



2020 SKI COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Zoom virtual meeting
East Lansing, October 22, 2020 – 9:30 am

Members Present:

Aaron Frank, Birmingham
Brian Fuller, Okemos
Jeff Kosin, Clarkston
Linda Kozacki, Portage
Lorrie Kusch, Detroit
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake

Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs
Zac Stevenson, Traverse City (MIAAA)
Alex Tiseo, Marquette
Josh Vandruska, Orchard Lake (MHSSCA)

Staff: Cody Inglis

Guests: Ben Doornbos, Nubs Nob GM
Don Tyrell, Timer/Scorer

The Ski committee met virtually on October 22, 2020. The committee was reminded of its responsibility and the process from which rules changes occur. The following discussion and action took place.

Representative Council Review

The committee reviewed last year's Ski meeting minutes including staff recommendations that were additions to the MHSAA Ski tournament in 2020. This included changes to the electronic submission for running orders for ski teams, a standardized results document that was used by all Regional sites and hosts, timers and scorers and an updated change form for ski coaches to use in Regionals and Finals. The committee agreed that seeking consistency across all six Regional sites, in addition to the two Finals races, was much improved and offered additional suggestions including electronic and "fillable" manager report forms.

General Discussion items

The committee was joined by Ben Doornbos, General Manager of Nubs Nob Ski Resort, a long-time supporter and host of MHSAA ski events including this upcoming season's MHSAA D1 Ski Finals. Ben discussed a resort perspective of returning to ski and many of the health and safety protocols that ski resorts nationally and statewide are making together to ensure a safe return to ski plan. Some of the initiatives include nationwide signage for resorts that will reinforce safety protocols including ski lift protocols, restrictions on common areas where congestion occurs inside of ski lodges, initiating new guidelines and protocols for purchasing lift tickets, restricting capacity inside of resorts, restricting outside food and "potluck" style team areas and not allowing bags inside of ski lodges. Ben explained because of the nature of the sport, the sport of skiing is less impacted than other sports in terms of a safe return. The precautions that will be implemented are necessary and important to show skiers that the ski community is doing its part in this time of challenge and crisis. In addition, the ski industry, like many will be challenged financially to cover expenses and generate revenue. Operating with safety in mind will show its customer base that they have the best interests of their patrons in mind and get skiers back on the hill.

Don Tyrell, who has assisted the MHSAA with Regional and State Finals scoring and timing, updated the committee on alternatives to hand timing and will be following the US Ski and Snowboard association to see how they adjust to the hand timing issue and the challenges associated with hand timing, volunteers, accuracy, synced and lost watches. Don was instrumental in providing data to the committee related to an individual skier qualifying in one discipline (Giant Slalom or Slalom) at the MHSAA Regional and that skier now being allowed to ski both disciplines at the MHSAA Final.

Josh Vandruska, the new Michigan High School Ski Coaches Association President, updated the committee on topics that the ski association board has discussed. This included an update of their annual coaching in-service, this year held virtually. Josh updated the committee on plans to have a second JH/MS ski invitational for Michigan racers on the Saturday before the ski Finals at Nub's Nob. Ben Doornbos confirmed the availability of Nub's Nob and reinforced Nubs Nob commitment to this event and the positive help it provides in the transition between non-school and school-based skiing. The MHSSCA, with the support from the MHSAA, wants to try to reach JH/MS kids prior to their enrollment in HS and help promote the sport of high school ski racing as a viable and important way to represent your school and community while enjoying the benefits of a lifelong sport. Josh indicated that the board will continue to support high school ski coaches and be willing partners to support the MHSAA and build this sport. One area of focus for the Coaches Association board will be on securing sponsors for new MHSAA race bibs, now in their 11th year of use. The race bibs are used for all MHSAA Regionals and Finals ski events.

A request to discuss adaptive ski racing and how it fits within MHSAA ski racing was made by a committee member. Discussion centered on education and updates about accommodations that are allowed by request. These accommodations which include placing adaptive skiers right before or right after the top seed or flight, whichever allows for more favorable conditions, requiring course maintenance prior to the adaptive skier and using some adjustment in timing or scoring for adaptive ski racers have been successfully implemented across the state to allow the successful integration of adaptive ski racers into high school ski programs. There are several ski areas with adaptive ski programs and guidance for connecting to these programs was provided to the requesting school and coach. In addition, adaptive ski coaching was discussed as a possibility and information will be given to the school to help with their adaptive ski racer this season.

Return to Ski Guidance

MHSAA staff shared initial thoughts and plans for return to ski guidance that is being developed. This guidance is focused on a safe return to ski for teams, student-athletes, coaches and others associated with ski programs. The protocols and guidance follow best practices from ski areas, including their national associations, MSSIA and NSAA. They also focus on the best health and safety procedures of the NFHS and MHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committees and a collaborative effort between the MHSSCA and the MHSAA to return to ski safely. The return to ski guidance will focus on limited congestion the large numbers of participants that at times occur on and around ski resorts. The fact that ski racers can by nature physically distance, the sport is conducted outside and facial coverings are already a part of ski racing will allow the transition to ski to occur with care, caution and common sense and an eye on a culmination to the season.

Regional and Final Sites and Hosts

2021 Finals

Division 1 at Nubs Nob, Harbor Springs – Host, Brighton with co-host Hartland

Division 2 at Boyne Highlands, Harbor Springs – Host, Detroit Country Day with co-host OLSM

The committee reviewed and approved the tentative MHSAA Regional assignments. The responsibility of assignment rests with MHSAA staff and goes to the school athletic director who works to confirm details with the home hill of that school. Site selection for regional assignments is done by MHSAA staff based upon enrollment and geography as well as the number of schools assigned to each regional. Protocols for site selection and regional assignments based upon a school's home hill during the regular season were discussed. The MHSAA will now consider home hills as a factor in selecting regional assignments. Assignment based solely on a school ski team's home hill would not work because of the sheer number of teams on some hills, the committee encourages a strong look at the home hills for ski teams while assigning regionals that will allow teams to see their home hill in a regional on a more regular basis. The MHSSCA assisted the MHSAA in determining an accurate list of home ski hills that will be regularly updated.

2021 MHSAA Ski Regionals

R1 – Crystal Mt. – Traverse City West w/ cohost Traverse City Central

R2 – Mt. Holly – Holly/Oxford

R3 – Mt. Brighton – Detroit Catholic Central/Mercy

R4 – Crystal Mt. – Benzie Central

R5 – Cannonsburg – Forest Hills Central

R6 – Alpine Valley – OLSM w/ cohost Brother Rice/Marian

2021 Approved MHSAA/USSA Meets

Because of a delay in the start of the USSA season, the USSA meet schedule was not available at the time of the meeting. As soon as it becomes available, staff will update MHSAA materials to reflect the schedule and allowed non-school ski races.

Recommendations to the Representative Council

No proposals from the committee.