

## **2025-26 SKI COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – East Lansing

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Scott Derby, Grand Haven  
Ben Fisher, Novi  
Aaron Frank, Birmingham  
Tim Gariglio, Clare (MHSSCA)  
Casey Lombard, Holly (MIAAA)  
Brandon Malinowski, Farmington Hills  
Duane Petrosky, Caledonia

Jeff Street, Brighton  
Betty Wroubel, Pontiac

### **GUESTS**

Rich Kieft (MATS)  
Don Tyrell, Lake Orion

### **MHSAA STAFF**

Cody Inglis (Recorder)

The Ski Committee met on October 15, 2025. The committee was reminded of its responsibility and the process by which rule changes occur. The following discussion and action took place.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **2024-25 SKI MEETING MINUTES REVIEW**

The committee reviewed last year's Ski Committee minutes, including staff recommendations that were additions to the MHSAA Ski Tournament.

### **SKI MANUAL EDITS**

The committee discussed edits to the *Ski Manual*, which is the official rules book of MHSAA ski racing. The manual was completely rewritten in 2018-19, and the Ski Coaches Association has a subcommittee that suggests changes each year. Clarifications and edits were suggested, including scoring, course inspection, start procedure, course setting, and additional substitution language for skiers in the MHSAA tournament.

### **MHSSCA UPDATES AND GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Tim Gariglio, the Michigan High School Ski Coaches Association President, updated the committee on topics the ski association board has discussed, including their recently completed clinic, new membership, *Ski Manual* edits, coach education, video review, JH/MS race involvement, and Regional realignment. The ski coaches' board will continue to address and work on these areas with the MHSAA and the Ski Committee.

The ski coaches board has established a timing committee, including Don Tyrell, who serves as a timing/scoring advisor to the Ski Committee, and provided updates on hand timing and secondary timing equipment. This new language was placed into the *Ski Manual* last year and was used at four of the six Regionals and both Finals venues with great success. Don presented a thorough report on secondary timing, including the two-wand system and the traditional hand timing method of backup timing, to the Ski Committee. The Ski Committee recommended that continued use of the new secondary timing be emphasized to Regional hosts and ski hills.

Ski cooperative programs and opt-ups were discussed, including the process and protocols for establishing MHSAA regulations and the checks and balances to ensure that they are done for the right reason, such as a school's lack of ski racers. Discussion centered around ensuring that schools share the cause and rationale behind any opt-ups and cooperative programs with the MHSAA, which was strongly supported.

The committee discussed emergency action planning as a significant emphasis for ski hosts, as a requirement for all MHSAA schools, teams, and events was completed. Communication was a point of emphasis related to ski emergency action plans, including the venue, ski patrol, meet hosts, and coaches from competing schools. Emphasizing a pre-meeting was suggested to help establish roles and responsibilities.

Other health and safety topics included updating the cold weather/wind chill guidelines, requiring MHSAA head injury/concussion reporting, and ensuring that the MHSAA provides concussion care insurance for every eligible ski athlete.

The committee adjusted the timeframe to the run order deadlines for ski teams who qualify for the Finals. The new deadline will be the Friday of Regional week (Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026) after Regionals and before Finals. This new timeframe helps timers get accurate names to input for Ski Finals materials and timing systems. This change will be reflected in the MHSAA Managers Manual and PSTI.

The committee emphasized communication with coaches during Regionals and Finals to all host hills and schools. This may include email, cell phone, and the use of apps to ensure that coaches receive timely information.

The committee was updated on the MHSAA purchase of ski bibs that were used for the 2024-25 MHSAA Ski Tournament. The new ski bibs replaced 15-year-old bibs that outlived their life expectancy and were widely praised as a necessary step for MHSAA skiing. The new bibs follow the Ski Committee's recommendation that new bibs be purchased. The MHSAA will store the bibs at the MHSAA office and replace lost or damaged bibs with new bibs from World Cup Supply, the company that helped design the bibs for the MHSAA.

## **REGIONAL AND FINAL SITES, DATES AND HOST CONFIRMATION**

### **2026 Finals – February 23, 2026**

**Division 1 at Boyne Mt.– Host: West Bloomfield HS**  
**Division 2 at Schuss Mt. – Host: Orchard Lake St. Mary**

### **2026 Regional sites and assignments – Feb. 9-13, 2026**

**R1 – Cannonsburg hosted by Forest Hills Central – 2/9/26**  
**R2 – Pine Knob hosted by Troy Athens – 2/9/26**  
**R3 – Alpine Valley hosted by Hartland/West Bloomfield – 2/11/26**  
**R4 – Crystal Mt. hosted by Maple City – Glen Lake - 2/9/26**  
**R5 – Caberfae hosted by Cadillac – 2/9/26**  
**R6 – Pine Knob hosted by Rochester Adams – 2/10/26**

## **2025-26 APPROVED MHSAA/USSS 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. Staff will update materials to reflect the schedule and allowed non-school ski races.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

None.