To:  Member School Athletic Administrators & Public Address Announcers

From:  John R. Johnson, Director of Broadcast Properties

Re:  2018-19 Regular-Season Public Address Scripts

The pages that follow are scripts which may be read at your regular-season sporting events this fall. If you are hosting an MHSAA Tournament, please visit the sports specific page for the event you are hosting to download the appropriate scripts.

Public address announcers perform an important task at high school sporting events – to inform the fans in attendance and to help set an educational atmosphere for the game. You set that atmosphere in the following ways:

- Be being a welcoming, authoritative voice that fans from all schools involved can respect and appreciate.
- By being a source of information rather than a source of entertainment. Keep your calls about plays simple and straightforward. For example – “Jones the ball carrier...tackled by Smith and Taylor...five-yard gain on the play...ball on the 28-yard line...third and five;”  “Falcon goal by number 35 – Keith Smith, assist by number 9 – Evan Jones...time of the goal, 12:22;”  “Bulldog kill by number 4, Mellissa Manchester.”
- Treat both teams equally in terms of your inflection and enthusiasm. Do the same thing when your team or the opposing team makes a big play in terms of your call.
- Treat penalty calls and the officials with respect. If there was a flag on the play, simply follow the ball carrier and tackles with:  “Penalty flag on the play.”  Then describe the penalty and the remark of the ball after the penalty has been marked off. For example:  “Holding on the Hawks. Penalty places the ball on the 15-yard line. Third and 20.”
- In football, never announce a Touchdown has been scored until you see the Referee’s (White Hat) arms go up
- Never talk while a play is in progress. A good rule of thumb to follow is the same rule that applies to bands in football where they cannot play from the time the offensive team breaks the huddle until the play is whistled dead.

While these examples primarily apply to football, you get the general idea of how your tone should be for other sports. If you follow these guidelines and apply them to your entire body of work during the course of the game, you will be contributing in a positive way to the educational nature of the event.

For more information about public address announcing, visit the MHSAA Website:

MHSAA.com > Schools > Administrators
Welcome
Good ________________, and welcome to _______________________________ for today’s game with our visitors from ________________________________. The word of the day is Respect. Respect for the game. Respect for each other. Respect for the officials. Remember, nothing beats good sportsmanship.

National Anthem Introduction
Ladies and gentlemen: The privilege of this event was made possible by those who have fought – and continue to fight for – the freedoms we enjoy. Let us now honor and respect their efforts and our country. Civilian gentlemen, please remove your hats. All veterans - we encourage you to render the appropriate salute, and everyone able - please stand at attention, placing your hand over your heart, as we proudly sing our National Anthem.

Sportsmanship
Think of a high school game as a four-lane highway. Coaches, players, officials and spectators each with their own lane. Sportsmanship depends on everyone not crossing over the line. Fans keep it between the lines when they cheer positively for their team. So don’t cause an accident! Fans, stay in your lane and let the coaches, players and officials do their jobs.

New Eligibility Rule
There’s a new eligibility rule everyone needs to know. If a student transfers from one school to a new school without a change of residence, they may be ineligible to participate in that sport at the new school next year. For all of the details about the sport-specific transfer rule, start by contacting your local school athletic administrator or visit the M-H-S-A-A Website.

Watch MHSAA.TV

Multiple-Sport Participation
You’re hearing it. The message is getting through to parents. Multi-sport athletes get injured less. Multi-sport athletes become better in their primary sport in the long run. And even though it’s not why we play our games – high school multi-sport athletes are now getting recruited more than specialized athletes. Multi-sport participation is cross training for life. Learn more on the Health & Safety page of at the M-H-S-A-A website.
Scholar-Athlete Award Applications
Nearly 2 thousand of the state's top student-athletes will be recognized for excelling academically and in school activities through the M-H-S-A-A’s Scholar-Athlete Award, underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance. The applicants will be in the running for a total of 32 one-thousand dollar college scholarships. Application materials are available exclusively online through the M-H-S-A-A Website.

MHSAA Social Media
Keep up with everything M-H-S-A-A on social media. Look us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube for tournament updates, event announcements, video highlights and high school sports news from around the state. It’s the best way to connect with the M-H-S-A-A every day!

MHSAA Second Half
The Second Half page of the M-H-S-A-A Website gets you closer to the action with features on high school sports from around the state, weekly coaches associations rankings and coverage of MHSAA Tournament Finals. It’s a great read with fresh content nearly every weekday during the school year. Make the MHSAA’s Second Half your first stop for high school sports information.

Officials Recruitment
The teams, players and coaches work hard all week getting ready for the game. So do the officials. Local officials meetings across the state every week help the men and women calling the action stay on top of their game. Let’s give them the respect they deserve. Better yet, why don’t you become one? Visit the M-H-S-A-A Website for more information. There’s Help Wanted – Just Whistle.

MHSAA Health & Safety Page
Where can you find good information on all kinds of topics related to the well being of our student-athletes? Check out the Health & Safety page of the MHSAA website. Learn about multi-sport participation, heat and hydration, cardiovascular resources, as well as insurance benefits available for students. It’s all on the Health & Safety page of M-H-S-A-A dot com.

This Week In High School Sports
Stay in tune with the preps by listening to This Week In High School Sports on the M-H-S-A-A Network. Carried on nearly 100 radio stations and web audio outlets, This Week features various sports, provides officiating insights on its Be The Referee segment and closes with a weekly commentary. This Week In High School Sports can also be heard by visiting the home page of the M-H-S-A-A Website.

(Note – When saying the MHSAA acronym, say each letter – M – H – S – A – A. Do not say M-H-S-Double A or try to say MHSAA as a word)