



michigan high school athletic association

In This Issue:

- Executive Committee Meetings
 - 2008 Forsythe Award Winners
 - 2008 Officials Banquet Registration
 - Game Suspension Guidelines
 - Instructions for Online Ratings
 - Tornado Policy
-
-

NOTICE: Tournament host availability requests to be submitted online. Cards not included in MHSAA Bulletins. See page 258.



BULLETIN

© 2007 Michigan High School Athletic Association

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
February Executive Committee Meeting	252
Submit Tournament Hosting Requests Online.....	258
Finance Committee Meeting	259
Attend CAP® This Spring	260
Representative Council Meeting	261
March Executive Committee Meeting	264
From the Executive Director: Grand Slam Leadership (Coaching Changes).....	273
From the Executive Director: New Eyes and New Ways	274
Guest Contributor: After Eight Overtimes, is a Tie Wrong?	282
Health and Safety: Building a Better Baseball Player	284
Winter Ratings Due April 1: Online Ratings Instructions	285
Gent, Newkirk Named 2008 Forsythe Winners.....	286
Don't Miss the Officials Awards Banquet/Ticket Form.....	287
Tennis Committee Meeting.....	289
Baseball/Softball Committee Meeting	290
Wrestling Committee Meeting.....	291
Register All Coaches Before They Assume Responsibility.....	292
Boys Lacrosse Committee Meeting	293
Girls Lacrosse Committee Meeting	295
Game Suspension Guidelines.....	297
Track and Field/Cross Country Regulations Committee Meeting	298
Girls Competitive Cheer Committee Meeting	300
Soccer Committee Meeting.....	303
Football Committee Meeting	305
Tornado Policy	307

The Only Official Interpretations
Are Those Received In Writing

ON THE COVER

March was the busiest month of the year for MHSAA Finals, as champions were crowned in 13 team sports in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. Among the events were the Boys and Girls Basketball tournaments, and the Team and Individual Wrestling tournaments.

MHSAA File Photos

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
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Members of Representative Council

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Board of Education
Tawas Area Schools
Appointee

James Derocher*, President

Superintendent
Negaunee Public Schools
Class C-D — Upper Peninsula

Ken Dietz**

Athletic Director
Watervliet High School
Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

Keith Eldred*, Vice President

Dean of Students
Williamston Middle School
Junior High/Middle Schools

Lafayette Evans**

Director of Athletics
Detroit Public Schools
City of Detroit

Eric Federico*

Superintendent
Gibraltar Schools
Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan

Dan Flynn**

Faculty Member/Coach
Escanaba High School
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

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Kris Isom**

Athletic Director
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Karen Leinaar**

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Benzie Central High School
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Director of Physical Education & Athletics
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Saginaw Township Community Schools
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

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Rochester High School
Appointee

Fred Smith*

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Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

Roberta Stanley (ex-officio)

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Michigan Dept. of Education
Lansing
Designee

Arnetta Thompson**

Dean of Students
Grand Rapids Union High School
Appointee

*Term Expires December 2008

**Term Expires December 2009

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

Jordan Cobb, Assistant Director of Information Systems

Andy Frushour, Marketing and Special Programs Coord.

Nate Hampton, Assistant Director

John R. Johnson, Communications Director

Rob Kaminski, Publications and Web Site Coordinator

Camala Kinder, Administrative Assistant

Gina Mazzolini, Assistant Director

Thomas L. Minter, Assistant to Executive Director

Peggy Montpas, Bookkeeper

Andrea Osters, Program & Development Assistant

Thomas M. Rashid, Associate Director

John E. Roberts, Executive Director

Laura Roberts, Receptionist

Mark Uyl, Assistant Director

Jamie VanDerMoere, Administrative Assistant

Faye Verellen, Administrative Assistant

Debbie Waddell, Executive Assistant

Tricia Wieferich, Administrative 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 11, 2008

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Keith Eldred, Williamston
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Eric Federico, Gibraltar
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 deci-

sion of the Executive Committee to grant waiver of a regulation shall be null and void.

The Executive Committee is not authorized to approve waiver based on alleged or actual differences between schools based on “environment,” demographics, curriculum or extracurricular offerings. 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 contract the MHSAA has with member schools obligates the MHSAA to not change rules during the school year.

Students for whom waiver of a particular regulation is approved must be eligible in all other 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.

Ferndale 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 passed three of six classes in the first semester of the 2007-08 school year. The student was diagnosed with a brain tumor, had surgery in December 2006, and had a change of medication in November 2007 to help her concentrate.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver, indicating that this is the one time this section will be waived for this student and noting that if she has not been included on the Master Eligibility List submitted for a winter season MHSAA tournament, this student's name may not be added after the deadline for that tournament. All her semesters to date count toward the maximum of eight allowed this student.

Rochester Hills-Stoney Creek 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 four of six classes in the first semester of the 2007-08 school year, which is attributed to disorders for which the student is on medication.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Armada High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation on behalf a 10th-grade student was returned to the Executive Committee for the third time because previous information was omitted or inaccurate. The student began the 9th grade in 2006-07 at Armada High School, living in Imlay City with his mother and stepfather, then enrolled at Yale for a few weeks to begin the 2007-08 school year and reenrolled at Armada on Sept. 25, 2007.

Over the summer of 2007, the student and his mother and stepfather moved to Georgia. In early September, the student moved to Yale to live with his biological father, who is not on the birth certificate. To begin the 2007-08 school year, the student enrolled at Yale High School. Because the birth parents never married and were not divorced, the Executive Committee approved a waiver for this student at its meeting of

Sept. 6, 2007, and the student participated in two junior varsity football games.

In late September 2007, the student's birth mother returned from Georgia to reside in Imlay City and the student reenrolled at Armada High School on Sept. 25, 2007. Armada High School requested another Executive Committee waiver on Nov. 29, 2007 because the student, eligible under Exception 2, was not attending the school of his residence (Interpretation 60) but was returning to the same school while residing with the only parent listed on his birth certificate. It was not reported in this November appeal from Armada that a waiver of the transfer rule was approved for this student previously by the Executive Committee on Sept. 6, 2007 while at Yale High School. It was reported that the student did not participate in athletics, when in fact he had played in two JV football games while at Yale High School.

The student has been withheld from competition by Armada High School since the reporting errors and omissions were discovered and reported to the MHSAA on Jan. 17, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver and determined that the school is not required to withhold the student from further competition.

Bay City-All Saints Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who began the 2007-08 school year at Unionville-Sebewaing High School and participated in athletics before enrolling at Bay City-Central High School for two days on Dec. 11, 2007. The student enrolled at All Saints Central on Jan. 17, 2008.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Belding High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Ionia High School while living with her mother. In January 2008, the student moved to the residence of her father and enrolled at Belding High School. The parents never married, but an otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form is in process to be submitted with documentation that indicates the father.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver, pending receipt of appropriate documentation.

Big Rapids-Crossroads Charter Academy (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who attended Crossroads Charter Academy for grades 9 through 12 except for two days when she attended Big Rapids High School for expanded curriculum choices on Nov. 26 and 27, 2007.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Bloomfield Hills-Lahser High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student previously attended Rochester Hills-Lutheran Northwest High School where she did not participate in athletics. The student enrolled at Lahser High School to begin the second semester of the 2007-08 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year athletic program for Lahser High School.

Bloomfield Hills-Lahser High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Bloomfield Hills-Marian High School, did not participate in athletics, and enrolled at Lahser High School on Nov. 5, 2007.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Cadillac High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 60 (school of residence) was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student whose parents are divorced. The student previously attended school in Missouri while residing with his mother. The student enrolled at Cadillac High School on Jan. 22, 2008, residing with his father who lives in the Lake City School District. Two step-siblings (grades 3 and 10) previously moved from Missouri to live with the father and enrolled to begin the 2007-08 school year in the Cadillac Schools on Sept. 4, 2007.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Clio High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Burton-Faith High School, where he participated in athletics, before enrolling at Clio to begin the second semester of the 2007-08 school year. The student has been diagnosed with a disorder for which he has undergone counseling and medication. His academic performance suffered and the student changed schools due to dissatisfaction with the former school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Croswell-Lexington High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who lived with her divorced mother in Yale and attended Kimball-New Life Christian Academy. When the mother died on Aug. 14, 2007, the student moved in with her father in the Croswell-Lexington School District and commutes to Kimball each day for school. The student intends to finish the school year at New Life Christian and will enroll at Croswell-Lexington to begin the 2008-09 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Dansville High School (Regulation I, Section 9[A & F]) – A request to waive two portions of the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Chelsea High School and whose unmarried parents recently concluded sixth-month custody proceedings. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted, along with a birth certificate indicating both parents. The Order of the 30th Judicial Circuit Court, effective Feb. 1, 2008, directed the student to attend Dansville Public Schools. The student's last day of school at Chelsea was Jan. 31, 2008; but a counselor's error, along with three days of school closings due to weather, delayed the student's first day at Dansville until after the Feb. 1 deadline for participation in MHSAA winter tournaments.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

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

student who moved with his family to Germany at the end of his 8th grade year before school began for the 2007-08 school year, due to the father's employment. The student has attended the Farmington Schools throughout his career and will be moving back to Farmington with his mother and father in June, but the student's father will return to Germany before the student's completion of one semester and continue working there. The student will be in the 10th grade when he enrolls for the 2008-09 school year at Farmington High School.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Farwell High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student previously attended Clare High School where he did not participate in athletics. The student enrolled at Farwell High School on Nov. 1, 2007.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year athletic program for Farwell High School.

Flint Northwestern Academy (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Flint Northwestern Academy while living with his father and moved to Georgia to live with his mother in the summer of 2007. The student has returned to reside with his father in the Northwestern attendance area, enrolling on Jan. 26, 2008. The parents never married, but an otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted along with a birth certificate indicating both parents.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Gladstone High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who attended Gladstone High School for 11 years except for three days from Jan. 21-23, 2008, when the student attended Escanaba High School. The student reenrolled at Gladstone on Jan. 25, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Holland-West Ottawa High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student previously attended Hamilton High School where she did not participate in athletics. The student enrolled at West Ottawa High School on Dec. 3, 2007.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year athletic program for West Ottawa High School.

Holland-West Ottawa High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student previously attended West Ottawa High School since the 2003-04 school year before attending school in Georgia. The student reenrolled at West Ottawa High School on Oct. 5, 2007.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at West Ottawa High School commencing Oct. 5, 2007.

Holland-West Ottawa High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation, and specifically Interpretation 60, was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who previously attended West Ottawa Public Schools from 1997 until the fall of 2007 when the student left the state with his father due to his father's change of employment. The student turned 18 in October 2007. He reenrolled at West Ottawa on Jan. 3, 2008, residing with an aunt and uncle in Zeeland. An Educational Transfer Form is complete. The student is enrolling at the school he has previously attended, but not his school of residence.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ithaca High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who has attended Ithaca High School for a number of years except for two days of school on Jan. 3 and 4, 2008, when the student enrolled at Middleton-Fulton High School before returning to Ithaca. The student

did not participate in athletics at Fulton.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Jenison High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student previously attended Grandville High School where she did not participate in athletics. The student enrolled at Jenison High School on Jan. 21, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year athletic program for Jenison High School.

Livonia-Clarenceville High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who began the 2007-08 school year at Harper Woods High School while living with an aunt until Dec. 3, 2007, when the student was dis-enrolled because the aunt did not live in the district. The student moved in with his father who resides in the Clarenceville School District and enrolled on Dec. 17, 2007. The student would be eligible under Exception 2 except that the parents never married and thus cannot be the “single parent, if divorced.” The parents have shared custody of the student and submitted an Affidavit of Parentage indicating both parents.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Marine City High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student’s parents are separated but not divorced. The student previously attended school in Algonac while residing with his father and has moved with his mother into Marine City, enrolling on Sept. 30, 2007.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student’s 91st school day of enrollment at Marine City High School commencing Oct. 5, 2007.

Oxford High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student previously attended Saginaw-Heritage High School where she did not participate in athletics. The student enrolled at Oxford High School to begin the second semester of the 2007-08 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year athletic program for Oxford High School.

Pinckney High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously resided with her mother and attended Big Rapids High School where she participated in athletics. The student’s mother lost her job and has moved to Casper, Wyoming for a similar position. Because of the mother’s new job and odd working hours, the student has moved in with a cousin in the Pinckney School District.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Rochester Hills-Stoney Creek High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student began the 9th grade in the 2006-07 school year at Stoney Creek and participated in athletics. The student then transferred to Auburn Hills-Oakland Christian to begin the 10th grade in the 2007-08 school year where he did not participate in athletics. On Dec. 12, 2007, the student reenrolled at Stoney Creek.

Noting that a specific condition of the Section was not met (no previous participation), the request for waiver was not approved.

Saginaw-Nouvel Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to

permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student previously attended Saginaw-Heritage High School where she did not participate in athletics. The student enrolled at Nouvel Catholic Central to begin the second semester of the 2007-08 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year athletic program for Nouvel Catholic Central High School.

South Lyon East High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A late request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who began the 9th grade in the 2006-07 school year at Climax-Scotts High School while residing with both parents. The student has moved with his mother only to South Lyon due to a job promotion. The father will commute to South Lyon on the weekends but remains with his business in Climax until their home can be sold. South Lyon East is a new school which only offers 9th- and 10th-grade subvarsity athletics.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Tecumseh High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A late request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended school in Indiana while living with his mother and stepfather. Due to domestic issues, the student has moved in with his grandmother and enrolled at Tecumseh High School to start the second semester of the 2007-08 school year. Two years prior, this student's older brother left the same residence and parents for similar reasons.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Williamston High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student previously attended East Lansing-Lakeside Christian School where she did not participate in athletics. The student enrolled at Williamston High School on Jan. 23, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the

request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year athletic program for Williamston High School.

Yale High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made on behalf of 10th- and 11th-grade brothers to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 73 (moving back to the former residence before the completion of one semester). The students' parents are missionaries who have been serving in the United Arab Emirates since 2005. In July 2008, the family will return to Yale to live with grandparents and the students will be eligible under Exception 1. The parents will resume their missionary duties in December before the completion of the first semester while the students will continue to reside with the grandparents and attend Yale High School.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ypsilanti-Calvary Christian Academy (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student attended Calvary Christian for the 9th grade and Washtenaw Technical Middle College for the first semester of the 2007-08 school year before reenrolling at Calvary Christian to begin the second semester of the 2007-08 school year. The student previously participated in athletics.

Noting that a specific condition of the Section was not met (no previous participation), the request for waiver was not approved.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to Interpretation 244, the following junior high/middle schools have been granted waiver of the enrollment regulation to permit 6th-grade students to participate with and against 7th and 8th-graders for the sports listed in the 2007-08 school year only.

*Manistee Catholic Central - boys and girls basketball

Sault St. Marie-JKL Bahweting - boys and girls basketball

**Cooperative program dissolved. Approval is for Manistee Catholic Central students only.*

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to Interpretation 244, the following junior high/middle schools have been granted waiver of the enrollment regulation to permit 6th-grade students to participate with and against 7th and 8th-graders for the sports listed in the 2008-09 school year only.

McBain-Northern Michigan Christian - girls volleyball

Manistee Catholic Central Junior High School – A request to waive the membership requirement of onsite enrollment of 15 students in grades 7 and 8 was made to allow Trinity Lutheran and Free Soil Middle Schools to continue involvement in a basketball cooperative agreement with Manistee Catholic Central Junior High School. The schools have enrollments of five students at Trinity Lutheran and nine at Free Soil.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request, noting it does not have authority to waive this requirement of the MHSAA Constitution.

Swimming & Diving – The MHSAA staff reported it is monitoring Division 3 boys swimming qualification times for the Lower Peninsula Final Swim Meet but has determined that it may be unnecessary to make any revisions, would establish bad precedent to modify published standards during the season and could result in the omission of qualifiers whose schools were unaware of the late changes.

Trophies and Medals – Staff shared with the Executive Committee concerns for

the trophies and medals presented at MHSAA tournaments. The MHSAA will continue the agreement with its trophy vendor through 2008-09 and continue to address the breakage associated with the unique shape of the state (wood) and the intricacies of the figures (composite metal); but a Request for Proposal for trophy vendors will be distributed in the fall, leading to a decision by the Representative Council not later than March of 2009 for the 2009-10 school year and beyond.

The medal vendor has suspended the \$50,000 annual increase it proposed in January to supply more than 64,000 medals for MHSAA tournament participants each year. MHSAA staff will prepare modifications for the medal program in 2008-09, addressing the materials used, the amount of back stamping, and ribbons; and the staff will prepare a proposal for the Representative Council in May which may reduce the number of medals awarded.

Representative Council – An early draft of the agenda for the March 14 Representative Council Meeting was reviewed.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Thursday, March 13, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, April 16, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Saturday, May 3, at 5 p.m. in Gaylord; and Wednesday, June 11, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing. ■

SUBMIT TOURNAMENT HOSTING REQUESTS ONLINE

MHSAA member schools may submit tournament hosting requests online beginning April 8, 2008.

Access your page on the MHSAA Web site using your school login and click the appropriate link under “Facilities and Hosting” to submit your request(s). In addition to indicating interest in hosting tournaments, schools are also reminded to update facility information within this page when necessary.

The host availability form previously found in the *March Bulletin* has been discontinued to better facilitate your needs and to streamline administrative procedures.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 11, 2008

Members Present:

Vic Michaels, Detroit
Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Eric Federico, Gibraltar

Staff Members Present:

Tom Minter
Peggy Montpas
Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)

2008-09 BUDGET PREPARATION SCHEDULE:

February 11 - Audit and Finance Committee proposals (including personnel);

March 14 - Representative Council approval;

April 16 - Audit and Finance Committee proposals (remainder of budget);

May 6 - Representative Council approval.

2007-08 Year-To-Date Review – Through Jan. 31, 2008, revenues were approximately \$441,643 ahead of the 2006-07 school year, and total disbursements were nearly \$96,899 higher than the first six months of the previous fiscal year. Unfavorable weather contributed to fall tournaments netting approximately \$800,000 less in 2006 than in 2005; but more than half of that difference was made up in the fall of 2007.

Audit Review – The professional audit for the 2006-07 fiscal year remains incomplete pending resolution of the association's liability for plaintiff attorneys' fees and expenses in the sports seasons litigation.

The preliminary audited tournament financial reports for the 2006-07 school year showed that a record 13 tournaments had direct revenue in excess of direct expenses, but that only three tournaments – boys basketball, girls basketball and football – have net revenues sufficient to cover functional expenses, and the surplus from those three sports overcomes the deficit of the 25 other tournaments.

Football Playoff Finances – The Audit and Finance Committee reviewed a second draft of an MHSAA Football Playoff Financial Accountability Plan, suggested several minor changes in its presentation and approved it as a recommendation to the

Representative Council in March. Its major features are as follows:

General

1. Hosts continue to retain 100% of concessions revenue.
2. Hosts continue to retain 100% of parking revenue, if any; and the maximum parking charge is raised from \$2 to \$3 per car.
3. MHSAA pays **50%** of deficits for host sites, if any (not 100%).
4. Host sites sent numbered tickets; unused tickets returned for audit.

Pre-Districts ★

Host retains 40% of **gross** and pays all local expenses.

Remainder of gross sent to MHSAA, minus amount to pay officials. ◆

MHSAA forwards 10% of **gross** to opponent who pays own travel. □

Districts ★

Host retains 25% of **gross** and pays all local expenses.

Remainder of gross sent to MHSAA, minus amount to pay officials. ◆

MHSAA forwards 10% of **gross** to opponent who pays own travel. □

Regionals ★

Host retains 20% of **gross** and pays all local expenses.

Remainder of gross sent to MHSAA, minus amount to pay officials. ◆

MHSAA forwards 10% of **gross** to opponent who pays own travel. □

Semifinals ★

Neutral sites. Host retains 20% of **gross** and pays all local expenses.

Remainder of gross sent to MHSAA, minus amount to pay officials. ♦

MHSAA sends \$500 to each school, plus \$500 hotel & mileage reimbursements by formula when necessary (no change).

Finals

No change.

★ No minimums for hosts or opponents.

♦ Includes line to gain officials (“chain crew,” not scorer or timer).

☐ MHSAA pays \$500 if hotel is required and mileage bonus as follows:

151 to 250 miles one way = \$500

251+ miles one way = another \$500

The Audit and Finance Committee approved the concept of a single ball manufacturer endorsement for MHSAA Football Playoffs which would permit participating teams to use any legal ball from that manufacturer’s line in MHSAA Playoff games. The staff is to solicit proposals and present the results to the committee. Then if it is warranted, the committee will make a recommendation to the Representative Council.

Basketball Tournament Finances –

The Audit and Finance Committee reviewed the declining condition of Basketball

Tournament finances, discussed the declining attendance and revenue of regular season basketball during the 2007-08 season, and considered the consequences of the change of girls basketball season on MHSAA tournament attendance and revenue in 2008. The committee will discuss short-term and long-term strategies for Basketball Tournament finances at its April 16 meeting.

Ticket Prices – The committee approved the following recommendation for 2008-09: (1) to increase the minimum MHSAA Finals ticket price from \$6 to \$7 (affecting bowling, cross country, gymnastics, competitive cheer and track & field), and (2) to increase the ticket price for the Lower Peninsula Swimming & Diving Preliminaries (Friday) from \$6 to \$7. The recommendation will be presented to the Representative Council for action at its March 14 meeting.

401(k) Plan – Committee members were presented copies of the MHSAA Employee 401(k) Plan Investment Policy Statement and the required 404(c) Notice to Employees.

Personnel Considerations – The Audit and Finance Committee adopted proposals for the Representative Council’s action in March relative to compensation for staff for fiscal year 2008-09. ■

Attend CAP this Spring!

If you are a coach who has never attended a Coaches Advancement Program® course, consider yourself at a competitive disadvantage. Instituted in 2005 by the MHSAA and the Michigan State University Institute for the Study of Youth Sports, the program takes coaching beyond the games to address matters such as communication, philosophy, instruction and nutrition to assist in your everyday duties as a coach.



The MHSAA and ISYS look forward to helping coaches provide their student-athletes with the best that interscholastic athletics has to offer.

Consult the MHSAA Web site at mhsaa.com and click on “Coaches” for an updated schedule of CAP courses near you this spring. Simply fill out the enrollment form and return to the MHSAA to secure your spot in the program.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, March 14, 2008

Members Present:

Renee Bird, Tawas City
Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Ken Dietz, Watervliet
Keith Eldred, Williamston
Lafayette Evans, Detroit
Eric Federico, Gibraltar
Dan Flynn, Escanaba
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Chip Hansen, East Jordan
Kris Isom, Adrian
Karen Leinaar, Benzonia
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Linda Myers, Morley
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Wendy Shepard, Rochester Hills
Fred Smith, Kalamazoo
Arnetta Thompson, Grand Rapids

Member Absent:

Roberta Stanley, Lansing

Also Present:

Don Gustafson, St. Ignace
Paul Polfus, Carney
Joe Reddinger, Felch
Catherine Shamion, Ewen
Ed Sikorski, Ann Arbor
Jim Thelen, Lansing
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

Randy Allen
Tony Bihn
Jordan Cobb
Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton
John Johnson
Gina Mazzolini
Tom Minter
Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)
Kathy Westdorp
Karen Yonkers

President Jim Derocher opened the meeting by welcoming Chip Hansen and Arnetta Thompson to their first meeting, and he welcomed four representatives of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee whose members are invited to attend this meeting on an annual basis.

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Karen Leinaar, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council Meeting of Nov. 30, 2008; the minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings of Nov. 29, 2007, Jan. 16, 2008 and Feb. 11, 2008; the minutes of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee Meeting of Jan. 6-7, 2008; and the Board of Canvassers Report of Dec. 12, 2007. Adopted.

REPORTS

Legislation - Bill Zaagman of Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. reviewed legislation introduced that might directly or indirectly affect interscholastic athletics or the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Litigation – Ed Sikorski reviewed the slow progress of two judicial matters.

Administration – The executive director expressed appreciation and commendation for the attitudes and efforts of administrators, coaches and officials during winter sports seasons.

The executive director described the process of publicizing the classifying of schools for MHSAA tournaments in 2008-09.

Tony Bihn, Director of Information Services, summarized the fall 2007 Technology Survey completed by 677 schools and 2,881 officials which demonstrates support for the pace of the MHSAA toward online operations and communications. The survey results will be published this spring.

Mr. Bihn also reviewed responses of the first 774 persons to complete the online rules meeting in track & field, projected the cost and energy savings of this convenience and described “stress tests” of the delivery system to help the association make the appropriate system upgrades necessary when

online meetings are provided in all sports and the scope of mhsaa.com is expanded.

Council input was sought regarding the priorities for adding sports to the online rules meeting option.

A brief update on the activities of the Student Advisory Council was provided by Andy Frushour.

The Council was provided a progress report on three areas of concern with activities and governance of the National Federation of State High School Associations: the Annual Meeting schedule, alternate-year rule publications and the practice of allowing persons to continue serving on the National Federation Board of Directors who no longer serve on a state association staff or governing board.

OLD BUSINESS

Trimesters – Motion by Scott Grimes, supported by Eric Federico, to approve the substantive and editorial changes for the *MHSAA Handbook* as previously discussed by the membership and Council to better accommodate trimester systems, with the exception that decisions regarding (1) the minimum standard for athletic eligibility and (2) the length of the period of ineligibility following a deficiency at the end of a trimester will be delayed for further study during 2008. Adopted. Proposals will be reviewed during all membership meetings and submitted for Council vote in December or March.

Girls Gymnastics – Assistant Director Kathy Westdorp reviewed the girls gymnastics season survey requested by the Michigan High School Gymnastics Coaches and Judges Association and approved by the Representative Council at its previous meeting. The results indicate an opinion too divided to justify a change of season at this time.

Calendar – The Council reviewed additional materials regarding season adjustments that might ease some of the difficulties experienced during the first fall and winter following the court-ordered seasons changes. Staff is to coordinate discussions and surveys of the “hybrid” calendar proposal prior to the May Council meeting.

2008 Mission Action Plan – The executive director provided progress on eight of

eleven items in the MHSAA 2008 Mission Action Plan, including:

- Coaches education.
- Team captain leadership development.
- Student interest survey.
- Marketing representative to secure sponsorships.
- Comprehensive review of tournament administration.
- Expansion of mhsaa.com for both business and communications purposes.
- “Reaching Higher” program.

NEW BUSINESS

2008-09 Membership Resolution – Motion by Keith Eldred, supported by Linda Myers, to approve the 2008-09 MHSAA Membership Resolution with additional language from the *MHSAA Handbook*, page 27: “It is a condition for participation in any MHSAA postseason tournaments that high schools adhere to at least the minimum standards of Regulation I and the maximum limitations of Regulation II in ALL MHSAA tournament sports.” Adopted.

Vern L. Norris Award – The Representative Council was presented with the three finalists for the Vern L. Norris Award who had been screened by the MHSAA Awards Committee from eight nominees. The Council selected the recipient of the award, which will be presented at the Officials’ Awards & Alumni Banquet on May 10, 2008.

Meetings – The Representative Council approved expenses for the March Council Meeting and the schedule for the May 2008 Council Meeting. A draft agenda for the May meeting was provided.

The Council approved expenses for the National Federation Summer Meeting July 4-7 in Washington, DC, at the convention hotel room rate for up to five days, with specified meeting registration fees set by the National Federation, the IRS limit on per diem for up to five days and the transportation reimbursement limits from several Michigan cities.

Sterling Heights-Stevenson High School (Regulation I, Sections 4 & 5) – A request to waive the maximum semesters portions of the eligibility regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who is an Albanian immigrant who was enrolled

in the 8th grade at Utica-Bemis Junior High School when he entered the United States in October 2003. To begin the 2004-05 school year, the student was passed into the 9th grade in the Utica Schools but was not academically proficient. The family changed residences in October 2004, enrolling the student in the Chippewa Valley Schools, and the student continued in the 9th grade. The student repeated the 9th grade in the 2005-06 school year after the family moved back to the Utica Public Schools. The student passed five of six classes in the second semester of the 2005-06 school year and participated in football at Sterling Heights-Stevenson during the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years. The student will be enrolled in high school for the 2008-09 school year, which would be the student's ninth and tenth semesters since first enrolling in high school at the start of the 2004-05 school year.

At its Jan. 16, 2008 meeting, the Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver. The school appealed this decision and presented the Council with additional documents and letters.

The associate director reviewed the documents and information provided by the school's administration. The vice president reviewed the Executive Committee's history for consideration of waivers of Sections 4 and 5 of Regulation I, and he distinguished the information before the Executive Committee in January from the additional information now before the Council. During discussion, the conditions of previous waivers were distinguished from the conditions of this request. It was noted that alleged or actual improper placement of students in grades has never been the basis for approving a waiver, and Council members discussed whether any of the additional factors presented in this matter were sufficiently compelling to distinguish this case from others.

Motion by Scott Grimes, supported by Karen Leinaar, to affirm the action of the Executive Committee and not approve the request for waiver.

Audit and Finance Committee Report

– The Council asked the Audit and Finance Committee to consider at its April meeting various alternative plans for controlling

housing costs for participating teams in MHSAA Team Final tournaments.

Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Karen Leinaar, to approve the committee recommendation to increase the distance from 50 to 75 miles (one way) before MHSAA reimburses participating schools in the final round of MHSAA team tournaments. Adopted.

Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Wendy Shepard, to approve the committee recommendation to increase volleyball scorers' (2) and timers' pay to \$15 for the first match and \$10 for subsequent matches. Adopted.

Motion by Pete Ryan, supported by Scott Grimes, to approve the committee recommendation to (1) increase the lowest priced Finals ticket from \$6 to \$7 (affects bowling, girls competitive cheer, LP cross country, girls gymnastics and LP track & field), and (2) increase the ticket price for the LP Swimming & Diving Preliminaries (Friday) from \$6 to \$7. Adopted.

Motion by Ken Dietz, supported by Eric Federico, to approve a new financial plan for the MHSAA Football Playoffs with these major features:

- a. Numbered tickets will be provided to all host sites, and unused tickets must be returned with financial reports.
- b. Hosts will receive a portion of the gross ticket sales from which they would pay their local expenses. The balance, less an amount to pay game officials, would be sent to the MHSAA.
- c. The MHSAA would forward a smaller portion of the gross to opponents who would pay their own travel expenses, except that the MHSAA would add a mileage bonus of \$500 for trips over 150 miles (one way) or \$1,000 for trips over 250 miles (one way).

Adopted.

Motion by Ken Dietz, supported by Pete Ryan, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendations regarding staff compensation for 2008-09. Adopted. ■

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, March 13, 2008

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Keith Eldred, Williamston
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Dan Flynn, Escanaba
Karen Leinaar, Benzonia

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.

The Executive Committee is not authorized to approve waiver based on alleged or actual differences between schools based on "environment," demographics, curriculum or

extracurricular offerings. 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 contract the MHSAA has with member schools obligates the MHSAA to not change rules during the school year.

Students for whom waiver of a particular regulation is approved must be eligible in all other 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.

Detroit-Old Redford Preparatory and Detroit-Consortium College Preparatory High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football for the 2008-09 school year between these schools. Detroit-Old Redford sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. The com-

bined 2007-08 enrollment will be 920 students. Support from the Southern Michigan Football Conference was received.

Redford-Covenant High School and Detroit-Westside Christian Academy (Regulation I, Section 1) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined enrollment for 2007-08 is 128 students. Covenant sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Southern Michigan Football Conference was received.

Charlevoix High School (Regulation I, Section 5) – A request to waive the semesters of competition regulation and specifically Interpretation 32 was made on behalf of two girls tennis players who participated with the boys tennis team in the fall of 2007-08 when there was no indication that the district would sponsor a girls team in the spring at Charlevoix High School.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Saranac High School (Regulation I, Section 5) – A request to waive the semesters of competition regulation and specifically Interpretation 32 was made on behalf of six girls soccer players who participated with the boys soccer team in the fall of 2007-08 when there was no intention to sponsor a girls team in the spring at Saranac High School. The request was to allow participation in a limited junior varsity schedule and without entering the MHSAA tournament. If the six players are not allowed to play this spring, there will not be enough students to have a team this spring. There are 14 girls interested in soccer, including the six who played this fall in 17 boys games.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver with the understanding that this team will not participate in the 2008 MHSAA Girls Soccer Tournament.

Holland 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 came down with an illness that required a reduced class load (two classes) given on homebound status during the first trimester of the 2007-08 school year. The student returned to school for the second trimester and passed all five classes but remains two classes short of

a satisfactory previous trimester record.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver, noting that the student passed all of the courses in which she was allowed to enroll and affirming that the semester counts toward the eight semesters of eligibility she is allowed in high school.

Battle Creek-St. Philip Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student previously attended Battle Creek-Lakeview High School and did not participate in athletics. The student enrolled at St. Philip to begin the second semester of the 2007-08 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only during the remainder of the 2007-08 academic and interscholastic athletics school year at St. Philip Catholic Central High School.

Benzonia-Benzie Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Coopersville High School while living with his mother. The student has changed residences to that of his father in the Benzie School District and enrolled at Benzie Central High School on Feb. 5, 2008. The parents never married, but an otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted along with a birth certificate indicating both parents.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Birmingham-Seaholm High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation and specifically the language of Exception 2 that the student return to the “single parent, if divorced.” The student attended Birmingham Schools his entire life while residing with his father only for the past nine years before attending an out-of-state residential school in August 2007. The student has returned to his father’s home and reenrolled at Seaholm High School on March 11, 2008. The parents were never married and the mother has not been in the student’s life since 1995.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Bronson High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student began the 9th grade at Bronson High School, 10th grade at Coldwater High School, and reenrolled at Bronson Feb. 19, 2008. The student has not participated in athletics at either school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only during the remainder of the 2007-08 academic and interscholastic athletics school year at Bronson High School.

Croswell-Lexington High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student began the 9th grade at Novi-Detroit Catholic Central High School while living with his parents. He moved with his mother only to Lexington and enrolled at Croswell-Lexington High School on Feb. 21, 2008. The student has not participated in high school athletics previously.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only during the remainder of the 2007-08 academic and interscholastic athletics school year at Croswell-Lexington High School.

Dearborn-Divine Child High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student previously attended Livonia-Ladywood High School, has not participated in high school athletics and enrolled at Divine Child on Jan. 14, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only during the remainder of the 2007-08 academic and interscholastic athletics school year at Divine Child High School.

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

student who was home schooled and lived with his parents and siblings in Florida. The father took a new job in Escanaba and moved with the son only while the rest of the family remained in Florida so the younger brother could complete treatments for cancer. It is intended that the entire family will move to Escanaba after the younger brother's cancer treatments are completed later this spring. The student could be eligible under Interpretation 73 (home schooled student who has achieved the highest grade available – Exception 11) except that Interpretation 62 prohibits immediate eligibility under Exception 11 when there also is a residential change.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Farmington Hills-Mercy High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Mercy High School from the 9th grade in the 2006-07 school year until the second semester of the 2007-08 school year when the student attended Northville High School for nine days, from Jan. 28 to Feb. 8, 2008, reenrolling at Mercy on Monday, Feb. 11. The student played sports at Mercy but not at Northville.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Farwell High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student attended school at the Macomb Juvenile Detention Center and has moved into the residence of a relative in Farwell, enrolling on March 10, 2008. The student has not participated in high school athletics previously.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only during the remainder of the 2007-08 academic and interscholastic athletics school year at Farwell High School.

Flint-Powers Catholic High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student previously participated in athlet-

ics while at Goodrich High School and enrolled at Powers on Feb. 28, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Powers Catholic High School beginning Feb. 28, 2008.

Fruitport 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 Muskegon-Oakridge High School and played JV basketball. On Sept. 29, 2007, the student was assaulted by another older student who is the subject of a Personal Protection Order issued Nov. 28, 2007, after the older student would not stop contacting the student. The student was released by Oakridge High School and enrolled at Fruitport High School on March 10, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who has attended the Grand Rapids Catholic Schools his entire life except for the first quarter of the 2007-08 school year when the student enrolled and did not participate in athletics at Lansing Catholic Central High School because the father was to accept a job which would involve a residential change to the Lansing area. The family could not sell its home in Grand Rapids and were unable to secure a new home in Lansing. The father drove the student to Lansing daily until another position was made available which did not require relocating to Lansing. The student reenrolled at Grand Rapids-Catholic Central on Nov. 6, 2007. The student played subvarsity baseball in the 9th grade at Catholic Central.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Kenowa Hills High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who lived with her mother in Grand Rapids and attended Grand Rapids-Central High School. The student moved with her father to the Kenowa Hills School District, enrolling Jan. 25, 2008.

The student's parents never married, but an otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted along with documentation which indicates the biological father, who was not listed on the birth certificate.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grass Lake High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of 9th- and 11th-grade siblings who previously attended Jackson-Lumen Christi High School before enrolling at Grass Lake High School on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008. The parents had been incorrectly informed that the students would be eligible in August 2008 if they enrolled before Friday, Feb. 29, 2008, which is the fifth Friday of the month, due to leap year. If eligibility is denied for the fall of 2008, the school requested eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment at Grass Lake High School.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for immediate eligibility but approved the request for waiver effective with the students' 91st school day of enrollment at Grass Lake High School beginning Feb. 27, 2008.

Hastings High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A confidential request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Lake Odessa-Lakewood High School before enrolling at Hastings High School. The student was the victim of a crime on Feb. 2, 2008, and enrolled at Hastings High School on Feb. 13, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Horton—Hanover-Horton 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 Jackson Public Schools the past two years and lived with his grandmother and three siblings. Both parents were incarcerated. The mother has recently been released and has moved with the student and one sibling to the Hanover-Horton School District, enrolling on Feb. 12, 2008. The student participated in football at Jackson.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Horton—Hanover-Horton High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B & D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year and to permit full eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student’s parents never married. The student previously attended Grass Lake High School while residing with his mother. The student has moved to live with his father in Jackson, enrolling outside the school of residence at Hanover-Horton High School on March 3, 2008. The student participated in athletics at Grass Lake.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver at the subvarsity level, pursuant to the specific requirement of Section 9(B) that the student must not have participated previously in high school athletics. The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student’s 91st school day of enrollment at Hanover-Horton High School beginning March 3, 2008.

Horton—Hanover-Horton High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student’s parents are divorced. The student previously attended Brooklyn-Columbia Central High School while residing with his mother. The student has moved to live with his father in the Vandercook Lake School District, enrolling outside the school of residence at Hanover-Horton High School on Nov. 5, 2007. The student participated in athletics at Columbia Central.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver at the subvarsity level, pursuant to the specific requirement of Section 9(B) that the student must not have participated previously in high school athletics.

Horton—Hanover-Horton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who has lived with her aunt and uncle since she was four years old and who moved with them from

Quincy into the Hanover-Horton School District in August 2007 and enrolled at Hanover-Horton High School to begin the 2007-08 school year. In November 2007, the student moved to Maryland to live with a sister for six weeks before returning to her aunt and uncle, reenrolling at Hanover-Horton in January 2008. The request was for the student to be eligible under Exception 2 (returning to live with parents) as the aunt and uncle are more the “parents” than the birth parents with whom the student has minimal contact.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Jackson High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student began the 9th grade at Jackson High School, moved to Texas with her mother and has returned to the home of her guardian (but not her parent) in the Jackson School District. The student has not participated in interscholastic athletics previously and reenrolled at Jackson High School on Jan. 8, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only during the remainder of the 2007-08 academic and interscholastic athletics school year at Jackson High School.

Lawton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who began the 2007-08 school year in Montana while living with her mother. The student enrolled at Lawton on Feb. 13, 2008, and is residing with her father. The student’s parents never married, but an otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted along with a birth certificate indicating both parents.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Lawton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who began the 2007-08 school year at Galesburg-Augusta High School. He enrolled at Lawton on Jan. 18, 2008. The student’s mother has moved to Arkansas and sent the student to the residence of a brother

who lives in Lawton. The student did not participate in athletics at Galesburg and would like to run track this spring.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Leland High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 60 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who attended school in Florida while residing with her parents. The student turns 18 on March 21, 2008, has filed a partially completed Educational Transfer Form, and enrolled at Leland on Jan. 28, 2008. The student has moved in with an older brother who has returned from the Air Force and lives in an uncle's house in the Suttons Bay School District. The student previously attended Leland Public Schools through grade 7 and has siblings who previously attended there.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 18th birthday and completion of the Educational Transfer Form by both schools and the MHSAA.

Leslie High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Olivet High School and has been placed with an aunt by the probate court because of physical and emotional issues with the mother. The student withdrew from Olivet in January and was home schooled in Leslie by the aunt before enrolling at Leslie High School on March 10, 2008, to coincide with Leslie's trimester schedule. The student participated in soccer while at Olivet.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Livonia-Stevenson High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A confidential request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Livonia-Clarenceville High School before enrolling at Livonia-Stevenson High School on Feb. 20, 2008. The student was the victim of an assault on April 20, 2006, and ongoing harassment from friends and acquaintances of the perpetrator of the assault who was the subject of a Personal Protection Order issued May 10, 2006.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Madison Heights-Bishop Foley High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student previously attended Warren Mott High School. After the parents were divorced, the student enrolled at Bishop Foley High School on Jan. 22, 2008. The student has not participated in high school athletics previously.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only during the remainder of the 2007-08 academic and interscholastic athletics school year at Bishop Foley High School.

Maple City-Glen Lake High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year and full eligibility to begin the 2008-09 school year. The student previously attended school in Spokane, Washington while living with her grandparents and recently moved into the Glen Lake School District to live with an aunt and uncle who have been given temporary guardianship. The student enrolled at Glen Lake High School on Feb. 26, 2008 and has not participated previously in interscholastic athletics.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only during the remainder of the 2007-08 academic and interscholastic athletics school year at Glen Lake High School.

Marion High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 60 (school of residence). The student previously attended Hemlock High School while living with his mother and has moved to Cadillac to reside with his father. The student's parents are divorced, and an otherwise acceptable Educational Transfer Form was submitted except that the student has enrolled at Marion High School because two other siblings have been enrolled in the Marion Public Schools since the start of the 2007-08 school year.

when the father and his family moved from Midland to Cadillac.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Mason High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Lansing Christian High School and enrolled at Mason High School to begin the second semester of the 2007-08 school year for educational, social, religious and athletic reasons.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Mason High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student lived with his parents in Brazil and has moved into the residence of an aunt and uncle, enrolling on Jan. 22, 2008. The student did not participate previously in high school athletics.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only during the remainder of the 2007-08 academic and interscholastic athletics school year at Mason High School.

Midland-Dow High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student began the 2007-08 school year in Texas and participated in soccer before moving in the fall to Sanford and enrolling at Sanford-Meridian High School on Nov. 14, 2007. On Jan. 28, 2008, the student enrolled at Dow High School. The student did not participate in athletics at Meridian High School but did play soccer in Texas.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver, pursuant to the specific requirement of Section 9(B) that the student must not have participated previously in high school athletics.

Milan High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the

2007-08 school year. The student previously attended Belleville High School and has moved to live with her father, enrolling at Milan High School on Jan. 25, 2008. The student has not participated in high school athletics previously.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only during the remainder of the 2007-08 academic and interscholastic athletics school year at Milan High School.

Monroe-St. Mary Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student previously attended Monroe High School, enrolling at St. Mary Catholic Central High School in December 2007. The student has participated in high school athletics previously.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver, pursuant to the specific requirement of Section 9(B) that the student must not have participated previously in high school athletics.

Pellston High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student began the 2007-08 school year at Alanson-Littlefield High School and did not participate in athletics. The student enrolled at Pellston on Jan. 14, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only during the remainder of the 2007-08 academic and interscholastic athletics school year at Pellston High School.

Rockford High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The father was transferred from Texas to Michigan in January 2008. The family has moved to Jenison and is living with the grandparents while they find a home. The student enrolled at Rockford High School on Jan. 28, 2008, because the family formerly lived in Rockford before moving to

Texas on Jan. 2, 2007. The student returned to the high school where he would have attended had the father not been transferred to Texas one year earlier. The father intends to return to Rockford and is in the process of purchasing a home. The house in Texas is vacant and up for sale. The student participated in football in Texas.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Saginaw-Heritage High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Saginaw-Nouvel Catholic Central High School before enrolling (actual attendance in one or more classes) at Heritage High School on Monday, Feb. 25, 2008. The student had met with counselors at Heritage on the fourth Friday of February (Feb. 22) but did not actually attend a class. The school requested eligibility in August 2008, and if denied, requested eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Heritage High School beginning Feb. 25, 2008.

Saline High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who lived with her mother and stepfather in Texas and has moved to Saline to live with her aunt and uncle because of problems with her mother. The student enrolled early in February 2008. The biological father lives in South Dakota and is not in the student's life. The mother and stepfather do not intend to relocate.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Standish-Sterling High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 74 (full and complete residential change). The student previously lived in Oscoda with both parents before enrolling at Standish-Sterling on Jan. 2, 2008. The student's father recently was employed in the area and has moved the family into a rental home in the Standish-Sterling School District closer to the father's work. The previous resi-

dence remains furnished and is occupied one or two times a week by the mother who returns to Oscoda to provide in-home care for her mother-in-law. All other requirements of Interpretation 74 have been met except that the previous residence is not vacant, sold or rented to persons other than family members.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Tawas City-Tawas Area High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a student who will be a 12th grader in 2008-09 and previously attended Tawas Area High School for 9th and 10th grades and moved to Grand Rapids for the second semester of the 10th-grade year in an attempt to obtain a fresh start. Upon returning, the student used Exception 2 and enrolled and participated in football for the first semester of the 11th grade (2007-08). In January 2008, the student voluntarily placed himself in the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy. The student would like to return to Tawas Area High School to begin the 2008-09 school year but has used his one-time exception. The student has been under medical treatment for over a year and was encouraged by his physicians to seek alternative school options.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Traverse City-St. Francis High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B & D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only until the 91st school day of enrollment when the student would be eligible at whatever level is determined. The student began the 2007-08 school year with the Traverse City Public Schools and did not participate in athletics. The student enrolled at St. Francis High School on March 3, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only until the student's 91st school day of enrollment at St. Francis High school beginning March 3, 2008, at which time the student is eligible at any level.

Traverse City-St. Francis High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the

remainder of the 2007-08 school year. The student began the 2007-08 school year with the Traverse City Public Schools and did not participate in athletics. The student enrolled at St. Francis High School on Jan. 28, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only during the remainder of the 2007-08 academic and interscholastic athletics school year at St. Francis High School.

Williamston High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who began the 2007-08 school year at Williamston High School and resides in Webberville. On Oct. 26, 2007, the student's brother and cousin were in a severe auto accident involving a prolonged stay at the Burn and Trauma Center in Ann Arbor. Because the parents could not transport the student to Williamston High School, the student enrolled at Webberville from Nov. 14, 2007 through Jan. 23, 2008. When the injured brother and cousin returned from the hospital, the student reenrolled at Williamston High School on Jan. 23, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ypsilanti High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Ann Arbor-Stone Alternative School before enrolling at Ypsilanti High School on March 10, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment beginning March 10, 2008.

Zeeland East High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Comstock High School for one school day on March 10, 2008, in anticipation of a possible move to the residence of her divorced father. The student reenrolled at Zeeland East High School on March 13, 2008.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

New Buffalo High School (Regulation II, Section 6) – A request to waive the travel limitation was made to allow the boys and

girls varsity basketball teams an educational experience and to play basketball games against Delta-Junction High School in Alaska in December 2008 or January 2009.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Holland High School (Regulation II, Section 11) – A request to waive the summer dead period restriction was made on behalf of the girls swim coach who is both the school and non-school coach for a 10th-grade student who has qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials to be held in Omaha, Nebraska June 30 – July 6, 2008 to qualify for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver on behalf of this coach with this student in 2008.

Kingsford High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 219, a request to waive the three-player rule was made on behalf of the head and assistant boys and girls swimming & diving coaches who work elsewhere for a living but have recently become coaches of the Waves club team which operates out of the only six-lane, 25-yard pool within a 75 mile radius. The Waves includes students ages 6-19 with the heaviest concentration at age 12 and under. The school does not have its own pool and the Waves have tried to operate with parent volunteers to coach the team which includes 44 students from five school districts, four counties and two states. Fifteen of the 44 students participating with the Waves are from the Kingsford Schools; ten are in grades 7-12. The current coaches wish to be involved in order to train new coaches.

Noting the limited options and remote location, the Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year and the 2008-09 school year.

Big Rapids-Crossroads Charter Academy (Regulation III, Section 1[C]) – The school requested waiver of the enrollment regulation to permit 6th-grade girls to play with and against 7th- and 8th-grade girls in soccer.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Holland Christian and Zeeland Christian Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee

approved the addition of boys tennis and girls competitive cheer to a cooperative agreement which already exists between these schools in cross country, football and girls swimming & diving. Holland Christian would be the primary school.

Boys Golf District Tournament Dates

– Currently, District tournaments may be scheduled on Thursday, Friday or Saturday, May 22, 23 or 24, 2008. Some Districts are having a difficult time securing a rainout date from golf courses for Friday or Saturday, May 23 or 24.

The Executive Committee approved allowing Boys District Golf Tournaments to be scheduled on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, so a rainout date may be scheduled on Thursday, May 22, 2008. Tournament managers must request and receive MHSAA staff permission to schedule on May 21.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Saturday, May 3, at 5 p.m. in Gaylord; and Wednesday, June 11, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing. ■

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GRAND SLAM LEADERSHIP (Coaching Change)

This is the fifth in a series of Bulletin articles examining ideas for successful leadership.

Too many people talking about “leadership” talk only in terms of change. They measure leadership by all they change.

However, sometimes leadership means, and the tougher task of leadership is, resisting change. For not all change is beneficial, and not all change is progress.

Sometimes the needed leadership is saying “no.” Sometimes the best leadership is saying “no.”

Great Britain’s former Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has said: “The art of leadership is not saying ‘yes,’ it’s saying ‘no.’”

Mahatma Gandhi once said: “A ‘no’ uttered from deepest conviction is better and greater than a ‘yes’ merely uttered to please, or worse, to avoid trouble.”

Knowing something about when change is needed, and when it’s not, is essential; and knowing how to effect change when it’s needed is important. Sports teams and their coaches can provide administrators a good tip.

When teams are in a bad losing streak, good coaches will often tell their kids to recall the fundamentals and teach them back to the basics.

On the other hand, when teams are going along just fine, don’t the really good coaches add some new wrinkles, some new plays, to keep their team sharp? They add some ingredients; stir the pot, to help keep their team’s competitive edge.

The good leader, and necessary leadership, encourages and assures a “team” during tough times; but during tranquil times, that leader keeps stirring the pot to avoid complacency.

In high school athletic administration, we need leadership in both times, and we need high school athletic directors to be the leaders and have the skills for both times. For the high school athletic director must stay in the whole game; there is no middle relief, setup man or closer in high school athletic administration. ■

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEW EYES AND NEW WAYS

What follows are three extended excerpts from comments by John E. "Jack" Roberts to the annual meeting for League and Conference Leadership, Feb. 13, 2008.

I. – THE MISSION

We have some complicated and interconnected topics before us. Some of the ideas rub up against each other and seem to conflict. Some may. But sometimes it's just that one idea is a precursor to another, on the same track, in the same general direction, but less far along in development. Or sometimes we just need to connect the dots between ideas that appear to conflict but may not. And sometimes we really do have to balance conflicting interests and objectives, build consensus and barter compromise.

When we have such topics before us, it's important that we state up front and often what our overarching objectives are. I believe they are (1) to maintain, if not increase, the relevance of school sports to students; and (2) to maintain, if not increase, the usefulness of school sports to schools.

These are not new objectives. They are our historical purposes, what we've always been up to. But the way we're talking about some topics today, and the way we are approaching some problems today, is different.

Because of this, some people think I've been bumped on the head and lost my mind or memory. Perhaps, but there are three things you should know about my state of mind.

First, I'm an idealist. That's why I work on this level of sports and not some other level; why I work in sports and not some other field. And I expect the same is true of

How do we involve a higher number of students in a high-standards program?

most of you – you're idealists, and prefer to work on this level of sports over any other that you might.

The second thing you need to know about my state of mind is that I'm more idealistic now than I've ever been. Frankly, that's the only good reason to keep doing this job.

And the third thing you need to know is that I'm too idealistic – and frankly, too close to the end of my career – to simply be advancing ideas that are merely a rearranging of the seats on the Titanic.

In high school athletics – especially in Michigan high school athletics – we do have ideals, and we do face serious issues; and both require some bold thoughts and brave actions.

I'm somewhere in the final one-third of my tenure here. In the first third, we raised some expectations for our programs, and we still have more to do. In the second third, we raised some standards for our programs, and we still have more to do. And in this final third, we will raise awareness for our programs like never before. I hope and expect that we will raise expectations, standards and awareness to unprecedented levels in the months and years ahead, in spite of all of the clutter around us and all of the big challenges before us.

I believe we are evolving from an association that worked very hard to understand the needs and wants of its constituents to an association that is also working very hard to understand the world around us and how it has changed school sports, is changing school sports and may yet change school sports. MHSAA staff have been engaged in a comprehensive look at three particular issues:

1. How has the growth of non-school youth sports programs affected school sports, and how will it affect the future of school sports?
2. How has expansion of education options – school of choice, charter schools, magnet schools, non-traditional schools – affected school sports, and how will this affect the future of school sports?
3. How have the proliferation of sports on television and changes in technology affected school sports, and how will these factors affect the future of school sports?

All of this is aimed toward a business plan for the MHSAA's future, which is really a business diversification plan that will allow the MHSAA to remain true to its core beliefs and historical purposes, but diversify the strategies and revenue sources for accomplishing those ends.

The questions we have been trying to answer in this effort are these: In the midst of all the perennial problems of school sports – for example, nationalism, commercialism, elitism, specialization and entertainment distractions – and facing serious new challenges – not the least of which are the seasons changes and a seriously sagging Michigan economy – how do we involve a higher number of students in a high-standards program?

If we ever stop trying to do this, if we ever lose this ideal, we should be reassigned or retired. How do we involve a higher number of students in a high-standards program?

How do we regain more of the almost 80 percent of young people who begin in organized sports but who drop out of organized sports before they ever walk into a high school as a ninth grader? And at the other end of the spectrum, how do we retain more of the interest and loyalty of the more gifted student-athletes who, when they reach high school, have their minds as much on non-school club programs as their school programs?

Again, how do we maintain, if not increase, the relevance of school sports to students, and how do we maintain, if not increase, the usefulness of school sports to students in our mission of educating young people?

Again, how do we maintain, if not increase, the relevance of school sports to students, and how do we maintain, if not increase, the usefulness of school sports to students in our mission of educating young people?

In general, I've begun to conclude that we do this by changing some strategies – not philosophies, because I believe in them down to my toes – but strategies. For example, I suggest we do nothing more that opens more doors to non-school sports interests; and I suggest we do new things that tend to aim kids back toward school programs and school coaches, especially trained school coaches.

We must do this through new policies, procedures, programs and promotions. You will see this in dozens of initiatives in the months and years ahead, both large and

small. For example, we will be driving hundreds of thousands more people to the MHSAA Web site for all things high school sports in Michigan, so it's our message, and not some other's, that people see and hear when they want information or service regarding high school sports.

But what I'm going to talk about today is not technology, but policy. Specifically, new approaches to the old issues of out-of-season coaching, and new approaches to seasons scheduling.

II. AN OLD PROBLEM

Perhaps you are like me. Sometimes as I focus on problems, as my job requires that I do, I tend to forget about the positives of our program. So let me state some of them up front, lest we (or at least I) momentarily forget how good and strong interscholastic athletics are.

In spite of everything that bothers us and batters us, school sports is still the best brand of youth sports in America. School sports still has the highest profile of any youth sports program in America. It still has the most media coverage of any youth sports program in America. It still has the most spectators of any youth sports program in America.

Non-school sports programs may involve longer trips and larger trophies, but school sports has the sanest, most sensible policies, and school sports has the best sportsmanship, and school sports is usually the safest youth sports in America.

We still have what most kids and parents want in youth sports. Heck, they even sue us when we tell them they can't have what they want. Our standards of eligibility and conduct, and our limitations in and out of season are credible and defensible policies. And as long as we have them, I'll have no difficulty

promoting them and defending them.

I want to lose nothing of these strengths, even as we look at ways to shore up our weaknesses. Let's be clear about that.

But here's one of our problems.

Two decades ago, a common concern of school administrators in this state was that the absence of MHSAA rules was forcing school basketball coaches and players to compete all summer long, placing demands on both of them that far exceeded the real basketball season during the school year. This concern for summer basketball has evolved to be a concern for the year-round demands on students in all sports, and the focus has shifted from overscheduling out of season by school coaches to the onerous demands of non-school programs and their coaches.

We still have what most kids and parents want in youth sports. Heck, they even sue us when we tell them they can't have what they want. Our standards of eligibility and conduct, and our limitations in and out of season are credible and defensible policies.

For two decades, our constituents provided clear consensus that the MHSAA should be working to lessen the activity between school coaches and student-athletes out of season. The sound thinking was that this would encourage multi-sport coaches and athletes, both desirable aims for interscholastic athletics, and would tend to avoid burnout by coaches and athletes.

This proper perspective was intended to avoid pressure on one coach to do as much with his or her team in the off season as another coach, to avoid the "keeping up with

the Joneses” mentality that would eventually lead to an “arms race” in off-season activities by school teams. The increasingly evident result, however, has been that non-school youth sports programs have moved into the voids created by school sports as the new restrictions were implemented, and that non-school youth sports programs have demanded more of school-aged athletes than the school coaches ever dreamed or dared.

We’ve had the right philosophy, but we’ve suffered the wrong result: an environment of constant escalation of out-of-season demands on students by non-school coaches and programs.

Perhaps the consequences of doing nothing to control school sports out of season would have had worse consequences than our attempts to control out-of-season excesses by school coaches; but candor requires that we admit that the efforts of the past two decades have had good intentions, but unintended consequences significantly problematic that we need to rethink some things. Not rethink our philosophies, for they were and are appropriate for school sports. But rethink our strategies.

1. One approach, one new strategy, might be to ask if we could risk different out-of-season coaching rules for different sports because of the different nature of the sports, different needs of the sports, or different numbers of participants involved in the sports. In other words, have a four-player rule in baseball and softball, instead of a three-player rule, without doing the same in basketball. Having something different for gymnastics than golf, or different for swimming than for soccer. Rules more tailored to the different nature, needs or numbers involved in a sport,

but more complicated to learn, understand and administer.

We do a little of this already. For example, certain baseball and softball activities are not subject to the summer dead period. Baseball and softball coaches are not limited like other team sports coaches regarding the number of days of competition in the summer with more than three or seven students of the school district. And football coaches are more restricted in the summer than any other team coaches.

So we do some of this now. Do we dare do more of it?

2. Another approach, another new strategy, might be to consider doing away with the three-player rule. Have a zero-player rule and an unlimited player rule, but never a three-player rule. Brighter lines: times when coaches can do nothing, and times when coaches can do anything. Several dead periods, but no down times and no three-player times. We don’t know if this would have better or worse consequences in the long run than the unintended consequences we have had of our existing rules.

But we do know that the MHSAA staff hungers for easier rules to interpret and administer, and for rules without the unintended consequences worse than what we’ve encountered from the rules we now have. We want you to know that we are not satisfied, we are not standing pat, and we are studying different

options. We have an ad hoc committee that will be working with us that will be invited to take a blank slate look at the topic, considering any option, where no idea is a bad idea as we rethink this topic.

We know we can't open the door to an arms race in out-of-season sports activities by our school teams, but we do know there have been negative consequences of the rules we now have. We acknowledge that, and perhaps that's the first step to fixing the situation.

3. Another approach, another new strategy, may be found outside the out-of-season coaching rules (Regulation II, Section 11) and inside the undue influence rules (Regulation I, Section 10).

Presently, the rules are very restrictive about what high school coaches can do with seventh and eighth graders outside the school season. Perhaps it would be better – perhaps it would help school sports retain students' interest in school sports – to allow more interaction and promotion by high school coaches with the seventh and eighth graders of their school district. There are some dangers in doing this, but the changes might give school coaches a fighting chance versus club sports coaches who are without any limitations promoting their programs to 7th and 8th-graders. It's a delicate balance, but it needs to be discussed.

4. Another approach, another new strategy, may be found in changes out-

side of the out-of-season coaching rules and outside of the undue influence rules. Maybe we shouldn't fear, but should be facilitating, high school students' interaction with 7th and 8th-graders.

Current rules say that high school students can't practice or compete with seventh and eighth graders, and that high school students can't coach junior high/middle school students. But wouldn't there be some good in centering youth on school sports if high school athletes could interact with junior high/middle school athletes more than the rules now allow? Might this not help give school sports a fighting chance in attracting seventh and eighth graders to school sports versus non-school club sports programs?

We know we can't open the door to an arms race in out-of-season sports activities by our school teams, but we do know there have been negative consequences of the rules we now have. We acknowledge that, and perhaps that's the first step to fixing the situation.

5. Another approach, another new strategy, might be to take back some of the ground we've given up to non-school youth sports programs. Almost every time we've restricted school coaches in what they can do out of season, non-school coaches and programs have moved in to fill those voids.

Maybe we should fight back by empowering schools and their coaches out of season – describing a list of can-dos, rather than a list of can't-dos out of season. Providing more than rules out of season, but also providing school-run opportunities out of season. Trying to return school sports and school coaches more to the center of the youth sports experience.

This is what's behind the "Reaching Higher" concept that the MHSAA Representative Council is considering, first for the sport of basketball and then perhaps for other sports in Michigan. A cooperative effort between the MHSAA and the coaches association for the sport to regain more of the students who have dropped out of school-organized sports before they reach high school, and to retain the interest of the more gifted student-athletes when they reach high school.

We are reviewing our rules and we may be revising our programming, and both have to be on the table if we are to effectively address this issue of out-of-season coaching, and answer these questions effectively: How do we maintain, if not increase, the relevance of school sports to students, and how do we maintain, if not increase, the usefulness of school sports to schools?

III. AND NEW PROBLEMS

Beginning last spring and all through the summer and fall, whenever and wherever I was asked to speak about the seasons changes, I said that we would not spend our time validating that schools were right and

plaintiffs were wrong in this litigation; that would be far too easy. I said we would do the harder thing. We would spend our time vigorously implementing the changes and also envisioning ways to make it go better in this state than in any other state that had had the court-imposed changes. I said we would evaluate ideas that would avoid the double-digit drops in participation that have occurred elsewhere in volleyball and girls and boys basketball where the girls volleyball and girls basketball seasons were switched against the preferences of the people involved.

Last fall we were tremendously impressed by the attitudes and actions of athletic administrators, coaches, officials, parents and students. We bucked the trend in Michigan, as girls volleyball participation dropped only 3.08 percent. Attendance at our District and Regional Girls Volleyball Tournaments increased, as it did at many midweek regular season volleyball contests. And while our attendance dropped significantly at the MHSAA Semifinals and Finals, as it did at many weekend regular season volleyball matches, our net attendance for our first Girls Volleyball Tournament in the fall was slightly up.

The two other Lower Peninsula sports that were switched as a result of the litigation didn't fare as well. Lower Peninsula girls golf was down almost 9 percent compared to girls Lower Peninsula golf last spring, and Lower Peninsula boys tennis was down almost 11 ½ percent compared to boys Lower Peninsula tennis last spring.

But every other fall sport, boy and girl, increased its participation, led by a more than 15 percent increase in girls cross country participation. So we actually finished the fall with an almost 1 percent increase in participation for all boys and girls sports compared with those same sports during the 2006-07 school year.

Obviously, we're concerned about golf and tennis. This is why we've talked about alternative summer seasons for golf and tennis in fun different formats. We must continue to envision new approaches and evaluate new ideas related to golf and tennis to arrest the participation decline if not reverse the trend.

What we have measured to have occurred last fall, and what we have observed to be occurring this winter, necessitates that we be doing what I said last spring, summer and fall that we would be doing: namely, not just implementing the court-ordered changes, but also implementing ideas to solve the problems created by those changes, and doing so on three levels.

It is obvious to us that this winter season has been more stressful than the fall and somewhat less successful. We will again survey participation to measure accurately what has occurred. It appears that attendance is down significantly at regular season basketball events, and that gate receipts are suffering as a result. Those playing girls and boys varsity contests on the same nights are cutting revenue opportunities in half. Those not doing so say crowds are down as well because there's too many nights of basketball, or too much unpredictability of who is going to play when.

We know people are fatigued. There are too many events for athletic directors to supervise as well as they would like, too many basketball games for officials to work,

too many basketball games for fans to have time or money to attend, too much basketball for the media to cover as well as it would like, and too many basketball teams forced into the same gym space so that practices are too early in the morning or too late at night or, if not, too few to teach players properly or prepare teams adequately for competition.

We fear that this fatigue will cause some schools to do here in Michigan what many schools have done elsewhere when boys basketball and girls basketball have been combined into the same season: reduce the program from three teams for girls and three teams for boys to two teams for each gender. This will lead us to the same kind of double-digit drops in participation that other states have had and we've been trying to avoid.

What we have measured to have occurred last fall, and what we have observed to be occurring this winter, necessitates that we be doing what I said last spring, summer and fall that we would be doing: namely, not just implementing the court-ordered changes, but also implementing ideas to solve the problems created by those changes, and doing so on three levels.

On the individual and school district level, administrators must be asking what they can be doing differently next year to solve the problems of this year, without hurting participation.

The leadership of leagues and conferences must be asking the same question: what can we do next year to solve the problems of this year without hurting participation?

And the MHSAA is already involved in the same process, asking what it can do to help schools and leagues relieve some pressures and solve some problems they are experiencing this year, without hurting participation, and perhaps even expanding participation.

The MHSAA can't dictate to individual schools, school districts or leagues and conferences regarding their regular seasons. We'll consult, we'll advise, we'll mediate, but we won't dictate what nights regular season basketball games are played. If we would do so, we would dictate far more use of Saturdays than we observe at present.

No, the MHSAA's major role is to consider the overall schedule and the structure of school sports, including the starting and ending dates of seasons and the number of contests that would be allowed. Our role is to raise possibilities, provide forums for them to be discussed, and mine for consensus.

That's the purpose of the packages of ideas that we have prepared for discussions around the state. We ask people to look not just at the "package," but look at the individual ideas embedded in those packages that have some merit and might stick, and might relieve some of the pressures and solve some of the problems that are apparent this year.

As I have discussed new scheduling ideas with school boards and principals and students and coaches and leagues, here's what I have been listening for:

1. Regarding the overlap of girls and boys basketball seasons, I know you might think that none is best, but that may be impossible now; so how much can we offset the girls and boys basketball seasons before it becomes impractical, causing more problems than it solves? That's what I'm listening for.

2. As for the spring sports starting and ending dates, how late can we delay these before new problems occur that are greater than the old problems we're trying to solve? That's what I'm listening for.
3. What's the point between proposals that are too modest to do any good and proposals that are too radical to get support for adoption? That's what I'm listening for.
4. What ideas encourage more participation, and what ideas might have the opposite effect? That's what I'm listening for.

It is important to remember, and it should be clear to every school because of our past record, that the MHSAA does not do what its membership does not want done, and the MHSAA does defend what its membership wants defended.

We won't move on season scheduling alternatives until we see a clear consensus for specific change. And after we've moved, we will defend the decisions of schools on these changes, just as we defended for nearly a decade the sports seasons schedule that schools preferred.

"When one door . . . closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door, we do not see the one which has opened for us."

— Helen Keller

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

AFTER EIGHT OVERTIMES, IS A TIE WRONG?

You've heard the old adage about going to see a fight and a hockey game breaking out, right? Well, last Saturday thousands of folks turned out for Michigan's Division I high school hockey championship game, but what they witnessed was an eight-overtime marathon on ice.

The result of the record-setting 109 minutes of play was a 1-1 tie and a pair of co-champions.

Marquette and St. Mary's shared the championship after their epic eight-overtime affair.

Absorb that for a moment, and you're almost sure to think it a waste of time and energy. Sharing a championship trophy is nonsense, right? As Vince Lombardi would say, winning is the only thing that matters. Or as my favorite coach used to say, "A tie is like kissing your sister; nobody gets much satisfaction." So when I first saw the headline about an 8-OT tie, I believed the officials surely could have done something, anything, to avoid a moot finish to a state title game.

Marquette Senior High School coach Joe Papin had a similar reaction upon hearing the authorities' decision. "We were like, 'What? C'mon, we've got to play for a winner,'" Papin told me by phone from Michigan. "But then you think about the big picture, and the fact that these kids had already played about three hockey games in one outing, and plus, it was almost midnight. At that point, you realize that this is what was best. You have to use common sense."

Common sense would normally tell you that a tie in sports is useless. That's why Marquette-Orchard Lake St. Mary's marked the only tie in the history of Michigan's hockey finals. But, considering it was the longest high school hockey game in U.S. history in terms of minutes played, a tie does make sense. There are exceptions to many rules, and this game was nothing if not exceptional.

Chris Lau, a reporter for the *Detroit Free Press*, likened the latter periods of the epic on ice to a pee-wee league skirmish. "Guys were so exhausted that they were falling over with-

out even being touched. And they were almost unable to get up. ... Yet they were still skating as hard as they possibly could, and diving after pucks, and making hits, and still going back to block shots. It was really something to see."

Papin's Redmen journeyed 450 miles from Marquette for a shot at the title. Their bus left home on a Tuesday, and after quarterfinal and semifinal wins along the way, they laced up their skates for the championship game in Plymouth on Saturday -- their fifth day on the road. Imagine facing the two-time defending state champions after a trip like that. Then imagine going eight overtimes with them.

"As the night went on, we were loading our guys up with water and trying to get them any kind of food we could because they had already gone through all the apples, bananas and oranges," Papin said. "My wife went and got a case of Nutter Butters from the concession stand, which had already closed but reopened.

"But by the eighth overtime, it was definitely a health issue. It was about the safety of the kids."

Common sense told Papin, St. Mary's coach Brian Klanow and the Michigan High School Athletic Association that at that point it was about the safety of the kids. Common sense tells every sane human being that, at that point, the safety of the kids trumps all. So what scares me is a comment posted by an alleged adult at the bottom of Lau's game recap on the *Free Press* Web site.

"Sportsnut76" wrote: "After playing hockey growing up, and still playing as an adult, I would be DISGUSTED if I played my heart out and then someone told me the game was ending in a tie. WHY EVEN PLAY???. Sports are about winning and losing. NO MATTER HOW LONG THAT TAKES! As usual, a decision made by some adult to be politically correct and make everyone feel good about each other. Pretty soon we won't even need to keep score. Just tell everyone they played hard and they are

all champions. What a sham the MHSAA is.”

In reality, the MHSAA called the game for several reasons. Not only was the game going into its ninth overtime, it was also almost midnight by that point. In Michigan, high school hockey cannot be played on Sundays, so the game would have been suspended at midnight anyway. If the game had been completed later, the two teams would have spent another day on the road, missing another day of school, just so they could resume a game (which may well have ended with one more shift) on Monday.

Probably not worth it, right?

“More overtimes or a shootout when kids could barely skate and goaltenders could hardly stand up just would have cheapened the win,” Papin said. “Plus, those weren’t even options on the table.”

The decision was what was best for everyone. Best for the two squads, who had played their hearts out. Best for the two goaltenders, who had combined for 91 saves through regulation and eight sudden-death periods. It was even best for the many spectators who had been at the rink for more than five hours.

Lau recalled the standing ovation from the thousands still in attendance when the co-champion decision was announced through the PA system.

“It was pure joy in the arena. Everybody was standing up and cheering for both teams. When I talked to players afterwards, there were some mixed feelings about the tie, but

every single player I spoke with – without fail – added at the end of their comment that they were glad it ended the way it did. That was without me asking them if they were happy -- that came from all of the coaches and players of their own volition. It was what was best for everybody. It made sense.”

Too bad sense eludes so many otherwise-sane Americans who have been brainwashed by the win-at-all-costs crusade. At the end of the day, whether we’re talking about recruiting battles, high school championships or Little League games, the only thing that seems to matter to many people is the W. Sure, that’s the way it should be in professional sports. But, lest we forget, everything else is markedly different.

That’s why this was an extraordinary hockey game. That’s why, tie score and all, those 109 minutes weren’t a waste of time. That’s why the officials who made the decision should be commended. Someone finally got it right. They made a decision based solely on the best interest of the kids.

Not to say high school athletes should always be treated like kids, but Papin did attest that, back in their hotel that night after eight overtimes and one tie score, his co-champions slept like babies.

No word on whether “Sportsnut76” is still tossing and turning over the tie.

— *Mary Buckheit for ESPN.com*
(Reprinted with permission)



The players certainly didn’t look disappointed in sharing the title.

AP Photo

BUILDING A BETTER BASEBALL PLAYER: TRAINING PRINCIPLES FOR HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PITCHERS

“Just pitching” or “just playing the game” will not get a baseball pitcher (or any other position player) into game shape. So what must the pitcher (player) do to get ready for the season? Some key points to keep in mind are listed below.

The movements in baseball are ground-based; they always begin with the player applying a force to the ground. The exercises should reflect this. The force developed in pitching starts with the legs. Squats and lunges must be a key part of the strengthening program. (Fig 1)

In addition, the first goal of the training program should be to build stability in the core. The core muscles (abdominal, hips, pelvis, and back extensors) stabilize the body during all standing exercises (activities). If the core is stable, there is less chance of injury. Power and speed will be greater. Planks, bridges, and chops (see Figure 2 below) are excellent exercises for the core.

Train movements not muscles. Exercise machines are good for some things, but machines keep the movement fixed in a specific plane of motion. The movements cannot be sport-specific. Using machines also does not require the athlete to stabilize his body in space. Use free-weights, dumbbells, medicine balls, or rubber tubing to work more sport-specific movement patterns.

Movement occurs in three directions: front-to-back, side-to-side, and rotation. Traditionally training has only occurred in two directions, front-to-back and side-to-side. However, the most powerful movements (throwing, pitching, and swinging a bat) require rotation. Be sure to work in all three directions!

To develop stability and control of the body in space add some balance exercises. Strength without body control does not result in good technique and will lead to injury.

In a pitcher, the shoulder, arm, and elbow come under incredible stress. These areas require special attention. The Thrower’s Ten Exercise Program (www.asmi.org/SportsMed/throwing/thrower10) was designed and developed to strengthen these areas.

Each training session, practice or game should begin and end with a proper warm up and cool down. A proper warm up will warm up the body (increase muscle flexibility) and **TURN THE MUSCLES ON** by activating the central nervous system. Static stretches (long hold of 20-30 seconds) are used to improve the flexibility of the tight or restricted areas, but this should be followed immediately by whole-body stretching or **DYNAMIC FLEXIBILITY**. (Figure 3)

Dynamic flexibility allows the athlete to increase **ACTIVE** range of motion. The focus is switched from stretching a muscle to activating a muscle (through the central nervous system). Basically, if you are preparing to play, you need to move.

Some of the benefits of dynamic flexibility include: strength development, activation of muscles that are typically “off”, enhanced balance, coordination, and stability, increased conditioning level, and injury prevention.

Cool down at the end of a workout, practice, or game by doing static stretches of all of the muscle groups that have been used. These must be pain-free. You should feel only gentle tension.

Apply an ice bag or cold pack to the shoulder and elbow for 15-20 minutes after each practice or game.

For further information on this article or for priority appointments for sports injuries please contact **Henry Ford Center for Athletic Medicine at 313-972-4216**.

— Rose Snyder, MS, ATC, CSCS, PES
Wm. Clay Ford Center for Athletic Medicine

WINTER RATINGS DUE APRIL 1, 2008

Officials ratings for varsity or subvarsity boys basketball, girls volleyball, wrestling and ice hockey are due by April 1, 2008. 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.

All ratings must be done online at mhsaa.com. Following are instructions:

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING ONLINE RATINGS

Member high schools and junior high/middle schools are required to submit all officials ratings online. Athletic directors must log on to mhsaa.com to submit officials ratings. Additionally, athletic directors have the option to assign passwords to their coaches to rate officials. Deadlines are as follows: fall sports Dec. 1, winter sports April 1, and spring sports June 1.

TO ACCESS THE ONLINE RATINGS SYSTEM:

1. Click on the **School Login** link in the lower or upper 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 Competitive Cheer-CC	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. If you have not provided a valid email address, please update your profile on our Web site to enable an efficient transfer of information.

GENT, NEWKIRK NAMED 2008 FORSYTHE AWARD WINNERS

Jamie Gent, who has served Haslett Public Schools for 41 years, including 18 as athletic director; and **William Newkirk**, who recently retired after 35 years of service to educational athletics, the last 11 at Sanford Meridian Public schools, are the recipients of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Charles E. Forsythe Award for 2008.

This annual award is in its 31st 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. Gent and Newkirk were presented the award March 15 at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing at halftime of the Boys Basketball Class B Final.

Gent's career of service to educational athletics has been spent entirely at Haslett, where he started as a middle school teacher in three subjects and high school coach in three sports in 1967. He served in various teaching, coaching and administrative capacities in the district before beginning his second stint as the school district's athletic director in 1991, serving in that role since, exclusively since 2004. In his coaching career, he was the head coach at the school in track and field, boys basketball, and football at different times. He has also served as a registered official for over 15 years in basketball, baseball and softball.

Leading by example as a tireless worker, there may not be an athletic administrator who has hosted more MHSAA post-season tournament events than Gent. Over 100 tournaments, from Districts and Regionals in nearly every sport; to Football Playoff Semifinals; to MHSAA Finals in Cross Country and Wrestling; have been directed by Gent with the assistance of a dedicated school staff and enthusiastic community.

Gent's contributions have also been substantial to his peers in assisting them in their work with young people. He helped develop and deliver programming to athletic administrators on legal issues. He has been a speaker for numerous workshops on a variety of topics conducted by the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and the MHSAA. He also developed a guide for schools to use covering emergency actions to be taken when necessary during athletic competitions and practices.

He has also been active in community work with 20-plus years of service with the local Kiwanis Club, and for three years was a local facilities director for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life. Gent is a 1962 graduate of Bangor High School, where he was a multi-sport athlete. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from Central Michigan University in 1967, and a Master's Degree from Michigan State University in 1972.

Newkirk retired following the 2006-07 school year after 35 years serving the educational community, the last 11 at Sanford Meridian. He had previously been superintendent from 1991 to 1996 at Maple City-Glen Lake; spent 15 years as an assistant principal, athletic director and principal at Clare High School; and started his career teaching at Leroy Pine River and White Cloud. Central Michigan University is where he earned his Bachelor's, Master's and Specialist's Degrees.

He coached baseball, basketball and football during his educational career; and was a registered official in those sports, as well as cross country, softball and track and field. His baseball teams at Pine River won 87 percent of their games in a four-year period. As an official, he earned MHSAA Finals assignments in softball and cross country.

As an athletic administrator, he managed 37 MHSAA tournaments from the District through the Finals levels; and as a top-level district administrator, was involved in a variety of projects to improve the quality of education in every community in which he served.



Gent



Newkirk

While principal at Clare, Newkirk was first elected to the MHSAA's governing board, the Representative Council, on which he served for 20 years as he moved on to Maple City Glen Lake and Sanford Meridian, representing Class C and D schools in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula. As a Council member, he has been elected on multiple occasions to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association, and sat on numerous committees, including the Finance Committee.

In 2007, Newkirk was honored by the MHSAA with the Allen W. Bush Award for his service to educational athletics.

"A lifetime of service to educational athletics can take you down two distinctively paths and lead you to the same end – making things better for young people – and Jamie Gent and Bill Newkirk are great studies in leadership by example," said John E. "Jack" Roberts, Executive Director of the MHSAA. "Jamie Gent's hands-on style, and Bill Newkirk's vision for education and educational athletics have led them to make great contributions to schools."

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 Helliga, 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
2006 - Dan McShannock, Midland; Dail Prucka, Monroe
2007 - Keith Eldred, Williamston; Tom Hickman, Spring Lake ■

NOMINATIONS FOR SPECIAL AWARDS

The MHSAA receives nominations for the Women in Sports Leadership Award, the Charles E. Forsythe Award, the Vern L. Norris Award, and the Allen W. Bush Awards. Conferences, officials associations, and individuals may nominate deserving candidates. Names submitted last year will continue as nominees in this year's selection process.

Nomination forms are online at mhsaa.com. Deadlines for nominations are October 15 for the WISL Award and for the Forsythe Award, Feb. 15 for the Norris Award, and April 1 for the Bush Awards.

DON'T MISS THE 29th ANNUAL OFFICIALS AWARDS & ALUMNI BANQUET

May 10, 2008

The Michigan High School Athletic Association is proud to announce the 29th Annual Officials' Awards and Alumni Banquet to be held on Saturday, May 10, 2008. The Banquet will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, corner of I-496 and Creyts Road, Lansing, beginning at 7 p.m.

For our 29th annual celebration, a multimedia show is being produced for the banquet, taking a look back at what was happening in 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 the Officials Department at the MHSAA, 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, forty (40) years of service, forty five (45) years of service and fifty (50) years of 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 21, 2008. 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 21, 2008)

OFFICIALS' AWARDS AND ALUMNI BANQUET

Saturday, May 10, 2008

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____
(Last) (First) (Initial)

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

Please return before April 21, 2008, and make check payable to the Michigan High School Athletic Association, 1661 Ramblewood, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

TICKET MONEY CANNOT BE REFUNDED

TENNIS COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 15, 2008

Members Present:

Sue Bailey, DeWitt
Jayne Boerman, Grand Rapids
Nancy Brissette, Essexville
Dave Clutts, St. Clair
Jim Cummins, Battle Creek (Advisory)
Renee Kent, Big Rapids
Nancy Malinowski, Farmington Hills
Lee O'Bryan, Fraser (MASSP)
Pam Porter, Stevensville

Peter Ryan, Saginaw
Tiger Teusink, Holland (Advisory)
Deb VanKuiken, Holly (MIAAA)

Members Absent:

Gary Ellis, Allegan
Wendy Franz, Midland (Advisory)

Staff Member Present:

Gina Mazzolini (Recorder)

The MHSAA Tennis Committee met on January 15, 2008, at the MHSAA office. The Committee was reminded of its responsibility and of the process for rule changes. After a brief welcome and introductions, the following items were discussed.

PROPOSALS BY MHSTeCA

To allow an additional coach to be used when more than two sites are utilized for the Regional and Final Tournament. The additional coaches must be registered with the MHSAA on the Regional Line-up Form, one additional coach for every additional site used and no individual may be assigned to coach more than one school. (On the Entry Line-up Form the first two coaches listed would be the school team coaches and the additional names would be used if dictated by the number of sites used for the tournament.)

NOTE: Other proposals appear verbatim in the Recommendations to the Representative Council.

DISCUSSION ITEMS – NO ACTION

1. Weather postponements at the Final Tournament.
2. Eliminate the use of indoor courts at the Final Tournament.
3. Eliminate the rule that prohibits winners of Regionals from playing winners of other Regionals in their first match at the Finals.
4. Play "Rat Tails" of the Finals on Thursday night prior to the Friday and Saturday tournament.
5. Parent/spectator behavior at Finals venues.

REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

The Committee made a few adjustments to the Regional assignments and assisted in the selection of hosts for the 2008 Spring Girls Tennis Regionals.

PLACEMENT OF BYES

Revise the 11-team draw to place the 5th bye on line 8. This means that the unseeded recipient of that bye would advance to play the No. 4 seed in his/her first match.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Allow an additional coach, registered with the MHSAA on the Regional Entry Form, who may be used when more than two sites are utilized for the Final Tournament (12-0).
2. Request that Tennis be exempt from the "dead time" provision of the MHSAA (11-1).
3. Adopt the Coman Tiebreak Rule of the USTA (12-0).
4. Change the Regional Entry Form to an online format (12-0).
5. Adopt the provision that states..."After the first day for team practices established by the MHSAA, regardless of when a player joins the team, a player is limited to two outside competitions during that team's season." (12-0).
6. Conduct bi-annual mandatory Tennis Coaches Rules Meetings conducted by the MHSAA in August every other year (12-0).■

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 22, 2008

Members Present:

Sue Barthold, Kentwood
Jeff Cook, St. Clair (MASSP)
Marty DeJong, Kalamazoo
Keith Green, Hemlock
Sean Maloney, New Boston
Nancy Milanowski, Farmington Hills
Shelly Millis, Blanchard
Jenny Morgan, Rochester Hills
Terry Newton, Battle Creek

Mark Rademacher, Westphalia
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Rick Schmidt, Holt
Wayne Turmell, Bad Axe
Steve VanderLaan, Williamston
Wayne Welton, Chelsea
Ted Williams, Munising

Staff Members Present:

Randy Allen
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2007-08 MHSAA Baseball / Softball Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics involving the MHSAA tournament series in baseball / softball.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

National Federation Topics: A discussion took place regarding National Federation playing rules and equipment. Specific items covered included breakaway bases, softball pitching distances, ball compression standards, defensive face protection, face mask standards, bats, metal cleats and softball double first bases.

Out-of-Season Update: Members of the committee reviewed the out-of-season coaching issues which dealt with the preseason down time and the summer dead period. The committee was in support of baseball and softball remaining exempt from the summer dead period regulations as a great deal of summer competition is held over the fourth of July, the time when most districts are setting the dead period.

Tournament Procedures: The committee reviewed the rain shortened tournament game procedures that was approved in May of 2006. Discussion also took place regarding the current tournament schedule and issues it creates with the Regional, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final games being played within seven calendar days. Additional comments were made regarding the Semifinal and Finals schedule; many committee members were in favor playing the Semifinal and Final games one game at a time to showcase each contest.

Rules Meetings: The rules meeting schedule was reviewed, and committee members had the opportunity to identify any additional points of emphasis. An update was given regarding the possibilities of future online rules meetings.

Final Venue: Discussion took place on proposals received from multiple areas indicating interest in becoming a future Finals host venue, as well as comments on the current venue in Battle Creek.

Additional Items: An update was given on the calendar proposal regarding the minimum number of practice days before the first competition. Committee comments and areas of concerns included softball pitching limitations, 3-person umpiring crews for Regional games and using flexible scheduling plans for the Semifinal games after the completion of the Quarterfinals.

REGIONAL AND SEMIFINAL DRAWS

At the Regional tournament, the pairings were drawn as Highest District No. vs. 2nd Highest District No. and 2nd Lowest District No. vs. Lowest District No. Semifinal pairings were drawn as follows:

Division 1 – QF 1 vs. QF 2; QF 4 vs. QF 3
Division 2 – QF 5 vs. QF 6; QF 8 vs. QF 7
Division 3 – QF 10 vs. QF 12; QF 9 vs. QF 11
Division 4 – QF 16 vs. QF 13; QF 15 vs. QF 14

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

None. ■

WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 23, 2008

Members Present:

Todd Cheney, Hartland
Marti Covert, Byron (MWA)
Bob Dailey, Grand Rapids
Tom Flynn, Beverly Hills
Bruce Foster, Wyoming
Mike Garvey, Otsego (MIAAA)
Steve Lewis, Rockford
Scott Marry, Hudson

Jamie Segorski, Escanaba
Todd Skinner, Linden
Jake Stenz, Alpena
Grant Syswerda, Warren

Staff Members Present:

Mark Uyl (Recorder)

Guest:

Kent Bailo, Ortonville

The 2007-2008 MHSAA Wrestling Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics involving wrestling issues and the tournament series.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of 2007 Representative Council

Action: A summary of the 2007 Representative Council action was provided, which included format changes for the Individual District tournament and additional language for the home weigh-in procedure. A suggestion was made to increase the time allowed to seed each weight class as the seeding meeting is now held on Friday evening, not the morning of the event.

Girls Wrestling: Kent Bailo provided the committee an update on girls wrestling programs across the nation with a summary of current non-school opportunities, Title IX considerations and future ways to sponsor female competition in Michigan. The committee suggested that MHSAA staff should investigate ways to sponsor a girls-only invitational tournament early in the high school wrestling season (December) to gauge interest in future events.

National Federation Topics: A discussion took place regarding communicable skin disease issues and MRSA, specifically the covering of skin conditions. The committee also recommended that Michigan female wrestlers be required to wear a tight fitting, short sleeve shirt under the singlet as defined in NF Wrestling rule 4-1-1(a) or the high-cut singlet made for female participants.

Weight Monitoring Program: Members of the committee reviewed data on hydrostatic appeals, descent plans and the

NWCA online weight monitoring program. Much discussion took place regarding home weigh-in issues; specifically, the process for determining who can, and who cannot, be the school designee to administer the weigh-in.

Scheduling Issues: The committee reviewed a recommendation that would move the winter wrestling tournaments one week earlier than is the current practice. In 2008-09, Divisions 1 and 3 will move to Wednesday for the Team District with Divisions 2 and 4 competing on Thursday for the next two years. Suggestions were also made regarding an update of the Team District and Regional weigh-in form.

Officials Selection Procedures: The committee reviewed the current procedures used to identify and select Regional and Final wrestling officials. The group believed that the process has improved over the past few years with more officials getting an opportunity to officiate at the Final level. All members believed that current practices of identifying those officials able to work a Final must continue so that the tournament does not have the same officials working the Finals year after year. However, the group did not support a rotation or required "sit out" period for officials who had worked Final competition in previous or consecutive years.

Seeding Issues: The committee had a long discussion on the merits of seeding the Team tournament. A recent proposal that was not approved by the Representative Council was reviewed, and additional conversation took place regarding seeding at the Quarterfinal level and beyond vs. the entire tournament beginning with the District level. The committee ultimately supported a propos-

al that would seed the top four places for the Quarterfinalist teams in Battle Creek to increase excitement, competition and revenue at the Team Finals.

Final Venues and Formats: The committee reviewed the current Final venues in Battle Creek and Auburn Hills, along with the format that each event uses. The group did believe that new mats were needed in Battle Creek as this venue still uses the “original” mats that were first purchased back in the 1980s. Concerns were also voiced about the lack of warm-up area at the Team Finals.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. For the 2009 Team Final tournament, seed the top four teams in each division and draw the remaining four teams into the bracket for the Quarterfinal round of wrestling. This would be done by a seeding committee that would be comprised of 12 coaches (three per division) and four athletic directors identified by the MHSAA prior to the start of the wrestling season with input from the MHSAA wrestling committee, the MWA and MIAAA. This group would meet at a central location on the Sunday following Team Regional competition and the top

four teams in each division would be seeded 1-4. Each team would submit a required team season summary form (record, opponents, scores, etc) and the committee would assess each team. In resolving issues, the seeding would be based on the following criteria:

- 1) Head-to-head competition; if tied, the most recent winner prevails.
- 2) Record against common opponents.
- 3) A team with an exceptional record vs. acknowledged strong opposition.
- 4) Majority decision of the seeding committee.

If a coach or athletic director is on the seeding committee and their team advances to the Quarterfinal round, that coach or athletic director would not be included in the committee meeting for that year. The pairings would then be posted on the MHSAA website that evening, creating a “Selection Sunday” approach to the Team Wrestling Finals pairings. Seeding the top four teams will create more excitement, produce better matchups and generate more revenue as the best dual meets will have a better chance of taking place in the Final round of wrestling (12-0). ■

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” atop the left-hand nav bar.
2. Forms for registering other nonfaculty coaches may be requested from the MHSAA or may be found on the MHSAA Web site. Forms may be submitted throughout the school year as nonfaculty coaches are assigned. ■

BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 23, 2008

Members Present:

Ron Allen, Holland
Chris Corteg, Shelby Township
Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids
(Advisory)
Bob Dowd, Troy
Shawn Grady, Okemos (MSLCA)
Barry Hobrla, Lowell
Tom Hunt, East Lansing
Dan Mills, Portage

Dave Wilson, Novi
Mark Woodson, Romulus

Members Absent:

Aaron Frank, Birmingham
Mike Jolly, Warren (Advisory)
Meg Seng, Ann Arbor Greenhills

Staff Member Present:

Tom Rashid (Recorder)

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The following introductory items were reviewed: Multiple purposes of the committee, 2006-07 meeting minutes and actions of the Lacrosse Committee and Representative Council, function of making recommendations to the staff and Representative Council and the 2007-08 Lacrosse Tournament. The committee next meets May 7, 2008 in East Lansing.

UPDATE FROM BOYS LACROSSE COACHES ASSOCIATION

Sean Grady of Okemos High School, current President, reported that the Boys Lacrosse Association has resumed its affiliation and become members of the Michigan High School Coaches Association. A successful coaching clinic was held in December under the direction of John Kenney of Detroit Country Day. The association is very interested in expanding coaches education and sportsmanship efforts and will consider greater involvement and possible subsidy for its members to take the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP).

2007-08 RULES MEETING SCHEDULE & POINTS OF EMPHASIS

In concert with girls lacrosse, four meetings will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 30 at Birmingham Seaholm; Thursday, Feb. 7 at Warren De La Salle; Thursday, Feb. 21 at East Grand Rapids; and Monday, March 19 at East Lansing MHSAA. Points of Emphasis from the Committee for 2008 rules meeting include coaches and officials addressing violent play, unsportsmanlike

behavior, and the requirement that officials be registered with the MHSAA. Input from officials on Points of Emphasis included home team administrative responsibilities and coaches freezing benches and removing their own players in the event of an altercation.

OFFICIALS

Two officials associations currently operate: The Michigan Lacrosse Officials Association and the West Michigan Boys Lacrosse Officials Association. There are currently 154 MHSAA registered boys lacrosse officials. Several MHSAA New Officials Training sessions conducted by the officials association have been conducted in the Metro and Grand Rapids area and will continue through Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008 at East Lansing High School. Eleven received training in October 2007, and 21 in January with registration still incoming for February 2008.

The tournament requirements remain as last year for officials to work the MHSAA tournament: registration, rules meeting attendance, submit schedule/availability. Three hour annual training for 1st or 2nd year officials who wish to work the MHSAA tournament. An optional test will be available.

The 2008 tournament officials assignments structure was reviewed and it was emphasized that only two officials are to work the first round games. Schools may not elect to have a third official in the first two rounds of the tournament. Three officials will be assigned to Regional Finals and beyond. First round officials are hired by the

home team from the approved list, all other rounds will be assigned by the Tournament Committee and MHSAA Staff as selected

Recent confusion as to the setting of fees by schools and leagues during the regular season was discussed. The committee asked the MHSAA Staff (Officials Department and Lacrosse Sport Director) to communicate with the leadership of lacrosse officiating and leagues to encourage cooperation.

2008 TOURNAMENT

There are currently 81 teams participating (40 in division 1 and 41 in Division 2) representing 99 high schools which include 16 cooperative programs compared to 73 teams and 90 schools in January 2007. Because there are 10 teams in seven regions and 11 in one region there will be at least two Preregional games in each region played May 21-23, 2008 at the higher seeded team. The procedures for creating regional team placements and seeding for the 2008 Tournament were reviewed and unchanged by the committee. Preliminary regional alignments, maps and the 8 pre-season seeded teams per division were presented. After discussion, a motion was made and supported to approve the 2008 Regional alignments pending finalization of sites by MHSAA staff. (Adopted) The Regions will be posted in the weeks ahead on mhsaa.com. Input was given on sites for the Semifinals and Finals to be finalized by staff.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION AND ALTERNATIVE SITE POLICY

A draft of the 2007-08 Participating School Tournament Information was presented to the committee and input sought for possible changes. A motion was made and seconded to include the following statement in the PSTI and Tournament Mangers Material that reflected what has been past practice: Alternative Site Travel Accommodation: "In boys lacrosse the MHSAA staff may change the date, time and location of a previously scheduled tournament game if the originally scheduled game involves extensive travel for both teams and an acceptable site can be secured. The deter-

mination is that of the MHSAA staff in consultation with both teams and the tournament manager and may require that the competing teams secure an acceptable field. Financial responsibilities will fall to the original home team or host school. The above alternative site-travel accommodation does not apply to the MHSAA Final." (Adopted)

MIDDLE SCHOOL LACROSSE LIMITATIONS ON COMPETITION

A motion was made and supported that the committee concur with the recommendation of MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee and recommend to the Representative Council to allow 150 running time minutes for multi-team tournaments (currently 120 minutes) at the junior high school level to more closely match current practice, be no higher than the high school game limit and to better accommodate the large jamboree tournaments and travel that is typical of junior high school multi-team events. (Adopted)

THREE DAYS OF PRACTICE WITH HELMETS, CROSSES & BALLS

Because of the physical nature and safety concerns of boys lacrosse possible remedies to decrease injuries and improve preparation similar to other helmeted sports such as football were explored. Currently contests cannot occur until 11 calendar days after the start of practice. The regular season has been condensed by expanding the MHSAA tournament to three weeks, and the move of the MHSAA sponsored Final to one week earlier than prior to MHSAA sponsorship has shortened the lacrosse season. Because lacrosse is played in all weather forms except lightening, games are held earlier than other spring sports and often critical preseason preparation is limited. A motion was made and supported to recommend to the Representative Council that three days of practice in helmets with crosses & balls only be required and allowed no earlier than the Wednesday prior to the start of practice on the 2nd Monday of March (three practices only in the 5 day period; no other equipment until the start of spring practices) (Adopted).

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Concur with the recommendation of MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee to allow 150 running time minutes for multi-team tournaments (currently 120 minutes) at the junior high school level (10-0).
2. Allow and require three days of practice in helmets with crosses & balls only, no earlier than the Wednesday prior to the start of practice on the 2nd Monday of March (three practices only in the 5 day period; no other equipment until the start of spring practices) (10-0). ■

GIRLS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 24, 2008

Members Present:

Eve Claar, Bloomfield Hills
Jerry Cowan, Hartland
Timothy Hollern, Forest Hills
Larry Janes, South Lyon
Carman Kennedy, Grosse Pointe
Ed Maloney, Ann Arbor

Members Absent:

Dawn Coe, Holland
Jamie Francek, Brighton
Mike Mehall, Farmington

Staff Member Present:

Kathy Vrugink Westdorp (Recorder)

GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The 2008 Girls Lacrosse Committee met at the Michigan High School Athletic Association to review its responsibilities as a standing sports committee; review Representative Council action from 2006-07; consider proposals from the Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association; recommend to the Representative Council changes regarding MHSAA regulations relative to girls lacrosse; and evaluate current practices and procedures with MHSAA staff.

PRIOR REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

In May 2004, the Representative Council approved a three-year experiment to conduct a Tier III Tournament for newly created teams. At the May 2007 Representative Council Meeting, the practice of offering the Tier III Girls Lacrosse Tournament was discontinued, per the request of the Girls Lacrosse Committee.

Effective August 1, 2008, the Representative Council approved limitations on competition, contest maximums and season length for junior high/middle school girls lacrosse. These conditions include that the season shall be a maximum of thirteen con-

secutive weeks during which teams and individuals are limited to a maximum of twelve dates. Junior high/middle school teams and individuals may participate in a maximum of three games Monday through Sunday, but only two of the three games may occur on a day or night before a school day. Other provisions include a maximum of two multi-team tournaments in regular-season may be scheduled and no more than 20 minute running time halves can be played. The allowable playing time for any team in a girls lacrosse multi-team tournament is no more than 120 running time minutes.

TOURNAMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2007 Girls Lacrosse Tournament was reviewed for points of improvement. The separate but near sites with staggered times and divisions for boys and girls lacrosse were acceptable to both sport communities. In addition, the change of tournament dates to an earlier start and distribution of the initial rounds of competition was viewed as a positive adjustment. The Committee determined that the Division 1 and 2 games should be reversed each year. The Girls Lacrosse Finals site for 2008 is Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

Division 1 and Division 2 enrollment numbers were also reviewed and 26 schools are presently in Division 1 (enrollment 1873 and above) and 24 schools are in Division 2 (enrollment 1872 and below). There are nine cooperative programs in girls lacrosse with 50 teams involving 64 schools. The 2007-08 school year marked the addition of seven new teams. Additional third year girls lacrosse cooperative teams with enrollment over the 3500 cap are in their final year of the three year allowance and must comply with the enrollment cap prior to the 2009 season. It was also noted that three teams have opted to play in Division 1 during the 2007-08 season.

RULES MEETING SCHEDULE AND POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The 2007-08 rules meeting schedule was reviewed and the Girls Lacrosse Committee requested a point of emphasis be given to coaches and officials regarding unsportsmanlike behavior and the control of athlete behaviors on and off the field. In addition, it was also requested that officials and coaches understand the rules of lacrosse and act professionally under all circumstances. The Committee suggested that in addition to MHSAA rules and girls lacrosse rules that a specific point of emphasis be a review of the policy for inclement weather during the season and MHSAA Tournament. An additional reminder included emphasizing an understanding of out-of-season play as well as the down-time period.

OFFICIALS

The leaders in lacrosse officiating were commended for their strong role and mentorship in classroom training for additional officials during this past year. Officials training continues with a session scheduled for February 23, 2008 at the MHSAA. With MHSAA registrations still incomplete, there are 83 officials currently registered. This number indicates that there are 17 more officials registered at this time than in 2007. It was further noted that the fees for regular season competition and assignment of officials are set by schools and that using an MHSAA registered assigner is voluntary. Officials selection for tournament assign-

ments will occur at the May 7, 2008 Lacrosse Committee Meeting.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION AND TOURNAMENT MANAGERS MATERIAL

Draft documents for committee review were presented with a request to examine in the weeks ahead and contact MHSAA staff with suggestions. Two areas were given additional consideration: 1) Tournament Opt-Out due date and draw date and 2) The Girls Lacrosse Tournament Manager's capacity to increase the time of a weather delay during a postponed tournament contest. In addition, it was reiterated that Girls Lacrosse Regional Managers will conduct a blind draw to determine the order in which teams compete in regional competition and all regional competition will be conducted at the regional site.

The Committee also reviewed the alternative site travel accommodation recommendation. It was agreed that MHSAA staff may change the date, time and location of a previously scheduled tournament game if the originally scheduled game involves extensive travel for both teams and an acceptable site can be secured. The determination includes consultation with both teams and the Tournament Manager and may require that the competing teams secure an acceptable field. The financial responsibilities will fall to the original home team or host school and alternative site-travel accommodations would not apply to the MHSAA Final.

Due to the great differences between Girls and Boys Lacrosse, the Girls Lacrosse Committee

also requested that the 2009 Participating School Tournament Information and Girls Lacrosse Tournament Manager's Manual be a separate document from the boys lacrosse information.

DRAW FOR DETERMINATION OF SEMIFINAL OPPONENTS

Committee members drew for determining girls lacrosse semi-final opponents. It was established that in Division 1, the Region 2 champion would play against the Region 4 champion and the Region 3 champion would compete against the Region 1

champion. In Division 2, the Region 6 champion competes against the Region 8 champion and Region 7 competes against Region 5.

indicated that the discontinuation of the League and Conference Lacrosse Scheduling Meeting was appropriate.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

U.S. Lacrosse rules were discussed and input requested for further review. Part of the Committee's charge in the May meeting will be review of the current rules. Additionally, the Girls Lacrosse Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

None. ■

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. When lightning is observed or thunder is heard, the contest must be suspended. The occurrence of lightning or thunder is not subject to interpretation or discussion — *lightning is lightning; thunder is thunder.*
 - 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 prior to 3 p.m. must not exceed three hours. Delays for contests scheduled for 3 p.m. or later must not exceed one and one half hour. Delays on nights not followed by school for all the competing teams may be longer by mutual agreement of participating schools. 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: MHSAA tournament policies for MHSAA tournament contests, or more restrictive local policies for regular-season contests 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. ■

TRACK & FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY REGULATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 24, 2008

Members Present:

Lewis Clingman, Grand Rapids
David Evens, Grand Rapids
Richard Franklin, Athens (MASSP)
Tom Gass, Jackson (MITCA)
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock
Antie Hardy, New Haven
Tom Laughlin, Grand Haven
Brian Macomber, Comstock Park
Mike Nesbitt, Auburn
Pat Richardson, Grass Lake
Mike Roberts, Hillsdale
Fred Smith, Buchanan (MIAAA)
Dan Wytko, Portage

Members Absent:

Kathy Hubbard, Lansing
Cody Inglis, Suttons Bay
Mike Unger, Westland
Thomas Wilcher, Detroit

Staff Members Present:

Mark Uyl
Tricia Wieferich
Nate Hampton (Recorder)

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.

Following the welcome, introductions and statement of committee purpose, the committee reviewed the 2007 committee minutes including Representative Council recommendations.

Cross Country:

Assistant Director, Mark Uyl, discussed with the committee the following items:

- Cross Country Participating School Tournament Information:
- Review 2008 Final Site: Michigan International Speedway
- MHSAA Cross Country Regional dates: Oct. 24-25, 2008 and conflicts with MME/ACT Test dates: Following a lengthy discussion on concerns from last year where the NME Test was administered on the Saturday of Regionals, it is now the committees understanding that

the latest schedule of MME test dates does not include any October dates. Options discussed:

1. Keep the Regional schedule in it's present format, allowing Regional meets to be conducted on Oct. 24 (after 3pm) or at anytime on Oct. 25, 2008.
2. Reducing all Regional sites to "single" or "double" sites, allowing those meets to be conducted on either Oct. 24 or Oct. 25 after 2 pm.
3. Continue with the multiple Regional meets at a site, but allow the meet to be conducted at any time on Friday, Oct. 24 (similar to other sports).
4. Altering the tournament schedule one week later (Regionals on November 1; Finals on November 8.)

Track and Field 2008 Final Sites:

Division 1: Rockford HS
Division 2: Zeeland Community Schools
Division 3: Comstock Park HS
Division 4: Forest Hills Eastern HS

The committee reviewed the work of the Regional Site Assignment Committee which met on Jan. 23, 2008. The Regional Site Assignment Committee was introduced to a new method for mapping schools that made for the best ever geographically consistent assignments.

The committee also reviewed the Final Meet time schedule.

2008 NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES AND EDITORIAL CHANGES

2-3-2 new, 2-3-3 delete: Addresses that meet results may be corrected at any time when a participant, who has been disqualified from further participation in the meet, has participated and scored points. Article 2-3-3, regarding the opportunity to correct the score when an ineligible athlete participates, is deleted as new Rule 2-3-2 will now address.

3-2-4g: Determines that the games committee now has the authority to designate specific areas where coaches may observe and confer with competitors during competition.

4-3-1d(1): Specifies that a school name or insignia may be worn on an undergarment providing it is not larger than 2 1/4 square inches with no dimension more than 2 1/4 inches. Further, clarifies that if more than one visible garment is worn under a uniform top/bottom, all such garments worn under the uniform piece shall be the same, single solid color.

6-5-4: Reverts back to the measurement of a standard (international)- length stopboard of 4 feet, rather than converting to a shorter stopboard for the 34.92-degree sector in the shot put. The NOTE has been deleted as the 4-foot length is standard for this item.

7-5-29b: Deletes that it is a foul if a competitor in the pole vault is to leave the ground without breaking the plane.

2008 NATIONAL FEDERATION EDITORIAL CHANGES

3-2-3 new g; 3-5-(2-4); 4-3-1c(2); 4-3-1; 5-7-3; 6-2-12; 6-4-6; 7-5-11; 9-6-1b; 9-6-4

2008 NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. RISK MINIMIZATION IN TRACK AND FIELD COMPETITION
2. CONSISTENT AND APPROPRIATE RULE ENFORCEMENT THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

2008 MICHIGAN POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. 6th-graders may not compete with or against 7th and/or 8th-graders, but may compete in separate races.
2. Shot put and discus: each attempt shall be measured before any other attempts are made.
3. Time limits for athletes excused from field events to compete in other events.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2008 Additional qualifier standards to Regional and Out of Regionals to Finals.
2. Weather delays at Regional/Final competition for Cross Country and Track and Field.
3. Accommodating physically challenged students in Track and Field and Cross Country.
4. Calendar issues and required practice prior to first competition.
5. Health and risk issues.
6. Summer Dead Period and Preseason Downtime.
7. Online Rules and Information for Cross Country.

2008 ONLINE RULES MEETINGS

The committee previewed the newest rules meeting experimental format that will establish Track and Field as the first sport to venture into online rules meetings.

The preview received positive comment as Jordan Cobb (MHSAA Information Technology) demonstrated the mechanics and versatility of the online rules meeting setup.

The online rules meeting for Track and Field will be available to coaches, officials and the general public during the first full week of February 2008.

ATOM RECOMMENDATIONS TO MHSAA STAFF

Continue to emphasize to host Track and Field managers in the shot put and discus that it is required that each trial is measured upon completion and not waiting until the flight has finished.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO MHSAA STAFF

Consider in discussions of calendar changes and required practice days before competition that in Track and Field...after five separate days of practice for team, and not before seven calendar days (Monday, March 15, 2010).

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Cross Country:

1. Increase the number of individuals who qualify from a Regional to the Final meet to include those who finish in the top 20 (currently the top 15) and only for regions with a minimum of 80 finishes (11-0-1).
2. In regions with eight or more complete teams (a complete team finishes at least five runners), a school finishing in fourth place at the MHSAA Region Meet with four or more runners in the top twenty, will advance to the MHSAA Final Meet (12-0). ■

GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 6, 2008

Members Present:

Amy Fuller, Livonia
Kevin Guzzo, St. Joseph
Leroy Hackley, Jenison
Ken Mohny, Mattawan
Martha Pattee, Evart
Heather Prentice, Portage
Shane Redshaw, Rochester Hills
Teri Reyburn, DeWitt
Jessica Trefry, Michigan Center

Members Absent:

Stephanie Davis, Croswell
Kathy Showers, Mason

Staff Members Present:

Kathy Vrugink 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 22, 2008. This Sub-Committee reviewed the technical aspects of Competitive Cheer and its recommendations were submitted to the Competitive Cheer Committee. In addition, the minutes from last year's Competitive Cheer Committee and the May 2007 Representative Council recommendations were reviewed.

2009-10 COMPREHENSIVE CALENDAR PROPOSAL

The Comprehensive Calendar Proposal, which includes starting dates and ending dates, was received and reviewed by the

Committee. In 2008-09, the proposal included moving Competitive Cheer one week earlier than 2007-08 (a return to when the Tournament was held in the past); and then following the all-winter sport schedule of 2009-10 which includes a proposal that all winter sports conclude one week earlier. In essence, this schedule will return Competitive Cheer to the weekend of which it was held previously as well as allow for the full winter sport schedule transition in 2009-10.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUB-COMMITTEE

The 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. The Committee focused on review of the technical aspects of Competitive Cheer and advised the Committee and ultimately the

Representative Council of the rules that needed review, revision or update. The Competitive Cheer Committee also discussed rules for which no action was taken by the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee as well as the recommendations from the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee.

DISCUSSION - NO ACTION - BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE

Several items were discussed and reviewed which helped in emphasizing current rules and regulations as well as giving the items appropriate consideration as proposals. The Sub-Committee took “no action” on the following proposals:

- a. In addition to current paperwork submitted, to also include Round 1, 2 and 3 completed safety sheets.
- b. In paperwork submitted, to list in order, Round 1 Difficulty and Variety.
- c. To issue a delay of meet penalty in Rounds 2 & 3 if the number of competitors is incorrectly stated and the Panel has not been notified prior to the meet (due to changes in multiplier in Round 2 and the choreography and difficulty in Round 3.)
- d. To make music an option to the sport.
- e. To eliminate the Round 3 description form.
- f. To remove the Round 2 competitor multiplier.
- g. To combine Round 1 and 2.
- h. To review the order of competition and not allow a team that is 1st in a round to be last in the next round – addition to the order of competition rule.
- i. To update the difficulty chart to reflect 60 points per athlete.
- j. To change the number of required “One Leg Extensions” and 360s.

TECHNICAL/SAFETY ITEMS NOT SUPPORTED BY SUB-COMMITTEE

- a. Add “Around the World” jump to Round 2.
- b. Allow dive rolls.
- c. Allow the helicopter.
- d. Allow a single base power lift to a shoulder sit.
- e. Allow a suspended forward roll pyramid.
- f. Allow a suspended forward roll pyramid to reload position.
- g. Allow a handstand or inversion partner stunts.
- h. Allow a double based suspended forward roll.
- i. Allow basket tosses at the middle school level.

- j. Allow middle school teams to twist at extension level.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE

The following information was reviewed and proposed by the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee to be reviewed, revised and updated by the Competitive Cheer Committee.

- a. Request that arm motions while moving (due to greater difficulty) be moved to an advanced category in difficulty and variety in Round 1 (8-0).
- b. Allow that the count required for tucks in Round 3 be changed from “back” tucks to “tucks in general” and provide the clarification that any 2 foot take-off to a two foot landing be counted as a tuck (8-0).
- c. Change all three score sheets to reflect a tenth of a point system in all categories (deductions already reflect this) and to re-create the Competitive Cheer score-sheets to reflect this change and to allow for additional space for comment space for judges (9-0).
- d. In Round 3, add 4 points for a flair for double twisting from extended level (9-0).
- e. Allow middle school teams to do cupies at the extension level with a back and front spot (9-0).
- f. Allow middle school teams to do a flair in a Show N Go if it is a liberty or a cupie with a back and front spot (9-0).
- g. Provide further clarification to the Suspended Roll (page 63) and update with the following changes: (9-0)

Rules: A forward suspended roll is legal when:

- The flyer has multi-bases.
- The flyer begins in an upright position at shoulder height or below (including the floor).
- The flyer maintains continuous hand to hand/arm contact with the original bases or the back spotter.
- Dismounts to the mat, cradle or sponge.
- Backward suspended rolls are illegal.
- Suspended rolls from a basket toss, pitch or toss are illegal.
- The flyer rotates feet over head while both hands are in continuous hand to hand/arm contact with her bases or the back spotter.

- h. Allow for an inverted entrance or exit.

Rules: A high school flyer is allowed to

pass through an inverted position for an entrance or exit when all of the following conditions are met:

- The exit shall begin from a cradle position only and move to a position with hands on the performing surface.
- The flyer must be in continuous motion until the flyer is no longer inverted.
- The skill must include a spotter who protects the head, neck and shoulders of the flyer and who must be in contact with the flyer as she is going through the inverted position.
- The skill must also include a base.
- An inverted exit is complete when one foot of the flyer touches the performing surface. (8-1)

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

An additional request was made to consider a pre-regional plan in Competitive Cheer to diminish the size of large regionals and allow for additional schools the ability to host a regional. The Competitive Cheer Committee continues to wish to address large regionals and looks for a solution in the format of pre-regional or district competition. Another proposal that was received but not supported by the Committee was to seed the State Finals by Regional score starting with the team which has the lowest regional score.

As it was a resounding success for this year's Manual, an additional motion was made to continue the practice of having a summer editing group of coaches and judges review the Competitive Cheer Manual and further update the Manual in preparation for the first year of a two-year Manual cycle. The Committee also voted to retain the precision drill for two years with next year being the first year of the drill and the Manual.

COMPULSORY ROUND SCORE SHEET

The Committee reviewed the recommendation which requested a competitor multiplier be used in Round 2 which would balance the risk of entering more participants in the round. This request for multiplier has been reviewed over the last few years by the Committee due to the concern of 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. The Competitive Cheer Committee continued with their commitment to the Competitor Multiplier for next year's Manual.

ROUND SHEETS

The Committee discussed its prior recommendation that all Round Sheets be turned in by 4:00 p.m. the day before (or otherwise specified by the host school) and the penalty assessed to the coach of the team if changes were not completed one hour prior to the meet. The Committee determined that there should be a change to the recommendation and that although the rule should be the same, allow for changes to be made without penalty up to one-half hour prior to the start of competition. This changes the allowance from one hour to ½ hour in making adjustments in the routine.

RULES MEETING POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The Committee expressed a need to emphasize that individual schools must make prudent decisions when a Competitive Cheer team also cheers as a support squad in terms of number of evenings committed by the athlete. Additional points of emphasis included reminding Competitive Cheer Coaches that they need to attend competitions for which they have been contracted and comply with all rules and regulations of the MHSAA and the school system.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Adopt the technical recommendations reviewed and received from the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee (vote is reflected in meeting minutes).
2. Provide a district or pre-regional format to reduce the number of teams that are presently competing at a regional competition (9-0).
3. Assemble an editing group during the summer to further update and review the Competitive Cheer Manual in readiness for its first year of the two-year cycle (9-0).
4. Retain the "Precision Drill" for two years with 2008-09 being the first year of the drill (9-0).
5. Provide comment space on the score-sheets to allow for clarity with coaches (9-0).
6. Allow for Round Sheets to be altered ½ hour prior to the competition without penalty (6-0). ■

SOCCER COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 6, 2008

Members Present:

Sean Byrum, Gaylord
John Conlon, East Kentwood (MSCA)
Jim Flore, Williamston
Kevin Green, Pigeon
Jason Heerema, Wyoming
Bryan Masi, Northville
Richard Niessen, Kalamazoo
Amy Rossow, Grosse Ile
John Thompson, Brighton (MIAAA)
Matt Sullivan, Fenton

Diane Thompson, Grant
Betty Wroubel, Pontiac

Members Absent:

Autumn Matson, Cedar Springs
Mike Van Etten, Adrian

Staff Members Present:

Tom Minter (Recorder)
Jamie VanDerMoere

The committee members introduced themselves and were reminded of the functions of the various MHSAA committees and of their relationship to the MHSAA. The new committee expense form that requires agreement of the committee member on committee work product issues and on disclosure of individual committee member benefit from committee work was explained.

CALENDAR PROPOSALS: SHORT TERM AND LONGER

The current calendar proposal, the 5 seasons concept and the 4 starts approach were presented to the committee. Concern over the shortened seasons was expressed. Members of the committee related anecdotes about their own team's playing 3 games per week. The importance of having enough training days before competition was stated. Having a minimum number of practices was viewed as a good requirement. A statement about reducing the maximum number of games allowed to help solve scheduling and training issues was made. Athletic directors related the difficulty in getting previous semester records of transfer students in a timely fashion to determine eligibility. Many members were very concerned about allowing more time for non-school coaches to establish non-school opportunities for school team players out of season.

2007 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

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

HOME GAME OPTION FOR DISTRICT HOSTS PLAYING IN FIRST ROUND

If the host school plays on the road in the first round and then loses, it has no chance to play on its home field in front of home fans; and the result is that it hosts district semifinals and finals without participating. The request of the district host school to be the home team for its first round game was reviewed and recommended to be allowed, even if it does not draw a bye in the first round.

SOCCER COACHES AND EXEMPTIONS FROM THREE-PLAYER RULE

There was a request to add soccer to the list of school sports whose coaches could be allowed to work in facilities where more than 3 of their school district's students are receiving coaching as allowed under Interpretation 219. Because this would be the first team sport receiving such consideration and its effect on other team sports had not been evaluated, this proposal was not recommended for approval.

RANDOM DISTRICT DRAW FOR SCHOOLS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY

There was a proposal to allow staff to select certain districts whose close proximity to each other would allow districts to be selected by random draw rather than exclusively by geographic considerations. Many teams play others teams two or three times in a season. This proposal would allow for the possibility to compete against different teams from other leagues and conferences.

SECOND REGULAR LENGTH GAME , SHORTENED THREE-GAME OPTION

There was a proposal to allow before the start of school, two regular length competitions or scrimmages to be played in addition to the 3 shortened length non-school day competition currently allowed in any one week. This would allow for one or two fewer games during school days and reduce the heavy scheduling during the regular season after the start of school. The ability to make this proposal apply to the girls' soccer season was discussed and the recommendation to the Council reflects an approach that will treat both genders equally.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE CHANGES DUE TO NATIONAL TESTING DATES AND GAME DELAYS

Ways to avoid conflicts with national and/or state testing times were discussed. Weather-caused game delays and how days were lost resulting in no rest time between districts and regionals was a concern. Proposals to delay next level tournament starts and to allow Sunday tournament play were discussed to avoid coin flips to determine which team advances in a tournament.

2008-09 NATIONAL FEDERATION SOCCER RULES CHANGES

National Federation Soccer Rules Committee member Amy Rossow led the committee in a review of the high school soccer rules and editorial changes made at the recent NF Soccer Rules Committee January 2008 meeting. Most revisions were of a minor nature.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Stipulate that if the school hosting the district final is to play in the first round, that host school may be the home team if it chooses to do so (12-0).
2. Allow MHSAA staff to utilize a random draw to determine district composition where the close proximity of schools reduces travel concerns and not use geographic considerations only (12-0).
3. Allow a second regular length competition or scrimmage to be played in the week when there is a shortened length 3 competition format on a non-school day, provided the second regular length game is also on a non-school day. The first full length competition or scrimmage in a week where a non-school day 3 shortened length competition format occurs could continue to be on any day (12-0).
4. Modify the 2009-10 calendar proposals currently before Council for boys and girls soccer to require 5 practice days and 7 calendar days before competition. And if approved, keep the date of the boys' soccer finals as the first Saturday in November due to weather concerns (12-0).
5. If competing schools agree, allow MHSAA tournaments to be played on a Sunday if the competition has been delayed due to weather or unforeseen circumstances (12-0).
6. Stipulate that on national or state testing days, unless competing teams and host site all agree otherwise, no district or regional final can start earlier than 5 p.m. (12-0).
7. Allow MHSAA staff to move Regional Semifinals back to accommodate a District winner whose final was delayed due to weather (12-0). ■

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 7, 2008

Members Present:

Ernie Ayers, Sand Creek
Tim Baker, Constantine
Tom Barbieri, Liason –MHSFCA,
Richard Carter, Detroit
Brent Case, Algonac
Cedric Dortch, Highland Park
Dave Larkins, Jenison
Jim Sparks, Clawson
Bernard Colton, GR Central
Morley Fraser, Bay City
Keith Froelich, Okemos (MIAAA)

Phil Mikulski, Tawas City
Randy Schaedig, Cedarville
Jim Sutton, Kentwood

Members Absent:

Tom Burrill, Caledonia

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 for items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to MHSAA staff and for possible Representative Council action.

CALENDAR CONCERNS

The committee reviewed a proposed comprehensive calendar revision that will be presented to the Representative Council. This calendar revision effect for Football in 2009 will include starting practice 16 Mondays before Thanksgiving (August 10, 2009). Requiring 12 separate days of practice for teams (first 3 without pads) and no contest before 16 calendar days (Wednesday, August 26, 2009). The committee was supportive of this change.

FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

The committee members were given 2007 Football Playoff Tournament information materials and statistical data for all levels of the 2007 Tournament. The data provided demonstrated the results of the 9-year expanded format were consistent with previous years when comparing school's classifications, enrollment breaks, and numbers of automatic qualifying schools. In 2004, 2005, and 2006, 243 and 243 and 246 schools respectively qualified automatically based on regular season records. In 2007, 251 schools did the same. In 2006 and 2007 36 and 38 games respectively were subjected to the point differential rule.

Enrollment ranges for the eight 2007 divisions for finalist were as follows:

Division 1: 2,133-2,465
Division 2: 1,513-1,704
Division 3: 985-1,062
Division 4: 650-803
Division 5: 559-587
Division 6: 445-468
Division 7: 269-318
Division 8: 203-258

Classification of schools by division for 2007 included the following:

Division 1: 32 Class A
Division 2: 32 Class A
Division 3: 11 Class A, 21 Class B
Division 4: 32 Class B
Division 5: 29 Class B, 3 Class C
Division 6: 32 Class C
Division 7: 31 Class C, 1 Class D
Division 8: 32 Class D

In the Final games at Ford Field, 13 finalists were No. 1 seeds at the Pre-Districts, 2 were No. 2 seeds, 1 was a No. 3 seed and none were No. 4 seed.

FOOTBALL DATES

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

Future Football Dates – See chart at end of these minutes.

2008 FOOTBALL DATES

Monday, Aug, 11 - First allowable day of 3 day of conditioning period (no pads).

Thursday, Aug, 14 - First date of official practice (with pads) (if 3 days of conditioning were completed during the week).

Thursday, Aug, 28 - First game date.

- Schools may not conduct intersquad scrimmages until after nine separate days of practice.
- Interscholastic games (all levels) cannot be played until teams have completed 14 separate days of practice over a 3-week period.

2008 PLAYOFF DATES

October 31 or Nov. 1 - Pre-Districts

November 7 or 8 - Districts

November 14 or 15 - Regionals

November 22 - Semifinals

November 28-29 - Finals

OTHER DISCUSSION

- 2007 Committee Minutes
- Facilities used for Semifinal sites, synthetic and natural surfaces
- Rules Meeting transition to online services and delivery
- Pre-Season Down Time starting August 1 to August 11, 2008
- Summer Dead Period
- National Federation 2008 Rules changes and points of emphasis
- Ford Field Review/Competing school pre-sale tickets and pre-sale ticket share
- Health and Safety issues; MRSA and Staff Infections (Possible opportunity for collaborative effort with MHSAA and MHSFCA for information delivery to member schools)

- Tournament Officials selection and Tournament Levels where regular season crews are used
- Individual official selections to make up Semifinal and Final crews
- Possible collaborative effort with MHSAA and Football Coaches Association for exposure camps and player evaluation
- Period lengths for Junior High/Middle School
- Bands playing during dead ball situations
- Girls Flag Football: is a growing opportunity?

MICHIGAN POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Enforcement to eliminate unauthorized persons in restricted areas outside of the field 2-yard belt.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Modify officials assignment policies as follows:
In the first three rounds of tournament play where crews are selected, a selected crew may be assigned to no more than two of the three games (9-0).
2. Modify junior high/middle school regulations as follows:
For games involving students in the 7th and 8th grade, games may be played in 10-minutes period. (Current is eight minutes Rule 3.1 Chart Note:1) (9-0).
3. Advance as quickly as possible, opportunities for football online rules meetings for coaches and officials (9-0) ■

FUTURE FOOTBALL DATES

Year	Earliest Practice*	Earliest Game#	Labor Day (Games Before)
2008	Aug. 11	August 28	Sept. 1 (1)
2009	Aug. 10	August 27	Sept. 7 (2)
2010	Aug. 9	August 26	Sept. 6 (2)
2011	Aug. 8	August 26	Sept. 5 (2)
2012	Aug. 6	August 23	Sept. 3 (2)
2013	Aug. 12	August 29	

Sept. 2 (1)

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

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 en route, 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. ■

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