2026-27 SKI COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, October 14, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – East Lansing

MEMBERS PRESENT

Megan Allcorn, Brighton
Fred Bryant, Cadillac
Scott Derby, Grand Haven
Chris Gallagher, Harbor Springs
Tim Gariglio, Clare (MHSSCA)
Linda Kozacki, Portage
Brandon Malinowski, Farmington Hills
Duane Petrosky, Caledonia
Todd Vantongeren, Grand Rapids

GUESTS

Amy Ream, Traverse City (MATS)
Don Tyrell, Lake Orion

MHSAA STAFF

Cody Inglis (Recorder)

The Ski Committee met on October 14, 2026. The committee was reminded of its responsibilities and the process by which rule changes are made. The following discussion and action took place.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2025-26 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*, the official rules book for 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 inappropriate language (swearing), disqualification cards, referee job descriptions, communication with teams, and run order submission deadlines.

MHSSCA UPDATES AND GENERAL DISCUSSION

Tim Gariglio, the MHSSCA President, updated the committee on topics the ski association board and membership have discussed, including their recently completed clinic, Finals venues, *Ski Manual* edits, hosting requirements, video review, JH/MS race involvement, and Regional alignment. The ski coaches' board will continue to address and work in these areas with MHSAA staff and the Ski Committee.

A significant update was given regarding the recent purchase of a ski trailer, gates, "b safety" netting, panels, and timing equipment that will replace the rental trailers of the USSS, Region 2, and Region 3 that the MHSAA has used for the ski tournaments over the past 20 years. This is a significant investment in high school ski racing that will serve this community well for the foreseeable future and will save money for schools, teams, and the MHSAA.

The ski coaches board, including Don Tyrell, who serves as a timing/scoring advisor to the Ski Committee, provided updates on hand timing and secondary timing equipment. This included a presentation on Vera Time as a possible backup timing system. New language was added to the *Ski Manual* in 2024-25 and was used successfully at Regionals and at both Finals venues. Don presented an update on secondary timing, including the two-wand system and the traditional hand-timing method for backup timing. 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 continue to be discussed, including the process and protocols for establishing a cooperative program. The MHSSCA has a subcommittee working on this topic and will provide an update on potential solutions.

The committee discussed emergency action planning as a significant emphasis for ski hosts and as a requirement for all schools, teams, and events. Communication was a point of emphasis related to ski emergency action plans, including the venue, ski patrol, meet hosts, and coaches from competing schools. An emphasis on a pre-meeting was suggested to help establish roles and responsibilities. There is also strong consideration that each Regional and Final host has a communication method to connect with coaches throughout the race day. Apps such as WhatsApp, text messages, and other communication methods were discussed. This communication piece will also be placed into the *Ski Manual* as a recommendation for Regional host schools.

Other health and safety topics included reviewing the cold weather/wind chill guidelines and reminders about the requirement to report MHSAA head injuries/concussions.

Clarifications on JH/MS involvement in high school ski racing, girls skiing on boys teams, and sharing practice venues was completed as a reminder for the committee. These items were communicated to coaches in the MHSAA Ski Rules Meeting.

The committee was updated on the purchase of ski bibs that were used in the MHSAA ski tournament. The MHSAA will continue to store the bibs in East Lansing and replace lost or damaged bibs with new ones from World Cup Supply, an MHSAA partner.

Ski Finals venue selection was discussed, with concerns about setting what expectations the MHSAA needs for Finals venues, including training lanes, communication on and off the hill, lodge setup, finances, ski patrol coordination, and school involvement. The MHSAA and host schools will meet with the hills ahead of the Finals to encourage better communication and coordination, so the Finals experience continues to be enhanced.

REGIONAL AND FINAL SITES, DATES AND HOST CONFIRMATION

2027 Finals – February 22, 2027

Division 1 at Schuss Mt. – Host: Milford HS and Hartland HS
Division 2 at Boyne Mt. – Host: Marian HS and Orchard Lake St. Mary Prep HS

2027 Regional sites and assignments – February 8-12, 2027

R1 – Marquette Mt. hosted by Marquette HS – 2/8/27
R2 – Alpine Valley hosted by Walled Lake Northern HS/Central HS – 2/8/27
R3 – Mt. Brighton hosted by South Lyon HS – 2/10/27
R4 – Nubs Nob hosted by Harbor Springs HS – 2/8/27
R5 – Crystal Mt. hosted by Caledonia HS – 2/8/27
R6 – Alpine Valley hosted by Orchard Lake St. Mary Prep HS – 2/9/27

2026-27 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.