



2024-25 MHSAA SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION Published July 2025

This summary does not include all Council action. Minutes of the Dec. 6, 2024, and March 21, 2025, and May 4-5, 2025, meetings have been posted at MHSAA.com. Changes take effect Aug. 1, 2025, unless otherwise indicated.

High School and Middle School Regulations

A. Regulation I, Section 9 – Two changes were made to Interpretations 75 and 77

75. If a transfer student and the person(s) with whom the student has been living move (change residence) to a residence in a different school district and the student participates in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in that district, and then the student and/or the person(s) with whom the student has been living move (change residence) back to the former district before the completion of **180 school days for students**, the student is ineligible for any interscholastic athletic competition in any sport at any school until approved by the two school districts and the MHSAA (see Interpretation 2d).

77. A change of residence for eligibility purposes must be full and complete. A full residential change, as described within these regulations and interpretations, must be completed prior to a student's participation in any contest or scrimmage. Before being deemed eligible, the student and his or her parents must attest to the facts and/or produce documentation of the following: (1) The student and family unit are actually residing in the new dwelling as the sole place of residency. (2) That all personal belongings have been moved from the prior residence, (3) That mail is received at the new residence; utility bills and driver's license have been changed to the new address. Additional proofs, including but not limited to proof of rental or completed sale of the former residence and long-term rental or lease agreement (**minimum of 12 months**) and completed purchase of the new residence, may also be required. The former residence must be either vacant of people and possessions or sold/rented to persons other than family members. A former residence may not be occupied for any residential purposes at any time by the student or his or her parents or minor siblings.

B. Regulation II, Section 11, Interpretation 222 – Scrimmage Definition

222. Scrimmages are for instruction more than competition. Schools may not charge admission (or accept cash donations), charge for parking or conduct raffles in lieu of admission, or publicize results of interscholastic scrimmages in any sport (voluntary donations for third parties without any benefit to any school are allowed). Awards cannot be given, and results and statistics may not count for the school (**e.g., win-loss records, team and individual statistics and records**). **If a timing device is used, normal time shall be altered. If a timing device is NOT used in the sport at least one rule must be altered to indicate**

it is a scrimmage. (e.g., baseball and softball use unlimited substitutions).

The same competition may not be a game for one team and a scrimmage for another; if it is a game for one team, it is a game for both teams. Schools may share in the payment of expenses associated with conducting a scrimmage. Games or meets may not be converted to scrimmages or counted as scrimmages after the contest has begun.

C. Regulation III, Section 9 – Transfers

Students in 7th or 8th grade who are eligible for high school competition are subject to the high school sport-specific transfer rules while in middle school and competing at the high school level. Students would gain eligibility at any high school when beginning the 9th grade.

D. Regulation IV, Section 10 B – Junior High/Middle School Start Dates

Fall sports practices for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades may begin on the 14th Monday before Thanksgiving, one week (7 days) after the start of high school practice, regardless of the date of the first day of school. When school begins before the first allowable practice date, fall sports for a school may begin on the first day of classes for that school. Ninth-grade football teams of junior high/middle schools may begin practice on the same date as the grade 10-12 football teams of that school district if the 9th-grade team is comprised only of 9th-graders or students who have been approved for eligibility advancement. Other seasons and starting dates will be established by the local district, league, or conference.

Calendar Updates

Competitive Cheer – For the 2025-26 school year, the first day of practice for Competitive Cheer will be Monday, November 10, and the first contest date is set for Monday, November 24. The start of practice will continue to align with the third Monday prior to Thanksgiving each year.

A one-week delay in the MHSAA Competitive Cheer Tournament Series will occur in 2025-26 due to a scheduling conflict at Central Michigan University, the host site for the finals. In 2025-26, the tournament dates are: Districts, Feb. 20-21, 2026; Regionals, Feb. 28, 2026; and Finals @ CMU, March 6-7, 2026.

Starting with the 2026-27 season, the tournament schedule will shift back one week earlier with Districts on Feb. 12-13, 2027, Regionals on Feb. 20, 2027, and Finals on Feb. 26-27, 2027. In subsequent years, the Competitive Cheer Finals will continue to be held on the last Saturday (and preceding Friday) in February.

Sports

Baseball – Baseball players are now allowed to play on multiple levels on the same day. The 38-game season and daily limits would still apply to all students.

Bowling – Established the first practice date as the third Monday before Thanksgiving and allowed students to participate in no more than eight games on a school day (Monday-Thursday).

Field Hockey – For the fall of 2025, field hockey's inaugural MHSAA season will be played with a maximum of 18 dates of regular-season competition (and 4 scrimmages) and the tournament will be conducted in a single division, using MPR to identify the top four overall seeds. The first practice date will be August 11, first contest date is August 15 and the MHSAA Finals will be held on October 25. Please see the *MHSAA Handbook* with details on fifth-quarter allowances, guidelines for multi-team tournaments and cooperative programs.

Football – For the 2025-26 school year, playoff points will not be awarded to a team that forfeits a football game. All 8-player Semifinal games will be played at neutral sites with artificial turf.

Golf – All Regional tournament host sites will be reimbursed for the expense of two rules referees.

Ice Hockey – The maximum number of regular-season games was increased to 27 from 25.

Tennis – Allow all teams that tie for third place at the Regional to advance to the Finals when the MHSAA determines that six Regionals in that division are required. Continuous coaching will be allowed between points and between non-changeover games (25 seconds) if it does not hinder the current pace of play at all levels (varsity, subvarsity, middle school). And finally, approval was given to conduct all divisions of the Boys and Girls L.P. Tennis Finals at the Midland Tennis Center. This will place all four Division Finals at the same location, with each Division Finals taking place over two days over a 2-week period. This pilot program will be used for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years.

Volleyball – Amended *MHSAA Handbook* Regulation II, Section 10 (A) to state that a student or team shall participate in no more than 18 sets (games) per day. The inaugural MHSAA boys volleyball season in 2025-26 will be played in two divisions, delaying the classification of sponsoring schools until September 15, 2025. The Boys Semifinals and Finals will be played at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek on June 5-6, 2026. Finally, amended *MHSAA Handbook* Regulation I, Section 1 (F) to include boys volleyball in the group of sports permitted to conduct cooperative agreements when the combined enrollment of schools involved is less than 3,500 students.

Wrestling – Award a “team” championship in Girls Wrestling based on individual points earned at the Individual District and Regional tournaments.