128 Starting Blocks. One Finish Line.
The 2020 Tournament
Let The Games Begin!

People know about the Michigan High School Athletic Association for primarily three things – helping schools administer the rules, registering thousands of game officials, and putting on tournaments like the one you’re at today.

The schools are the MHSAA. Hundreds of athletic administrators, and thousands of coaches and officials, working hard to provide kids with the experience that only educational athletics can provide – the best brand of youth sports going.

This is where we help teach kids. We’re after school is over every day, and after school in importance. We provide lessons that they always can’t get in the classroom, and get them ready for the next level of life – not the next level of sports.

So as you enjoy this event – this first step in the tournament trail - remember what and who school sports are really all about. Remember to support your team positively, and remember to treat everyone around you today with respect – the way you’d like to be treated.

— Mark Uyl
MHSAA Executive Director
The MHSAA Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student’s perspective.

Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. Eight new members will be selected annually to the SAC, with nominations made by MHSAA member schools. The Council meets eight times each school year to discuss the educational value of interscholastic athletics, emphasizing scholarship, sportsmanship, safety, scope and student leadership of school sports.

As members of the Student Advisory Council, these students will act as a voice of Michigan’s student-athletes; serving as a student sounding board for the MHSAA’s Representative Council; assist in planning Sportmanship Summits, Captain’s Clinics and other student leadership events; and assist with medal ceremonies at MHSAA championship events.

For the past eight years the council has organized and administered the “Battle of the Fans” competition to recognize the state’s best and most sportsmanlike student sections. Last fall the council published its second book for new team captains, with this new one called “The Captain’s Playbook.” In July 2015, the MHSAA rolled out an Online Captains Course hosted by two SAC seniors and featuring SAC members from three different classes.

Embarking on their first years as SAC contributors, representing the Class of 2021, are: Pierre Brooks II, Detroit Douglass; Macy Brown, Cadillac; Lydia Davenport, Ithaca; Freddy Kopplow, Traverse City St. Francis; Colin McAuliffe, Salem; Avery Peters, Mason; Abigail Pheiffer, Novi; and Landen Thompson, Stevensville Lakeshore.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2020 members who were selected a year ago: Grace Beardsley, Gladwin; Kaitlyn Bricker, Pellston; Nathan Eccles, Port Huron Northern; Jack Fairman, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood; Bella Lindsay, North Muskegon; Lexi Mohney, Mattawan; Trevin Phillips, Caro, and Lance Wiltse, Bay City Western.

“The work of the MHSAA is focused on the experience of our student-athletes. The Student Advisory Council allows us to get valuable input from the student leaders in our state, giving these young people the opportunity to help improve our program through their views and insight,” said Mark Uyl, executive director of the MHSAA.

Student Advisory Council Belief Statement

As the voice of Michigan’s student-athletes, the Student Advisory Council’s role is to convey the message of how high school sports are supposed to be played. We are responsible for helping the MHSAA maintain a positive and healthy atmosphere in which interscholastic athletes can thrive.

We believe athletes should be competitive, sportsmanlike and excel academically. We believe students in the stands should have fun, but not take the focus away from the game. We believe coaches should act as teachers, helping student-athletes develop while still keeping high school sports in perspective. We believe that parents should always be positive role models and be supportive of their child’s decisions. We believe officials commit their own time to high school sports and respect should always be shown and given to them.

The most important goal for student-athletes is to enjoy high school sports while keeping a high level of respect between all those involved in the games.
March Magic is Perfect Backdrop for MHSAA “Battle of the Fans”

The MHSAA Student Advisory Council’s “Battle of the Fans IX” featured a variety of enthusiastic rooting sections and original themes as groups competed for the title of best high school student section in Michigan.

This year’s nine semifinalists were Saginaw Heritage, Traverse City West and Zeeland East from Class A; Buchanan, Caro and Frankenmuth from Class B; and Hart, Petersburg-Summerfield and Reese from Class C/D.

Battle of the Fans IX, organized by MHSAA staff and its 16-member Student Advisory Council, kicked off by inviting schools to submit short videos, via YouTube, of their cheering sections in action in January. The Advisory Council selected nine semifinalists to accomplish a list of tasks showing off their sections over a 12-day span, and the Council then selected three finalists for MHSAA visits.

This year’s winner is to be announced Feb. 21 and recognized March 27 during the MHSAA Boys Basketball Semifinals at Michigan State University’s Breslin Center.

Semifinalists were required to complete 10 challenges via social media channels. Five mandatory challenges focus on contest criteria: positive sportsmanship, student body participation, school spirit, originality of cheers, organization of the group, student section leadership and overall fun.

Five elective challenges (taken from a list of 15 opportunities) allowed semifinalists opportunities to show the unique characteristics that make their sections elite. Descriptions of all 20 challenges appear on the BOTF page of MHSAA.com.

The Student Advisory Council selected the finalists in late January. MHSAA staff and SAC members visited the finalists for home basketball games during the second half of the season, with coverage and video, and the announcement of the winner, published on Second Half.

The winner is selected by another Advisory Council vote based in part on support each section receives on the MHSAA’s social media sites.

A total of 20 schools applied for this year’s contest, including nine schools for the first time to bring the total to 105 member schools that have applied for the contest at least once over its eight-year existence.

Buchanan and Traverse City West both have applied seven times and will compete in the semifinals for the third-straight year. Buchanan was the BOTF champion in 2013 and 2018, and West won in 2016. Saginaw Heritage and Petersburg Summerfield also are repeat semifinalists; Heritage advanced to the finals as well in 2019.

Frankenmuth was the BOTF champion in 2012 and 2017 and also a finalist in 2013 and 2014. Zeeland East was a finalist in 2013, and Reese was a finalist in 2012. Hart and Caro are first-time semifinalists – Hart in its second time applying for BOTF and Caro as a first-time applicant.

The other first-time applicants were Fremont, Grosse Ile, Grosse Pointe South, Howell, Lake Fenton, Melvindale, Morenci and Stevensville Lakeshore. Reigning BOTF champion North Muskegon did not apply for this year’s competition.

For a look at this year’s contest, scan the code at right.
Every Season On Every Platform!

Girls Basketball Finals - March 21
Boys Basketball Finals - March 28
Watch on cable, FoxSportsDetroit.com, or FOX Sports GO!

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School Broadcast Program/Pixellot coverage

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- Winter - Basketball (QF-SF), Cheer, Ice Hockey (SF-Final), U.P. Swimming, L.P. Boys Swimming, Team & Individual Wrestling
- Spring - Baseball/Softball (SF-Final), Lacrosse, Girls Soccer, Track
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This Week In High School Sports - Weekly Podcast
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