

# 100

# MHSAA



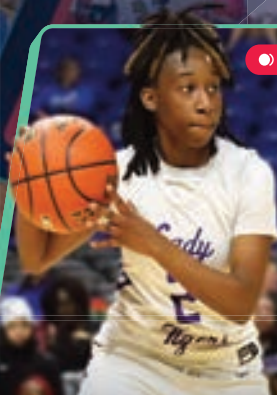
benchmarks

Winter 2025 Vol. 15 No. 2

mhsaa



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Cover Story: The Celebration Continues



4 The MHSAA is celebrating its 100th year during the 2024-25 school year, and this volume of *benchmarks* will revisit highlights and memories of winter sports throughout history.

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**The Vault – 10**  
**Through The Years**  
During this centennial celebration we will look back at the histories of each sport by season. In this issue, winter sports.



**Survey Says – 22**  
The Annual MHSAA Update Meeting Survey last fall focused on new and emerging sports.



**Regulations Review – 34**  
In the historical theme of this school year, this issue takes a look the pioneers who paved the way before the MHSAA was formed.



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## Looking Back and Forward Through Our Membership

**T**he winter months of December and January might be the most enjoyable for me during the school year. Yes, it is a time to exhale following a busy fall season, culminating with the many championships in October and November, year after year. And then the holidays arrive, a time when we all get to spend cherished time with family and friends.

These months also mark the time of year when I work very closely with our great staff, and I am blessed with this time of year when we welcome so many of you into our building for important committee work. I am most grateful for these months because they remind me of the great privilege it is to help lead such a talented and dedicated group of people whose mission is to carry school sports into the next chapter and beyond.

Our staff convenes multiple times to identify the major elements to be revised and emphasized for next year's *MHSAA Handbook*, which will later be presented for annual approval to the Representative Council. The many committee meetings we host on Ramblewood Drive offer insightful feedback and recommendations to bolster the health of our sports and programs.

As I visit these important gatherings as often as possible, I am again reminded of how fortunate we are in Michigan to have so many athletic leaders across our diverse state who truly *care* about preserving and enhancing school sports for our young men and women.

The winter here is also a time with its own special feeling as we move from so many outdoor venues in the fall to predominantly indoor settings where communities can escape the cold for a couple hours to come together for a night of entertainment provided by their classmates, kids and neighbors. For those who prefer to stay outside, Michigan is unique among our state association family as one of those offering skiing on the winter menu for students.

The winter also showcases one of our oldest sports – boys basketball – and one of our newest – boys and girls bowling (now in its third decade) – and in March will welcome the first-ever girls wrestling team championship. Winter is our busiest season, with 13 championship sports taking place.

Yes, there is something special about our winter nights in gyms, rinks and pools, nights that have provided so many indelible moments and memories throughout our century of school sports.

This issue of *benchmarks* is dedicated to our winter wonderlands during the months of December through March. Enjoy!



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mark Uyl".

**Mark Uyl**  
**MHSAA Executive Director**





# CAP Requirement for Head Coaches

Each head coach of a varsity team hired for the first time at any MHSAA member high school (after July 31, 2016) shall have completed either Level 1 or Level 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP).



## MHSAA Handbook Regulation II, Section 3(C):

*“Each head coach of a varsity team in an MHSAA tournament sport hired for the first time as a high school varsity head coach at any MHSAA member high school after July 31, 2016 shall have completed either Level 1 or Level 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP). If the head coach does not complete CAP Level 1 or 2 prior to the established deadline, that coach shall be prohibited from coaching in that season’s MHSAA tournament for the sport involved and shall not be present at the facility where the MHSAA tournament involving that coach’s team is being held. See Regulation II, Section 15 H(4). An administrator or faculty member designee of that school shall be present with supervisory capacity over the school’s competitors. Failure to receive reminder notifications (email or other) does not change the requirement of this Section. The MHSAA may substitute an alternative coach’s education program for late hires which will fulfill the requirement on a temporary basis.”*

The MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP) is an educational program geared to assist coaches in their growth and development as they advance in the field of educational athletics. Value-added benefits of the program include:

**INSURANCE:** Liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence. This protection extends to coaches’ performance of duties for the school team during the interscholastic season.

**NEWSLETTER:** *GamePlans* is an electronic newsletter that is sent six times a year to coaches who have successfully completed six hours of the Coaches Advancement Program. The *GamePlans* newsletter contains pertinent articles that will assist coaches in their daily planning. *GamePlans* also publishes a record of all coaches who have been certified through the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program.

**STATE CONTINUING EDUCATION CLOCK HOURS:** State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) are available to coaches and can be used for the renewal of selected certificates issued by the Michigan Department of Education. Coaches who complete a six-hour session are eligible to receive 6 SCECHs.

**The Spring 2025 deadline is April 17**

# Interested in Committee Work?

Please see the Committee Nomination Information and Form on Pages 38-39 of this issue.

Visit the Sport “AD/Coach” pages of MHSAA.com for Sport Committee Minutes

Visit the “I Am . . .” Administrator page of MHSAA.com for all other Committee Minutes

# The Great Indoors

## Winter Sports Hold Special Place in MHSAA History

**M**ichigan winters have a feeling all their own across this diverse state when it comes to the school calendar year.

Gone is the anticipation of a new year and reunions with classmates that the fall brings.

Too far in the distance is the restless wave inherent during the spring for proms, graduations and summer vacation.

There is a certain “settled” feeling to these months in the hallways.

Yet, the MHSAA calendar heats up the winter months more than any of the three school seasons, offering the most number of championship sports on its menu during this time. A total of 13 sports will crown champions by the end of March over several Divisions, both team and individual in some cases.

These events offer the perfect respite from the cold for communities who gather to support classmates and neighbors who provide the entertainment. For those who prefer the snow, Michigan is unique as one of the few states which sponsors downhill skiing for boys and girls.

The winter months are rich with MHSAA history as well, from the crowning of three boys basketball champions during the Association’s first winter in 1925, to welcoming the newest winter sport of bowling for boys and girls in 2004. This March, a team championship in girls wrestling will be presented for the first time ever.

So, come on inside, grab a hot chocolate and some popcorn, and take in some memories as the Century of School Sports celebration continues. This edition of *benchmarks* shines the spotlight on MHSAA winter sports .



When Girls Competitive Cheer became an MHSAA championship sport in 1994, it quickly became one of the most energy-charged Finals on the Winter menu, as sellout crowds typically fill the stands to support their schools at a high volume from start to finish.



Jenison Field House on the campus of Michigan State University is one of the most storied Finals venues in MHSAA history, as so many lifetime memories unfolded within those walls.

## State's Storytellers Share Winter Memories

As part of our school year-long celebration of a “Century of School Sports” and the MHSAA’s 100th anniversary, we’re connecting every season with members of Michigan’s sports media, our historian and longtime communications staff to present some of what they remember most from their time covering our games.

Following is our installment of winter sports memories from those who were there.

### **Never Underestimate How Much These Moments Mean** – Jack Doles, *WOOD TV (Grand Rapids)*

In one of my first years covering sports for WOOD-TV in Grand Rapids, Allendale High School went on a deep run in the 1991 basketball tournament. Joe Moderman was the star player for Allendale. He played his heart out, but the team ended up losing (in the Class D Final, 62-48 to Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard). Dur-

ing our postgame interview, Joe got very emotional. I saw just how important this game was to him. Joe ended up playing at Iowa State and eventually Grand Valley, so he knew he had a lot of basketball left to play. His tears were for his teammates, who had played their final game.

I still bump into Joe and we talk about that moment we shared afterward. It was a great lesson in how impactful those moments are.

### **Memorable All-Time Matchup, Unforgettable Scores** – Tim Staudt, *WILX (Lansing)*

Picking one from the winter is easy – the District-opening game of the 1977 state basketball tournament at Lansing Eastern’s Don Johnson Fieldhouse and Lansing Everett’s Earvin Johnson versus Eastern’s Jay Vincent. Everett won 63-41 after losing 70-62 to Eastern in Jenison Field House before 10,000 fans the previous Fri-



day to end the regular season. Both those scores I still remember to this day.

**Detroit Cooley celebrates its 1987 Class A boys basketball championship. 'C-O-O, L-E-Y, Cooley, Cooley, Cooley High' – Mick McCabe, Detroit Free Press**

March 28, 1987, Crisler Arena

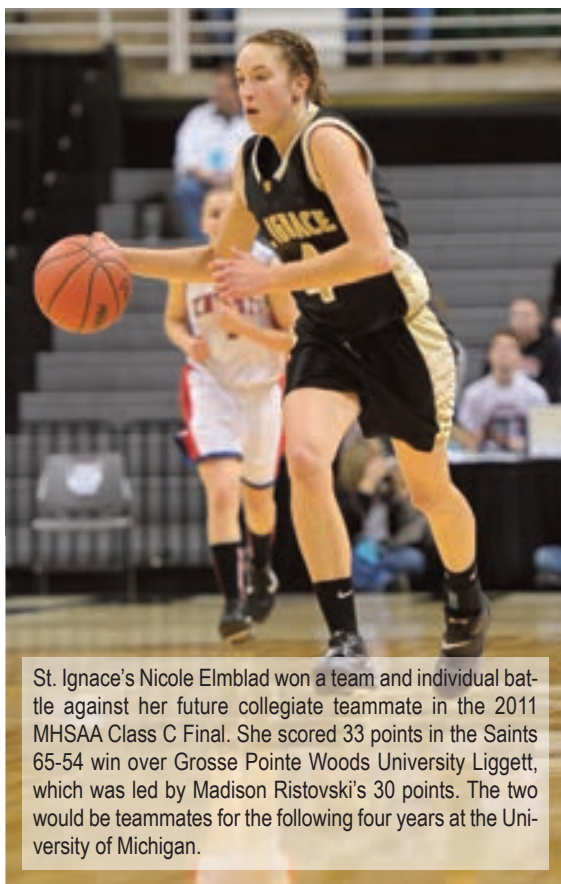
Detroit Cooley 82, Detroit Southwestern 77, OT

This time it was in the bag. Losers in five consecutive state championship games, Southwestern was certain to win its first state championship against a Cooley team that seemed to have no business playing in the state finals. After all, Southwestern had already beaten Cooley twice and the second victory came only a month earlier when the Prospectors destroyed Cooley by 35 points in the Detroit Public School League title game. Yes, 35 points!

But behind the play of sophomore Michael Talley (23 points) and senior Rafeal Peterson (22 points), Co-

*"This time it was in the bag. Losers in five consecutive state championship games, Southwestern was certain to win its first state championship against a Cooley team that seemed to have no business playing in the state finals..."*  
— Mick McCabe, Detroit Free Press

ley took control early and led by 11 points at halftime. The Cardinals led by eight heading into the fourth quarter and thought they had the game won before Doyle Callahan scored for the Prospectors an instant before the buzzer to force overtime. Southwestern scored the first basket in overtime and it would have been the perfect time for Cooley to call it an afternoon. But Peterson countered with the biggest basket of the day to tie the score and kept Southwestern from extending its lead. Instead, Southwestern had consecutive turnovers, missed a shot and committed a foul as Cooley took a five-point lead with 38 seconds remaining as chants of: "C-O-O, L-E-Y, Cooley, Cooley, Cooley High" reigned



St. Ignace's Nicole Elmlblad won a team and individual battle against her future collegiate teammate in the 2011 MHSAA Class C Final. She scored 33 points in the Saints 65-54 win over Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett, which was led by Madison Ristovski's 30 points. The two would be teammates for the following four years at the University of Michigan.

down from the Crisler rafters. It was the first of three straight Class A state championships for Cooley and Talley, who as a senior went on to become the Hal Schram Mr. Basketball Award winner.

**Future U-M Teammates Face Off to Finish High School Careers – Greg Miller, formerly of 9&10 News (Cadillac)**

The girls basketball Class C state championship game in 2011 pitted future college teammates Nicole Elmlblad (St. Ignace) and Madison Ristovski (Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett) in a shootout for the ages. Ristovski scored 30 points, while Elmlblad put up 33 points to go along with a 19-rebound effort, as the Saints pulled away in the fourth quarter to earn a 65-



It was the Shot Heard 'Round Saginaw: The 1986 Class B Final ended when Saginaw Buena Vista's Chris Coles' 65-foot launch found the net and history at the other end of the court, giving BV the win over arch-rival Flint Beecher.



*“Coming home at the end of the weekend, and feeling like everything was wrapped up as I got closer to Lansing, I’ll never forget my phone blowing up with calls from folks wondering about what was happening with hockey.” — John Johnson, MHSAA Communications Director from 1987-2020*

54 victory. Elmlblad scored 14 of her 33 points in the deciding quarter to lead St. Ignace to the championship. It was a great back-and-forth matchup of two evenly-matched teams led by two outstanding athletes. The following year, the pair began to play as teammates at the University of Michigan and were both part of some of the winningest teams in program history.

**Coles' Shot Goes the Distance** – Perry Farrell, MHSAA.com and formerly of Detroit Free Press

I didn't cover the event, but Saginaw Buena Vista's Chris Coles made a shot from about 65 feet in the 1986 Class B state boys championship basketball game to defeat arch-rival Flint Beecher 33-32. It is the greatest shot in Michigan high school basketball history. And being a graduate of Buena Vista it was one of the highlights of our school.

**Competitive Cheer Finals Atmosphere has Few Rivals** – Geoff Kimmery, MHSAA Communications Director and formerly of Lansing State Journal

I moved to the MHSAA during the 2011-12 school year after more than a decade at the Lansing State Journal, where among other areas of coverage we produced team-by-team previews for all of our area varsity sports

– including the addition of a competitive cheer preview as that sport began to gain popularity and participation in the mid-Michigan area. But before leaving the LSJ, I had never covered a competition.

The new job, and a new venture of covering all of our MHSAA Finals for our previous Second Half website, brought me to the Grand Rapids Delta Plex on a Friday night in early March, 2012. I had covered Finals in several other MHSAA sports – although 2011-12 would also see my debut at lacrosse, swimming & diving, gymnastics, cross country, hockey and bowling championship events – so I'd been around some of the larger and loudest crowds for high school competitions over the previous decade or more.

But WOW. The Division 1 crowd, which reached into the Delta Plex rafters, was as charged as anything I'd seen at Ford Field or the Silverdome, or Breslin aside from the oft-recalled Detroit Renaissance/Wyoming Park boys basketball game in 2004. Coming close on atmosphere were some of the Team Wrestling Finals I'd experienced. But this night had people seemingly piled so high I thought they might roll out of the stands onto us. Dads were leading full sections in chants, and when their teams took the mat they were even more electric, and all of that took the typical emotions of a season-ending event to another level.

And of course, the competition was outstanding. Southgate Anderson won its first of what would be three straight Division 1 titles (and if you still don't credit this as being a sport, try to do anything these athletes make happen on the mat). I was definitely a little awestruck by the whole evening, and left with a whole new appreciation for how another of our sports energizes its community.

**Vikings Find Stride at Tournament Time** – Brian Calloway, Lansing State Journal

Watching Lansing Everett defy the odds and make an improbable run to the boys basketball state Semifinals at Breslin Center in 2016 is one of the most notable



A pair of exhausted teams shake hands following the longest title game in MHSAA history, an eight overtime affair that resulted in Marquette and Orchard Lake St. Mary's being crowned co-champions.

things I observed from the winter sports season. Everett lost 10 regular-season games that year and at that time had become the first team in a decade to reach the state Semifinals despite double-digit losses in the regular season. Everett wound up falling to North Farmington in the Semifinal in what was its second-straight appearance in the final four in Class A.

**Never-Ending 2008 Hockey Championship Game Ends with 2 Champions** - John Johnson, MHSAA Communications Director from 1987-2020

On the ice that night, the busiest championship weekend the MHSAA has known came to an end with the longest game in the history of the Finals. Marquette and Orchard Lake St. Mary's skated for 109 minutes and eight overtimes before administrators ruled the game a 1-1 tie and awarded co-championships in the name of safety for two exhausted teams who had earned victory. Ironically, the contest was just 1:32 from ending (in regulation) when Tim Hooker of St. Mary's knotted the score at 1-1. His tally equaled a power-play goal by Marquette's Mike Peterson in the second period.

Coming home at the end of the weekend, and feeling like everything was wrapped up as I got closer to Lansing, I'll never forget my phone blowing up with calls from folks wondering about what was happening with hockey. And then rushing into the house to punch up the audio of the game on the computer, I listened to a very hoarse John Kreger announcing that co-champions had been declared.

**Evans' Game-Winner Still Unbelievable** - Lorne Plant, State Champs!

I had the opportunity to get to know then-head coach at Detroit Rogers Steve Hall when I did a State Champs! feature on Brenda Gatlin, who was the first woman to be head coach of a PSL boys basketball team in the 1980s at Cass Tech. Just so happened, Steve Hall was a player on her team. That took place during the 2002-2003 basketball season, which was the first winter season in the State Champs! era. Two years later, Detroit Rogers had won the state championship the previous two years, so you can only imagine how hard it is to try and win three in a row. As far as I could tell, only two teams had won Class D state titles three times



Detroit Rogers' Eric Evans (circle) only had time for a shot and a prayer down by 2 in OT to Bellaire in the 2005 Class D Final. The trey was good, Evans was fouled, converted the FT, and the Rangers had title No. 3 in a row, 71-68.

in a row. Chassell did it in the mid 50s, and Detroit East Catholic did it in the late 70s and early 80s. It had been a while. Strange that what only happened three times in 79 years has happened three more times in the last 20 (Class D/Division 4 state champions by a single team three times in a row).

*"I thought to myself, "You had a nice run, Steve." And then, the freshman Eric Evans made one of the most incredible plays I've ever seen..." — Lorne Plant, State Champs!*

Back to the '05 final, when the ball went out of bounds with three seconds left in OT and the ball was given to Rogers down a point, I settled in for the final shot. Then the refs overturned the call and gave it to Bellaire, and I thought to myself, "You had a nice run, Steve." And then, the freshman Eric Evans made one of the most incredible plays I've ever seen. He stole the ball and in the same motion threw it up towards the basket and it went in, I couldn't believe it. I will never forget that play.

**One Reporter's Take on Boys Basketball "Games of the Decade"** - Brad Emons, Detroit Free Press (formerly of Observer & Eccentric newspapers)

March 6, 1986: In a Class A District Semifinal before an overflow crowd of 2,000 at Alumni Arena, host Wayne Memorial (18-3) took eventual state champ Romulus (25-2) and Mr. Basketball Terry Mills to two overtimes before falling, 93-92. The 6-foot-9 Mills, who later starred at Michigan and played 10 seasons in the NBA, scored 37 points, including 11 in the second OT. The Eagles, who also featured DI players Steve Glenn (Austin Peay) - who added 19 points - and Juan Street (Bowling Green), went on to defeat Detroit Southwestern for the state title at U-M's Crisler Arena, 72-65. Wayne, which gave up an average height of five inches per man, had three players foul out. The Zebras got a team-high 27 points from Mark Robinson, while Spence Williams and Rod Sommons added 18 and 14, respectively.

March, 18, 1978: Orchard Lake St. Mary's capped a perfect 27-0 season with a 67-52 Class D championship win over Detroit St. Martin dePorres at U-M's Crisler Arena. Just a day earlier at MSU's Jenison Field House, St. Mary's ousted Mio Au Sable and the state's all-time career scorer Jay Smith (2,841 points) in convincing fashion, 77-52. In the Quarterfinals at Corunna, OLSM thwarted Saranac and 6-8 MSU recruit Ben Tower, 71-53. The Eaglets' starting lineup featured Dominican Republic native Evaristo Perez (MSU), Jim Paciorek (Michigan), Barry Bugaj, Dave Kay and Gregg Williamson. After the Semifinal win over Mio, St. Mary's coach Bob Shoemaker lauded the play of Paciorek saying, "They couldn't stop Jim even with a blow torch."





Lapeer West's Roger Kish (top) took home four MHSAA individual wrestling championships and was one of the most successful grapplers in Michigan history. During the 2003 Team Finals, however, it was Mason's Kody Jackson (bottom) who valiantly avoided a pin to help set up a dramatic finish for his school's team crown.

### **Avoiding Pin, Mason's Jackson Becomes Championship Hero** – Rob Kaminski, MHSAA publications coordinator since 1997

During my quarter-century here with the MHSAA, Team Wrestling has always been one of my favorite tournaments. The venue, whether Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek or Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo, is the perfect size, and the crowds are raucous and enthusiastic with the Finals often packed to the rafters.

At one time, the format always began with the lightest weights wrestling first, finishing with the heaviest weights. The format then changed, with the starting weight being drawn right before the competition began, so there was a greater emphasis on strategy: which wrestlers would coaches send out for each weight class?

Such was the case in 2003 at Kellogg Arena. The Division 2 Final between Mason and Lapeer West not only featured two schools always near the top of their sport at the time, but also one of the top individuals in MHSAA history: Lapeer West's Roger Kish, already a three-time individual champion who ruled the 189-pound class.

When 215 was drawn as the starting weight for the Final, the stage was set for a potential dramatic finish as Kish would face Mason's Tom McDiarmid in the last bout of the meet. However, thinking that Kish would have an easier time against Mason's 215-pounder and possible getting six points for a fall, Lapeer West sent Kish out for the first match of the dual against Mason's Kody Jackson. It seemed as though the first matches on the other three mats might as well have been taking place on Mars, as everyone focused on the D2 circle.

Kish did win the bout, 26-15, but the deafening roar from Mason's crowd – and other non-partisans in the arena – for Jackson's effort was something I'll never for-

get. Jackson had stayed off his back, avoided a pin, and Lapeer West got two points less than it had gambled for.

When it came time for McDiarmid's turn at 189 to end the meet, Mason trailed 27-25. McDiarmid then took care of business with a 14-1 major decision to give Mason the title, 29-27, and send its crowd into a frenzy.

A week later, Kish and McDiarmid did indeed meet, this time in the MHSAA Individual Finals at 189, where Kish posted a 26-11 technical fall to secure his fourth individual crown, and second straight at that weight.

### **#11 Never Forgotten** – Jack Doles, WOOD TV (Grand Rapids)

The last story I'll share deals with a high school athlete who played multiple sports at Grandville high school and left a legacy, not with his play, but his actions.

Ryan Fischer played football and hockey at Grandville. He was a captain and the unquestioned leader of the team. Ryan was also beloved by his classmates, because he was an active listener and friend to everyone in the hallways. Sadly, Ryan died unexpectedly during the (2014) hockey playoffs (on the morning of the team's Division 1 Semifinal against Detroit Catholic Central). The team wasn't sure if they could play, but as they waited outside the Fischer home, Ryan's father brought his jersey to the team and told them Ryan would want them to play.



Grandville lost in the (Semifinal), but they fought and made a community proud. At the end of the game, the team took a knee to say a quick prayer, and then Detroit Catholic Central joined them (above). An incredible level of sportsmanship. Not long after the Fishers buried their son, they started a scholarship in his name. The scholarship is given to the athlete that embodies Ryan's values and spirit. In a story we did, his brother Connor told us his goal was to win that scholarship. He did, and now he serves in the United States Army. Meanwhile, the Grandville and Wyoming communities hand out an award each year called the 11.

Ryan wore number 11. His legacy lives on around West Michigan and beyond.

— Geoff Kimmerly  
MHSAA.com senior editor

# Through the Years: Winter Sports

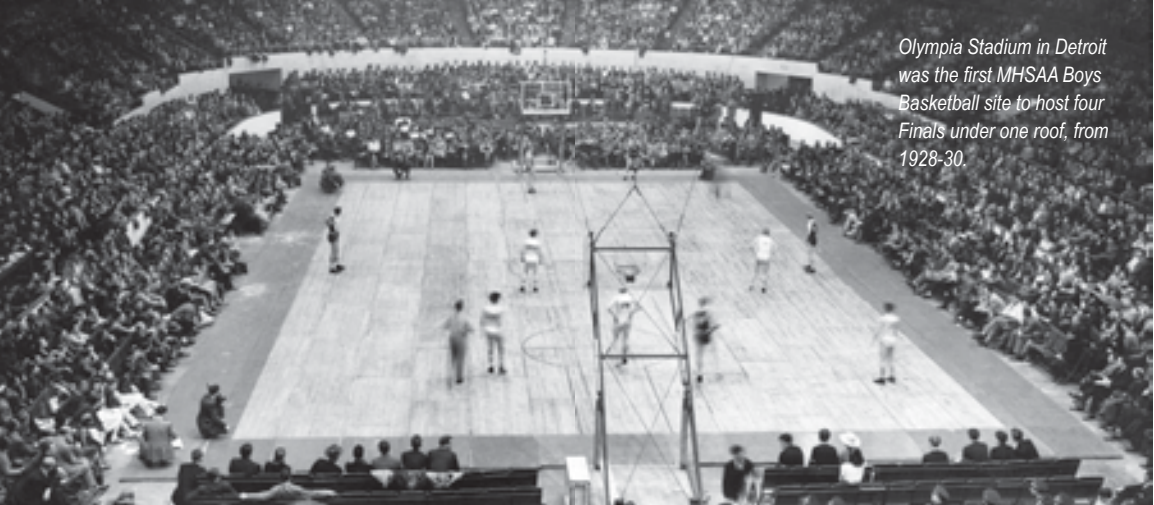
The “MHSAA Vault” features stories from past publications in the MHSAA Library. For this Centennial Celebration year, we will look back at the history of the MHSAA’s championship sports, continuing with winter sports in this issue.

**Since the fall of 1924**, when Ann Arbor High School won the MHSAA **Boys Cross Country championships**, tournaments have been the crowning glory for the Association’s membership for a century. (The MHSAA officially was established Dec. 4, 1924, but that lone fall championship is included in official MHSAA titles).

And now, entering this 100th year of existence, **28 MHSAA Tournament Sports** have produced a **grand total of 6,510 Team Champions** in MHSAA history throughout Michigan’s Lower and Upper Peninsulas, and thousands more individual victors within those sports.

These and other triumphs represent only the summit of each tournament run. Countless other memories and accomplishments have been achieved at District, Regional, Quarterfinal and Semifinal levels throughout the decades.

## Boys Basketball



Olympia Stadium in Detroit was the first MHSAA Boys Basketball site to host four Finals under one roof, from 1928-30.

### TITLE TOTALS

Class/Division	Years	Titles
Division 1, 2, 3, 4	2019-2024	20
Class A, B, C	1925-2018	279
Class D	1926-2018	92
Class E	1941-1960	19
UP Class B, C, D	1932-1947	45

Note: The tournament ended following the District level in 1943; No Finals in 2020 due to Covid-19

### HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS

- 1994-Present: East Lansing (Breslin Center MSU)
- 1990-1993: Auburn Hills (The Palace of Auburn Hills)
- 1975-1989: Ann Arbor (Crisler Arena UM)
- 1974: East Lansing (Jenison Field House MSU)
- 1973: Ann Arbor (Crisler Arena UM)
- 1972: East Lansing (Jenison Field House MSU)
- 1971: Ann Arbor (Crisler Arena UM)
- 1945-1970: East Lansing (Jenison Field House MSU)
- 1944: Lansing (Boys' Vocational Fieldhouse, now part of Lansing Eastern)
- 1940-1942: East Lansing (Jenison Field House MSU) (1943 - No finals)
- 1935, 1937, 1939: Flint (IMA Auditorium)
- 1934, 1936, 1938: Grand Rapids (Civic Auditorium)
- 1931-1933: East Lansing (Demonstration Hall MSU)
- 1928-1930: Detroit (Olympia Stadium)
- 1927: Classes A, D-Detroit Central HS; Class B, C-Detroit Northwestern HS
- 1926: Classes A, D-Ann Arbor HS; Class B, C-East Lansing HS
- 1925: Class A-East Lansing HS; Class B, C-Ann Arbor HS (No D Final)
- Upper Peninsula Finals sites from 1932-47** included Northern State Teachers College/Northern Michigan College (now Northern Michigan University, Ironwood High School and Ishpeming High School



## MARCH IS MAGIC

The MHSAA's busiest month of tournament sports, March has been delivering lasting memories for a century now, including the 1977 Class A Final that saw Lansing Everett's **Ervin "Magic" Johnson** (right) cap a storied prep career with a 62-56 overtime win over Birmingham Brother Rice in the Class A Final. Johnson would lead Michigan State to the 1979 NCAA Championship vs. Larry Bird's Indiana State squad in the highest-rated title game in history, then led the Los Angeles Lakers to the 1980 NBA crown. In a dizzying, spectacular four-year period, the Magic Man led high school, college, and professional teams to the summit of his sport.



## A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals conversations might not begin and end with River Rouge and legendary coach **LOFTON GREENE**.

But, there sure is a steady stream of superlatives when sages discuss one of the great game-changers in high school basketball, and there's no denying the place Greene's Panthers hold in history.

His squads won 12 MHSAA Class B titles between 1954 and 1972, and appeared in the Final five other times under his watchful eyes. Ironically, it might have been Rouge's first trip to the Final, a loss to Floyd Eby's Coldwater team in 1949, which might have opened the floodgates to the Rouge river of success.

Greene and his Panthers were beaten by what he described as "racehorse basketball," a style which he would mimic and perfect involving a pressing defense and fast-break offense. The rest, as they say, is history, to the tune of an MHSAA record 739 victories in 41 seasons, and those 12 titles.

The school later would add to that mark with championships in 1998 and 1999.

Greene and more than 40 of his players from those golden years returned to the MHSAA Finals one last time together, in

1954, 1955, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1998, 1999



In 1943, no Finals were held due to World War II efforts. In 1945, Jenison Field House at MSU was the stage for the state's top cage teams, and a commemorative program was printed to salute young war heroes

2002 at MSU's Breslin Center as part of the MHSAA Legends of the Games program. Greene died the following July at age 84, but his impact on the game lives on.



River Rouge legendary coach Lofton Greene (far right) looks on as his 1954 team accepts the MHSAA Class B championship trophy, the first of 12 such scenes that Greene would oversee through the 1972 season.



### TITLE TOTALS

Class/Division	Years	Titles
Division 1, 2, 3, 4	2019-2024	20
Class A, B, C, D	1973-2018	180*

*Note: Girls Basketball moved from fall to winter for the 2007-08 Season, thus no Finals in 2007 calendar year; No Finals in 2020 due to Covid-19.*

### HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS

- 2021-Present: East Lansing (Breslin Center MSU)
- 2018-2019: Grand Rapids (Van Noord Arena, Calvin Univ.)
- 2010-2017: East Lansing (Breslin Center MSU)
- 2008-2009: Ypsilanti (Convocation Center EMU)
- 2004-2006: East Lansing (Breslin Center MSU)
- 1997-2003: Mt. Pleasant (Rose Arena CMU)
- 1990-1996: Battle Creek (Kellogg Arena)
- 1986-1989: Allendale (Grand Valley State University)
- 1983-1985: Kalamazoo (Read Fieldhouse WMU)
- 1981-1982: Detroit (Callihan Hall U-D)
- 1977-1980: East Lansing (Jenison Field House MSU)
- 1974-1976: East Kentwood HS
- 1973: Class A-Grand Blanc HS; Class B-East Kentwood HS; Class C-Owosso HS; Class D-Alma HS



The MHSAA Girls Basketball Finals attendance record was set at CMU’s Rose Arena (top) in 1999, as 10,958 fans packed the gym for four title games. The three-day, Semi-finals-Finals standard was set at MSU’s Breslin Center (above) in 2004, as 24,211 gathered for girls hoops, including 10,460 for the Finals.

### DEMOTT IS KING OF THE COURT

In January 2023, Sandusky’s Al DeMott guided his team to victory for the 798th time in his illustrious career, putting him ahead of retired Detroit Country Day coach Frank Orlando on the all-time list.

DeMott continues to add to his legacy as the lone active coach among the top five in MHSAA Girls Basketball history.

- 838 – Al DeMott, Sandusky (1979-2024) (total heading into 2024-25)
- 797 – Frank Orlando, Detroit Country Day (1981-2019)
- 729 – Al Schrauben, Portland St. Patrick (1985-2024)
- 707 – Mary Cicerone, Bloomfield Hills Marian (1983-2022)
- 698 – William Winfield, Detroit Southeastern (1982-83)
- Detroit Martin Luther King (1984-2018)





## SWEET REPEATS

Beginning with the first two MHSAA Girls Basketball Finals, there have been 37 repeat champions. **Hamtramck St. Ladislaus** (right, in light) and **Detroit Dominican** (in dark) were early perennial powers, winning back-to-back titles the first two years in Finals history (1973 and 1974): Dominican in Class A, and St. Lad's in Class C.

There have been nine back-to-back champs Class A/Division 1, but only Flint Northern recorded three or more in a row with four from 1978-81.

Of the six times it's occurred in Class B/Division 2, three were by Detroit Country Day, which leads all school with 13 MHSAA titles. The Yellowjackets' two 'three-peats' (1997-99 and 2002-04) sandwiched back-to-backs by Flint Powers in 2000-01.

Class C/Division 3 has welcomed seven repeat winners to the podium, with no team winning more than two straight solely in that Class/Division. However **Detroit Edison PSA** (below) took the Class C crown in 2017-18, then moved up to Division



2 and captured the title in 2019. Coach Monique Brown's teams also won D2 championships in 2022 and 2024, making it five trophies in seven years (the 2020 tournament was cancelled due to Covid-19).

Class D/Division 4 has brought the most familiarity to the victory stand, with 13 schools winning consecutive titles. Portland St. Patrick has six wins in 12 title games, including three straight from 1994-96 which started a string of six in nine years. From 2004 to 2012 there was a repeat winner every year in D, beginning with Lansing Christian's



second straight in 2004. That was followed by Frankfort (2005-06), New Lothrop (2008-09) and Waterford Our Lady (2010-12). *(Note: there is no 2007 in the streak, because that school year the Finals shifted from Fall to Winter, making the date 2008).* Our Lady, St. Pat's and Leland (1980-82) all boasted consecutive strings of three championships.

The most recent repeat champion in any Division is **Fowler** (right), having done so in 2021-22.

## MARQUETTE IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN ABOVE THE BRIDGE



Farmington Our Lady of Mercy, avenging a 1975 Semifinal loss. All five starters played the entire game, led by Shelly Chapman's 23 points.

When it comes to Upper Peninsula Girls Basketball, schools above the bridge have certainly made their mark on the MHSAA Finals. St. Ignace is most prominent, with five titles in nine trips to the big stage in Class C, D or D4. Carney-Nadeau has three Class D crowns, including back-to-back trophies in 1989-90, while Rapid River came oh so close with three runner-ups in four years (1997-2000) by a total of nine points.

Most recently, Baraga was Division 4 runner-up in 2023, while Calumet won the Class C crown in 2015.

However, there's only one UP school to win the MHSAA's largest class, and that's the 1976 **Marquette** squad. Coach **Barb Crill's** (left, kneeling) squad dominated opponents during that Bicentennial year and painted the town red following a 68-41 win in the Class A Final over



## BOYS & GIRLS TITLE TOTALS

Class/Division	Years	Titles
Division 1, 2, 3	2006-2024	57
Division 4	2010-2024	15
Class A, B, C-D	2004-2005	6

## HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS

As the sport of bowling has grown since it's addition in 2004, there have been numerous sites to call the MHSAA Finals home for a year each winter.

For the first 12 years, Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights hosted at least one Division and for the first three years, 2004-2006, the house welcomed all three Divisions of boys and girls championship competition.

# 300 Club

X X X X X X X X X X X X

## GIRLS 300s at MHSAA Finals

### Singles Event

Taylor Davis, Davison -- 2016 Girls Division 1 Singles Final

**Kara Richard**, Tecumseh -- 2008 Girls Division 2 Singles Round of 16

**Kara Richard**, Tecumseh -- 2008 Girls Division 2 Singles Qualifying Block Game #3

Rachel Ringrose, South Lyon -- 2007 Girls Division 1 Singles Qualifying Block Game #6

Felicia Goll, Harper Woods Regina -- 2005 Girls Class B Singles Qualifying Block Game #3

### Team Event

Ashley Blakley, Grand Blanc -- 2007 Girls Division 1 Team Qualifying Block, Regular Game #2



*Tecumseh's Kara Richard is the only bowler in MHSAA history to roll multiple 300s in Finals competition.*

## BOYS 300s at MHSAA Finals

### Singles Event

Ian Cain, Livonia Franklin -- 2022 Boys Division 1 Singles Round of 16 (3-5-2022)

Grant Baker, Jonesville -- 2018 Boys Division 3 Singles Qualifying Block Game #6

Brendan Welsh, Freeland -- 2016 Boys Division 3 Singles Qualifying Block Game #6

Josh Kukla, Grandville -- 2014 Boys Division 1 Singles Quarterfinals Game #1

Alex Ouellette, Bay City John Glenn -- 2014 Boys Division 2 Singles Qualifying Block Game #4

Darren Norrod, Battle Creek Pennfield -- 2008 Boys Division 2 Singles Qualifying Block Game #5

Andy Teeples, Flint Carman-Ainsworth -- 2007 Boys Division 1 Singles Qualifying Block Game #1

Matt Richard, Tecumseh -- 2005 Boys Class A Singles Qualifying Block Game #4

Austin Herter, Chelsea -- 2005 Boys Class A Singles Qualifying Block Game #1

Nick Broene, Hudsonville -- 2004 Boys Class A Singles Qualifying Block Game #1

### Team Event

Parker Horvath, Grass Lake -- 2022 Boys Division 4 Team Qualifying

Brandon Hyska, Bronson -- 2019 Boys Division 4 Team Qualifying Block

Hunter Rapaich, Tecumseh -- 2019 Boys Division 2 Team Semifinals

Cory Baker, Zeeland -- 2015 Boys Division 1 Team Quarterfinals

Lee Pierson, Dearborn Divine Child -- 2008 Boys Division 2 Team Semifinals

Matt Wetzel, Ithaca -- 2005 Boys Class C-D Team Round of 16

Kyle Morse, Traverse City St. Francis -- 2004 Boys Class C-D Team Finals

Steve Roy, South Lyon -- 2004 Boys Class A Team Quarterfinal

Jack Goodell, Warren DeLaSalle -- 2004 Boys Class A Team Round of 16

### Team Baker

Walled Lake Central -- 2008 Boys Division 1 Team Qualifying Block Game #2

Port Huron Northern -- 2005 Boys Class A Team Quarterfinal

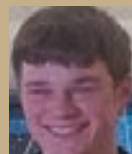
Dearborn Divine Child -- 2005 Boys Class B Team Round of 16

## KING PINS

Only two bowlers have won three singles championships in MHSAA Bowling history.

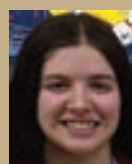
### Kyle Tuttle of St.

Charles accomplished the feat when he claimed the 2016 Boys Division 4 crown at Royal Scot in Lansing.



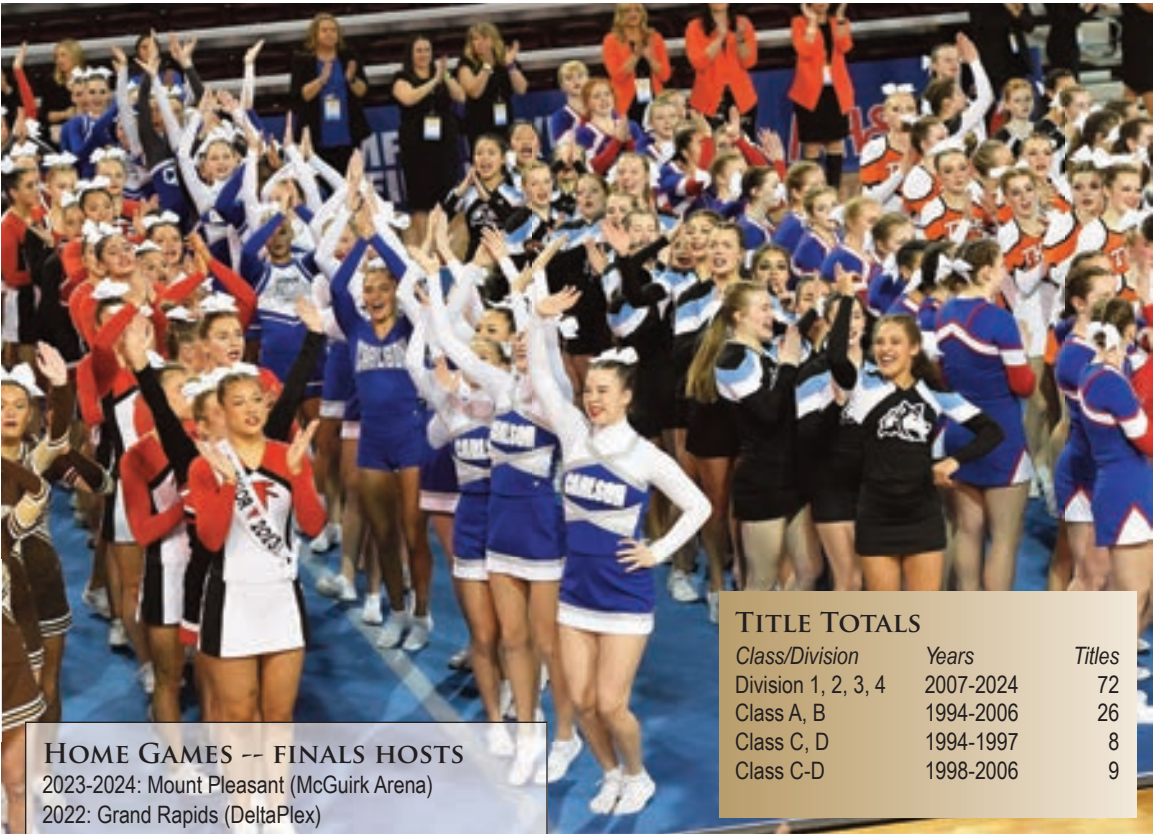
### Morgan Brunner

of Gobles took her third title in the 2023 Girls Division 4 competition at M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek.





# Girls Competitive Cheer



## HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS

- 2023-2024: Mount Pleasant (McGuirk Arena)
- 2022: Grand Rapids (DeltaPlex)
- 2021: East Lansing (Breslin Center)
- 2004-2020: Grand Rapids (DeltaPlex)
- 2003: Class A, C, D-Lake Orion HS; Class B-Oxford HS
- 2002: Allendale (Grand Valley State University)
- 2000-2001: Lake Orion HS
- 1998-1999: Grandville HS
- 1996-1997: Delton-Kellogg HS
- 1994-1995: East Kentwood HS

## TITLE TOTALS

Class/Division	Years	Titles
Division 1, 2, 3, 4	2007-2024	72
Class A, B	1994-2006	26
Class C, D	1994-1997	8
Class C-D	1998-2006	9

## DOUBLE THE FUN

From 2000 to 2015, participation in Girls Competitive Cheer more than doubled, **from 3,214 in 2000 to 7,189 in 2015**. The highest participation mark was **7,656 in 2011**, as the sport has become one the MHSAA's most popular for girls in its 30 years of sponsorship.

Not only is participation popular, but the sport continues to draw enthusiastic crowds each March through the tournament run, as overall attendance for competitive cheer during the 2024 postseason was **29,297, up 12 percent** the previous year. That spike was keyed in part by **MHSAA record attendance at the District level (14,528)**.

## PYRAMIDS OF SUCCESS

The leading programs in MHSAA Cheer titles are, from left to right below: Rochester (15), Gibraltar Carlson (12), Breckenridge (10) and Pewamo-Westphalia (9). Carlson, shown below locking up title No. 1 in 1995 at East Kentwood HS, holds the MHSAA record for consecutive crowns with six from 2011-16.





TITLE TOTALS

Class	Years	Titles
Open Class	1972-2024	53
Upper Peninsula	1973-2003	31

*Note: Peninsulas combined in 2004; No Finals in 2020 due to Covid-19.*

ROCKIN' IT

The sport of gymnastics has seen waves of team champions during its history, and Rockford/Sparta is enjoying the most recent run. The co-op has won the last three titles under Coach Michele Ankney, and six since 2015. Prior to that, the Comets of Grand Ledge nabbed six consecutive titles from 2008-2013 – and runner-up finishes the year before and after the streak under Coach Duane Haring. Rockford and **Rockford/Sparta** lead the all-time Lower Peninsula list with seven championships (2024 pictured below), followed by Grand Ledge with six titles. In the Upper Peninsula, Marquette won 12 championships before the UP-only tournament ceased in 2003.



ONE STANDS ALONE

The lone four-time all-around champion in MHSAA history is Escanaba's **Katie Aho**, who dominated the Upper Peninsula scene from 1990-1993. In the Lower Peninsula, just two gymnasts have won three all-around Finals competitions: **Jodi Thompson** of East Kentwood (1980-82); and **Alexis Byington** of Grand Ledge (2009-11).

HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS

- Lower Peninsula Finals

2024: Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills HS  
2022-2023: White Lake Lakeland HS  
2015-2021: Rockford HS  
2013-2014: Plymouth HS  
2011-2012: Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills HS  
2009-2010: Rockford HS  
2008: Plymouth HS  
2006-2007: Troy Athens HS  
2003-05: Plymouth HS  
2002: Rockford HS  
1999-2001: Hartland HS  
1997-1998: Rockford HS  
1995-1996: Troy HS  
1994: Westland John Glenn HS  
1992-1993: Trenton HS  
1991: East Kentwood HS  
1990: Saginaw Valley State University  
1989: Troy HS  
1988: Canton HS  
1986-1987: Grand Rapids Creston HS  
1985: Troy HS  
1982-1984: Canton HS  
1981: Troy HS  
1980: East Kentwood HS  
1979: Spring Arbor College  
1978: Ann Arbor Pioneer HS

Upper Peninsula Finals

- 2003: Menominee HS

2002: Escanaba HS  
2001: Gladstone HS  
2000: Marquette HS  
1999: Menominee HS  
1996-1998: Escanaba HS  
1995: Menominee HS  
1993-1994: Escanaba HS  
1992: Menominee HS  
1989-1991: Escanaba HS  
1988: Menominee HS  
1987: Escanaba HS  
1986: Kingsford HS  
1985: Gladstone HS  
1984: Menominee  
1983: Gladstone HS  
1978-1982: Marquette HS



# Ice Hockey



## HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS

2003-Present: Plymouth (Compuware Arena/USA Hockey Arena)  
*Note: Compuware became USA Hockey Arena in 2016)*

- 1992-2002: Flint (IMA Arena)
- 1991: Houghton (Student Ice Arena MTU) and Flint (IMA Arena)
- 1989-1990: Flint (IMA Arena)
- 1988: Flint (IMA Arena) and Houghton (Student Ice Arena MTU)
- 1979-1987: Flint (IMA Arena)
- 1978: Houghton (Student Ice Arena MTU) and Flint (IMA Arena)
- 1977: Ann Arbor (Yost Arena) and Flint (IMA Arena)
- 1976: East Lansing (Munn Arena MSU)
- 1975: Ann Arbor (Yost Arena UM)

## TITLE TOTALS

Class/Division	Years	Titles
Division 1, 2, 3	2000-2024	73
Tier I, II	1975-1978	8
Class A, B-C-D	1979-1999	42

*Note: No Finals in 2020 due to Covid-19.*

## GAME-CHANGING GOAL

The term “game-changer” is commonly used in the athletic forum, but perhaps no goal in the history changed the MHSAA Ice Hockey Finals more than the one being celebrated in the photo to the right. Marquette had a 1-0 lead with 1:36 left in regulation of the 2008 division 1 Final when Orchard Lake St. Mary’s Tim Hooker notched the tying goal.

When eight overtimes and 109 minutes of total ice time wasn’t enough to break the 1-1 deadlock, the MHSAA deemed both schools worthy of a title, concerned for player safety as the contest neared 4 1/2 hours.

It is, and will be, the only tie in MHSAA Ice Hockey Finals history. Following the 2008 marathon, new postseason overtime procedures were implemented: if a tournament game is tied after a fourth 8-minute overtime, 4-on-4 hockey periods will be played until a winner is determined.



## HALL OF FAMER JOHNSON PAVES WAY



Before the MHSAA sponsored an ice hockey tournament, and years before his school would win the first of its record 19 championships, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook’s, **Jim Johnson** (left) dominated his sport like no other in history.

His 249 career goals and 45 career hat tricks still stand as national records, and his talents led him oh-so-close to a spot on the “Miracle on Ice” 1980 US Olympic Hockey Team before a leg injury sidelined him just months prior. At the time, he was among the final 40 fighting for a spot.

In 2007, Johnson became the first hockey player to be inducted into the NFHS Hall of Fame.

## THE LONGEST FINAL

By periods, the 2008 battle was certainly the longest in MHSAA history. By days? Well, that’s another story.

The 2002 Division 3 Final in the last year at Flint’s IMA began on Saturday, March 9, but wouldn’t finish until Monday, March 11.

A significant power outage hit the Flint area between the first and second periods of the game between Dearborn Divine Child and East Grand Rapids, necessitating a return to the building for an encore performance that Monday. MHSAA regulations at that time prohibited Sunday tournament competition, thus play would resume Monday.

When it did, Divine Child raised the trophy with a 3-2 win, two days after the opening faceoff.

Nubs Nob in Harbor Springs is the most frequent host of the MHSAA Boys and Girls Ski Finals.

### BOYS & GIRLS TITLE TOTALS

Class/Division	Years	Titles
Division 1, 2	2007-2024	72
Open Class	1975-1995	21
Class A, B-C-D	1996-2006	22

### NORTHERN EXPOSURE

As might be expected, schools from Michigan's great white north are the natural leaders in team title history since skiing became a championship sport in 1975.

**Petoskey** has won five straight boys Division 2 titles, and 13 of the last 14. The Northmen (at right in 2024) were runners-up to Elk Rapids/Traverse City St. Francis/Grand Traverse Academy in 2019. Petoskey has a total of 24 boys team championships to lead the way.

On the girls side, **Marquette** has won 13 of the 29 large class Finals that have taken place since the Open Class was split for the 1996 season. The school has won six Class A crowns and seven in Division 1, including five in a row from 2016-2020.

Petoskey is tied with Marquette with 13 championships. Petoskey's girls enjoyed great early success with eight Open crowns.

Harbor Springs has nine girls crowns to its credit.



#### GIRLS

**Giant Slalom**  
**Four-Time MHSAA Champion**  
 Christy Salonen, Stambaugh West Iron County (Class B-C-D) (1993-96)  
**Three-Time MHSAA Champion**  
 Marley Spence, Petoskey (2022-24)  
 Katherine Rowley, East Jordan (2005, 2007-08)  
**Slalom**  
**Two-Time MHSAA Champions**  
 12 different skiers

#### BOYS

**Giant Slalom**  
**Three-Time MHSAA Champions**  
 Greg Kyle, Houghton (1985-87)  
 Eric Behan, Petoskey (2003-05)  
**Slalom**  
**Two-Time MHSAA Champions**  
 14 different skiers

### HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS

Harbor Springs (Nubs Nob): 1980, 1984, 1986, 1989, 1991, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2024

Harbor Springs (Boyne Highlands): 2017, 2020, 2021, 2024

Marquette (Marquette Mountain): 1988, 1993, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016

Boyne City (Boyne Mountain): 1996, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023

Thompsonville (Crystal Mountain): 1978, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1990, 1994, 1997

Bellaire (Schuss Mountain/Shanty Creek): 1981, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023

Cedar (Sugar Loaf): 1992, 1996

Kingsford (Pine Mountain): 1979

**Note: While no Finals were held, the MHSAA conducted skiing Regionals for boys and girls from 1954 to 1974.**



# Swimming & Diving

## HOME GAMES – FINALS HOSTS

The MHSAA Lower Peninsula Swimming & Diving venues have taken place predominantly on college campuses, while the Holland Aquatic Center has been in the LP rotation recently as well. The Upper Peninsula meet has a long relationship with Marquette High School through the years, with other schools occasionally staging the event as well.

## BOYS TITLE TOTALS

Lower Peninsula	Years	Titles
Division 1, 2	2003-2024	42
Division 3	2008-2024	16
Class A	1936-2002	69
Class B	1936-2002	67
Class A	1929-1934	6
Class B-C-D	1929-1934	6
Open Class	1925-1928 & 35	5
Note: No LP Finals in 2020 due to Covid-19.		

Upper Peninsula	Years	Titles
Open Class	1980-2024	45

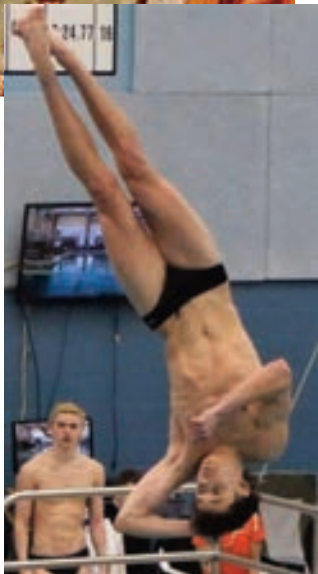
## GIRLS TITLE TOTALS

Upper Peninsula	Years	Titles
Open Class	1980-2024	45
Note: Lower Peninsula numbers appeared in Fall benchmarks		

## DIVING TO NEW HEIGHTS

East Grand Rapids' **Charley Bayer** (right) capped his high school diving career at the 2022 Lower Peninsula Division 3 Finals in record-breaking fashion. Bayer posted a score of 590.85, repeating as LPD3 champion and also breaking the all-Finals record of 584.75 set in 1981 by Ann Arbor Pioneer's Bruce Kimball, who went on to earn All-America honors at University of Michigan and a silver medal at the 1984 Summer Olympics.

Bayer has continued his academic and diving careers at the University of South Carolina.



## IN THE FAST LANE

A quartet of coaches have combined for 100 MHSAA Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving Championships. From left, they are Ann Arbor Pioneer's **Dennis Hill** (15B-16G-31); East Grand Rapids' **Milton Briggs** (10B-25G-35); and Marquette's **Matt Williams** (10B-7G-17) and **Nathan McFarren** (9B-9G-17).



## THE RED SEA

Marquette has hosted the majority of the Upper Peninsula Swimming and Diving Finals, and the school has certainly made itself at home. The boys teams have captured 31 team championships above the bridge, including the last six; the girls have won 28 overall, and the last three crowns.

## TITLE TOTALS

### BOYS

#### Lower Peninsula Titles

- 27 - East Grand Rapids (1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2021, 2022)
- 22 - Ann Arbor/Ann Arbor Pioneer (1956, 1957, 1959, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1993, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

#### Upper Peninsula

- 31 - Marquette (1981, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

### GIRLS

#### Upper Peninsula Titles

- 28 - Marquette (1980, 1981, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024)



### HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS

2018-Present: Kalamazoo (Wings Event Center)  
 2016-2017: Mt. Pleasant (McGuirk Arena CMU)  
 1988-2015: Battle Creek (Kellogg Arena)

### TEAM EFFORT

Concurrent with the move to Battle Creek in 1998, the MHSAA Team champions were determined via the dual meet format. Prior to that, team titles were awarded based on individual meet points.

*The Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo took the torch from Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena in 2018 without breaking stride in welcoming enthusiastic crowds to the MHSAA Team Wrestling Finals. In 2024, a Team Wrestling record crowd of 11,696 gathered for the two-day event, eclipsing the mark of 11,335 set a year earlier. The previous high was 9,387 at Kellogg Arena in 2005, as the event has always been a winter spectator favorite.*



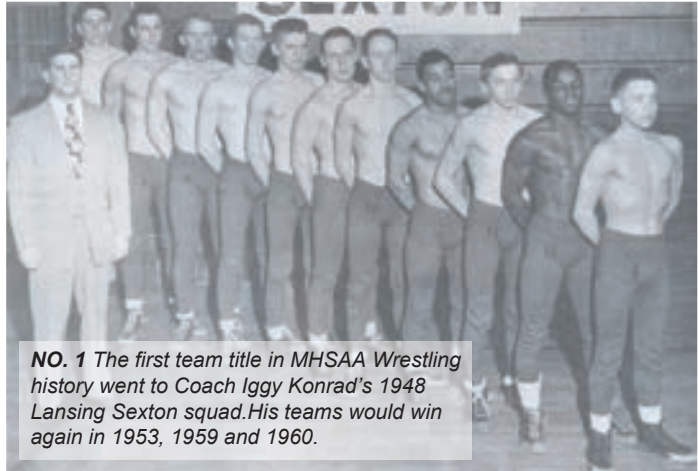
### THE VOICE

Wrestling fans have come to know Queen's *We Will Rock You* as the unofficial Wrestling Grand March anthem, but Kellogg Arena truly didn't rock until Battle Creek's Jeff McGinnis belted out his stirring rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner at the Finals each year.



### WEIGHTY ISSUE

Prior to 2002, the Finals were wrestled smallest weight to heavyweight. From then on, starting weights were drawn at random for dual meets, and what a difference that's made for some classic finishes. Since 2002, 20 Finals have been decided by six points or less, including this 2011 fray between Oxford and Detroit CC won by Oxford in the last match...at 103!



**NO. 1** The first team title in MHSAA Wrestling history went to Coach Iggy Konrad's 1948 Lansing Sexton squad. His teams would win again in 1953, 1959 and 1960.

### TITLE TOTALS

Class/Division	Years	Titles
Division 1, 2, 3, 4	1996-2024	116
Class A, B	1961-1995	70
Class C-D	1967-1973	7
Class C	1974-1991	18
Class D	1974-1991	18
Class C-D	1992-1995	4
UP Only	1967-1987	21
Open Class	1948-1960	13

*Note: Champs determined by Individual Format from 1948-87; determined by Team Dual Format from 1988 to present, and in Class D only from 1974-76*



# Individual Wrestling

The MHSAA Individual Finals have become a multi-day festival for wrestling fans across Michigan throughout the years. During the late 1980s, the Battle Creek area began a 10-year run as host, before the event migrated to Detroit: first at Joe Louis Arena, followed by 16 years at the Palace of Auburn Hills, and now back downtown where Ford Field welcomed the event in 2018. The Palace holds the three-day record of 49,300 fans in 2004. The move to Ford Field came with a revised two-day format and has brought at least 20,000 through the turnstiles each year, topped by 25,555 in 2022.



## HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS

- 2022-24: Detroit (Ford Field)
  - 2021: Kalamazoo (Wings Event Center); Grand Rapids (Van Andel Arena)
  - 2018-2020: Detroit (Ford Field)
  - 2002-2017: Auburn Hills (The Palace of Auburn Hills)
  - 1999-2001: Detroit (Joe Louis Arena)
  - 1996-1998: Battle Creek (Kellogg Arena) and Kalamazoo (University Arena)
  - 1992-1995: Battle Creek (Kellogg Arena) and Battle Creek Central HS
  - 1990-1991: Battle Creek (Kellogg Arena), Battle Creek Central HS, Battle Creek Harper Creek HS
  - 1988-1989: Battle Creek (Kellogg Arena), Battle Creek Lakeview HS, Battle Creek Central HS, Battle Creek Harper Creek HS
  - Prior to 1988 - Various sites around the state
- Note: 1981: First time Event was held at one site: Ann Arbor (Crisler Arena UM)
- 1948-1960: Open Class typically rotated between Ann Arbor (Univ. of Michigan) and East Lansing (Michigan State Univ.)
- Upper Peninsula**  
 Escanaba HS, Marquette HS and Northern Michigan University hosted from 1967-1996



## FOUR-TIME CHAMPS LIST CONTINUES TO EXPAND

From the crowning of Mt. Pleasant's **Mike Mills** in 1979 as the MHSAA's first four-time individual champion to Dundee's **Kade Kluge** (above left) and Detroit Catholic Central's **Darius Marines** (above right) in 2024, that exclusive club now has 37 members. Of those in the fraternity, 21 have come since 2010, including at least one person per Finals since 2017.

A Finals-record four wrestlers accomplished the feat in 2023: Davison's **Josh Barr** and **Caden Horwath**; Detroit Catholic Central's **Dylan Gilcher**, and Dundee's **Braeden Davis**.



## GROWING THE SPORT

As a growing number of girls began to wrestle competitively around Michigan, it became increasingly common to see females make appearances with and against the boys in MHSAA postseason events.

In 2022, the MHSAA conducted the first-ever girls-only Division at the Individual Finals, and it was a rousing success.

Among the pioneers that day was Hartland's **Eliana Bommarito** (left) who took the 255-pound title match to become a four-time state champion in her own right (three through the Michigan Wrestling Association).

"I'm so proud. It means we're being recognized," said Bommarito, who was 8-0 in matches against girls in 2022. "This will only encourage more and more females to start wrestling."

Indeed it has, as more than 1,200 girls participated in wrestling during the 2023-24 school year. The Individual Tournament drew 48,237 fans, an eight-percent increase from the previous season, and set records at the District (13,308) and Regional (11,089) levels, no doubt with help from the Girls Division at the Regional level.

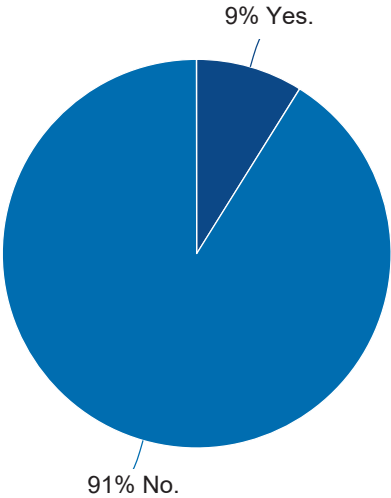
In 2025, a District level has been added to girls wrestling, and a team champion will be crowned based on individual points at the Finals.

# 2024 Update Meeting Survey Results

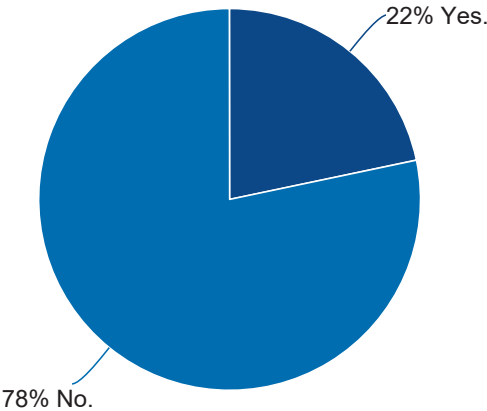


The following survey responses to the 2024 Update Meeting Survey reflect the answers given by the 536 attendees at the meetings held around Michigan last fall.

1. Does your school plan to sponsor girls field hockey in the fall of 2025?



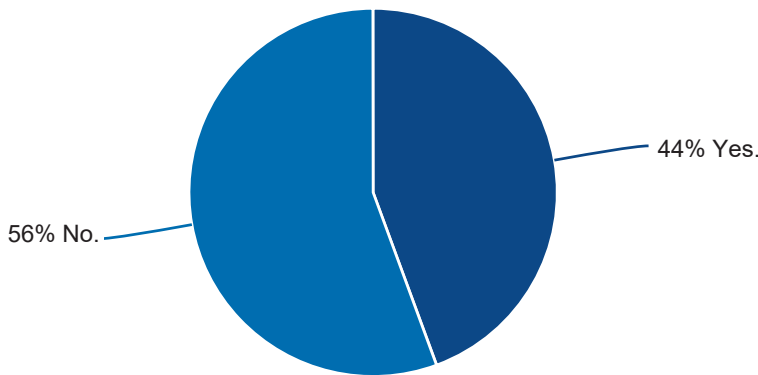
2. Does your school plan to sponsor boys volleyball in the spring of 2026?



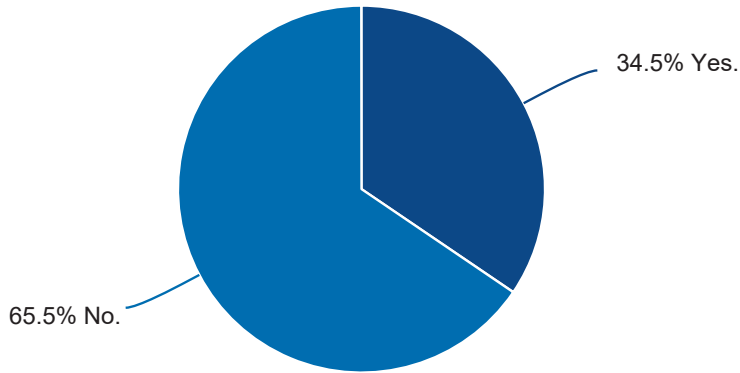


# Update Survey - continued

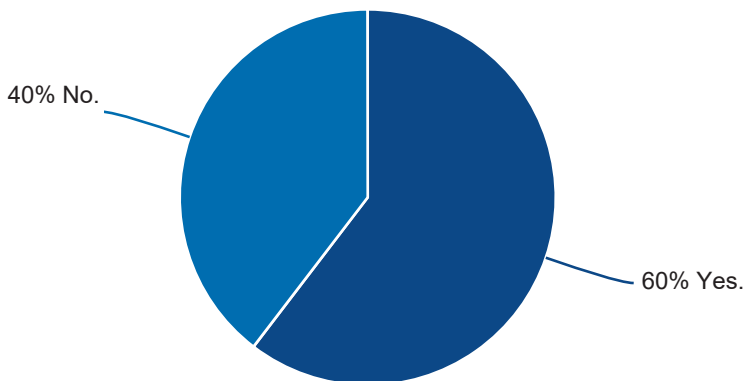
3. Would your school support the MHSAA sponsoring a short winter season (max of eight weeks in January-February) of indoor track & field in the future?



4. Would your school support the MHSAA sponsoring girls and boys water polo in the future?

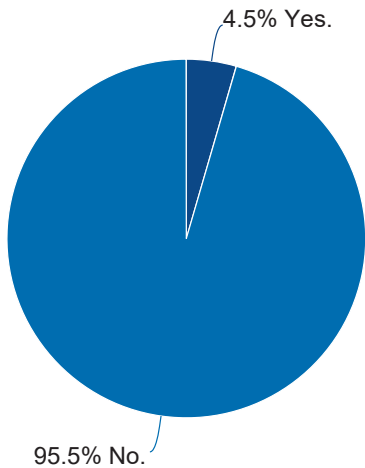


5. Would your school support the MHSAA sponsoring girls flag football in the future?

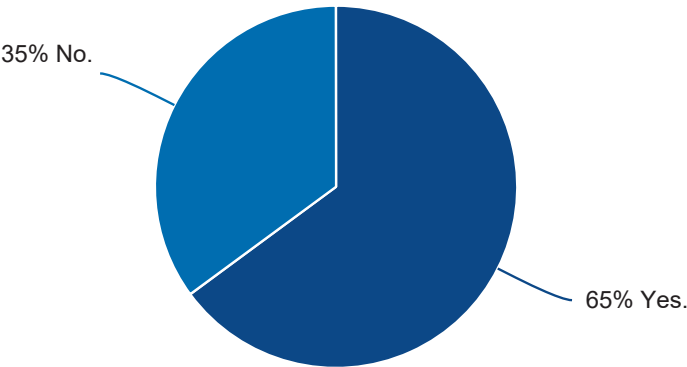


# Update Survey - continued

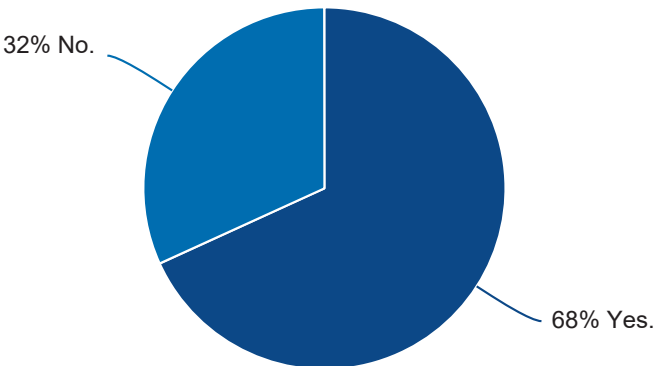
6. Does your school currently have a “club” girls flag football program?



7. Should the MHSAA continue to produce the large wall calendar that is shipped to all member schools in the early fall?



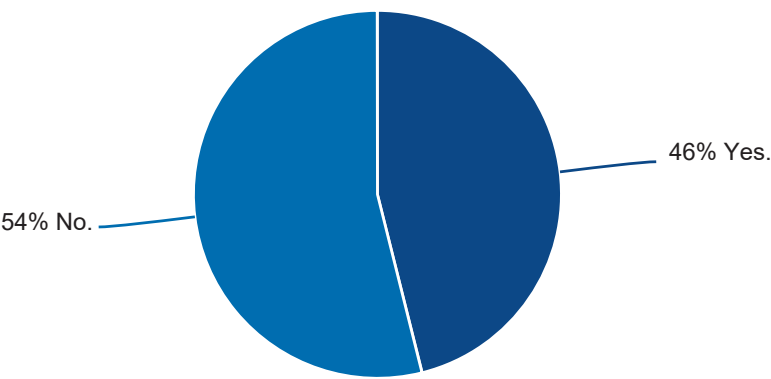
8. This fall, football schools could first scrimmage/practice with other schools on the second Wednesday following the start of practice. Would you support allowing these activities one day earlier on the second Tuesday following the start of practice?



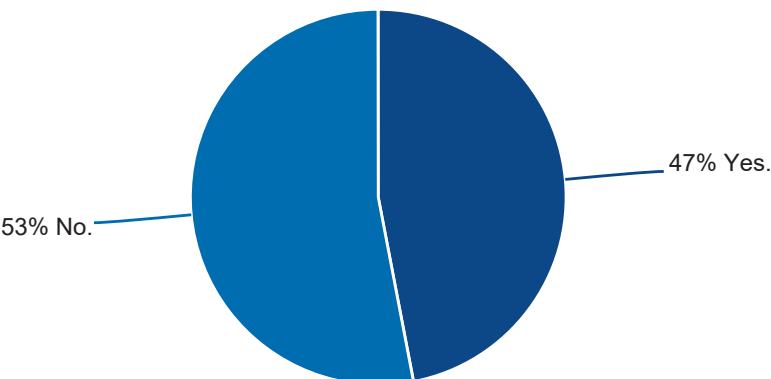


# Update Survey - continued

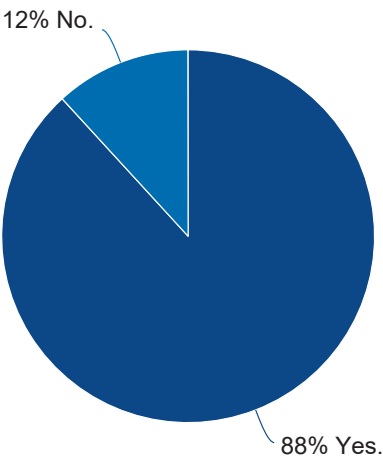
9. Should the MHSAA sponsor a single statewide Final event in junior high/middle school cross country and track & field?



10. Should the MHSAA Limited Team Membership regulation be expanded at the junior high-middle school level to allow more than two non-school meets/days of competition in the same sport during the school season?

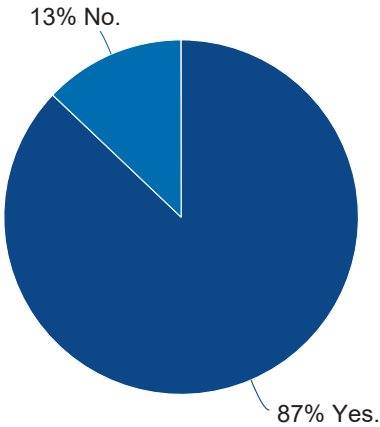


11. Do you support keeping current regulations regarding international students? Currently, most international students are eligible in their first year of high school (J1 and F1 visa students) and a student that stays an additional year (F1 visa student, for example) is ineligible for the second year.

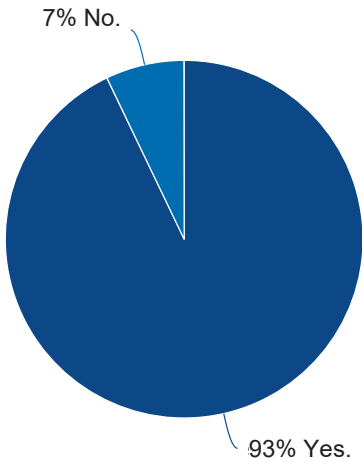


# Update Survey - continued

12. The MHSAA and FinalForms have partnered to create an online “transfer tracker” for future use by member schools. Do you support making this system mandatory for all transfer students (not including first-time 9th graders) in the future?



13. Do you support the current MHSAA transfer rule penalty, which restricts eligibility in sports played at the previous school (if no transfer exception is met) while allowing immediate eligibility in sports not played at the previous school?





## Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award in 36th Year



**T**housands of students voluntarily extend their classroom day by taking part in extracurricular activities, often improving their academic achievements in the process. The value that such programs play in the total education of a high school student is highlighted through the MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award, which will award \$2,000 scholarships to 32 top student-athletes and recognize over 2,000 other outstanding individuals in 2024-25.

Underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance, the Scholar-Athlete Award is now in its 36th year, and presents scholarships to students in every MHSAA enrollment classification. The scholarships may be used at any institution of higher learning.

“It is amazing to see the number of young people who are proven achievers in academics and activities,” said Mark Uyl, executive director of the MHSAA. “At a time when our educational system is coming under fire, the Scholar-Athlete Award is something that proves how important athletics are to the development of a well-rounded person.”

Students applying for the Scholar-Athlete Award must be graduating during the 2024-25 school year, carry a 3.5 grade-point average, and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport that the MHSAA sponsors postseason competition.

Applicants will also be required to show involvement in other school/community activities and submit an essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Application materials can be found on MHSAA.com. Scan the code at right to access the page.



Each MHSAA member school is allowed to nominate a number of student-athletes based on the size of the school. Class A schools can nominate six boys and six girls, Class B four boys and four girls, Class C three boys and three girls and Class D two boys and two girls. The first 30 scholarships are awarded based on this graduated scale, with two additional scholarships intended for minority applicants.

A committee composed of school administrators from across the state will select regional and statewide winners.

Farm Bureau Insurance, a long-time supporter of MHSAA activities, also sponsors other educationally oriented programs.

The 32 scholarship recipients will be recognized at the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing in March 2025.

**Complete  
List of  
2024-25  
Finalists**



# Multi-Sport Participation Holding Steady



The Michigan High School Athletic Association’s sixth Multi-Sport Participation Survey, conducted last spring for the 2023-24 school year, showed for the third-consecutive year that nearly 45 percent of athletes at member high schools participated in more than one sport, while the entirety of the study continues to show that percentages of multi-sport athletes for all four Classes (A-B-C-D) have grown during the six years this topic has been studied in this way.

Early and intense sport specialization has become one of the most serious issues related to health and safety at all levels of youth sports, as overuse injuries and burnout among athletes have been tied to chronic injuries and health-related problems later in life. In early 2016, the MHSAA appointed a Task Force on Multi-Sport Participation as part of a continued effort to promote and protect participant health and address the issues leading to early sport specialization. The annual Multi-Sport Participation Survey was among results of the task force’s work.

The 2023-24 Multi-Sport Participation Survey received responses from 63.7 percent of member high schools and showed 44.8 percent of athletes at those MHSAA member high schools participating in two or more sports, a tenth of a percent increase from survey results in 2022-23 and half a percent increase from two years prior.

For 2023-24, 47.6 percent of male athletes and 41.4 percent of female athletes played multiple sports. Class D has enjoyed the highest percentage of multi-sport athletes over all six years of surveys, this time at 63.1 percent, followed by Class C (59.4), Class B (48.0) and Class A (38.2).

Over the six years of this survey, data also has shown slight increases in multi-sport participation in all four classes. Class A has risen from 35.9 percent in 2017-18 to 38.2 in 2023-24. Class B has risen from 46.7 to 48.0, Class C from 55.2 to 59.4 and Class D from 58.1 to 63.1 over those six years.

The MHSAA Task Force also recommended measuring multi-sport participation in MHSAA member

schools to recognize “achievers” – that is, schools that surpass the norm given their enrollment and other factors that affect school sports participation.

Battle Creek Harper Creek, Detroit Cody and Grand Rapids Northview have appeared among the top 10 percent of their respective Classes five of the six years the survey has been conducted. Five more schools have appeared among the top 10 percent of their Classes four of the six years: Decatur, East Grand Rapids, Manton, Parma Western and Warren Michigan Collegiate.

In Class A, Macomb L’Anse Creuse North (94.7 percent) and Battle Creek Harper Creek (72.4) posted the highest percentages of multi-sport athletes for 2023-24, with Grand Rapids Northview (68.1), Berkley (65.0) and Kalamazoo Loy Norrix (64.3) also reporting reaching at least 60 percent. In Class B, four schools reached at least 65 percent multi-sport participation – Parma Western (78.0), Constantine (75.4), Clare (65.7) and Reed City (65.4).

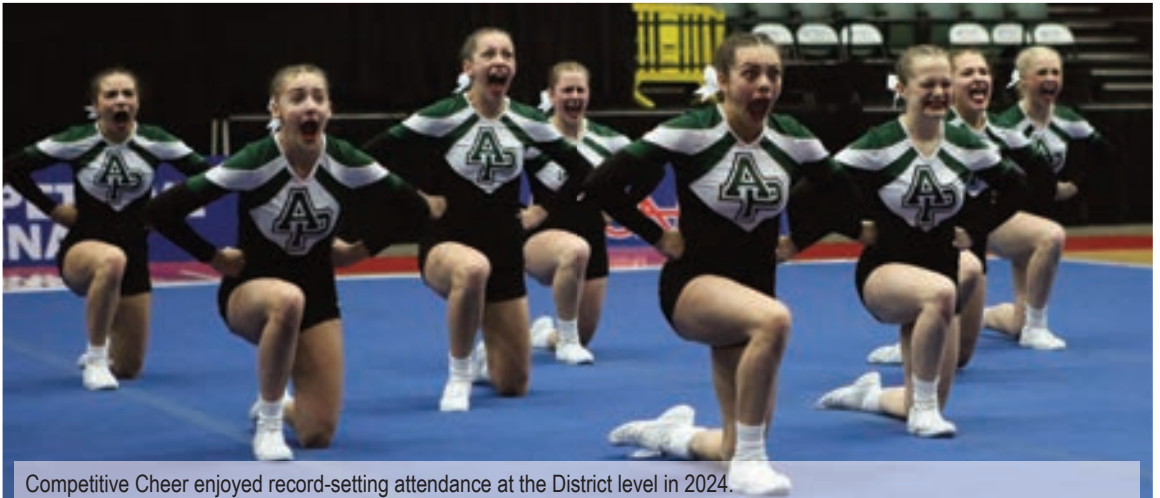
Class C saw six schools reach 80 percent this past school year – Warren Michigan Collegiate (91.7 percent), Flint Beecher (91.3), LeRoy Pine River (89.5), Cass City (84.3), Decatur (83.3) and Manton (81.4). Four Class D schools responded at higher than 90 percent multi-sport participation – Gaylord St. Mary (92.9), Lake Leelanau St. Mary (91.7), Wyoming West Michigan Lutheran (90.9) and Deckerville (90.7) – followed by Marcellus Howardsville Christian (88.9), Morrice (86.8), Ewen-Trout Creek (85.7), Vestaburg (85.5) and Alanson (85.0).

The full summary report on the Multi-Sport Participation Survey is available on the “Multi-Sports Benefits” page of the MHSAA Website or by scanning this code.





## Surge in Girls Postseason Attendance has MHSAA Topping 1.4 Million Spectators for Second Straight Year



Competitive Cheer enjoyed record-setting attendance at the District level in 2024.

A record number of spectators at girls postseason events pushed Michigan High School Athletic Association attendance during the 2023-24 school year past 1.4 million fans for the second straight, with the total of 471,651 spectators for girls competitions breaking the previous all-time best set in 2014-15.

Total, MHSAA tournament events drew 1,449,574 spectators at competitions for which admission is charged – just over a half-percent decrease from 2022-23 but still the second highest overall postseason attendance over the last seven years. Attendance at MHSAA boys tournament events during 2023-24 was 1,008,070, a three-percent decrease from the year before. The MHSAA annually tracks attendance for all sports except golf, skiing and tennis, as single tickets are not sold for those sports.

Record spectator turnout for the Softball and Track & Field Tournaments drove the girls overall increase. Softball set an overall tournament record with 49,636 fans, besting the previous record set just the year before by nearly 2,000, and also set an individual-round record with 4,935 fans at Quarterfinals. Track & Field – with girls and boys competing together – drew a record 42,899 spectators overall, and a Regional record of 25,661. Both track totals bested previous records set during the 2020-21 school year.

Several more sports saw attendance increases during 2023-24. Girls basketball overall postseason attendance was up significantly and for the

third-straight year, this time to 158,126 fans for a nine-percent increase from 2022-23. The Individual Wrestling Tournament drew 48,237 fans, an eight-percent increase from the previous season, and set records at the District (13,308) and Regional (11,089) levels. Overall attendance for competitive cheer (29,297, up 12 percent), girls lacrosse (5,627, up six percent), boys lacrosse (17,107, up less than one percent) and boys swimming & diving (6,116, up 33 percent) all were up as well from 2022-23.

Competitive cheer's increase was keyed in part by record attendance at the District level (14,528). Baseball Districts (36,553), Boys Lacrosse Quarterfinals (3,021) and Girls Diving Regionals (879) also set records.

Football remains the most-attended MHSAA Tournament sport and drew 363,563 spectators for its playoff series – a decrease of nearly five percent from the previous year but including the highest attendance during the Semifinal rounds (32,596) since 2012-13. Boys basketball attendance again ranked second at 280,800 fans, down four percent from the previous year but with increases for the Regional and Quarterfinal rounds. Girls basketball remained third for overall attendance and first among girls sports, followed again by volleyball – which drew 113,239 fans, only 313 fewer than the year before as postseason attendance in that sport has seen less than a percentage point change year to year over the last three seasons.

## MHSAA's Davis Selected to Michigan Chapter of National Wrestling Hall of Fame



**M**HSA Director of Officials Sam Davis – a high school champion wrestler and then highly-regarded official for more than four decades – will be inducted into the Michigan chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame on May 17 in Ann Arbor.

Davis has been selected for his lifetime service to the sport, and his list of contributions continues to grow.

After serving 32 years as a teacher and administrator and then a decade in law enforcement, Davis joined the MHSAA staff in 2017 as part of the officials department. He now directs that department and its efforts to serve more than 9,000 officials across the state.

Davis was an MHSAA Wrestling Finals individual champion at 165 pounds as a senior at Lansing Eastern High School in 1969 and also a significant contributor when the Quakers won the Class A team championship in 1968. He then joined Michigan State University's wrestling program but suffered an eye injury as a freshman that forced him to give up competing in the sport. However, he instead took up judo, winning state championships in 1980 and 1981 and competing at the U.S. Olympic trials.

Davis previously had officiated wrestling during the 1971-72 season and returned to the high

school mat for good in 1981, continuing what has turned into a 45-season career as an MHSAA registered official in the sport. He also officiated National Junior College Athletic Association Finals in 1981 and 1982, and he received the MHSAA's Vern L. Norris Award in 2015 for his vast contributions to officiating, mentorship and officials education.

After graduating from MSU with bachelor and master's degrees in 1974, Davis began his teaching career at Lansing Everett High School that fall. He taught history, psychology and U.S. government and coached wrestling and football and later served as an assistant principal at the school. Davis also served as principal at Dwight Rich Middle School and then district athletic director before finishing 32 years in the Lansing School District in 2007.

He then served nearly 11 years with the Ingham County Sheriff's Office, retiring as a major in December 2017 and soon after joining the MHSAA staff after having contributed several seasons as a Finals official and Official in Charge managing all officials working championship matches during those events. He also has served as a longtime president of the Lansing Wrestling Officials Association.

## Michigan's National Impact Begins at NFHS' Start



**T**he beginning of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) predated the start of the MHSAA by about 4½ years. But Michigan played a leading role in creating the national organization for school-based sports and arts activities – and through its work with the NFHS continues to impact how school sports are played across the country.

On May 14, 1920, representatives from the Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin high school associations met to discuss common issues – especially national championships and eligibility rules in football, as returning World War I veterans were seeking to play on high school teams; and, according to meeting minutes, because “high school athletics were being handled in an unsatisfactory manner in contests under the auspices of colleges and universities.” At this time, Michigan school sports were governed by the MHSAA’s predecessor organization – the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) – and president A.W. Krauss, the principal at Grand Rapids South High School, represented our state.

Building on their desire to form common rules to govern athletics, those five states together formed the framework for the Mid-West Federation of State High School Associations, and the MIAA officially voted to join the organization March 31, 1921, becoming one of the four founding states (Indiana was absent when the Mid-West Federation constitution was adopted). Just about a year later, on March 1, 1922, with 11 states now present, the Mid-West Federation changed its name to the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations – which became the current NFHS in 1970.

Representing the MIAA at the 1922 Federation meeting was Ann Arbor High School principal L.L. Forsythe – cited frequently for his outsized contributions during this “Century of School Sports” series – and he was elected as Federation vice president, a role in which he served for 15 years. Obviously his impact in that role was significant for the growing organization, which now includes associations from all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

Another Michigan school sports luminary, retired executive director John E. Jack Roberts, also had significant ties to the NFHS. He served on staff from 1973-80 and was heavily involved with the implementation of Title IX at the local and state levels. He also made immense contributions as the NFHS representative to the landmark Amateur Sports Act of 1978, and played a significant role in the NFHS rules-writing process as the organization started writing and publishing rules for a number of new sports during the 1970s. Roberts began his 32-year tenure leading the MHSAA in 1986.

The NFHS’s primary contribution to state associations remains today as writer of game rules for nearly all school sports, and those rules govern the majority of MHSAA-sponsored programs. (Competitive cheer is exclusive to Michigan, and golf, tennis and bowling are regulated by national governing organizations).

By agreeing to follow NFHS game rules, the MHSAA receives the opportunity to help make them, serving turns on rules-making committees with other representatives from the NFHS’s Section 4 – which also includes Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. Michigan also sends a rotating representative to serve on the national record book committee.



## “Be the Referee” Serves to Educate

"Be the Referee" is a series of one-minute podcasts designed to help educate people on the rules of different sports, to help them better understand the art of officiating, and to recruit officials. "Be the Referee" features insights from MHSAA experts on officiating. These messages can be heard on *This Week In High School Sports*, which airs on over 100 radio stations and audio web outlets across Michigan. A sampling of some winter editions follows:

### Basketball: Block or Charge?

In basketball – if you are attempting to take a charge, do you have to be stationary? Can a defender draw a charge while sliding his or her feet?

A defensive player does not need to be stationary in order to draw a charge.

Once a defender has established legal guarding position – which is when the defensive player has both feet on the floor and is facing the opponent, the defender can move laterally or obliquely to maintain that position. Even if it means having one – or both – feet off the floor when contact occurs with the offensive player.

In a block or charge situation, many fans like to say it's a block because the defender was moving, but that's not always the case. A defender can draw a charge while in motion.



### Wrestling: Takedown Scoring

We're used to hearing fans cheer for "3" in basketball. But now they'll be yelling "3" in wrestling as well.

Previously, a takedown on the mat was worth two points. New this year, all takedowns are worth three points. This change incentivizes offense and scoring, and mirrors the collegiate rule. The NCAA increased the points awarded for a takedown from two to three last season.

Takedowns happen when one wrestler gains control over their opponent by bringing them to the mat from a neutral position. Once the opponent is down, the wrestler must control their position to prevent an escape or reversal. This often involves controlling their opponent while one point of contact of either wrestler is on the mat.

Do that, and you'll now be awarded three points.



### Bowling: Bowling Ball Regulations

We're bowling, and the question is: Can a bowler use a bowling ball with no holes?

The answer is yes – but there are some rules around it.

A ball with no holes would have to follow static balance rules. If the ball weighs more than 10 pounds, it may not have more than three ounces of difference between any two halves of the ball.

Additionally, there needs to be a plus sign (+) engraved on the ball where the bowler will place their dominant hand if the ball has more than a three-quarter ounce imbalance between any two halves of the ball.

If there is no imbalance, the plus sign is not needed, and the bowler can place their dominant hand anywhere on the bowling ball they like.



## Wrestling: In or Out of Bounds?

During a high school wrestling match, Wrestler A executes a takedown on Wrestler B near the edge of the mat. Wrestler A's foot/toe remain in contact with the mat inside the boundary line, while all of Wrestler B's body is outside the boundary.

Is the action considered in bounds, and should points be awarded for the takedown?

Yes, a match is considered in bounds if at least one point of contact of either wrestler is inside or on the boundary line. In this scenario, Wrestler A's foot/toe in contact with the mat inside the boundary satisfies this requirement. Therefore, the takedown is valid, and Wrestler A should be awarded the appropriate points.



## Basketball: Goaltending

In basketball, what's the difference between goaltending and defensive basket interference?

Goaltending is when a defensive player touches the ball when it is on its way down toward the basket, or after the ball has hit the backboard and is in a downward trajectory towards the hoop.

Defensive basket interference occurs when a defender touches the rim or net while the ball is within or on the cylinder. However, if the defender touches only the net and does not affect the shot in any way, then basket interference is not called.

In both instances – goaltending and basket interference – the outcome is treated like a made basket: two points to the offense unless the shot came from behind the 3-point arc, and then it's worth three points.



## Ice Hockey: Neck Protectors

In ice hockey, all players – including the goalie – must wear a neck laceration protector. This has been the rule in Michigan for a number of years but is now a national playing rule.

The ice hockey rule book states the protector must be worn in its original manufactured state, as intended, during competition.

Should a player enter a game without the neck laceration protector, or if it comes off during play, that player must go to the bench and can only return when the protector has been properly affixed. If the player refuses to wear the equipment, play will be stopped, and a two-minute penalty will be assessed to that player.

Goalies must wear the protector underneath and separate from the flapper-style throat protector at the bottom of their mask.



# Recognizing Our Pioneers Before Year 1

We have celebrated throughout this school year the 100th anniversary of the Michigan High School Athletic Association – our “Century of School Sports.” But the first high school sports in this state were being played more than a half-century before the MHSAA was established in December 1924 – and it’s important to recognize our predecessor organizations for their pioneering work.

To keep things very brief, it’s fair to say that high school athletics in Michigan followed the increase in number high schools across the state – especially public schools – as well as interest in sports predominantly at the college level.

In lieu of citing detail by detail, the following is based on research from “Athletics in Michigan High Schools – The First Hundred Years” by L.L. Forsythe, who served as the first president of the MHSAA Representative Council after playing a leading role in its creation as an officer of the previous Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Association. Newspaper reports also contributed to what’s summarized below.

It is also key to learn about the organizations that regulated high school athletics before the MHSAA, and to understand their relation to our work today:

Schools at the start of organized athletics sought primarily to create competitive equity and a safe playing environment for their teams and athletes.

Schools looked to the statewide organization to uphold and consider appeals for those rules regulating eligibility and fair play.

Schools later asked for the statewide organization to take over sponsorship of the statewide championship events that began to crop up over the 30 years before the MHSAA formed.

According to Forsythe’s research, the first public high schools in Michigan opened during the middle of the 19th century – as of 1850, only 3-4 existed, but after the Civil War that number began to grow, and with it an interest in athletics for students. Football and baseball were main draws, later to be joined by basketball and track & field – which would be among the MHSAA’s first championship offerings several years later.

## The Beginning (1895-1909)

Forsythe notes that 1895 saw the first steps toward regulating high school athletics on a statewide basis. A few entities took on roles attempting to bring structure.

The Michigan State Teachers Association, which in 1895 began to recruit schools to become part of an organization that would require eligible athletes to be enrolled students, succeeding academically with at least a “passing grade,” and participating in no more than five seasons or years of a sport. However, the MSTA did not

have a program of activities; those of the day were generally organized by universities.

The University Athletic Association was formed by University of Michigan in 1898, and was the main organizer of invitational “state” championships in partnership with the MSTA.

Another organization, the Michigan Inter-School Athletic Association, also pops up in 1895 as the host of what aspired to be an annual field day.

## Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Association (1909-1924)

The Michigan Schoolmasters’ Club absorbed control of athletics from the MSTA in April 1909, forming the MIAA and immediately introducing a series of regulations including an age limit of 21 years old, an eligibility limit of four years, and a restriction on participation by athletes who had competed professionally.

The MIAA would continue to set other eligibility rules, charge dues (\$1), and also write into bylaws that member schools could play only member schools. That latter detail was a big driver of growth – the revised MIAA constitution in 1921 added that regulation, and the association grew from 26 schools in 1920 to 130 in 1921, to 284 in 1922 to 305 schools in 1923.

On the event side, the MIAA conducted its first state track meet in 1912, coordinating with Michigan State College. The 1921 basketball tournament saw the first mention of classes – Class B for schools with 250 or fewer students, and Class A for schools above 250.

It should also be noted that during the early 1920s, MIAA representatives helped form the organization (first of Midwest states) that would become the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) – which continues to write game rules for nearly all MHSAA sports.

The MIAA continued operating into its annual meeting in December 1923, when leaders were presented with an unwelcome surprise announcement – the Michigan legislature, at the close of its recent session, had transferred supervision of interscholastic athletics to the state Superintendent of Public Instruction (to the superintendent’s surprise as well, Forsythe noted).

The negotiations between schools and the state over the following year resulted in the dissolution of the MIAA on Dec. 5, 1924 – and the first meeting of the MHSAA eight days later.



## New AD In-Service Requirement

MHSAA Handbook Regulation I SECTION 15 (I) 2. states: Schools which fail to have a first-year athletic director or coordinator (as defined above) attend an MHSAA Athletic Directors Orientation Program shall be placed on probation, prohibited from receiving any tournament reimbursement or from hosting an MHSAA tournament for one school year, and the school name shall be published in MHSAA *benchmarks*.

This past fall, only Cedarville did not meet this requirement.



# RC Elects First New President in Decade at Fall Meeting

The Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association received reports on the upcoming sponsorship of two recently added sports, provided support for a study group to discuss the number of postseason divisions for several more sports, and elected a new president for the first time in a decade during its Fall Meeting on Dec. 6 in East Lansing.

The Fall Meeting saw elections of Council officers for the upcoming year. Midland assistant principal and athletic director **Eric Albright** was elected president, as retired Grand Haven Superintendent Scott Grimes completed his tenure on the Council and 10th and final term as president. Brighton High School athletic director John Thompson was reelected as Council vice president, and Vic Michaels, director of physical education and athletics for the Archdiocese of Detroit, was reelected as secretary-treasurer.

Additionally, Westland John Glenn athletic director Jason Malloy was appointed for a second two-year term on the Council. Monica Merritt, superintendent for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, was appointed for a first two-year term.

Generally, the Council takes only a few actions during its Fall Meeting, with topics often introduced for additional consideration and action during its meetings in March and May. The Council took only one action at this meeting but began conversations on several topics that will be continued throughout the remainder of this school year.

The lone action regarded baseball and a previously-approved requirement for teams to submit their pitch counts online beginning with the Spring 2025 season. The Council approved a one-year delay in that requirement to allow more time for technology development and implementation.

The Council received reports on two sports set to begin with MHSAA sponsorship with the 2025-26 school year – girls field hockey and boys volleyball. The first Girls Field Hockey Committee has met and will be sending several proposals to the Council for action during its March meeting in preparation for the Fall 2025 season. The Volleyball Committee will meet soon with potential proposals for boys volleyball coming before the Council in March or May.

MHSAA staff led a discussion regarding the number of postseason divisions for baseball, basketball, Lower Peninsula cross country, softball, Lower Peninsula track & field and volleyball, which are all sponsored by at least 550 schools. The conversation included data from a 2023 Update Meeting poll question that addressed the topic and discussions that took place during MHSAA sport committee meetings during the 2023-24 school year. The Council discussed if adding fifth divisions to those sports is necessary or desirable and gave support for MHSAA staff to form a study group on the topic and provide a report to the Council during its May 2025 meeting.

Council members discussed social media issues that had arisen in the school sports community over the last several months, and how member schools should address these situations and the role the MHSAA should play in communicating with all schools involved in specific instances.

The Council also received updates from the MHSAA's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and discussed several matters related to recently completed fall tournaments, broadcast partnerships, MHSAA Athletic Director Update Meeting and In-Service Programs and other administrative topics.

## Girls Wrestling Team Championship Highlights Winter Changes

This season, for the first time, an MHSAA Finals team championship will be awarded in girls wrestling. After first introducing a girls championship bracket to the Individual Wrestling Finals for the 2021-22 season, the MHSAA will honor its first team champion based on those individual finishes. The format will be similar to how MHSAA team championships were awarded for boys wrestling prior to the creation of the dual format Team Finals with the 1987-88 season.

Also on the wrestling mat, a competition rule change alters the penalty for using a wrestler at an ineligible weight class – dependent on when the ineligible wrestler is discovered. Beginning this season, the use of an ineligible wrestler – if discovered during the involved match – will result in six team points being awarded to the opponent, plus the head coach of the team with the ineligible wrestler will be assessed an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty resulting in a one-point team score deduction. If the ineligible wrestler is discovered after the involved match, any points earned by the offending wrestler will be removed from the team score, along with the point for unsportsmanlike conduct, and six points will be added to the offended team's total. In both instances, neither wrestler involved in the match in question may compete again in that dual. If the ineligible wrestler is discovered after the dual is completed, the teams have left the mat area and the scorebook has been signed by the official, the results and team score will stand.

A pair of wrestling playing rules changes also will be immediately noticeable. The number of match points awarded for a takedown was increased from two to three. Also, near-fall points will now be awarded based on length of the near-fall – beginning with two points for two seconds, up to four points for four seconds.

Postseasons for basketball and bowling also will incorporate slight changes. In basketball, entire District brackets will be seeded for the first time, instead of the previous top two teams receiving seeds only. Michigan Power Ratings (MPR) data will still be used to seed those full brackets. In bowling, Regionals may now take place as early in the week as Wednesday and Thursday, as long as the Team and Singles competitions are competed on consecutive days. Previously, those were competed only on Fridays and Saturdays, respectively.

## MHSAA Representative Council

### Chris Adams\*

Superintendent  
Camden-Frontier High School  
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

### Eric Albright\*\*, President

Athletic Director  
Midland High School  
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

### Jay Alexander\*

Executive Director of Athletics  
Detroit Public Schools  
Detroit Public Schools Position

### Mike Bakker\*\*

Principal  
Fenton High School  
Statewide At-Large

### Ross Fort (ex-officio)

Special Assistant to Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing  
Designee

### Chris Hartman\*

Athletic Director  
Kingsford High School  
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

### Sean Jacques\*\*

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director  
Calumet High School  
Class C-D — Upper Peninsula

### Jeff Kline\*

Athletic Director  
Mt. Morris High School  
Statewide At-Large

### Jason Malloy\*\*

Athletic Director  
Westland John Glenn High School  
Appointee

### Dr. Monica Merritt\*\*

Superintendent  
Plymouth-Canton Schools  
Appointee

### Vic Michaels\*\*, Secretary-Treasurer

Director of Physical Education & Athletics  
Archdiocese of Detroit  
Private and Parochial Schools

### Chris Miller\*

Athletic Director/Director of Operations  
Gobles High School  
Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

### Anna Rigby\*\*

Athletic Director  
Harbor Springs High School  
Class C-D — Northern Michigan

### Chris Riker\*\*

Athletic Director  
Portage Northern High School  
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

### Fred Smith\*\*

Athletic Director  
Bangor Middle School  
Junior High/Middle Schools

### Adam Stefanski\*

Athletic Director  
Boyne City High School  
Junior High/Middle Schools

### Dr. Arnetta Thompson\*

Superintendent  
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools  
Appointee

### John Thompson\*\*, Vice President

Athletic Director  
Brighton High School  
Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan

### Jennifer Thunberg\*

Principal  
Freeland Middle School  
Appointee

\*Term Expires December 2025

\*\*Term Expires December 2026

## Efficiency is Effective...

The MHSAA is always willing to assist with issues concerning Association regulations. Please remember, however, the most efficient method of communication with the MHSAA on eligibility questions is through the school athletic director or principal. Athletic directors should gather all information necessary on a question and then call or write the MHSAA. Coaches or parents calling the MHSAA on eligibility matters can create confusion and delay. ADs or principals are encouraged to contact the MHSAA office directly.

## 2024-25 MHSAA Budget

The following budget for operation of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., for the 2024-25 school year was considered and approved at the May 2024 Representative Council Meeting.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION .....	\$ 5,906,833
GENERAL PRINTING .....	175,000
GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSES .....	1,205,719
GENERAL MEETINGS .....	244,400
COACHES & OFFICIALS .....	715,900
CORPORATE SALES .....	292,500
STUDENT SERVICES .....	161,000
BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS .....	290,000
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS .....	1,400,000
BOWLING TOURNAMENTS .....	95,000
COMPETITIVE CHEER .....	120,000
CROSS COUNTRY MEETS .....	150,000
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS .....	1,330,000
GOLF TOURNAMENTS .....	48,000
GYMNASTICS MEETS .....	23,250
HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS .....	270,000
LACROSSE TOURNAMENTS .....	55,000
SKI MEETS .....	40,000
SOCCER TOURNAMENTS .....	203,000
SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS .....	265,000
SWIMMING MEETS .....	110,000
TENNIS TOURNAMENTS .....	85,000
TRACK MEETS .....	275,000
VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS .....	305,000
WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS .....	725,000
BROADCASTING .....	100,000
REVENUE SHARING .....	200,000
<b>TOTAL 2024-25 BUDGET .....</b>	<b>\$14,790,602</b>

## Out-of-State Travel Form and Regulations

The tradition of taking a team on a “spring trip” for practice only has gotten a new twist with the allowance that a team may scrimmage another MHSAA member school team while on a “spring trip.”

Any school which conducts practice sessions out of state at a site more than 600 miles round-trip must submit to the MHSAA office a **Travel Form for Out-of- State Practice** at least 30 days in advance of departure.

The new rule allows schools in spring sports only to compete in up to four scrimmages with another MHSAA member school team while on a spring trip. The allowance is to other MHSAA teams only and scrimmages that follow the elements of a scrimmage.

This will likely save schools money as they can split the cost of renting a facility for a baseball, softball, soccer or lacrosse field.

**Regulation II, Section 6 (C)** follows with most recent change in boldface: “Schools which desire to conduct practice sessions **outside of a border state** must complete and submit to the MHSAA office the “Travel Form for Out-Of-

State Practice” at least 30 calendar days in advance of departure (see MHSAA.com, “Administrators/Admin Forms & Publications”). No competition (scrimmage or contest against another team) is allowed except that in spring sports, two or more MHSAA member schools which have submitted the MHSAA Out-of- State Travel Form may scrimmage or hold joint practices with other MHSAA member schools up to the maximum of four allowed scrimmage dates in that sport. These days shall count in the total of four allowed for the season. Regulation II, Section 11 (B) and applicable interpretations regarding scrimmages shall apply. Dates of competition may not be converted to scrimmages as permitted under this allowance. No more than four dates will be allowed while operating under the out-of-state travel form allowance.”

MHSAA catastrophic insurance does not cover such events. The form can be found on the MHSAA Website. Pursuant to action of the Representative Council, all schools which complete this form will be listed in *benchmarks* at the end of the school year.



# 2025-26 MHSAA Committee Membership Nominations

A procedure has been adopted and recently refined by the Representative Council to select MHSAA committee members. In the early spring each year, all superintendents, principals, athletic directors, coaches and board of education members who desire to serve on MHSAA committees may submit their names for nomination. This is a summary of the make-up and responsibilities of MHSAA standing committees:

## SPORT COMMITTEES

**Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Girls Competitive Cheer, Cross Country/Track & Field, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Girls Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Skiing, Soccer, Girls Softball, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Volleyball, Wrestling**

Consists of administrators and varsity coaches in the particular sport, plus the president of the coaches association for that sport. Responsible for: (a) recommending to the Representative Council changes regarding MHSAA regulations relative to the sport. (b) recommending to the staff procedures, sites, and assignments for the MHSAA tournament in that sport. **Note:** Some sport committees serve multiple functions including officials selection, tournament sites, and seeding.

## SITE SELECTION/TOURNAMENT COMMITTEES

**Baseball, Girls & Boys Basketball, Cross Country, Girls Softball, Track & Field, Track & Field Standards, Volleyball**

Consist of administrators responsible for selecting sites and assigning teams for all levels of MHSAA tournaments in the particular sport.

## SEEDING COMMITTEES

**Girls Tennis Area Seeding, Boys Tennis Area Seeding, Team Wrestling Finals**

Tennis consist of tournament managers and varsity coaches responsible for determining seeded players and their positions in each flight and for assisting tournament managers in conducting the tournament draw. For Team Wrestling, select coaches and school administrators representing all divisions (and not involved from quarterfinals forward) meet via teleconference to seed prior to quarterfinals.

## OFFICIALS SELECTION COMMITTEES

**Baseball, Boys and Girls Basketball, Girls Competitive Cheer, Field Hockey, Football, Boys and Girls LP Golf, Girls Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Softball, Volleyball, and Wrestling**

Consist of administrators responsible for selecting sites and reviewing team assignments for all levels of MHSAA tournaments in the particular sport.

## OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES (Established and appointed by the Representative Council)

- 1. Athletic Equity Committee** - Committee is to meet once a year to recommend to the Representative Council annual objectives designed to encourage participation by more women and minorities in interscholastic coaching, officiating and administrative positions.
- 2. Awards Committee** - This committee corresponds throughout the year to extend nominations and to nominate and screen candidates for four MHSAA awards: Forsythe, Bush, Norris, and Women in Sports Leadership.
- 3. Classification Committee** - The committee meets annually to study and make recommendations to staff and Council regarding policies and procedures of classifying schools for tournaments and elections.
- 4. Board of Canvassers** - Comprised of a superintendent, two high school principals, one junior high/middle school principal, and one athletic director. Members are responsible for counting the ballots for the election of Representative Council members and members of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee.
- 5. Junior High/Middle School Committee** - This committee is comprised of junior high/middle school principals and athletic directors to review rules and regulations as they pertain to junior high/middle schools.
- 6. Officials Review Committee** - This committee meets for the purpose of reviewing issues and concerns related to all officials in order to put forth recommendations to the MHSAA Representative Council.
- 7. Scholar-Athlete Committee** - Established to administer the MHSAA Scholar-Athlete program, this committee consists of approximately 80 people to review award applications both online and in-person.
- 8. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee** - The SMAC exists to serve the MHSAA membership while emphasizing the health and safety of students in interscholastic sports.

## Criteria for Nomination and Selection of MHSAA Committee Members

There are several criteria to consider before completing the Nomination Form:

1. Coaches must be employed by the school and be able to obtain release time from school.
2. The nominee should have at least two years of experience in the position currently holding.
3. Most committees require only a one meeting date commitment at the MHSAA Jack Roberts Building in East Lansing. Committee meetings are held during the work week, while some others meet via email (i.e., Officials Selection).

Appointments to committees are based on the following criteria:

1. Committees should have male, female, and minority membership which reflects the total pool of available personnel.
2. Committees should maintain geographic and class size representation.
3. Some administrators will be appointed to sport committees.
4. The coaches association president/secretary of each sport is appointed to that sport committee, if the person is a school employee. If the President/Secretary is not a school employee, the Association must send a designee who is an administrator, faculty member or board of education member of an MHSAA member school.

Names of nominees will be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Representative Council for selection.

Over 500 people will be selected from the list of nominees submitted to serve on MHSAA committees.

## MHSAA Committee Membership Nomination Form

Member school superintendents, principals, athletic directors, board of education members and coaches are eligible to be a member of any one of the following MHSAA committees for the 2025-26 school year. If you desire to place yourself as a nominee complete this form and fax it to the MHSAA office by March 31, 2025. THE PRINCIPAL MUST sign this form for it to be considered a valid nomination for athletic directors and coaches. Schools may choose to use this form for more than one nomination. The following form lists the committee and the month in which the meeting will be held. Please print the nominee's name and title (specify boys or girls if a coach) on the appropriate line.

Committee	Meeting Month	Nominee's Name & Title
Board of Canvassers (35)	September	
Girls Gymnastics (100)	September	
Athletic Equity (5)	September & February	
Boys Tennis Seeding (50)	October	
Junior High/Middle School (120)	October & February	
Boys Lacrosse (125)	October & May	
Girls Lacrosse (130)	October & April	
Officials Review (140)	October	
Ski (150)	October	
Golf (95)	November	
Basketball Rules (30)	November	
Track & Field Standards (190)	November	
Volleyball Rules (200)	December	
Baseball Site Selection (25)	December	
Ice Hockey (110)	December	
Softball Site Selection (230)	December	
Wrestling (215)	December	
Baseball Rules (20)	January	
Girls Softball Rules (85)	January	
Classification (55)	January	
Cross Country/Track & Field Reg. (70)	January	
Track & Field Site Selection (185)	January	
Football (75)	January	
Tennis (180)	January	
Field Hockey (235)	January	
Girls Competitive Cheer (60)	January	
Soccer (155)	January	
Scholar-Athlete (145)	January	
Awards (10)	February	
Swimming & Diving (175)	February	
Bowling (40)	March	
Boys/Girls LP Golf Site Selection ()	April	
Boys/Girls Basketball Site Selection (135)	May	
Volleyball Site Selection (210)	May	
Girls Tennis Seeding (90)	May	
BXC/GXC Site Selection (225)	May	

City/School \_\_\_\_\_ School ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Principal (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO MHSAA NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2025, EMAIL: [camala@mhsaa.com](mailto:camala@mhsaa.com)**

## Representative Council & Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee Nomination Procedures for 2025-26

**T**he Representative Council has established procedures for indicating the intention to run for elected positions on the MHSAA Representative Council.

1. Any individual who is a representative of a member school (administrator, faculty member or board of education member) may submit his or her name to the MHSAA office by March 15.
  - A. Candidates must have superintendent or principal approval in writing.
  - B. It is essential that candidates be qualified for the position they seek.
    - 1) If the position is for a representative of a certain area of the state, they must represent a school of the appropriate class (A and B or C and D) in that geographic area.
    - 2) If they seek the position of a statewide at large representative, they must be a faculty or board of education member of an MHSAA member school. This includes administrators but not non-faculty coaches.
    - 3) If they seek the position of statewide representative of junior high/middle schools or private and parochial high schools, they must be faculty (teacher or administrator) or board members for such schools.

2. **Names submitted will be published on MHSAA.com in May**, in the fall issue of *benchmarks* in August, and on the ballot mailed to member schools in September.

Elections will be held in the fall for the following positions:

**Class C and D Schools — 2 openings**

Southwestern Section  
Southeastern Section

**Class A and B Schools—1 opening**

Upper Peninsula

**Statewide At-Large —1 opening**

**Jr. High/Middle Schools —1 opening**

**City of Detroit —1 opening**

The procedures established for indicating the intention to run for elected positions are the same for the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee as those stated above for the Representative Council.

Elections will be held in the fall as follows:

**Class D U.P. School—1 opening**

**Class C U.P. School—1 opening**

**Class A-B U.P. School—1 opening**

**NOTE: Candidates will first appear on the Administrators page of MHSAA.com in May.**

## Annual Business Meeting of the MHSAA, Inc.

**Lansing, Wednesday, September 30, 2024**

**Mark Uyl  
Executive Director**

I will now provide the annual Audit and Finance Committee report as required by the MHSAA Constitution. The Audit and Finance Committee includes Scott Grimes, Superintendent of Grand Haven Public Schools; Vic Michaels, Director of the Detroit Catholic League; Fred Smith, Athletic Director at Bangor High School; and Sean Jacques, Athletic Director at Calumet High School.

The MHSAA had a good fiscal year in 2023-24, ending with an operating surplus of \$1,059,000. This is the third year of positive performance following two extremely poor fiscal years in 2019-20 and 2020-21 due to COVID.

The positive 2023-24 fiscal year performance can be attributed to high tournament attendance, an increase in sponsorship revenue and responsible control and management of expenses. Digital ticketing has been a key factor of the budget surplus. This surplus will allow the MHSAA to fully replenish reserves that had been used and leveraged since March of 2020 during COVID when revenues were at all-time lows.

The MHSAA budgets for and attempts to operate within a narrow profit each year. It is important to note that in a typical budget, 76 percent of the annual revenue of the MHSAA comes from ticket sales at District, Regional, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final tournament contests.

The financial position of the association is very positive given the challenging times created by COVID. The MHSAA maintains a reserve that ranges between 30 and 40 percent of its annual operating budget so it can withstand a single year's setback. The Council believes the MHSAA is in a good position to serve schools in 2024-25 and beyond.



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Without officials, today's event would not be possible. They deserve thanks and appreciation for dedicating their nights and weekends, so our students can always play the sports they love.

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