



michigan high school athletic association

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TO: Boys Lacrosse Athletic Directors, Coaches and Officials  
FROM: Tom Rashid, MHSAA Associate Director  
SUBJECT: **Emergency Schedule Situations (ESS):** Officials and Game Cancellation  
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Over the past few years a small number of high school varsity games, especially in southeast Michigan, were cancelled due in part to a shortage of officials and schools seeking prime time game dates and times. Three officials are preferred on all varsity games and recommended in the NFHS Rule Book. All MHSAA tournament games use three officials and officials and schools generally prefer this. However, in an **Emergency Scheduling Situations (ESS)**, some varsity games could be played with two officials rather than cancel other games. To minimize two person games and prepare for them when necessary, we offer the following guidance developed in collaboration with leagues, officials and the assigner in Southeast Michigan.

- Schools must be **more flexible** in setting game dates and times. It is best to avoid playing at noon on Saturdays. Earlier or later game times may allow officials to work at two locations on one day. Schedule games on days not often used such as Thursdays and Sundays.
- Play earlier in the season. Games can start on Wed. March 21, 2017 and go to the MHSAA final on Sat. June 9, 2017 - even if your team is out of the state tournament (no more than three games Monday-Sunday). Games, especially JV, can occur during the MHSAA tournament. Consider this when rescheduling weather-cancelled and non-league games.
- Officials have day jobs and it is near impossible for most to make a 4pm start. 5:30 or 6pm starting times are preferred.
- Once or twice in a season, to allow the third official to work a varsity game at another location, consider playing a Varsity game **first** and the JV game second.
- Teams who change an originally scheduled game go to the **back of the line** and may be the first games cancelled in an ESS or they could receive two officials.
- When rescheduling weather canceled games, arrange more than one option with the opponent and then contact the assigner to see when officials may be available.
- Assigners will periodically update **Heavy Activity Dates** on the MHSAA boys lacrosse page (MHSAA.com) so teams can work around these dates and times.
- Before a game is cancelled in an ESS, efforts will be made to move an official from a three-person game to provide two officials on a game rather than cancel another team's contest. In accordance with MHSAA policy, when three officials are contracted and two actually work, the third fee shall be split between the two officials working the game.
- Any changes made will be based on the judgement of the assigner and the geographic availability of officials and games, beginning with changed games and games involving B Teams.
- Officials who are available but refuse to work a two-person game in an ESS (to avoid a game cancellation) will be excluded from working the MHSAA tournament.
- It is expected that officials and teams will understand and accept the occasional two-person game in the spirit of cooperation and assistance to other schools and the sport of lacrosse.