

2026-27 GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 16, 2026 – 9:30 a.m. – East Lansing

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brenda Betz, Adrian
Nick Davis, Rockford
Michele DeHaan, Lowell
Shera Emmons, Haslett
Ross Gauthier, Birmingham
William Germain, Vassar

Shannon Gohrmann, Milford (MHSGCJA)
Chad O'Brien, Adrian
Brian Osborn, Howell (MIAAA)

MHSAA STAFF

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp (Recorder)

The 2026-27 Gymnastics Committee met at the MHSAA to fulfill its responsibilities as a standing sports committee. Its work included reviewing prior Representative Council action, examining current MHSAA gymnastics policy, determining Regional qualifying scores and drawing the order for the 2027 Gymnastics Team Finals. This committee also reviewed its responsibilities of recommending to the Representative Council any changes to MHSAA regulations relative to gymnastics and proposing to MHSAA staff appropriate procedures, sites, and assignments for the postseason tournament.

Committee members reviewed a list of schools that offer gymnastics in 2026-27, as well as the number of teams that are currently competing. Members also received a list of the cooperative programs that exist in gymnastics between schools. Presently, there are 104 schools that offer gymnastics and a total of 41 gymnastics teams. This compares to 106 schools and 43 gymnastics teams in 2025-26. There are currently 25 approved gymnastics cooperative programs. The pros and cons of establishing a cooperative program and the possibility of adding gymnastics to a school's athletic offerings was also discussed.

Additional conversation included a review of the NFHS rules changes for girls gymnastics as well as the points of emphasis which include sportsmanship, equipment failure, eliminating discount deduction, matting, and acro passes on floor exercise. Committee members were able to review the updated Tournament Manager's Materials as well as the Participating School Tournament Information. This is the first year of a two-year rules book cycle in girls gymnastics.

Michigan participation data showed that 528 individuals competed in gymnastics during 2025-26. The committee also reviewed gymnastics concussion epidemiology and discussed opportunities to improve participant health and safety. Suggestions included reinforcing proper skill progression and clean, safe routines, as well as evaluating equipment, matting, layout and available space.

The conversation also focused on opportunities to further promote and grow gymnastics at the school, district and statewide levels. Suggestions included introducing the sport to students at an earlier age through middle school programs and fostering an early interest in gymnastics through physical education classes, recreation programs and community education opportunities.

The first day of tryouts and practice is Monday, October 26, 2026, with the first allowable competition on Saturday, November 14, 2026. Regional tournaments are scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 2027. Finals are scheduled for March 5 and 6, 2027 at Milford High School.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

DIVISION 1 AND DIVISION 2 DECLARATION

Committee members discussed Division 1 and Division 2 declaration and structure changes that were made in the last few years. Issues that may have occurred in prior years in which coaches placed competitors in the wrong division have mostly been resolved. However, it continues to be imperative that coaches make principled decisions when placing gymnasts in the respective levels of competition. A Division 1 gymnast is one who has ever competed in a non-school competition at the USAG level 8 or above, USAIGC Intermediate Optional Level, USAIGC Open Optional Level or Y Program at Level 8, AAU-Michigan qualifying meet judged at Level 8 or Xcel Sapphire Level. Additionally, a gymnast who has competed in USAG Option 7 or USAIGC Developmental Optional Level or a Level 7 equivalent Y Program or Xcel Diamond Level Program since January 1, 2025. All other gymnasts are considered Division II gymnasts, unless they are continually scoring in the Division 1 category.

LIMITED TEAM MEMBERSHIP

Limited team membership (Regulation I, Section 12) was also reviewed, and it was supported that gymnastics continues to apply the limited team membership rule from the point of a student's first participation in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest, rather than practice. It was emphasized that the gymnast still needs to meet the four qualifying score minimum.

REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULAR-SEASON MEETS

The criteria for dual meets, double dual meets or quad meets, and tri-meets was reviewed. In double dual meets or quad meets, there are 28 judgements allowed, with a total of 7 gymnasts per team per event allowed when 4 judges are contracted to judge the events.

The committee discussed the inspection of equipment, including the responsibilities of the host school and Meet Referee(s) in reviewing equipment prior to competition. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that all equipment is properly positioned, secured, and inspected before the start of the meet, with every effort made to provide a safe competition environment for all participants.

GYMNASTICS PROPOSAL DRAFT

The committee reviewed a draft proposal for revisions to the bars event, intended to better align skill progression and scoring with the philosophy currently used for beam and floor while also supporting athlete development and retention in high school gymnastics. The proposed revisions included revaluing the low bar kip as a superior skill; replacing the handstand event requirement with a bar change requirement; revising clear hip skill values based on angle; recognizing two connected giant swings as an AHS; and reviewing the value assigned to the tap swing. Following discussion, the committee agreed that the draft proposal warrants further consideration and will continue discussions with MHSGCJA and NFHS regarding the proposal.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL QUALIFYING SCORES

The committee reviewed individual and team regional qualifying scores from 2020 through 2025, along with 2025-26 participation data and event scoring distributions from each regional site. This information was used to assist the committee in its responsibility of establishing qualifying standards for the 2026-27 season. The committee also reviewed the sixth-place team score from each regional as part of its analysis. Following discussion, it was determined that both the individual event qualifying scores and the team qualifying score would remain unchanged from the 2025-26 season. A motion to maintain the following qualifying scores for 2026-27 was unanimously supported.

Vault – 7.9 Bars – 6.7 Beam – 7.4 Floor Exercise – 7.8 Team - 120

Verification of gymnasts' qualifying scores must be signed by the coach and athletic director and the four dates on which the gymnast met or bettered the qualifying score must also be provided for each competitor for each event. Points of emphasis for the rules meeting included a reminder that there is a divisional structure in place and to follow the criteria and make conscientious decisions regarding the placements of athletes.

GYMNASTICS FINALS

Committee members verbalized the tasks, equipment and procedures that are necessary to conduct an efficient meet and participated in a draw for order of competition at the 2027 Team Gymnastics Finals. Committee members indicated it was important to reach out to other teams as well as school groups and parents to assist in the scoring and timing of the Finals Meet. A draw was done to include both a 13 and 12-team rotation. This draw will also be posted on MHSAA.com. A reminder was provided that a finals individual tournament qualifier will not be replaced if that individual declines the opportunity or cannot, for any reason, compete at the Finals Tournament. In addition, gymnasts who are entered into the MHSAA Team Gymnastics Finals must have participated in the MHSAA Regional Tournament or have previously achieved a Regional individual qualifying score. The host (Milford High School) indicated that they were already considering the various dynamics of setting up equipment as well as the use of the space, classrooms needed, and other considerations. Gymnastics coaches are reminded that it is necessary to bring their own "beat board", vault surround, and sting mats to the Regional and Finals tournaments. The 2027 MHSAA Gymnastics Finals Rotation Draw is attached.

In addition, a rotational schedule was set up for future Gymnastics Finals. Milford will host the Finals in 2027, Rockford will host in 2028 and 2029, and Adrian will host in 2030 and 2031.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

None.

2027 MHSAA GYMNASTICS FINALS ROTATION DRAW

TEAM FINALS - FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2027 - 4 p.m.

MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

If 13 teams qualify:

ROTATION	WARM-UP	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	COMPETE
1	3:40 p.m.	Reg. 4 - 3rd	Reg. 3 - 3rd	Ex. Qualifer	Reg. 1 - 3rd	4:00 p.m.
2	4:00 p.m.	Reg. 4 - 1st	Reg. 2 - 2nd	Reg. 3 - 1st	Reg. 2 - 3rd	4:20 p.m.
3	4:20 p.m.	Reg. 4 - 2nd	Reg. 1 - 1st	Reg. 1 - 2nd	Reg. 3 - 2nd	4:40 p.m.
4	4:40 p.m.	Reg. 2 - 1st	Reg. 4 - 3rd	Reg. 3 - 3rd	Ex. Qualifer	5:00 p.m.
5	5:00 p.m.	Reg. 1 - 3rd	Reg. 4 - 1st	Reg. 2 - 2nd	Reg. 3 - 1st	5:20 p.m.
6	5:20 p.m.	Reg. 2 - 3rd	Reg. 4 - 2nd	Reg. 1 - 1st	Reg. 1 - 2nd	5:40 p.m.
7	5:40 p.m.	Reg. 3 - 2nd	Reg. 2 - 1st	Reg. 4 - 3rd	Reg. 3 - 3rd	6:00 p.m.

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8	6:40 p.m.	Ex. Qualifier	Reg. 1 - 3rd	Reg. 4 - 1st	Reg. 2 - 2nd	7:00 p.m.
9	7:00 p.m.	Reg. 3 - 1st	Reg. 2 - 3rd	Reg. 4 - 2nd	Reg. 1 - 1st	7:20 p.m.
10	7:20 p.m.	Reg. 1 - 2nd	Reg. 3 - 2nd	Reg. 2 - 1st	Reg. 4 - 3rd	7:40 p.m.
11	7:40 p.m.	Reg. 3 - 3rd	Ex. Qualifier	Reg. 1 - 3rd	Reg. 4 - 1st	8:00 p.m.
12	8:00 p.m.	Reg. 2 - 2nd	Reg. 3 - 1st	Reg. 2 - 3rd	Reg. 4 - 2nd	8:20 p.m.
13	8:20 p.m.	Reg. 1 - 1st	Reg. 1 - 2nd	Reg. 3 - 2nd	Reg. 2 - 1st	8:40 p.m.

If 12 teams qualify:

ROTATION	WARM-UP	VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	COMPETE
1	3:40 p.m.	Reg. 4 - 3rd	Reg. 3 - 3rd	Reg. 1 - 3rd	Reg. 4 - 1st	4:00 p.m.
2	4:00 p.m.	Reg. 2 - 2nd	Reg. 3 - 1st	Reg. 2 - 3rd	Reg. 4 - 2nd	4:20 p.m.
3	4:20 p.m.	Reg. 1 - 1st	Reg. 1 - 2nd	Reg. 3 - 2nd	Reg. 2 - 1st	4:40 p.m.
4	4:40 p.m.	Reg. 4 - 1st	Reg. 4 - 3rd	Reg. 3 - 3rd	Reg. 1 - 3rd	5:00 p.m.
5	5:00 p.m.	Reg. 4 - 2nd	Reg. 2 - 2nd	Reg. 3 - 1st	Reg. 2 - 3rd	5:20 p.m.
6	5:20 p.m.	Reg. 2 - 1st	Reg. 1 - 1st	Reg. 1 - 2nd	Reg. 3 - 2nd	5:40 p.m.

-----BREAK-----

7	6:20 p.m.	Reg. 1 - 3rd	Reg. 4 - 1st	Reg. 4 - 3rd	Reg. 3 - 3rd	6:40 p.m.
8	6:40 p.m.	Reg. 3 - 2nd	Reg. 4 - 2nd	Reg. 2 - 2nd	Reg. 3 - 1st	7:00 p.m.
9	7:00 p.m.	Reg. 2 - 3rd	Reg. 2 - 1st	Reg. 1 - 1st	Reg. 1 - 2nd	7:20 p.m.
10	7:20 p.m.	Reg. 3 - 3rd	Reg. 1 - 3rd	Reg. 4 - 1st	Reg. 4 - 3rd	7:40 p.m.
11	7:40 p.m.	Reg. 3 - 1st	Reg. 2 - 3rd	Reg. 4 - 2nd	Reg. 2 - 2nd	8:00 p.m.
12	8:00 p.m.	Reg. 1 - 2nd	Reg. 3 - 2nd	Reg. 2 - 1st	Reg. 1 - 1st	8:20 p.m.