# 2026-27 BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, October 1, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – East Lansing

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Aaron Babicz, Novi
Rick DeBlasio, Traverse City
Aaron Frank, Birmingham
Erik Frank, Mattawan
Jonathan Goei, Grand Rapids
JT Hogan, Spring Lake
Brian Kaminskas, Clarkston
Matt Laurinec, Livonia
Nicole Norris, East Lansing (MIAAA)
Steve Strelecki, Jenison
Jeremy Strunk, Coopersville (MHSLCA)
Justin Thorington, Traverse City
Chris Westfall, Ypsilanti

**GUEST**

Mitch Smelis, Fenton (MATS)

**MHSAA STAFF**

Kiersten Anstead
Dan Hutcheson (Recorder)
Cole Malatinsky

The 2026-27 MHSAA Boys Lacrosse Committee met at the John E. “Jack” Roberts MHSAA Building to review and discuss matters related to boys lacrosse and the MHSAA tournament series. The committee reviewed the published minutes from its previous meeting.

The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision-making process and the Boys Lacrosse Committee's charge, including the unique functions related to seeding. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members, and the boys lacrosse coach’s association.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 2026-27 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 10, 2027, 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 8, 2027.

### 2027 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

The committee reviewed the 2027 tournament calendar. The MHSAA is exploring options for hosts and the format of the 2027 Boys Lacrosse Finals.

### POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The committee once again discussed a proposal from MHSAA staff, in conjunction with the MHSLCA, regarding the MHSAA tournament format and seeding.

### NFHS RULES CHANGES

The committee discussed recent changes and points of emphasis under NFHS playing rules for the sport of boys lacrosse for the 2027 season.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Extend the current goal differential game termination utilized in the postseason for regular season games. (11-0)

2. Utilize new format for postseason play. (10-1)