

2025-26 MHSAA UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, February 16, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – held in Marquette and via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Berutti, Iron River
Rob Fay, Houghton
Vince Gross, Whitefish Township
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace (Advisory)
Chris Hartman, Kingsford
Sean Jacques, Calumet

Jack Kumpula, Lake Linden
Sam Larson, Menominee
Jake Skewis, Negaunee (Advisory)

MHSAA STAFF

Cody Inglis (Recorder)
Will McKoy (Zoom)
Jeff Spedoske (Zoom)

The Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee (UPAC) met in person, with multiple MHSAA staff joining virtually for specific discussion topics and official selection. Meeting materials were provided. A review of the December 2025 Representative Council minutes and the September 2025 UPAC minutes was completed.

The UPAC welcomed new member Rob Fay from Houghton and new advisory member Jake Skewis from Negaunee. The committee also provided a preview of the fall 2026 election cycle for both UPAC and the Representative Council. Additionally, the committee reviewed *MHSAA Handbook* sections that govern UPAC operations. Correspondence was shared, including a UP football official recommendation and UP volleyball assigning email.

The UPAC discussed at length the UP Track & Field Regionals and Finals process for classification and advancement from Regionals to Finals. This followed the MHSAA Track & Field Committee discussion about the same topic, based upon correspondence and a desire to change the process and classification from Manistique HS. While the UPAC indicated a willingness to consider an adjustment for this, the UPAC would like this to be a topic for more than one school and to see how any potential change would impact all schools. Further discussion will occur at the April UPAC meeting and the April UP AD in-service, both to be held in Marquette. There will be no change to the current system for the 2025-26 spring season.

SKI FINALS

Monday, February 23, 2026

Division 1 - West Bloomfield at Boyne Mountain, Boyne Falls

Division 2 - Orchard Lake St. Mary's at Schuss Mountain, Bellaire

ICE HOCKEY

Division 3 Region 17: Hosted by Painesdale-Jeffers (Painesdale-Jeffers, Calumet, Hancock, Houghton) Advances to QF 9 on February 28, 6 p.m. @ NMU, Berry Events Center, hosted by Negaunee HS.

Division 3 Region 18: Hosted by Marquette - Non-Traditional (Escanaba, Kingsford, Manistique, Marquette, Negaunee, Sault Ste. Marie) Advances to QF 9 on February 28, 6 p.m. at Berry Events Center, NMU hosted by Negaunee HS.

Semifinals & Finals Tournament: will be played at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth on March 5-7.

Discussion on the site of the UP Quarterfinal will continue as this is the first year for NMU and Berry Events Center to host this game. Future sites will continue to be discussed as long as all UP schools are in Division 3.

SWIMMING & DIVING FINALS

Saturday, February 20-21, 2026 - Marquette HS

BASKETBALL REGIONALS

BASKETBALL	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Boys-DIV 2-3	R9 SF - Munising	R9SF - Manistique	R9SF - Manistique
	R17F - Manistique R17SF - Marquette	R17F - Sault Ste. Marie R17SF - Marquette	R17F - Newberry R17SF - Kingsford
Boys-DIV 4	R25F - Negaunee R25SF - Houghton R25SF - Kingsford	R25F - Negaunee R25SF - Houghton R25SF - Kingsford	R25F - Negaunee R25SF - Houghton R25SF - Kingsford
	R26F - Sault Ste Marie R26SF - Manistique	R26F - Cheboygan R26SF - Sault Ste. Marie	R26SF - Sault Ste Marie
Girls-DIV 2-3	R9SF - Manistique	R9SF - Sault Ste. Marie	R9SF - Manistique
	R17F - St Ignace R17SF - Escanaba	R17F - St. Ignace R17SF - Escanaba	R17F - Newberry R17SF - Negaunee
Girls-DIV 4	R25F - Marquette R25SF - Houghton R25SF - Kingsford	R25F - Marquette R25SF - Sault Ste. Marie R25SF - Kingsford	R25F - Ish Westwood R25SF - Houghton R25SF - Kingsford
	2R5SF - Brimley	R26SF - Brimley	R26SF - Sault Ste Marie

BASKETBALL QUARTERFINALS

Division 4 #13 Boys – Gladstone HS

Division 4 #13 Girls – Gladstone HS

SELECTION OF UP BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

Boys Basketball Official Selections, Monday, Feb 16, 2026

Girls Basketball Officials Selections, Monday, Feb. 23, 2026 - 8:30 a.m. EST, Zoom

Boys Basketball Semifinal: Mike Heyboer, Kevin Patana

Boys Basketball Final: Randy Rovelsky

BASKETBALL	2023	2024	2025
Boys Final	Adam Karki	Steve Nordstrom	Mike Amarose
Boys Semifinals	Steve Nordstrom	Mike Amarose	Randall Rovelsky Kevin Patana
Girls Final	Jeff Simpson	Barry James	Joseph Strong
Girls Semifinals	Barry James	Joseph Strong	Kevin Thomma Elmer Albright

TRACK & FIELD REGIONALS - 2026

Site selection for UP Track & Field Regional sites was conducted with the following schools selected to host. The MHSAA will confirm sites and dates with selected host schools and publish Regional assignments on MHSAA.com.

UP Regionals site selection - May 13, 14, 15, or 16, 2026

D1 - Kingsford HS and Manistique HS

D2 - Gwinn HS and Bark River-Harris HS

D3 - St. Ignace HS, Rapid River HS, Ishpeming HS and Lake Linden-Hubbell HS

Host schools will select approved MHSAA officials, dates and timing companies of their choosing. The committee asked if Track & Field Regional selection can occur at the fall 2026 UPAC meeting to allow schools more time to plan. MHSAA staff will work to accommodate this for future years.

2026 TRACK & FIELD FINALS

May 30, 2026, Hosted by Kingsford HS

2026 JH/MS TRACK & FIELD REGIONALS

Discussion about JH/MS Regional sites in the UP - JH/MS Regional hosts were selected and will be hosted on May 27, 2026, by Calumet HS, Ishpeming HS and Rudyard HS. MHSAA staff will confirm sites and dates with selected host schools.

GOLF FINALS

The 2026 UP Finals are to be held between May 26 and May 30, 2026. The UPAC selected sites and school hosts, and MHSAA will confirm dates with the host schools.

D1 - Escanaba HS at Sweetgrass/Sage Run

D2 - Painesdale-Jeffers HS at Portage Lake Golf Club

D3 - Munising HS at Pictured Rocks Golf Course

TENNIS FINALS

Confirmed sites in 2026 for boys and girls

2026 Boys Tennis – May 27, 2026

D1 - Ishpeming Westwood HS

D2 - Iron Mountain HS at Kingsford HS

2026 Girls Tennis – TBD

D1 - Negaunee HS

D2 - Ishpeming HS

CROSS COUNTRY FINALS

2026 UP Cross Country Finals Discussion and Site Selection:

Houghton HS was selected to host in 2026 at the Michigan Tech Nordic Ski Trails. The committee also developed a rotation for future MHSAA UP Cross Country Finals events to include: 2026 at Houghton, 2027 at Sault Ste. Marie, 2028 - Central UP, 2029 - Central UP.

JH/MS MHSAA Cross Country Regionals: 2026 hosts were selected: Houghton HS, St. Ignace HS and Marquette HS.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

A review of 2026 selected UP hosts and sites were completed.

SPRING UP ATHLETIC COMMITTEE DATE

Thursday, April 25, 2026, 8:30 a.m. EST - Holiday Inn, Marquette

UP ATHLETIC DIRECTOR IN-SERVICE

Friday, April 24, 9:30 a.m. EST - Holiday Inn, Marquette