

2026-27 MHSAA UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – held in Marquette and via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Berutti, Iron River
Rob Fay, Houghton
Vince Gross, Whitefish Twp. (Zoom)
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
Andi Osters (Zoom)
Will McKoy (Zoom)
Jeff Spedoske (Zoom)

The meeting began at 8:30 a.m. and committee members reviewed the agenda and previous meeting minutes. The committee met in person, with select MHSAA staff joining via Zoom for specific discussion topics, including the selection of officials in volleyball and football.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

General topics included correspondence and updates on the UPAC elections, UP Golf, MHSAA tournament updates, UP involvement in LP tournaments, and UP track & field and tennis division discussions. Additional topics included a preview of the MHSAA Update meeting presentation on October 16.

Discussion centered on UP Track & Field Regionals, Finals, and divisions. Data was shared on the number of participants in each division, the enrollment disparity within those divisions, especially in Division 1 with the strong desire to keep the UP Finals at one location in Kingsford. Two requests were reviewed and considered, including adjusting divisions to classes and adjusting the number of teams in Division 1. The committee supports capping Division 1 in UP Track & Field at the largest 10 schools by enrollment, with the remaining Class C schools forming Division 2, with no changes to Division 3. That would maintain the regional structure, not change the qualification procedures, and allow a more natural enrollment break with schools competing against similarly sized schools. The committee also addressed early qualification standards but there is no strong desire to change the qualification procedures. The committee voted unanimously to recommend this change to the Representative Council at their December 2026 meeting.

There was discussion about UP boys' tennis, as the number of teams has dwindled to the point of considering moving to one division instead of the current two. Chris Hartman will work with Dan Hutcheson, MHSAA Assistant Director, on a plan ahead of the UPAC meeting in February of 2027.

Discussions about various sports topics, including dates, venues, and specifics, were detailed to the committee.

2026 FALL SPORTS:

Cross Country

Finals: Oct. 24 - Michigan Tech University Nordic Ski Trails - Houghton HS

Boys and Girls UP JH/MS Cross Country Regionals

Oct. 23 - Michigan Tech University Nordic Ski Trails - Houghton HS

Oct. 13 - Doc Holle's Silver Mtn. Ski Area - St Ignace HS

Oct. 21 - Pictured Rocks Golf Course - Munising HS

Girls Volleyball

Districts: Nov. 2-7

Regionals: Nov. 10 & 12

Quarterfinals: Nov. 17

Semifinals: Nov. 19-20 - Kellogg Arena, Battle Creek

Finals: Nov. 21 - Kellogg Arena, Battle Creek

*Officials selection assignments were completed with MHSAA staff guidance.

Football

11-Player -

Districts: Oct. 30 - Nov. 7

Regionals: Nov. 13 or 14

Semifinals: Nov. 21

Finals: Nov. 27-28 - Ford Field, Detroit

8-Player -

Regionals: Oct. 30-Nov. 7

Semifinals: Nov. 14

Finals: Nov. 21 - NMU Superior Dome, Marquette

*Officials selection assignments were completed with MHSAA staff guidance. The UPAC will help select replacement officials.

**8-player trophy presenter will be Sean Jacques.

2026-27 WINTER SPORTS:

Bowling

Regionals: Feb. 17-20

Finals: Feb. 26-27

D1 - Thunderbowl, Allen Park

D2 - Century Bowl, Waterford

D3 - Jax 60, Jackson

D4 - Northway Lanes, Muskegon

Competitive Cheer

Districts: Feb. 12-13

Regionals: Feb. 20

Finals: CMU McGuirk Arena

D4 & D1 - Feb. 26

D3 & D2 - Feb. 27

Ice Hockey

Regionals: Feb. 15-24 - D3 - TBD

Quarterfinals: Feb. 27 - D3 - TBD (neutral site)

Semifinals: March 4-5 - USA Hockey Arena, Plymouth

Finals: March 6 - USA Hockey Arena, Plymouth

*(All nine UP teams are in D3)

Wrestling

Individual -

Districts: Boys - Feb. 13

Girls - Feb. 14

Regionals: Boys - Feb. 20

Girls - Feb. 21

Finals: March 5-6 - Ford Field, Detroit

Team -

Districts: D2 & D4 - Feb. 10

D1 & D3 - Feb. 11

Regionals: Feb. 17

Finals: Feb. 26-27 - Wings Event Center, Kalamazoo

*Alpha Weigh-In: Oct. 19 - Jan. 31

Gymnastics

Regionals: Feb. 27 - Rockford HS

Finals: March 5-6 - Milford HS

Skiing

Regionals: Feb. 8-12

Finals: Feb. 22

D1 - Schuss Mtn. - Bellaire HS

D2 - Boyne Mtn. - Boyne Falls HS

Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving

Finals: Feb. 20 - Marquette HS

2027 SPRING SPORTS:

Track & Field

Regionals: May 19, 20, 21 or 22

Finals: June 5 - Kingsford HS

Golf

Finals: June 2, 3, 4 or 5 - TBD

2026-27 SPRING & FALL SPORTS:

Tennis

Girls Finals: Sept. 30-Oct. 3

D1 - Sept. 30 - Negaunee HS

D2 - Oct. 1 - Ishpeming HS

Boys Finals: June 2-5

D1 - Negaunee HS

D2 - Ishpeming HS

Soccer

Boys -

Districts: Oct. 14-24

Regionals: Oct. 27-31

Semifinals: Nov. 4

Finals: Nov. 7 - Grand Ledge HS

Girls -

Districts: May 26-June 5

Regionals: June 8-12

Semifinals: June 15-16

Finals: June 18-19

*Any District with a UP team will be non-traditional, with no named host; the higher-seeded team will host.

Next meeting dates:

Feb. 15 - Winter UPAC Meeting & BBB Officials Selection - Marquette & Zoom - 8:30 a.m.

Feb. 22 - GBB Officials Selection - Zoom only

April 22 - Spring UPAC meeting - Marquette - 1 p.m.

April 23 - UP AD In-Service meeting - Marquette - 9:30 a.m.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MHSAA STAFF

1. UP Boys Tennis discussion about divisions will be conducted with staff and UPAC, including Chris Hartman, to formulate a plan using sport-related numbers and data, including draws, seeds, and a potential recommendation to the UPAC in February of 2027.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Cap the number of schools in UP Division 1 Track & Field to ten schools, with the remaining Class C schools forming Division 2, and no change to Division 3.