

Michigan High School Athletic Association
CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK AND FIELD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 26, 2023 - 9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Mike Buslepp, Romeo
Lewis Clingman, Grand Rapids (ATOM)
Carey Hammel, Shepherd (MITCA)
Steve Linn, Deckerville (MITCA)
Joe Lower, Rochester Hills
Kyle McKown, Clare
Don Passenger, Grand Rapids
Gordie Richardson, Gaylord (ATOM)

Tim Ritsema, Jenison (MIAAA)
Michael Schley, Wyandotte
Ann Serra – Lowney, Clarkston
Connor Thomas, Mason
Mike Van Dyke, Grand Rapids
Dan Wytko, Portage

Guest: Rich Kieft (MATS)

MHSAA Staff:
Cody Inglis

The committee met to review specific National Federation sport rules, MHSAA tournament policies, and interpretations that apply 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 and 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's relationship to the Representative Council, the following business was conducted:

Track and Field

1. Review of 2022 Committee Minutes and Recommendations.
2. MHSAA Regional JH/MS XC competition was reviewed after its' second "pilot" year. The committee agreed to continue in this MHSAA JH/MS competition area. Lessons learned from the first two years of MHSAA JH/MS competition were discussed, and tweaks were made to each site, race structure, communication, pre-meet information, and number of competitors. The committee recommended forwarding to the JH/MS committee that the MHSAA XC site selection committee select two sites for each of the eight zones for 16 competitions.
3. The committee discussed details of the new MHSAA Regional competition in Track and Field at the JH/MS level. This included qualifying standards, site selection, and timing for the events starting this spring. Those details will be released this spring.
4. 2023 National Federation rules and editorial changes for Track & Field and Cross Country were reviewed and discussed.
5. A review of the pilot program of Wheelchair Track and Field after 2022. At the 2022 MHSAA Regional and Final Track & Field tournaments, the MHSAA established a new Track & Field category for wheelchair participants in four events. These events included the 100m, 200m, 400m, and shot put. The discussion strongly supported the continuation of this program; with five total student-athletes involved in 2022, there is room for growth. The promotion of the wheelchair category was also discussed and will be done through MITCA and the MHSAA rules meetings.
6. Unified sports opportunities were discussed as a potential exhibition event at the Track and Field Finals. The MHSAA has a long-standing partnership with Michigan Special Olympics and will work to see if this may be an option in an event or two this spring at the MHSAA Track and Field Finals in certain events.
7. Additional Qualifying Standards for Track and Field Regionals and Finals were reviewed as compiled by the MHSAA Track and Field Standards Committee that met in November 2022.
8. Participating School Tournament Information and Manager Materials – The committee reviewed both documents.
9. 2023 Track and Field Final Sites:
 - Division 1: Rockford HS
 - Division 2: Forest Hills Eastern HS
 - Division 3: Kent City HS
 - Division 4: Hudsonville: Baldwin Middle School

10. Coaches being allowed on the infield at Final meets was reviewed. There were challenges to this new concept being introduced at the 2022 Finals with it being used as intended. This included too many coaches and time spent in the coaches' boxes. New protocols for this year's Finals will be developed, including wristbands and coaching box monitors.
11. Discussion on qualification to the Finals. While no proposal exists, there is a desire to look at regular season events to qualify for the Finals. MITCA will develop a proposal for future discussion by the T&F committee.
12. MITCA discussion on the Team State competition conducted for 26 years by MITCA continues, and there is a desire among some to pursue this as an option similar to the sport of Wrestling. The committee discussed a potential proposal, including protocols, scheduling, structure, and timing. The committee recommended further discussion before a proposal.
13. Discussion ensued regarding extending the season to June, including two weeks between Regional meets and Finals. While no proposal was forwarded, there was a discussion to pursue.
14. A carryover from the 2022 T&F committee meeting was Indoor Track and potential MHSAA sponsorship of this sport. There is some sentiment to see if the MHSAA would be interested in adding this sport to its sport tournament offerings. The committee recommends the MHSAA convene a subcommittee to bring all parties to the table regarding this potential ask in the sport. This subcommittee will meet to gauge interest and discuss opportunities and challenges associated with any potential addition.

Cross Country

1. Review of 2022 Cross Country Tournament
 - Live Results
2. 2023 Cross Country Calendar:
 - LP Finals – Michigan International Speedway – Sat., Nov. 4
 - UP Finals – Host: Gladstone HS – Sat., Oct. 21
 - LP Regionals – Oct. 27 or 28
 - First Practice – Aug. 7
 - First Competition – Aug. 16
3. Site Selection Committee – May 3, 2023
4. An update on Classification in XC and all sports given the new two-year removal of teams if they opt out of the tournament.

Recommendations to MHSAA Staff

1. MHSAA staff will establish an Indoor Track and Field subcommittee to discuss this sport.
2. Continue discussing and work with MITCA regarding three main topics – the MHSAA Track calendar, MITCA Team State, and qualification to MHSAA Finals throughout the season.
3. MHSAA Staff will continue work with Michigan Special Olympics to conduct Unified events at MHSAA Finals in Track and Field.
4. Continue work with the MHSAA JH/MS Committee to add MHSAA Track and Field Regional competition to the MHSAA tournament calendar.
5. Continue discussion regarding adding the Discus event to the JH/MS order of events while removing the 70 m dash. An MHSAA Update meeting survey will be added in the Fall of 2023.
6. Add a point of emphasis regarding heat and flight sizes.
7. Emphasize in rules meetings and with officials and coaches the MHSAA T&F wheelchair program to grow and enhance the program.

Recommendations to the Representative Council

Eliminate the MHSAA rule adaptation in Cross Country and Track & Field that the only head attire that may be worn during competition will be a knit stocking cap, sweatband, ski band, hat with bills (baseball style) or the hood of one-piece uniform. (15-0)

Eliminate the MHSAA rule adaptation in Cross Country and Track & Field that competitors may not wear temporary body adornment (painted or fastened) during competition. (15-0)