

MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award

FAQ and Simple Instructions for Student Applicants

WHAT IS THE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD?

For 30 years, the MHSAA and Farm Bureau Insurance have honored the best student-athletes in Michigan. Again this year they will award 32 students with \$1,000 scholarships based on achievement and leadership in athletics and activities, as well as responses to short-answer and essay questions. In many ways, this is the most prestigious honor the MHSAA awards annually.

AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Seniors with an unrounded 3.50 or better GPA who have earned a varsity letter in an MHSAA-sponsored sport are eligible to apply.

HOW DO I APPLY?

1. Go to mhsaa.com/scholarship
2. Create an account
3. Ask your school athletic director for the Access Code
4. Click the blue "Check Eligibility" button, enter the Access Code and start the application

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE APPLICATION?

1. Applicant information
2. List of athletic teams and extra-curricular activities, focusing on achievement and leadership positions
3. Two short-answer questions about how athletics and other activities have prepared you for life after high school
4. 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics
5. Two letters of recommendation

HOW ARE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION SUBMITTED?

You have two options for submitting your two letters of recommendation.

1. You can upload the two letters yourself.
2. You can enter email addresses for the two recommenders, and they will be sent simple instructions for adding their letters to your account.

WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE?

The deadline is Friday, Nov. 30, at 4:00 p.m. 120 Finalists will be announced in late January and the 32 winners will be announced throughout February. The winners will also be invited to MSU's Breslin Center to be honored during one of the MHSAA's Boys Basketball state final games.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, Contact Paige Winne at the MHSAA: paige@mhsaa.com or 517-332-5046.

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Additional Tips for Student Applicants

THIS IS AN ONLINE APPLICATION

- Go to mhsaa.com/scholarship to create an account and start the process.
- Contact your school's athletic director to get an Access Code. You must have this code to continue the process. Please note the school is limited in the number of students that can apply for the award.
- The online application and the process should seem very intuitive. Email notifications will be sent to you throughout the process.
- You can start the application, fill out part of it, and then return later to pick up where you left off. Be sure you come back to submit the application prior to the deadline on Nov. 30.
- Decide if you are going to upload letters of recommendation yourself, or if you will invite recommenders to write a letter and upload themselves.
- **VERY IMPORTANT:** If you have your recommenders upload themselves, you must log back into the system and click "Mark as Complete" under the "Request Letters of Recommendation" section.
- When you are finished with the Application Form and Letters of Recommendation, click on the blue "Review and Submit" button. After reviewing, click "Submit Your Application" to finish the application process.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE

- There are multiple parts to the application, so don't get caught procrastinating.
- Make contact with the two people who will write your letters of recommendation, and give them plenty of time to submit a great letter on your behalf.
- Write, edit, and re-write your essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics. 500-words are the maximum for this essay.

KNOW HOW THE APPLICATIONS ARE JUDGED

- **Essay (40%):** Be creative in telling the judges why sportsmanship is important to educational athletics. **VERY IMPORTANT:** the judges will be reading dozens of essays - make yours stand out! Tell the judges a personal story about sportsmanship; don't give them the Webster's definition of sportsmanship.
- **Extra-Curricular Activities Form (30%):** Focus on significant leadership experiences and significant athletic achievements and academic awards won. Judges are looking for quality of experiences, not quantity of experiences.
- **Short-Answer Questions (20%):** Use this space to tell us more about how you've personally benefited by staying active – both with school sports and with outside school activities. These are not throw-away questions, consider them mini-essays.
- **Letters of Recommendation (10%):** Approach coaches, teachers, school administrators, youth group leaders or others in your community to have them write recommendation letters so the judges can learn a little bit more about you.

WHO WINS THE AWARD?

Thirty-two (32) student-athletes will win a \$1,000 scholarship. A graduated scale based on MHSAA enrollment classification will be used to allocate the first 30 scholarships. In Class A, 6 boys and 6 girls will be selected as winners. 4 boys and 4 girls from Class B schools will be selected as scholarship recipients, while 3 boys and 3 girls in Class C and 2 boys and 2 girls from Class D schools will receive the \$1,000 scholarship. The last 2 at-large scholarships are designated for minority candidates and will be chosen after the first 30 scholarship recipients have been selected.

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