

2024-25 MHSAA SWIMMING AND DIVING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – East Lansing

MEMBERS PRESENT

Darryl Belton, Ostego
Rob Damuth, Grand Rapids (MISCA)
Casey Kern, Haslett
Ian Kobes, Hudsonville
Dan Mesyar, Onekama
Jackie Rank, Oxford
Chris Riker, Portage

Mitch Smelis, Fenton (MATS)
Connor Thomas, Mason (MIAAA)
Michael Venos, Birmingham

MHSAA STAFF

Andi Osters (Recorder)

The 2024-25 MHSAA Swimming and Diving Committee met in the John E. “Jack” Roberts MHSAA building to review swim and dive topics and championships for both girls and boys. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision-making process and the charge of the Swimming and Diving Committee. Agenda items from correspondence, staff, committee members, and the swim coaches association were compiled.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

REVIEW OF MHSAA FINALS SITES

The committee discussed the three venues most recently used for MHSAA Championship meets: Holland Aquatic Center, Eastern Michigan University, and Oakland University. Feedback was shared related to all three sites. Several new facilities are currently under construction around the state, which will create additional hosting opportunities for the future.

VERIFIABLE ELECTRONIC ENTRY TIMES

The Representative Council approved a 2024 proposal from this committee related to entry times; specifically, that all times entered for both individual and relay events at the MHSAA Championship Meet must be times that (a) are the fastest achieved in actual varsity competition during the current season and (b) can be electronically verified on SwimCloud.com. Committee members shared anecdotes on this new process and expressed some concern related to costs incurred by swim coaches to join and/or use specific software and websites that may become prohibitive. Work will continue to streamline the entry process and create standardized electronic formats for both student grade levels (Soph. vs “10”) and school abbreviations that exceed six characters in length.

OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING

The committee took time to review *MHSAA Handbook* Interpretation 240, which expressly permits member schools to request a waiver of the 4-player limitation for coaches in several individual sports, based upon their role with an outside business or facility. The spirit and intent of this waiver process was to prevent full-time aquatics directors from unintentionally violating out-of-season coaching limitations simply because of their primary source of income. High school swim coaches who also choose to coach club swim programs do not automatically qualify for this type of waiver, based upon the criteria listed in the regulation. The committee asked that more scrutiny be given to this type of waiver request, first by the MHSAA Director of the sport and then by the Executive Committee.

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

Current sponsorship of swimming and diving for both girls and boys has remained relatively steady for the past four years, with approximately 209 member schools sponsoring girls teams and 202 sponsoring boys teams. However, the number of student-athletes competing on those respective teams has diminished slightly. With the addition of girls field hockey in the fall, and the continued

growth of girls flag football, committee members expressed some concern about the potential impact these two additions could have on girls swimming participation numbers.

LAST CHANCE MEETS

A conversation took place surrounding "last chance" meets, specifically that all meets adhering to NFHS playing rules must be (1) pre-arranged between competing schools, (2) contracted in advance with meet officials and (3) offer all events. This item will be a point of emphasis in the 2025-26 MHSAA Rules Meeting for both coaches and officials.

Discussion also occurred on emergency action planning, AED requirements, the 2024 MHSAA Update Meeting Survey results, and diving judging analysis data from Finals events.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

None.