2027 MHSAA HOCKEY TOURNAMENT
Tournament Plan – Key Review Points

- **Spectator Admission—Tickets for all tournament rounds will be sold via GoFan. Tickets for all Regional games are $9 per game, and Quarterfinal games are $11 per game. Semifinal tickets are $13 per session (two Division games per session). Finals tickets are $13 per game (each game is its own session). Semifinal and Final ticket fees include parking.**

- Teams are assigned to a Regional for first-round games February 15 – February 24, 2027.

- **Home teams will be determined by the higher MPR throughout the MHSAA tournament.**

- All tournament hosts will use **GameSheet** to score all MHSAA tournament games. For more information, please see **https://gamesheetinc.com/**

- Regional winners advance to one of four Quarterfinal games, all to be played on February 27, 2027, in each Division.

- Quarterfinal winners advance to MHSAA Semifinal games on March 4 (Division 2) and March 5 (Division 1 & Division 3), with winners playing in the Championship games on March 6. The Semifinal and Final games will be played at the USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

- All MHSAA Tournament games use a **17- minute** period.

- Each Regional manager will follow the MPR bracket released by the MHSAA on Sunday, February 7, 2027, and determine their game times based upon the bracket. In 2026, MPR will seed the entire Regional bracket.

- Each team may have a maximum of 23 players in uniform on the bench per game: 20 skaters and 3 goaltenders.

- The MHSAA Tournament overtime procedure will be used.

- Managers hire officials from the MHSAA-approved list for Regional games.

- All MHSAA Tournament games should begin with fresh ice.

- Host rinks must suspend alcohol sales during MHSAA Tournament games.

- Tournament managers pay all approved costs, including ice rental. They will include the ice rental cost on the tournament financial form submitted to the MHSAA, and the school will be reimbursed for that cost.

- **Each participating school must have a school administrator or faculty designee at each game.**

TOURNAMENT MANAGER MANUAL
(Alphabetical by topic, forms follow topics)
For 2027 MHSAA Regional & Quarterfinals

ADMISSION/TICKETS (Spectator and participating team)—Tickets for all tournament rounds will be sold via GoFan. Tickets for all Regional games are $9 per game, and Quarterfinal games are $11 per game. Semifinal tickets are $13 for each session (two Division games per session). Finals tickets are $13 per game (each game is its own session). Semifinal and Final ticket fees include parking.

ALCOHOL/TOBACCO – Host rinks must suspend alcohol sales during MHSAA Tournament games. Smoking is not allowed in the rink during an MHSAA Tournament game. Use of alcohol or tobacco, including e-cigarettes or other smoking devices, is prohibited at MHSAA tournament events by players, coaches, and spectators. Managers should stress to coaches that they are not to use tobacco at the tournament venue.

BANNERS/SIGNS – Local tournament managers may approve school banners as long as they are either held or attached to a railing or wall, without causing damage, and never on the glass, behind the goalie, or on the team bench. Any attachment should be approved by the host facility manager. Banners should be in the team spectator group only. Language must be appropriate and approved by the host manager. Handheld signs are allowed with appropriate language. Flags on poles are not allowed.

BROADCASTS OF GAMES – No radio or television origination or audio or video broadcasts via the Internet are permitted at any site until an application has been made through the MHSAA, a fee paid, and authorization given by the MHSAA through the online application process.

CONCUSSION PROTOCOLS – "Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional."

The language above appears in all National Federation sports rule books and reflects a strengthening of rules regarding the safety of athletes suspected of having a concussion. Some sports rules require officials to remove from play any athlete who was "unconscious or apparently unconscious." This new language reflects an increasing focus on safety, given that the vast majority of concussions do not involve a loss of consciousness. This protocol is intended to provide the mechanics to follow during contests when an athlete sustains an apparent concussion.

1. The officials will have no role in determining concussion other than the obvious one where a player is either unconscious or apparently unconscious. Officials will merely point out to a coach that a player is apparently injured and advise that the player should be examined by a health care professional to determine the exact extent of the injury.

2. If it is confirmed by the school's or the MHSAA designated health care professional that the student did not sustain a concussion, the head coach may so advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may reenter competition pursuant to the contest rules.
3. Otherwise, if competition continues while the athlete is withheld for an apparent concussion, that athlete may not be returned to competition that day but is subject to the return to play protocol.

a. The clearance may not be on the same date on which the athlete was removed from play.

b. Only an M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner may clear the individual to return to activity.

c. The clearance must be in writing and must be unconditional. It is not sufficient that the M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner has approved the student to begin a return-to-play progression. The medical examiner must approve the student's return to unrestricted activity.

d. Individual school, districts and leagues may have more stringent requirements and protocols including but not limited to mandatory periods of inactivity, screening and post-concussion testing prior to the written clearance for return to activity.

4. Following the contest, an Officials Report shall be filed with a removed player's school and the MHSAA if the situation was brought to the officials' attention.
5. Member schools are required to complete and submit the forms designated by the MHSAA to record and track head injury events in all levels of all sports. Prior to returning to physical activity (practice or competition) the student and parent (if a minor student) must complete the Post- Concussion Consent Form. This form must be kept on file at the school and emailed to concussion@mhsaa.com or faxed to 517-332-4071.
6. In cases where an assigned MHSAA tournament physician (MD/DO/PA/NP) is present, his or her decision to not allow an athlete to return to activity may not be overruled.

Return to Activity & Post-Concussion Form

FINANCIAL POLICIES, HOST EXPENSES, **FORMS** – The MHSAA will reimburse tournament hosts for officials and ice rental, as listed on the Financial Report form. Hosts pay the officials and ice rental and list them as expenses; the MHSAA will then reimburse the school for the officials' costs and ice rental. In ice hockey, the guaranteed reimbursement will include officials' and ice costs, with the remaining revenue split 90-10. The host share formula (10% back to host schools) is listed on the Financial Report Form, which must be sent to the MHSAA no later than 30 days after the tournament concludes. The MHSAA requests that ice rental blocks be kept to a maximum of 2-1/2 hours per game. All expenses are paid from ticket sales, with any surplus sent to the MHSAA, or the host receives payment from the MHSAA for the deficit when expenses exceed revenue.

FORWARDING OF MATERIALS - Regional Final Managers shall forward the winning team's Master Eligibility List and Roster to the Quarterfinal Manager no later than Monday morning following the Regional Final Championship game. The MHSAA website has corresponding Regional/Quarterfinal advancement assignments.

HOME TEAM DESIGNATION – At each game of the MHSAA Tournament, the higher seeded MPR will determine the home team. (Coin Flips will NOT be used to determine home and away teams.)

ICE RESURFACING—All MHSAA tournament games shall begin with new ice, which shall be made between periods. Overtime game resurfacing shall follow the MHSAA ice-making schedule as stated in overtime procedures.

INJUNCTION/RESTRAINING ORDER - Managers are reminded of the following statement adopted by the Representative Council and which is in effect for all MHSAA tournaments: "In the interest of fairness to all participants, if an injunction or restraining order is served or presented at an MHSAA tournament site and such purports to require the eligibility of or participation by a student or team which a school and/or the MHSAA has ruled to be ineligible under MHSAA regulations, the on-site tournament manager is to suspend the entire competition (team competition) or events in which that student is intending to participate (individual competition). If the meet or game has begun, it shall be completed."

INTERNET STREAMING - The broadcast and streaming rights of MHSAA post-season tournament events belong exclusively to the N-F-H-S Network, the M-H-S-A-A, and those media outlets that have pre-arranged to secure those rights. Managers: Please post the sign (found at the end of these materials).
Teams participating in MHSAA Tournaments are prohibited from streaming live video of any portion of an event over the Internet - including using social media platforms like YouTube and Facebook – or any other method. Likewise, individual spectators are also prohibited from streaming video through any means. Participating schools are responsible for informing their students, parents, and other fans of this policy and, upon request, assisting the MHSAA in enforcing it. Participating schools are asked to help promote where their game may be viewed when being streamed by the MHSAA, one of its television partners, or a media outlet that has pre-arranged to secure such rights.

LOCKER ROOM PRIVACY POLICY- Using devices of any kind to capture or transmit images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, dressing areas, training rooms, weigh-in rooms, showers, restrooms, or other areas where there is an expectation of privacy during MHSAA tournament events. Tournament managers or athletic directors who discover such use should immediately move to have the device removed and inform the head coach or athletic director of the identity and nature of the person's activity.

MEDIA/CREDENTIALS – Media credentials for Regional and Quarterfinal games are coordinated and issued by local tournament managers. Media requests for Semifinal and Final tournament games are handled by the MHSAA office. All requests for radio broadcasts or telecasts of any kind (internet, cable, etc.) should be referred to the MHSAA office for consideration and coordination. Media photographers should not be allowed on ice at any time. At the Regional Final level and above, managers may allow credentialed media photographers to be on ice for awards ceremonies, but only after the game has ended and ceremonies are ready to begin.

MERCHANDISING - Only MHSAA-licensed vendors may sell merchandise with a protected MHSAA logo or tournament identification. Local school (non-MHSAA logo) merchandise may be sold.

MEDICAL POLICIES—Although athletic trainers are highly recommended to be on site, they are not required, and the host school may not be able to reimburse such expenses. Volunteer on-site certified medical assistance is welcome.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY POLICY - Host school Tournament Managers should follow all local school District policies regarding medical emergencies for participating athletes, coaches, students, and adult spectators for competitions conducted in school facilities. It is advised that AED devices be readily available during tournament competitions. In addition**:**

- Trainers are an allowed expense for the tournament host and are encouraged but not required.
- If your school requires immediate and continuous attention, you are encouraged to bring your own certified athletic trainer (at your school's expense) to cover your team's needs and to also assist in the event if called upon. Your school's certified medical professional may not overrule certified medical professionals provided by tournament management.
- All MHSAA concussion protocols will be followed.
- MHSAA tornado watches and warnings shall be followed.
- MHSAA policy on managing heat and humidity shall be followed.

When MHSAA tournament contests are conducted at non-school facilities, plans should be developed for the following needs and/or circumstances:

- Student, coach, and spectator shelter for outdoor events
- Host facility emergency equipment such as AEDs, fire escapes, etc.
- Emergency communications, i.e., phone numbers and school administration contact.
- Coordination with facility management regarding evacuation, first aid, and on-site responsibilities.
- Medical transport or first responder contact procedures.
- Proximity/directions of nearest medical facility.
- If your school requires immediate and continuous attention at post-season TEAM competitions, you are encouraged to bring your own certified athletic trainer (at your school's expense) to cover your team's needs and to also assist in the event if called upon. Your school's certified medical professional may not overrule certified medical professionals provided by tournament management.

  IMPORTANT NOTE: For all MHSAA tournaments conducted at school or non-school facilities, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) must be within visible distance of the event.

Tournament Medical Incident Report

NOISEMAKERS – Noisemakers are not allowed at MHSAA hockey tournament games.

Guidelines for Artificial Noisemakers

OFFICIALS ASSIGNMENTS – Tournament managers will hire officials for Regional games from the MHSAA-approved list. The MHSAA committee will assign officials for Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final games. The two-referee, one linesman system or the two-referee, two linesman system can be used for all MHSAA tournament games. The two-referee, two-linesman system must be used for all Regional Finals, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals. Officials at the Regional and Quarterfinal levels will be paid by local tournament managers.

OFFICIALS FEES –

Regional - $115.00/game – Quarterfinal -$115.00/game.

Officials will be paid 40 cents/mile for round-trip miles beginning with the 51st mile (50-mile deductible). For Quarterfinal managers, the MHSAA will send an email confirmation of assigned officials, and managers will follow up with the officials. Managers and school officials pay officials directly for Regional and Quarterfinal games and are reimbursed by the MHSAA.

Assignors may be used to assist tournament managers, but managers are reminded that the MHSAA does not reimburse for assignor fees. Assignor fees (if paid out of the school share) may not be deducted from officials' game fees. Officials must receive the net game fee as stated above.

Managers are reminded to supply water in officials' locker rooms and to provide security and/or escorts for officials before, during, and after games.

OFF-ICE OFFICIALS –While timers, scorekeepers, and announcers are important and necessary to any well-run hockey game, the cost associated with such positions needs to be limited in scope. Goal judges are not required but allowed. It is recommended that either registered officials or highly experienced personnel be goal judges. If neither is available, goal judges should not be used.

OPT OUT/ENTRY PROCEDURES – Participating schools must submit a Master Eligibility list and roster to the host tournament manager by the Opt-Out due date of January 24, 2026. Materials submitted after the due date is subject to a $50 late fee paid to the host school. Changes or updates to the Master Eligibility may be made prior to the first date of the tournament for any school, which is February 16, 2026. Clerical error changes are allowed after the first date of the tournament, as covered by the Reg. II, Section 15. Students who transfer to a new school after Feb. 1 and who qualify for an exception to the transfer rule are **not** eligible for the MHSAA Tournament. To be eligible to compete in the MHSAA tournament for Ice Hockey, a student must have actually competed in that sport in at least four games with his/her school team against other MHSAA member school teams.

Withdrawals - Tournament management is to contact the MHSAA office if a school withdraws or fails to show for scheduled competition after the Opt-out Due Date for team sports or the pairings, heat assignments or flights are determined for individual sports of the first level of the MHSAA tournament in that sport. The MHSAA staff member responsible for the sport will request a written explanation from the school principal for the no-show/withdrawal. If the reason is deemed unacceptable by MHSAA Staff, the MHSAA Executive Director will place the school on probation for the next two school years. A second offense during the two-year probationary period will result in the school being prohibited from tournament play in that sport for the two years following the second offense.

OVERTIME PROCEDURES – For all MHSAA tournament games that finish regulation tied, sudden victory overtime will take place beginning with a maximum of four 8-minute periods, after which if the game is still tied, a series of 4-on-4 player sudden victory overtime periods will be played to determine a winner in accordance with the following procedures:

- At the end of regulation play, the two teams go to their locker room. The ice is to be resurfaced prior to the beginning of overtime play.
- The overtime period shall be eight minutes sudden victory.
- **Change goals for first overtime period and each subsequent overtime period.**
- If the game remains tied at the end of the first overtime period, there shall be a two-minute rest period (with teams remaining at their bench), change goals and continue with the second overtime.
- The ice shall be resurfaced at the end of each set of two eight-minute overtime periods. Teams may go to their locker rooms. The same ice cleaning format is used throughout OT.
- If the score remains tied after four overtime periods have been played, teams will play all subsequent overtime periods as 4-on-4 hockey until a winner is determined. Carry-over penalties will apply. If the first 4-on-4 period starts with a team down two players, the two man advantage will be played 5 on 3 and will remain until penalized players return to ice. Teams revert to 4-on-4 on first stoppage once shorthanded penalties expire and both teams are at full strength. (By rule, teams cannot play below on ice strength of 3 skaters plus a goalkeeper).

PEP BANDS—School pep bands are not allowed at the Regional and Quarterfinal levels of the tournament. However, pep bands are allowed at the semifinals and finals with advance approval and coordination from the MHSAA. Bands may play between periods only.

PERIOD LENGTH – A **17-minute period** will be used in all MHSAA Tournament games.

PLAYING RULES & ADOPTIONS – All National Federation playing rules will be used with the following MHSAA adaptations:

- Helmets must always be worn by players and officials except while standing for the National Anthem and for post-game award ceremonies.
- The MHSAA suspension policy for Game DQ's will apply.
- An eight-goal score differential rule will apply. (See Score Differential Policy)
- All players (including goalies) are required to wear neck guards.
- MHSAA Tournament Overtime Procedures will be followed. (See overtime procedures)
- Twenty-three players will be allowed in uniform on the bench.
- A 17-minute period will be used in all MHSAA Tournament games
- Video replay will be used in the MHSAA Semifinal and Final games.

ROSTER/BENCH LIMIT – Schools may have a maximum of 23 players in uniform on the bench for each game. 20 skaters and 3 goaltenders. Rosters may change from one game to the next, but all players in uniform must be on the school's Master Eligibility list.

SCORE REPORTING – Results of tournament games should be entered into the **MHSAA Score Center** or e-mailed to the MHSAA immediately after each game at: results@mhsaa.com or at the end of an evening of games, not the next morning. Host schools are responsible for local media and the major daily newspapers.

SCORE DIFFERENTIAL (MERCY) RULE – All tournament games will use the eight-goal score differential rule. During the first and second periods, when the score differential reaches eight goals, a running clock will be used. If the score differential is within 8 goals in the first or second period, regular time is restored. After two periods or anytime during the third period when the score differential reaches eight goals, the game is terminated.

SECURITY – Proper crowd control and security are essential for MHSAA hockey tournament games. There should be no spectators allowed in the team locker room areas and security should be especially vigilant in the "tunnel" areas where teams leave and enter the ice and bench areas.

SPECTATOR POLICIES – GoFan Digital ticketing must be used for admission. The following objects will not be allowed at MHSAA Hockey Tournament games – noisemakers, whistles, air horns, cowbells, banners on sticks or poles, silly string canisters, helium balloons, laser pointers, jugs with coins, marbles, thunder sticks, towels, and other objects that may be thrown on the ice or cause interference for other spectators. Spectators are not allowed to pound on the glass, use foul language, or otherwise harass teams and coaches during the game or while entering and leaving the ice. Offensive chants are not allowed.

SPECTATOR SUPERVISION – Each participating school is required to have present at all MHSAA Tournament hockey games the principal, athletic director, or a non-coaching faculty member authorized by the school to assist in spectator supervision and crowd control. It is recommended that each school provide at least three staff members to supervise all tournament games. Local managers should restrict standing spectators from being directly behind the goalie area.

SPORTSMANSHIP – All school and MHSAA sportsmanship policies for players, coaches and spectators will be enforced and promoted. It is recommended that tournament managers meet with participating schools' on-site administrators and crowd control personnel prior to games to review conduct expectations for students and adult fans. Cheers should be in support of teams, not directed at other teams and coaches. Abusive treatment of officials cannot be tolerated. Sportsmanship at hockey games is always a challenge. Preventive measures and proactive efforts are encouraged.

TIME SCHEDULES – Recommended start time for weekday Regional games is no earlier than 4 p.m. and no later than 8 p.m. Weekend Regional and Quarterfinal games should start no earlier than 12 p.m. and no later than 8 p.m. Overtime games may require adjustments to second-game start times. Managers should provide a detailed schedule of warm-ups, start times, and arrivals at participating schools. Start times for games should be "drop the puck" times in the schedule.

TROPHIES & MEDALS—Regional Champion teams receive a team trophy and 24 individual medals. The Champion and runner-up team in each Division at the Finals will also receive a team trophy and 24 individual medals. Schools may order extra medals through the MHSAA office. Trophies and medals will be mailed directly to the host school prior to the tournament.

Extra/Replacement Medal Order Form

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (DRONE) POLICY

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles ("UAV"), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at MHSAA tournament venues. Tournament management shall refuse admission or entry to anyone attempting to use a UAV; and if necessary, tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a UAV and/or confiscate the UAV until the event has been completed. For purposes of this policy, a UAV is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard.
An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for MHSAA broadcast partners, provided that the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of UAVs for broadcast purposes under MHSAA control.

VIDEOTAPING – Competing schools may videotape games in which they compete. The tape is not to be used to second-guess decisions made by game/meet officials. Spectators may tape games from their normal seating area but are not to interfere with the view of other spectators or news media personnel covering the activity. A manager is not required to provide electrical hook-ups or tripod space and may arrange spectator videotaping from a designated location(s).

WARM-UP PERIODS - All tournament managers must provide a **minimum** of 10 minutes for warm-up prior to the contest. Between period rest times should be a **minimum** of 8 minutes. See "Overtime Procedures" for warm-up times and ice resurfacing policies for games tied after regulation.

YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY - During the MHSAA Tournament events, the MHSAA expects all designated managers, volunteer or paid staff assisting in the event, officials, or any other personnel to follow local school district policy and state statute regarding the mandatory reporting of child abuse, bullying, hazing and sexual harassment. A report of such activity shall be made to legal authorities and to the MHSAA Executive Director or his designee.