2026-2027
SKI MANUAL



This is the official Rule Book for MHSAA Ski competition, equipment and eligibility requirements which apply to all meets. Staffing and Meet Management sections are for Regional and Final competition.

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26-27 Rule Updates

The MHSAA Alpine Ski Racing Conduct and Sportsmanship Penalty Guidelines establish expectations for respectful behavior among athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators. Misconduct is divided into three levels: Level 1 (Minor) covers isolated, non-directed swearing or frustration and may result in a warning, while Level 2 (Serious) includes repeated swearing, disrespect toward others, disruptive behavior, and equipment misuse, potentially resulting in a five-second penalty, team-point deductions, or disqualification. Level 3 (Severe) addresses hate speech, discriminatory slurs, threats, intimidation, abusive behavior, and dangerous actions, which may result in immediate disqualification, team-point penalties, removal from competition, or reporting to the league or MHSAA. The guidelines apply to conduct at athletic events as well as relevant text messages, social media, and team group chats, and retaliation against those reporting incidents is prohibited. The jury or referee determines the appropriate penalty based on the severity and circumstances, with an emphasis on consistency, accountability, and sportsmanship.

Setting Rules Common to Both Slalom and Giant Slalom

- The Start and Finish are gates and will be treated as such when setting per the individual event guidelines.

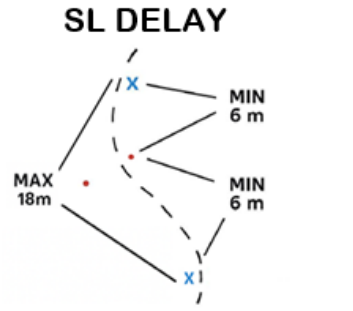
Referee

- Directs and controls the work of all officials
- Receives the reports of race officials about infractions and gate faults (DQ Cards) at the end of each flight
- Fills out the Referee Report after the last athlete has passed the finish for each run for each discipline.
- Shall immediately post the Referee Report of disqualified athletes near the finish line. This will be confirmed by race officials and announced at the coaches meeting.
- Holds on to the DQ cards till the end of the event and turns them over to the finish timer. The head coach or the designated representative from the school has the right to see the DQ card.

Other Recent Rule Updates

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL AND STATE FINAL COMPETITION
A girl to be eligible to compete on a boys team must have at least four starts on the boys team prior to the Regional or State Finals race
Scoring System for Teams –Racers are allowed to take a second run if they DNF or DQ during their first run.The DQ or DNF will stand from the first run if a second run is taken. No second run will be allowed if the racer was a DNS for their first run.
Start Procedure - The one minute to report to the starter will begin when the start is vacated by the previous racer.
Jury Composition – The Jury will be seated and have authority beginning at a minimum of 48 hours prior to the start time of the race and will be comprised of the following race officials:
SETTING UNIQUE FOR SLALOM

- (hairpin or flush) must not be less than 4m and not more than 6m wide. A flush will consist of three or four gates.
- Delayed gates must have a minimum distance of 6 m between successive gates and not more than 12 m and a maximum distance of 18 m from turning pole to turning pole measured through the delay gate. The delay gate shall be set to affect the race line.



MEASURE THROUGH THE DELAY AS DASHED LINE (RACE LINE)



MEASURED THROUGH THE DELAY AS DASHED LINE (RACE LINE)

Course Setter

- Must be a current MHSSCA member and have a team or individual entered in the race

MHSAA SKI RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc. (MHSAA) exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition for high school sports. Member schools are required to abide by and enforce common rules for educational athletics. The following rules and regulations for skiing are supplemental to the MHSAA Handbook, which contains additional eligibility rules and requirements. This document, along with the MHSAA Handbook, the Ski Participating School Tournament Information, and the Ski Manager's Manual, serves as the primary source of rules and regulations for the sport of skiing.

PURPOSES OF THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

1. Increase and promote the educational value of interscholastic athletic programs throughout the state.
2. Assist member institutions in their regulation of interscholastic athletic eligibility and competition.
3. Promote uniformity, predictability and competitive equity in the application of eligibility rules for athletic contests.
4. Promote the physical welfare of participating students.

Questions should be directed to school Athletic Directors, who are the conduit between member schools and MHSAA.

SPORT SEASON

Ski practice may begin no earlier than two Mondays prior to Thanksgiving. Dates and procedures for tryouts shall be decided by individual schools. Tryouts must be conducted during the ski season; therefore, they cannot be held before the first day of practice. Competition may begin on or after the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. The ski season ends with the State Final meet held on the last Monday in February.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

All athletes must be eligible as described in the MHSAA Handbook, Regulation 1 "Essential Eligibility Requirements for Senior High School Students." Athletes must also be listed on the Ski Team Master Eligibility List developed by the school. Athletes must provide a MHSAA Race Profile Form listing his/her complete race schedule for the season including USSS, High School and Non-Sanctioned races to the following before the first high school team meet.

- School administration
- MHSAA
- His/her ski coach

COACHING OR SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE SUPERVISION

Team and individual participants at the Regional and State Final meets must be accompanied by a school coach or duly appointed school representative. In the event a coach is unable to attend the Regional or State Final meet, a school may appoint a school representative. Written notice of that appointment, signed by the high school principal, must be submitted to the meet manager before the meet begins. Athlete(s) are ineligible to participate without either a coach or school representative on-site for the duration of the event. Coaches and/or duly appointed representatives are responsible for the actions and behavior of all Team Members throughout the entire event.

COACH REGISTRATION

All non-faculty coaches must be registered by the school with the MHSAA

CONTEST LIMITATION

Contest participation is limited on both a team and individual basis, starting the day of the first regular season meet and ending the day before the Regional meet. All races from the first regular season meet up to the Regional meet count toward the team and individual limitations.

SANCTIONED EVENT

Both teams and individuals are allowed a maximum of 17 competitions, comprised of both **High School Meets** and **Sanctioned** USSS events. Sanctioned Events count toward the team and individual 17 meet maximum. **Sanctioned Events** that occur on the same weekend count as 1 event for both team and individual race counts (i.e. – if 2 athletes participate in separate **Sanctioned Events** on the same weekend, those 2 events must be counted 3 times: 1 toward the team maximum and 1 toward each individual's maximum).

NON-SANCTIONED EVENT

Individuals are allowed a maximum of 2 **Non-Sanctioned Events**. Individuals are allowed to participate in a maximum of 2 non-sanctioned contests while not representing his/her school. **Non-Sanctioned Event** maximums are measured by individual only and do not count toward the team maximum.

SCRIMMAGE, NASTAR, CLUBS

Teams are allowed to participate in up to 2 scrimmage meets which do not count toward the 17 meet maximum.

Individuals are allowed to participate in an unlimited number of NASTAR events. These events do not count toward the 17 meet maximum.

Skiers are allowed to practice with a club during the season. If one club competes against another club, this competition counts toward the non-sanctioned maximum meet count.

If a local club has practice that includes competition within the club members, this does not count against the non-sanctioned meet count.

EQUIPMENT
Individual Equipment – Skis, boots, bindings, ski poles, gloves, helmets, goggles, and clothing in their commercially manufactured designs are permitted. All skis must have conventionally approved and operable ski brakes. The maximum allowable distance from the bottom (flat running surface) of the ski to any point along the bottom of the ski boot sole shall be 55mm. The measurement will be taken with the boot out of the binding, but with the ski brake treadle fully compressed.

Bib – Racers must wear the racing bib issued to them by MHSAA visibly on the chest and back during competition, and while inspecting the course. The meet manager may adjust due to weather conditions to allow an outer garment to be worn over the bib during inspection. Failure to wear the racing bib issued shall result in disqualification**.** If a bib is damaged during the event, a replacement bib may be obtained by the Team Member's coach. Replacement bibs will be issued to the coach by the Electronic Timekeeper.

Helmet – Helmets designed and manufactured for the particular discipline of ski racing are required for all athletes in all meets and official training events. Helmets for giant slalom must completely cover the head (no soft ears). Helmets for slalom must have an integral chin guard. Helmets designed for slalom with soft ears are allowed. The MHSAA neither specifies nor recommends any helmet design or brand. It is the responsibility of the athlete to select an appropriate helmet and use it in the manner prescribed by the manufacturer.

Supplemental Equipment – It is strongly recommended that athletes become aware of and consider the availability and value of supplemental equipment which might include shin guards or body armor.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL AND STATE FINAL COMPETITION
To be eligible to enter the MHSAA Regional and State Final, an athlete must have competed in at least four meets with his/her school team against other MHSAA member school teams. A girl to be eligible to compete on a boys team must have at least four starts on the boys team prior to the Regional or State Finals race. Boys cannot compete on a girls ski team.

Regional Meet participation is open to MHSAA member schools. A school must enter and ski a minimum of four, and maximum of 6 skiers in each of the two events in order to be considered a team. Individual entries are not permitted in Regional competition.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT WAIVER PROCESS
Waiver for an Individual Athlete – Requests for a waiver of the participation requirements for an individual athlete may be submitted to the MHSAA Assistant Director responsible for skiing for consideration for the following purposes:

- Cancellation of meets due to weather
- Injury
- Illness; or
- Family tragedy
- Other issues outside team or athlete control

In order for the waiver to be granted, an athlete must meet the definition of a Team Member and must have been included on the master eligibility list. Waiver requests for ineligibility under MHSAA rules or school action for academic or disciplinary reasons will not be considered.

Written Waiver Requests must be made by a school representative, no later than noon of the last business day prior to the MHSAA Regional or State meet and include the following:

- **Athlete's involvement with the team since the beginning of the season**
- **Reason the athlete has not met the four start rule**

The MHSAA Director responsible for skiing and the executive director or his/her designee will decide to accept or reject the request and advise the school of their decision. If the waiver is approved, the school administration may allow the athlete's participation.

Waiver for a team – Requests for a waiver of the participation requirements for a team may be submitted to the MHSAA Assistant Director responsible for skiing for consideration for the following purposes:

- Cancellation of one or more meets due to weather or illness

Written Waiver Requests must be made by a school representative no later than noon of the last business day prior to the MHSAA Regional or State meet and include the following:

- Team's pre-arranged season schedule
- Explanation of conditions which led to meet cancellation
- Demonstrate that good faith efforts were made to reschedule cancelled meets
- Evidence that all other participation requirements have been met (Master Eligibility List, Team Roster, etc.)

The MHSAA Assistant Director responsible for skiing and the Executive Director or his/her designee will decide to accept or reject the request, and advise the school of their decision. If the waiver is approved, the school administration may allow the athlete's participation.

ENTRY IN REGIONAL AND STATE FINAL SKI MEETS

Registration for the Regional meet is completed by filing required documents with the Regional meet manager and MHSAA no later than the ski Opt-Out Date. State meet participation is determined by Regional meet results.

Entry into the Regional meet is accomplished by submitting a team run order to the Regional meet manager by the Opt-Out Date, and cannot be changed after that date.

Team Run Order Requirements – A school must enter and ski a minimum of four skiers in each of two events in order to be considered a team. Individual entries are not permitted at the Regional Meet.

Each team may have a maximum of 6 athletes per event (6 for girls and 6 for boys).

Regional and State Meet Run Order – Contestants are randomly drawn for position within each flight. For the first run of an event, the first skier from each team's run order constitute the first flight; second skiers are the second flight, and so on. For the second run of the same event, flights are run in reverse order.

Bibs will be assigned by running order of the first event in which a skier competes.

SUBSTITUTIONS

In both the Regional and State Final Meets, a school may substitute for a Team Member as long as the substitute assumes that Team Member's running position. The coach may substitute any eligible skier who meets participation requirements. Individual qualifiers to the Finals may NOT be substituted or replaced with another skier. The substitution may be made no later than the scratch deadline established by the Meet Manager. No athlete who has been scratched from an event may be re-inserted into that same event.

If a competitor is forced to withdraw due to injury, illness, or force majeure, all which must occur at the event, and there are no Team Members who meet participation requirements available for substitution, the Meet Manager *and Jury* may allow participation by the remaining Team Members *if the team falls below 4 skiers*. The scratched skier's start position will be vacant, with all other Team Members maintaining their originally assigned running positions. The remaining Team Members will be scored as individuals and have the same opportunities for medals as an individual qualifier. All substitution requirements and deadlines apply in this situation.

Snow Seed – In extraordinary conditions, the Jury may change the starting order of a slalom or giant slalom race. The Jury may start the race with the last seed that will start in reverse order of their start numbers.

The decision to run a snow seed must be made and announced no later than:

- Morning races – no later than the morning coaches meeting
- Afternoon races – decision made during the Jury's course inspection and announced prior to start of athlete inspection.

Advancement to the State Final Meet – The first, second, and third place boys and girls teams from each Regional Meet advance to the State Final. The top ten individuals in each discipline, or the top 4 individuals not on a qualifying team (whichever is greater), advance to the State Final. If an individual skier qualifies for the MHSAA Final in one discipline, (Giant Slalom or Slalom) while competing at the MHSAA Regional, the skier may compete in both disciplines at the MHSAA Ski Final.

Team run orders for the State Final meet must be submitted, using the MHSAA Electronic form, to the Final Meet Manager by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday of the week of Regionals, before the Final meet. In the event a Regional meet is postponed beyond the Monday before the State Final meet, run orders for teams competing in the postponed Regional meet are due by 4:00pm on the Wednesday before the State Final meet.

In the State Final all individual qualifiers will ski in flights 2.5 and 4.5 with equal distribution within each flight. Distribution between Flight 2.5 and Flight 4.5 will be determined by each individual's Regional meet finish. Athletes will be listed by Regional finish (i.e. – 1st place, 7th place, etc.), with the top 50% of the list skiing in Flight 2.5, and the remainder skiing in Flight 4.5. In the event there are an odd number of skiers, the top skier from the 4.5 Flight will move to Flight 2.

Individual qualifiers who qualify in one discipline but not in the other and are advanced will be placed in Flight 6.5 for the discipline in which they did not qualify. For the second run of the same event, flights are run in reverse order from the first run of that event.

SCORING

Scoring System for Teams – The combined times from an athlete's two completed runs shall determine his/her time for the race. The fastest time shall be awarded one point, second fastest time two points, and so forth. Athletes who DQ, or DNF will receive points equal to one greater than the total number of participants started in that event.
Racers are allowed to take a second run if they DNF or DQ during their first run.The DQ or DNF will stand from the first run if a second run is taken. No second run will be allowed if the racer was a DNS for their first run.

Tie Breaker
Team scores in each event shall be computed by combining the points of the team's top four finishers in each event. Team ties will be broken by adding each team's fifth place finisher points in both events to the team's total points. If a tie still exists after the fifth place calculation, the sixth place finisher's points from both events will be used. If a tie still exists, total times of the top 4 athletes in both events from each team will be totaled. The team with the lowest combined total time will prevail.

In the event of an individual tie for a position, the two athletes involved will divide the total points for that position and the next position (i.e. – in a tie for 7th place, points for 7th and 8th place will be added together for 15 points, and then divided by 2 for 7.5 points to each athlete).

State Meet Scoring:

Individual Scoring – The total times for each athlete in an event are added together, and the fastest total time is the individual champion.
Team Scoring – After determining the individual winners, all athletes not representing a team are removed from the list for scoring purposes. At that point, the Scoring System for Teams shall be applied (one point for first, two for second, etc.). The team with the lowest score wins.

REGIONAL AND STATE MEET AWARDS
Medals to the first ten individual finishers in each event (boys and girls)
Twelve medals to each winning team (boys and girls). Additional medals may be ordered through the MHSAA office at the school's expense. The order form may be found at
http://www.mhsaa.com/portals/0/documents/ad%20Forms/medal%20form.pdf

Trophies will be awarded to the top 2 teams (boys and girls).

POSTPONEMENTS FOR MHSAA REGIONAL SKI MEETS
If snow or weather conditions at a Regional ski site are such that the meet cannot be held on the regularly scheduled date, the meet may be rescheduled to occur at the original or an alternate site, any day from the originally scheduled date through the Wednesday immediately preceding the MHSAA State Final Meet.

If the meet is not completed by the Wednesday immediately preceding the MHSAA State Final Meet, that region will be eliminated from participation at the State Final Meet.

Decisions regarding postponements will be made by the Regional Meet Manager in conjunction with the MHSAA staff member responsible for skiing.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT
All athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. The Jury has the authority to penalize an athlete for unsportsmanlike conduct by adding a maximum of five points to a team's total score and/or five seconds to an individual total time. If there is a reason for a second penalty for conduct, the athlete in question will be disqualified immediately. Any points or position attained before the disqualification will be unaffected by the disqualification.

If an athlete is disqualified during the regular season, the recipient is disqualified for the rest of the contest and the next contest (i.e. – dual meet, invitational meet, etc.). If the disqualification is given at the Regional Meet, the athlete is prohibited from competing with their team for the remainder of the season. For unsportsmanlike conduct purposes, the Regional and State Final Meets are considered one meet. Seniors who are disqualified during the State Final Meet will be disqualified for the first contest of the athlete's next sport season. This rule applies to athletes and coaches alike.

MEET ADMINISTRATION

COURSE INSPECTION
Inspection time is a minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes unless otherwise designated by the Jury. Athletes may be required to inspect both courses prior to the first run. Athlete inspection is held after Jury inspection and after the Jury has opened the course. The default inspection method will be in and out and may be modified by the Jury. The course must be in racing condition from the time the athlete's inspection starts and the athletes must not be disturbed during the inspection. Athletes may inspect the course by either skiing down at the side of the course at low speed, or side slipping. Skiing through gates or making practice turns parallel to those required by the gates (shadowing) is not allowed. Athletes must carry their start numbers. Fenced, roped, or blocked off sections of the course must be respected. Athletes must be outside the race course by the end of inspection time. Athletes are not permitted to enter the course on foot without skis.

Inspection of the start gate is allowed and must be done by skiing through the start and stopping immediately outside the race line at the side of the course. Inspection of the finish area is allowed and must be done at slow speed or side slipping. The Jury may prohibit start or finish inspection due to course or weather conditions. Practicing any type of start or turn at the start, finish, or in the course is not allowed.
Failure to comply with course inspection procedure will result in disqualification.

START OF THE RACE
Start Area – The start area must be closed off to everyone except the starting athlete, accompanied by one coach, and the start officials. The start shall be prepared so that the athletes can stand relaxed on the start line and can quickly reach full speed after leaving the start.

Forerunners – The Jury will provide at least three qualified forerunners and determine their start order. Forerunners must be on the team eligibility list to forerun at MHSAA Regionals or Finals. In extraordinary conditions, the Jury may increase the number of Forerunners. The Forerunners must command sufficient skiing ability to cover the course in racing fashion. Athletes disqualified in the first run are not permitted to start as Forerunners in the second run. Athletes suspended for disciplinary reasons cannot be named as Forerunners. After an interruption of the race, additional Forerunners may be authorized as needed. Forerunner times may not be announced or otherwise made public. Forerunners may report snow or course conditions to the Referee.

Start Procedure – Providing physical advantage to, or disturbing the athlete in the start area, is forbidden. By order of the starter, the athlete must appear at the start within one minute of that announcement. Failure to enter the start gate, ready to race with equipment fully intact, within the one-minute window may result in a disqualification. The one minute to report to the starter will begin when the start is vacated by the previous racer.

By order of the starter, with the command "Ready", the athlete must plant his/her poles. The timer will then give the command "Go". The athlete will have 10 seconds to leave the start. If needed the starter will count down the last five seconds for the athlete "5, 4, 3, 2, 1". If the athlete has not left at this time they will be disqualified. The starter must not touch the athlete at the start. Pushing off from the start posts or other aids is forbidden and the athlete must start only with the help of ski poles.

An athlete who is not ready to start one minute after being called by the start official may be disqualified. The Jury may excuse such a delay if, in their opinion, the delay is due to "force majeure". For example, delayed arrival at the start due to breakdown of an athlete's personal equipment or minor sickness does not constitute "Force Majeure".

Delays caused by late arrival or absence of preceding athletes will be taken into consideration. The starter makes the decision after consultation with the Jury and must record start numbers and names of athletes who were not allowed to start because of late appearance, or who were allowed to start in spite of late appearance, or who were allowed to start provisionally. In the event of a provisional start during the first run, the Jury shall rule prior to the commencement of the second run. Provisional starts granted during the second run shall be ruled upon by the Jury at the conclusion of the race.

Start Timing – The start timing shall measure the exact time the athlete crosses the start line with his/her leg below the knee. If the athlete trips the start wand, prior to receiving the "Go" command, in the action of placing poles in the start position, it is the responsibility of the athlete to ask the starter if the clock was started. In such a case, the starter shall confer with the timer, and if the clock has started shall request a reset of the clock. No penalty or disqualification will be imposed on the athlete.

Once the athlete sets his/her poles in front of the starting line, any trip of the starting wand caused by the athlete will be considered a legitimate start.

Second Run Start – The meet manager will determine the second run start procedure. Options include starting the second run after a pre-determined number of first run flights are completed, or skiing the entire first run, and then the second run.

The Finish Area – The finish area must be plainly visible to the athlete approaching the finish. It must be wide, with a gently sloped smooth outrun to make stopping easy. Appropriate safety measures should be used to prevent collision with finish structures. The finish area should be completely fenced in to prevent unauthorized entry.
The finish line must be no less than 10 meters wide and clearly marked. All timing equipment must be protected, with the timing eye placed at shin level.

Finish Rules – The athlete's feet must cross the finish line. This can be done either on both skis, or on one ski, or in case of a fall between the last gate and the finish line, with no skis.

With electronic timing, the time is taken when the athlete crosses the line between the finish posts with any part of the body or equipment and so breaks the contact. The time can be taken for a fall at the finish before both of the athlete's feet cross the finish line. With hand timing, the time is taken when the athlete's foot crosses the line. The referee and/or electronic timekeeper are responsible for determining a legal finish.

Correct Passage – A gate has been passed correctly when both the athletes' ski tips and both feet have passed across the gate line. If an athlete loses a ski without committing a fault, e.g. not by straddling a SL or GS pole, then the tip of the remaining ski and both feet must have passed the gate line.

The gate line in GS, where a gate consists of two pairs of poles holding gate panels between them (first, last, and delay gates), is the shortest imaginary line between the turning pole and outside gate at snow level.

The gate line in SL where a gate consists of a pair of gates (hairpin, flush, and through gates) is the shortest imaginary line between the turning pole and the outside pole.

If an athlete removes a pole from its vertical position before both the athlete's ski tips and both feet have passed the gate line, the ski tips and feet must still pass the original gate line (marks in the snow). This is also valid in the case of a missing turning pole (or gate)

Hike Rule - The hike rule applies when an athlete has not passed a pole or gate correctly and must hike back to a missed gate ("Hiking"). When hiking where there is no outside pole or gate, both feet and ski tips must have passed the turning pole on the side following the normal race line of the SL or GS crossing the imaginary line from turning pole to turning pole. If a competitor has not passed the imaginary line from turning pole to turning pole and does not follow the normal race line, then the racer has to climb back up and pass around the missed SL pole or GS gate.

Disqualifications – An athlete is disqualified if he/she:

- Participates in the race under false pretenses
- Jeopardizes the security of persons or property or causes actual injury or damage
- Does not pass through a gate correctly
- Failure to wear the issued racing bib during inspection or in the competition
- Appears late at the start, makes a false start, or violates the regulations for the execution of the start.

- Loses a ski more than two gates above the finish line
- Accepts physical outside help in any form during the race
- Fails to give way to an overtaking athlete at the first call or interferes with the overtaking athlete's run per the jury.
- Illegally inspects the course
- Engages in unsportsmanlike conduct
- Fails to complete a run within two minutes of the official start
- Improper hike
- Failure to comply with course inspection procedure will result in disqualification.

Posting Disqualifications – All disqualifications must be noted and posted on the unofficial result board within 15 minutes after the last athlete has passed the finish for each run for each discipline

Re-Runs – An athlete who is obstructed while racing must stop immediately after the incident takes place and report to the nearest gate judge. He/she may apply to any member of the Jury for a re-run. This claim can also be made by the coach of an obstructed athlete. The athlete should make his/her way to the finish along the side of the course.

Grounds for Interference

- Blocking of the course by an official, a spectator, an animal, or other obstruction
- Blocking of the course by a fallen athlete who did not clear the course quickly enough
- Objects in the course such as a lost ski pole or the ski of a previous athlete
- Activities of the first aid service which obstruct the athlete
- Absence of a gate knocked down by a previous athlete that has not been promptly replaced
- Other similar incidents beyond the will and control of the athlete, which cause significant loss of speed or a lengthening of the racing line and, consequently, affect the athlete's time

Validity of a Re-Run – In case the Referee or another Jury member is unable to question the appropriate officials immediately or to judge the justification for the re-run, a provisional re-run may be granted to the athlete. This re-run will be valid only if it is subsequently confirmed by the Jury.

If the athlete was already disqualified before the incident entitling him to a re-run, the re-run is not valid.

The provisional or subsequently approved run remains valid even if it proves slower than the obstructed one.

In the event the Referee grants a provisional re-run, the athlete shall immediately return to the start area and shall be allowed to start that provisional re-run immediately. The Referee must immediately advise the Jury that the provisional re- run has been granted.

Timing System Re-Runs

The following timing systems will be used for all athlete times, in this order. A provisional re-run may be granted by a Jury member to keep the race moving but will not become official until approved by the Jury. Provisional re-run times will stand only if the electronic time is not retrievable AND the hand times cannot be validated.

1. Electronic time for the athlete's first attempt to run the course. NOTE: Electronic times retrieved during a review of the race results are valid and may not be available until the end of the race.
2. Hand time for the athlete's first attempt to run the course. Hand times will be used in the event of an issue with the electronic timing system when no electronic times are retrievable during race results review.
3. Provisional Re-Run time for the athlete will be used only in the event of a failure of both the electronic and hand timing systems.

Protests – A Jury may only accept a protest if it is based upon physical evidence or eyewitness testimony. A Jury is only permitted to re-evaluate its previous decision where new evidence exists that relates to the original jury decision.

Types of Protests, and Deadlines for Submittal

- Against admittance of an athlete: before the draw
- Against the course or its condition: not later than 20 minutes before the beginning of inspection
- Against an athlete or athlete's equipment or against an official because of irregular behavior during the competition: within 15 minutes after the last athlete has passed the finish
- Against disqualification: within 15 minutes after the posting or announcement of the disqualification
- Against the timekeeping: within 15 minutes after the posting of the unofficial result list

- Against all instructions of the Jury: immediately and no later than 15 minutes after the last athlete has passed the finish
- After these deadlines, MHSAA Handbook Interpretation No. 285 controls – "Except as provided by playing rules and MHSAA tournament guidelines for the sport involved, protest is not allowed by the MHSAA when it is based on judgment decisions of officials or on misinterpretation or misapplication of playing rules. The use of video for review on site or subsequently is not permitted unless specifically allowed by the playing rules of the sport and specifically adopted by the MHSAA.

Filing of a Protest – Protest may be made to the Referee either verbally or in writing by the athlete, athlete's coach, or duly appointed school representative.

Settlement – Any protest of the irregular execution of the race or timekeeping shall be addressed by the Referee at the end of the seed during which the event occurred who may, in his/her discretion, convene a Jury for decision prior to the start of the running of the next seed.

All other protests shall be settled by the meet manager or Technical Delegate who may, in his/her discretion, convene a Jury for decision prior to the posting of the official meet results.

Jury Composition – The Jury will be seated and have authority beginning at a minimum of 48 hours prior to the start time of the race and will be comprised of the following race officials:
- Referee
- Technical Delegate
- Chief of Race

Questions not covered by rules – The Jury makes decisions on all questions not clarified in the MHSAA Ski Manual. The Jury has the right to impose sanctions according to the rules by majority vote of the Jury members.
The Course – An event must always be decided by two runs on two different courses. A venue must be able to accommodate two separate race courses for each discipline to be eligible to host the Regional and/or State Final events.

MHSAA Meet Managers and the Technical Delegate shall facilitate communication amongst all participating coaches regarding course setting. Participating schools at the Regional Meet will be represented in course setting if qualified. Each Region shall be represented at the State Final Meet if qualified.

Setting Rules Common to Both Slalom and Giant Slalom

- The Start and Finish are gates and will be treated as such when setting per the individual event guidelines.
- Avoidance of monotonous series of standardized combinations of gates
- Gates, which impose on athletes too sudden sharp braking, should be avoided, as they spoil the fluency of the run without increasing the difficulties a modern course should have
- It is advisable before difficult combinations of gates to set at least one gate that allows the athlete to ski through the difficult combination under control
- It is not advisable to set difficult gate passages either right at the beginning or end of the course. The last gates should be rather fast, so that the athlete passes the finish at a good speed
- Where possible, the last gate should not be too close to the finish. It should direct athletes toward the middle part of the finish. If the width of the slope necessitates it, the last gate can be common to both courses, provided the prescribed color alternation is maintained
- The course may be set starting at either the top or bottom of the hill. The course setter decides with which color to begin, taking visibility into account.
- The course should be set to provide a fair run where a majority of athletes could be reasonably expected to finish
- Outside gates are required only in the following circumstances:
  - Start and Finish
  - First and Last gates
  - All through gate, delay gate, or corridor which does not require a direction change
  - **SL Only**: All combinations (delay gates, flushes and hairpins)
- All poles used in alpine events are described as slalom poles or flex gates
- Slalom and Giant Slalom poles must be two colors
- All gates on the course must be flex gates in both Slalom and Giant Slalom
- Gate height should be a minimum of 60"

- All flex gates must be the same diameter throughout the entire course
- The course should be set to provide a fair run where a majority of skiers could reasonably expect to finish.

Setting Rules Unique to Slalom

- A gate must have a minimum width of 4 m and a maximum of 6 m.
- Each Slalom course shall include a minimum of 1 flush and 1 hairpin. 1 delay gate is encouraged and recommended.
- The distance from turning pole to turning pole of successive open gates must not be less than 6 m and not more than 13 m.
- The distance between gate combinations (hairpin or vertical) must not be less than .75 m and not more than 1 m. The gates in hairpin or vertical combinations must be set in a straight line. Each gate in a combination (hairpin or flush) must not be less than 4m and not more than 6m wide. A flush will consist of three or four gates.
- Delayed gates must have a minimum distance of 6 m between successive gates and not more than 18 m from turning pole to turning pole measured through the delay gate. The delay gate shall be set to affect the race line.

Setting Rules Unique to Giant Slalom

- In GS one pair of slalom poles are used, each pair carrying a gate panel. The panels should be fixed or tied so they should tear or break away from the pole.
- The gates must be at least 4 m and at most 8 m wide.
- The distance between the nearest poles of two successive open gates must not be less than 15m and not more than 27m.
- Delay gates must have a minimum of 10m between successive gates, and not more than 35m from turning pole to turning pole measured through the delay gate. The delay gate shall be set to affect the race line.
- The gates must be set so that the athletes can distinguish them clearly and quickly even at high speed. The banner of a gate should be set at a right angle to the racing line.

Timing Equipment

For all competitions, electronic timing with communication between start and finish shall be used. The equipment will allow measurement of the times to 100th of a second which shall be the time recorded. The starting wand shall be place in such a way so that starting is impossible without it opening.

Hand Timing:

Manual (hand) timing, separate and independent of the electronic timing or a separate secondary manual or digital timing system, must be used for the Regional and State Final meets. Stopwatches that are capable of lap timing, expressing times to at least 1/100th (.01) precision, qualify as proper hand timing. Stopwatches must be synchronized prior to the start of each run.

“Time of Day” hand timing should be utilized, with one hand timer at the start gate, and one at the finish gate. Printed records, either automatic or handwritten, of recorded hand times must be immediately available at the start and at the finish.

Utilization of times taken by hand

In case of a failure in the lines of the timing system between start and finish, the hand timing or separate secondary timing system will be accepted as official results after a correction has been calculated.

Calculation of the correction

Calculate the difference between the times taken by hand and the electronic times of the five athletes starting before the missing time, and the five starting after or if necessary, the 10 nearest athletes.

The sum of the 10 time differences is divided by 10, and rounded up or down, to give the correction to be applied to the hand time of the athlete without an electronic time. Extreme deviations are to be discounted.

Hand times or a secondary timing system will be valid for all athletes in the event of a complete breakdown of the electronic timing system.

Officials

Technical Delegate (TD)

Primary duties

- See that the rules are followed

- See that the event runs smoothly
- Advise the organizers within the scope of their

duties Before the race, the TD does the following:

- Inspects the competition courses and protection systems
- Spot checks gate panels
- Collaborates in the administrative and technical preparations
- Checks on the presence of sufficient radios for all members of the Jury (with separate frequencies)
- Checks over the race courses with regard to preparation, marking, crowd control, as well as the layout of start and finish areas.
- Supervises the course setting together with the Jury
- Checks on all technical installations such as timekeeping, hand timing, communications, etc.
- Takes part in all meetings of the Jury and coaches
- Is the chair of the Jury with a casting vote in case of a tie
- If necessary, appoints members to the

Jury During the race, the TD does the following:

- Must be present in the course area
- Works closely with the Jury and the coaches
- Supervises the technical and organizational conduct of the event
- Advises the organization concerning the observance of the rules and regulations and directives of the

Jury After the race, the TD does the following:

- Presents properly submitted protests to the Jury for decision

Chief of Race

- The Chief of Race directs all preparations of the competition and supervises the technical activities.
- The Chief of Race summons meetings for consideration of technical questions and leads the coaches meetings after consultation with the TD.

Chief of Course

- The Chief of Course is responsible for the preparation of the courses in accordance with the directives and decisions of the Jury, including protection systems.
- The Chief of Course must be familiar with local snow conditions on the terrain concerned.

Referee

- Directs and controls the work of all officials
- Receives the reports of race officials about infractions and gate faults (DQ Cards) at the end of each flight
- Fills out the Referee Report after the last athlete has passed the finish for each run for each discipline.
- Shall post the Referee Report of disqualified athletes near the finish area. This will be confirmed by race officials and announced at the coaches meeting.
- Holds on to the DQ cards till the end of the event and turns them over to the finish timer. The head coach or the designated representative from the school has the right to see the DQ card.
- Authorizes re-runs, and immediately reports the authorization to the Jury
- Works closely with the TD and Chief of Race
- Calls Jury meetings for consideration of technical questions
- Should remain at the finish from the beginning of the official inspection time until the end of the event
- Recording of the order of finishing of all athletes who complete the course Supervision of the section between the last gate and the finish
- Supervision of the proper crossing of the finish line

Starter

- The Starter must remain at the start from the beginning of the official inspection until the end of an event.
- Ensures regulations for the start are properly observed
- Determines late and false starts
- Must be able to communicate with the Jury at all times
- Reports to the Jury the names of athletes who did not start and informs the Jury of all infringements against the rules, such as false or late starts or violations against the rules for equipment.
- Responsible for the warning signal and the start command as well as for the accuracy of the intervals between these signals.
- Assigns the supervision of the athletes to the assistant starter
- Adheres to the official start list
- Allows re-runs only when authorized by the Jury

- Assistant Starter
- Responsible for calling the athletes to the start in their correct order

Electronic Timekeeper (one per course)
- Responsible for the accuracy of the timing
- Administers distribution of replacement bibs
- Must publish unofficial times as quickly as possible (on the scoreboard, etc.)
- If the electronic timing fails, must communicate immediately with the Referee and Starter

Electronic Time Recorder
- Responsible for recording the electronic times of all competitors
- Is available before the race to make scratch changes on score sheets

Chief of Calculations
- Responsible for quick and accurate calculations of results
- Supervises the immediate duplication of unofficial results and the publication of official results after expiration of the protest interval, or after any protests have been dealt with

Course Setter
- Must be a current MHSSCA member and have a team or individual entered in the race
- The appointment is made by the Meet Manager
- Each run is to be set by a different qualified course setter
- Jury names a replacement course setter if necessary, and replacements must be a current MHSSCA member
- Course setting is a task of the Course Setter alone
- Responsible for adhering to the rules of the MHSAA and may request technical advice from members of the Jury. A jury member who notices an error during course set may discuss the error with the Course Setter
- Selects a crew to assist so that the Course Setter can concentrate solely on setting the course
- Must set the gates according to the respective rules
- The Course Setter must participate in all coaches meetings at which a report is to be made about their course

Chief Gate Judge
- Organizes and supervises the work of the gate judges, designates the gates each will supervise, and places them in position
- Collects DQ cards at the end of each seed for delivery to the Referee
- Offers assistance to maintain the course, and keep spectators off the course

Gate Judge

Importance of the Task of a Gate Judge:
- Each gate judge should have a thorough knowledge of the competition rules
- The gate judge is required to follow directions from the Jury
- The decision handed down from the gate judge must be clear and unbiased. The gate judge must declare a fault only when convinced that a fault has been committed
- A gate judge can consult an adjacent gate judge in order to confirm his/her opinion. He/she can even demand, via a member of the Jury, that a race be briefly interrupted so that a check can be made of the tracks on the course
- When an adjacent gate judge or member of the Jury makes a report concerning an athlete which differs from the notes of the gate judge in question, the Jury may freely interpret these notes in view of a possible disqualification of an athlete or of a decision concerning a protest.

Giving Information to an athlete
- An athlete, in the case of an error or a fall, is permitted to ask the gate judge if a fault was committed
- A gate judge, if asked, must inform an athlete if he/she has committed a fault that would lead to disqualification
- In either case, in a clear and concise voice, the gate judge answers the athlete's question or informs him/her with one of the following words:
  - "Go!" – if the athlete should expect no disqualification, since the gate judge has ruled the gate passage as correct
  - "Back!" – if the athlete may expect disqualification
- The athlete him/herself is fully responsible for his/her action, and cannot hold the gate judge responsible
- The opinion of the public cannot be allowed to influence the gate judge's judgment. Likewise, the gate judge may not accept the opinions of witnesses, even though they be experienced.

- Immediate Announcement of Disqualifying Faults
- The Jury may decide the gate judge will signal a disqualifying fault immediately by raising a flag of a particular color, by a sound or signal, or by other means as provide by the organizers
- The gate judge must record all infringements on his check card regardless of immediate announcements
- The gate judge is required to give information to the Jury members on request

Duties of the Gate Judge on completion of the 1st and 2nd runs

- The chief gate judge (or an assistant) is required to collect all the check cards immediately after each run and to pass them on to the Referee in the finish

Duties of the Gate Judge at the Conclusion of the Race

- Each gate judge who has recorded a disqualifying fault or who has been witness to an incident leading to a re-run must be available to the Jury until after the settlement of any protests

Supplemental Duties of the Gate Judge

- The gate judge may be asked to perform other duties after he/she performs his/her required function, including the replacement of gate poles and torn or missing panels
- He/she should assist in keeping the course clear and removing any markings made on the course by athlete or third parties
- An athlete who is obstructed during his/her run must top immediately and report this to the nearest gate judge. The gate judge must enter the details of the incident on his check card and have the care available for the Jury at the end of the 1st or 2nd run. The athlete may apply to any member of the Jury for a re-run.

Location and Support of the Gate Judge

- The gate judge must be so placed that he/she can properly observe the terrain, gates and course sections for which he/she is responsible. He/she should be near enough to be able to take prompt action, but distant enough not to hinder the athlete
- Organizers are obliged to outfit the gate judges so that they are readily identifiable. Identification or clothing should be of a color that will not be confused with a gate panel.
- The gate judge must be in their location well before the start of the run.
- Any equipment necessary to permit the gate judge to perform his/her assigned duties should be provided

Administration

Each team in the MHSAA Regional and State Final Meets must provide two workers (ski or hill qualified) for each gender for both morning and afternoon events (i.e. – 4 morning event workers, and 4 afternoon event workers). In the event a team is not able to provide the qualified workers, a member of the team's coaching staff will fulfill the responsibility assigned to that team.

Failure to comply will subject the team to unsportsmanlike conduct sanctions consisting of 5 points added to the team's total score.

PROCEDURES FOR SUSPENSIONS/DISQUALIFICATIONS AT MHSAA TOURNAMENTS

COACH

General – Unless a school or the MHSAA applies additional conditions, suspension from coaching requires at least that the coach not be at or near the team bench before, during or after the contest, not be in or near the locker room before, during or after the contest, and not give instructions directly or indirectly to coaches or players from any position in or near the gymnasium or field of play. If a school fails to enforce a suspension which is required by the MHSAA, tournament management shall require the coach to comply with the terms of suspension and shall report the school to the MHSAA for further action. If the coach fails to comply with the terms of suspension, tournament management shall report the school and coach to the MHSAA, which shall prohibit the school from the remainder of the current tournament and impose additional penalties as circumstances warrant. NOTE: Suspensions are required for violations of Regulation I, Section 10 and Regulation II, Section 13(A) and 15 and may be imposed under Regulation V in all other circumstances.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct in Previous Contest – A coach who is ejected during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be prohibited by his/her school from coaching at or attending at least the next day of competition for that team. This is true even if the coach is a parent of a player. If a school fails to enforce the subsequent disqualification with respect to its coach or the coach fails to comply, the tournament manager or any registered official or representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA, which shall prohibit the school from the remainder of the current tournament. NOTE: Reference Regulation V, Section 3(D).

PLAYER/COMPETITOR

General – Unless a school or the MHSAA applies additional conditions, a suspended player is treated as an ineligible player, which means that student shall not participate. It is permissible, but is not recommended, that the player may sit with the team, even in uniform. The minimum requirement is that the suspended student shall not enter the contest as a participant. If a school fails to enforce a suspension required under MHSAA regulations with respect to one of its students, tournament management or any representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA for further action, which shall include (but not be limited to) forfeiture of the contest and thus elimination from the remainder of the tournament. NOTE: Suspensions are required for violations under Regulation I, Sections 10, 11, 12 and 13 and Regulation II, Section 15 may be imposed under Regulation V in all other circumstances.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct in Previous Contest – A player who is ejected during a contest for sportsmanlike conduct shall be withheld by his/her school for at least the next day of competition for that team. If a school fails to enforce the subsequent disqualification with respect to one of its students, the tournament managers or any registered official or representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA, which shall prohibit the school from the remainder of the current tournament. NOTE: Reference Regulation V, Section 3(D).

COACH AND PLAYER

Any coach who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct two or more times during a season, any player who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct three or more times during a season, and any coach or player who is ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing or intentionally and aggressively physically contacting an official at any time during that season, is not eligible to participate in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season. If the tournament disqualifying ejection for that individual occurs during the MHSAA tournament, that player or coach is ineligible for the remainder of that tournament. The school of the disqualified coach or player must prohibit that person from being present on the property of the tournament venue for the remainder of the tournament series. If that school fails to enforce this, the tournament manager, any registered official or representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA, which shall prohibit the school from the remainder of the current tournament.

MHSAA POLICIES

CONCUSSION PROTOCOLS

"Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional."

The language above, which appears in all National Federation sports rulebooks, reflects a strengthening of rules regarding the safety of athletes suspected of having a concussion. This language reflects an increasing focus on safety and acknowledges that the vast majority of concussions do not involve a loss of consciousness.

This protocol is intended to provide the mechanics to follow during the course of contests when an athlete sustains an apparent concussion.

1. The officials will have no role in determining concussion other than the obvious one where a player is either unconscious or apparently unconscious. Officials will merely point out to a coach that a player is apparently injured and advise that the player should be examined by a health care professional for an exact determination of the extent of injury.
2. If it is confirmed by the school's designated health care professional that the student did not sustain a concussion, the head coach may so advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may reenter competition pursuant to the contest rules.
3. Otherwise, if competition continues while the athlete is withheld for an apparent concussion, that athlete may not be returned to competition that day but is subject to the return to play protocol.
    a) The clearance may not be on the same date on which the athlete was removed from play.
    b) Only an MD, DO, Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner may clear the individual to return to activity.
    c) The clearance must be in writing **and must be unconditional. It is not sufficient that the M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner has approved the student to begin a return-to-play progression. The medical examiner must approve the student's return to unrestricted activity.**
    d) Individual school, districts and leagues may have more stringent requirements and protocols including

but not limited to mandatory periods of inactivity, screening and post-concussion testing prior to the written clearance for return to activity.

4. Following the contest, an Officials Report shall be filed with a removed player's school and the MHSAA **if the situation was brought to the officials' attention.**
5. **Member schools are required to complete and submit forms designed by the MHSAA to record and track head injury events in all levels of all sports.**
6. In cases where an assigned MHSAA tournament physician (MD/DO/PA/NP) is present, his or her decision to not allow an athlete to return to activity may not be overruled.

Return to Activity & Post-Concussion Form –
https://www.mhsaa.com/portals/0/documents/health%20safety/returntoplay.pdf

INJUNCTION OR RESTRAINING ORDER PROCEDURE
"In the interest of fairness to all participants, if an injunction or restraining order is served or presented at an MHSAA tournament site and such purports to require the eligibility of or participation by a student or team which a school and/or the MHSAA has ruled to be ineligible under MHSAA regulations, the on-site tournament manager is to suspend the entire competition (team competition) or events in which that student is intending to participate (individual competition). If the meet has begun, it shall be completed."

MEDICAL EMERGENCY POLICY
Host school Tournament Managers should follow all local school district policies regarding medical emergencies for participating athletes, coaches, students and adult spectators for competition conducted in school facilities. It is advised that AED devices be readily available during tournament competition. In addition:

- Athletic Trainers are an allowed expense and encouraged, but not required.
- All MHSAA concussion protocols will be followed.
- MHSAA tornado watches and warnings shall be followed.

When MHSAA tournament contests are conducted at non-school facilities, plans should be developed for the following needs and/or circumstances:

- Student, coach and spectator shelter for outdoor events.
- Host facility emergency equipment such as AEDs, fire escape, etc.
- Emergency communications, i.e. phone numbers, school administration contact.
- Coordination with facility management regarding evacuation, first aid, on-site responsibilities.
- Medical transport or first responder contact procedures.
- Proximity/directions of nearest medical facility.

Tournament Medical Incident Report –
https://www.mhsaa.com/portals/0/Documents/AD%20Forms/medical%20incident.pdf

NON-ADVANCEMENT POLICY

1. Individuals or teams which are defeated by an ineligible opponent or teams which allowed one or more ineligible students to participate do not advance in MHSAA tournaments.
2. If placements in MHSAA tournaments are vacated because of an individual being ineligible or a team allowing one or more ineligible students to participate, other individuals or teams neither advance to those placements nor receive awards for those places.

SPECTATOR INSTRUCTIONS
Tournament management may request that spectator sections not stand during play if standing will block the view of other spectators. If possible, policies which prohibit spectator sections from standing during play should be communicated to participating teams in advance of their arrival at the tournament site.

SPECTATOR POLICIES
The policies of the local host site shall prevail with respect to pets/animals. In the absence of local host policy, animals or pets shall not be permitted to enter MHSAA tournament venues; including spectator and team areas. However, properly marked or documented service animals which are leashed or harnessed always may accompany spectator paying admission or attending with other approved team or school personnel. Individuals who bring service animals are asked to bring their own waste disposal bags and request special seating in advance of the event if this is needed.

TAUNTING - MHSAA Handbook Regulation V, Section 3, "Sportsmanship"
Interpretation No. 288: Taunting includes any actions or comments by coaches, players or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background, and conduct those attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs or personal matters.

Examples of taunting that would lead to ejection include, but are not limited to, "trash talk"; physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game; reference to sexual orientation; "in the face" confrontation by one player to another; standing over/straddling a tackled or fallen player.

Interpretation No. 289: In all sports, officials are to consider taunting a flagrant unsportsmanlike foul that disqualifies the offending bench personnel or contestant from that contest/day of competition (and next contest/day of competition). A warning may be given but is not required before ejection.

Interpretation No. 290: At all MHSAA tournament venues, tournament management may give spectators on warning for taunting. Thereafter, spectators who taunt others are to be ejected by security.**TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL POLICY**
Use of alcohol or tobacco, including e-cigarettes or other smoking devices, is prohibited at MHSAA tournament events by players, coaches and spectators. Managers should stress in coaches' meetings that they are not to use tobacco at the tournament venue.

TOURNAMENT WITHDRAWAL POLICY
Tournament management is to contact the MHSAA office if a school withdraws or fails to show for scheduled competition after the draw is completed for team sports or the pairings, heat assignments or flights are determined for individual sports of the first level of the MHSAA tournament in a sport. The MHSAA staff person responsible for the sport will request from the school principal a written explanation for the no-show/withdrawal. If the reason is determined to be unacceptable by MHSAA staff, the MHSAA Executive Director will place the school on probation for the next two school years. A second offense within the two-year-probationary period will cause the school to be prohibited from tournament play in that sport for the two years following the second offense.

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (DRONE) POLICY
The use of unmanned aerial vehicles ("UAV"), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at MHSAA tournament venues. Tournament management shall refuse admission or entry to anyone attempting to use a UAV; and if necessary, tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a UAV and/or confiscate the UAV until the event has been completed. For purposes of this policy, a UAV is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device.

An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for MHSAA broadcast partners, provided the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of UAVs for broadcast purposes under the control of the MHSAA

SECURITY CHECKLIST/EMERGENCY ACTION PLANNING
Prior to each event, a systematic approach must be taken to establish proper security and planning for the specific nature of each event. With appropriate security, the event will be conducted in an environment that limits risk to spectators and athletes. The staff and management will be prepared to prevent, anticipate and handle problems and emergencies.

Listed below is a basic checklist which will be adjusted accordingly for each event.

1. Review changes – In the preplanning stages, review any changes to be made from the previous year's event.

2. Meet with the head of security – Prepare to meet with the head of security for the event and host management. Written materials outlining needs, location, hours to work and responsibilities should be prepared.

3. Review ushers assignments – In your meeting with site representatives and security, review how many security officers will be in place and their location. Review ushers assignments and any supervisory responsibilities they will have. Provide, in writing, specific policies you have which would prohibit specific actions. Be certain to plan carefully for entrance and exit to playing area and by whom.

   Know who you will be making contact with for specific problems and/or emergencies. Having access to immediate communication such as through a walkie-talkie is invaluable.

Discuss how problems in the crowd will be handled. For example: Crowd behavior will first be channeled through the school administration and if severe will go to security; standing in aisles or the throwing of objects, sitting in restricted areas will go through the workers; and potential problems with crowd location will work with association staff, the school administrators and ushers.

4. Written Emergency Action Plan – Prepare a written plan for emergency situations. Steps should be outlined in advance as to the procedures to be followed during the event of an emergency (i.e. weather, crowd, structure, catastrophic injury.) Public address announcements, AED placement, security personnel assistance, emergency procedures, etc., need to be discussed.

5. Who needs to know – Host administration needs to work with any sponsoring organization to determine a core group of individuals that would need to be involved if a major decision regarding the event needs to be made. Representatives of the officiating crew, host administration, security, etc., depending on the situation that arises, may need to be involved.
6. Public Relations – Thought needs to be given to the statements that will be made to the spectators in the event of an emergency and/or necessary change of venue. The announcer must be kept apprised of changing circumstances so that attendees can be kept calm and knowledgeable of action to be taken. Further, following an occurrence the media should be provided with a statement regarding the situation and its handling. Coverage of the event will be more accurate if administration works proactively with the media.

7. Contingency Plan – A Contingency Plan should be in place to deal with a facility, structural or equipment problem that would prevent the contest from taking place. Back-up sites and/or equipment should be arranged. Further, the event contract should address the settlement that would take place if the contest is canceled or moved.

8. Entry/Exit Plan – All administrators involved in oversight of the event need to be familiar with the entries and exits at the site. This information needs to be readily at hand for the announcer as well.

9. Parking and Traffic Flow – Host administration and security officials need to address parking arrangements and the flow of traffic. Assistance from local police/sheriff can assist in this process. High traffic times should be identified; preparations and schedules should be set accordingly.

10. Crowd Expectation – Expectations of spectators, teams and schools need to be outlined in advance. Such groups need to be made aware of these expectations through documentation and/or announcements.

11. Wrap-Up – Every event must be followed by a thorough evaluation. Such evaluations would include discussions with entities involved in the various aspects of the event, and a written document outlining procedures that worked well, problems that occurred and suggestions for the future.

FAQs

Who makes the rules and regulations for the MHSAA ski season?
The MHSAA Ski Committee filters proposals received from member schools, coaches' associations, and member school coaches. The MHSAA staff member responsible for ski racing sets the agenda. Proposals approved by the MHSAA Ski Committee are sent to the Representative Council for consideration.

How are the Regional Assignments made?
MHSAA sets the tentative Regional school grouping, and then the MHSAA Ski Committee is charged with final review.

Are there equipment requirements and/or restrictions?
Participants must wear helmets in both slalom and giant slalom events. Requirements are defined in the equipment section of the rules document.

What documents are required for participation?
Athletes must provide the following documents prior to participating in competition:

- Physical form
- USSS meet schedule
- High School Meet schedule

Are there requirements for Post Season (Regional and State Meet) participation?
There are team and individual participation requirements. Each team must have 4 or more contests against participating MHSAA member teams during that current season; each individual must compete in at least 4 meets with his/her team against another MHSAA member team. Individual entries are not permitted in the Regional Meet competition.

How is a team defined?
A team must have a minimum of 4 participants and may be comprised of varied genders. Any team containing at least 1 male team member will compete in the male category.

Is there a procedure for waiving participation requirements for the Regional and State Meets?
Yes, waiver requests may be submitted to the MHSAA Assistant Director responsible for skiing for consideration for the following purposes:

- Cancellation of meets due to weather
- Injury
- Illness; or
- Family tragedy

For the waiver to be granted, an athlete must have been a member of the high school team since the earliest practice, including dry-land training, classroom preparation, and on-hill practice. The athlete's name must also have been included on the master eligibility list.

Where can I find more information? MHSAA.com

Competition and practice guidelines for Cold - https://www.mhsaa.com/sites/default/files/Skiing-Boys/2022-23/Cold%20weather%20policy%20SMAC%20and%20Ski%20Committee.pdf

DEFINITIONS

The MHSAA Ski Committee is comprised of approximately 12 people representing ski coaches, athletic directors, principals and superintendents from schools who sponsor the sport of ski racing. The committee serves two years and discusses all things ski racing that their annual meeting with the MHSAA Assistant Director responsible for skiing. The MHSAA staff receives nominations for the committee each year and ensures representation from all facets of ski racing as they select potential committee members. The ski committee meets once a school year discussing ski racing and makes proposals to the MHSAA Representative Council for potential changes or enhancements to the sport.

The MHSAA Representative Council is the legislative body of the MHSAA. There are fourteen elected, one ex-officio and four appointed members of the Representative Council and they represent many segments of the state's public, private and parochial secondary schools. The Representative Council's primary responsibility is to develop rules and regulations that tend to promote fairness in competition for the student athletes and a balance with other educational programs and activities of schools. The Council receives requests for rules changes and modifications on an annual basis and discusses those in their three meetings each school year. The Representative Council attempts to ensure that competition is conducted in a fair and sportsmanlike atmosphere.

Club Competition – Two or more ski clubs competing against each other, either during a scheduled meet or as part of a practice event.

Club Practice – A single ski club holding competition between members for practice purposes.

High School Meet – A meet in which two or more high school teams compete against each other.

NASTAR – Public timed races open to anyone age 5 to 85 where awards are presented based on age and handicapped time.

Non-Sanctioned Event – Competition in which an athlete competes as an individual during the high school season.

Opt-Out Date – The Monday before Regional week at 4:00 p.m. – which is the registration deadline for the Regional Ski Meet.

Sanctioned Event – USSS meets on the annual MHSAA sanctioned meet list.

Team Member – An athlete who has been a member of the high school ski team since the earliest practice within the MHSAA season, including dryland training, classroom preparation, and on-hill practices.