

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.  
CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK AND FIELD REGULATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
January 20, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Chris Ceresa, Highland  
Phil Christiansen, Maple Valley  
Lew Clingman, Grand Rapids  
Julie Duffing, Traverse City  
Mike Dennisuk, MITCA  
Tim Erickson, Rockford  
Foster Findley, Reese  
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock  
Sonita Harris, South Lyon  
Steve Lynn, Harbor Beach  
Brian Macomber, Rockford  
Kyle McKown, Clare  
Amy McNeil, Waterford

Charles Miller, Mason  
Mike Nesbitt, Auburn  
Peter Norman, Napoleon  
James Okler, Grosse Ile  
Mike Roberts, Hillsdale  
Brian Salyers, Highland  
Fred Smith, Buchanan  
Nancy Smith, Northville  
Megan Thayer, Madison Heights  
Michelle Watkins, Detroit  
Mark Werley, Zeeland  
Scott Werner, Westphalia

**MHSAA Staff Present:**

Nate Hampton (Recorder)  
Cody Inglis

**Members Absent:**

Derek Atlas, Detroit  
Jerry Haggerty, Hamilton

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. 2014 Committee Minutes and Recommendations
2. Health and Safety Concerns
  - Heat & Humidity
  - Should the MHSAA consider defining a "too cold temp for competition?"
  - Health & Safety training for coaches
  - Coaches requirement for rules meeting or in the alternative specific online courses
  - Practice Policies
  - Sub varsity participation/Non-scoring
3. Cross Country Discussion:
  - 2015 Final Site- Michigan International Speedway – Saturday, November 7, 2015
  - MHSAA Cross Country post season tournament – Regionals Oct. 30-31, 2015
  - Timing and Results – an update on the potential use of live scoring and results were presented. MHSAA staff and MIS finals timing coordinators will work together to investigate the possibilities of using live timing and results at the XC finals.
  - Online Rules Meeting review
  - The committee reviewed the 2014 Cross Country tournament series. Discussion took place on the Regional assignment process and the MHSAA XC Site Selection Committee and their role in helping place teams in Regionals around the state.
4. The committee discussed MHSAA tournament process, site selection and various past and current proposals. After much discussion, the MITCA proposal of establishing a District round of competition was voted on and recommended to the Representative Council.
5. Track and Field Discussion:
  - Regional Assignments
  - Track and Field 2015 Final Sites:
    - Division 1: Rockford HS

Division 2: Zeeland HS  
Division 3: Comstock Park HS  
Division 4: Hudsonville HS  
Upper Peninsula – All Divisions Kingsford HS

- 2015 Additional Qualifying Standards
- Continue to pursue with strong recommendation that ALL Regionals use FAT Timing
- National Federation Rules Changes

Rule 4.3.3 9.6.3 The prohibition of wearing jewelry has been removed.

Following a review of the former NFHS rule regarding jewelry and the long history of MHSAA adopting a no jewelry rule prior to the NFHS (1991) the committee voted to remove all prohibitions to jewelry for this coming outdoor season. (25-2 in favor)

Officials may request athletes to remove any accessory that may be considered a risk or that may appear inappropriate of school sport.

### **Recommendations to the MHSAA Staff**

1. ATOM Recommendations for Track:
  - A. Remove color and design restrictions on head attire allowed in competition. Allow athletes to wear knit stocking caps, ski bands, headbands or the hood to a one piece uniform or undergarment without regard to color and logo design. (26-1 in favor)
  - B. Sunglasses – Remove all restrictions on sunglasses having to be prescription glasses. (26-1 in favor)

### **Recommendations to the Representative Council**

1. MITCA Recommendation for Track:

Establish early qualifier meets. Utilizing meets that have been approved by the MHSAA (during a three week period prior to the Regional competition) where athletes may qualify to the Final Tournament by meeting a standard that is the average of the 4<sup>th</sup> place finishes from previous Regional competitions. (17-6 in favor)

NOTE: Meets approved will be based on the following:

  - A. \$50 fee
  - B. Meet FAT Timing criteria
  - C. Meet wind gauge use
  - D. Meet must use MHSAA approved officials
2. MITCA Recommendation for Cross Country:

Create Districts using the current Division enrollment breaks and comprised of 8-10 schools that sponsor the sport in the division and that geographic area. Fifteen Districts per Division. The top five teams from each District would advance to Regionals plus the seven individuals not on a qualifying team. Five Regionals per Division. Three Districts would feed one of five Regionals which would have 15 teams and 21 individuals. Each of the five Regionals in each Division would send the top six teams plus the seven individuals not on a qualifying team to the MHSAA Finals at MIS where there would be 30 teams and 35 individual runners per division or a set 245 runners in each division. (25-0 in favor, 2 abstentions)