

2024 MHSAA SWIMMING AND DIVING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 9:30 a.m. – East Lansing

MEMBERS PRESENT

Darryl Belton, Otsego
Andy Fredenburg, Battle Creek
Richard Kieft, Dansville (MATS)
Dana Kirk, Dimondale
Ian Kobes, Hudsonville
Megan Merchant, St. Johns
Darrin Millar, Royal Oak (MISCA)

Chris Riker, Portage
Connor Thomas, Mason
Michael Venos, Birmingham
Joe Wallace, Portage

MHSAA STAFF

Andi Osters (Recorder)

The 2023-24 MHSAA Swimming and Diving Committee met in the John E. “Jack” Roberts MHSAA building to review topics related to swimming and diving, along with the MHSAA Championships. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision-making process and the charge of the Swimming and Diving Committee. Agenda items from correspondence, staff, committee members, and the swimming coaches association were compiled.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

WINTER CALENDAR UPDATE FOR 2024-25

Committee members reviewed the recent MHSAA Representative Council action on the winter calendar for the 2024-25 school year, which resulted in new calendar dates for the start and finish of the Boys L.P. Swimming and Diving season.

UPPER PENINSULA SWIMMING AND DIVING

In recent years, the U.P. Swimming Finals have struggled to fill event heats with qualified entries. The committee recommended that the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee consider eliminating qualifying cut times and returning to a maximum number of entries per school for each event. This change would significantly alter the event entry process but may result in a larger championship meet with more participants entered in each event.

PARTICIPATION IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

The MHSAA Diving Qualification Meets held on the week before L.P. Finals are also referred to as “Regional Diving” events but are considered a qualifying round for the MHSAA Championships. When an entered diver does not advance from a Regional Diving event, they are only permitted one individual entry at the MHSAA Finals. There was some sentiment among committee members to reconsider this parameter or adjust it to allow eliminated divers to enter two individual swimming events (for which they have qualified) at the MHSAA Finals. The Michigan Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association will survey MISCA members to determine if there would be widespread support for the change.

L.P. SWIMMING ENTRY PROCEDURE

Many Michigan coaches use SwimCloud.com to record regular season meet results, individual top times, and team rankings. High school swim coaches can create and use SwimCloud for this purpose at no cost. Committee members, specifically those familiar with HyTek, Meet Manager and SwimCloud, agreed that electronic verification of MHSAA Finals entries would increase transparency, improve coach ethics, and help build accurate meet files for championship venues. Staff will connect with partners at SwimCloud to standardize team abbreviations, logos and MHSAA-branded designs on the platform. The committee recommends that all times entered by MHSAA member schools for the 2024-

25 Girls and Boys Championships must be verified on SwimCloud before meet management accepts them for seeding purposes.

In addition, the 2024-25 Rules Meeting will emphasize the requirement that both individual and relay entries must reflect the fastest time achieved during the season by the swimmer and/or team. Regardless of the swimmers involved in a relay, the team owns the time. As such, the fastest relay time achieved by the entering team is the time that should be used to enter the event.

MHSAA FINALS VENUES

The group discussed the current state of the three facilities charged with hosting L.P. MHSAA Swimming and Diving Championships. Eastern Michigan University hosted the MHSAA Girls Final meet for the first time in several years in the Fall of 2024. Committee members who were present provided feedback on the awards presentations, credentialing of on-deck personnel, timing system issues and hospitality needs across all Final meets. Feedback will be shared with all three facilities to improve the experience moving forward.

Discussion also occurred on diving qualification protocols, electronic training devices, and NFHS Swimming & Diving Rule Changes.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, all times entered for both individual and relay events at the MHSAA Championship Meet must be times that (a) are the fastest achieved in actual varsity competition during the current season and (b) can be electronically verified on SwimCloud.com. (10-0)