



michigan high school athletic association

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BULLETIN

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The Only Official Interpretations
Are Those Received In Writing

ON THE COVER

March is the busiest month of the year for MHSAA Finals, as champions are crowned in 13 team sports in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. The action concludes with the Girls Volleyball Finals March 16-18 in Kalamazoo, and the Boys Basketball Finals March 23-25 in East Lansing.

Photos by 20/20 Photographic

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Athletic Director
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Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

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Office of Administrative Law and Federal Relations,
Michigan Dept. of Education
Lansing
Designee

*Term Expires December 2006

**Term Expires December 2007

Any individual who is a representative of a member school (faculty member or Board of Education member) may become a candidate for the MHSAA Representative Council. Please contact the MHSAA Executive Director for an outline of procedures.

MHSAA Staff

Randy Allen, Assistant Director

Tony Bihn, Director of Information Systems

Andy Frushour, Marketing and Special Programs
Coordinator

Jim Ganong, Network Administrator

Mandi Hoover, Administrative Assistant

Nate Hampton, Assistant Director

John R. Johnson, Communications Director

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Thomas L. Minter, Assistant to Executive Director

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Laura Roberts, Receptionist

Sharla Stokes, Administrative Assistant

Mark Uyl, Assistant Director

Jamie VanDerMoere, Administrative Assistant

Faye Verellen, Administrative Assistant

Debbie Waddell, Executive Assistant

Kathy Vrugink Westdorp, Assistant Director

Karen Yonkers, Executive Assistant

Not all the facts presented to the Executive Committee and Representative Council as part of requests to waive eligibility regulations are included in the reports of those meetings, either because of the volume of material reviewed or the confidentiality requested by schools for their students, parents or faculty.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 22, 2006

Members Present:

Paul Ellinger, Cheboygan
Keith Eldred, Williamston
William Newkirk, Meridian
Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven

Staff Members Present:

Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)

Executive Committee Authority and Responsibility - The Executive Committee reviewed its authority under Article VII of the MHSAA Constitution and specifically its responsibility to consider each application for waiver of an eligibility requirement on its individual merits, determining if the regulation serves the purpose for which it was intended in each case or if the regulation works an undue hardship on any student who is the subject of a request for waiver. (These underlying criteria may not be restated for every subject of these minutes.)

The Executive Committee was reminded that it was the responsibility of each member school involved to provide sufficient factual information about the specific request for the Executive Committee to reach a decision without further investigation. If information is incomplete, contradictory or otherwise unclear or has been received too late to be studied completely, the Executive Committee may deny the request for waiver or delay action. Such requests may be resubmitted to the Executive Committee with additional information at a subsequent meeting or appealed to the full Representative Council.

It is possible that some of the information presented as facts to the Executive Committee by school personnel and others may be inaccurate. However, to avoid constant repetition in this report of phrases such as "it was alleged" or "it was reported," no attempt is made in the introduction of each waiver request to distinguish between truth, allegation, hearsay, opinion, summary or conclusion. If any information provided to the Executive Committee is inaccurate, any decision of the Executive Committee to grant waiver of a regulation shall be null and void.

A determination of undue hardship is a matter addressed to the discretion of the Executive Committee within the educational

philosophy and secondary role of voluntary extracurricular competitive athletics in the academic environment. The Executive Committee will avoid making exceptions that would create precedent that effectively changes a rule without Representative Council action or local board of education adoption, which would exceed Executive Committee authority. The Executive Committee is not authorized to grant waiver based on alleged or actual differences between schools based on "environment," demographics, curriculum or extracurricular offerings.

Students for whom waiver of a particular regulation is granted must be eligible in all respects under all sections and interpretations of the regulations prior to their participation.

Adoption of these regulations, as well as policies, procedures and schedules of MHSAA tournaments, is a choice schools make locally when they consider their option of MHSAA membership. Consistent with rulings of the Attorney General and Michigan Supreme Court, schools are not bound by the decisions of the Executive Committee, but the association may limit participation in the postseason tournaments it sponsors to those schools which choose to apply rules and penalties as promulgated by the MHSAA and adopted by each member school's board of education. The MHSAA exercises no independent authority over schools or students.

Wyoming Tri-unity Christian, Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian and Wyoming-The Potter's House Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these three schools whose combined enrollment is 620 students and none of the schools has sponsored football previously. Tri-unity Christian will be the primary school. The team will not

be a member of a league but has received support from future opponents.

Clarkston High School (Regulation I, Section 7) - A request to waive the previous semester record regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who failed to pass the equivalent of 20 credit hours in the first semester of the 2005-06 school year due to medical issues. The student had attended a therapeutic wilderness academy for approximately one month this fall, receiving quarter-based academic credit which Clarkston High School would not accept. The student was granted homebound status and has credit for two courses.

The Executive Committee noted its practice of not granting waiver when schools do not grant academic credit, and the request for waiver was denied.

Clarkston High School (Regulation I, Section 7) - A request to waive the previous semester record regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who suffered mental health issues early in the first semester of the 2005-06 school year. The student was unable to attend school due to his illness. The only two grades he received were incompletes, which he was allowed to make up by Feb. 1 and did. The student continues to be under the treatment of mental health professionals who have released him to return to school this semester.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver.

Ann Arbor-Pioneer High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - A request was made to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Ann Arbor-Father Gabriel Richard High School and participated in soccer. The student enrolled to begin the second semester of the 2005-06 school year, preferring to attend Pioneer High School.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Auburn Hills-Oakland Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who attended Rochester-Adams High School to begin the 2005-06 school year before enrolling at Oakland Christian High School on Jan. 9, 2006.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Baldwin High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st

school day of enrollment was granted by the Executive Committee on Jan. 18, 2006, on behalf of an 18-year-old 12th-grade student who had returned to Baldwin High School and was renting his own residence in the Baldwin School District. In the spring of 2005, the student was forced to leave his home and school in Baldwin due to family breakup, at which time the student moved into Mason County, residing with friends. The student began the 2005-06 school year with immediate eligibility at Scottville-Mason County Central High School through the use of an Educational Transfer Form under exception 12 (18-year-old moving without parent). On Nov. 25, 2005, the student reenrolled at Baldwin High School, living with family and friends in Baldwin until renting his own residence.

The Executive Committee noted that the student previously had the one-time benefit of immediate eligibility under exception 12 as well as the waiver effective with the 91st school day under Section 9(D), and the request for additional waiver was denied.

Bay City-Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - A request was made to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Essexville-Garber High School before enrolling at Bay City-Central to begin the second semester of 2005-06. The student did not participate in sports at Garber and resides in the Bay City School District.

The Executive Committee granted the request for eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year.

Boyerne City High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - A request was made to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Boyne City-Concord Academy Boyne where he did not participate in athletics. The student changed schools at the beginning of the second semester of the 2005-06 school year.

The Executive Committee granted the request for eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year.

Burton-Faith High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) - A request was made to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment on behalf of a 12th-grade student who moved with his family from Florida in the summer of

2005 and enrolled at Swartz Creek High School to begin the 2005-06 school year. After the first quarter, the student transferred to Faith High School on Oct. 24, 2005.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Dearborn Heights-Crestwood High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Royal Oak-Dondero High School while residing with his mother. On Feb. 1, 2006, the student enrolled at Crestwood and is residing with his father in the district. The student's parents never married, but an otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted along with an Order of Filiation from the Oakland County Circuit Court which indicates both parents.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver (one time only between these parents).

Detroit School of Industrial Arts (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who enrolled at DSIA on Oct. 12, 2005. The student had previously attended Trinity Catholic High School, which closed at the end of the 2004-05 school year, and he enrolled at Roseville-Conner Creek Academy East to begin the 2005-06 school year. On Oct. 5, 2005, the student was in an altercation with another student who was expelled. It was subsequently determined that this student should not return to Conner Creek. The student was incorrectly informed that he would be eligible at a new school. The student played in seven basketball games at DSIA (which the school has forfeited) and none since the error was discovered in mid January.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Farmington Hills-Mercy High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment on behalf of a 9th-grade student who moved with her parents from a public high school in New Jersey, enrolling at Mercy on Oct. 17, 2005. Mercy is not the closest nonpublic school to the student's new residence. The student participated in athletics previously.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Mercy High School.

Hillsdale High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-

grade student who attended Waldron High School from January 2004 to October 2005 when the student was court ordered to the Hillsdale County Youth Home, a residential treatment facility, and attended Renaissance High School which is operated by the Hillsdale County ISD. On Jan. 16, 2006, the student returned to live with her parents who already reside in the Hillsdale School District, and she enrolled at Hillsdale High School. The school requested waiver of the language of exception 2 that the change of residence is to a different public school district because the residential treatment facility is also located in the Hillsdale School District but not part of the district.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver.

Lansing-Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended East Lansing High School, enrolling at Catholic Central to begin the second semester of the 2005-06 school year. The student did not participate in an MHSAA tournament sport while at East Lansing High School.

The Executive Committee granted the request for eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year.

Ludington High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Rockford High School before enrolling at Ludington on Jan. 23, 2006. The student is currently residing with his grandfather and step-grandmother upon the recommendation of Kent County Children's Protective Services. Confidential documentation was provided.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver.

Parma-Western High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who enrolled at Western on Jan. 23, 2005, after attendance at Milton High School in Wisconsin. The student's father began a new job in Michigan in April 2005. The father rented a home while a new home was being built which is now near completion in the Western School District. A younger middle school age sister and the student's mother remain in Wisconsin because her employment contract obligates her to continue working until May 2006. An 11th grade brother enrolled at Western in August 2005.

The family has sold their home in Wisconsin and the mother and daughter will be staying with friends, returning to Michigan frequently on weekends.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver.

Port Hope High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of 9th and 11th grade sisters who attended Port Hope Schools since first grade before enrolling at Kinde-North Huron High School on Jan. 23, 2006, to start the second semester of the 2005-06 school year. After attendance for four school days, the students reenrolled at Port Hope High School on Jan. 27, 2006.

Noting the shortness of time away from Port Hope High School, the Executive Committee granted the request for waiver.

Potterville High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Potterville High School until the start of the 2005-06 school year when he enrolled at Charlotte High School. On Jan. 23, 2006, the student reenrolled at Potterville to begin the second semester of the 2005-06 school year. The student has not changed residence or parental custody.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Richmond High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment on behalf of a 9th-grade student who enrolled on Jan. 16, 2006, after attending Marine City-Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School where he participated in athletics.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Southgate Anderson High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment on behalf of an 11th-grade student who had previously attended Southgate Anderson High School before enrolling at Brownstown-Woodhaven High School to begin the 2005-06 school year. On Oct. 10, 2005, the student reenrolled for personal, non-athletic reasons at Southgate Anderson.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day after reenrollment at Southgate Anderson High School.

Traverse City-St. Francis High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation, and specifically Interpretation 60 (closest nonpublic school),

was made on behalf of 10th and 11th grade siblings who attended Traverse City Catholic Schools since elementary school before moving with their parents to Florida where they enrolled in high school to begin the 2005-06 school year and began participating in athletics. The family has returned after one semester to the same home they lived in prior to moving to Florida as their house did not sell. Traverse City Christian is three miles closer to their home than St. Francis.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver.

Union City High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who resides in the Union City School District and attended Union City Schools since the middle of 8th grade before enrolling at Athens High School on Nov. 9, 2005. After eight days of enrollment at Athens, the student reenrolled at Union City where she resides and had previously participated in athletics. The student did not participate in athletics at Athens.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver.

Warren-Cousino High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment on behalf of 9th and 11th grade brothers who previously attended Roseville High School before enrolling at Cousino High School on Nov. 2, 2005. To begin the 2005-06 school year, these two students were attending Roseville High School, living with their mother and father, a 20-year-old sister and a 4th grade sister who continued to attend Lincoln Elementary in the Roseville Schools. On Sept. 1, 2005, the mother moved alone to a residence in Clinton Township while the father remained with the four children in Roseville. On Oct. 31, 2005, the father and two sons (not the 4th grade daughter) moved into the Cousino attendance area and enrolled on Nov. 2. The mother returned to the home in Roseville to reside with the two daughters.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

White Lake-Lakeland High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who previously attended Orchard Lake-St. Mary's Preparatory as a boarding student, enrolling at Lakeland on Jan. 31, 2006. The student is currently classified as homeless and is residing with the family of his former roommate at St. Mary's who has also enrolled at Lakeland.

For financial and discipline related reasons, the student was not allowed to return to St. Mary's. The student will turn 18 years old in April.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver, noting that the student may become eligible after completion of an Educational Transfer Form after the student becomes 18.

Wyandotte-Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who enrolled at Allen Park-Cabrini High School to begin the 2005-06 school year and enrolled at Mt. Carmel High School to begin the second semester of the 2005-06 school year, seeking smaller group classes. The student did not participate in athletics at Cabrini; Mt. Carmel only sponsors a varsity baseball team.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Traverse City West High School (Regulation II, Section 11) – A request was made to waive the out-of-season coaching regulation pursuant to Interpretation 217 on behalf of the girls tennis coach who is seeking employment in the tennis facility at the Grand Traverse Resort in classes open to the public where it is anticipated that he would come in contact with students whose backgrounds are unknown but could be students from the Traverse City Public Schools.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Ellsworth Junior High School (Regulation III, Section 1) – A request was made to waive the enrollment regulation to permit 6th-grade students to participate with and against 7th- and 8th-grade students in junior high track & field for the 2005-06 school year. There are currently 16 8th-grade students (5 females and 11 males) and 13 7th-grade students (7 females and 6 males). There are 20 6th-grade students. The high school enrollment is 86. All teams in the Northern Lakes Conference have received waiver previously for basketball, and Ellsworth has been granted this request in previous years.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver for 6th-grade students in track & field for the 2005-06 school year only.

Petoskey and Petoskey-St. Francis Xavier Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys basketball,

boys and girls alpine skiing and boys and girls cross country to a cooperative agreement that already exists between these member middle schools in boys and girls track & field, football, girls basketball, girls volleyball and wrestling. Petoskey Middle School would be the primary school.

New Member School – Two member schools, Warren-Zoe Christian and Warren-Bethesda Christian High Schools, will be closing and combining to form a new school, Parkway Christian High School, to begin the 2006-07 school year on the site of Bethesda Christian. The school anticipates approximately 200 students. While a new school, the leadership and student body are similar to the existing schools. Whereas newly opened member schools must go through an application and review process and delay tournament participation for one year, Parkway Christian requested that it be allowed to enter tournaments in its first year of operation. The school would forego application of exception 15 of the transfer regulation (immediate eligibility to students in attendance on the first day at a newly established school) so as to be considered a tournament-eligible member school in 2006-07.

The Executive Committee noted the similarity of location, leadership and student body, and made the determination that Parkway Christian High School may participate in MHSAA tournaments in its first year, 2006-07, provided it will not allow immediate eligibility to transfer students under exception 15.

Representative Council – The Executive Committee reviewed a draft of the March 24, 2006 agenda.

Upcoming Meetings – The Executive Committee reviewed a special Executive Committee session on cooperative programs in excess of 3,500 students scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2006.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, at 1:30 p.m., and Thursday, March 23, 8:30 a.m., with the Representative Council Meeting March 24; Tuesday, April 25, at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Finance Committee Meeting; Saturday, May 6, at 6 p.m., at Garland Resort in Lewiston, with the Representative Council Meetings May 7-9; and Tuesday, June 12, at 9 a.m. ■

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 22, 2006

Members Present:

Paul Ellinger, Cheboygan
William Newkirk, Meridian
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
James Derocher, Negaunee

Staff Members Present:

Tom Minter
Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)
Kathy Westdorp

2006-07 BUDGET PREPARATION SCHEDULE:

February 22-Finance Committee proposals (including personnel);

March 24-Representative Council approval;

April 19-Finance Committee proposals (remainder of budget);

May 9-Representative Council approval.

2005-06 Year-To-Date Review – Through Jan. 31, 2006, revenues were approximately \$500,000 ahead of the 2004-05 school year, and total disbursements were nearly \$70,000 lower than the first six months of the previous fiscal year. Favorable weather contributed to fall tournaments netting approximately \$400,000 more in 2005 than in 2004.

Mileage Reimbursements – The Finance Committee advanced to the Representative Council the recommendation that the doubled mileage allowance that was approved by the Council in December for participating teams in MHSAA winter and spring tournaments of 2006 be extended through the fall tournaments of 2006, after which there should be further analysis of the impact of higher travel costs on schools and increased reimbursements on MHSAA finances.

Football Finances – A summary of host financial reports from all sites of the 2005 Football Playoffs was provided to the committee, which discussed areas of concern, including inconsistencies in the amounts being charged from site to site as well as from game to game at the same site. It was the consensus of committee members that before resorting to more onerous requirements of all hosts, as has been recommended by the association's professional auditors, staff should attempt to be more effective in advance communications regarding expecta-

tions and more thorough in reviewing submitted financial reports. When hosts submit expenses that appear to exceed what is typical of regular season games, they should be required to itemize and justify such differences.

Tournament Ticket Prices – The Finance Committee advanced the following recommendations to the Representative Council:

1. Increase the price of the Football Finals ticket at Ford Field \$1 and allow at least participating member schools to retain 50¢ per ticket sold in advance sale, effective in 2006.
2. Increase the price of the Girls and Boys Semifinal and Final Basketball Tournament tickets \$1 in 2006-07, and embed the 75¢ or higher per ticket MSU Breslin Center ticket system charge within the ticket price, rather than have it as an additional charge to customers at the time of sale.

Officials Registration – The Finance Committee advanced to the Representative Council the recommendation that the officials registration fee be increased \$5 for all mail, walk-in and call-in registrations, and that the fee remain at \$20 for online registrations.

Investment Guidelines – Proposed revisions to the MHSAA investment policies first approved in 1987 and revised in 1993 were reviewed. It was determined that the document should be further revised with the suggestions of the Finance Committee and submitted for review by outside counsel and presented to the Representative Council for adoption.

Personnel Considerations – The Finance Committee adopted proposals for the Representative Council's action in March relative to compensation for staff for fiscal year 2006-07. ■

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A HOT TOPIC

About six times a year, MHSAA staff gathers at lunchtime on a voluntary basis to discuss a “Hot Topic.” We have one of those famous sack lunches that people who serve on multiple MHSAA committees have come to “enjoy,” and we listen to a presentation about an aspect of sports and/or life that will be of interest to us professionally or personally. The topics have ranged from performance enhancing drugs to communication differences between genders to identity theft.

One very interesting session had one of our presenters for the Coaches Advancement Program talk about knee injuries in sports, why they are more prevalent among females and how such injuries can be reduced.

Shortly thereafter, we reviewed a series of articles from the Minneapolis Star Tribune titled “Playing in Pain” that declared: “Young athletes caught up in today’s relentless sports culture are paying a physical price.” It used female knee injuries as merely the launching pad for a broader analysis – almost an attack – on what is required to be a young athlete today. Some of the observations include:

- Injuries once seen only in 15- to 18-year-olds now occur much earlier, including in kids as young as 8 or 9. The number of sports injuries in the younger age group has more than quadrupled since 1995 (then 775,000 per year according to the U.S. Consumer Product Commission).
- Club and traveling teams have proliferated, causing seasons to overlap one another. While professional athletes take several months off between seasons, children tend to go year-round, ironically increasing the possibility of injury and actually decreasing their preparedness for sports.
- Most of the injuries stem from doing too much too soon, sometimes causing permanent damage. In Minnesota, one in ten parents cite injury as the reason their child quit a sport.

The *Star Tribune* provided these sidebars:

Preventing Overuse Injuries

The American College of Sports Medicine estimates that 50 percent of overuse injuries in youngsters can be prevented. Although there is no magic remedy, doctors and athletic trainers have these tips:

- Coaches should look for slowing times or subtle changes in mechanics, and take them seriously. The earlier injuries are caught, the more quickly they will heal.
- Coaches and athletes should become more comfortable talking about pain and backing off earlier. “Kids won’t hurt themselves if you leave it up to them,” said Dr. Bill Roberts, an associate professor at the University of Minnesota who has treated hundreds of young athletes. “But if there’s external pressure from parents, coaches and schools, you can override that natural ability to say enough is enough.”
- Coaches should treat kids individually.
- Work on specific skills, rather than the same thing repeatedly.
- Kids should take a month or more off every year to give muscles and bones a break.
- Play a variety of sports. Or cross-train to prevent one area from becoming overworked.
- Limit the nights of practice per week.
- Provide more options to participate in less competitive, mid-level sports.

Online Resources

Here are four Web sites to check out for more information on how youngsters and teens can avoid sports injuries:

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota offers tips for avoiding childhood sports injuries, www.startribune.com/a825

- Childhood Sports Injuries and Their Prevention – A Guide for Parents with Ideas for Kids. National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, www.startribune.com/a826
- Minimizing the Risk of Injury in High School Athletes, www.startribune.com/a827
- National Youth Sports Safety Foundation www.nyssf.org ■

THE RIGHT KIND OF SPIRIT

I speak often about the need to make the most of the ways school sports are different from non-school sports programs and attract the interest and involvement of students and communities. I've mentioned pep bands, pep assemblies, cheerleaders, letter jackets, homecomings and the like. Kept in proper perspective, all of these things and more can draw excitement and loyalty to school sports that non-school programs rarely experience.

Recently I learned of the way the **absence** of a pep assembly did more to promote the core beliefs of educational athletics than most pep assemblies have. It happened last fall.

On the Friday before a huge football game, a school stuck to its guns that school time is for school work and refused pressure to schedule a pep assembly. In defending its decision to the public, school representatives were able to remind constituents that school is a place of education. It was also noted that

this place of education was striving to avoid an environment where athletes are placed on pedestals and the athletic program is exalted over other school programs.

Seizing the teachable moment, the school's football coach reminded players that their game was Saturday, and Friday was opening night for the school play. "How would those in the play feel," he asked, "if there was a football pep rally on their opening night?" And he encouraged them all to attend the play that night and show support for the activities of their classmates.

How great is that! What a perfect perspective for the place of sports in schools.

I'm a great fan of pep assemblies – those that show support for all sports and all levels of teams and involve the entire extracurricular program. But the absence of a pep rally on a day last fall may have gotten the message across better than I ever have. ■

And We Quote –

"When it comes to sports, I don't want to be baited every time I turn on the TV. That's why I'm eager to find the next Sarah Hughes – somebody who will come out of nowhere to reach the medal podium. I suppose that's why curling appeals to me: Those guys look like somebody I'd find on a barstool at my local tavern. And that's why it was satisfying to see 21-year-old Ted Ligety, ego largely in check, upstage Bode Miller and the field to win gold in men's skiing.

"As we gather around for another Olympics, I miss the times when college kids played hockey under the banner of their country and sometimes did the impossible, such as upsetting the Russians and going on to capture the gold.

"I miss how competitors used to return home to their day jobs after the Olympic flame was extinguished.

"I miss how the event once aspired to bring the world closer together rather than be another battle for medal-count supremacy."

*— Tim Wendel
USA Today, 2/16/06*

REVIEWING THE REGULATIONS

OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING RULES: HISTORY AND RATIONALE

(First of a Two-Part Series)

The first rules regarding out-of-season activity in Michigan appear in the 1920s and address summer baseball and the concern that boys not be paid or play on summer baseball teams where others are paid. In other words, like so many of our earliest rules, the concern was for amateurism and for getting the paid players out of school-sponsored sports.

In 1930-31, we find the first limits on out-of-season practice: no football practice could occur between January 1 and Labor Day. Here is the definition of football practice under this section of the rules (this is where we find for the first time the rudiments of language we now refer to as the “3-player” rule; it was applied only to football and applied whether or not the coach was present):

“By football practice is meant any organized or supervised practice on the part of players or on the part of players and coaches or coaches’ representatives during the summer. For instance, a group of three boys following a definitely laid out plan of offensive and defensive line play given them by the coach would be considered as organized for practice. Mapping out by the coach of a definite course of practice to be followed by small groups during the summer would be considered as organized and supervised practice.”

For 1936-37, the prohibited period for football practice was changed **from** Jan. 1 to Labor Day **to** the day after Thanksgiving to Sept. 1. Clearly it was football that was the dominant school sport and the one requiring restrictions so that other school programs could operate without interference from football. In fact, protecting so-called “minor sports” from the more dominating sports is still a solid reason for out-of-season coaching limitations in educational athletics.

In the 1920s and 30s, except for baseball, there weren’t organized sports for high school age students outside of school sponsorship and the school season; and, apparently except for football, there weren’t pressures within school sports to focus on one sport at the expense of others. One can assume that because schools were smaller and sports offerings were fewer, and because students were **playing** multiple sports and faculty members were **coaching** multiple sports, programs cooperated well with one another.

The mostly cooperative, collaborative environment within schools and the almost “only game in town” monopoly status school sports enjoyed in the lives of youth lasted beyond the second World War, beyond the Korean Conflict and into the Vietnam War era. In Michigan, more and more words were being used to control **football** coaches out of season, and other sports received almost no attention.

For additional out-of-season coaching restrictions we have to jump all the way to the 1975-76 school year to find significant new **non-football** related *Handbook* language, specifically the application of a 3-player rule to **all** sports. It reads as follows: “During the school year, a coach may coach a maximum of three individuals at a time except from the beginning day of practice to the end of the season . . .”

Then in 1981-82, the following language appears for the first time (the first special treatment for basketball):

“SECTION 11(H) – School sponsored summer basketball programs are not permitted. Under the term ‘school sponsored summer basketball’ is included, but is not limited to, any of the following items or procedures:

“Use of school transportation or wearing apparel, liability insurance provided by the school, entry forms provided by the school, school pay-

ment of any entry fees (personal or team), payment of any coach's salary or fees, purchase of insurance coverage for a school sponsored program, school approved entry forms, mandatory practices, payment of any fees by the Board of Education."

This is evidence that while football continued to have its own, ever-expanding section outlining dos and don'ts of the off season, out-of-season basketball conflicts were on the rise in the early 80s.

In 1984-85, more new language appears, and it applies to **all** sports:

"SECTION 11(H) – A school sponsored athletic program as it relates to out-of-season competition includes, but is not limited to, any of the following items or procedures:

"Use of school transportation or wearing apparel, liability insurance provided by the school, entry forms provided by the school, school payment of any entry fees (personal or team), payment of any coach's salary or fees, purchase of insurance coverage for a school-sponsored program, school approved entry forms, mandatory practices, payment of any fees by the board of education."

When I did my first tour of Michigan during the 1986-87 school year, there were three topics that dominated the concerns of our school administrators: (1) officiating; (2) cheerleading; and (3) summer basketball . . . there was the widely held opinion that there was far too much school and school coach involvement in summer basketball.

We don't know if those feelings have moderated over the past 20 years, but we are aware that there are now concerns for many sports . . . sports that, unlike football and basketball, started outside schools and came later to schools . . . sports like soccer and ice hockey where it could be argued schools have interfered with non-school programs, rather than the other way around.

Nevertheless, reasons remain for applying out-of-season restrictions to all sports sponsored by schools. Limitations on out-of-

season support by schools and involvement by school coaches tend to . . .

- Reduce sports specialization by students, repetitive stress injuries and burnout.
- Reduce pressures on coaches, and burnout.
- Reduce expenses for schools related to athletics.
- Reduce liability exposure for schools relative to athletics.
- Reduce disparity between "haves" and "have-nots," and increase competitive equity without having to "keep up with the Joneses."
- Increase legitimacy of defined school seasons.
- More fairly distribute school resources (facilities, funds, personnel) across more sports and levels of teams.
- Avoid or de-escalate an "arms race" in school sports.
- Make school sports more family friendly for participants.
- Encourage more family time for coaches and enable more females to prolong coaching careers.
- Facilitate students' academic pursuits, their interests in multiple sports and varied non-athletic activities of schools, and their desires to be involved in community activities and/or hold part-time jobs.

It may be fashionable and appear "progressive" to relax or eliminate out-of-season coaching rules; but before doing so, we who are the stewards of educational athletics should consider the consequences . . . should try to picture interscholastic athletics with year-around programs for each and every sport, each and every coach, and each and every athlete. That's not a pretty picture, but a view of a fractured program where programs and participants are isolated from others and the educational mission of schools.

We are doing a little bit in Michigan to resist the "anything goes" trend, which will be discussed in the second part of this series in the April *Bulletin*. ■

HEALTH AND SAFETY

FAST FOOD FOR FUEL

When was the last time you had a "cool blue" beverage, a packet of "Gu" or a "Prozone" bar for lunch or a snack? For most people, this sounds like a meal prepared by Spock in a science fiction movie. However, to fitness enthusiasts and athletes, sports drinks, bars and gels have become popular as "fast food" to help increase performance.

SPORTS DRINKS

Sports drinks are formulated to help prevent dehydration and provide carbohydrate to sustain energy levels during activities lasting longer than an hour. For shorter activities, water is the preferred beverage. When selecting a sports beverage, choose a brand that provides 50 to 80 calories per eight ounces of fluid, such as Gatorade®, Powerade® or All-sport®.

SPORTS BARS

Sports bars provide a quick, easy snack when food is scarce, but are not intended to serve as a meal replacement. High-carbohydrate bars are appropriate for endurance training. High-calorie bars are useful for gaining weight. High-protein/moderate-fat bars keep an appetite suppressed longer and are suitable for in-between meals. A plain bagel or a bagel with peanut butter and jelly can be equally convenient as sports bars, with similar nutrition and for a lower price.

SPORTS GELS

These thick carbohydrate pastes are considered another "fast fuel." With approximately 100 calories and 25 grams of carbohydrate per pack, sports gels are very similar to two to three tablespoons of jelly. Gels are useful during endurance events lasting longer than 90 minutes, do not need to be chewed, and are formulated for easy digestibility. Be sure to drink plenty of fluid (8-16 oz) when consuming sports gels.

For individuals who are trying to lose weight, do not forget that sports drinks, bars and gels can increase daily caloric intake. Also, remember that nothing can take the place of a balanced diet, appropriate training and adequate rest to increase athletic performance.

For additional information, please contact NIFS at 317-274-3432 or visit its Web site at www.nifs.org

— Heather Hedrick

Assistant Director
Center for Educational Services
National Institute for Fitness and Sport

And We Quote –

“I’ve learned the specialization is not necessarily a good thing. Because of the fact that most high school athletes will not advance to the college or professional ranks, many of those students that specialize in a single sport will lose out on the opportunity to participate in multiple high school sports. Also, most high schools must rely on the multiple-sport athlete if the school is to be well rounded and successful in their overall sports programming.”

— Dr. Jim Tenopir, Executive Director
Nebraska School Activities Association

FAILURE TO RATE OFFICIALS

Member schools of the Michigan High School Athletic Association have agreed through Regulation II, Section 7(B) to rate officials in several of the sports for which the MHSAA conducts a postseason tournament and to be subject to penalties when a school fails to rate any officials in a sport that requires it.

Recent surveys indicate schools value the opportunity to rate officials and do not want that opportunity eliminated.

Most officials would prefer an evaluation process over ratings by participating schools; but under our current system, officials need schools to rate them so they can amass the number of ratings necessary to be considered for advancement and tournament assignments.

On March 23, 2001, the MHSAA Representative Council adopted the policy of publishing in the *MHSAA Bulletin* the names of schools which fail to rate any officials in a sport and to do so as soon as possible following the season.

For the fall season of 2005-06, the following schools have failed to rate any officials:

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lansing Sexton
Roseville Conner Creek Academy East
Royal Oak Kimball

FOOTBALL

None

BOYS SOCCER

Lansing Sexton

MHSAA Staff Profile

TOM MINTER HANDLES DIVERSE DUTIES

(Note: This is the fourth in a series of MHSAA staff profiles)

The first years of Tom Minter's decade of service on the MHSAA staff were largely consumed by the purchase of land, development of a five-unit office park, and the planning and construction of the MHSAA building. His 18 years as Meridian Township Treasurer, and five years as Deputy Drain Commissioner for Ingham County prior to that, helped the MHSAA through many technicalities of this difficult project. "Every goal we set in terms of quality, costs and timeliness was achieved," according to MHSAA Executive Director John E. (Jack) Roberts; "and this would not have occurred without Tom's knowledge and effort."



However, it is Tom's avocation as an MHSAA registered official for 40 years that provides his passion for the MHSAA's work. Prior to his hire in September of 1995, Tom had worked MHSAA finals in baseball, football, boys soccer and girls soccer, and was also recognized as an accomplished basketball official. All this hands-on experience has helped to make Tom well received by both officials and coaches as he has conducted rules meetings across the state in these sports and, more recently, as he has administered the MHSAA Soccer Tournament series.

"Tom continues to focus on details of the association's business and administration," says Roberts, "but he also gives us depth and security in serving a half-dozen sports. It's an unusual but necessary blend of duties that allows the MHSAA to serve schools unusually well."

Tom and his wife have two adult daughters.

WINTER RATINGS DUE MARCH 24, 2006

Officials ratings for varsity or subvarsity boys basketball, girls volleyball, wrestling and ice hockey are due by March 24, 2006. Ratings received after this date will not be processed.

Athletic directors are reminded that only one rating should be submitted for each official regardless of the number of times the official

works contests for one school. Each official may receive a varsity and a subvarsity rating from one school for working more than one level of competition.

Beginning with the 2005-06 school year, all ratings must be done online at mhsaa.com. Following are instructions:

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING ONLINE RATINGS

We are pleased to offer online ratings availability to our member high schools and junior high/middle schools. Athletic directors can now log on to password-protected sections of our Web site to submit officials ratings. Additionally, athletic directors have the option to assign passwords to their coaches to rate officials.

TO ACCESS THE ONLINE RATINGS SYSTEM:

1. Click on the *School Login* link in the lower left-hand side of the mhsaa.com home page
2. Enter your school ID and password to access the "MHSAA School Services" Web page.
3. Click the red *Enter Officials Ratings* link in the middle of the page. To learn how to enter ratings, click the Help link in the upper right-hand section of the "MHSAA Officials Ratings Center" Web page to access up to date instructions.

Athletic directors have the option to provide their coaches the ability to add officials ratings. Once logged on to the "MHSAA School Services" Web Page:

1. Click the *Update Your Coaches' Information* link.
2. Click the corresponding *Edit* link found in the right-hand column of the table row containing the sport you wish to select.
3. Check the box to allow the coach in the rated sport to enter ratings online.
4. Enter a password for the coach.
5. Re-enter the same password (to verify).
6. Notify your coach of her/his access. Coaches should use the two or three character sports code + the school ID for a login ID. For example, Brighton High School's Girls Basketball Coach would use GBB1016 for a login ID (GBB for girls basketball and 1016 for Brighton's school ID). For Baseball, BA1016 would be the login ID. The password assigned by the athletic director should then be used. Below is a list of prefixes for your school's sport codes.

Baseball-BA	Boys Basketball-BBB
Boys Lacrosse-BL	Boys Soccer-BSO
Football-FB	Girls Basketball-GBB
Girls Lacrosse-GL	Girls Soccer-GSO
Ice Hockey-IH	Softball-SB
Volleyball-VB	Wrestling-WR

Login instructions for coaches can be downloaded from the "MHSAA Officials Ratings Center" Web page. Coaches cannot approve online ratings. That responsibility remains with the athletic director. Once the ratings are entered by the coach, she/he can click on a link to notify the A.D. that they have submitted ratings for approval. **Important: A valid e-mail address for the athletic director is necessary for online ratings.**

DON'T MISS THE 27th ANNUAL OFFICIALS AWARDS & ALUMNI BANQUET

April 29, 2006

The Michigan High School Athletic Association is proud to announce the 27th Annual Officials' Awards and Alumni Banquet to be held on Saturday, April 29, 2006. The Banquet will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, corner of I-496 and Creyts Road, Lansing, beginning at 7 p.m.

For our 27th Annual Celebration, a multimedia show is being produced for the banquet, taking a look back at what was happening in 1966, 1976 and 1986, the years our honorees stepped into the officiating ranks. To assist us in the production of this show, we are asking that officials being honored share images from their early days in officiating. If you have a good picture of someone being honored that you would like to have included in the show, please contact Faye Verellen, Administrative Assistant at 517-332-5046.

As part of the program, individualized plaques will be awarded to those officials with twenty (20) years of service, thirty (30) years of service and forty (40) years or more service with the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The "Vern Norris" award will be presented to one official in recognition of contributions made to officiating. The Banquet will give those officials who were awarded plaques previously, a chance to renew acquaintances as "alumni."

Those who plan to attend should complete the form below and return it with a check or money order in the amount of \$15 per ticket to the MHSAA no later than April 7, 2006. Ticket orders will be filled on a first-come basis, however, priority will be given to those officials receiving awards. Officials, friends and relatives are also encouraged to attend. **Tickets will not be sold at the door.**

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(Please detach and return to the MHSAA office before April 7, 2006)

OFFICIALS' AWARDS AND ALUMNI BANQUET

Saturday, April 29, 2006

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____
(Last) (First) (Initial)

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Number of tickets ordered _____ @ \$15 — Total: \$ _____

Number of tables ordered _____ @ \$15 — Total: \$ _____

Please return before April 7, 2006, and make check payable to the Michigan High School Athletic Association, 1661 Ramblewood, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

TICKET MONEY CANNOT BE REFUNDED

McSHANNOCK, PRUCKA NAMED 2006 FORSYTHE AWARD WINNERS

Dan McShannock, athletic director at Midland Dow High School, and Dail Prucka, who recently retired after 39 years of service at Monroe Jefferson High School, are the recipients of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Charles E. Forsythe Award for 2006.

This annual award is in its 29th year of existence and is named after former MHSAA Executive Director Charles E. Forsythe, the Association's first full time and longest-serving chief executive. One or two recipients are selected each year by the MHSAA Representative Council, based on an individual's outstanding contribution to the interscholastic athletics community. McShannock and Prucka will be presented the award on March 25 at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing at halftime of the Boys Basketball Class A Final.

McShannock's selection for the award is unique in the respect that his father, former Muskegon High School coach and athletic administrator Thomas McShannock, won the award in 1992. It's the first time two members of the same family been named to receive the Forsythe Award. McShannock also was named a recipient of the MHSAA's Allen W. Bush Award in 2000. McShannock becomes the ninth Bush Award recipient to be later named a Forsythe Award winner.

Saginaw Arthur Hill was McShannock's first assignment, where he served for 19 years as a teacher, a coach in three sports, and an athletic administrator. As a varsity assistant football coach, he worked with a 1973 Arthur Hill team that finished the season 9-0, and was the last Michigan grid squad to finish its season unbeaten, untied and unscored upon. He also served as the head coach in girls track and field, and wrestling. His last nine years at Arthur Hill were spent as athletic director.

The past 14 years, McShannock has served as athletic director at Midland Dow, directing a 21-sport program. During his time as an athletic administrator, McShannock has also played host to over 70 MHSAA tournament events.

McShannock has been prominent in high school athletic administration on the statewide and national scene. As a member of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, he has served as that organization's president; chaired and served on numerous committees; and was named the organization's Athletic Director of the Year in 2001. He also publishes the MIAAA's quarterly newsletter. McShannock also served the Michigan High School Coaches Association as its executive secretary and Hall of Fame chairman; and was president of that organization for two years. Nationally, he has served as President of the National Federation Coaches Association; and was a finalist one year for the National Athletic Director of the Year Award.

In the community, McShannock is a Red Cross volunteer, a member of several committees with the Saginaw YMCA, and has previously served as a trustee of the WBA Ruster Foundation. A 1968 graduate of Muskegon High School, where he was an All-State football player, he went on to Western Michigan University and won three varsity letters in football before graduating with a health, physical education and recreation degree in 1972. He earned his Master's in secondary education administration from Michigan State University in 1975.

Prucka recently retired after exclusively serving the Jefferson School District in a career spanning 39 years as a teacher, coach and athletic administrator. His coaching experience ranged from the middle school to the high school, working with teams in football and girls track and field. He was honored by the Huron League as its Assistant Football Coach of the Year in 1989, and its Girls Track and Field Coach of the Year in 1994. He was inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 2003.



McShannock



Prucka

He served as athletic director from 1967 to 1977, and then from 1994 until his retirement. As an athletic administrator, Prucka was instrumental in launching girls athletic programs at Jefferson , growing the overall program to 22 sports. He led a fund-raising drive to have new lighting installed at the school's football field, which were dedicated in his name. He also operated the school district's recreation center. He also was active as an MHSAA tournament host manager and committee member; served the MIAAA on its Membership Services and Publications Committees; and served in nearly every elected position with the Huron League. His professional organization memberships also include the National Federation Interscholastic Coaches Association, the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association, and the Michigan High School Coaches Association.

Prucka's community outreach is substantial. He has taught adult education classes, served as a volunteer repairing a local Girls Scout camp facility, served three terms on the Jefferson Education Association, has been a township board of trustee, an elder at the Session Presbyterian Church, and a member of the Monroe Community Players.

A 1961 graduate of Carleton Airport High School , Prucka received his Bachelor's Degree from Alma College in 1966, and his Master's Degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1984.

"In Dan McShannock and Dail Prucka, you have two men who have served educational athletics well," said John E. "Jack" Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. "Both are held in high regard in the communities in which they have worked, and among their peers. To have a second-generation winner of this Association's highest honor speaks to the excellent role model Dan McShannock had growing up with his father as a coach and administrator; and Dail Prucka, in his extraordinary outreach in many directions in the Monroe area, has mentored many who have progressed from being his students to being his contemporaries in an educational setting. Both are excellent choices for the Forsythe Award."

Past recipients of the Charles E. Forsythe Award are:

- 1978 - Brick Fowler, Port Huron; Paul Smarks, Warren
- 1979 - Earl Messner, Reed City; Howard Beatty, Saginaw
- 1980 - Max Carey, Freesoil
- 1981 - Steven Sluka, Grand Haven; Samuel Madden, Detroit
- 1982 - Ernest Buckholz, Mt. Clemens; T. Arthur Treloar, Petoskey
- 1983 - Leroy Dues, Detroit; Richard Maher, Sturgis
- 1984 - William Hart, Marquette; Donald Stamats, Caro
- 1985 - John Cotton, Farmington; Robert James, Warren
- 1986 - William Robinson, Detroit; Irving Soderland, Norway
- 1987 - Jack Streidl, Plainwell; Wayne Hellenga, Decatur
- 1988 - Jack Johnson, Dearborn; Alan Williams, North Adams
- 1989 - Walter Bazylewicz, Berkley; Dennis Kiley, Jackson
- 1990 - Webster Morrison, Pickford; Herbert Quade, Benton Harbor
- 1991 - Clifford Buckmaster, Petoskey; Donald Domke, Northville
- 1992 - William Maskill, Kalamazoo; Thomas G. McShannock, Muskegon
- 1993 - Roy A. Allen Jr., Detroit; John Duncan, Cedarville
- 1994 - Kermit Ambrose, Royal Oak
- 1995 - Bob Perry, Lowell
- 1996 - Charles H. Jones, Royal Oak
- 1997 - Michael A. Foster, Richland; Robert G. Grimes, Battle Creek
- 1998 - Lofton C. Greene, River Rouge; Joseph J. Today, Essexville
- 1999 - Bernie Larson, Battle Creek
- 2000 - Blake Hagman, Kalamazoo; Jerry Cvengros, Escanaba
- 2001 - Norm Johnson, Bangor; George Lovich, Canton
- 2002 - John Fundukian, Novi
- 2003 - Ken Semelsberger, Port Huron
- 2004 - Marco Marcet, Frankenmuth
- 2005 - Jim Feldkamp, Troy ■

BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 17, 2006

Members Present:

Mel Atkins, Grand Rapids
Fred Bowers, Waldron
Eve Claar, Ann Arbor
Teresa Cole, Mio
Tim Croel, Frankenmuth
Ken Dietz, Hartford
Larry Edlund, Portage
Lafayette Evans, Detroit
Keith Froelich, Okemos
Leroy Hackley, Jenison
Joe Haines, Grand Rapids
Elbert Hicks, Flint
Fred Jones, Battle Creek
Don Knight, Otsego
Karen Leinaar, Benzonia
Bruce Mann, Webberville
Dan McShannock, Midland
Glen Metcalf, Muskegon Heights
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Jim Okler, Grosse Ile
Sean Richmond, Flint
Rich Schrottenboer, Grand Rapids

Tarlton Small, Pontiac
Brett Steele, Redford
Marc Throop, Richland
Mario Villarreal, Lansing
Mike Vondette, Hemlock
Dave Wheeler, Watervliet
Christian Wilson, Gaylord
Robert Wright, Sand Creek

Members Absent:

Kevin Akin, Alma
Kevin Heerenden, Jackson
Norm Randall, Lansing
Matt Stapleton, Frankfort
Marshall Thomas, Saginaw

Staff Members Present:

Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton (Recorder)
Tom Minter
Mark Uyl
Jamie VanDerMoere
Faye Verellen

The Committee was presented with the entire list of approved officials in Boys Basketball who had completed availability forms at the MHSAA rules meetings in the fall. Assignments were made for the tournament on the basis of recommendations and availability of the officials.

RATINGS

Minimal ratings required included 2.1 for Final officials; 2.5 for Semifinal and Quarterfinal officials; 2.7 for Regional and District officials. Officials recommended by two or more leagues/conferences and/or officials associations were qualified to the next rating level.

TOURNAMENT INVITATIONS

All officials selected at each tournament level were sent "Tournament Invitation" forms from the MHSAA. At Regional Tournaments, officials work one date/game of the tournament.

OFFICIALS AVAILABILITY

Eight hundred sixty seven (867) officials indicated their availability for Lower Peninsula Tournament assignments. Of this number, 750 were assigned to the 2005-2006 Districts. Regional assignments for officials totaled 288. Forty eight (48) officials were selected to work the Quarterfinal games; twenty-four (24) officials were selected to work the Semifinal contests and 12 in the Championship Games. ■

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 20, 2006

Members Present:

John Amend, Fairgrove (MIAAA)
Steve Babbit, Blissfield
Sue Barthold, Kentwood
Vic Bechard, Trenton
Mike Brya, DeWitt
Joe Chowaniec, Frankenmuth
Jim Conway, Mt. Pleasant
Jeff Cook, St. Clair (MASSP)
Tony DeMare, Dearborn
Kurt Hofmeister, Saginaw
Cody Inglis, Suttons Bay
Tim Kluka, Allen Park
Dennis Kreiner, Alma
Rob Milton, Durand
Gary Murphy, Lake Odessa
Mark Rasmussen, Grand Rapids
Cheri Ritz, Wayland
Gerrard Taylor, Detroit

Wayne Turmell, Bad Axe
Dick VanderKamp, Grand Rapids
Wayne Welton, Chelsea
Tom Willette, Canton
Jeff Yorke, Millington
Audra Van Brandt, Temperance
Wayne Walton, Chelsea

Members Absent:

Gary Boyce, Grand Ledge
Larry Boyer, Battle Creek
Denny Fulk, Laingsburg
Scott Huckaby, Hudsonville
Tim O'Rourke, Midland

Staff Members Present:

Randy Allen
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2005-06 MHSAA Baseball/Softball Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics involving the MHSAA tournament series in baseball/softball.

REVIEW OF 2005 REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

A review of the 2005 Representative Council action was presented, which included adoption of the use of four-umpire crews in all Baseball tournament games at the Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final levels of play. The proposals dealing with rain-shortened tournament games, spring practice start date adjustments, and variations of the three-player rule were rejected.

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

The committee reviewed a variety of tournament procedures which included field markings, late arrival / withdrawal policies, Quarterfinal game times, team cooler and concession issues, District umpiring hiring procedures and District draw procedures. The committee also discussed the Tournament Managers materials and Participating School Tournament Information. Suggestions were also given on Final umpire rotation issues.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Softball Semifinal and Final Practice

Schedules: The committee received information regarding the current practice schedule for teams in Battle Creek. The committee agreed that the current schedule should be adjusted because ample practice space is available and teams would share the area, thus eliminating the need for teams to arrive 1-2 hours before game time.

Baseball Semifinal Schedule:

Currently, the Baseball Semifinal games are played in sessions with three games being played at 10:30 am and 5:30 pm. Two games are played at 2 pm. The committee reviewed a proposal which would have the first Semifinal Baseball game starting at 10 a.m., and subsequent Semifinal games would start each hour on the hour based on field rotation. This proposed schedule would make the Semifinals more spectator-friendly with baseball going on all day. In addition, parking and traffic patterns would be improved, along with less stress on field maintenance crews. A specific plan to address field schedules and rain situations was also discussed.

Semifinal and Final Hotel Policies:

Policies and procedures for housing accommodations in Battle Creek were reviewed and discussed. Suggestions were given how to

make Finals housing procedures more efficient for teams in light of varying game times and teams going home after Semifinal defeats.

Regional Dates: A lengthy discussion was held regarding the schedule of the Regional tournament. The Regional is currently held on the second Saturday after Memorial Day, which has created issues when inclement weather forces the Regional to the following Monday and the Quarterfinal the next day. In addition, the Regional currently falls on an ACT national testing date.

Rain Shortened Tournament Games: The committee recognized the need to address the situation of the rain shortened tournament game. Committee members believe that if a game is called prior to completion of any full inning, after the fifth inning, the game should become a suspended game if the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead and the home team has not retaken the lead. Additional emphasis was also added that umpires should only start an inning of play in which he or she has confidence in playing to completion.

3-Player Rule: MHSAA Associate Director Tom Rashid provided an update on a variety of discussions involving out-of-season coaching restrictions. Committee members asked numerous questions on out-of-season regulations, and provided additional input.

National Federation Rule Changes: A brief summary of NFHS Rule changes was provided, which included softball faceguards and head coaches being required to attend the pregame meeting in both baseball and softball.

Additional Items: An update was given on the Site Selection Committee, as well as renewal of the ball adoption contracts with Rawlings (Baseball) and Wilson (Softball). Committee member concerns included tournament classification issues, equal emphasis

given to both sports by tournament host sites, travel restrictions, and out of season coaching controls.

REGIONAL AND SEMIFINAL DRAWS

At the Regional tournament, the pairings were drawn as Highest District # vs. 2nd Highest District # and Lowest District # vs. 2nd Lowest District #. Semifinal pairings were drawn as follows:

Division 1

QF #4 vs. QF #2

QF #3 vs. QF #1

Division 2

QF #5 vs. QF #8

QF #7 vs. QF #6

Division 3

QF #12 vs. QF #10

QF #9 vs. QF #11

Division 4

QF #14 vs. QF #16

QF #13 vs. QF #15

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Adopt the proposed Baseball Semifinal schedule that would start Semifinal game 1 at 10 a.m. with each subsequent game starting at 11a.m., Noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. (24-0).
2. Adopt the rain shortened game tournament procedure that if a game is called prior to completion of any full inning, after the fifth inning, the game should become a suspended game if the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead and the home team has not retaken the lead (24-0).
3. Schedule the Regional tournament for the second Thursday following Memorial Day, with Friday and Saturday to be used for weather make-up days (24-0). ■

REGISTER ALL NONFACULTY COACHES BEFORE THEY ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES

The *MHSAA Handbook* requires that any coach who is not an administrator or a member of the regular teaching staff of the school district must be registered by the school with the MHSAA. The requirement pertains to all nonfaculty coaches, full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer.

The regulation states, "The person responsible for the immediate training or coaching of a secondary school athletic team SHOULD be a member of the regular teaching staff of the school district. If a non-faculty member is used (paid or volunteer), that person must be registered by the school with the MHSAA on a form provided for that purpose BEFORE assuming any coaching duties. A non-faculty member coach must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and not a current high school student.

"NOTE: The Representative Council URGES that all schools strive to the standard that only qualified faculty members are used as head coaches of interscholastic athletic teams, and that all non-faculty coaches complete the MHSAA's Coaches Advancement Program (CAP) or equivalent program. It should be the goal of every member school to require coaching education for every coach, every year."

There are two ways to fulfill the registration requirement:

1. The easiest way to register nonfaculty varsity head coaches is online at mhsaa.com, as you provide School Directory information. Click on "School Login" on the left-hand nav bar.
2. Forms for registering other nonfaculty coaches may be requested from the MHSAA or may be found on pages 112-113 of the *MHSAA Handbook* for 2005-06. You may copy and enlarge as necessary. The forms – one for high school, the other for the junior high/middle school level – may also be downloaded from the MHSAA Web site at mhsaa.com. Forms may be submitted throughout the school year as nonfaculty coaches are assigned. Many schools submit forms just prior to each season: fall, winter and spring. ■

And We Quote –

"Please don't assume that I'm against specialization or camps or clinics or individual coaching. I'm not. For some kids, that's great. But, as educators, I don't believe our efforts are geared toward some kids. Our programs are intended to support all kids who want to play for their high school learns; who live in and play for their own community; and who want to give their best, regardless of their skill level, to be a part of their school team.

Specialization may work for some people, but multiple experiences through athletics and fine arts will benefit every participant. Help your athletes know the odds of playing sports in college or at the professional level. Teach them to be realistic about their skill level and their potential to truly beat the odds. And, most of all, let them know that academics must come first."

*— David Stead, Executive Director
Minnesota State High School League*

WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 25, 2006

Members Present:

Kevin Akin, Alma
Larry Boyer, Battle Creek
Dan Chrenko, Trenton (MASSP)
Marti Covert, Byron (MWA)
Sam Davis, Lansing
Joe Droski, Sparta
Denny Fulk, Laingsburg
Mike Garvey, Delton (MIAAAA)
Mike Goggins, Hastings
Joe Guyski, Durand
Mark Hagg, Michigan Center
Tim Jones, Leroy
Al Kastl, Clinton Township
Rudy Kocsis, Cheasaning
Russ Mackenzie, Madison Heights

Rob Madigan, Norway
Randy Nesbit, Hart
Russ Pericolosi, Iron Mountain
Jeff Pitman, Mason
Jack Richardson, Grandville
Murray Rose, Allegan
Mychal Thom, Pontiac
Pat Threet, Warren
Frank Vilardi, Southgate

Member Absent:

Jerry LaJoie, Gaylord

Staff Members Present:

Randy Allen
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2005-2006 MHSAA Wrestling Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics involving wrestling issues and the tournament series.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of 2005 Representative Council

Action: The committee discussed the positive changes, and subsequent implementation, of the following: elimination of the "second wrestler" requirements for the Individual District tournament, allowance of an appealing wrestler's descent plan upon the Alpha assessment, new procedures for skin-fold assessor recertification, use of the NFHS team tiebreaker and procedures for the annual, online nutritional exam.

National Federation Topics: A brief update was provided on the NFHS requirement that all states have a weight monitoring program by 2006-07. Michigan has been contacted by many states that are adding a weight monitoring program, and many of Michigan's procedures are being used as a model in many other states.

Nutrition Education Program: Jim Fast, Eaton Rapids athletic trainer and nutritional liaison to the MHSAA, provided an update on the current nutrition education program. Discussion centered on ways to improve the online test for 2006-07 in terms

of format and feedback of results to member schools.

Weight Monitoring Program:

Members of the committee reviewed data on hydrostatic appeals, descent plans and the NWCA online weight monitoring program.

Risk Management: Discussion took place regarding the allowance of home weigh-in, which is a significant playing rule modification from the NFHS Wrestling Rule book. The committee was unanimous in its support of the current home weigh-in procedures, and provided much rationale and basis for continuing to use this rule deviation.

Upper Peninsula Wrestling: The two committee members from the Upper Peninsula provided an update on the discussions of UP schools in the future participation in the Individual tournament series. While the ultimate recommendation for any change would come from the UP Athletic Committee and be based on the role of UP school administrators, the members of the wrestling committee gave unanimous support to allow UP wrestlers to be included in the LP Individual tournament series.

Scheduling Issues: The committee discussed concerns regarding the current length of the wrestling season, and the entire winter sports season as a whole. Many members of the committee believe the current season is

too long, and the start of practice should be pushed back while keeping the current, season-ending tournament dates. In addition, the committee discussed the current limitations on no more than 3 days of competition in one week and no more than 5 days of competition in a two week period.

Team Tournament Seeding Proposal:

The committee discussed a proposal to seed identified teams in the Team Wrestling tournament series. The plan has been discussed by the membership of the MWA, and closely follows the seeding format currently used in Lacrosse. The plan calls for each division to be divided into four quarters, with each quarter having approximately 32 schools. In each quarter, the top eight teams would be identified based on criteria, and those eight schools would be the seeded teams, and would be placed in eight separate Districts with limited geographic consideration. The remaining schools would then be placed in those Districts based on geography.

Additional Items: The committee discussed current MHSAA tournament procedures, reviewed data on the selection of MHSAA wrestling tournament officials, and concerns on when the growth allowance is given to wrestlers.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Establish the Monday following Thanksgiving as the first allowed day for all winter sports practice, keeping the current, season-ending tournament dates (21-1).
2. To offer more flexibility for scheduling the 16 days of wrestling competition within a shorter season, modify Regulation II, Section 10 to allow no more than three days of competition for teams and individuals in any week, Monday through Sunday. The current limitation of no more than five days of competition for teams and individuals in a 14-day period, Monday through Sunday, would be eliminated (21-1).
3. Implement the proposal for seeding identified teams in the Team Wrestling tournament series. The proposal would break the schools in each division into four quarters of approximately 32 schools; within each group of 32, the top eight teams would be seeded and placed in eight different Districts. All other schools would be assigned to one of these eight District tournaments based on geography (19-2). ■

2005-06 Scholar-Athlete Award Essay Excerpts

The following are excerpts from essays submitted by the 2005-06 Scholar-Athlete Award Winners. This year's class will be honored during the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals on March 25 in East Lansing.



- ***“Sports are a privilege and sportsmanship is the simple act of acknowledging this.” – Callie Youngman, Cadillac***
- ***“Teaching sportsmanship is more than teaching athletes how to act in a high school game. Teaching sportsmanship is teaching athletes how to act in the game of life.” – Megan Hooper, Traverse City St. Francis***
- ***“The true measure of a winner is how you play and what you learn. It’s how you win, how you lose, and how you respond to the situation. High school athletics taught me valuable lessons in the “how-to” category.” – Nathan Gonzalez, Springport***

BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 26, 2005

Members Present:

Greg Brynaert, Romeo
Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids
Bob Dowd, Troy (MIAAA)
Larry Edlund, Portage
Aaron Frank, Birmingham
Shawn Grady, Okemos
John Kenney, Beverly Hills (BLCA)
Rich Kimball, Jackson
Ed Maloney, Ann Arbor
Roger Pattee, Detroit

Rick Seagar, Bronson (MASSP)
Mark Woodson, Romulus

Members Absent:

Mike Jolly, Warren
Tom Mecsey, Bloomfield Hills
Jack Provencal, Grand Haven

Staff Members:

Tom Rashid (Recorder)
Kathy Vrugink Westdorp

The dual responsibilities of the committee as a traditional sports committee and a tournament committee (officials, regional seeding and alignments) were reviewed as well as the process of recommendations to MHSAA Staff and the Representative Council.

THREE-YEAR EXPERIMENTATION RUNS THROUGH 2006-07

The minutes of the two meetings held in the 2004-05 school year were presented. The three year experimentation allowed by the Representative Council for a Tier II tournament and tournament seeding expires after the 2006-07 school year. Several new lacrosse cooperative programs, which may exceed the 3500 student cap for three years as permitted in Regulation. I, Section 1 (F), must be dissolved and will hopefully form into teams under 3500 students at the end of the 2006-07 school year if not sooner.

RECAP OF 2005 TOURNAMENT

A recap of the first year of the 2004-05 lacrosse tournament included trophy problems and solutions, lightning delays at Semifinal and Final rounds and strong Finals attendance. Two concerns reached MHSAA Staff with respect to seeding and Regional alignments. One school expressed concern about playing a Regional and Semifinal at the home field of the host site. The Boys Lacrosse Limitations on Competition from the *MHSAA Handbook* were reviewed with no recommendations for change.

BOYS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION

The BLCA has met twice in the MHSAA Offices. A coach's clinic was held on Saturday, November 19, 2005 at Country Day Middle School with 75 coaches in attendance. Next year's clinic is scheduled for Saturday, November 18, 2006.

RULES MEETINGS AND 2005-06 PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION (PSTI)

The schedule, format and suggestions for content of upcoming MHSAA rules meetings were discussed. A draft of the PSTI was presented and some clarifications were provided by the committee. Members were asked to review and contact staff soon with adjustments or suggestions for content.

OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING CLARIFICATION

Boys lacrosse previously existed in member schools without MHSAA tournament sponsorship. A great deal of non-school and indoor lacrosse activity occurs out of season. Abuses of open gym privileges have surfaced concerns that some teams are practicing year round except for the school coach providing coaching. Considerable discussion centered on banning the playing of lacrosse at open gyms. A motion was approved that the open gym *Handbook* regulation be changed to state the following: Diversity of activity - a variety of activities must be offered **and actually taking place** for an open gym to be in compliance.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LACROSSE

After discussion, a motion was approved that the MHSAA staff explore the possibilities of MHSAA limitations on competition, contest maximums, and season lengths for junior high/middle school boys lacrosse to be effective with the 2007-08 school year. The committee also requested that the staff mail to high schools sponsoring lacrosse and discuss at rules meetings the roles of schools and administrators in maintaining a proper scope and perspective of middle school age lacrosse, which in some communities are out of perspective.

OFFICIALS

Sixty-three people have taken the MHSAA Lacrosse Officials Training Program this school year. The requirements for officials to work the tournament include MHSAA registration, rules meeting attendance, three hours of MHSAA approved annual training and an MHSAA approved test. The procedures for assignments of tournament officials will involve first round at home site being assigned from the approved list by the home team. The MHSAA Staff will assign officials with committee input in May to Regional Semifinal and Finals and MHSAA Semifinal and Final games. A list of registered officials (117 to date) was provided. A report on the 2005 official ratings was given that revealed that many ratings were not submitted by coaches. Officials must sign scorebooks with ID numbers and coaches must rate every official who works their schedule.

2005-06 TOURNAMENT PLANNING

On Dec. 2, 2005, the Representative Council changed 2005-06 Tournament dates as follows:

1st Round Regionals: May 24-26
Regional Semifinals: May 30 and 31
Regional Final: June 2 or 3
Semifinals: Wednesday, June 7
Finals: Saturday, June 10

The classification of 65 teams into Division 1 (29) and Division 2 (36) was presented. There are currently 15 cooperative teams resulting in a total of 83 schools involved in Boys Lacrosse. There have been no teams indicating they wish to be involved in a Tier II tournament. Four new high school teams were added in 2005-06.

The criteria to seed and place teams in regional alignments were reviewed which are the same process and criteria used in 2005. The committee adopted the same approach for 2006 (modified seeding with geographic considerations). An advance recommendation from four committee members seeding 8 teams and placing all others into four regions per division was provided the committee as well as the following tools to assist in seeding and aligning: maps with all teams plotted, 2005 season ending records, tournament results and laxpower.com computer rankings. A motion was approved to accept the Preseason Regional Alignments and seeding as recommended.

The committee will meet again on May 10, 2006, and reset the teams within each region on a bracket with teams seeded within their region based on games played prior to May 9, 2006. The semifinal pairings and some seeded spots may need to be delayed until later in May and could be accomplished via conference call as was the case in 2005.

There was discussion regarding the final site format and time in coordination with girls lacrosse. Weather concerns, standardized testing conflicts, attendance and emphasis on girls lacrosse may impact the selection and structure of the final site.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Change *Handbook* Regulation II, Section 11 (H) 4 b. (open gyms) to require that more than one activity is actually occurring: "Diversity of activity - a variety of activities must be offered **and actually taking place** for an open gym to be in compliance" (6-4-2). ■

GIRLS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 26, 2006

Members Present:

Sue Calvo, Swartz Creek
Judy Hehs, Bloomfield Hills
Rob Holder, Troy
Betsy Kreston, Flint
Mike Mehall, Lacrosse Coaches Association
Ken Mohny, Mattawan
Mike Neuman, Grand Rapids
Keith Vree, Rockford

Members Absent:

Greg Michaels, Lakeland
Melinda Saylor, Bloomfield Hills
Rick Schmidt, Holt

Staff Members:

Tom Rashid
Kathy Vrugink Westdorp (Recorder)

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Girls Lacrosse Committee reviewed its responsibilities as a standing sports committee and the process of making recommendations to MHSAA staff and the MHSAA Representative Council. Committee members were also made aware of additional opportunities for officials, coaches and administrators through registration for the Two Dae Clinic, Coaches Advancement Program and Women in Sports Leadership Conference which are all being held on the weekend of Feb. 11-13, 2006.

UPDATE FROM GIRLS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION

The Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association had met prior to this meeting with efforts focused on reorganization and providing information to all the members of the association. Continuing work has occurred with the Association to review its responsibilities in mentorship and the procurement of coaches as well as emphasizing additional opportunities for officials' training.

OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING CLARIFICATIONS

As in other 2005-06 committee meetings, out of season coaching clarifications were reviewed with the specific penalties per request by the Representative Council. Clarifications and points of emphasis from Interpretation 216 include outlining the responsibilities of coaches out of season.

2006-07 TOURNAMENT DATES

On Dec. 2, 2005, through Representative Council action, the MHSAA Lacrosse

Tournament dates were adjusted as follows:

1st Round Regionals: May 24-26, 2006
Regional Semifinals: May 30 & 31, 2006
Regional Final: June 2 or 3, 2006
Semifinals: June 7, 2006
Finals: June 10, 2006

These adjustments were made in an effort to increase the days between semi-finals and finals and to prepare for the possibility of inclement weather altering the playing dates. In addition, clarification of the teams in Division 1 (presently 19) and Division 2 (presently 20) was given to the Lacrosse Committee. There have not been any teams which have indicated their desire to be involved in a Tier III Tournament; however this tournament will continue to be offered for one additional year (2006-07). One new team has been added to Girls Lacrosse and two teams have changed between Division 1 and Division 2. All Regional games will be held at the same host site.

This committee will meet again on May 10, 2006 to facilitate the placement of officials in the MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Tournament. Additional discussion included the coordination of the finals site format and time with boys lacrosse. Standardized testing conflicts and weather concerns may impact the selection and structure of the Finals site.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GUIDELINES FOR LACROSSE

As lacrosse continues to be an emerging sport, a motion was approved that MHSAA staff explore the possibilities of MHSAA limitations on competition, contest maxi-

mums, and season length for junior high/middle school girls lacrosse effective with the 2007-08 school year. The committee also requested that staff mail to high schools sponsoring lacrosse the role of school administrators and coaches in maintaining scope and perspective of middle school lacrosse. This will also be a topic of discussion at lacrosse rules meetings.

OFFICIALS TRAINING

Recruiting, training and the provision of incentives for officials continues to be part of the initiatives offered by the MHSAA and leaders in lacrosse officiating. There have been two very successful girls lacrosse officials training clinics this year and there are currently 64 registered officials. Training will continue in girls lacrosse at the TWO- DAE Clinic on Feb. 11, 2006.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Discussion occurred with the committee regarding the continuance of growth in girls lacrosse and the number of opportunities that already occur in the spring compared to opportunities for females in the fall. Comparisons were made in the similarity to soccer and discussion revolved around whether future consideration should be given to lacrosse and soccer regarding the season of participation.

DRAW FOR DETERMINATION OF SEMIFINAL OPPONENTS

Committee members drew for determining girls lacrosse Semifinal opponents. It was determined that in Division 1, the Region 1 champion would play against the Region 3 champion and the Region 2 champion would compete against the Region 4 champion. Similarly, in Division 2, the Region 5 champion competes against the Region 7 champion and Region 6 competes against Region 8.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

As girls lacrosse is more of a finesse game and less of a contact game and due to the current limited amount of girls lacrosse officials, the committee recommends that the allowance of a girls lacrosse team to participate in multi-team tournaments in its regular season schedule be increased from a maximum of two (2) to a maximum of three (3) multi-team tournaments starting with the 2006-07 girls lacrosse season. Athletic administrators will still be given the responsibility of scheduling the events with the understanding of the physical restraints within each school program (8-0). ■

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GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 2, 2006

Members Present:

Mindy Gentz, Northville
Janet Gillette, Comstock Park
Joe Haines, Grand Rapids
Pam Ingles, Allegan
Julie Jones, Richland
Liz Kacik, Grosse Ile
Jack Kramer, Houghton Lake
Wendy Shepard, MASSP
Ken Mohny, MIAAA
Rex Peckens, Elsie
Heather Prentice, CCCAM

Jennifer Ruddell, Remus
Craig Smith, Armada
Kathy Snyder, Midland
Mike Watson, Rochester

Members Absent:

Jim Conway, Mt. Pleasant
Wendy Lemons, Whitmore Lake
Vic Michaels, Detroit

Staff Members Present:

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp (Recorder)

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The MHSAA Competitive Cheer Committee reviewed its responsibilities as a standing sports committee and the process of making recommendations to MHSAA staff and the MHSAA Representative Council. An explanation was given regarding the responsibilities of the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee which met on January 24, 2006 and its review of the MHSAA Competitive Cheer Manual. This sub-committee reviewed the technical aspects of competitive cheer and these recommendations are submitted to the Competitive Cheer Committee. In addition, a review of the minutes from last year's Competitive Cheer Committee and the recommendations that went to Representative Council in May, 2005 were also perused.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMPETITIVE CHEER SUB-COMMITTEE

The first MHSAA Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee met with the purpose of annually reviewing current competition and safety rules and to propose changes and additions to the Competitive Cheer Manual. For the current year, the Committee focused on the review of the technical aspects of Competitive Cheer and advised the Committee and ultimately the Representative Council of the rules that need review, revision or update. The Competitive Cheer Committee reviewed discussion items where no action was taken as well as proposals from

the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee. These proposals included:

1. Allow for the dive roll to be a legal tumbling skill at the high school level. (No action)
2. Allow safety judges to determine when a collapsed skill or stunt fall occurs independently. In essence, this would allow the 2.0 execution deduction taken by cheer judges to no longer require the safety judges assessment of a 7 point penalty.
3. Allow a high school flyer to pass through an inverted position for an entrance, transition or dismount under the following conditions:
 - a. When inverted, the flyer must be in continuous motion.
 - b. The flyer, who is being inverted, cannot begin from, or end in an extension.
 - c. The waist of the flyer going through an inverted position must begin or finish below shoulder level of the base/spotter.
 - d. Pitches would not be allowed.
 - e. No less than 3 persons must be in contact with the flyer as she is going through the inverted position. Legally inverting a flyer would include a thorough description of starting from an inverted position from the mat; starting the inverted position from a stunt position; and allowing a flyer in an inverted position out of a cradle. When a flyer moves through an inverted position,

it will be considered a 4 point flair and will receive 1 variety point. Although the Competitive Cheer Committee voted to proceed with this recommendation, they were unanimous in their request to make certain it was written with greater specifications as to the allowances of what was considered legal.

4. In the middle school/junior high, allow 7th and/or 8th grade teams to perform "shoot throughs". (No action)
5. In the middle school/junior high, require all stunts at or above shoulder level to have a spotter. This includes an elevator.
6. In the middle school/junior high, change the requirement for an extension to be performed with two bases and two spotters rather than the current requirement of three spotters.

OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING CLARIFICATIONS

As with other 2005-06 committees, out of season coaching clarifications were reviewed with the specific penalties per request by the MHSAA Representative Council. Clarifications and points of emphasis from Interpretation 216 include outlining the responsibilities of coaches out of season. Committee members expressed the difficulty of adherence to this rule due to the number of competitive cheer coaches who also coach sideline cheerleading. Committee members requested additional information to be sent to all administrators who offer competitive cheer with clear information as to what is considered acceptable and not acceptable during fall sideline cheerleading. The Competitive Cheer Coaches Association will initiate this document with consensus and approval by MHSAA staff. This will be a work in progress and also include a "Q and A" which will include the provisions for tumbling and stunting in sideline cheerleading compared to composition of a routine and choreography of a routine in Competitive Cheer. The Competitive Cheer Committee also requested additional information regarding the rules and regulations of "All Star Competitions" be sent to athletic administrators.

CORRECTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE 2006 COMPETITIVE CHEER MANUAL

Input was received regarding additional considerations that staff should make in the edit of the Competitive Cheer Manual. The following clarifications were requested by the Competitive Cheer Committee:

1. Recommend that Round 1 sheets be turned in similarly to Round 2 and Round 3 score sheets and that coaches submit the jumps on the score sheets.
2. Recommend that all round sheets be turned in by 4:00 p.m. the day prior (or otherwise specified by the host school). Any changes made must be completed 1 hour prior to the meet and given to the host management (minimum of 5 copies) for perusal by the panel. If score sheets are not submitted by the time designated the prior day or changes are not completed 1 hour prior to the meet, a 15 point penalty will be assessed to the coach of the team.
3. Recommend that hair devices, shoes, etc. that fall/hit the mat should only be a penalty if they are stepped on or if they present a safety hazard.
4. Recommend correction by the judge's panel (without penalty) if the coach writes in the difficulty multiplier incorrectly in Round 2.
5. Recommend that score sheets are posted on the MHSAA web site with the intent that the score sheets are in PDF format to allow coaches the capability of completing the information on their computer.
6. Recommend expansion of the Junior High/Middle School section of the Competitive Cheer Manual; placement of the section in a more prominent place within the Manual; and inclusion of safety sheets for the middle school cheer programs that are specific to middle school cheer. It was requested that a separate manual be made for middle/junior high schools or that it be expanded in the current Manual.

VOCABULARY/CORRECTIONS FOR 2006 COMPETITIVE CHEER MANUAL

Additional recommendations and considerations for the 2006-07 Competitive Cheer Manual were given to MHSAA staff. These included consistency in message in all parts of the manual, additional information to improve the description, and inclusion of variety and difficulty point values throughout the picture portion of the Manual.

COMPULSORY ROUND SCORE SHEET

Discussion occurred with the Committee regarding Round 2 and the number of competitors that are determined in the 3 rounds of competition. Concern has been generated over the last few years regarding the variances made by coaches in terms of the number of competitors in the Compulsory Round. Committee members spoke to the fact that there was an increase of penalty and an increase in risk in this round and therefore it was necessary to balance this equation. Debate included the necessity to either have a competitor multiplier for teams that compete with more athletes in Round 2 or to set a required amount of athletes for competition in each of the classes/divisions. Additional consideration was evaluated by the Committee members to make certain that Competitive Cheer was developed in a more equitable manner. Committee members reviewed a proposal that was presented the prior year regarding a competitor multiplier. This competitor multiplier would give a team with one more competitor a 1/100 of a point advantage over a team with one less competitor. This equates to a 0.68 point advantage per judge over a team competing with one less competitor (assuming same score and both teams are perfect).

The competitor multiplier is similar to bonus points that reward a team for competing with a certain number of athletes; therefore the greater the number of athletes competing in Round 2, the greater the bonus.

The competitor multiplier is not set to disadvantage smaller teams, as they already have an advantage in the capability to produce fewer errors by fewer individuals than a larger team.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GUIDELINES

The Committee considered several recommendations regarding middle school guidelines. These included length of season; a requested change for number of competitors; and a request to add a choreography bonus for extensions. No action was taken on the request for additional competitors or a choreography bonus however the Committee requested that consideration be given to the length of the middle school season.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Adopt the specified approved competition and safety rules changes indicated through the recommendations from the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee (#2, #3, #5 & #6) (15-0).
2. Approve the corrections/considerations for the 2006 Competitive Cheer Manual. #1 (13-2); #2 (11-4); #3 (13-1); #4 (14-0); #5 (14-0); #6 (13-0).
3. Recommend the continuance of having 4 – 16 participants in Competitive Cheer; keep the differential between rounds of 2 participants; include a competitor multiplier in Round 2 which will balance the risk of entering more participants in the round. The Competitive Cheer Committee also requests that this be revisited in ensuing years (14-0).
4. Request (initiated by the Judge's Association) to wear a black and white uniform rather than a navy and white uniform (12-1).
5. Propose that Competitive Cheer Officials be rated by coaches through the same system as all other sports (13-0). ■

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 9, 2006

Members Present:

Tom Barbieri, Dexter (MHSFCA)
Darren Bray, Gladstone
Bob Buckel, Flushing
Morley Fraser, Bay City
Keith Froelich, Okemos
Paul Guse, Westland
Don Gustafson, St Ignace
Dave Larkin, Jenison
Dan McShannock, Midland (MIAAA)
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Kurt Richardson, Clarkston
Michael Sharrow, Algonac (MASSP)
Gerald Weatherspoon, Detroit

Members Absent:

Mike Colletta, Belleville
Russell Davis, Jackson
Denny Dock, Stevensville
Larry Featherstone, Benton Harbor
Maureen Klocke, Yale
Tony Petkus, Fennville
Dan Rohn, Fremont
Charles Ruffin, Grand Rapids
Jim Webb, Cadillac
Robert Yauck, Dearborn Heights

Staff Members Present:

Nate Hampton (Recorder)
Tom Minter
Mark Uyl

The committee met for the purpose of reviewing playing rules, regulations, and policies concerning high school football and MHSAA Football Playoff procedures. Following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to MHSAA staff and for Representative Council action.

Following the welcome and introductions and the history and purpose of the committee, the following items were discussed:

Football Playoffs-Committee members were given 2005 Football Playoff Tournament Information materials and comparative dates that demonstrated future tournaments, general impressions on the change of Finals venue to Ford Field and future first practice dates and first game dates.

The data provided to the committee demonstrated that the results of the 7-year expanded format were consistent from year to year when comparing school's classifications, enrollment breaks, and numbers of automatic qualifying schools. In 2003 and 2004, 242 and 243 schools respectfully qualified automatically based on their regular season records. In 2005, 243 schools did the same. In 2004 and 2005, 44 and 35 games respectively were subjected to the playoff point differential rule. Enrollment ranges for the eight 2005 divisions were as follows: Division 1: 3822-1740, Division 2: 1714-1171, Division 3: 1147-849, Division 4: 843-667, Division 5: 653-495, Division 6: 494-

326, Division 7: 388-262, and Division 8: 262-100.

Classification of schools by division for 2005 included the following: Division 1: 32 Class A schools, Division 2: 32 Class A schools, Division 3: 11 Class A, 21 Class B schools, Division 4: 32 Class B schools, Division 5: 31 Class B schools, 1 Class C school, Division 6: 32 Class C schools, Division 7: 32 Class C schools, and Division 8: 3 Class C schools, 29 Class D schools.

In the Final games at Ford Field, 10 finalists were # 1 seeds at the Pre-District level, 4 were # 2 seeds, and 2 were a # 3 seed, and there were no # 4 seeds.

Discussions-Executive Director John E. "Jack" Roberts reviewed with the committee on-going statewide discussions that may affect the following:

- The legislative act that requires a post Labor Day start for the academic classes of Michigan schools - the MHSAA and member schools must be observant for both pros and cons of the later start on both schools and school sports.
- The MHSAA and member schools must study the philosophical and practical concerns and problems of conducting school sports outside of the academic calendar year in June and August.
- Proposals to start seasons earlier or to add more competitions should be considered with great care.

- Discussions will also consider a two-week “downtime” prior to each season when open gyms will not occur and teams cannot be informally assembled, and a one-week summer “dead period” selected by each school, recommended around the fourth of July when school-sponsored open gyms and conditioning programs are prohibited and school coaches may not be involved with school students in competitive settings.
- There is reason to consider the increase in the number of schools with sport-specific curricula designed to appeal almost exclusively to members of the interscholastic team in that sport, taught by a coach of that sport, focusing on skills,

strategies and plays of the interscholastic team, and being held both during the season and in off season...a feature of some schools football program. The following is being proposed: If classes contain no content specific to an MHSAA tournament sport, they are allowed. If a subject matter specific to an MHSAA tournament sport is taught to students, instruction during any trimester or semester shall include nearly equal attention to at least three different sports; otherwise, the curriculum may only include non-MHSAA tournament sports, such topics as officiating, sportsmanship, and first aid, as well as fitness, general weight training, and conditioning. Classes must be open to all students.

FUTURE FOOTBALL DATES

Year	Earliest Practice*	Earliest Game#	Labor Day (Games Before)
2006	Aug. 7	Aug. 25	Sept. 4 (2)
2007	Aug. 6	Aug. 24	Sept. 3 (2)
2008	Aug. 11	Aug. 28	Sept. 1 (1)
2009	Aug. 10	Aug. 28	Sept. 7 (2)
2010	Aug. 9	Aug. 27	Sept. 6 (2)
2011	Aug. 8	Aug. 26	Sept. 5 (2)

**whether or not play 1st week; 1st 3 days without pads; schools could start later
#schools could start later*

Tony Bihn, director of information systems for the MHSAA, reviewed with the committee football services that were established last year (1) the active football schedule pages and playoff point weekly update. Bihn also shared with the committee future plans to have all football schedules entered via the internet (no paper schedules accepted), collecting win/loss records and regular season game scores will also be an internet function.

After a review of football starting dates, duration of season and other related statistics important to the Football Playoffs, the discussions continued and included the following topics:

- Tournament information found in the August *Bulletin* and on the MHSAA Web site.
- Facilities used for Semifinal sites
- Rules meeting dates – last years rules meetings started on Monday, July 25, 2005. Comparable date for this year would be Monday, July 24, 2006. Should we consider starting July 31,

2006 one week later? The committee recommends maintaining current dates for rules meetings.

- Out-of-season 3-player regulations.
- Sideline non-player limits.
- Junior high/middle school start date.
- National Federation 2006 rules changes and Points of Emphasis
- Officials background checks

FOOTBALL RULES AND PROCEDURES

The committee reviewed the latest National Federation rules changes and points of emphasis. Also included in the materials reviewed were state association survey results on rule changes from last year. Observations on problems in states and what rules should be considered for change. Presented for review as a general survey compiled by the National Federation looking at state association’s format for various aspects of playoff football. The National Federation playoff game statistics summaries with 546 playoff games reported across the

United States, length of playoff competitions increased by three minutes over last year. The average winning team score was 32.8, the average losing team score was 13.35.

RULE CHANGES MADE BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION FOOTBALL 2006 COMMITTEE

- Beginning in 2010 visiting team jerseys must be white.
- Rule 2.40 – eliminate “intentional” from the spearing wording in hopes that all illegal helmet contact, which includes spearing, will be called by officials.
- All helmets must be secured with a four-snap chin strap (last year)

MICHIGAN POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- Consistency in officiating participation and substitution fouls
- Sweatbands worn by players, where allowed and not allowed.
- Intentional grounding and uncatchable ball – NFL, NCAA, and NFHS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The committee acknowledged the long-standing work of MHSAA administrative assistant Sharla Stokes. Ms. Stokes has worked with the MHSAA Football Finals Tournament since its programming began on computer some 30 years ago. The committee shared their appreciation for her efforts and loyalty to the sport of football.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. REGULATION II, SECTION 9(B) – (CURRENT) - SECTION 9 (B) – A school team shall not play a game of football until it has practiced for a period of three weeks during which practices are conducted on at least 14 separate days. The first varsity game may be played on Friday or thereafter of the 13th week before Thanksgiving (NF Week No. 8). The first freshman or junior varsity game may be played on the day before. (In those years when there is only one game permitted before Labor Day, the first game for varsity may be played on Thursday and the first game for junior

varsity or 9th grade may be on the day before.)

PROPOSED: Replace the last parenthetical sentence with the following: Varsity football games before Labor Day may be played on Thursday and the junior varsity or 9th-grade games may be played on the day before (13-0).

2. PROPOSED REVISION FOR ITEM 18 OF *AUGUST BULLETIN* - Proposed revision for Item 18: “Once qualifying teams are publicized Sunday, Oct. 22, if it is discovered that a qualifying team used an ineligible player during the regular season, and the forfeiture of the game(s) would have caused that qualifying team not to qualify, that team will be withdrawn from the Playoffs but no team will replace it. That team’s scheduled Pre-District opponent will receive a “bye” and advance in the bracket. If it is discovered that a non-qualifying team used an ineligible player, no changes will be made in qualifying teams, their seeding or home and away designations (13-0).
3. DISTRICT/REGIONAL FORMAT - Change the current District/Regional format to allow the first place seed in each Regional to play the eighth-place seed in each Regional, the second-place seed to play the seventh-place seed, etc. The proposal would eliminate current Pre-District and District match-ups (1 plays 4, 2 plays 3); but will create match-ups within the geographic region.
 - a. Divide each Division into four Regions.
 - b. Within the Regions, seed Districts as follows:
District 1: seed #1 plays seed #8, seed #4 plays seed #5
District 2: seed #2 plays seed #7, seed #3 plays seed #6
 - c. The second round Regional competition will be the winner of 1 vs 8 against the winner of 4 vs 5; and the winners of 3 vs 6 against the winner of 2 vs 7, with trophies and medals awarded to the winners.
 - d. Winners to meet for Regional Championship. (12-1) ■

TRACK & FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY REGULATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 26, 2006

Members Present:

Dan Bolhuis, Muskegon
Lewis Clingman, Grand Rapids
Tom Eschman, Southfield
Bill Fries, Portage
Robert Glenn, Detroit
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock
Doug Grezeszak, West Branch
Kathy Hutfilz, St. Louis
John Lober, Traverse City
Jim Long, Kalamazoo
Mitch Lutzke, Williamston
Tony Magni, Redford
Jim Mallard, Allegan
Lindsay Olds, Hartford
Bertha Smiley, Detroit
Fred Smith, Kalamazoo (MIAAA)

Keith Smith, Clio
Larry Steeb, Whitmore Lake
Lowie VanStaverem, Gobles (MITCA)
Douglas Willer, Hillsdale
Wright Wilson, Royal Oak

Members Absent:

Richard Chenault, Ann Arbor
Antie Hardy, New Haven

Staff Members Present:

Nate Hampton (Recorder)
Mark Uyl

The committee met for the purpose of reviewing specific National Federation sport rules and MHSAA tournament policies, adoptions, regulations and interpretations that are applicable to Track and Field and Cross Country during the regular season and MHSAA tournaments. The following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to staff for inclusion in tournament information and recommendations that will advance for Representative Council consideration.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

During the welcome and introductions the committee made special note of the attendance of Rudy Godefroidt of Hemlock, serving the MHSAA as Rules Interpreter and Rules Meeting Presenter, and Kathy Hutfilz of St. Louis, serving as a current member of the National Federation Track and Field Rules Committee representing the NFHSCA.

2006 TRACK & FIELD REGIONAL AND FINAL SITES

The committee reviewed the Regional site and school assignments made by the Track Selection Committee on January 13, 2006. The Final sites selected are as follows:

Division 1: East Kentwood HS
Division 2: Grand Rapids Forest Hills N. HS
Division 3: Comstock Park HS
Division 4: Ada Forest Hills Eastern HS

2006 NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES AND EDITORIAL CHANGES

The committee discussed the following 2006 National Federation Track & Field/Cross Country Rules and Editorial Changes.

6-4-5, 6-4-8, 6-5-1 Effective 2006-07, all references and diagrams will reflect one standard sector at 34.92 (6-4-5, 6-4-8 diagram, diagram 6-5-1, diagram 6-4-5) for the shot put and discus.

7-5-3 (New) Add ... Prior to competition, the head coach must verify that each of that school's pole vaulters meet the stated requirements. Note: Each state association shall determine its own procedure regarding coach's verification.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Marking the track for alley starts.
2. "Zero Point" when measuring in the pole vault.
3. Using computerized chips in the absence of a Finish Judge.

MICHIGAN POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Regional clerking to eliminate empty lanes.
2. No such thing as Trimi's. When there is need to reduce the field for an event Finals, the order will be Prelims, Semifinals and Finals for that event. Prelims – as many heats as needed to reduce the field to a number for two Semifinal races. Semifinals – Two races to reduce the field for one Finals race.
3. Sixth graders may not compete with or against seventh and/or eighth graders but may compete at an event in separate races.
4. Prepare athletes during preseason activity (after March 13, 2006) conditioning and hydration.
5. Cross Country officials must be registered with the MHSAA for the current year and be in appropriate uniform.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Representative Council action on 2005 committee recommendations.
2. 2006 Track and Field Finals Schedule.
3. Participants in the discus and shot, listing and competitive order. Least to best for Prelims and Finals.
4. 2006 Additional Qualifiers Standard.
5. Pole Vault – Coaching certifications, participant weight and pole verification and pole inspection.
6. School tournament entry and Op-Out information for Track and Cross Country.
7. Host cost and reimbursements for Track and Cross Country.
8. Weather delays at Regional/Final competitions for Track and Cross Country.
9. Accommodating physically challenged students in Track and Cross Country.

10. Out of season three-player regulations and interpretations.
11. Required practice prior to first competition.
12. 2006 Rules Meeting Schedule and meet agenda.
13. ATOM (Association of Track Officials of Michigan) recommendations.
14. MITCA (Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association) recommendations.
15. Survey results relating to Cross Country Rules Meetings.
16. Cross Country Participating School Tournament Information.
17. Cross Country host selection.
18. Health and risk reduction efforts in Track and Cross Country.
19. Classification Committee consideration to allow three to score at Regionals and Finals.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MHSAA STAFF

1. Participants in the discus and shot will be listed and compete in least to best order.
2. Create individual event entry card/forms for the pole vault at Regional and Finals that will include the following:
 - a. School Name
 - b. Participant Name
 - c. Weight
 - d. Pole Rating
 - e. Coach Signature
3. Establish for 2006 (current) MHSAA postseason tournament that all Regional and Final sites use the 34.92 sector for shot and discus.
4. 800-Meter Run – One Section if 20 or fewer participants; Two Sections if more than 20 participants where the 12 fastest will participate in the last section.

ATOM RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cross Country officials must be registered and wear the appropriate uniform.
2. Clarify that sixth graders may not compete in the same races with 7th- and 8th-graders or high school students.

MITCA RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Change scoring at Regionals to eight places and award eight places rather than the current six places.
 2. Adopt a Team Finals event.
 3. Adopt a two-day postseason Finals format with all Divisions competing at the same Final site.
3. Approve in concept a two-day postseason Finals in track & field on Friday/Saturday, using Eastern Michigan University as the Finals site and area high schools for Prelims and Semifinals (19-1).
 4. Alternate the gender (Boys/Girls) for Track running events and Cross Country races based on a calendar year rather than the current school year. Example: In 2006 Boys Track events will run first and Boys Cross Country races will be first. In 2007 Girls Track events will run first and Girls Cross Country races will be first (19-1). ■

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Regional Scoring: Score and award medals for eight places at Regional track & field competitions.
(Current Scoring: 10-8-6-4-2-1 Request: 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1) (14-6).
2. Approve the concept of a Team Finals in track & field, with details and date to be determined (21-0).

COACHES UPDATES NEEDED FOR RECORD BOOK

To help keep the Michigan High School Sports Record Book current, the cooperation of member schools is necessary in maintaining the records of active coaches who are listed among career leaders on the various sports pages.

If a school has a coach listed in any sport, it should contact MHSAA historian Ron Pesch with the won-loss record for the season just completed. Remember to double-check the cumulative career record.

Information can be submitted by e-mail to: records@mhsaa.com

Third Annual Referee/Coach Golf Outing 2006

Treetops Resort is hosting the third annual Referee/Coach golf outing. This is a friendly outing after a long season of coaching and officiating. This event is for all sports and all levels. So put the clipboards and whistles away and pull out the golf clubs.

Saturday, July 8, 2006 (Saturday)

Fee: \$50 per person

Noon Shotgun Scramble on Rick Smith "Signature"
5 p.m. Prizes and snacks

Please send a check for the total amount and indicate if you are playing with a foursome already or you would like to be put on a team. Send check to:

James Vanderveer
3962 Wilkinson Rd.
Treetops Village, MI 49735

Call him at 1-989-732-6711 ext. 2666 for further information.

Registration deadline June 1, 2006

SOCCER COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 8, 2006

Members Present:

Matt Boersma, Eaton Rapids
Stacey Bollen, Warren
Ken Erny, Fruitport
Clare Girard, Riverview
Ed Gore, Adrian
Dene Hadden, South Haven (MASSP)
Jason Heerema, Wyoming
Floyd Lincoln, Durand
Sal Malek, Livonia
Doris Pipkens, Holt
Jim Pittman, Clinton
Chris Riker, Portage (MSCA)
Susan Riksen, Gobles
Mike Roy, Vicksburg
Mychal Thom, Pontiac

Andy Valdmanis, Traverse City
Jeff Vennel, Bloomfield Hills
Mike Vondette, Hemlock

Members Absent:

Ken Ewald, Caseville
Todd Heugh, Rochester Hills
Barry Hobrla, Lowell
Jose Meija, Tecumseh
Joe Mendez, Lansing
Cathy Stevens, Kentwood
Jennifer VanNoord, Cadillac

Staff Members Present:

Mandi Hoover
Tom Minter (Recorder)

The committee members introduced themselves and were reminded of the functions of the various MHSAA committees and of their relationship to the MHSAA.

OUT OF SEASON COACHING LIMITATION REGULATIONS UPDATE

MHSAA Associate Director Tom Rashid provided the committee with an update on newly enacted penalties and on proposals being considered by staff for possible Representative Council action. These updates were also given at the Coaches Association Presidents meeting on Jan. 30 and will be presented at the League and Conference meeting on Feb. 15.

2005 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Representative Council's decisions on last year's committee's recommendations to the Council were reviewed.

EXAMINATION OF CURRENT MHSAA OVERTIME PROCEDURES

The Representative Council asked the Soccer Committee to compare the current optional MHSAA overtime "grandfathered" lengths of two 15-minute "sudden victory" periods with the current NF playing rules note stating a maximum of two full length 10 minute periods is allowed. The committee

discussed the various options previously used by the MHSAA, the various options mentioned in the NF Rule Book and their relative merits. A motion to reduce the length of the two overtime periods was not supported. The committee agreed to not recommend any change from current procedures.

REDUCE THE GOAL DIFFERENTIAL MARGIN FROM 10 TO 8

The committee recommends that varsity teams must use the goal differential rule during the regular season to conform to the current mandatory requirement for MHSAA tournament games and that the rule go into effect when the margin is eight rather than the current 10. Pursuant to last year's rule change, it would go into effect anytime after the completion of the first half when the margin is reached. Non-varsity games would have the current option of using the rule or not but if used the margin for implementation would now be eight rather than 10.

PLACING TEAM BENCHES OPPOSITE SPECTATOR SEATING

Although several felt that it is an advantage for the players and the coach to be away from fans, logistical problems in many schools would make implementation of this requirement difficult. After further discussion on the merits of the proposal, the committee

took no action to require, but recommend doing so when possible.

2006-07 NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES CHANGES

The committee discussed the changes and noted that several communication items were addressed by actions of the National Federation Soccer Rules Committee.

SAGINAW VALLEY SOCCER OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION

The committee noted that the request for changing the status of the yellow-red card to a straight red card had also been considered by the NF rules committee and rejected. To require a player to sit out games after accumulating so many yellow cards was discussed but no action taken. Concern was over the procedures by which schools, officials and the MHSAA would administer the rule. The proposal to allow a goalkeeper to remain in the game after a play stoppage for injury was discussed and no action taken. Concern was that even a slightly injured goalkeeper for whom the referee requested coach or trainer assistance should dictate that goalkeeper be removed for more evaluation while out of the game.

SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION

The use of the three whistle system of officiating at the regional level was discussed and no action taken as there is a sufficient number of highly qualified officials to always have three persons available at the regional level using the diagonal system of control. NF rules changes addressed the issues of expanding the official's scope of authority and shin guard size. A recommendation defining the immediate surroundings of the field is contained in the recommendation to the Representative Council.

CHANGE BACK TO FOUR EQUAL DIVISIONS FOR BOYS & GIRLS SOCCER

The committee unanimously recommends changing back to four equal divisions for boys and girls soccer.

SHORTENED GAMES OPTION ON NON-SCHOOL DAYS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS

The committee discussed the communication on this issue and voted unanimously to support the recommendation of the Junior High/Middle School Committee to oppose this proposal.

ALLOWING COACHES TO OFFICIATE OUT-OF-SEASON CONTESTS

The committee recommends that the Executive Committee of the MHSAA be allowed to consider waiver of the regulation prohibiting coaches from officiating a non-school soccer game out of the season that may have more than three players from their school district on it. This would be similar to the recent provision allowing coaches in some sports who work at sport's facilities to be granted waivers on an annual application basis.

DISTRICT OR REGIONAL FINALS ON NATIONAL TESTING DAYS

The committee recommends that if the starting time for a District or Regional final cannot be agreed to by both competing schools and the host school, then the starting time cannot be set by the host any earlier than 3 p.m.

BREAKING TIE GAMES AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

The committee recommends that the penalty kick shootout method be used to determine a winner at the championship finals if the score is tied after regulation and overtime periods.

OTHER ITEMS

The committee urges staff to continue efforts to secure one field site to host all four divisional contests for the championship finals with the site to rotate between geographical areas of the state. And in the alternative, to secure two sites in close proximity to each other.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Require the goal differential rule for all regular season varsity soccer games, with the margin for enactment of the rule to be eight rather than the current 10. (18-0) This rule would be optional for non-varsity games, but if used would also use the margin of eight (15-3).
2. Pursuant to new NF rule changes, define the "immediate surroundings" of a soccer field to include the locker rooms and parking areas and the areas between the field and them (18-0).
3. Reclassify the MHSAA Soccer Tournament into four equal divisions (17-1).
4. Authorize the Executive Committee of the MHSAA to consider waiver of the regulation prohibiting coaches from officiating an out of season soccer game that may involve more than three players from their school district participating (18-0).
5. Stipulate that if, on a national educational testing day, the starting time for a District or Regional final cannot be agreed to by both competing schools and the host school, then the starting time cannot be set by the host any earlier than 3 p.m. (18-0).
6. Utilize the penalty kick shootout method to determine a winner at the MHSAA championship finals if the score is tied after regulation and overtime periods (18-0).
7. Require all MHSAA District soccer tournament games and all regular-season varsity games to be officiated by three officials (18-0). ■

E-MAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

As the MHSAA Web site expands and paper correspondence to schools diminishes, it is more vital than ever to have updated e-mail addresses in our database, both from member school personnel and registered officials. It is your responsibility to visit the "School Login" or "Officials" page of mhsaa.com to update personnel and/or building information on a timely, routine and consistent basis to keep files current. Communications with this office and with fellow school administrators and officials will improve if we all do our housekeeping.

You will need your ID number and password to access your information.

ONLINE REGISTRATION BUILDING MOMENTUM

Beginning with this school year, all current and first-time officials were able to register online through the MHSAA Web site, mhsaa.com.

As of Jan. 17, 3,222 of 11,288 MHSAA officials registered online (28.5 percent).

While the early numbers are impressive, the MHSAA encourages all officials to use the online method of registration in the future, as the trend continues to move toward electronic files.

Online registration can be accessed by clicking "Officials" on the Home Page of the MHSAA Web site. For more information, contact the MHSAA at 517/332-5046 or: register@mhsaa.com.

MHSAA Game Suspension Guidelines (Inclement Weather)

- I. On threatening days, game management should consult with contest officials about steps to be followed if conditions worsen.
- II. When suspending an outdoor contest, officials and game management shall follow these policies.
 - A. Lightning necessitates that contest be suspended. The occurrence of lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion — *lightning is lightning*.
 - B. Severe weather in the form of rain or snow may make the field unplayable.
- III. When a contest is suspended, the home school administration shall attempt to arrange for the security of all participants.
 - A. Contestants and support personnel shall be moved to appropriate indoor facilities.
 - B. When lightning is observed or thunder is heard and the contest is suspended, contestants shall not return to the playing field until lightning has been absent from the local sky and thunder has not been heard for 30 minutes.
 - C. Spectators shall be advised of the action being taken to seek shelter. (Some hosts may be able to offer shelter to spectators but are not required to do so.)
- IV. In considering resumption of competition, the following steps shall be followed.
 - A. Delays for contests scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. must not exceed three hours. Delays for contests scheduled for 3:01 p.m. to 6:59 p.m. must not exceed one and one half hour. Delays for contests scheduled for 7 p.m. or later must not exceed one hour. A postponed contest shall be rescheduled on a date/time mutually agreed to by the schools involved.
 - B. A decision to resume the contest within the time frame must be made by the officials who shall consult the home team administration and visiting school administration present at the contest.
 - C. The home school is responsible for facilities and will be given priority consideration in the final decision if there is not consensus among the three parties.
 - D. The final decision shall consider liability and conditions of facilities as well as future schedules, need to play the contest and finally the quality of all other options.



NOTE: More restrictive local policies and MHSAA tournament policies would supersede these policies and should be shared with the opponents and officials prior to the contest, preferably in writing.

Otherwise, and to the extent allowed by the playing rules code, the official(s) shall make the final decision regarding game suspension once the game begins. ■

Tornado Policy for Michigan High School Athletic Association Events May, 1981

- I. IF THERE IS A WATCH OR WARNING AT A TOURNAMENT SITE —
- A. Watch or warning issued **at least three hours** prior to the event:
1. If the local district policy closes the tournament facility, all participating teams must be called and informed of postponement with information pertaining to next playing date and time included in the call.
 2. If the host district policy **does not** close the facility, all participating schools who have not called the host must be called to be sure all who are scheduled to play will be present. (The participating school local policy must prevail).
 - a. If one team of a dual type competition (i.e. Baseball Tournament) cannot be present by their policy, no contest shall be held. The competition for that day/night must be rescheduled on the next possible day, not including Sunday.
 - b. If the competition is multiple team type (i.e. Track, Tennis), the meet shall be conducted as long as a reasonable number of teams (60 percent) can be present.
- B. Watch or warning **less than three hours** before event:
1. If the competing teams are enroute, no decision shall be made until both teams in a bracket have arrived or contact has been made, unless local policy forbids use of facility once the watch or warning has been issued.
 2. If competing teams arrive, are on the premises, and local policy permits, play the contest when and if time permits.
 3. If it is not possible that date, reschedule for next playable date, not including Sunday.
 4. Local policy shall always prevail.
- C. Watch or warning first issued during contest:
1. Suspend play.
 2. Take necessary steps and precautions as directed by local policy.
 3. Resume play at the point of suspension as soon as permitted. If not that day/night, then reschedule for the next possible date, not including Sunday.
- II. IF THE WATCH OR WARNING IS IN AN AREA OF ONE OR MORE COMPETING SCHOOLS AND NOT AT A TOURNAMENT SITE:
- A. It shall be the responsibility of the competing school to inform the manager of the tournament immediately.
- B. The decision as to play or not to play shall be made by the Tournament Manager, based on the information presented and the type of sport event involved.
1. If one or more local policies do not permit travel or competition, the game, games, or tournament shall be postponed.
 2. If the scheduled competition is of a multiple team nature (i.e. Track and Field), the competition may take place even though all teams are not able to be present. (60 percent is suggested guideline).
 3. The rationale for No. 1 and No. 2 hinges on the fact that in No. 1, both teams of a dual type competition must be present if a contest is to take place. No. 2 permits competition, even though all teams cannot be present.
- C. If one or more schools are on the road to the tournament site at the time of watch or warning, no decision shall be and until contact has been made with all concerned. (An authorized person from the assigned schools).
- D. If one school arrives on site and the opponent cannot travel due to local policy, the game shall be postponed and rescheduled on the next possible date, not including Sunday.

GENERAL GUIDELINE: The local Tournament Manager has full jurisdiction over the policies of the tournament site. If the above guidelines do not cover a certain situation, the decision on the matter shall be that of the Tournament Manager. ■

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
1661 Ramblewood Dr.
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823-7392

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