

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.
CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK AND FIELD REGULATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2014, 9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Brandon Bates, Erie	Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Chris Ceresa, Highland	Brian Macomber, Rockford
Chris Christensen, Addison	Amy McNeil, Waterford
Lew Clingman, Grand Rapids	James Okler, Grosse Ile
Mike Dennisuk, MITCA	Mike Roberts, Hillsdale
Dave Emeott, Kentwood	Dan Roggenbaum, Jackson
Foster Findley, Reese	Fred Smith, Buchanan
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock	Rick Smith, Eaton Rapids
Sonita Harris, South Lyon	Dan Wytko, Portage
Dave Jones, Mason	Stephen Zaranek, Grosse Pointe, MITCA

Members Absent:

Derek Atlas, Detroit

MHSAA Staff Present:

Nate Hampton
Mark Uyl
Cody Inglis

The committee met for the purpose of reviewing specific National Federation sport rules and MHSAA tournament policies, and interpretations that are applicable to Track and Field and Cross Country during the regular season and MHSAA tournaments. The following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to staff for inclusion in tournament information and recommendations that will advance for Representative Council consideration.

Following the welcome, introductions, statement of committee purpose and the committee relationship to the Representative Council, the committee discussed the following:

1. 2013 Committee Minutes and Recommendations
2. Health and Safety Concerns
 - Heat & Humidity
 - MHSAA Fall Sports Preseason Guide
3. Cross Country Discussion:
 - 2014 Final Site- Michigan International Speedway
 - MHSAA Cross Country post season tournament – Oct. 24-25, 2014
 - Review of 2013 Cross Country Tournament
 - Timing and Results
 - Online Rules Meeting
 - The committee reviewed the 2013 Cross Country tournament series. Discussion took place on the Regional assignment process and the inconsistency of some regionals having more full teams than others.
 - The committee discussed four proposals:
 - A. MITCA Proposal – Adding District round to the current tournament format
 - i. Districts would be created using the current Division enrollment breaks
 - ii. 15 Districts Per Division
 - iii. 5 Regionals – Possible addition to this being the Regional round (following the District) where teams would be seeded/divided using the four Regionals
 - B. Supper Regional
 - i. Current Tournament Format (Regional/Finals)
 - ii. 5 Regionals per Division (28-30 Team Finals)
 - iii. Top 8 teams/Top 30 individuals advance to Finals in D1 and D2
 - iv. Top 7 teams/Top 25 individuals advance to Finals in D3 and D4
 - C. Seeded Tournament Model

- i. Using current rankings as of October 1, seed the Regional field
 - ii. Top 18 teams – 2 assigned per Regional site
 - iii. Remaining schools assigned by geography
 - iv. Boys/Girls would compete on different/or same day
 - D. Additional Team Qualifier - Automatically qualify the 4th place team when 11 or more complete teams finish a Regional race – with the top 15 individuals advancing to the Finals after team qualifiers have been identified
- 4. Sixth grade students participating with 7th and 8th grade students – The committee was in support of 6th grade participation
- 5. 7th and 8th Grade Participation Limits & Event Order – The committee did not have concerns regarding current limits of competition or the current order of events.
- 6. Scrimmage Limitations – The committee did not have concerns for the number of allowed scrimmages or their use during the season
- 7. Track and Field Discussion:
 - Regional Assignments
 - Track and Field 2014 Final Sites:
 - Division 1: Rockford HS
 - Division 2: Grand Rapids – Houseman Field
 - Division 3: Comstock Park HS
 - Division 4: Hudsonville HS
 - Upper Peninsula – Kingsford HS
 - All Star Contest
 - National Federation Rules Changes
 - Track and Field Additional Qualifier Standards
 - Participating School Tournament Information
 - Standards Committee Recommendation – Pursuant to the Track and Field Committees Recommendation to move toward Fully Automated Timing for all Regionals the Committee discussed the following:
 - A. Consistent method to advance athletes in the 110m (boys), 100m (girls) hurdles and the 100m and 200m dashes with the elimination of the Semifinal rounds in these events.
 - B. Using FAT as the unit of Timing for all Regional entry and results

**Recommendations to MHSAA Staff for Implementation
in the Track and Field 2014 Tournament**

1. MITCA – Change field event order to the following:
 - Even Years – Girls High Jump, Long Jump and Shot Put first followed by the Boys High Jump, Long Jump and Shot Put then Boys discus, Pole Vault first followed by the Girls discus and Pole Vault
 - Odd Years – Boys High Jump, Long Jump and Shot Put first followed by Girls High Jump, Shot Put and Long Jump then Girls discus and Pole Vault first followed by Boys Discus and Pole Vault (18-0 in favor)
2. ATOM – Allow head attire to have a manufacturer logo or a school logo or mascot, not to exceed 2 ¼ inches by 2 ¼ inches
3. Finals Order (all Divisions)
 - 100m Hurdles, 110m Hurdles, 200m Dash and 100m Dash – Advance qualifiers from the preliminary round heat winners and the next fastest times to fill all available lanes (18-0 in favor)
4. Timing:
 - Recommend all Regional sites use FAT timing
 - Adjust current Additional Qualifier Standards to the FAT equivalent
 - Regional host will determine the software, procedure and meet operating system
 - All Regional results will be recorded in FAT (18-0 in favor)
 - Change to a single entry date for all Divisions – in 2014, 4pm Tues., May 13 (18-0 in favor)

Recommendations to the Representative Council

1. Cross Country - Given that there are some cross country seasons that are 12 weeks as opposed to 13 weeks when the season calendar is based on Thanksgiving, the committee recommends that the Finals date (Nov. 1, 2014) will be used and count backward 13 weeks for the season's first practice date. (Mon., Aug. 4, 2014) (13-4 in favor)

2. Cross Country - The committee recommends that the Regional school assignments should be consistent with the following:
 - School assignments should occur in the fall
 - School assignments to regional sites should be based on a seeded tournament model and will be guided by the michigancrosscountry.com rankings and the MHSAA staff input
 - Not more than 2 teams (ranked at that time) should be assigned to the same regional site
 - Boys and Girls teams from the same school will not be split into separate regionals
 - Geography should be the basis for all other assigned schools outside of the top 18 in each division (18-0 in favor)