

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.  
CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK AND FIELD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
January 29, 2019, 9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Scott Castelee, Lansing	Brian Macomber, Rockford (call)
Lewis Clingman, Grand Rapids	Greg Miller, Bloomfield Hills
Carey Hammel, Shepherd	Jim Okler, Grosse Ile
Greg Glover, Webberville	Phyllis Olszewski, East Jordan (call)
Rudy Godefroidt, ATOM	Don Passenger, Grand Rapids
Jeff Kalember, Gaylord (call)	Eric Pace, West Bloomfield (call)
Doug Kelly, Dexter	Fred Smith, Buchanan (call)
Greg Lattig, Mason	Stephanie Stephenson, Kentwood (call)
Steve Linn, Deckerville	Rich Kieft, MATS SSATC

**MHSAA Staff Present:**

Nate Hampton (Recorder)  
Cody Inglis

The committee met via in-person and tele-link for the purpose of reviewing specific National Federation sport rules, MHSAA tournament policies, and interpretations that are applicable to Track and Field and Cross Country during the regular season and MHSAA tournaments. The following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to staff for inclusion in tournament information and recommendations that will advance for Representative Council consideration.

Following the welcome, introductions, statement of committee purpose and the committee relationship to the Representative Council, the following business was conducted:

**Track and Field**

1. Review of 2018 Committee Minutes and Recommendations
2. Health and Safety Concerns
  - Heat & Humidity
  - Health & Safety training for coaches
  - Field Event Venues – supervised
  - Concussion management/MHSAA concussion insurance
3. MHSAA sponsorship Junior High/Middle School Regional/League or Conference competitions and or special events. MHSAA staff member Cody Inglis, shared information relating to the JH/MS Committees work with presenting sponsorship of already existing events in TR and XC.
4. 2019-20 National Federation rules and editorial changes for Track & Field and Cross Country. The committee reviewed the rules changes for the school issued/approved uniform and wearable technology.
5. Cross Country:
  - 2019 LP Final Site- Michigan International Speedway – Sat., Nov. 2, 2019, UP Finals hosted by Marquette HS – Sat., Oct. 21, 2019
  - MHSAA Cross Country post season tournament – Regionals Oct. 26-27, 2019
6. Track and Field 2018 Final Sites:
  - Division 1: East Kentwood HS
  - Division 2: Zeeland Stadium
  - Division 3: Comstock Park HS
  - Division 4: Hudsonville Middle School
  - Upper Peninsula – All Divisions Kingsford HS
7. Official uniforms – Reminder, red jacket (body & sleeves) or red shirt and black or tan pant. Starters will be required to wear a yellow slip on sleeve for the starting arm.
8. Track and Field Regional sites and school assignments
9. 2019 Additional qualifying standards
10. Track & Field Final Site time schedules
11. Participating team information
12. 2019 MHSAA Junior High/Middle School new order of events

## **Cross Country**

1. Review of 2018 Cross Country Tournament
  - Timing with Image Based Results
  - Continued interest in live results
  - Course changes determined based on weather
2. MHSAA Calendar Change for 2019
  - First Practice – Mon., Aug. 12, 2019
  - First Competition – Fri., Aug. 16, 2019
3. Regional Dates – Oct. 25-26, 2019
4. Site Selection Committee – May 8, 2019
5. The committee reviewed current MHSAA regulations that apply to non-school races and national high school championships.
6. The committee watched a presentation that employed a non-gun starting system. There is concern for the traditional starters gun in that starter blanks are difficult to find and when found are very expensive. There is also great concern for any kind of pistol or starting gun on school property, closed barreled or not. The committee suggests that we continue to explore alternative starting devices that will better serve the needs and requirements of competitors, officials and school administrators.

### **Recommendations to MHSAA Staff**

1. Review the number of assigned officials, tournament competition pay scale and the possibility of providing a paid position for mentoring a new or inexperienced official. Suggested ½ starter's fee. (18-0)
2. Flight size in throw events - Regional/Final event flight size will be not less than 9 competitors and not more than 12. The last flight positioned worst to best will have at least nine competitors. (18-0)
3. Cross Country Regional qualifiers - Add an additional minimum 7 individual qualifiers from each Regional (who are not on teams) to advance to the MHSAA Finals competition. The committee recommends that this recommendation is discussed during the 2019 Athletic Director In-Service programs and placed as a question on the Annual Update Meeting Survey. (18-0)
4. Allow competitors to use tape and chalk to mark track positions.

### **Recommendations to the Representative Council**

1. Allow Regional competitions to be held on Thursday. This will add an additional day of competition that may alleviate an emergency and critical need to find and assign officials and timing crews. In addition, this may assist in finding schools that may not be available to host on either Friday or Saturday. The committee asks that this recommendation be considered critical and immediate relief for the 2019 track and field season. (18-0)
2. Starting in 2020, with the emergence of the one-turn stagger in events over 800 meters, allow the use of double waterfall mark and the step-up start. (18-0)