



michigan high school athletic association

Mark Uyl, Executive Director

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TO: MHSAA Community  
FROM: Mark Uyl, Executive Director  
DATE: January 14, 2021  
SUBJECT: **MHSAA Update**

The Representative Council met today and took action on two items, including an updated winter calendar for the five “contact” winter sports as defined by the MDHHS along with an extension of the Previous Academic Credit Record waiver, allowing local school districts to determine the eligibility status for winter and spring sport athletes during 2020-21 just as was done for fall athletes earlier this year under the **previous** academic term rule waiver.

Know that we are seeking specific, sport-by-sport guidance in terms of defining what is, and what is not, allowed activity for “contact” winter sports from Jan. 16-Jan. 31. We will share this information as soon as we receive it. A virtual “roundtable” session has been scheduled by the MIAAA for tomorrow, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m. for athletic directors to connect with MHSAA staff to share information and answer questions.

### **Updated Winter Calendar for Basketball, Competitive Cheer, Ice Hockey and Wrestling:**

The Council approved a plan for adjusting schedules for the five winter “contact” sports which may begin non-contact practices on Jan. 16 but must delay any activities that involve physical contact between individuals until Feb. 1, per the recent update to the MDHHS epidemic plan. The updated schedule for girls and boys basketball, competitive cheer, ice hockey and wrestling pushes Finals for those sports into late March or early April. The Council approved the following dates:

#### **Girls Basketball**

First non-contact practice: Jan. 16  
First contact practice: Feb. 1  
First contest: Feb. 4  
Districts: March 22, 24, 26  
Regionals: March 29, 31  
Quarterfinals: April 5  
Semifinals: April 7  
Finals: April 9

**Boys Basketball**

First non-contact practice: Jan. 16  
 First contact practice: Feb. 1  
 First contest: Feb. 4  
 Districts: March 23, 25, 27  
 Regionals: March 30, April 1  
 Quarterfinals: April 6  
 Semifinals: April 8  
 Finals: April 10

**Competitive Cheer**

First non-contact practice: Jan. 16  
 First contact practice: Feb. 1  
 First contest: Feb. 8  
 Districts: March 15-20  
 Regionals: March 22-24  
 Finals: March 26-27

**Ice Hockey**

First non-contact practice: Jan. 16  
 First contact practice: Feb. 1  
 First contest: Feb. 1  
 Regionals: March 15-20  
 Quarterfinals: March 23  
 Semifinals: March 25-26  
 Finals: March 27

**Wrestling**

First non-contact practice: Jan. 16  
 First contact practice: Feb. 1  
 First contest: Feb. 8  
 Districts: March 15-20  
 Regionals: March 22-28  
 Team Finals: March 31  
 Individual Finals: April 2-3

Spring sports will continue with their traditional dates, with first practices March 15. With this updated schedule, the majority of winter athletes will have completed their seasons by the end of March. The updated schedule does carry on through schools' spring breaks – MHSAA research found that 63 percent of member schools have spring break the week of March 29-April 4, with the other 37 percent on break from April 5-11.

**Previous Academic Credit Record Waiver Extension:**

The Council also approved an extension of the previous academic credit record waiver, allowing local school districts to determine the eligibility status for winter and spring sport athletes during 2020-21, just as was done for fall athletes earlier this year under the **previous** academic term rule waiver. Note that the **current** academic credit record regulation (weekly or quarter grade checks as set by each school) has not changed and must be followed for all athletes, as under Regulation I, Section 8. Here is the full text of the updated Previous Academic Credit waiver regulation along with further guidance.

**Previous Academic Credit Record (Regulation I, Section 7):** The MHSAA minimum eligibility requirement will continue to be waived for **all** sports played during the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. It is for each school to determine the eligibility criteria for students under the previous academic record rule. Schools may maintain the MHSAA minimum standard (66%), reduce the standard (e.g., 50%) or eliminate and/or modify it as they see fit so long as the policies are applied equally to all student-athletes without regard to athletic ability or potential. Students must continue to be enrolled in 66% of a full-time student course load. The current academic credit record regulation (weekly or quarterly grade checks as set by each school) has not changed and must be followed, as under Regulation I, Section 8.

As in the past under existing regulations, schools have the option to issue incompletes and keep online courses open and consider a student determined to be ineligible to become eligible when a deficiency of credit is made up and posted to the transcript, **or** on the 61st school day if passing on the 60th day. MHSAA regulations have always accepted pass-fail credit as opposed to a letter grade or GPA, and that has not changed. The MHSAA minimum standard of the previous academic credit record regulation will reactivate for fall sports based on credit from the second semester or third trimester of 2020-21.

Connect with the MHSAA with questions or concerns. Thank you.