



April 5, 2022

Dear Athletic Director,

We hope this note finds you doing well. Allow us to provide the following update following the March 25 meeting of the Representative Council, which took action on a number of items that go into effect for this spring, this summer or the 2022-23 school year.

Basketball Scheduling for 2022-23: The Council approved the Basketball Committee proposal to increase regular season games from 20 to 22 while delaying the start of practice by one week, reducing the basketball season calendar length by one week. This goes into effect next school year for the 2022-23 season. The first day of practice will be delayed by one week with the minimum number of calendar days before the first contest to be reduced from 21 to 14. In other words, the first day of competition for both girls and boys basketball will remain unchanged from this year (and previous years) which will allow basketball scheduling to continue using corresponding dates. Note that all MHSAA tournament dates remain unchanged from currently published calendars.

Girls Basketball 22-23: First practice Nov. 14 (was Nov. 7); first contest Nov. 28 (no change); MHSAA Semifinals and Finals March 16-18 (no change).

Boys Basketball 22-23: First practice Nov. 21 (was Nov. 14); first contest Dec. 5 (no change); MHSAA Semifinals and Finals March 23-25 (no change).

Summer Transportation & School Vehicles for 2022-23: The Council approved the use of school transportation for **summer activity** for those districts wishing to use school vehicles owned or leased by the school district or those operated by any entity with which the district contracts to provide transportation services effective Monday, June 6, 2022. Summer transportation funds must be from school-approved activities of booster clubs, school teams, student groups and community, civic or service groups (no general school operating funds). Note that this change only deals with summer transportation as all other summer limitations (no use of school owned and issued competition warm-ups and/or uniforms, for example) remain in place. The "window" for summer transportation use should your district allow this is from June 6-July 31, 2022.

Classification for 2022-23: All schools received notification of sport classifications for the 2022-23 school year last week for all sports except ice hockey. Note that the Council will be considering a proposal to modify ice hockey classifications at the May 1-2 spring meeting with notification to ice hockey schools to follow that first week of May. The 2022-23 classification process was completed based on Council action which removed schools that have indicated sport sponsorship but have failed to have either a team and/or individuals actually participate in the MHSAA tournament in that sport during the previous two MHSAA tournaments. Schools not included in the classification process (those tournament non-participants in the past two years) will be notified by MHSAA staff in the next week on the procedures regarding future sport sponsorship and reentry into the MHSAA tournament process.

In 2022-23, football schools will be allowed to opt-up after football classification lists are published in late March each year. Football schools must include the reason and rationale with the opt-up request indicating why they wish to opt up for a minimum of two years, which would be considered by the Executive Committee during the April and May meetings, only. Should your school wish to pursue this process in football for the 2022-23 school year, contact Will McKoy (will@mhsaa.com) well in advance of either the April 20 or May 1 Executive Committee meetings.

Finally, the cooperative program limit or cap for ice hockey programs was increased to 5,500 students from 3,500 effective with the 2022-23 school year.

Baseball & Softball District Dates for Spring of 2022: The Council approved the Baseball Committee and Softball Committee recommendation to allow, by default, all District first round games to continue to be played on the Tuesday following Memorial Day. If all participating teams agree before the draw is held (and the host school, if applicable), teams may play District first round games (“pre-District” games) on the Thursday, Friday or Saturday (baseball only) before Memorial Day. This change will give more flexibility to baseball and softball schools during a very busy time in late May which can be utilized beginning with the current spring 2022 season.

Other items of note:

- No changes have been made to the pre-participation physical examination process for 2022-23. All students must have a full pre-participation physical examination completed on or after April 15 for the 2022-23 school year (no change from current regulations).
- A new Wheelchair Track & Field category was added for participants at Regional and Final meets in the 100, 200, 400 and shot put beginning with the 2022 spring season. These additional events would be established using existing MHSAA track & field events and be open to wheelchair track & field athletes at MHSAA member schools with requirements in place for regular season, Regional and Final meets. Connect with Cody Inglis (cody@mhsaa.com) or consult the Track & Field page at MHSAA.com if you have students who would be participants in this new category for this spring.
- Many additional items will be considered by the Council at the spring meeting held on May 1-2. MHSAA staff will communicate quickly with schools following this spring meeting with any additional changes in regulations and policy for the 2022-23 school year.

Here is the link to the full Council meeting minutes from March 25: <https://www.mhsaa.com/Portals/0/documents/AD%20Forms/minutes/rc%20march%202022.pdf>

Here is the link to the media press release on the March 25 Council meeting: <https://www.mhsaa.com/News/Press-Releases/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/9631/Representative-Council-Approves-Expanded-Basketball-Schedules-Multiple-Classification-Changes-at-Winter-Meeting>

Thank you.

Mark Uyl
MHSAA Executive Director
mark@mhsaa.com
Phone: 517-332-5046
MHSAA.com