

SUMMARY REPORT

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
TASK FORCE ON MULTI-SPORT PARTICIPATION
MULTI-SPORT PARTICIPATION SURVEY**

2017-18 School Year

Introduction:

With the rise of overuse injuries and burnout among young athletes that tend to cause a lifetime of chronic injuries and related health problems, early sport specialization has become one of the most serious issue related to health and safety in all of youth sports. In early 2016, the Michigan High School Athletic Association appointed the Task Force on Multi-Sport Participation as part of continued efforts to promote and protect participant health and work to address the issues leading to early sport specialization.

The MHSAA Task Force on Multi-Sport Participation has undertaken the initiative of measuring Multi-Sport participation in MHSAA member schools for the dual purposes of identifying significant broad themes and recognizing “achievers” – that is, schools that surpass the norm given their enrollment, location and other factors that affect school sports participation. Identifying schools with high levels of Multi-Sport participation, as well as trends, and questions that might be researched will help point school-sponsored sports leadership toward policies, procedures, and programming that will tend to increase Multi-Sport participation and improve the experience of students in interscholastic athletic programs of Michigan and beyond.

In the Spring of 2018, all 750 MHSAA member schools were surveyed regarding Multi-Sport participation among their athletes – schools were simply asked to identify the total number of individuals that were members of athletic teams in MSHAA sponsored sports and the number of those athletes who participated in more than one MHSAA sponsored sport. This summary is based on usable data from the 631 schools responding to the survey.

Observations:

- Overall response rate was 79.9% (Table 1).
 - 82.8% of all Class A schools responded to the survey, which was the highest response rate among all classes. The lowest response rate was Class D at 76.7%. There was an expectation that Class A schools would have the lowest response rate given how difficult it could be for schools with large enrollment and large athletic programs to track and subsequently submit the data for this survey. This was not the case. In fact, Class D schools, which presumably would have had an easier time tracking the Multi-Sport participation data because of they have fewer students involved in their programs, had the lowest response rate. The difference in response rate does not appear to be significant at 6 percentage points, but may be related to the differences between personnel and resources among large and small schools.

- Smaller schools tend to have a higher percentage of their students participating in athletics. This trend not only holds across classes (Table 2), but also across different enrollments within Class A (Table 5).

- Similarly, smaller schools tend to have a higher percentage of athletes participating on multiple sports teams. This trend not only holds across classes (Table 4), but also across different enrollments within Class A (Table 7).

- The percentage of athletes participating in multiple sports is higher among boys than girls – this holds across all classes (Table 4) and different enrollments within Class A (Table 7) – the only exception is Class D, which shows an equal proportion of athletes at these schools are Multi-Sport athletes (Table 4).

Survey Data:

Table 1. Multi-Sport Participation Survey Responses by Class

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D	Classes Combined
Number of schools surveyed	186	187	188	189	750
Number of responding schools*	154	146	154	145	599
Response rate (# surveyed / # responding)	82.8%	78.1%	81.9%	76.7%	79.9%

*The term "responding schools" refers to schools submitting surveys with usable data – 631 schools submitted responses, but data from 32 schools that was clearly inaccurate based on the size of the school was excluded from analysis, as it would have skewed the data. From this point forward, in order to avoid needless repetition, "responding schools" will just be referred to as "schools".

Table 2. Sport Participation among General Student Population by Class and Gender – (% of Student Enrollment (Total # Athletes / Total # Students Enrolled)

Gender	Class A			Class B			Class C			Class D			Classes Combined		
	Total Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	Total Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	Total Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	Total Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	Total Athletes	Student Enrollment	%
Boys	48,120	112,448	42.8%	22,151	45,362	48.8%	12,640	23,143	54.6%	4,956	8,683	57.1%	87,723	189,636	46.3%
Girls	37,622	106,837	35.2%	18,211	44,157	41.2%	10,069	22,176	45.4%	4,335	8,155	53.2%	70,100	181,325	38.7%
Combined	85,742	219,285	39.1%	40,362	89,519	45.1%	22,709	45,319	50.1%	9,291	16,838	55.2%	157,823	370,961	42.5%

Table 3. Multi-Sport Participation among General Student Population by Class and Gender – (%) of Student Enrollment (# Multi-Sport Athletes / Total # Students Enrolled)

Gender	Class A			Class B			Class C			Class D			Classes Combined		
	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Student Enrollment	%
Boys	18,021	112,448	16.0%	10,930	45,362	24.1%	7,285	23,143	31.5%	2,878	8,683	33.1%	39,114	189,636	20.6%
Girls	12,763	106,837	11.9%	7,924	44,157	17.9%	5,255	22,176	23.7%	2,517	8,155	30.9%	28,459	181,325	15.7%
Combined	30,784	219,285	14.0%	18,854	89,519	21.1%	12,540	45,319	27.7%	5,395	16,838	32.0%	67,573	370,961	18.2%

Table 4. Multi-Sport Participation among Athlete Population by Class and Gender – (%) of Athlete Population (# of Multi-Sport Athletes / Total # Athletes)

Gender	Class A			Class B			Class C			Class D			Classes Combined		
	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Total Athletes	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Total Athletes	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Total Athletes	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Total Athletes	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Total Athletes	%
Boys	18,021	48,120	37.5%	10,930	22,151	49.3%	7,285	12,640	57.6%	2,878	4,956	58.1%	39,114	87,723	44.6%
Girls	12,763	37,622	33.9%	7,924	18,211	43.5%	5,255	10,069	52.2%	2,517	4,335	58.1%	28,459	70,100	40.6%
Combined	30,784	85,742	35.9%	18,854	40,362	46.7%	12,540	22,709	55.2%	5,395	9,291	58.1%	67,573	157,823	42.8%

Table 5. Sport Participation among General Student Population at Class A Schools by Enrollment and Gender – (%) of Student Enrollment (Total # Athletes / Total # Students Enrolled)

Gender	Enrollment less than 1,000			Enrollment 1,000-1,500			Enrollment 1,501-2,000			Enrollment over 2,000			All Class A Combined		
	Total Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	Total Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	Total Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	Total Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	Total Athletes	Student Enrollment	%
Boys	6,334	12,377	51.2%	19,870	46,050	43.1%	11,700	27,804	42.1%	10,216	26,217	39.0%	47,976	112,448	42.7%
Girls	4,577	10,602	43.2%	15,473	43,599	35.5%	9,177	27,315	33.6%	8,395	25,321	33.2%	37,485	106,837	35.1%
Combined	10,911	22,979	47.5%	35,343	89,649	39.4%	20,877	55,119	37.9%	18,611	51,538	36.1%	85,461	219,285	39.0%

Table 6. Multi-Sport Participation among General Student Population at Class A Schools by Enrollment and Gender – (%) of Student Enrollment (# Multi-Sport Athletes / Total # Students Enrolled)

Gender	Enrollment less than 1,000			Enrollment 1,000-1,500			Enrollment 1,501-2,000			Enrollment over 2,000			All Class A Combined		
	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Student Enrollment	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Student Enrollment	%
Boys	2,899	12,377	23.4%	7,887	46,050	17.1%	4,193	27,804	15.1%	3,042	26,217	11.6%	18,021	112,448	16.0%
Girls	1,917	10,602	18.1%	5,352	43,599	12.3%	3,141	27,315	11.5%	2,353	25,321	9.3%	12,763	106,837	11.9%
Combined	4,816	22,979	21.0%	13,239	89,649	14.8%	7,334	55,119	13.3%	5,395	51,538	10.5%	30,784	219,285	14.0%

Table 7. Multi-Sport Participation among Athlete Population at Class A Schools by Class and Gender – (%) of Athlete Population (# of Multi-Sport Athletes / Total # Athletes)

Gender	Enrollment less than 1,000			Enrollment 1,000-1,500			Enrollment 1,501-2,000			Enrollment over 2,000			All Class A Combined		
	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Total Athletes	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Total Athletes	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Total Athletes	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Total Athletes	%	# Multi-Sport Athletes	Student Enrollment	%
Boys	2,899	6,334	45.8%	7,887	19,870	39.7%	4,193	11,700	35.8%	3,042	10,216	29.8%	18,021	47,976	37.6%
Girls	1,917	4,577	41.9%	5,352	15,473	34.6%	3,141	9,177	34.2%	2,353	8,395	28.0%	12,763	37,485	34.0%
Combined	4,816	10,911	44.1%	13,239	35,343	37.5%	7,334	20,877	35.1%	5,395	18,611	29.0%	30,784	85,461	36.0%

Table 8. Top 10% of Class A Schools with Regard to Multi-Sport Participation (Ranked by % of Multi-Sport Athlete Population – Boys and Girls Data Combined)

Rank	School	Total Boy Athletes	# Boy Multi-Sport Athletes	% Multi-Sport Boy Athletes	Total Girl Athletes	# Girl Multi-Sport Athletes	% Multi-Sport Girl Athletes	Total Athletes	Total Multi-Sport Athletes	% Multi-Sport Athletes
1	Marquette	419	356	85.0%	363	290	79.9%	782	646	82.6%
2	Grand Rapids Union	239	177	74.1%	209	155	74.2%	448	332	74.1%
3	Holland West Ottawa	488	397	81.4%	378	244	64.6%	866	641	74.0%
4	Harrison Twp L'Anse Creuse	415	315	75.9%	324	225	69.4%	739	540	73.1%
5	Detroit Cody	86	58	67.4%	59	46	78.0%	145	104	71.7%
6	Milford	211	142	67.3%	172	122	70.9%	383	264	68.9%
7	Coldwater	111	82	73.9%	107	67	62.6%	218	149	68.3%
8	Battle Creek Lakeview	200	140	70.0%	16	6	37.5%	216	146	67.6%
9	New Baltimore Anchor Bay	35	20	57.1%	42	32	76.2%	77	52	67.5%
10	Battle Creek Harper Creek	200	135	67.5%	150	90	60.0%	350	225	64.3%
11	Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills	220	138	62.7%	182	113	62.1%	402	251	62.4%
12	Battle Creek Central	168	106	63.1%	122	71	58.2%	290	177	61.0%
13	Mt Pleasant	152	94	61.8%	123	73	59.3%	275	167	60.7%
14	Auburn Hills Avondale	200	140	70.0%	150	70	46.7%	350	210	60.0%

Table 9. Top 10% of Class B Schools with Regard to Multi-Sport Participation (Ranked by % of Multi-Sport Athlete Population – Boys and Girls Data Combined)

Rank	School	Total Boy Athletes	# Boy Multi-Sport Athletes	% Multi-Sport Boy Athletes	Total Girl Athletes	# Girl Multi-Sport Athletes	% Multi-Sport Girl Athletes	Total Athletes	Total Multi-Sport Athletes	% Multi-Sport Athletes
1	Birch Run	79	73	92.4%	68	55	80.9%	147	128	87.1%
2	Gladstone	157	128	81.5%	127	110	86.6%	284	238	83.8%
3	Clawson	79	55	69.6%	63	60	95.2%	142	115	81.0%
4	Shepherd	50	40	80.0%	50	40	80.0%	100	80	80.0%
5	GR West Michigan Aviation Academy	112	88	78.6%	42	35	83.3%	154	123	79.9%
6	Brooklyn Columbia Central	175	140	80.0%	140	105	75.0%	315	245	77.8%
7	Essexville Garber	141	90	63.8%	136	117	86.0%	277	207	74.7%
8	Detroit Cornerstone Health/Technology	45	35	77.8%	38	27	71.1%	83	62	74.7%
9	Leslie	99	71	71.7%	76	57	75.0%	175	128	73.1%
10	Warren Lincoln	82	54	65.9%	57	45	78.9%	139	99	71.2%
11	Ecorse	90	60	66.7%	58	45	77.6%	148	105	70.9%
12	Otsego	150	94	62.7%	141	110	78.0%	291	204	70.1%
13	North Branch	160	136	85.0%	151	78	51.7%	311	214	68.8%

Table 10. Top 10% of Class C Schools with Regard to Multi-Sport Participation (Ranked by % of Multi-Sport Athlete Population – Boys and Girls Data Combined)

Rank	School	Total Boy Athletes	# Boy Multi-Sport Athletes	% Multi-Sport Boy Athletes	Total Girl Athletes	# Girl Multi-Sport Athletes	% Multi-Sport Girl Athletes	Total Athletes	Total Multi-Sport Athletes	% Multi-Sport Athletes
1	Ubly	61	54	88.5%	61	56	91.8%	122	110	90.2%
2	Detroit Southeastern	45	42	93.3%	20	16	80.0%	65	58	89.2%
3	Hancock	92	80	87.0%	86	78	90.7%	178	158	88.8%
4	Grandville Calvin Christian	131	115	87.8%	116	101	87.1%	247	216	87.4%
5	Manchester	59	55	93.2%	43	34	79.1%	102	89	87.3%
6	Springport	62	54	87.1%	48	39	81.3%	110	93	84.5%
7	Grand Rapids NorthPointe Christian	123	104	84.6%	107	88	82.2%	230	192	83.5%
8	Detroit Leadership Academy	40	36	90.0%	32	24	75.0%	72	60	83.3%
9	Holton	92	80	87.0%	55	42	76.4%	147	122	83.0%
10	Mancelona	84	70	83.3%	67	55	82.1%	151	125	82.8%
11	Dryden	52	43	82.7%	45	37	82.2%	97	80	82.5%
12	Concord	72	63	87.5%	52	37	71.2%	124	100	80.6%
13	Evart	56	41	73.2%	72	62	86.1%	128	103	80.5%
14	Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary	90	71	78.9%	65	52	80.0%	155	123	79.4%
15	Clinton	139	114	82.0%	90	65	72.2%	229	179	78.2%

Table 11. Top 10% of Class D Schools with Regard to Multi-Sport Participation (Ranked by % of Multi-Sport Athlete Population – Boys and Girls Data Combined)

Rank	School	Total Boy Athletes	# Boy Multi-Sport Athletes	% Multi-Sport Boy Athletes	Total Girl Athletes	# Girl Multi-Sport Athletes	% Multi-Sport Girl Athletes	Total Athletes	Total Multi-Sport Athletes	% Multi-Sport Athletes
1	Brethren	35	32	91.4%	30	30	100.0%	65	62	95.4%
2	DeTour	18	17	94.4%	17	16	94.1%	35	33	94.3%
3	Jackson Christian	22	18	81.8%	26	26	100.0%	48	44	91.7%
4	Waterford Our Lady	25	24	96.0%	40	35	87.5%	65	59	90.8%
5	Athens	45	40	88.9%	45	40	88.9%	90	80	88.9%
6	Ann Arbor Rudolf Steiner	10	8	80.0%	16	15	93.8%	26	23	88.5%
7	Wyoming West Michigan Lutheran	5	5	100.0%	9	7	77.8%	14	12	85.7%
8	Fife Lake Forest Area	21	18	85.7%	13	11	84.6%	34	29	85.3%
9	Tekonsha	21	17	81.0%	25	22	88.0%	46	39	84.8%
10	Brimley	61	53	86.9%	47	38	80.9%	108	91	84.3%
11	Kinross Maplewood Baptist	8	8	100.0%	11	8	72.7%	19	16	84.2%
12	Fairview	25	19	76.0%	20	18	90.0%	45	37	82.2%
13	Mesick	50	41	82.0%	40	32	80.0%	90	73	81.1%
14	Portland St Patrick	43	37	86.0%	43	32	74.4%	86	69	80.2%