MHSAA
SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

This summary does not include all Council action. Minutes of the Nov. 30, 2018 and March 22, 2019 meetings were published on MHSAA.com. Minutes of the May 5-6, 2019 meeting have been sent to all superintendents; and all high school and junior high/middle school principals, athletic directors and citywide athletic directors have been emailed a link to a download location on MHSAA.com. **Changes take effect Aug. 1, 2019, unless otherwise indicated.**

High School Regulations

1. **Regulation I, Section 3 – Electronic Signatures on Physical Exams & Parent/Student Consent** – Electronic signatures are acceptable from the MD, DO, PA or NP who administered the physical examination and on the required Student/Parent Consent, provided they are affixed by the person who is required to sign the document and can be verified and stored (archived) for the recommended period.

2. **Regulation I, Section 9 (Transfers)** –

   Section 9(E) – The athletic-related (links) rule was revised: A residential change under Exception 1 does not grant immediate eligibility if a student follows his/her newly hired high school coach.

   Section 9(D) – The athletic-motivated transfer rule was changed to reflect a sport-specific penalty. The student would not be eligible in the sport played the previous school year. Previously, students confirmed to have made an athletic-motivated transfer were ineligible in all sports for 180 school days.

   The late transfer restriction (formerly Section 9[G] for students not enrolled prior to Oct. 1, Feb. 1 or May 1) was expanded to include students who transfer under Section 9(B), sport not previously played.

   Interpretations 61 and 62 dealing with residential changes were clarified to reflect the new sport-specific transfer rule:

   > Transfer students who meet an exception or transfer and seek eligibility into district-wide schools of a multi-school district that also has geographical boundary schools will have eligibility in sports played previously only at the boundary school of their residence (Interpretation 61).
   >
   > Transfer students into nonpublic and charter schools who meet an exception or seek eligibility in a school other than the one closest to the new residence will have eligibility in sports played previously only at the closest school to their new residence or school of the same denomination as enrolled previously (Interpretation 62).

   Interpretation 84 – Eligibility of transfer students in Approved International Student Programs (AISP) was clarified as follows:

   (1) AISP students who “play one, wait one” and then change schools have eligibility under the sport-specific transfer rule based on the sports that student played in the “play one” year (ineligible in those sports played in that year, eligible in sports not played in the play-one year). (Interpretation 84c).

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(2) All AISP students "play one, wait one," then have full eligibility in subsequent years if there is no change of schools (Interpretation 84d).

(3) When an international student has been enrolled in any secondary school in the US whose program changes its status from non-AISP to AISP, that student will be ineligible at the varsity level for the duration of his or her tenure in any MHSAA member school. Subvarsity eligibility may be permitted after 90 scheduled school days in any sport. Section 9(B) does not apply to this student.

Interpretation 99 (New) clarifies eligibility under the new sport-specific transfer regulation for transfer students in sports played twice in a school year: For example, a girl who plays boys soccer in the fall and then transfers will be ineligible for both soccer seasons the following year.

3. **Regulation I, Section 11 – Amateur Status & Awards** – The amount for symbolic awards has been increased from $25 to $40.

4. **Regulation II, Section 6 – Out-of-State Travel Form Scrimmages** – Up to four scrimmages against MHSAA member schools are permitted in spring sports when a school completes an Out-of-State Travel Report. No more than four scrimmages are permitted under this allowance and games may not be converted to scrimmages played out of state in excess of the travel limit.

5. **Regulation II, Section 11(E & F) – Fall Sports Calendar Changes** - In boys soccer, cross country, tennis and golf, in years were there are 12 Saturdays in a season (short years: **2019**, 2024 and 2025), practices may begin on the 16th Monday before Thanksgiving (Aug. 12, 2019) and the first contest may be held after three practices over four days (Friday, Aug. 16, 2019).

6. **Regulation II, Section 11(H) – Out-of-Season Coaching** – The following was added to Section 11(H) 2 a: "Note: School coaches who are also involved with coaching active Unified Special Olympic programs and have limited contact between coaches and students who are regular season participants are exempt from the four-player rule."

   The following was added to Section 11(H) 6: "Out of season, school sport coaches may only be involved in teaching sport content in these courses (sport curriculum classes) in a sport they coach for that school district if they are the staff member assigned to instruct this course on a regular basis throughout the semester or trimester."

7. **Regulation V, Section 3(D) – Post-Contest Ejections** – The following was added to Section 3(D) 2: "3. When a student or coach commits an offense worthy of ejection and disqualification against an official following the conclusion of the contest but before the officials have left the facility and/or grounds, an official may disqualify the student or coach as though it had occurred during the contest. A coach or student who receives a post-contest disqualification shall be withheld from competition according to the policies of Section 3(D) 1-2. This does not apply to a situation when an official from an earlier contest remains at the facility as a spectator and encounters an offense by a student or coach at that later time."

Junior High/Middle School Regulations

1. **Regulation IV, Section 7 – Middle School Officials Assigners–** A new Section 7(B) was added as follows: "Member junior high/middle schools and others which sponsor competition for member school teams and utilize and pay for services of a third-party, non-school assigner for junior high/middle school officiating contests shall use only those individuals who are assigners registered with the MHSAA for a current school year."

General

Sports Medicine Advisory Committee – This committee was established as a regular standing committee which will meet twice each school year (October and April).

Sports

1. **Basketball** – Seeding is approved for 2019-20 based on MPR ratings through games two weeks prior to the start of District competition (including all results through that Saturday), where the top two teams, as determined by MPR, are split between the top and bottom of a District bracket.

2. **Girls Competitive Cheer –** The format will be reviewed and possibly restructured as early as the 2020-21 season by evaluating current requirements and using the Competitive Cheer Task Force which will follow MHSAA protocol while keeping the primary focus on the safety of athletes and continuing to increase participation numbers at all levels.

3. **Football** –

    a. The Michigan High School Football Coaches Association enhanced strength of schedule plan was adopted for 11-player football playoff qualification, effective with the 2020 season. Schools may not opt up under this plan. This system for 8-player playoff qualification will be studied further.

    b. Video review is allowed at the MHSAA Finals only for both the 11-player and 8-player Finals with limited provisions for scoring/potential scoring plays and turnovers/potential turnovers.

    c. To be eligible for the 8-player tournament, a member school may not have an enrollment greater than 215 students. This will take effect for the 2020-21 school year, and the one-year grace period for schools previously eligible but over the enrollment limit will continue.

    d. Current football practice contact definitions and limitations were revised. Collision contact game speed activity is restricted to six hours in a week (Monday-Sunday) prior to the first game with calculations for scrimmage and limited to 30 minutes in an in-season week. “Thud practices” which involve full-speed contact above the waist only with no player being taken to the ground are unlimited. See the 2019-20 *MHSAA Handbook* for further details.

4. **Golf** –

    a. Use of cell phones is allowed by players in four specific circumstances: health and safety issues, inputting scores, contacting a rules official, and use as a distance-measuring device.

    b. The maximum allowable score for a hole is set at 12 strokes.

    c. Lower Peninsula boys and girls Regional tournament hosts may set the date of the one-day Regional tournament on any of the days between Monday and Saturday the week of the tournament except for Memorial Day, observed, for spring golf.

5. **Ice Hockey** – The tournament will start one week earlier: three Mondays before the current date of the Finals (Feb. 24, 2020). The regular season and Finals will remain on the same date.

6. **Boys Lacrosse** – Limitations of competition were changed to permit the option under the multi-team tournament allowance for a team to play two full games regularly timed. A varsity game may play one four-minute sudden victory overtime.

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7. **Soccer** –

   a. Seeding is approved for 2019-20 based on MPR ratings through games ten days prior to the start of District competition (including all results through that Saturday), where the top two teams, as determined by MPR, are split between the top and bottom of a District bracket.

   b. The multi-team tournament rule language was changed from ". . . only be held on non-school days" to ". . . only be held on non-school days or days not followed by school."

   c. The rule was removed that required District and Regional Final games to begin after 5 p.m. if held on an SAT or ACT national testing day.

8. **Tennis** –

   a. Coaches who are on-court for coaching purposes during matches at the Finals may text coaches or players not engaged in matches as long as it is not disruptive to play. The number of coaches allowed at the MHSAA Finals was adjusted to accommodate multiple sites; all coaches must meet MHSAA requirements.

   b. In subvarsity and middle school matches, a coach may offer coaching at any time during the match as long as the coach remains off-court and does not disrupt the flow of the match.

9. **Track & Field** –

   a. Upper and Lower Peninsula Regional Track & Field competitions may be held on Thursday, in addition to currently permitted Friday and Saturday. (Regionals may be held on either May 14, 15 or 16, 2019).

   b. With the emergence of the one-turn stagger in events 800 meters and longer, the use of a double waterfall mark and the step-up start are allowed.

Officials

The Student Officials Legacy Program was expanded to allow freshman and sophomore students at least 14 years of age to officiate with a mentor official at the junior high/middle school level only.

Also see Regulation V, Section 3(D) above for post-contest ejections by officials.