



## **PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION 2026 MHSAA BOYS/GIRLS TRACK & FIELD**

### **1. TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

The MHSAA Boys & Girls Track and Field tournament is conducted in four equal Divisions as established by enrollment. Schools are assigned to one of ten Regional meets in each Division for their initial assignment by a site selection committee and MHSAA staff, based on geographical considerations. Tournament assignments are posted on the MHSAA website and included in the spring Tournament Notification Form sent to schools.

#### **Tournament Dates**

Regional Meets – May 14, 15 or 16

UP Regional Meets – May 13, 14, 15 or 16

Finals Meet – May 30

Finals Locations:

#### **Lower Peninsula:**

**Division 1 – Rockford High School**

**Division 2 – Hamilton High School**

**Division 3 – Kent City High School**

**Division 4 – Hudsonville HS @ Baldwin MS**

**Upper Peninsula – Kingsford HS (Division 1,2 & 3)**

### **2. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES**

#### **Qualification from Upper Peninsula (UP) Regional Meets to the UP Final Meet**

In Divisions 1, 2, and 3 of the UP Regional Meets, the following qualification standards apply:

- The top four finishers in all individual track and field events will qualify for the UP Final Meet.
- The first and second-place relay teams at each Regional Meet will also qualify.
- In Divisions 1 and 2, the best third and fourth-place times across all Regional sites will receive additional qualifying spots for the Final Meet.
- All Regional Entry Times must be FAT (Fully Automatic Timing) or converted to FAT.

#### **Qualification from Lower Peninsula (LP) Regional Meets to the LP Final Meet**

In LP Regional Meets, athletes and teams qualify for the LP Final Meet under the following guidelines:

- The top two finishers in each event at each Regional Meet will automatically qualify.
- In running event finals, any athlete who meets or exceeds the published additional qualifier standard will also qualify for the LP Final Meet in that event and division.
- Performances during preliminary trials may be used to qualify for the appropriate LP Final Meet in field events (long jump, shot put, and discus).

The MHSAA track and field web page has a chart of times, distances, and heights for additional qualifications to Regional and Final Meets.

## Early Qualification

### Early Qualification (EQ) Meets – Lower Peninsula (LP)

Early Qualification Meets must meet specific requirements and receive prior approval from the MHSAA. All EQ meets must be submitted for approval before the season begins and no later than the designated deadline (April 15, 2026). New EQ meets will not be accepted after the deadline.

To be considered for approval, an EQ meet must meet the following criteria:

- Be officiated by two certified officials
- Use Fully Automatic Timing (FAT)
- Include participation from six or more complete teams (A “team” is defined as a full squad representing a school or organization—not a select or partial group)
- Weigh and certify implements (shots and discs), as well as certify the correct poles used in competition
- Must be conducted on an outdoor track, with meet results being posted to Athletic.net, and with an Officials Verification form within two days of the completion of the meet.
- Be held between the official start of the season (March 18, 2026) and the Wednesday before Regional Weekend (May 13, 2026)

### 2026 Early Qualifier (EQ) and State Qualifier (SQ) Standards – Lower Peninsula (LP)

#### EQ – Early Qualifier

An athlete who achieves the published EQ standard in any round of a valid, pre-approved meet is automatically qualified to participate in the LP State Final for that event. Valid meets must meet all MHSAA requirements (e.g., use of FAT timing, participation of 6+ complete teams, etc.).

Key points regarding EQs:

- EQ marks may be achieved at Regional Meets, including **preliminary heats**, provided the meet meets all standards.
- If an athlete attains an EQ in the prelims of the **100m, 100m/110m Hurdles, or 200m**, they must **also compete in the final** of that event at Regionals to remain eligible for the State Final
- EQ standards are more stringent than the regular State Final qualifying marks and are based on a **three-year average of 6th-place finishes** at the Finals in each division.

#### SQ – State Qualifier

Any LP athlete who achieves the published SQ standard in a **field event (any round)** or the **final round of a running event** at a Regional Meet will automatically qualify for the LP Final in that event, regardless of placement.

- SQ marks are determined by the MHSAA Track & Field Standards Committee.
- These standards are based on a **three-year average of 2nd-place finishes** at Regionals within each division.

**Individual Entry** – All Regional Entry times must be true times using FAT or adjusted to FAT. All times must be from the current outdoor season, and if questioned, the entering coach must provide the date, location, and opponent when the time was achieved. Times must be entered as FAT times to the hundredth (.00) or handheld equivalent (e.g. 10.23 hand time is first rounded up to 10.3, then add .24=10.54 converted time)

**300-meter HURDLES, 400-meter DASH, 400-meter RELAY, 800-meter RELAY, AND 1600-meter RELAY AT LOWER PENINSULA REGIONALS; AND QUALIFICATION TO THE LOWER PENINSULA FINALS** - The number of sections at Regionals in each event is to be determined by the Meet Managers, depending upon the number of entries in each event. One relay team or individual per lane constitutes a full section. If there is only one individual or relay team in the first section, the individual or team with the slowest time in the second section will run in the first section. The second section will then have one empty lane. All teams are to be timed in each

section, and the two fastest times and additional qualifiers from each Lower Peninsula Regional will qualify for the Lower Peninsula Final Meets.

### **Waterfall and Double Waterfall Start Guidelines** *(Applicable to the 800m, 1600m, 3200m, and 4x800 Relay)*

#### General Cut-In Procedures:

The cut-in procedures are similar across waterfall start formats, provided athletes are properly aligned at the start.

#### **Single Waterfall Start:**

- May be used when there are 24 or fewer entries, unless officials determine it is too crowded.
- All runners may cut in immediately after the start, provided they do not interfere with others.
- If 24 runners are deemed too many, officials may use 18 athletes as a practical limit for a single waterfall.

#### Seeding Tip:

For optimal flow, place higher-seeded athletes in the outermost positions of the waterfall arc. This allows them a clearer path to the inside without being obstructed by slower competitors on the outside.

#### **Double Waterfall Start:**

- Recommended when the field exceeds the capacity for a single waterfall start.
- Divide the field so that one-third (1/3) of the runners—typically the better seeds—start at the upper/front waterfall line, and the remaining two-thirds start at the back waterfall line.

#### *Example:*

- 30 competitors: Seeds 1–10 line up at the upper waterfall line, and seeds 11–30 line up at the back waterfall line.
- Again, place top seeds toward the outside of each waterfall line for a smoother cut-in.

#### Cut-In Rules:

- Upper Waterfall Line (lanes 5–8): Runners must stay in their lanes until the break line on the back straightaway (same cut-in line used for the 4x400 relay).
- Back Waterfall Line: Runners may cut in as soon as it is safe to do so, without interfering with others.

Heat Sizes & Race Assignments: 800m, 1600m, 3200m, and 3200m Relay

#### Scratch Process:

After scratches are made from the scratch sheets, the number of heats to be run will be determined by the number of remaining athletes or teams.

#### **3200m Run**

- 1 heat if there are fewer than 35 competitors.
- 2 heats if there are 36 or more competitors.
  - The fastest 24 athletes plus ties will compete in the final heat.

#### **1600m Run**

- 1 heat if there are 26 or fewer competitors.
- 2 heats if there are 27 or more competitors.
  - The 18 fastest athletes plus ties will be placed in the final heat.

## 800m Run

- 1 heat if there are 20 or fewer competitors.
- 2 heats if there are more than 20 competitors.
  - If there are 21 to 26 competitors, the 12 fastest plus ties will run in the final heat.
  - If there are more than 26, the 18 fastest plus ties will run in the final heat.

## 3200m Relay

- At Regionals: Only 1 heat per gender.
- At the Finals:
  - 14 or fewer teams: 1 heat.
  - 15 to 27 teams: 2 heats, with the 12 fastest teams plus ties in the final heat.
  - 28 or more teams: 3 heats, with the 12 fastest teams plus ties in the final heat.

## Waterfall Start Procedure & Placement

The following races will use waterfall starts with a one-turn stagger at all Regional and Final Meets:  
800m, 1600m, 3200m, and 3200m Relay

- Cut-in point: At the beginning of the back straightaway. (Should be marked with cones or markers.)
- Upper waterfall (lanes 5–8): Runners must stay in their lanes through the first turn and cut in at the designated line.
- Back waterfall: Runners may cut in immediately if it does not cause interference.
- Meet managers should place visible markers at the cut-in location.

## Regular Season Meets:

If desired, waterfall starts may also be used for the 800m, 1600m, and 3200m.

## Final Meet Placement Based on Regional Performances

- Athletes and relay teams with the fastest Regional times will be assigned to the last (fastest) heat at the Finals.
- Assignments will continue in order of qualifying time, with earlier heats including those with slower qualifying marks.
- All races must be filled to capacity whenever possible, except for the first (slowest) heat, which may have fewer participants if needed.
- All entrants must be timed, and the eight fastest times overall—regardless of heat—will be recognized for scoring and medal awards.

## Event Order Notes

- **At all Regional and Final Meets, boys' and girls' events alternate throughout the meet.**
- **In even-numbered years, boys' events are run first.**
- **In odd-numbered years, girls' events are run first.**
- **In 2026, boys' events will be held first.**
- **At Regionals, the 3200m Relay is the first running final, scheduled before any sprint or hurdle qualifying rounds**

**Field Events – Regional and Final Meets** - In Regionals and the Upper and Lower Peninsula Final Meets, the following regulations are in effect for conducting the field events:

**Field Event Order Regional and Final –**

**EVEN YEARS: Girls discus, pole vault, and long jump first. (Followed by Boys discus, pole vault, and long jump) Boys shot put and high jump (Followed by Girls shot put and high jump)**

**HIGH JUMP** - The starting height at Lower Peninsula Regionals is to be based on a height three inches less than the additional qualifying standard for Regional and Final Meets. (Rounded to the nearest lesser inch). This height has been adjusted to allow one of the raises to fall on the additional qualifying standard to the Final Meet.

IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER LOWER PENINSULA MANAGERS SHALL BEGIN THE HIGH JUMP THREE INCHES BELOW THE PUBLISHED STARTING HEIGHT. The bar then is to be raised three inches the first time, and thereafter follow the chart until there is the number of contestants left equal to or less than the number of places to be awarded. When this number is reached, the bar is to be raised one inch only for each successive jump.

**POLE VAULT** - The starting height at Lower Peninsula Regionals is to be based on the standard raise chart. The starting height shall be increased as indicated on the Standard Raises chart until nine competitors remain. Thereafter the bar shall be raised three inches.

At Upper Peninsula Regionals and the Final Meet, the meet manager will determine the starting heights of the bars without reference to Lower Peninsula standards.

IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, LOWER PENINSULA MANAGERS SHALL BEGIN THE POLE VAULT 12 INCHES BELOW THE PUBLISHED STARTING HEIGHT. The first two raises shall be 6-inch raises; thereafter, follow the chart on the following pages of this document. NOTE: Seven competitors will advance from preliminary to Final competition at the Regional level, and nine competitors will advance from Preliminary to Final competition at the MHSAA Finals.

**RELAY ENTRIES** - Any student on the Master Eligibility List may represent his or her school on a relay team in Regional competition if they are eligible according to meet regulations. Schools qualifying relay teams for the Final Meet may use any eligible contestant in the Final Meet Relay. Final Meet Relay contestants are not limited to the four individuals who qualified in a Regional Relay.

**200-Meter DASH IS TO BE RUN ON THE CURVE** - The 200-Meter Dash is to be started with staggered starts on the straightaway and be run through one full curve at all Regionals and at the Final Meet, where possible.

**QUALIFYING RACES** - The Lower Peninsula Final will conduct Qualifying Rounds in the following events when there are more than 8 entries (9 for a nine-lane track) remaining after the scratch sheets are submitted: 100-Meter Dash, 200-Meter Dash, 100-Meter 33" Hurdles and 110-Meter High Hurdles. There are no semifinal runs of these events.

**REGIONALS:** Regionals will conduct qualifying rounds in the following events when there are more than 8 entries (9 for a nine-lane track) remaining after the scratch sheets are submitted. 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, 100 meter 33" Hurdles and 110 meter high hurdles

**ADVANCING ATHLETES FROM QUALIFYING ROUND TO FINALS –**

- Heat winners from each heat and then the fastest times are to fill all remaining available lanes.
- 2 Heats – 2 heat winners, 6 fastest times to fill available lanes
- 3 Heats – 3 heat winners, 5 fastest times to fill lanes
- 4 Heats – 4 heat winners, 4 fastest times to fill lanes

Finals: The 3200-meter Relay will be the first final running event before the preliminary heats of the sprint and hurdle events.

**300-METER LOW HURDLES** - The 300-Meter Low Hurdles at all Regionals and Final Meets (where possible) are to be run so that the curve is in the middle of the race.

**MHSAA Track & Field – Adaptive and Wheelchair Events**

The MHSAA Regional and Final Track & Field tournaments will include a designated **Adaptive and Wheelchair Division** for eligible student-athletes. Four events will be offered in this category:

- 100 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters, Shot Put

#### Eligibility Requirements:

- Participants must be eligible team members and meet all standard MHSAA eligibility criteria.
- Athletes must be listed on their school's Master Eligibility List.

#### Participation Requirements:

- **Regional Meet:** To compete in a wheelchair event at a Regional, a student must have participated in that same event at **two regular season meets**.  
*Example:* To compete in the wheelchair 100m at Regionals, the student must have raced in the 100m at two regular season meets.
- **Final Meet:** To compete at the Finals, a student must have participated in the event during the **Regional meet** and at **two regular season meets**.  
*Example:* To qualify for the wheelchair 100m at Finals, the student must have raced it during Regionals and two regular season meets.

#### Awards & Recognition:

- **Individual MHSAA medals** will be awarded for each wheelchair event at both the Regional and Final levels.
- **Results will be published** on MHSAA.com alongside all other meet results.
- **Wheelchair event results will not contribute to team scores** at either the Regional or Final meets.

**STARTING BLOCKS** - If Regional or Final Managers provide starting blocks for contestants, they must be used. Schools may furnish their own starting blocks for the Regional and Final competitions only if the managers do not include non-traditional standing-start blocks. Starting blocks provided by schools must be approved by the Regional and/or Final management.

**INQUIRIES** - Questions not covered by the above information should be addressed to Regional Managers, Final Managers or to the MHSAA office.

**UNIFORMS - RULE 4.3.1c** – Each competitor shall wear a school-issued or school-approved full-length track top and track bottom or one-piece uniform. Any outer garment (e.g., t-shirts, sweatpants, tights) that is school-issued or school-approved becomes the official uniform when worn.

A single manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference, no more than 2¼ square inches with no dimension more than 2¼ inches, is permitted on the top or one-piece uniform. **Bottoms may have the manufacturer's logo/trademark/references larger than 2¼ square inches around the waistband.**

There is no longer a head attire or temporary body adornment rule for Track and Field.

Additional restrictions for relay teams. All relay team members must wear uniforms that clearly indicate, through the predominant color, school logo, and the color combination of all outer garments, that they are from the same team.

### 3. OPT-OUT POLICIES, ELIGIBILITY LISTS, ROSTERS

**Lower Peninsula Entries** – Regional entries are due no later than Tuesday, May 12, at 11:59 p.m. All Divisions' complete entries will include the electronic submission as detailed on the MHSAA website and a complete Master Eligibility List submitted to the host manager by 11:59 p.m. May 12, 2026. Only clerical corrections will be accepted after this date and time.

**Times must be entered as FAT or the FAT handheld equivalent, adjusted by rounding up to the nearest whole tenth and then adding .24.**

**Opt-Out Procedures** - Each school may enter a boys team and a girls team in the Regional Meet only if they have bona fide teams (See Regulation II, Section 1(B). A maximum of THREE INDIVIDUALS may be listed by a school for each bona fide team in EACH INDIVIDUAL EVENT at Lower Peninsula Regional Meets. However, only two may compete unless all three or more have met the additional qualifier standard.

FOUR INDIVIDUALS may be entered and compete in EACH INDIVIDUAL EVENT at Upper Peninsula Regionals. Opt-Out materials are to be in the hands of the Regional Managers NOT LATER THAN Tuesday, MAY 12, 2026 at 11:59 P.M. There are to be no changes on the Master Eligibility List after this date. Coaches are urged NOT TO ENTER individuals in events IN WHICH THEY DO NOT HAVE COMPETITIVE PERFORMANCES.

**Lower Peninsula Late Entries**, for CLERICAL ERRORS ONLY and accompanied by the \$50 fee will be accepted until Regional individual positions are set. The late fee may not be used to change an entry time, height or distance. The only changes which are permitted will be scratches or clerical errors. All efforts submitted to the Regional Meet Manager shall have been earned prior to the Entry due date. Late entries may not include efforts that occur after Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

**Scratches** - Each Regional Manager will accept scratches before each session begins. Scratches made during these periods will not count in the individual's participation limitations. However, if the competitor is not scratched during these scheduled periods and does not show up at the clerking area before that runner's position is set, the competitor will be disqualified from that event, and that event will count toward the competitor's personal limit. The Clerk of Course shall form heats following the last call for that event. Only two of the three contestants listed in the school's official entry (with current season **OUTDOOR** times, heights, and distances) will be allowed to compete in that individual event. (Refer to the following paragraph for additional entrants.) Should one of the three entries not be scratched during or before the scratch period, the Clerks of Course will have the authority to scratch the last listed individual for that school.

**Regional Meets Additional Entrants** -- If three (3) or more entries by a school team in an event have equaled or bettered the published additional qualifier standard, compiled from the results of the most recent outdoor seasons, all these entries may enter and compete in the Regional Meet in that event. The time or distance must have been established in an actual outdoor meet competition prior to submitting the entry information and must be verified. NO RELAY SPLITS will be accepted.

**Finals Meet Entrants** -- Only qualifiers from Regional Meets may compete in the Final Meets.

**Final Meet Materials** -- Each Regional Manager will report the qualifiers to the Final Meet Manager as directed by the adopted procedure. Only those reported Regional qualifiers will be allowed to compete in Final Meets. The Regional Entry and Eligibility Information will be in effect for the duration of the time members of that team are qualified to compete in Regional or Final competition. Coaches are not to send this material to the Final Manager.

#### 4. DRAW PROCEDURES – NA

#### 5. TIME SCHEDULES

**Regional Meets** - Field event Preliminaries may start one (1) hour before the first track event Preliminaries. WHEN POSSIBLE, MANAGERS CONDUCTING REGIONAL MEETS ON A SCHOOL DAY ARE TO SCHEDULE STARTING TIMES TO MINIMIZE LOSS OF SCHOOL TIME. Field Event Preliminaries are to start not earlier than 9 a.m. on Saturday. Regional Managers will notify competing schools of exact starting times. At Regional and Final Track Meets, the afternoon schedule shall begin one hour after the last Semifinal event concludes, but no earlier than noon.

**Upper Peninsula Final Meet** - Preliminaries - 10 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time).

**Lower Peninsula Final Meet** - Session I - 10 a.m.: Session II shall begin one hour after the last Semifinal event concludes, but no earlier than 12 noon. NOTE: Pole Vault and Long Jump in all classes may begin at 9 a.m. A minimum of one-half hour must be observed between the last throw of the shot (or discus) and the first throw of the discus (or shot). In addition, there must be a minimum of one hour between the boys and girls competition in the following events: discus, high jump, long jump, shot put and pole vault.

#### 6. AWARDS

**Regional & Final Meets** - Schools finishing in first place at each Regional will receive a trophy. Individual medals will be awarded to contestants finishing in the first eight places in each event in Lower Peninsula Regionals. No formal awards ceremony will be conducted. Each manager is to place the school's medals in envelopes, which the coach will pick up at the end of the meet. Extra medals will be provided for tied positions at Regional Meets. Trophies will be awarded to schools that finish in the top two positions at all Final Meets. Individual medals will be awarded to contestants finishing in the first eight places in each event in the Lower Peninsula Final Meets. Requests for duplicate medals or trophies are the responsibility of the Regional or Final Manager.

## 7. LIMITS OF COMPETITION

A maximum of 18 days of competition is allowed for the regular season, and a student may participate in no more than four events per meet. MHSAA tournament events do not count against season maximums.

## 8. FINANCES

**Final Meet Expenses** -- The cost of conducting Final Meets will be met by MHSAA. Any gate receipts realized will be used by MHSAA to help cover the administrative costs of the meets. **LODGING WILL NOT BE PROVIDED BY HOST INSTITUTIONS.** The cost of lodging, transportation, and meals will be met by competing schools.

## 9. OFFICIALS, SELECTION, ASSIGNMENTS

The MHSAA will assign officials for Final Meets, and Regional meet managers hire and pay officials.

## 10. PLAYING RULES/ADAPTATIONS

MHSAA Return to Play Guidelines and All National Federation Track & Field rules will be followed.

## 11. MEDIA

Local managers process all media credential requests at the District, Regional, and Quarterfinal levels. The MHSAA will handle credential requests for Semifinal and Final games.

**Videotaping:** Competing schools may videotape games in which they compete. The tape is not to be used to second-guess decisions made by game/meet officials. The tape may not be sold, rented, or loaned for commercial purposes. Schools wishing to videotape games at other sites may do so without securing advanced permission but must tape from the stands unless press box space is available.

**Media Taping -** Members of the media may, without paying a fee, arrange with the local tournament manager to take clips of MHSAA events for news programs. Under no conditions may an MHSAA event be taped for showing in its entirety without advance clearance through the MHSAA.

**Spectator Videotaping –** Spectators may tape games from their normal seating area, but are not to interfere with the view of other spectators or news media personnel covering the activity. A manager is not required to provide electrical hook-ups or tripod space and may arrange spectator videotaping from a designated location(s).

**Radio/TV broadcast requests -** No radio, television, or cable origination is permitted at any site until an application has been made through the MHSAA, a fee has been paid, and authorization has been given by the MHSAA through the tournament manager. Arrangements for taped delayed broadcasts and fee payments must be made through the MHSAA office.

**PARTICIPATING TEAM/SPECTATOR VIDEO STREAMING (POSTSEASON) -** The broadcast and streaming rights of MHSAA post-season tournament events belong exclusively to the N-F-H-S Network, the M-H-S-A-A, and those media outlets that have pre-arranged to secure those rights. **Teams participating in MHSAA Tournaments are prohibited from streaming live video of any portion of an event over the Internet, including using social media platforms or any other method. Likewise, individual spectators are also prohibited from live-streaming video through any means.** Participating schools are responsible for informing their students, parents, and other fans of this policy and, upon request, assisting the MHSAA in enforcing it. Participating schools are asked to help promote where their game may be viewed when being streamed by the MHSAA, one of its television partners, or a media outlet that has pre-arranged to secure such rights. Only one stream per site is allowed.

## 12. SPORTSMANSHIP

**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 for at least the next day of competition. This is true even if the coach is a player's parent. A coach serving the disqualification penalty shall not be on the premises. 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. (Regulation V, Section 3(D)).

**Player -** 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 not recommended for the player to sit with the team, even in uniform. The minimum requirement is that the suspended student may not participate in the contest. 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.

**Unsportsmanlike Conduct in Previous Contest** - A player who is ejected during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be prohibited by his/her school from playing for at least the next day of competition. If a school fails to enforce the subsequent disqualification against 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 participating in the remainder of the current tournament.

**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.

**13. WEATHER POLICIES, SUSPENSIONS, POSTPONEMENTS** – MHSAA policies regarding 30-minute delays for thunder and lightning and tornado watch/warning policies will be followed.

#### **14. INJUNCTION, RESTRAINING ORDER, PROTESTS**

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 intends to participate (individual competition). If the meet has begun, it shall be completed.

Protests will not be reviewed by the MHSAA. All disputes must be resolved on-site before the game proceeds. The umpires will make the final decision regarding game events. The Tournament Manager will resolve all concerns about the next game.

**15. LOCKER ROOM PRIVACY POLICY:** Using devices of any kind to capture or transmit images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, dressing areas, training rooms, weigh-in rooms, showers, restrooms, or other areas where there is an expectation of privacy during MHSAA tournament events. Tournament managers or athletic directors who discover such use should move immediately to have the device removed and inform the head coach or athletic director of the identity and nature of the activity of the person involved.

#### **16. 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.

**Tobacco:** It is not intended that a violation of the tobacco policy should lead to immediate ejection of a coach. He or she should be reminded of the policy and reported to his or her school administration after the contest. Only if the coach is unwilling to comply promptly shall he or she be disqualified from coaching at the event. Officials should be reminded of the tobacco policy, and the tournament manager should report in writing to the MHSAA.

**Alcohol:** Historically, officials promptly disqualified coaches, and tournament managers immediately replaced officials who were under the influence of alcohol; and no change in such procedures is intended by these policies.

#### **17. SPECTATOR POLICIES – NA**

**18. YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY** - During the MHSAA Tournament events, the MHSAA expects all designated managers, volunteer or paid staff assisting in the event, officials or any other personnel to follow local school district policy and state statute regarding the mandatory reporting of child abuse, bullying, hazing and sexual harassment. A report of such activity shall be made to legal authorities and to the MHSAA Executive Director or his designee.

**19. 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.

**20. 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.” This language, which appears in all National Federation sports rule books, reflects a strengthening of rules regarding the safety of athletes suspected of having a concussion. Some sports rules required officials to remove from play any athlete who was “unconscious or apparently unconscious.” This new language reflects an increasing focus on safety, given that the vast majority of concussions do not involve a loss of consciousness. This protocol is intended to provide the mechanics to follow during contests when an athlete sustains an apparent concussion.

1. The officials will have no role in determining a concussion other than the obvious one where a player is either unconscious or apparently unconscious, as is provided for under the current rule. Officials will merely inform a coach that a player appears to be injured and advise that the player be examined by a health care provider to determine the extent of the 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.
  - An MD/DO/PA or NP may clear the individual to return to competition.
  - The clearance must be in writing.
  - The clearance may not be on the same date on which the athlete was removed from play.
  - An Official's Report shall be filed with the removed player’s school and the MHSAA.
4. In cases where an assigned MHSAA tournament physician (MD/DO) is present, his or her decision not to allow an athlete to return to competition may not be overruled.

#### [RETURN TO ACTIVITY & POST-CONCUSSION CONSENT FORM](#)

**21. 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:

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

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

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