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To: Member School Athletic Administrators & Public Address Announcers  
From: John R. Johnson, Communications Director  
Re: 2017-18 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 straight forward. 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.”
- 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.

## **MHSAA PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Fall Regular Season, 2017-18 School Year**

#### **Welcome**

Good \_\_\_\_\_, and welcome to \_\_\_\_\_ for today's game with our visitors from \_\_\_\_\_. No matter what takes place today – stay calm...stay classy...and stay respectful. 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.

#### **MHSAA Extra Point (Football games only)**

Highlights and scores from football games across the state can be found every Saturday morning at 10 as the State Champs! Sports Network presents on MHSAA Extra Point on FOX Sports Detroit. Catch the big plays and other features, including highlights produced by schools in the MHSAA's School Broadcasting Program. Check out MHSAA Extra Point on FOX Sports Detroit every week!

#### **Check In Champ (Football games only)**

Supporting your local teams has never been more fun or rewarding with the free Battle of the Fans Check In Champ from the M-H-S-A-A. Download Check In Champ from your app store, then attend games, check-in, earn points and win up to \$2,000 in college scholarships thanks to My Student Aid! Download Check In Champ today!

#### **Sportsmanship**

Your ticket to this event comes with great responsibility – to conduct yourself responsibly – to be a good sport. School Sports – educational athletics – depend on an atmosphere of respect, towards opponents and especially officials. In school sports, we expect good sportsmanship.

#### **School Sports Safety**

The safety of kids while playing school sports is at an all-time high. Better equipment, better coaching, better health education and better playing rules make the environment as safe as it can be. Learn more about all aspects of safety in school sports by visiting the Health & Safety page of the MHSAA Website.

#### **Watch MHSAA.TV**

Live high school sports video coverage can be found online at M-H-S-A-A-dot-T-V and the N-F-H-S Network. One low monthly price of \$9.95 gets you in to watch regular season and M-H-S-A-A post-season games. You can watch archived games from the last decade for free anytime. Check it out at M-H-S-A-A-dot-T-V.

#### **Multiple-Sport Participation**

When it comes to playing youth sports, you can have too much of a supposed good thing. New studies have revealed overuse injuries from specialization are reaching epidemic proportions. Multiple sports participation promotes using different muscle groups and improving eye-hand-foot coordination... and actually makes you a better athlete. Learn more about multiple sports participation at the Health and Safety page of the MHSAA website.

## **2-2-2 – 17-18 Fall Regular Season PA Scripts**

### **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**

Daily features and great coverage of post-season tournaments can be found every day on the Second Half page of the M-H-S-A-A Website. Check out the Performer of the Week, learn about the history of our games, catch weekly coaches' rankings and more! Click on Second Half from the home page of the M-H-S-A-A Website.

### **Officials Recruitment**

As long as we have these games, we will always need officials. People staying involved in sports, willing to work hard. They are out there every day giving back to our kids. 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.

### **Officials Recruitment – (For Junior High/Middle School, Freshman & Junior Varsity Game ONLY)**

These games depend on an educational atmosphere, which includes respect for the officials. Just as the players and many coaches are out there right now honing their skills, so are our newer officials. So we need everyone – players, coaches and parents in the stands to treat our game officials with the respect they deserve for being out there. Because we'd have no game otherwise – and no one to blame but you.

### **MHSAA Score Center**

More schedules and scores than anywhere on the web are at your fingertips at the M-H-S-A-A Score Center. You can check out daily schedules and results in all sports, at the varsity and subvarsity levels. Drill down to find out information by school and conference. You can also become a registered user of the M-H-S-A-A website and report results. Click on Scores & Schedules from the home page of the M-H-S-A-A Website to visit the Score Center!

### **This Week In High School Sports**

This Week In High School Sports features achievements by student-athletes and teams from around the state each week, gives you a taste of the art of officiating with its Be The Referee segment, and helps get your perspective right about high school sports with a closing commentary. This Week In High School Sports can be heard on over 80 radio stations and web audio outlets across the state, and as a podcast on 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)