

**A Personal Message  
About Committee  
Service**



*I want to share with you my "secret" for having a good experience when I serve on a committee or board. It is this . . .*

*As I walk into the room where the meeting is to be held, I pause and say quietly: "What will I learn today? What idea will I receive today that will benefit me professionally or personally?"*

*Throughout the meeting, I remind myself of these questions and I look for the lessons I can apply not only to the subject matter at hand, but also to my everyday work and life.*

*I have served on the board of directors of the National Association of Sports Officials and Michigan Society of Association Executives and Capital Region Community Foundation and East Lansing Art Festival and Refugee Development Center and National Federation of State High School Associations and others; and my secret has worked almost without exception . . . I did learn and I **did** have an enjoyable experience.*

*If a person accepts a committee appointment because he or she has an agenda and intends to make a point, neither that person nor his/her committee colleagues will profit. If a person accepts a committee appointment to serve and to learn, everyone will benefit.*

*— Mark Uyl*

**MHSAA STAFF ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Primary Staff</b>
Baseball _____	Brent Rice
Basketball _____	Nate Hampton
Bowling _____	Cody Inglis
Competitive Cheer (Girls) _	Kathy Vruggink Westdorp
Cross Country _____	Cody Inglis
Football _____	Nate Hampton
Golf _____	Cody Inglis
Gymnastics (Girls) _	Kathy Vruggink Westdorp
Ice Hockey _____	Cody Inglis
Lacrosse (Boys) _____	Tom Rashid
Lacrosse (Girls) __	Kathy Vruggink Westdorp
Ski _____	Cody Inglis
Soccer _____	Andy Frushour
Softball (Girls) _____	Andi Osters
Swimming & Diving _____	Andi Osters
Tennis _____	Dan Hutcheson
Track & Field _____	Nate Hampton
Volleyball (Girls) _____	Andi Osters
Wrestling _____	Dan Hutcheson

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**Sport  
Committee  
Guide**





## SPORT COMMITTEE GUIDE

Thank You for your service to the MHSAA. Your attendance and participation at meetings is critical to the process that ensures member schools are heard in the deliberations of the Representative Council. Being an informed committee member, active both as a listener and a participant, will help this process to serve its intended purpose.

1. Sport committees are intended to consist of a balance of administrators and varsity coaches in the particular sport, plus the president of the coaches association for that sport.
  - a. All appointees must be in the direct employment (at least part-time) of an MHSAA member school district or full-time employment of a league or conference of MHSAA member schools.
  - b. Pursuant to Representative Council action, effort also is made to secure . . .
    - (1) two currently registered MHSAA officials who meet the criteria for Representative Council candidacy (administrator, faculty member or board of education member of an MHSAA member school district), and
    - (2) one representative each from the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals

- c. Candidates are solicited through the Winter *benchmarks*, which includes a nomination form. Additional candidates are recommended by the Representative Council during its May meetings. MHSAA staff organizes the nominations, attempting to create a committee that represents schools of all classifications and regions. Appointments are made by the MHSAA Executive Committee at its August and November meetings.

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Committee candidates are solicited through the annual Winter *benchmarks*, which includes instructions and a nomination form.

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2. Sport committee responsibilities include:
  - a. Recommending to the Representative Council changes regarding MHSAA regulations relative to the sport.
  - b. Recommending to MHSAA staff . . .
    - (1) appropriate procedures, sites and assignments for the MHSAA tournament in that sport and
    - (2) points of special emphasis for the sport season; proposals to the national playing rules committee.
3. The success of sport committee recommendations to the Representative Council is linked to the support shown for the recommendations by . . .
  - a. The coaches association of the sport.
  - b. Administrators associations such as MIAAA and MASSP.
  - c. Leagues and conferences.

4. Survey results are valuable when they reflect the votes of people associated with all sizes of schools and regions of the state. Votes limited to boards of directors or convention attendees can under-represent the interests of smaller and more remote schools
5. Personal agendas and single-issue committee members undermine the effectiveness of sport committees.
6. Sport committees must be cognizant of the cost of proposals – annual recurring expenditures to the MHSAA and to local schools. Additional costs should be avoided – especially during times of economic downturn and revenue reductions to public education – unless there is a compelling and direct impact on participant or spectator risk.
7. Sport committees should be more concerned with the culture of the sport and its connection to schools and students in grades 6 through 12 than with the MHSAA championships, and more concerned with health and safety issues of practices and regular season than terms and conditions of MHSAA season-ending tournaments. Think big and long-term more than about the results of last season.
8. Ultimately, the Representative Council must consider more than the issues of a single sport and may determine that even a positive proposal that promotes one sport should not be approved because of the negative effect it might have on other sports or the educational mission of schools. It is the position of the Council that academics must precede athletics in policy-making and that young people should be students first and athletes second.