

2023 SKI COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 9:30 am – East Lansing

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cory Anderson, Grand Rapids
Tim Gariglio, Clare
Casey Lombard, Holly (MIAAA)
James Netzley, Cadillac
Duane Petrosky, Caledonia
Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs
Josh Vandruska, Milford (MHSSCA)
Todd VanTongeren, Grand Rapids
Mark Weymouth, Bloomfield Hills

GUESTS

Brianna Hendra, Trenton (MATS)
Don Tyrell, Lake Orion

MHSAA STAFF

Cody Inglis

The Ski committee met in person on October 18, 2023. The committee was reminded of its responsibility and the process by which rule changes occur. The following discussion and action took place.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2022-23 SKI MEETING MINUTES REVIEW

The committee reviewed last year's Ski meeting minutes, including staff recommendations that were additions to the MHSAA Ski tournament in 2023.

SKI MANUAL EDITS

The committee was led through a discussion of the ski manual edits and proposals for change as recommended by the ski coaches association, who came together to evaluate the ski manual. The ski manual was given a complete rewrite in 2018-19. The committee approved the changes, clarifications, and edits to the manual for use in the 2023-24 ski season. The main changes and improvements were to the start rule and the addition of the cold weather policy.

MHSSCA UPDATES AND GENERAL DISCUSSION

Josh Vandruska, the Michigan High School Ski Coaches Association President, updated the committee on topics the ski association board has discussed, including discussion items on Regional realignment and potential scoring modifications. These topics will continue to be addressed by the ski coaches' board. Additional discussion items included plans for a JH/MS ski invitational for Michigan racers on the Saturday before the ski Finals. The race will be held at Nubs Nob on the Saturday before the HS Finals.

The ski coaches board has established a timing committee, and committee members, including Don Tyrell, who serves as a timing/scoring advisor to the ski committee, provided updates, including a lengthy discussion on hand timing and secondary timing equipment. Two Regionals at Pine Knob this winter will have a two-wand finish system, and a report will be given to the timing committee and ski committee for potential use at more venues in the future. The committee discussed continued work on hand timing, including volunteer training, a potential YouTube video for hand timers, and work to establish consistency in this critical position.

The ski committee reviewed the travel update to the MHSAA Handbook regulations that now allow Minnesota to be used as a border state where Michigan schools can travel without limitation. This includes its impact on non-school ski racing like USSS and FIS races.

An update to the past discussion on wind chill/cold weather temperature guidelines was presented. This followed last year's discussion by the committee to establish a wind chill/ cold weather policy. The MHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended that the wind chill/ cold weather policy be placed in the ski manual as an official policy in MHSAA ski. This will be done for the 2023-24 version of the ski manual.

Discussion on emergency action planning as a significant emphasis for MHSAA ski hosts, the MHSSCA has established an emergency action plan template for use by ski venues hosting MHSAA ski Regionals or Finals, and this will be done for each of those venues as a way to get coordinated, consistent information to all coaches, officials and race administration when planning for a race and planning the health and safety of all spectators, coaches, and participants.

Head injury reporting reminders were given to the committee for coaches, trainers, and ski patrol to ensure that all know about the required head injury writing and the concussion care and catastrophic insurance that the MHSAA holds on each eligible ski student-athlete.

MHSAA ski bibs have exceeded expectations and remain in good shape. Continued discussion on a plan will be discussed by the MHSAA and MHSSCA, including for future sponsors that may help offset the cost of new bibs or replacements.

REGIONAL AND FINAL SITES AND HOSTS' CONFIRMATION

2024 Finals – February 26, 2024

Division 1 at Boyne Highlands– Host: Clarkston

Division 2 at Nubs Nob – Host: Harbor Springs/Petoskey

2024 Regional sites and assignments

R1 – Marquette Mt. hosted by Marquette

R2 – Pine Knob hosted by Lake Orion

R3 – Alpine Valley hosted by Milford

R4 – Crystal Mt. hosted by Glen Lake

R5 – Caberfae hosted by Cadillac

R6 – Pine Knob hosted by Detroit Country Day

2023-24 APPROVED MHSAA/USSA MEETS

The USSS meet schedule was provided and approved. The committee was reminded that a racer profile form for each USSS skier needed to be on file with the school athletic director and MHSAA. MHSAA staff will update MHSAA materials to reflect the schedule and allowed non-school ski races.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

No proposals from the committee.