned national recognition for its Unified program (*see related story in this issue*).

“Andy Doupe, a faculty member who teaches special education here, brought the initiative to our district and it was a no-brainer that we needed to implement the program,” said John Thompson, athletic director at Brighton High School and a member of the MHSAA Representative Council. “It was a great opportunity to be supportive of all students in our community.”

Brighton Unified coach and faculty member Jody Renicker has helped to take the lead there.

“The foundation of Unified Sports is pretty simple,” Renicker said. “It’s the idea that training

and competing together is one of the fastest ways to friendship and understanding. The students discover that they are much more alike than they are different. This helps to dissolve the preconceptions and stereotypes often associated with people with disabilities.”

Just up the road in Holt, that community was gaining its own recognition, bringing home the Gold Medal from the USA Flag Football Championships in Seattle last summer. The lessons and experiences proved even more valuable.

“Athletes roomed with UCS partners,” said Val Suszko, a coach for the Holt/Mason program which involves roughly 80 students with and without disabilities in its sixth year of existence. “The friendship that they developed over those 10 days was priceless. They are friends for life.

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Unified Champion School athletes and personnel kicked off the second day of the MHSAA Football Finals at Ford Field on Saturday, Nov. 24.

John Johnson, MHSAA



They care for and protect each other. Without this experience, they wouldn't have ever met."

That's the overriding goal of Unified athletics; to break down barriers within schools and communities while introducing young people to those with various challenges, offering opportunities to lead and assist.

"The inclusion of special needs kids and how it makes them feel is a wonderful part of the school community and program," Thompson said. "We have a young lady with a prosthetic leg who never wore shorts because she was embarrassed. Now, being part of our basketball team, she wears shorts all the time.

"Naturally there's a huge upside for the special needs students, but the general ed kids are being provided an opportunity to grow and develop leadership skills. The experiences open some eyes and break down some divisions that exist to make for an improved culture throughout the school. The melding of kids with different backgrounds of any kind is always good for perspective."

Unified programs offer increased participation opportunity for the general education population as well as the I.D. students. For students who may not make the cut for school teams, or prefer to focus on academics or part-time jobs, the Unified option provides just what they are looking for. Others are varsity athletes looking for competition outside their preferred sport season.

"We receive a lot of interest from those partners who might have wanted to play on freshman, JV, or Varsity teams but couldn't meet the eligibility requirements or physically do not make the cuts at those levels of team tryouts," said Renne Wyman, Unified coach at Sparta High School. "So they wander into the gym and join us. What happens is, the level of play ratch-

"The most memorable moment for me was watching the expressions on all of the athletes' faces as they walked through the tunnel onto the field. The parents were excited. They loved seeing their athlete participating alongside the other high school football teams." — Val Suszko, Holt/Mason Coach

ets up a notch or two. These kids initially come here to *play*; not necessarily *help* the intellectually disabled kids.

"But, then they start giving shooting advice, or directing them where to move offensively or whom to cover defensively. Suddenly they are talking to each other, and no adult staged the mentoring. It carries on between quarters, at halftime, before games and practices. They start texting and offering a seat in the cafeteria at lunch. I'm talking about major culture change in our building."

This type of interaction serves to reduce the number of negative incidents in the hallways.

"Statistics show that these programs have proven to reduce bullying of the intellectually disabled population," said Suszko of Holt/Mason. "To have an organized sports team and school support team is invaluable. The students with intellectual disabilities gain so much. They train together, play together and develop friendships through sports with the general school population."

“My No. 1 suggestion would be to come and witness how special a Unified Game is. It will give you hope for our future and highlight some pretty amazing things that are going on in schools every day that don't make the front page of the newspaper.” — Jody Renicker, Brighton HS Coach and Faculty Member

With such important life lessons in the balance, and 300-plus schools around Michigan sponsoring school programs, the time was right to further shine a spotlight on the product. In the past, Unified basketball events have been showcased during MHSAA Hoopfest events in conjunction with the Boys Basketball Finals, and it was time to take the next step.

“A partnership between the MHSAA and Special Olympics is a natural fit, and our goal is to assist in promoting inclusiveness and leadership components of Unified Champion Schools as opportunities at our tournaments allow,” Uyl said. “These are such worthwhile endeavors and the student-athletes involved truly symbolize the best in school sports.”

The Ford Field event provided a chance for some serious competition on the field, along with countless smiles – and some tears – from on-lookers and support groups following the action.

“My favorite story from that day came as Mark (Uyl) was addressing the group in the Lions locker room and thanking them for being there,” Hileman said. “I looked into the corner of the room and there’s a man – pretty good sized, tough-looking – standing there with his wife and they’ve got tears in their eyes. The Dad came up



John Johnson, MHSAA

and told me, ‘I never thought I’d see my son play any kind of sport, and here he is at Ford Field. I’ll never forget this, and never watch a Lions game without thinking of this.’ So many of our athletes are told what they *can't* do. Special Olympics is about showing what they *can* do.”

For Suszko, the highlights began earlier in the morning.

“The most memorable moment for me was watching the expressions on all of the athletes’ faces as they walked through the tunnel onto the field,” she said. “What a great opportunity. The hospitality that Mark Uyl, Nate Hampton, and the rest of the staff gave us was appreciated so much. The parents were excited. They loved seeing their athlete participating alongside the other high school football teams. Watching barriers being broken and teamwork being established is what inclusion is all about.”

– continued next page



John Johnson, MHSAA

Beginning with the playing of the National Anthem, the event included all the scenes of a championship production.

There were plenty of emotions to go around, from the guests and the hosts.

“The kids and parents were over the moon when the invitation came. Ford Field, the MHSAA Finals, it really resonated with the kids, the school and families,” Thompson said. “Nate and Mark and all staff involved went out of their way to make it a wonderful and meaningful experience. They did more for the families and kids than anyone expected. We are very appreciative of the MHSAA continuing to work toward inclusion, and events like these help to spread the word.”

Spreading the word will help bolster an already strong movement both in Michigan and nationally. Hileman is excited for the future in partnering with the MHSAA for events like the one in November which generate a high level of enthusiasm. In the near future, he has some more immediate goals.

“We are concentrating on expanding league play. That’s what sports are; athletes competing, and our athletes want to compete,” Hileman said. “We have league play in the O-K Conference, and in the Lansing area. Our goal and vision is to continue to build on the Unified conference experience; more competitions during the season.”

The Sparta program has been in place for four years, and numbers have increased from a handful to a total of 60 partners and Special Olympic athletes combined. Volunteers are a vital part of the initiative, and Wyman says hundreds of people donate their time at affiliated service projects held twice yearly. The school offers Unified flag football at the league/conference level each fall, Unified ski/snowboard on a smaller scale, Unified basketball at the

“Suddenly they are talking to each other, and no adult staged the mentoring. It carries on between quarters, at halftime, before games and practices. They start texting and offering a seat in the cafeteria at lunch. I’m talking about major culture change in our building.” — Renne Wyman, Unified Coach at Sparta High School

league/conference level in the winter, and is looking to add Unified track and field at the league/conference level this spring. Make no mistake, athletes of all kinds like to compete.

“My kids are learning the game like they never did before. The partners don’t dumb down the vocabulary or slow down what they teach. This occurs in real-time scrimmaging with a need to adjust quickly,” said Wyman. “So our Unified athletes are being coached and challenged to increase their skill and conditioning at a level I just can’t replicate in my Special Olympics Physical Education class where no partners are present.”

One also cannot replicate the related successes outside the gyms and away from the fields, where Wyman reports that I.D. students are now being offered rides to school for dances and athletic events; improving their grades to be eligible to participate in the program, and be-





John Johnson, MHSAA

Following the games, athletes, parents and coaches were taken on a tour of the facility, including the Detroit Lions locker room.

coming healthier through the activities, all while gaining confidence in themselves.

Renicker believes that seeing is believing, and encourages people to attend events in neighboring communities. The impression will likely spur action.

“My No. 1 suggestion would be to come and witness how special a Unified Game is,” Renicker said. “It will give you hope for our future and highlight some pretty amazing things that are going on in schools every day that don't make the front page of the newspaper. I feel so lucky to be part of a school community that values this program and the culture it has created.”

Hileman recently attended a national Special Olympics event and heard International Chairman of Special Olympics Dr. Timothy Shriver proclaim his dream; that just as every high school sponsors boys and girls athletic pro-

grams, he hopes that one day every high school in the country will become a Unified Champion School.

It is a big dream, but the slightest nudge can put things in motion, as Wyman has seen.

“It can start small. You only need one or two partners to commit and you can get something going,” Wyman said. “A lot of kids would love to help in supporting roles, whether it's running sporting events, officiating, keeping stats, designing, or organizing. In the beginning, it is one person reaching out to one school seeing if they can get together and play the game.”

With that, the guidance of Special Olympics, and assistance from partners like the MHSAA, maybe the ball can keep rolling all the way around the state.

— Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

Catch the Event on YouTube

The MHSAA/Special Olympics Unified flag football exhibition at Ford Field on Nov. 24 was beautifully crafted into a YouTube montage by Jeremy Hull of the Holt/Mason program.

We encourage you to view the video and share it with students and staff in your buildings.

Scan this code with your mobile device to view the YouTube video



Brighton Earns Exemplary UCS Award for 2018



Brighton's Unified Sports program – which combines students with and without intellectual disabilities on competitive athletic teams – was recognized nationally as one of the nation's five exemplary "Unified Champion Schools" for 2018.

The Unified Sports program is part of Special Olympics, and champion schools have met 10 national standards of inclusion excellence developed by leaders from the Special Olympics and education communities. Brighton was nominated by Michigan's Special Olympics program and was recognized as exemplary along with schools from California, New Jersey, North Carolina and Virginia.

Brighton also was one of 132 schools representing all levels of education recognized nationally as a "Banner Unified Champion School." Also receiving the honor from Michigan were Detroit Loyola High School, Saline's Pleasant Ridge Elementary School, Holt's Washington Woods Middle School and Adrian College, Ferris State University, Michigan State University and Central Michigan University. To become a Unified Champion School, a school must show inclusive youth leadership and whole school engagement in addition to its Unified Sports program.

From that list of 132 banner schools, an honor roll of 30 was selected with Brighton as Michigan's representative on that list.

The announcement of the five exemplary Unified Champion Schools was made last fall by ESPN, a partner in the Special Olympics' national recognition program.

Brighton's Unified Sports program participated in the flag football event at Ford Field on the second day of the MHSAA Football Finals in November.

"This recognition symbolizes all of our students, families, staff, and community as being leaders in building and spreading a culture of inclusiveness, respect, and care for each and every person," wrote Brighton Athletic Director John Thompson in making the announcement to the school. "We could not be prouder of our Brighton Family! Your attitudes and actions speak volumes about each of you as individuals but also the collective strength of Brighton Nation coming together for the good of all!"

Brighton has Unified teams for flag football, basketball and bocce. Approximately 75 students – including I.D. students and their general education partners – participate in each sport, with a number of athletes participating in multiple. Brighton's Kensington Lakes Activities Association last year formed a Unified League with programs from Hartland, Novi, Northville and Grand Blanc.

Brighton's program is directed by special education teachers Jody Renicker and Lisa Johnson. The school received its Unified Champion Schools banner during an assembly in the fall.

— Geoff Kimmerly
MHSAA Second Half editor

Inclusion is Primary Mission of Special Olympics UCS

Team sports bring people together. Special Olympics Unified Sports® teams do that, too, and much more. About 1.4 million people worldwide take part in Unified Sports, breaking down stereotypes about people with intellectual disabilities in a really fun way. ESPN has served as the Global Presenting Sponsor of Special Olympics Unified Sports since 2013, supporting the growth and expansion of this program that empowers individuals with and without intellectual disabilities to engage through the power of sports.



Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools

Promoting Social Inclusion Through Sport

Special Olympics is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences. Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. In Unified Sports, teams are made up of people of similar age and ability. That makes practices more fun and games more challenging and exciting for all. Having sport in common is just one more way that preconceptions and false ideas are swept away.

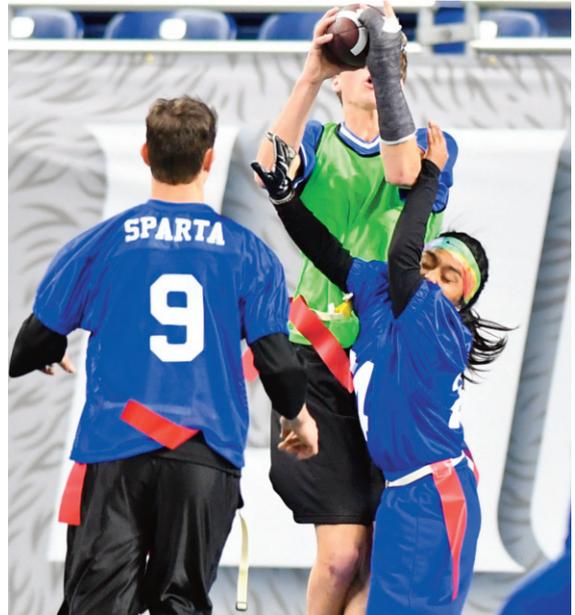
U.S. States Embracing Unified Sports

Young people with disabilities do not often get a chance to play on their school sports teams. More and more U.S. states are adopting the Unified Sports approach that Special Olympics pioneered.

Unified Sports is also an integral part of Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools, which was founded in 2008 and funded through the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education to use Special Olympics as a way to build inclusion and tolerance in schools. Unified Sports are now in more than 4,500 elementary, middle and high schools in the United States. Seventy percent of Unified Champion Schools (Pre-K through Grade 12) are engaging in Unified Sports! Also 215 US colleges and universities have Special Olympics College Clubs on campus, providing ongoing Unified and inclusionary activities for students and Special Olympics athletes. Seventy-three of the 215 US colleges and universities activating Special Olympics College conduct ongoing Unified Sports on their campuses. Learn how to get involved. Visit: www.playunified.org.

Mission: Inclusion

As part of the Special Olympics-Lions Clubs International “Mission: Inclusion” partnership, the LCI youth network-Leos have become a strong global partner in expanding and implementing Unified Sports together with Special Olympics. The Leos have helped both start, and sustain, Unified Sports in a number of nations worldwide, and serve as one of the movement’s strongest youth leadership networks in bringing inclusive programming to communities across the world. From Zimbabwe to Brazil and from California to India, the Leos continue to amplify the voice of athletes, and embody



the creed: Play Unified. Live Unified.

Major sports organization, league and event support to Play Unified

Many high-profile, professional sports organizations and events have also showcased Unified Sports as a vehicle to show the power of inclusive sports! This support includes:

- National Basketball Association (NBA)
- Major League Soccer (MLS)
- Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)
- National Collegiate Athletic Association, D-III
- ESPN's X Games Aspen
- National Federation of High Schools (NFHS)
- National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association

For more on Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools®, please scan this code.

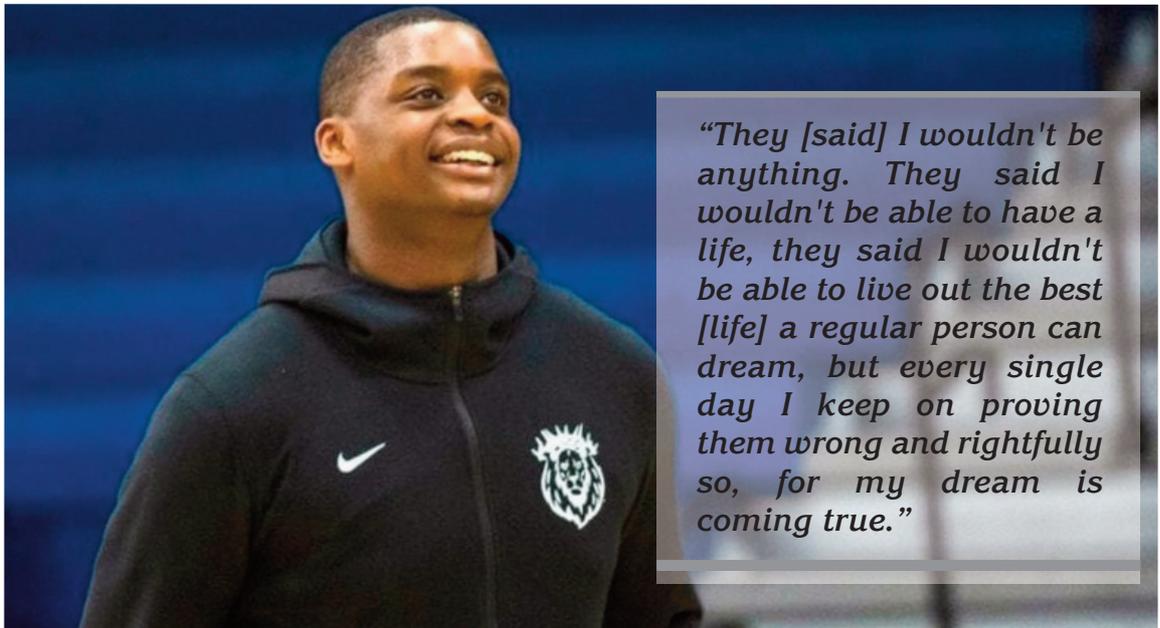


Kent Offers BB Scholarship to Student with Autism

NOTE: The following story appeared on the Special Olympics Unified Sports website, written by Perri Konecky for popsuger.com

In November 2018, Kalin Bennett became the first person with autism to get an NCAA scholarship at the Division I level. For Kalin, this isn't just about his disability, it's about following your dreams no matter what anyone else tells says you can and cannot do. Next year, Kalin will play center for Kent State's men's basketball team, but it's his journey to get to this place that has

When answering questions from his Instagram followers, Kalin said the mentality that helped him overcome "labels" and succeed throughout his journey is: "Don't let anyone tell you what you can't do. Fight even when it looks like it's not in your favor." While some people with autism have sensory processing issues and an inability to stand certain noises, Kalin admitted "that's why I can't play football." We rarely hear athletes speak so openly about their challenges, but Kalin's not just doing it for himself, he's doing it for anyone in need of inspiration.



"They [said] I wouldn't be anything. They said I wouldn't be able to have a life, they said I wouldn't be able to live out the best [life] a regular person can dream, but every single day I keep on proving them wrong and rightfully so, for my dream is coming true."

everyone in awe of his determination. In an Instagram post following his signing announcement, he said that he was nonverbal until age 7, and had a "very hard time understanding [and] comprehending people." Kalin was constantly bullied, and it wasn't until he discovered his love for basketball that he was focused on overcoming the barriers he faced.

"They [said] I wouldn't be anything. They said I wouldn't be able to have a life, they said I wouldn't be able to live out the best [life] a regular person can dream, but every single day I keep on proving them wrong and rightfully so, for my dream is coming true," he wrote.

"I want to be a professional basketball player, that's every basketball player's dream," he said in a video with cleveland.com. "But at the same time, I want to use this platform to inspire other kids with autism and non-autism and let them know, 'Hey if I can do this, you can do it too.'" A lot of times they feel alone or by themselves and I felt that same way growing up."

Kalin expresses how grateful he is for his family and the people who believed in him, but based on the praise-filled reactions across the internet, it's clear that the person to be grateful for is Kalin. By simply following his dreams, he's helping to dispel the stereotypes surrounding autism, and for that, we thank him.

Electronic Medical Records – a Tool for Every School

For decades, schools have used an electronic platform to track information about their students related to the school day. Among the information tracked by schools has been each student’s health history – allergies, immunizations, health office visits and similar data.

School health personnel and administrators use this information to not only provide support for students, but also when changes in facilities and scheduling are being considered to better serve students and keep them healthy, happy and learning. Valuable insight into health trends, injury occurrences and wellness possibilities can be gleaned from this information.



The various platforms that track student-athlete health and injury information can provide the same insight for athletic directors, athletic trainers, coaches, parents and administrators. Falling under the broad category of Electronic Medical Records (EMR), these programs can follow a student-athlete through their school years as well as from season to season, providing the individual information needed to support each team member.

Documenting the trends in students’ health needs and injuries can help health professionals to not only better support the student and treat any immediate injuries, but also consider other factors that are affecting them on and off the field. Used in conjunction with a school athletic trainer, EMR software can provide the foundation for students to participate fully throughout their high school years.

When selecting an EMR for your school, following are some things to consider:

PLATFORM

Cloud-based: Accessible with proper log-in credentials through web-browsers on most devices, cloud-based platforms do not require a program installation on one computer. Data is available in school, at home, on the playing field, wherever there is internet access.

Server-based: The program runs on a school-based network and thus is available through any computer connected to that network. Data is available just about anywhere on the school campus.

Stand-alone: The software and its related data are available on your computer only.

INFORMATION

Student-Athlete

Data contains basic contact information: address, phone, parents, grade in school, past athletic history, health concerns related to participation.

Tracks student-athlete through multiple sports and multiple school years with one entry of contact information, etc. (so that updates are part of every team or activity that student participates in).

Team/Activity Membership

Each team or activity (marching band, for example) maintains a separate roster with different data fields possible.

Access for users is available at the team or activity level (the band director can only access his / her students in the system).

Specifics to each team are noted in the student information (type of helmet used, for example).

Injury Reporting

Injuries are individually entered, but categorized for data analysis.

A full set of information is captured for each injury report.

Injuries can be reported by all users, not just the system administrators.

Data & Reporting

Overall data is available in multiple views and formats for coaches and administrators.

Various searches are possible throughout all of the data by system administrators.

Reports can include trends. Individual reports are available to share with other health personnel.

Besides supporting individual students and making sure that their treatment, recovery and return to the playing field is smooth and efficient, EMRs data can be beneficial to a school’s athletic trainer in identifying problem areas, equipment issues and other aspects of a student-athlete’s participation. For example, the data may show that one type of helmet is more prone to concussions than another, or that this type of injury occurs more often in practice than in games, or that more injuries occur on this field or at night than others. And by providing such data, finding support for corrective changes is much easier.

The use of Electronic Medical Records to indicate how your athletic department supports your student-athletes will enhance all aspects of their experiences and the quality of the program being offered. In conjunction with a school athletic trainer, EMRs help provide the safest possible environment for them to learn, excel and achieve.

— Brian Robinson and Steffen Parker
NFHS.org



Visit the Health & Safety page of MHSAA.com or scan the code at left for a library of valuable resources involving athletic health & safety procedures.

Class Has Ended

This edition of the “Vault” examines the Spring 2017 issue of benchmarks which focused on the move to divisions in MHSAA sports. As this year marks the move from classes to divisions in basketball and girls volleyball, the migration is now completed. Following are excerpts from 2017.

When the MHSAA Team Wrestling Tournament took center stage at Battle Creek’s Kellogg Arena in 1996, a fourth mat was added to the spotlight, and a new trend in postseason classification began. In the two decades to follow, more tournaments were added by division, and class structure faded. With basketball and girls volleyball in divisional tournament play for 2018-19, classes now are a thing of the past.

Credited with being the first state with multiple tournament classifications, Michigan’s attention to trends and shifts in philosophy aimed at fair play and equal tournament opportunity can be traced from 80 years ago to the present.

In the earliest years of the MHSAA, there were four classifications for elections and tournaments – Classes A, B, C and D. Classes C and D had far more schools than Classes A and B. For example, 80 years ago (1937), there were only 58 schools in Class A, 94 schools in Class B, 297 schools in Class C and 253 schools in Class D.

Gradually through the years, as Michigan’s major cities spawned suburbs, there was a shift in the other direction to the point 30 years ago (1987) where school size became more balanced: 173 Class A schools, 178 Class B schools, 179 Class C schools and 182 Class D schools.

Up until 1987, the MHSAA published the dividing line between each classification, after which schools submitted their enrollments. Then, for 1988 and thereafter, the MHSAA adopted the plan of gathering all enrollments first and then placing 25 percent of the schools in each of four classes. This

completed the equalization of the number of schools in each class for elections.

However, the change for 1988 did nothing to equalize the number of teams actually entered by each class in each sport. And unlike the early years of the Association when there were many more Class C and D teams than A and B teams, there were more Class A and B teams than C and D teams entering MHSAA tournaments decades later.

Moreover, the difference in number of teams entered in the different classifications for a sport continued to increase as many small schools, the fastest growing part of the MHSAA’s membership, sponsor only a few sports, or they sponsor no sports at all but enter into cooperative programs with other schools.

Because of these differences, Class A or B schools sometimes had to win twice as many games as Class C or D schools to reach the MHSAA Finals in a sport. At times, the larger classifications had District Tournaments, even rat-tail games, and/or a Quarterfinal game, and the smaller classifications did not. Most Class D Districts have had four teams (some only three), while Class A Districts often had seven or eight teams. In

– continued next page

First-Class Education

Michigan is generally accepted as the first state to direct its schools into different tournament classifications based on school enrollment. Much has happened here and across the country during the century since we began doing so.

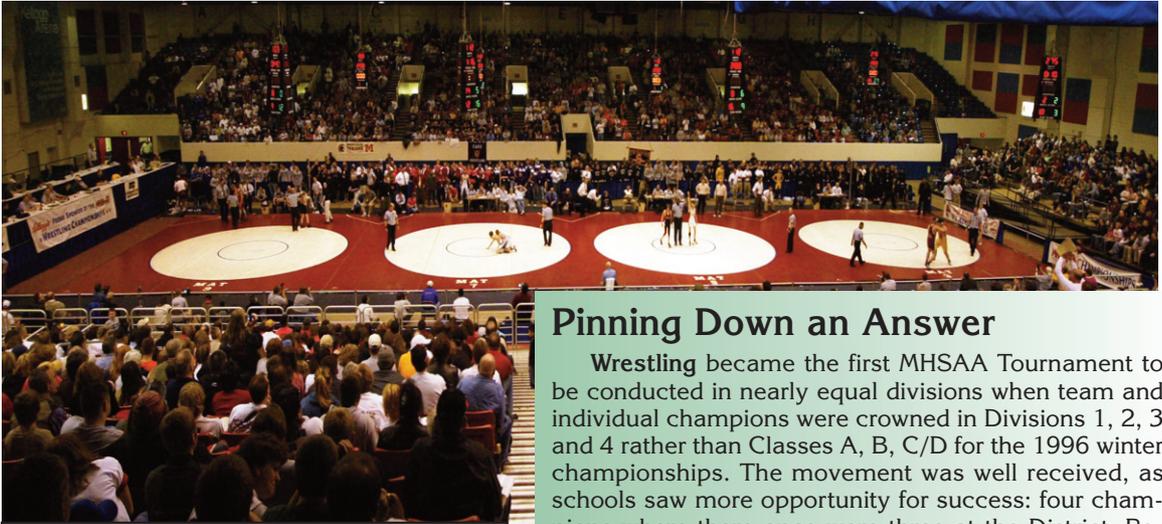
But what is much more important than the number of classes in MHSAA tournaments is the number of lessons in the classroom of educational athletics.

There is far too much attention – **far too much** – on the number of classes or divisions in postseason tournaments.

Of far more importance – **far more** – is what’s actually occurring during the regular season; during practices as well as contests in local schools every day.

School sports done right provides an energetic, engaging classroom for efficient yet life-altering lessons. For an education that goes beyond instruction in athletic skills and strategies to life lessons for adolescents’ journey to adulthood.

— Jack Roberts
former MHSAA Executive Director
2017 MHSAA benchmarks



Pinning Down an Answer

Wrestling became the first MHSAA Tournament to be conducted in nearly equal divisions when team and individual champions were crowned in Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 rather than Classes A, B, C/D for the 1996 winter championships. The movement was well received, as schools saw more opportunity for success: four champions where there once were three at the District, Regional and Final levels, and a smaller range of enrollment between the smallest and largest school in all four tournaments. This was the impetus for the Fall 1996 Update Meeting Survey of schools regarding similar movement in other sports.

Regional levels of individual sports, the number of entries in the larger classification once greatly outnumbered those in the smaller classifications of the tournament for the same sport.

Over the years these dividing lines between classes escalated gradually, as did the differences in enrollments of largest and small schools in each class. In 1937, the dividing lines were 700, 300 and 100 between Class A and B, B and C, and C and D, respectively. By 1987, the dividing lines were 1,129, 571 and 298, respectively, leading to the current method of collecting enrollments and then setting the classification.

With the pendulum swinging well past center by the late 1980s, coaches associations, MHSAA sport committees, tournament managers and school administrators began discussion and offered proposals to correct what many believed had become a flawed system of MHSAA tournament classification.

At the 1996 MHSAA Update Meetings, three-fourths of 858 respondents to that year's annual survey indicated they favored a system that would divide schools which actually sponsor each sport into two, three or four nearly equal divisions. At its meeting May 4-6, 1997, the Representative Council defeated a motion that would have adopted in one action a coordinated plan of reclassification for all sports. Instead, the Council discussed and voted on each proposal that had been presented by sport committees.

The shift to divisions not only paved the way for student-athletes, but also assisted administrators and schools hosting tournaments. MHSAA tournament managers looked to equal divisions to more closely equalize the number of schools in District or Regional Tournaments and to better equalize the length of day required for these rounds of tournaments, both for management and participating teams and individuals.

Through the Years

A chronology of when which sports moved from Class to Division in the MHSAA.

1995-96

LP Wrestling

1997-98

Baseball, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Softball, LP Girls Tennis, LP Boys Tennis

1998-99

LP Boys Golf, LP Girls Golf

1999-00

Ice Hockey, LP Boys Track & Field, LP Girls Track & Field

2000-01

LP Boys Cross Country, LP Girls Cross Country, UP Boys Cross Country, UP Girls Cross Country, UP Boys Golf, UP Girls Golf, UP Boys Tennis, UP Girls Tennis, UP Boys Track & Field, UP Girls Track & Field

2002-03

LP Girls Swimming & Diving, LP Boys Swimming & Diving

2005-06

Boys Bowling, Girls Bowling

2006-07

Girls Competitive Cheer, Boys Skiing, Girls Skiing

2018-19

Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Girls Volleyball

Note: Boys and Girls Lacrosse has been a divisional sport since it began in during the 2004-05 school year.

Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award in 30th Year



Thousands of students voluntarily extend their classroom day by taking part in extracurricular 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 MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award, which will award \$1,000 scholarships to 32 top student-athletes and recognize over 2,000 other outstanding individuals in 2018-19.

Underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance, the Scholar-Athlete Award is now in its 30th 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 Mark Uyl, 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 2018-19 school year, carry a 3.5 grade-point average, and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport in which 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.



Michigan's Insurance Company



Application materials can be found on MHSAA.com. Scan the code below to access the page.

Each MHSAA member school is allowed to nominate a number of student-athletes based on the size of the school. Class A schools can nominate six boys and six girls, Class B four boys and four girls, Class C three boys and three girls and Class D two boys and two girls. The first 30 scholarships will be awarded based on this graduated scale, with two additional scholarships intended for minority applicants.

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.

The 32 scholarship recipients will be recognized at the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing on March 16, 2019.

More Info?
Scan Here



Battle of the Fans VIII Heats Up the Winter Scene

The MHSAA Student Advisory Council's "Battle of the Fans VIII" featured a variety of enthusiastic rooting sections and original themes as groups competed for the title of best high school student section in Michigan.

This year's nine semifinalists were Petoskey, Saginaw Heritage and Traverse City West from Class A; Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard, Buchanan and Wayland from Class B; and Carson City-Crystal, North Muskegon and Petersburg-Summerfield from Class C/D.

Battle of the Fans VIII, organized by MHSAA staff and its 16-member Student Advisory Council, kicked off by inviting schools to submit short videos, via YouTube, of their cheering sections in action by Jan. 12. The Advisory Council selected nine semifinalists to accomplish a list of tasks showing off their sections over a 12-day period, and then the Council then selected three finalists for MHSAA visits.

This year's winner is to be announced Feb. 22 and recognized March 15 during the MHSAA Boys Basketball Semifinals at Michigan State University's Breslin Center.

Semifinalists were required to complete 10 challenges via social media channels. Five mandatory challenges focus on contest criteria: positive sportsmanship, student body participation, school spirit, originality of cheers, organization of the group, student section leadership and overall fun.

Five elective challenges (taken from a list of 15 opportunities) allowed semifinalists opportunities to show the unique characteristics that make their sections elite. Descriptions of all 20 challenges appear on the BOTF page of MHSAA.com.

The Student Advisory Council selected the finalists in late January. MHSAA staff and SAC members visited the finalists for home basketball games during the second half of the season, with coverage and video, and the announcement of the winner, published on Second Half.

The winner is selected by another Advisory Council vote based in part on support each section

receives on the MHSAA's social media sites.

A total of 20 schools applied for this year's contest, including six schools for the first time to bring the total to 97 member schools that have applied for the contest at least once over its eight-year existence. Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard is the only school that has applied all eight years.

Also among semifinalists, Buchanan and Traverse City West both have applied six times and Petoskey has applied five. Saginaw Heritage and Wayland are three-time applicants that made it past



MHSAA File Photo

the first round this year for the first time, and North Muskegon has made it past the first round for the first time in its second attempt. Carson City-Crystal and Petersburg-Summerfield were among first-time applicants.

The other first-time applicants were Allendale, Chesaning, Niles and Oxford.

Buchanan is the reigning BOTF champion. "The Herd" also won BOTF II in 2013 and made the finals in 2014 and 2015.

Traverse City West earned the BOTF title in 2016 and was a finalist in 2014 and 2017 and a semifinalist last year, while Petoskey was a finalist in 2012, 2017 and 2018. Father Gabriel Richard made the finals in 2013.

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

USA Standout Zimmer Skilled for All Seasons

Rylee Zimmer lightened her winter workload during her sophomore year, taking the basketball season off to focus more on volleyball.

It turned out to be a short-term move.

“I could make it to some of the games still, because I wasn’t quite as busy,” the Unionville-Sebewaing senior said. “But when I watched them play, I missed it, so I came back to play.”

Zimmer has finished her high school volleyball career and signed to continue playing the sport at Saginaw Valley State University. But her days as a Patriot are not over, as she is currently playing basketball, and in the spring will come back to her familiar spot on the softball diamond, where she is a returning all-state selection as a shortstop.

“I actually think (playing three sports) does help me,” Zimmer said. “Like in basketball, we’re working on jumping and we run a lot. It keeps me more in shape.”

It’s no secret, however, that volleyball is No. 1 for Zimmer. She plays for the Five:1 club during the winter and spring, and is currently balancing school, the club and basketball season. Sub out softball for basketball, and you have her spring schedule.

“Actually, it works out pretty good, because for girls basketball, we play on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and I have practice on Monday and Wednesday,” she said. “After basketball and softball practices, I drive to Clio and practice until 9 at night. I don’t have much downtime.”

Zimmer was a four-year starter for the Patriots volleyball team, and this fall she led the team to its first MHSAA Finals appearance – where it fell to four-time reigning champion Bronson in the Division 3 title match.

“When we were in eighth grade, when Erica Treiber (a volleyball All-American at Tennessee) was on the team, we went to Battle Creek with my family (for the Semifinals), and I never thought I’d be able to make it there,” Zimmer said. “This year, my senior year, when we started playing I thought, ‘This team is pretty good and can make it pretty far.’ It was so exciting to be able to make it to the last game of the season.”

On the season, Zimmer finished with 828 kills, 630 service receptions, 537 digs, 132 total blocks and 41 aces. It was her second straight season with

more than 800 kills, and she finished her career with 2,332. Her career kill percentage was .374.

“Rylee is just an athletic player,” USA coach Teresa Rose said. “Last year, she was a captain, but this year she was a little more of a vocal captain. She never wanted to step on the seniors’ toes when she was only a junior. She’s very knowledgeable. She plays club at Five:1, she plays basketball, she plays softball – she’s constantly doing something. Girls that only play one sport, they’re playing club, too, but they’re not using those other muscles you do while doing those other things. I think that really helps her be strong.”

Zimmer committed to Saginaw Valley late in her junior year, and signed during the early signing period in November. She said that playing at the next level was something she had dreamed of and thought could be a reality since she was moved up to varsity for volleyball as a freshman.

While playing three sports through high school

has helped make her a better all-around athlete, she is looking forward to focusing on a single sport in college.

Rose also is excited to see what Zimmer can do at the next level.

“I’ve seen her play at this level, and she’s a standout,” Rose said. “To see her at the next level when she’s playing with every-

body that’s that good, I can’t wait to watch her. Seeing her play with girls at the college level that are all volleyball players – that’s all they’re doing – I think you’re going to see her be even more explosive than what she was this year.”

Before she moves on, however, Zimmer has more to do at USA. While the Patriots are 2-3 to start this season on the court, last winter Zimmer averaged 13.6 points and 9.8 rebounds per game to lead the team to the Class C Regional Final.

The USA softball team was a Division 4 semifinalist a year ago, with Zimmer playing a big part. She hit .445 in 38 games, with 27 extra-base hits (14 doubles, 11 triples, two home runs), 41 RBI and 53 runs scored. She has a career batting average of .429.

“I’m just excited to have fun and have one last year with the people I’ve always played with,” she said. “I’m excited to have one last season with them.”

— By Paul Costanzo
Special for MHSAA Second Half



Three Michigan Coaches Earn Top NFHS Honors

Three Michigan high school coaches with long histories of championship success were honored with 2018 National Coaches of the Year awards presented by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches Association in January.

Midland Dow boys tennis coach Terry Schwartzkopf, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep girls volleyball coach Betty Wroubel and Bloomfield Hills Marian and Birmingham Brother Rice golf coach Leon Braisted III – formerly the longtime coach of the girls and boys programs at Birmingham Seaholm – earned three of the 22 available NFHS awards and have led their programs to a combined 13 MHSAA Finals championships.

The following brief bios include excerpts from each honoree’s coaching philosophy, which they were asked to submit after being identified as candidates for the awards.



Leon Braisted III began coaching both the girls and boys Birmingham Seaholm teams in 1998 and guided those programs through the 2015-16 school year. He led the Maples girls to Lower Peninsula Division 2 championships in 2006, 2008 and three straight from 2013-15, and also to five runner-up Finals finishes. His Seaholm boys team was Division 2 runner-up in 1999. Braisted has coached the Bloomfield Hills Marian girls the last three seasons and the Birmingham Brother Rice boys the last two, leading Marian to a Division 2 runner-up finish in 2017. Rice finished seventh in Division 1 this spring. Braisted was inducted into the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2015.

“An athletic program opens the door for students to become involved in different sports. Any sport the student joins is quite a learning experience. A coach through practices teaches the players to be ‘team players and learn the rules of the sport.’ During the practices and playing the sport, players learn tolerance, become alert to their surroundings, and most importantly (the sport) offers exercise. As a golf coach for 21 years I recognize that golf is a lifelong sport. The player learns patience, perseverance and (the sport) motivates the individual to desire to improve (his or her) game. It is the ability to meet others, a place and time where a person can enjoy the moments away from the rapid pace of daily life.”

Terry Schwartzkopf took over the Midland Dow program in 2007 after seven years leading the junior varsity. He guided the Chargers to five straight Lower Peninsula Division 2 championships from 2009-13 and a sixth title in 2016. He was named the statewide boys tennis Coach of the Year in 2017 by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association and led Dow to unbeaten seasons in 2010, 2011 and 2014. His team finished fifth at the Division 2 Final this fall and tied for second in 2017.

“I believe that the sport is irrelevant when it comes to coaching. Granted, specific content knowledge is imperative to success, but coaching is about creating a stable environment in which young individuals can mature as individuals and athletes. I believe that athletics help individuals learn how to cope with loss, cope with success, and how to work to achieve a goal. It allows them the ability to feel that they contribute to something greater than themselves, to put team before self, and serves as something that unites players regardless of age or circumstances. Due to this mindset, our teams tend to be a tight-knit bond of individuals who help each other to succeed. In fact, this year alone I have had seven alumni return at various times in order to work with the team, desiring to give back to the program. The records, trophies, and competition are a wonderful part of the game of tennis, but the real victories come in watching these young boys turn into productive men willing to serve others, live with integrity, and exhibit character and sportsmanship both on and off the court.”



Betty Wroubel is the third-winningest coach in MHSAA volleyball history at 1,486-308-130 after leading the Fighting Irish to a 64-6 record and Division 2 runner-up finish this fall. She started her varsity head coaching career in the sport at Clawson, guiding that program from 1979-82. She then led the Pontiac and Oakland Catholic program from 1989-94 and has coached Notre Dame Prep since its first season in 1994-95. Her teams won Class B titles in Fall 2007, 2013 and 2017. Wroubel also coaches the softball team – she led Pontiac Catholic to the Class C title in 1983 – and serves as Notre Dame Prep’s athletic director. She was inducted into the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2014.

“My philosophy of athletics has changed considerably since I started coaching and has continued to change throughout my career. I believe athletics provide a powerful vehicle to teach and prepare our student-athletes not only in sport, but more importantly in life. My responsibility has never been solely to teach my players to play and love volleyball, but rather to pursue their passion for something they love and how to grow as young, strong females today – to prepare them to handle disappointment, failure, adversity and stress in a healthy manner and success with a humble heart.”

Three more Michigan coaches earned honors in Section 4, which includes Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin. Hartland wrestling coach Todd Cheney; Dexter swimming & diving coach Michael McHugh; and Sterling Heights Stevenson competitive cheer coach Brianna Verdoodt.

Rules of the Games

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

Basketball

- In the fourth quarter, a pass to A1 in his backcourt deflects off his hand. The ball hits the floor inbounds and bounces high over the boundary plane. A2 jumps from inbounds and tips the ball back to A1 who is inbounds in his backcourt. While out of bounds, A2's hands inadvertently contact A1's back while A1 is holding the ball. The official should:
 - Rule A1 out of bounds by virtue of being touched by a teammate who was out of bounds.
 - Assess a violation on A2 for leaving the court for an unauthorized reason.
 - Continue his backcourt count and allow play to continue.
 - None of the above.
- A1 attempts a try from inside the three-point line. The ball bounces several times on the ring and is directly above the ring when it is touched at the same time by A2 and B2. The ball then enters and passes through the basket.
 - No points are awarded and play will be resumed by an alternating-possession throw-in.
 - Award two points to Team A and award Team B a throw-in anywhere along the end line.
 - No points are awarded and Team B will have a designated spot throw-in on the end line because of the offensive basket interference by A2.
 - Jump ball between A2 and B2 is administered in the jump circle closest to the basket at which this action occurred.
- Which is true about goaltending and basket interference?
 - Any goaltending violation requires that the ball somehow be touched by a player; not so for every kind of basket interference violation.
 - Goaltending can only be committed by the defense; basket interference only by the offense.
 - Goaltending can only be committed by the offense; basket interference only by the defense.

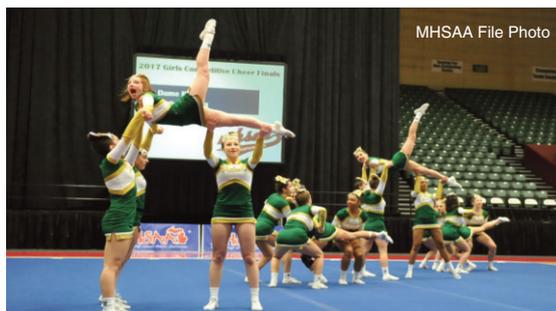


MHSAA File Photo

- The resulting throw-in following either violation will always be taken by a thrower who may run the end line.

Competitive Cheer

- A stunt group performs a liberty show-n-go and receives 11 difficulty points but no choreography points for an OLE. Legal/Illegal?
- A flyer is transitioned from an extension to a flatback between three catchers. Legal/Illegal?



MHSAA File Photo

- A stunt begins with a mountain climber and "climbs" bases with hand-to-foot contact switching weight from base to base and ends in an unbraced OLE. The team receives choreography bonus. Legal/Illegal?

Gymnastics

- A gymnast performs a clear hip circle that finishes below 45 degrees from vertical. The judges deduct up to 0.4 depending on the angle achieved after the wrists shift to the top of the bar. Legal/Illegal?
- A gymnast performs a flyaway dismount and does not land on the bottom of her feet first. She is deducted 0.5 for a fall and 0.2 for no superior dismount. Legal/Illegal?
- A gymnast performs a split leap with a 135 degree split. The judges give medium Difficulty and do not deduct for degree of split. Legal/Illegal?



MHSAA File Photo

Ice Hockey

- During a game, a player who was disqualified the previous game is discovered playing. What is the ruling?
 - The game should be immediately stopped

and that player removed from the game and bench area.

- b. The game is played because this lies outside of the referee's jurisdiction. This is a state association matter.
- c. The game is stopped and the team on which the disqualified player is playing receives a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- d. The game shall be immediately stopped and the team without the disqualified player is awarded a forfeit victory.



MHSAA File Photo

2. An errant whistle is blown by an official on an icing call. The ensuing faceoff should now be:
 - a. In the offensive zone.
 - b. In the defensive zone.
 - c. At center ice.
 - d. None of the above.
3. During a game, the referee calls a checking from behind penalty to one of Team A's players that results in a game disqualification penalty being assessed. The required reporting procedure is:
 - a. Tell the offending player's coach to make sure that the player does not play in the next two games.
 - b. Call the Athletic Director of the offending player the next school day.
 - c. Fill out an MHSAA officials report form within 48 hours of the game
 - d. Complete a USA Hockey officials report and send it to the MHSAA.

Wrestling

1. A false start from the neutral position that results in injury to the opponent entitles the injured wrestler to two minutes of recovery time.
 - a. Which is deducted from the opponent's injury time.
 - b. Not deducted from either wrestler's injury time.
 - c. Only if the opponent intended to hurt the injured wrestler.
 - d. Which will be deducted from the injured wrestler's injury time allowance.
2. It is unsportsmanlike to drop repeatedly to one hand to break locked hands by the opponent. The violator should be penalized.
 - a. The first time it happens.
 - b. The second time it happens.
 - c. Whenever the official feels it was done purposely.
 - d. If the defensive wrestler looks to the official for relief.
3. Wrestler A is visually impaired and when starting in the neutral position Wrestler B breaks contact and backs up just prior to attempting a takedown.
 - a. Wrestler B should be warned that they must maintain contact with Wrestler A.
 - b. As long as they began with contact, wrestling continues.
 - c. Wrestler B should be cautioned for a false start.
 - d. Wrestler B should be penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct.



MHSAA File Photo

Basketball Answers: 1. c. (7-1-1, 7.1.1A); 2. a. (9-12 PENALTIES 4); 3. a. (4-22, 4-6-1)

Cheer Answers: 1. Legal. A one-legged extension (OLE) needs to be held in a stationary position to receive OLE choreography bonus points (p. 69 – Section P #1 – Choreography); 2. Illegal. When a flyer is in a vertical position from an extended level, at least two bases and at least two catchers to protect the head and shoulders area of the flyer are required. (p. 48 – Section F – Flatback); 3. Legal. Choreography bonus credit will be given when the skill originates from the elevator level or below and fully extends unbraced. (p. 69 – Section P #7 – Choreography)

Gymnastics Answers: 1. Legal. To incur no deduction, proper technique for a clear hip circle is to achieve a 45 degree angle away from the bar after the shift of the wrists at the completion of the circle. A Clear hip circle with no shift of the wrist that comes straight down, well below horizontal, would receive the maximum deduction of 0.4. (Rule 7.3.4); 2. Legal. Do not take a 0.3 neutral deduction for no dismount as one was attempted. (Rule 7.3.6); 3. Legal. To earn medium credit the split leap may be given with an up to 0.2 deduction if the split is at least greater than 90 degrees. Superior credit may be given with an up to 0.2 deduction if the split is at least greater than 135 degrees. (Rule 8.4.4)

Hockey Answers: 1. b. (MHSAA Rules Adaptation); 2. c. (9-5-3); 3. c. (MHSAA Rules Adaptation)

Wrestling Answers: 1. b. (5.28.3); 2. b. (7.4.2); 3. d. (6.2.4)

Bulletins, Revamped Web Pages Geared to Officials

Officials

- REGISTER NOW
- My Sport
- New Officials
- Assigner Resources
- Association Resources
- Official Observers
- General Officiating Resources
- Officials Directory

CURRENT OFFICIALS GUIDEBOOK

2018-19 OFFICIALS GUIDEBOOK



Welcome to the MHSAA Officials Program. With ever-increasing numbers of student-athlete participants, the need for knowledgeable, experienced and qualified officials is greater than ever. This will serve MHSAA officials as a one-stop shop for registration, policies and procedures, training and development and other resources for all things officiating. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas for improving the program, please reach out to our office at any time.

Officials Registration

Registration Application Period - June 20, 2018 - April 30, 2019
 Registration for this period expires June 19, 2019
 Registration renewals must be applied for annually

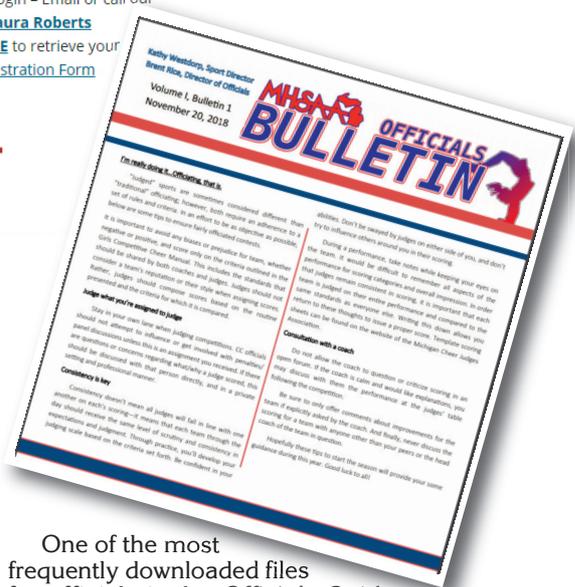
REGISTER NOW

Having Problems Logging In?
 New officials - Must first register
 Returning officials without a login - Email or call our
 Officials Registrar, [Laura Roberts](#)
 Forgot your password - [CLICK HERE](#) to retrieve your
[Printable Mail-In Registration Form](#)



Upcoming MHSAA Officials Events

Jan. 26 - [Boys Lacrosse New Officials Clinic](#)
 Feb. 2 - [Girls Lacrosse New Officials Clinic](#)
 Jan. 16 - [Boys Lacrosse New Officials Clinic](#)
 March 31 - MHSAA Sports Officials Night
 with the Detroit Redwings. Information and
 tickets: [CLICK HERE](#)



MHSA contest officials have no doubt by now seen the revamped officials pages of MHSAA.com.

The redesign of officials pages and resources took place throughout December, and was launched in January to start the new year.

“Our mission was to better organize the many resources, forms and documents which are vital to the development and education of our officials,” said Brent Rice, MHSAA assistant director who oversees the nearly 10,000 registered officials.

“Of primary importance was putting registration links and procedures in a prime, spotlighted location, along with resources for new officials as we strive to bolster recruitment efforts,” Rice said.

Secondly, the design aimed to reduce some clutter to make for easier navigation, as the site had grown and expanded over the past decade.

In that light, the decision was made to mimic the MHSAA’s specific sport home pages used by so many coaches and administrators, and transfer a similar categorization under the officiating umbrella. Now, officials can simply click on “My Sport” from the left-hand navigation menu and choose sports pertinent to their needs. On each specific sport page, they will find consistent listings to guide them.

“Sometimes, less is more, and the officiating portion of the site had become a bit unwieldy,” said Rob Kaminski, MHSAA publications and website coordinator. “The new design offers a cleaner look, and we hope that fewer options from the home page will make for more intuitive navigation for users to reach desired information.”

One of the most frequently downloaded files for officials is the *Officials Guidebook*, the “bible” for MHSAA registered officials. Rather than the text link which previously populated pages, there now appears a graphic of the publication’s cover, easy to locate in the same place on all entry pages of the site.

Another valuable online resource for officials are sport-specific bulletins prepared by Rice and select officials throughout the state on a periodic basis during each season.

“We started this initiative in the fall, and the documents have been well-received,” Rice said. “The intent is to educate, challenge thinking, and provide in-season updates as needed while strengthening communication between our office and the people who serve us so well.”

The next phase of the renovated website will be to build video libraries within each sport page, again paying keen attention to organization of the content. We hope the efforts are of valuable service to you.

The Official View Continues to Shine Spotlight

“**T**he Official View” is a regular feature on the MHSAA Second Half website during the school year offering inside looks at officiating including video review, features and important reminders.

Following is a look at insurance options for MHSAA contest officials which appeared in the fall.

IT'S OFFICIAL

Most officials will go their entire lives without needing to utilize insurance coverage for something that occurred while officiating. In the often rough-and-tough world of school sports, though, the need for officials to protect themselves on and off the field has never been greater. While officiating is not considered a dangerous avocation, officials should prepare themselves for those one-in-a-million situations.

There are a variety of coverage options out there for officials, ranging from medical and loss of income coverage due to injuries sustained while officiating to liability coverage and legal fees. Officials, individually and through their associations, can purchase increased coverages that suit their needs.

The MHSAA continues to look out for the best interests of our registered officials in this area and



in other ways. When officials annually register with the MHSAA, they are included in both a comprehensive liability plan and catastrophic medical coverage for incidents that occur during MHSAA contests. Major injuries due to officiating are rare, but it is nice to have the security that you're covered in the event of some tragic event. Though the few lawsuits that officials are a party to are often summarily dismissed, the MHSAA's liability coverage kicks in at dollar one, including any legal fees or attorney retainers.

We will be seeking your feedback in how we can best serve these interests as they pertain to increased insurance coverage, training and development and providing additional useful resources. We thank you for your input and continued commitment and dedication to the MHSAA and the Officials Program.

Cool and in Control

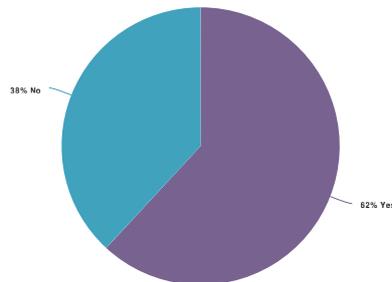


Field judge **Rob King** of Kalamazoo is in the right position and in the right frame of mind to rule properly on this goal-line fumble during the MHSAA Division 2 Football Finals between Muskegon Mona Shores and Warren DeLaSalle. Positioning is key, but top officials also possess the mental ability to stay calm and patient, allowing the game to slow down even as it heats up.

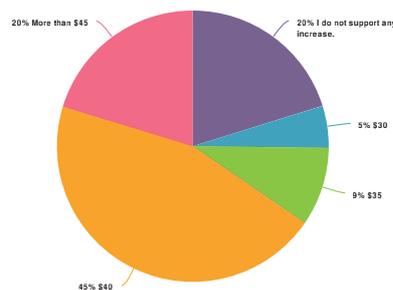
2018 Update Meeting Survey Results



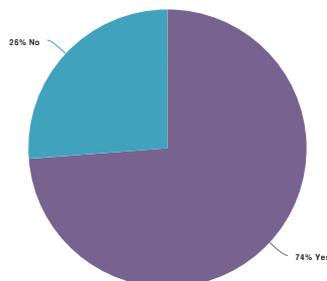
1. Under the new sport-specific transfer rule that goes into full effect in 2019-20, would you support not allowing immediate eligibility under Exception 1 (full and complete residential change) when a student/family changes residence and enrolls in a new school to follow a newly-hired school coach that coached this student in the previous season at the former school? In this scenario, the student would be ineligible in that sport the next school season regardless of the residential change, given the “link” to the coach.



2. The current limit to any one symbolic award given for athletics is \$25, not including engraving or embroidery. Would you support increasing the current award limit of \$25, and if so, what is the most appropriate new limit?

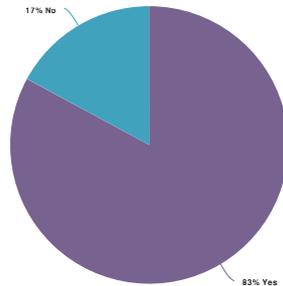


3. Would you support having an MHSAA-approved mobile device “app” which all high school baseball coaches would be required to use to record and report pitch counts for each pitcher following each game??

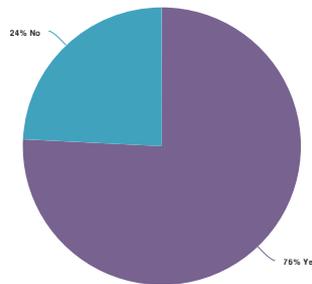


Update Survey - *continued*

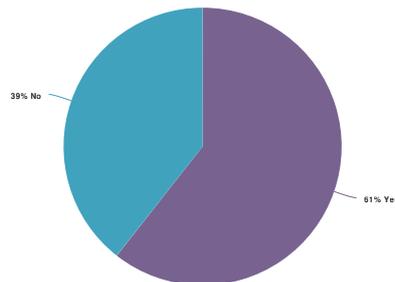
4. Do you support allowing MHSAA member school spring sport teams to use up to four of their allowed scrimmage dates during spring break against other MHSAA member school teams when both schools travel outside the mileage limitation? In this scenario, all schools involved would have completed the required out-of-state travel form.



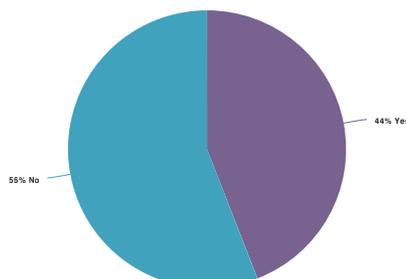
5. Would you support keeping regular-season football scheduling and the playoffs “as is” but with an adjustment to the playoff point formula to better reward schools for playing a tougher schedule, similar to the recent “Strength of Schedule” proposal?



6. Would you support reducing the football regular season to eight games and expanding the football playoffs one round, allowing 64 schools out of each predetermined division of 68-69 total schools to qualify for the tournament? This plan would include revenue sharing between the two competing schools and the MHSAA similar to current Round 1 playoff games, and would also allow those schools not qualifying for the playoffs (generally 1-7 and 0-8 teams) to schedule a ninth game against each other.



7. Would you support the MHSAA establishing football divisions prior to the start of the season and assigning every school to a “group of eight” (based on division and geography) which would determine the seven opponents a school would play in Weeks 3-9? The top four schools in each group of eight would qualify for the playoffs. A school would also schedule Weeks 1 and 2 on its own, and those games would not count toward playoff qualification.

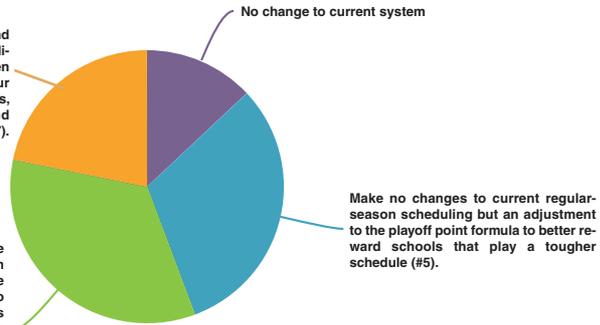


Update Survey - continued

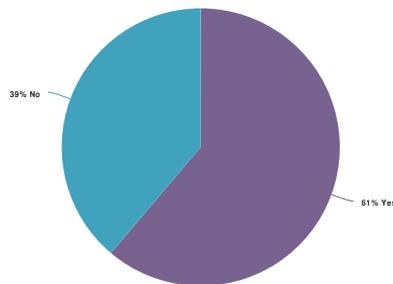
8. In light of the previous three questions, when it comes to the football playoffs and regular-season scheduling, which concept do you believe is BEST to ease the difficulty of scheduling regular-season games?

Establish football divisions prior to the start of the season and assign each school to a group of eight schools within each division (based on geography) which would determine the seven opponents a school would play in Weeks 3-9. The top four schools in each group of eight would qualify for the playoffs, and each school would schedule Weeks 1-2 on its own and those games would not count toward playoff qualification (#7).

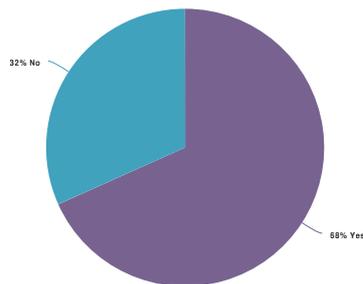
Reduce the regular season to eight games and expand the football playoffs one round, allowing 64 schools per Division to qualify for the tournament, which would include revenue sharing between the two schools and MHSAA similar to Round 1 playoff games, and would also allow those schools not qualifying for the playoffs to schedule a ninth game against each other (#6).



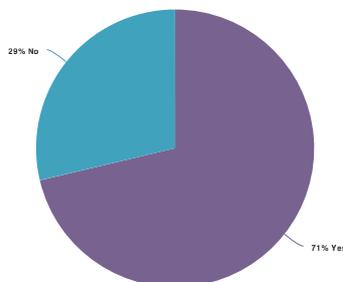
9. Would you support the MHSAA exploring the concept of conducting regional flag football tournaments for member junior high/middle school teams?



10. Do you favor the MHSAA conducting regional invitational meets for junior high/middle school teams in individual sports (e.g., cross country, track & field, wrestling)? These events would have no entry fee and would include MHSAA-provided team trophies and individual medals.

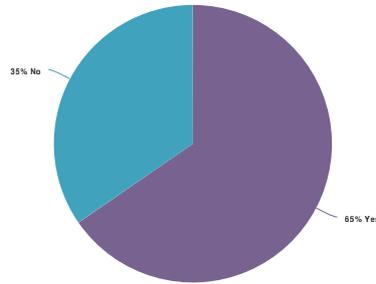


11. Do you support shortening both girls and boys basketball seasons by one calendar week, from 19 weeks currently to 18 weeks?

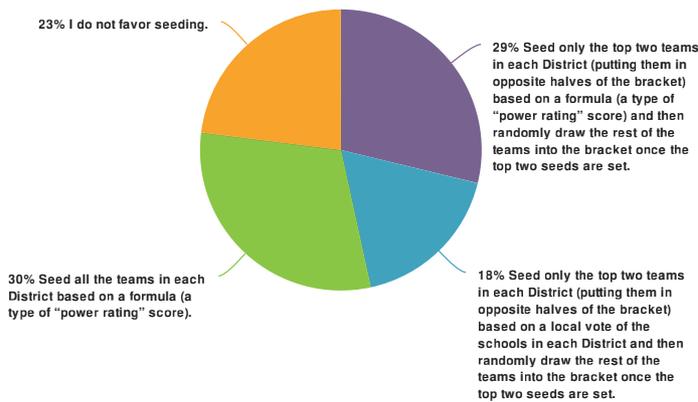


Update Survey - *continued*

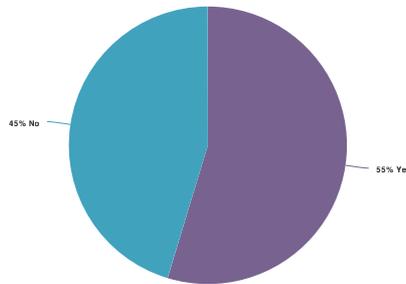
12. In concept, should a seeding process be used for more MHSAA tournaments in team sports (seeding currently is used in team wrestling and boys lacrosse)?



13. If a seeding process is used for the opening-round level of the tournament (Districts in most cases), what would be the one best method of seeding teams?



14. Would you support seeding teams at the Semifinal round ("final four") in those sports (baseball, basketball, ice hockey, girls softball, girls volleyball) where the Semifinals and Finals are played at the same site, based on a "power rating" score where the Semifinal teams would be seeded with 1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3 instead of the pre-drawn bracket position?



SURVEY TOTALS

Respondents' Title

- 36 Superintendents (5.5%)
- 70 Principals (10.7%)
- 100 Assistant Principals (15.3%)
- 503 Athletic Directors (77.0%)
- 122 Coaches (18.7%)
- 7 Board Members (1.1%)
- 79 Other (12.1%)

Respondents' Classification

- 182 Class A (27.9%)
- 191 Class B (29.5%)
- 153 Class C (23.6%)
- 127 Class D (19.6%)
- 114 JH/MS (17.6%)

TOTAL SURVEYS RECEIVED = 655

Awards and Amateur Status

One of the many differences between school sports and other levels is the status of the participants. Participation in high school sports is limited to amateurs: young people who do not gain money or something of touchable value because of their participation in any of the sports in which the MHSAA sponsors tournaments (tournament sport). For example, a high school baseball player cannot also be a professional ice hockey player.

The operative term for what is obtained that may be a violation is “valuable consideration.” Valuable consideration can include but not be limited to reduced or waived tuition or fees to attend a camp or clinic when such is not open to all attending. There is a \$200 limit per sport per school year (September-August) that a student may accept in kind for camps. This typically covers summer team camp events where the booster club or students raise funds to attend. Generally, a student can work, with reasonable reimbursement, a sports camp so long as the student is not also a camp participant. A student may be employed by an athletic facility or as a sports official.

Generally, anything that is done for one athlete based on their performance or potential that is not done for all is a violation. That which is done for athletes that is not done for all students can also be a violation of amateur status principles.

The rule is violated when a participant or a family member receives money (loans included) or a certificate that could be exchanged for something valuable (such as a gift certificate) or valuable consideration – something of touchable value – because of their participation in an MHSAA tournament sport. A tennis player cannot be given a racket, a basketball player cannot accept shoes, your quarterback cannot keep his football jersey, and a volleyball player cannot be paid by a company for using its volleyball. In the same way, a baseball player cannot win cash in a bowling tournament, as bowling is an MHSAA tournament sport. An athlete who wins cash from a 3-on-3 basketball tournament would also be in violation. An athlete cannot accept or defer to another these benefits. Snowboarding, NASCAR, and horseracing, for example, are not MHSAA sports, so a student could receive the benefits of participation.

Schools provide uniforms and equipment to athletes all the time are in compliance with amateur status rules because these items remain the property of the school. A person or company may give money or equipment to the school or the team – NOT the individual. At the season’s end, many schools will sell their jerseys to the players – and they may do this in compliance with the rules so long as the sale is at the fair current market value

of the item. Calculating the fair market value of a used piece of clothing at season’s end is an exercise in honesty that should be done by administrators.

Some items, like a baseball cap worn all season or a swimsuit, may have a zero dollar fair current market value.

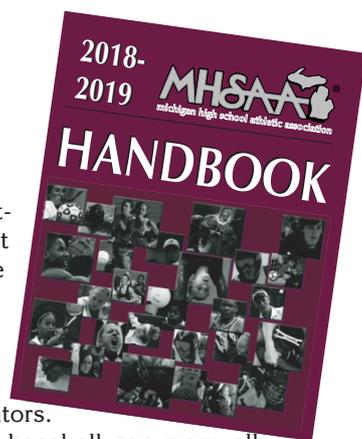
So strong is the concept of amateur status that even **signing** a professional sports contract (even if you do not take the money) is a violation of the rule and renders an athlete ineligible for one full year. This does not include a contract to play for a non-school amateur team where there is no money given. Many Little League or travel teams use “contracts” to include involvement in fundraising or to secure the return of equipment or commit a player to one team in their league.

Other protections of an amateur’s status prevent commercial enterprises from taking advantage of school sports participants. Athletes cannot pose in their school uniforms to promote a particular non-school for-profit or not-for-profit enterprise. School sports athletes do not do commercials, whether online or in a printed program book. School calendars or posters with teams and individuals in uniform surrounded by advertising are permitted as these promote the school team and not the business. The rules do not prohibit photography in newspapers, TV, Internet, or the yearbook, as these are news items, not commercial endorsements.

Banquets, meals, lodging, non-competitive trips, and admission to be a spectator at events are permitted under the regulation, provided they are accepted **in kind** – not the money for the meal, but the meal; not the ticket, but the actual admission to the event.

Awards and recognition of an athlete or team of the week by media or commercial entities are acceptable so long as no valuable consideration is given or symbolic awards in excess of \$25 are involved. Meals are the usual benefit for this type of recognition and acceptable in kind.

What sometimes complicates the amateur status of players is the tradition of awards being presented to athletes for participation or success in a tournament sport. In general, separate the two concepts and know that an award is a *symbolic* presentation – it stands for something else – such as a trophy, plaque or medallion, or in recent years a piece of clothing such as a hoodie or t-shirt. In all cases, the cost of any one symbolic award may not exceed \$25 in total, engraving or embroidery not



included. Confusing the two rules, some mistakenly think that an athlete can receive cash or valuable consideration as long as it is under the \$25 ceiling. Not so. Regardless of the amount, valuable consideration is not allowed except in some acceptable circumstances, which we should understand. There is a discussion among schools to consider if this \$25 limit should be raised to \$40.

The benefits of participation in activities that are open to participation by the general public – we call these **skill contests** or **carnival**-type activities – are acceptable. A winning raffle ticket or a half-court shooting contest where anyone can have a chance, a hole in one contest at a golf outing, are also acceptable. The rules also permit winning prizes in a **golf scramble**. A scramble golf outing is not considered the same as MHSAA golf for the purpose of the amateur status and awards rules, and a student may win awards from a scramble.

The fundraising section of the rules has some cautions as well. Fundraising programs conducted by a school team must follow the \$25 awards limit if open to athletes and their parents only. Prizes or awards to team members or schools based on the performance of a team or individual are prohibited. Touchdowns or three-point shots – even for a good cause, with donations to a third party or the school – are outside the rules.

Rings given for MHSAA championship seasons are often a point of potential violation. Several Interpretations are included in the awards portion of the rule.

- Rings and jewelry presented in any form or manner for school or non-school competition

with a full retail value in excess of \$25 are violations.

- Special offers to purchase rings, plaques, jackets, sweaters or other mementos in excess of \$25 to commemorate sport seasons are permitted so long as the opportunity to purchase such items is made available to all students, not just athletes. A student or his or her family could purchase a ring on their own in this scenario.
- When any part of the purchase price of an award is paid by the student or the school, is donated, or is raised through individual or group action to reduce the cost to \$25, it is a violation.



MHSAA regulations permit banquets or meals when received “in kind,” but restrict the cost of any one symbolic award to \$25 (engraving or embroidery not included).

In almost all cases, amateur status and awards violations are inadvertent or accidental. A student who runs and wins a 5K race and accepts a \$100 gift card could have run in the race and not accept or defer the prize. If the student erroneously accepts the award, the student can quickly **remedy** the matter through his or her school.

- A student or school may remedy a violation of this Section (except Interpretation 129 – professional contract) by promptly reimbursing or returning to the originating party the payment, merchandise, gift certificate, valuable consideration or award in excess of the stated limitations. In such instances, written documentation of return must be submitted to the MHSAA for final determination of eligibility and forfeitures.

This is a summary of a complicated rule at the foundation of school sports. **Not all elements of the rule are included, and this article is not the actual rule.** It is best to consult the *MHSAA Handbook*, Regulation I, Section 11, and the MHSAA staff for clarification when needed.

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.

2018-19 MHSAA Budget

The following budget for operation of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., for the 2018-19 school year was considered and approved at the May 2018 Representative Council Meeting.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 3,427,941
GENERAL PRINTING	161,500
GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSES	1,194,423
GENERAL MEETINGS	89,400
COACHES & OFFICIALS	510,000
CORPORATE SALES	283,500
STUDENT SERVICES	532,000
BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS	225,000
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS	1,200,000
BOWLING TOURNAMENTS	73,000
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER	105,000
CROSS COUNTRY MEETS	120,000
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS	1,150,000
GOLF TOURNAMENTS	46,000
GIRLS GYMNASTICS MEETS	21,000
HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS	240,000
LACROSSE TOURNAMENTS	62,000
SKI MEETS	30,000
SOCCER TOURNAMENTS	210,000
GIRLS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS	215,000
SWIMMING MEETS	94,000
TENNIS TOURNAMENTS	95,000
TRACK MEETS	230,000
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS	280,000
WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS	600,000
BROADCASTING	100,000
REVENUE SHARING	125,000
TOTAL 2018-19 BUDGET	\$11,419,764

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, 2017-18

PUBLICATIONS - *benchmarks* distributed to junior and senior high schools and registered officials; *School Directory* and calendars printed; association *Handbook* distributed to junior and senior high schools; rule books distributed to schools and registered officials. 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/girls softball, girls competitive cheer, football, basketball, bowling, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, golf, wrestling, girls gymnastics, girls 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. The Task Force on Multi-Sport Participation met five times.

PARTICIPANTS – There were approximately 285,095 participants on interscholastic athletic squads of the 749 member high schools during the 2017-18 school year. The MHSAA membership also included 797 junior high/middle schools.

REGISTERED OFFICIALS – There were 9,816 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 2,200 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 2017-18 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 2017-18 school year.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP EVENTS – Sportsmanship Summits and Captains Clinics were conducted across Michigan involving almost 1,000 students. Another Women in Sports Leadership Conference was conducted with record-setting attendance. The 12th class of the Student Advisory Council was appointed. The seventh Battle of the Fans was conducted.

COMMITTEES – Approximately 500 different individuals served on the following association committees during the 2017-18 school year:

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

2019-20 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 each year, 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, Basketball, Bowling, Girls Competitive Cheer, Cross Country/Track & Field, Football, Golf, Girls Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Skiing, Soccer, Girls Softball, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Volleyball, Wrestling

Consists 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.

SITE SELECTION/TOURNAMENT COMMITTEES

Baseball, Girls & Boys Basketball, Cross Country, Girls Softball, Track & Field, Track & Field Standards, Girls 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, Boys Tennis Area Seeding, Team Wrestling Finals

Tennis 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. For Team Wrestling, select coaches and school administrators representing all divisions (and not involved from quarter-finals forward) meet via teleconference to seed prior to quarterfinals.

OFFICIALS SELECTION COMMITTEES

Baseball, Boys and Girls Basketball, Girls Competitive Cheer, Football, Girls Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Softball, Girls 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 corresponds throughout the year to extend nominations 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 both online and in-person.

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 Jack Roberts Building in East Lansing. Committee meetings are held during the work week, while some others meet via email (i.e., Officials Selection).

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 Executive Committee of 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 2019-20 school year. If you desire to place yourself as a nominee complete this form and fax it to the MHSAA office by March 31, 2019. 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	
Girls Gymnastics (100)	September	
Athletic Equity (5)	October	
Awards (10)	October	
Boys Tennis Seeding (50)	October	
Junior High/Middle School (120)	October & February	
Boys Lacrosse (125)	October & May	
Girls Lacrosse (130)	October & April	
Ski (150)	October	
Golf (95)	December	
Basketball Rules (30)	December	
Track & Field Standards (190)	December	
Girls Volleyball Rules (200)	December	
Baseball/Girls Softball Site Selection (25)	December	
Baseball Rules (20)	January	
Girls Softball Rules (85)	January	
Classification (55)	January	
Cross Country/Track & Field Reg. (70)	January	
Track & Field Site Selection (185)	January	
Football (75)	January	
Ice Hockey (110)	January	
Tennis (180)	January	
Wrestling (215)	January	
Girls Competitive Cheer (60)	January	
Soccer (155)	January	
Scholar-Athlete (145)	February	
Swimming & Diving (175)	February	
Bowling (40)	March	
Boys/Girls Basketball Site Selection (135)	May	
Girls Volleyball Site Selection (210)	May	
Girls Tennis Seeding (90)	May	
BXC/GXC Site Selection (225)	May	

City/School _____ School ID No. _____

Principal (Signature) _____

RETURN TO MHSAA NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2019

Official Report of the Board of Canvassers

East Lansing, September 25, 2018

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 26
 Peter Ryan, Saginaw Township 26
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 1
Elected by majority of votes – Peter Ryan

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

Total number of legal ballots received..... 44
 Chris Riker, Portage 23
 Zac Stevenson, Battle Creek 21
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 2
Elected by majority of votes – Chris Riker

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

Total number of legal ballots received 72
 Brad Bush, Chelsea 25
 Greg Lattig, Mason 19
 John Thompson, Brighton 28
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 2
No Majority – Names of Brad Bush and John Thompson submitted to schools.

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

Total number of legal ballots received 22
 Sean Jacques, Calumet 22
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 1
Elected by majority of votes – Sean Jacques

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

Total number of legal ballots received 49
 Adam Stefanski, Mackinaw City 49
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 2
Elected by majority of votes – Adam Stefanski

STATEWIDE AT-LARGE (#6)

Total number of legal ballots received 384
 Scott C. Grimes, Grand Haven 268
 Andrew Laboe, Kalamazoo 116
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 15
Elected by majority of votes – Scott Grimes

JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS (#7)

Total number of legal ballots received 120
 Steve Newkirk, Clare 120
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 10
Elected by majority of votes – Steve Newkirk

PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL HIGH SCHOOLS (#8)

Total number of legal ballots received 48
 Vic Michaels, Detroit 48
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 1
Elected by majority of votes – Vic Michaels

UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

ATHLETIC COACH (#9)

Total number of legal ballots received 24
 Mike Berutti, Iron River 24
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 1
Elected by majority of votes – Mike Berutti

CLASS D SCHOOLS (#10)

Total number of legal ballots received 12
 Jack Kumpula, Lake Linden 12
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received 1
Elected by majority of votes – Jack Kumpula

BOARD OF CANVASSERS (Signed)

John Hartley, Athletic Director, St. Clair Shores-Lake Shore High School
 Leon Olszamowski, President, Pontiac-Notre Dame Preparatory School
 Jason Smith, Superintendent, Saranac Community Schools
 Jason Stariha, Athletic Director, Muskegon Catholic Central High School

OFFICIAL REPORT OF SECOND MEETING OF BOARD OF CANVASSERS East Lansing, October 17, 2018

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

Total number of legal ballots received.....67
 Brad Bush, Chelsea32
 John Thompson, Brighton35
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received4
Elected by Majority of Votes – John Thompson

BOARD OF CANVASSERS (Signed)

Jason Stariha, Athletic Director, Muskegon Catholic Central High School

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL & UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE NOMINATION PROCEDURES FOR 2019-20

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.

Lansing, Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Vic Michaels

MHSAA Secretary-Treasurer

The MHSAA produced an operating surplus of nearly \$60,784 during the 2016-17 fiscal year.

The MHSAA budgets for and attempts to operate within a narrow net profit each year. Sometimes events largely out of MHSAA control result in a deficit year. Bad weather adversely affecting tournament attendance is the usual suspect. But in 2017-18, two other factors caused an unusual operating deficit of \$688,952.

First, sponsorship revenue dipped \$343,901.

Second, net revenue from MHSAA tournaments declined \$393,673. The major culprits were basketball and wrestling; and the major reason was steeply increased costs for finals venues.

- The decline in net revenue for boys and girls basketball was approximately \$300,000 compared to the previous year.
- The decline in net revenue for team and individual wrestling was approximately \$160,000 compared to 2016-17.

As a result, the Representative Council approved a package of tournament ticket price increases that includes a \$1 increase in the cost of District and Regional tournament tickets – the first increase in 15 years for those District tournaments; the first increase in 16 years at the Regional level.

Of course, hosts of those tournaments share the revenue and should see some benefit as well.

I should also mention that over the past nine years, in 25 separate installments, the MHSAA has sent revenue sharing checks to schools totaling more than \$1 million (\$1,006,623).

The MHSAA maintains a reserve that ranges between 40 and 50 percent of its annual operating budget so it can withstand a single year's setback. The Council believes the MHSAA is in a good position to serve schools in 2018-19 and beyond.

Summary of Sport-Specific Transfer Rule

A “sport-specific” transfer rule proposal has been adopted by the MHSAA Representative Council for 2019-20. It has two major components:

1. **More Lenient –**
Students in grades 9 through 12 who have not participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere in an MHSAA sport one season may transfer from one school to another with no delay in eligibility at any level in that sport the next season. No MHSAA action is required.
2. **More Restrictive –**
Unless one of the 15 stated Exceptions applies, students in grades 9 through 12 who have participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in an MHSAA sport on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere during the previous season for a sport, and then transfer to an MHSAA member school, are ineligible at all levels of that sport at that school through the next complete season in that sport, including the MHSAA tournament.

Students who transfer during a season in which they are participating, and do not meet one of the 15 stated Exceptions, are ineligible at all levels of that sport for the remainder of that season, including the MHSAA tournament; and they remain inel-

igible at all levels of that sport through the next complete season in that sport, including the MHSAA tournament.

- The revised rule means a transfer student has:
- **immediate eligibility** in a sport **not played** the previous season for that sport . . . and (unless one of the 15 Exceptions applies)
 - **no eligibility** for the upcoming season in a sport actually **played** the previous season in that sport (participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest).

If the administration of the student’s new school requests in writing on a timely basis, the MHSAA Executive Committee **may** approve a waiver that reduces the period of ineligibility to 90 scheduled school days at the new school. The Executive Committee also has authority to approve immediate eligibility.

The effective date is Aug. 1, 2018, with implementation felt during the 2019-20 school year. **That is, what students do during the 2018-19 school year will determine their eligibility for 2019-20 should they transfer schools and not meet one of the 15 stated exceptions.**

For more information on the New Sport-Specific Transfer Regulation See MHSAA.com. Click on schools, then click on administrators or parents, or coaches. See the Regulations.

<p>MHSAA Representative Council</p> <p>Nicole Carter** Principal Novi High School Appointee</p> <p>Scott Grimes**, President Assistant Superintendent of Human Services Grand Haven Public Schools Statewide At-Large</p> <p>Vicky Groat** Principal/Athletic Director Battle Creek St. Philip High School Appointee</p> <p>Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio) Deputy Superintendent, Finance Operations Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing Designee</p> <p>Don Gustafson* Superintendent St. Ignace Area Schools Junior High/Middle Schools</p> <p>Courtney Hawkins* Athletic Director Flint Beecher High School Appointee</p>	<p>Kris Isom* Athletic Director Adrian Madison High School Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan</p>	<p>Chris Riker** Athletic Director Portage Northern High School Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan</p>
	<p>Sean Jacques** Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Calumet High School Class C-D — Upper Peninsula</p>	<p>Peter C. Ryan**, Vice President Athletic Director Saginaw Township Community Schools Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula</p>
	<p>Justin Jennings* Superintendent Muskegon Public Schools Appointee</p>	<p>Adam Stefanski** Athletic Director Mackinaw City High School Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula</p>
	<p>Karen Leinaar* Athletic Director Bear Lake High School Statewide At-Large</p>	<p>John Thompson** Athletic Director Brighton High School Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan</p>
	<p>Vic Michaels**, Secretary-Treasurer Director of Physical Education & Athletics Archdiocese of Detroit Private and Parochial Schools</p>	<p>Al Unger* Athletic Director Kingsford High School Class A-B — Upper Peninsula</p>
	<p>Chris Miller* Athletic Director Gobles High School Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan</p>	<p>Alvin Ward* Administrator of Athletics Detroit Public Schools Detroit Public Schools Position</p>
	<p>Steve Newkirk** Principal Clare Middle School Junior High/Middle Schools</p>	<p>*Term Expires December 2019 **Term Expires December 2020</p>



MHSAA.TV



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