



TEAM WRESTLING FINALS SEEDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 22, 2026

In May 2008, the MHSAA Representative Council passed the following seeding policy for the Team Finals. In May 2010, it was revised to allow more than four teams to be seeded based on the committee's discretion.

“For the Team Final tournament, seed the top teams in each division and draw the remaining teams into the bracket (if any teams remain unseeded) for the Quarterfinal round of wrestling. This will be done by a seeding committee that will identify the top teams in each division. Each team will submit a required team season summary form (*record, opponents, scores, etc.*), and the committee will assess each team. In resolving issues, the seeding will be based on the following criteria:

- 1) Head-to-head competition; if tied, the most recent winner prevails.
- 2) Record against common opponents.
- 3) A team with an exceptional record vs. acknowledged strong opposition.
- 4) Majority decision of the seeding committee.

If a school representative is on the seeding committee and their team advances to the Quarterfinal round, that individual would be replaced on the committee for that year.

The **2026** seeding committee met via video conference call at 7:00 am on **February 22**. This year's committee members included the following individuals:

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| - Colin Burandt, Dowagiac | - Don Markel, Cass City | - Adam Schihl, Clinton Twp. |
| - Chris Dunham, Portage (MWA) | - Brian Martel, Mason | - Scott Strickler, Lapeer |
| - Quinn Guernsey, Howell | - Major Mickens, L'Anse Cruse | - Louis Vasilion, Olivet |
| - Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake | - Taylor Misel – St. Joes | - Joe Wood, Lapeer |
| | - Shawn Murray, Sterling Heights | |

All committee members had received the dual-by-dual data for all Team Finalists before the virtual meeting. Discussions took place using the published criteria for seeding the teams in each Division. This year, the committee seeded all four Divisions 1-8; no teams were drawn into the bracket.

As the conversations took place, it was clear that the committee again looked favorably upon those teams that wrestled a quality schedule against acknowledged strong opposition. When there were no head-to-head competition or common opponents, and the schools being considered for seeds also had similar strength of schedule, the committee discussed other known data prior to making the final seeding determination through a vote of the committee members.

The Division 3 bracket (with a Team Regional still pending) was discussed and seeded with the possibility of each of the 3 remaining teams advancing. At the conclusion of that competition, the correct bracket for D3 (based on which team advances) will be posted at that time.

Pairings for the **2026** Team Finals were posted at MHSAA.com following the conclusion of the virtual meeting on Sunday, **February 22**.