



To: Managers and sports directors of radio stations & audio web outlets  
From: John E. Roberts, Executive Director  
John R. Johnson, Communications Director  
Subject: Declaration of Clearance for MHSAA Championship Radio Network  
Date: August 8, 2016

The MHSAA will again coordinate in 2016-17 audio broadcasts of championship events in a variety of sports, formatted for over-the-air use.

The MHSAA will again offer a rights fee waiver program for the school year to network affiliates wishing to originate post-season tournament events. Stations qualify for this year-long rights fee waiver by meeting all of the conditions below:

- Carrying the network origination of at least four games in any combination of the Girls and/or Boys Basketball Semifinals or Finals feed;
- Airing the weekly This Week In High School Sports program at least once a week, including it in a broadcast of a high school sporting event that the station originates. The first program will be available the week of August 22, running through the week of March 20. This Week In High School Sports is a MP3 downloadable file which will be available by Tuesday afternoon each week. This Week In High School Sports is five (5) minutes in length and network stations will be invited to submit stories and sound bites;
- Submitting their Declaration of Clearance and paying a one-time administrative fee of \$100 for the 2016-17 school year **no later than Sept. 9.**

Membership does have its privileges. Affiliates do not pay a fee for telephone lines at MHSAA Finals in football and boys and girls basketball – a savings of \$300 if your station would cover a team in all three events. Stations are still responsible for their own long distance charges. Affiliates also have their fees waived to be able to stream their over-the-air broadcast on the Internet - for a station streaming 20 tournament games, that alone would result in a savings of upwards of \$200; and they may reposition their broadcasts tell sell as podcasts, downloads and CD's with no additional fees.

The Declaration of Clearance Form for 2016-16 is now online. Go to the MHSAA Website, and at the bottom of the page under Media, click on Broadcast App to get to the form. To assist us in our preparations, we encourage you to submit the Declaration of Clearance form by **August 19 – certainly no later than Sept. 9,** and help provide the valuable statewide recognition for the student-athletes who participate in MHSAA tournaments. If you wish to join the network at a later date or clear selected programming, you will be given the option to do so, but you will not receive a rights fee waiver.

**A reminder to all stations that you must become a registered user of the MHSAA Website to apply to cover tournament games. The entire process is now online, and those stations which are not members of the MHSAA Network are required to prepay their rights fees by credit card in advance before they will be approved for broadcast. Please contact our office so we can register you – [media@mhsaa.com](mailto:media@mhsaa.com).**

There are no significant changes to the Multimedia Regulations for 2016-17 that affect audio broadcast. We will remind you that the credential limit for outlets originating audio broadcasts is now two (2) in ALL SPORTS – including football. Sites may grant additional credentials on a space-available basis, but are under no obligation to do so.

(more)

We also wish to bring to your attention the following items:

- The online Broadcast Application form will provide you an opportunity to submit the names of your staff members going to a tournament center to the tournament manager.
- Your outlet will also be sent a confirmation via e-mail once your application has been approved.
- You are responsible for your own transmission arrangements. Schools are not required to have telephone lines or internet access for outlets.
- If you arrive at a site without having made application with the MHSAA office to originate a contest, tournament managers have been instructed to not allow such outlets to originate.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact this office. We appreciate your support of interscholastic athletics and look forward to serving you in the year ahead.

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