

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
SWIMMING & DIVING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

East Lansing, February 2, 2022

Members Present:

Mike Bakker, Fenton (MIAAA)
Corrin Buck, Battle Creek
Tim Eastman, Mattawan
Tom Flynn, Birmingham
Casey Kern, Haslett
Mark McGreevy, Pontiac
Andrea Murphy, Plainwell
Jacquelyn Rank, Oxford
Damon Robertson, Haslett (MISCA)
Andrea Stanczyk, Ann Arbor
Eric Talsma, Hamilton
Andrew Thompson, Chelsea
Alex Tiseo, Marquette
Doug VanderJagt, Hudsonville

Guest:

Mitch Smelis, Fenton (MATS)

MHSAA Staff:

Andi Osters (Recorder)

The 2021-22 MHSAA Swimming & Diving Committee met virtually on Feb. 2, 2022 (via Zoom) to review topics involving swimming and diving and MHSAA Championships. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision making process and charge of the Swimming & Diving Committee. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members and the coaches association. The committee was reminded that the scope of their work was to focus on growing the sport of swimming and diving, protecting the health & safety of participants and maintaining the proper philosophy of educational, school-based athletics.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

MHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS

Committee members took time to reflect and review the experience for swimmers and divers at the 2021 Girls Championships, held at Holland Aquatic Center, Oakland University and Calvin University. Despite capacity limitations at both Holland and Calvin, overall sentiment was positive. All three pools provide athletes with good conditions for competition at the Finals. It is anticipated that the same digital ticketing procedures will be applied for the Boys meets in March of 2022.

QUALIFYING TIMES

Cut times for both boys and girls were discussed, especially considering the small size of the Girls Division 1 Championship meet during the fall of 2021. The lack of non-school swimming facilities open and available for use during COVID-19 meant that many athletes did not train throughout the year as usual, likely resulting in slower times at many high school regular-season meets. MHSAA Staff will review 3-5 years of past results to develop times for 2022-23.

DIVING QUALIFICATION

For the past two seasons, divers who qualify for Regionals advance to the MHSAA Final via the following process: *divide the number of qualifiers that advance to Finals (36) by the total number of divers who enter Regionals in each division. Apply this percentage to each Regional to determine number of slots that advance.* This percentage-based qualification approach has created some idiosyncrasies across divisions; namely (a) the number of qualifiers is based upon the number of entries, which can often change between the entry deadline and the actual meet, and (b) a lack of understanding and transparency about the percentages applied between regions.

The committee reviewed four separate proposals to adjust the way divers advance from Regionals to Finals. To create a more equitable, transparent, and simple process, the committee advanced a proposal to allot 10 automatic qualifiers from each Region, with 6 additional qualifiers in each Division given to the Regions containing the top 6 returning divers from the previous years' MHSAA Final Meet.

COACH-PLAYER CONTACT DAYS

The committee discussed the concept of adding six (6) coach-player contact dates during the off-season for swimming and diving coaches. Coaches in the meeting expressed that in swimming and diving, six consecutive days of practice might be of value in the off-season, but six days over the course of six weeks would be pointless and have little merit for swimmers who haven't trained. Overall sentiment was negative, especially given the prevalence of non-school swimming in our state.

PARALYMPIC EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITY

The MHSAA has offered a Paralympic exhibition participation opportunity at MHSAA Final meets to currently classified Paralympic swimmers since March of 2020. While the overall number of participants has been low, the 50 Freestyle heats have drawn praise from the swimming community since inception. The committee agreed to advance a proposal to continue this same exhibition opportunity for future years, at both boys and girls MHSAA Final meets.

DISCUSSION ITEMS – NO ACTION

1. Prelim/Final vs. Timed Final Format for MHSAA Finals
2. Water Polo
3. Upper Peninsula Championship Dive Format
4. MDHHS Guidelines for Indoor Pools

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Each MHSAA Diving Regional will be given 10 guaranteed qualifiers to the MHSAA Championship meet. The remaining 6 spots will be distributed to the Regions that have one of the top six returning divers from the previous year's MHSAA Final Meet. (Each of the top 6 divers returning will add an additional spot to their Regional). (14-0)
2. Continue to provide the Paralympic Exhibition opportunity for a 50 Freestyle heat at each Division of the boys and girls MHSAA Championships. This exhibition heat is open to all currently classified Paralympic athletes who swim with their high school team. (14-0)