

# MAY 2022 - MHSAA SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

(6/1/22)

This summary does not include all Council action. Minutes of the Dec. 3, 2021, and March 25, 2022, meetings were published at MHSAA.com. Minutes of the May 1-2, 2022, meeting have been sent to all superintendents; and all high school and junior high/middle school principals, athletic directors and citywide athletic directors have been emailed a link to a download location at MHSAA.com. Changes take effect Aug. 1, 2022, unless otherwise indicated.

## High School Regulations

A. **Regulation I, Section 1(F)** – The following changes were made:

1. Two or more member high schools whose combined enrollment does not exceed 3,500 students may conduct, with the approval of the Executive Committee a cooperative program in the following specific sports (sponsored by 250 or fewer schools) for which application has been made and approval has been granted: girls gymnastics, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys alpine skiing, girls alpine skiing, boys swimming & diving, and girls swimming & diving.
2. Two or more member high schools whose combined enrollment does not exceed 5,500 students may conduct, with the approval of the Executive Committee, a cooperative program in ice hockey.
3. For the eight sports listed in No. 1 and 2, if none of the schools involved in a proposed cooperative program sponsored the sport at any level on an interscholastic basis during the previous school year, then the 3,500 or 5,500 (ice hockey only) maximum enrollment may be waived by the Executive Committee. However, the cooperative program may not exist beyond four school years.
4. The Executive Committee may approve a cooperative program in excess of the 3,500 or 5,500 (ice hockey only) student enrollment maximums for up to four years in sports sponsored by 250 or fewer schools if, during the previous year, the school or the cooperative program in which a school was a part dropped the sport because of a demonstrated lack of participation. The cooperative program in excess of 3,500 or 5,500 (ice hockey only) students may not exist beyond four school years.

B. **Regulation I, Section 7** – The previous academic credit record regulation, which had been suspended since May of 2020 due to the ongoing pandemic, will be reinstated for all schools.

C. **Regulation I, Section 9, Interpretation 65 (Transfers)** – The following change was made in Interpretation 65:

- (1) References to “parent/parents” in all Regulations and Interpretations are intended to include stepparent/stepparents.
- (2) References to “persons with whom the student was/has been living” in the Regulations and Interpretations – “The family unit” – always include parents (whether married or not) and minor siblings. Depending on the specific circumstances that assure a complete change of residence for the student, references may also include adult siblings, stepsiblings, aunts, uncles and grandparents and significant others who have been living in the dwelling for at least 12 months as part of that family unit and not merely co-inhabitants of the same dwelling who have been and remain financially self-sufficient.

- D. **Regulation I, Section 11 (Amateur Status/Awards)** –A student may never be paid or given merchandise or privileges in exchange for a commercial endorsement, autograph, photograph or appearance fee based on athletic participation, ability, achievements or potential in MHSAA tournament sports. A student may not pose in the school’s athletic uniform to promote a for-profit or non-profit non-school commercial enterprise, even if the student is not paid for the endorsement.
- E. **Regulation II, Section 6 (Contests with Out-of-State Schools)** – Minnesota was added to all border state references.
- F. **Regulation II, Section 11(H) & Interpretation 233** – The Council approved the following changes:
1. School transportation may not be used for any out-of-season during the school year activity. School transportation may be used during the summer using funds from school-approved activities of booster clubs, school teams, student groups and community, civic or service groups (no general school operating funds). There may be no use of school owned and issued competition warm-ups and/or uniforms (non-competition practice jerseys may be worn whether or not school owned or issued). Neither the school nor its coaches shall allow the out-of-season activity to be mandatory or to be any part of the basis for selection of the school team.
- Int. 233 – School buses, vans or other school vehicles shall not be used to transport a school’s students to out-of-season during the school year athletic practices, camps, clinics or competitions outside the MHSAA defined season; however, school buses, vans or other school vehicles may be used during the summer with school district approval using funds from school-approved activities of booster clubs, school teams, student groups and community, civic or service groups with no general school operating funds being used. “School transportation” for the purpose of this Section includes those vehicles owned or leased by the school district or those operated by any entity with which the district contracts to provide transportation services.
- G. **Regulation II, Section 14(B)** – The following changes video streaming regulations were approved in December, effective immediately:
1. Schools may distribute live REGULAR SEASON video – or grant on a complimentary or fee basis to either a profit or nonprofit entity the rights to distribute live REGULAR SEASON video – of any regular season interscholastic event in which any MHSAA member school is a participant in any MHSAA tournament sport as long as the live regular season event is also broadcast live on the NFHS Network.
  2. Delayed video distribution of regular season events involving any MHSAA member school in any MHSAA tournament sport may begin immediately after the completion of the live event.
  3. Video of MHSAA postseason tournament contests may be distributed according to policies and procedures established by the MHSAA for its tournaments, including restrictions on live video streaming through social media.
- H. **Regulation V, Section 4(D) (Violations and Penalties)** – The following was added to the regulation: If a contestant or team competes in a meet, match or tournament in violation of any of the limitations of competition of Regulation II or IV, the entire meet or contest is forfeited. Individual students or teams that participate in excess of the season limitations for a sport as stipulated in Regulation II, Section 11(A) shall not be permitted to participate in that season’s MHSAA tournament in that sport. Students or teams exceeding the maximum number of contests/days of competition allowed during the regular season shall forfeit the contests in excess of the season maximum and not be allowed to enter or advance in the MHSAA team or individual tournament. Teams in violation of the “fifth quarter” regulation will forfeit the contest during which the violation took place (varsity or sub-varsity contest). Head coaches in violation of the “fifth quarter” regulation are also ineligible for the next day of competition.

## Classification

**Classification of Schools to Tournaments** – The Council approved the classification of tournament schools each March and April by eliminating those schools that have indicated sport sponsorship but have failed to have either a team and/or individuals actually participate in the MHSAA tournament in that sport during the previous two MHSAA tournaments. Schools not included in the classification process will be notified by MHSAA staff and can be added to the tournament planning process at a later time based on current enrollment and actual tournament participation.

**Opt-ups in football** – Opt-ups in football were approved after football classification lists are published in early April. Football schools must include the reason and rationale with the opt-up request indicating why they wish to opt up for a minimum of two years, which would be considered by the Executive Committee during the April and May meetings only.

## Junior High/Middle Schools

**Wrestling** – Additions to the wrestling weight classes at the junior high/middle school level are 215 lbs. and 245 lbs. All contestants in the Heavyweight class must weigh at least 246 lbs. and not exceed 285 lbs.

*MHSAA Handbook* language was changed regarding time between wrestling matches: For those wishing to reduce the time between matches, the following allowance is provided: 1<sup>st</sup> period (1 ½ min.), 2<sup>nd</sup> period (1 min.), 3<sup>rd</sup> period (1 min.). If this alteration to time is used, the time between an individual's matches may be reduced from 45 minutes to 35 minutes.

**Track & Field** – Regional Junior High/Middle School Track & Field Meets will be held across the state beginning in the spring of the 2022-23 school year.

**Basketball Fifth-Quarter** – Leagues and conferences (or independent member schools) are allowed to request the use of the fifth-quarter rule to MHSAA staff prior to the start of contests during the season. The request must include roster size data and rationale, along with support of league members and/or opponents.

## Officials

**Uniform** – Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, the use of Smitty “bright blue” uniforms (with horizontal MHSAA logo) for volleyball and swim officials will be permitted, as long as all officials present are wearing the same color uniform. The default uniform color remains white.

**Video Review** – The use of video review by MHSAA staff is permitted to review an ejection and modify subsequent penalties when there is a clear misidentification, a participant is ejected as a direct result of a rules misapplication, or when incontrovertible video evidence shows that an ejection or suspension for flagrant contact with an opponent or official was in error.

**Contracts** – The number of days is reduced to five in which a contract may be cancelled under the Non-Act of God Cancellation Policy without payment due to the scheduled officials.

<b>Sports</b>
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**Baseball** –

1. In March, the Council voted to allow, by default, all District first round games to continue to be played on the Tuesday following Memorial Day. If all participating teams agree before the draw is held (and the host school, if applicable), teams may play District first round games on the Thursday, Friday or Saturday (baseball only) before Memorial Day.
2. The Baseball/Softball Site Selection Committee will be separated into individual site selection committees.

**Basketball** – In March, the Council approved an increase in the allowed number of regular season basketball games from 20 to 22 for the 2022-23 season. The first day of practice would be delayed by one week with the minimum number of calendar days before the first contest to be reduced from 21 to 14. All tournament dates would remain unchanged from currently published calendars.

Girls Basketball 2022-23: First practice Nov. 14 (was Nov. 7); first contest Nov. 28 (no change); MHSAA Semifinals and Finals March 16-18 (no change).

Boys Basketball 2022-23: First practice Nov. 21 (was Nov. 14); first contest Dec. 5 (no change); MHSAA Semifinals and Finals March 23-25 (no change).

**Bowling** –

1. Participants are limited to five balls in the bowling center, and two balls in the bowlers area.
2. Foul lights will be turned off during MHSAA tournaments with the honor system being used. The first foul will result in the tournament manager issuing a warning to the bowler with subsequent foul being a zero for that frame.
3. The MHSAA Regional team format is changed to eight Baker games and two regular games, which will match the MHSAA Finals team format and be a change from six Baker games and three regular games.

**Girls Competitive Cheer** –

1. The penalty has been adjusted for going over the time limit in each round to giving one penalty point for every second over the time limit, not to exceed 15 points.
2. A new choreography chart will be established that awards points based on tumbling, OLEs, vertical twists/360s and release skills which cannot supersede a 10-point maximum of points earned, no earlier than the 2023-24 season.
3. Junior high/middle school teams will be allowed to perform an OLE as part of a pyramid with one bracer. A liberty flair is the only flair allowed, and this pyramid would require two points of contact from the bracer.

**Football** –

1. Instant replay has been expanded for the 11-player Finals to include that head coaches will be permitted one challenge during the game.
2. Players are allowed to wear shoulder pads at college camps sponsored and run directly by NCAA/NAIA institutions that use them.

**Golf** –

1. Two “school-approved” coaches are allowed to be present and actively coaching during MHSAA Tournament competition
2. The maximum strokes allowed per hole in MHSAA Tournament play has been reduced from 12 to 10.

**Ice Hockey** –

1. Michigan Power Ratings (MPR) will be used to seed the entire Regional round in MHSAA tournament play.
2. At the Semifinal level, using a seeding committee and defined protocols, Teams will be reseeded after Quarterfinal games have been played. The top-ranked team will play the fourth highest seeded team and the second highest seed will play the third highest seeded team in each of the three divisions. Seeds will be determined by the seeding committee on Sunday after Quarterfinal play is completed. MHSAA’s MPR computer formula, at different times of the season and other factors, will be used by the seeding committee.
3. Divisions will be realigned by placing one-third of stand-alone hockey programs and one-third of cooperative hockey programs in each of the three MHSAA divisions.

**Soccer** –

1. In an extension of the football and basketball five-quarter rule, students are allowed to participate in no more than three halves on a day. For multi-team tournaments, if two school teams are at the same event, allow participation in no more halves than what is being played by the school’s highest team level that day.
2. For games not played at the prearranged District host site, the two seeded teams get the opportunity to host their own games. For Districts without a prearranged host site, #1 seed gets hosting priority, then the #2 seed, then the team on the top line of the bracket.

**Swimming & Diving** –

1. In March, the Council extended the Paralympic Swimming heats in the 50 and 100 freestyle heats at the MHSAA Finals based on regular season requirements. Individual medals for the Paralympic events will continue to be awarded. This renewed commitment is for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.
2. Each MHSAA Diving Regional will be given ten guaranteed qualifiers to the MHSAA Final meet. The remaining six spots will be distributed to the Regionals that have one of the top six returning divers from the previous year’s MHSAA Final meet. (Each of the top six divers returning will add an additional spot to their Regional.)

**Tennis** –

1. Additional seeds at the Finals for #1 Singles – At the final tournament, should there be 21 to 23 #1 singles players in the draw, up to seven players may be seeded. If there are 24 or more, up to eight players may be seeded.

2. All tennis schools will be charged a tennis ball and facility fee of \$75 for the Regional and Final tournaments. This cost will be paid to the MHSAA and is similar to the greens fees charged in golf and line fees charged in bowling. This will offset some, but not nearly all, costs of tennis Regional and Final meets in terms of balls and facilities. This fee does not replace indoor court costs currently covered by schools at the Regional level if weather is poor and moving indoors is agreed upon by participating schools.

**Track & Field** – In March, the Council established a wheelchair Track & Field category for participants at Regional and Final meets beginning with the 2022 season. These additional events would be established using existing MHSAA track & field events and be open to wheelchair track & field athletes at MHSAA member schools with requirements in place for regular season, Regional and Final meets. Individual medals for these events would be awarded. This initial commitment is for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.

**Wrestling** – The new 14 boys and 14 girls NFHS weight classes will be used.