

2025 BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, October 2, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – East Lansing

MEMBERS PRESENT

Aaron Babicz, Wixom
Rick DeBlasio, Traverse City
Aaron Frank, Birmingham
Jonathan Goei, Grand Rapids
JT Hogan, Spring Lake
Brian Kaminskis, Clarkston
James Kelleward, Portage
Matt Laurinec, Livonia
Nikki Norris, East Lansing
Joe Stadelmaier, Midland
Jack Smith, Romeo

Jeremy Strunk, Jenison (MHSLCA)
Justin Thorington, Traverse City
Chris Westfall, Ypsilanti

GUEST

Mitch Smelis, Fenton (MATS)

MHSAA STAFF

Kiersten Anstead
Dan Hutcheson
Cole Malatinsky (Recorder)

The 2025-26 MHSAA Boys Lacrosse Committee met in the John E. “Jack” Roberts MHSAA building to review topics involving boys lacrosse and the tournament series. The week prior to the meeting, the committee received the published minutes of the two previous committee meetings.

The committee also received several reports for their review, including the 2025-26 classification of teams and enrollment breaks set in March 2025, and a list of current cooperative programs. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision-making process and the charge of the Boys Lacrosse Committee, including the unique functions related to seeding. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members, and the Michigan High School Lacrosse Coaches Association.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2025-26 REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS & TOURNAMENT

One of the unique functions of the committee is its role in preseason seeding and tournament alignments. No changes were made to the seeding criteria for the preseason. The committee ranked the top eight teams 1-8 in each division based on the criteria and placed one seeded team in each region. The regions will be finalized pending MHSAA staff securing host sites. Regions without hosts designated will be posted on MHSAA.com as soon as possible following the October meeting, including any new programs or cooperatives notifications and approvals. On Wednesday, May 2, 2026, the committee will reconvene and place each team on the bracket based on the written criteria and current season competition played on or before Monday, May 4, 2026.

2026 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

The committee reviewed the 2026 tournament calendar. The MHSAA is exploring options for hosts as well as format for the 2026 Boys Lacrosse Finals.

POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The committee once again discussed proposals put forth by MHSAA staff regarding the MHSAA tournament format and seeding. The MHSAA will work with the lacrosse coaches association to develop a proposal to put forth to their membership for consideration in the future.

NFHS RULES CHANGES

The committee reviewed recent changes and points of emphasis under NFHS playing rules for the sport of boys lacrosse for the 2026 season.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

None.