

2025-26 MHSAA BASKETBALL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – East Lansing

MEMBERS PRESENT

Daniel Carmichael, Lansing
Mike Evoy, Detroit
Rob Fay, Houghton
Jason Heerema, Grand Rapids
Nick Marshall, Napoleon
Anika McEvans, Detroit
Mike Mohn, Delton
Steve Perryman, Birch Run
Brian Samulski, Northville
Scott Stine, Jackson
Todd Thunberg, Bay City

Matt Windle, Boyne City
Jeff Yorke, Hale

GUESTS

Cody Zink, Northville (MATS)
Dan Young, Plymouth (BCAM)

MHSAA STAFF

Will McKoy (Recorder)
Jeff Spedoske
Tricia Wieferich

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. After the welcome and introductions, the committee reviewed its responsibilities and its relationship with the Representative Council. The committee reviewed minutes from the 2024-25 Basketball Committee meeting, as well as discussed the changes in the new *NFHS Basketball Rules Book* and how those rules have been embraced within the state and in other parts of the country.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

TRANSFERS/ COACH VIOLATIONS

The committee discussed what appears to be an increase in student transfers and the impact the sport-specific transfer rule has had on the basketball transfer landscape. Some committee members expressed that the current transfer system should incorporate a more human element and supported exploring a more relaxed transfer rule, as other states have adopted. The committee also discussed the upcoming implementation of Transfer Tracker and believes this software will be essential in helping athletic directors process transfers while also assisting the MHSAA in collecting accurate data on the number of transfers.

FIFTH QUARTER RULE

The committee discussed the proposal from smaller school communities to allow students to participate in five quarters of basketball over two days, in addition to the current allowance of five quarters in one day. While the committee understood the challenges some communities face in sustaining subvarsity programs, they did not believe that this allowance would best serve students' educational obligations and could place additional burdens on students to sustain subvarsity programs.

POINT DIFFERENTIAL RULE

The committee supported to change the threshold that activates the point differential rule to forty points in the first half and thirty points in the second half. Once the point differential rule is activated, it no longer reverts back to normal timing rules.

GIRLS BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION

MHSAA staff provided the committee with participation data and discussed the downward trend in basketball participation, along with the roles that both local schools and the MHSAA can play in reversing it. The committee discussed that the proliferation of girls participating in club volleyball during the winter has significantly decreased student participation among those who consider

basketball their secondary sport. The committee brainstormed ideas and will keep this as an open agenda item for the near future.

MAXIMUM CONTESTS

The committee discussed the MIAAA position statement, which would allow teams to play two basketball games on a non-school day. While there was some interest in the concept, the committee believed that more comprehensive data would need to be collected before it could be proposed to the Representative Council. The committee suggested that MHSAA survey the membership again during the fall Update Meeting.

DIVISIONS DISCUSSION

MHSAA staff reported to the committee the charge from the Division Task Force meeting to conduct an in-depth discussion on the concept of adding a fifth basketball division. Staff presented survey data from the Update Meeting, a breakdown of the current four-division model, and an overview of a potential five-division structure. The committee discussed the possibility that adding a fifth division could increase nonpublic school success in the smallest divisions of the tournament. Ultimately, the committee was not interested in advancing a proposal to the Representative Council.

SHOT CLOCK

The Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan (BCAM) presented a proposal to implement a 35-second shot clock in Michigan. Staff shared results from the last three Update Meeting surveys, along with an additional survey conducted in December 2025, which indicated that member schools currently do not favor implementing a 35-second shot clock. The committee also reviewed data collected during the 2023 and 2024 Basketball Semifinals and Finals regarding the time elapsed before the first shot of each possession. While the committee unanimously supports the proposal, it recognizes the challenge presented by the lack of support among member schools, particularly as the issue moves to the Representative Council. The committee discussed the limited support from school administrators and emphasized the importance of BCAM continuing to promote the proposal at the upcoming MIAAA Athletic Directors Conference in Traverse City, with the hope of increasing support should the membership ultimately choose to allow use of the shot clock.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND ALTERCATIONS

The committee discussed what appears to be a growing trend of bench-clearing fights and altercations at basketball games, as well as the MHSAA's role in reducing such incidents. Members explored possible root causes and ways in which schools and the MHSAA could help minimize these situations. The committee commended the MHSAA's emphasis on curbing unsporting behavior during contests and believes this initiative is having a positive impact. The committee also noted an apparent increase in spectators entering the playing surface following incidents and suggested the use of public service announcements (PSAs) on social media to promote appropriate spectator behavior and discourage entry onto the playing surface.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE MHSAA REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Change the point differential rule to forty points in the first half and thirty points in the second half. Once the point differential rule is activated, it no longer reverts back to normal timing rules. (11-0)