

Looking for Answers



**Surveying the
Landscape of
Officiating to
Preserve our Games**

benchmarks

Spring 2023 Vol 13 No. 3 [mhssa](#)



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Looking for Help: Surveying Today’s Officiating Landscape



4 As the number of registered sports officials continues to decline, associations across the country are searching for answers, along with methods to reverse the recent trend. The MHSAA is currently surveying those who make the calls in search of information.

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benchmarks is published three times per year by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., 1661 Ramblewood Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823 (Phone 517-332-5046). Edited by Rob Kaminski. *benchmarks* welcomes contributions of articles, information or photos which focus on coaching and officiating in Michigan. Send them to benchmarks@mhsaa.com.

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The Vault – 18

Family Ties

The 2012 issue of *benchmarks* honored the men and women in the officiating family while taking a look at related issues of that time.



MHSAA News – 20

Class in Session

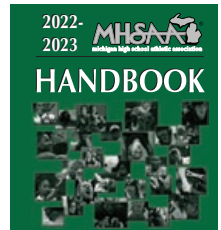
MHSAA Classifications have been announced for the 2023-24 school year across the state.



Regulations Review – 24

Summer Vacation

The summer months will soon be upon us. Know the regulations regarding participation for MHSAA-sponsored sports.



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We All Play a Role in School Sports Officiating

In just a few weeks, I'll be completing my 26th year of working in education. During that time as a classroom teacher, coach, athletic director, umpire, official and member of the MHSAA staff, I can honestly say I've seen almost everything one could encounter working in this field.



Up until the last few years, whenever a school person was asked what the biggest challenge was in their work, money was often the first item mentioned. In recent months, issues about money have clearly been replaced by the shortage of PEOPLE: officials, coaches, teachers, bus drivers and substitute teachers.

This edition of *benchmarks* focuses on how we can attract, and keep, more people in the avocation of officiating. In times when officials are in short supply, what can we do to reverse the trend to recruit and retain more officials?

When we have surveyed former officials over the course of my 20 years on the MHSAA staff, the two reasons that most individuals leave on their own is the way they were treated by other adults: coaches and adult spectators.

How ironic that in the world of school sports, where the focus should be on the kids playing the game, that our biggest factor in driving down the number of officials is the manner in which some adults are treating other adults? This is proof that while our sportsmanship efforts geared toward students must continue, the adults involved also need to hear that message as loudly and clearly as our kids, and respond just as accordingly.

Officiating has been one of the most significant and important aspects of my life for 30 years. The relationships made with fellow officials, along with the process of rising to the challenge for each and every game on the schedule, has been fuel for keeping the competitive part of myself going. There is no better feeling than when preparation and opportunity meet in handling a tough game fairly, impartially and by the rules.

We need more PEOPLE to jump into this boat of opportunity. We hope the following pages move you to invite and encourage others to get involved in school sports as an MHSAA registered official.

There is help wanted. Just whistle!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Uyl". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark Uyl
MHSAA Executive Director



Without the thousands of registered officials who provide such value to our product, school sports would fade away.

Happy New Year! Prep for 2023-24 School Year

MHSAA.com School Year Start Up: Beginning in mid-July, all athletic directors must log into MHSAA.com and update school contact information for administrators and coaches and double-check the sports the MHSAA shows your school as sponsoring. Adding or dropping a sport must be done in writing on school letterhead. ADs are urged to submit their mobile phone numbers which are kept private and used for necessary contact by MHSAA staff. Accurate coach information allows for rules meeting completion by head coaches.

Coach Requirements: ALL MHSAA coaches – head coaches, assistant and subvarsity coaches – must complete a sport rules meeting. Schools shall attest that all assistant and sub-varsity coaches have completed an MHSAA rules meeting (online or in person) for that sport for the current school year prior to the deadline. Assistant or sub-varsity coaches who coach more than one sport during a school year must fulfill the requirement each season unless the sport is the same and the coach had completed the MHSAA sport-specific rules meeting earlier in the school year for that sport (e.g., JV boys and JV girls soccer coach). It is expected that schools will impose the penalty of Section 8(B) to assistant or sub-varsity coaches who do not meet this requirement by the deadline.

Each head coach of a varsity team in an MHSAA tournament sport hired for the first time as a high school varsity head coach at any MHSAA member high school after July 31, 2016 shall have completed either Level 1 or Level 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP). If the head coach does not complete CAP Level 1 or 2 prior to the established deadline, that coach shall be prohibited from coaching in that season's MHSAA tournament for the sport involved and shall not be present at the facility where the MHSAA tournament involving that coach's team is being held. See Regulation II, Section 15(H)4.

CPR Requirements: – High schools must attest by each season's established deadline that all varsity, junior varsity, and 9th-grade head coaches of each high school team have a valid, current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification. This will ensure that each team generally has one coach present whom is CPR certified. The established deadline for all high school head coaches (regardless of level) shall be the latest date set for the completion of the MHSAA rules meeting for the sport. A person who is the head coach for more than one sport during the school year must meet the deadline for the first of those sports. It is expected that schools will impose the penalty of Section 8(B) to varsity, JV and 9th-grade head coaches who do not meet this requirement.

New AD Orientation: MHSAA Regulation II, Section 15 (I) requires that as a condition of participation in MHSAA Tournaments, a school designates a high school athletic director. In addition, that person must attend an Athletic Director's Orientation Program prior to Dec. 1 of that school year. Schools which fail to have their first-year Athletic Director attend shall be placed on probation and prohibited from hosting or receiving reimbursement for MHSAA tournaments.

While the requirement and penalty sound quite ominous, hundreds of administrators who have attended over the years will vouch for the meeting's value. These one-time, six-hour sessions are held in the MHSAA Office in East Lansing in July, August or September. Dozens of novice ADs come back for a voluntary second session held in November.

Athletic Directors hired this spring or summer, or late this past school year (after Dec. 1, 2022), are required to attend a 2023-24 AD Orientation Program on either Thursday, July 27, Monday, Aug. 14, Wednesday, Aug. 16 or Monday, Sept. 11. All meetings are in the MHSAA Office from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. A registration form may be downloaded from MHSAA.com. under the "I Am . . ." Administrators page.

AD In-service and Update Meetings: Athletic directors should plan now to attend an AD In-Service and Update Meeting in the fall. While attendance is strong, some ADs have not attended as their duties have increased. We suggest the opposite approach and urge those who have not attended recently to make it a point of emphasis. Please see details in this issue.

The MHSAA Office Summer Hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday from June 19-July 20, 2023. The MHSAA Office will be closed the work week of July 3-7.

Leading Off offers readers a forum for feedback. Submit your opinions, share your experiences or offer suggestions to benchmarks@mhsaa.com.

LOOKING FOR

Surveying the Landscape of Officiating to Preserve our Games

The numbers are there in black and white – the same colors long-associated with the sports officiating avocation – and they are not good concerning the future of school sports around the country.

A National Federation of State High School Associations study in 2022 indicated that approximately 50,000 individuals had discontinued their service as high school officials since the 2018-19 season – the last full school year unaffected by the pandemic.

While there are several contributing factors to this sizeable decline, such as the age-old problem of unsportsmanlike behavior by students, coaches, parents and other fans, one of the latest challenges is related to the recent pandemic.

“In talking to some of the state directors, many of these losses are people who were probably on the brink of retirement, and then COVID kind of forced the issue,” Dana Pappas, NFHS Director of Officiating Services, said. “Nationally, we’ve gone from about 240,000 to 200,000, which has become an area of concern for states just to cover games at all or with the maximum number of officials on a crew.”

Pandemic aside, the slide in registrations was underway even prior. MHSAA registrations went from 10,696 in 2012-13 to 9,519 in 2018-19. Since Covid-19, the number in Michigan parallels the rest of the nation, down another 1,000, as this year’s number stood at 8,267.

While the traditional black and white has turned to shades of gray and other uniform colors for various sports throughout time, one constant remains: without these dedicated individuals, school sports cease to exist.

It is incumbent on leadership at all levels – from state associations to school administrators and coaches and local officials associations – to emphasize recruitment and retention of officials to preserve our product.

This year, the MHSAA is conducting exit surveys following each season to survey the landscape of officiating, collecting information to help direct initiatives to bolster such efforts.

ANSWERS



From the Top

Attracting new officials and keeping veterans is a shared responsibility, beginning with efforts from state offices. The MHSAA has thus far received complete survey responses from 2,338 officials following fall and winter sports this school year. Of the respondents, 145 were first-year officials.

Most found registration fairly user-friendly, and obtained uniforms and rules books without issue. Finding information on *MHSAA.com* proved more cumbersome than the registration process, so some fine-tuning and user testing could help moving forward. This was the first year of a new site design, which also could have led to difficulty finding resources.

More discouraging was what happens after registration. The MHSAA has local approved officials associations in place so they can take the ball and run with it in terms of assigning, training and mentorship.

These local associations are the backbone of building officials regiments, yet nearly 50 percent of officials surveyed indicated that they were not guided to a local association by the MHSAA. Considering 80 percent of respondents are members of local approved associations, this is an important step.

Almost 200 responding officials indicated that they did not know whether or not they were in a Local Approved Association.

Improvements are being made from within the MHSAA.

“The MHSAA is now sending emails to newly registered officials with information to help jumpstart their officiating careers,” said MHSAA Administrative Assistant Ryan Wieferich, who oversees much of the officials program. “The emails will include contact information for local approved officials associations in their zone that sponsor the sport(s) they officiate. We will

also send a separate email with contact information for assigners in their area who assign the sports they officiate.

“Plans are in place to improve the officials page of MHSAA.com so officials associations and assigners information are easier to find for new and returning officials.”

Local Roots

As the MHSAA strives to improve its guidance to the valuable resources its associations have to offer, it's then up to association leaders to deliver.

Nearly 250 officials in the survey either did not join an association intentionally, or had been a member and left.

Membership in a local officials association needs to be worthwhile and rewarding. It is here where bonds form which can bolster enthusiasm for this avocation. Gatherings of officiating brothers and sisters for rules study, video review and mechanics – not to mention stories from the front lines – are paramount.

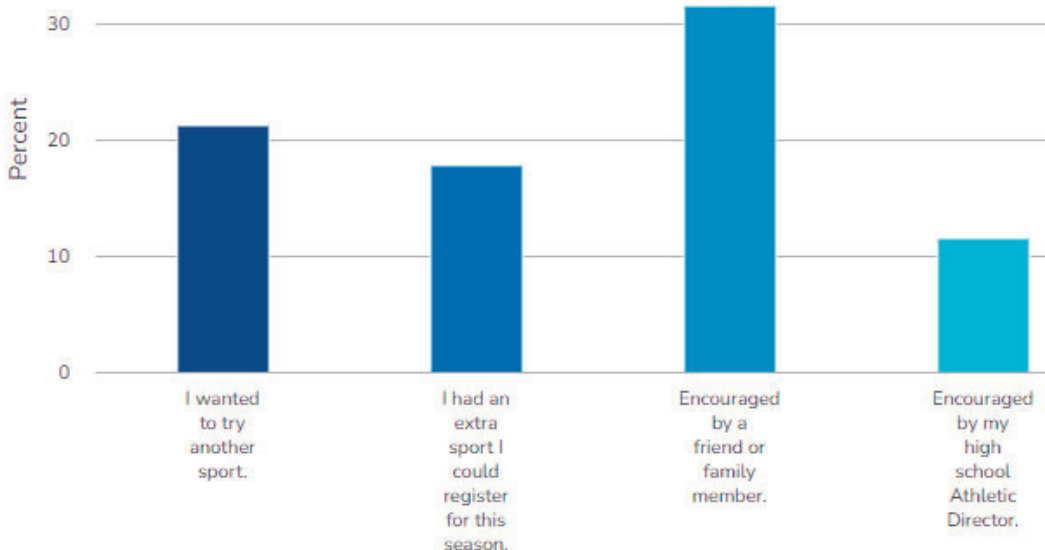
“Assigners and associations are the building blocks of their officiating communities and are continually focused on recruiting and training new officials.” said MHSAA Coordinator of Marketing and Social Media Paige Winne, who also officiates lacrosse and is a member of the Women’s Lacrosse Officials of Michigan.



Astonishingly, only 50 percent of officials report that their associations conduct regular meetings, whether weekly or every other week. Others checked the "Rarely" or "Pre-season Only" boxes pertaining to meetings. Some sports are more diligent than others, as football topped all sports with 70 percent of its officials reporting regular meetings.

Individual attendance at meetings seemed to follow suit, as just over 40 percent of offi-

Reasons for Officiating During the 2022-23 Year



cialists said they attended meetings regularly, 36 percent rarely, and 13 percent in the preseason only. While online meetings have become more prevalent in all business, officiating is no exception. Most report using a combination of online and in-person format for their meetings, but more than 30 percent still use the face-to-face method.

The importance of the sessions, no matter the delivery method, cannot be understated. Of nearly 2,000 survey respondents to questions regarding associations, the vast majority favorably rate membership benefits ranging from these categories: support and leadership; instruction and education; live training and evaluation; video training, and rules study. Rating the highest on a 10-point scale was overall support and leadership, which underscores the importance of well-run associations.

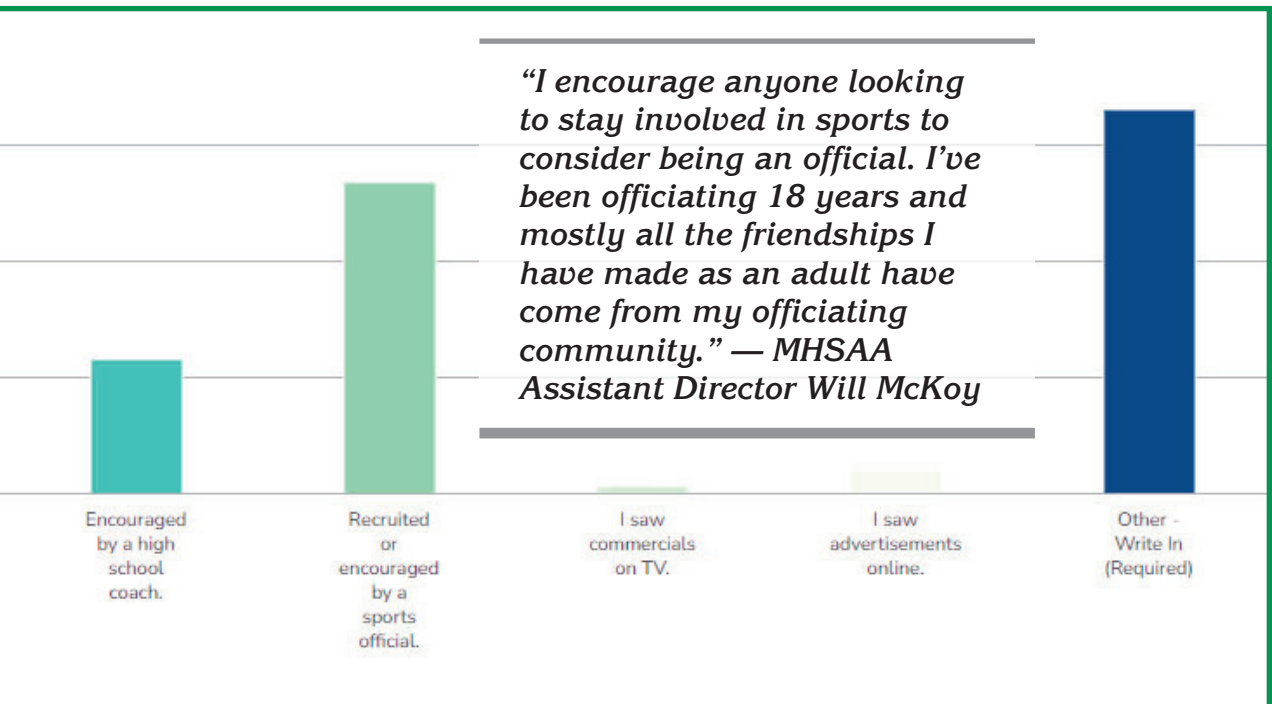
Part of the association experience is mentorship from within. Veterans who can take newcomers under their wings can have a lasting effect. Just over half of the surveyed officials gave a nod to individual mentors, particularly those in the first year of a sport.

“As a collective group, we need to continue to mentor and up-and-coming officials in efforts to help retain those individuals,” said Winne.

School Homework

Most first-time registrants in the 2022-23 school year – nearly 60 percent – were encouraged by friends and family, or by other officials.

Yet, the *schools* are where our games are played. These are the gyms, fields, and facilities where our product only succeeds with the proper number of officials in place. Of first-year officials surveyed, only 20 percent say they were encouraged by a coach or athletic





director. This number is low, considering the pool of applicants rubbing shoulders with our athletic leaders on a daily basis. Only a small fraction of our student-athletes will continue to compete beyond high school. Officiating is a perfect option to stay active in the game. Our school leaders need to deliver the message more frequently.

“I think all of us as ADs and coaches need to present officiating as a good option for our athletes as a way to stay in the game,” said recently appointed MHSAA Assistant Director Brad Bush, who has a wealth of experience as an athletic administrator and coach, most recently at Chelsea High School. “Many young athletes never think about officiating in general, but they also don't think about the options they have in *becoming* an official. In addition, we can present the officials shortage to parents in annual meetings and discuss how they can become a game official.”

There are people in our schools who have taken matters – and whistles – into their own hands. Of people who listed “Other” as reasons for registering for the first time, the majority were former coaches who wanted to remain in the game as officials, or ADs who

jumped in to help the shortage.

Adding officiating courses to the curriculum can also offer early exposure.

“Earlier in my career I taught an elective course called Techniques of Officiating,” said Bush. “I loved teaching it and some of our students went on to become registered officials.”

Aside from recruiting new blood, coaches and administrators can help keep officials coming back simply by making them feel at home and doing the little things right when they come to the facility. Most officials report being greeted and given support at events when visiting schools, but nearly half indicated there was no secure area designated for dressing, showering and leaving personal belongings once arriving to work contests. Only 4 percent report having staff available to escort officials from the campus following events. Details like this can go a long way toward improving an officials' experience.

Lack of a locker room and shower facility are most prevalent, along with administrative visibility at sites. A sampling of comments:

“Very rarely did this happen. Perhaps once...”

“We felt as we were putting most schools out by asking for a secure locker room...”

“The schools who do provide this (for volleyball at least) are very rare...”

“There are still WAY too many sites that can not/do not make this accommodation...”

“There are times we aren't met and have no idea who game management is. Someone should at least talk to us at some point...”

“AD or site administration should greet officials at all sports not just football...”

“In the rare instance we were greeted, they were usually MIA for the rest of the time...”

“It is VERY rare to meet an AD at a game, and even rarer for them to stay for the whole game.”

Joining a New Team

As previously mentioned, current officials can be influential in recruitment. This year, 26 percent of those surveyed indicated they registered at the suggestion of another official.

The MHSAA has some expertise in this realm. Seven MHSAA staff members have officiating experience ranging from high school to NCAA Division 1 levels.

“I think all of us as ADs and coaches need to present officiating as a good option for our athletes as a way to stay in the game. Many young athletes never think about the options they have in becoming an official.” — MHSAA Assistant Director Brad Bush

Assistant Director Will McKoy came to the MHSAA in July 2021 following a successful tenure as athletic director at Summit Academy North in Romulus.

As an official, he works at the NCAA Division I level in the Mid-American Conference and has also worked in the Missouri Valley Conference. From 2014-16 and again during 2017-18 he served as an instant replay booth and field communicator and K-Ball coordinator with the National Football League.

“I encourage anyone looking to stay involved in sports to consider being an official,” McKoy said. “As I transitioned from playing and coaching, I could think of no better way to stay in the game, around the game, and involved. I’ve been officiating 18 years and mostly all the friendships I have made as an adult have come from my officiating community.”

Winne, who has made a quick ascent to NCAA Division 1 while also still working at the high school level, says the avocation has other benefits as well.

“Lacrosse has given me lifelong friends both on and off the field. It’s also a great way to earn extra money, and improves physical and mental health,” Winne said. “Officiating is a great way to give back to the game, and who better than former players and coaches who know the game inside and out?”

Sportsmanship Starts at the Top

Well-documented are the stories of abuse toward sports officials at all levels, particularly non-school youth sports. Yet, while nearly 75 percent of MHSAA officials surveyed through fall and winter say they believe coaches are understanding of their role as officials during events, that leaves 25 percent that could be driving officials away.

“Using profanity and berating our officials is probably the most disheartening trend I see today,” said MHSAA Coordinator of Sportsmanship and Officials Reports Sam Davis, also an accomplished wrestling official and fixture at the Finals in that sport for many years. “Far too many coaches seem to think they are at the college Division 1 or professional level, and their house or family depends on one call. And that can stimulate and influence fan behavior.”

Being second-guessed and booed is largely ignored by most veteran officials who can shrug it off as something that comes with the territory. But, some of the vitriol is becoming increasingly difficult to block out while making hundreds of split-second decisions per contest. Roughly 40 percent of those surveyed reported that spectators had made it difficult for officials to perform their duties.

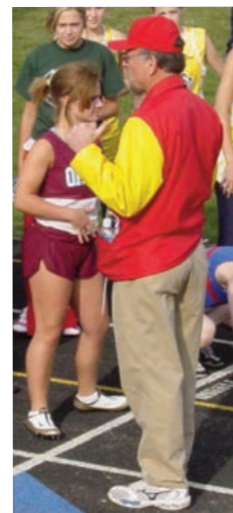
Many respondents agree that the key is to lead by example or hold violators accountable for their actions. Consider these comments:

“Poor spectator behavior seems to be at an all-time high. The best ADs have been proactive in addressing these issues. However, most ADs seem to be reactive. Can't imagine it's an enjoyable part of the job, but having an active presence around poor behavior is a part of their role.”

“This is probably the biggest area of improvement that is needed for myself and other officials. If there is more proactive management of spectators, we would not have to deal with the amount of abuse that is received.”

MHSAA Officials Registrations Since 2012-13

22-23	8,267
21-22	7,960
20-21	7,907
19-20	9,253
18-19	9,519
17-18	9,689
16-17	9,717
15-16	9,868
14-15	10,187
13-14	10,346
12-13	10,696



“Using profanity and berating our officials is probably the most disheartening trend I see today. Far too many coaches seem to think they are at the college Division 1 or professional level, and their house or family depends on one call. And that can stimulate and influence fan behavior.” — MHSAA Coordinator of Sportsmanship & Officials Reports Sam Davis

“The school setting, and expectations of administration toward contest officials, plays a vital role in growing and maintaining our officiating population.”

Coaches’ rules knowledge, or lack thereof, was another theme concerning officials.

“JV and freshman coaches were a lot worse. Varsity coaches generally behaved themselves because they are busy doing their job (and they actually know how to do it)”

“Head coaches are generally fine, assistant coaches are for the most part out of control”

“Too many AAU coaches”

That last comment strikes a chord. Coaches within school system generally are

held to greater accountability. More than coaches, they are classroom teachers, or have other duties which make them visible in the hallways, and the two roles mesh.

“We’ve spoken often about coaches being able to get fans under control. For the most part, fans are supportive and want a good relationship with the coach,” says Davis. “We don’t see enough coaches exercising that ability they have to control their fans simply by the way they interact with officials during our contests.”

Officials, Davis points out, can also help their own cause by dealing with poor conduct with the rules they have at their disposal.

He estimates that in 60 to 65 percent of athlete ejection reports, there is profanity involved.



Many more reports are submitted for situations warranting ejections, yet the offending party was allowed to remain in the contest.

"I don't know if there's a fear of ratings, or fear of not continuing to working in that league or at that school," Davis said. "Usually when asked why individuals weren't ejected, the responses are: 'I didn't want to influence the outcome of a game,' or, 'I thought it would incite an already bad situation,' or in rare cases they are concerned for their physical safety."

Ejection penalties are included in every sport rules book. When situations call for it, officials need to enforce such rules to assist in changing the climate.

"Officiating is a great way to give back to the game, and who better than former players and coaches who know the game inside and out?" — MHSAA Coordinator of Marketing and Social Media Paige Winne

"I need the ejection to have the teeth when I call an AD to have them to respond to the situation or mete out a punishment to that individual," Davis said. "I often hear, 'Well if the behavior wasn't bad enough for an ejection, why am I being contacted?'"

Silver Linings

Not all is lost. 85 percent of officials surveyed believe that student-athletes were appreciative of them. Ultimately, that is the group which benefits the most when new officials join the ranks, and current officials are retained.

Additionally, numbers in all sports were up this year from 2021-22, led by soccer, which was up over 1,000. Track & field/cross country had over 600 more registrants, and swimming & diving was plus-300. More encouraging, those totals are well over the 2018-19 school year, which was before the Covid-19 Pandemic. Other sports are getting closer to the pre-Pandemic numbers, with the slowest return being to the basketball courts, where roughly 600 fewer officials were working this winter compared to 2018-19.

More help could be on the way, as the MHSAA targets a group whose members would check a number of requisite boxes for sports officiating such as discipline, appreciation of rules, personal interaction and physical fitness.

"The National Guard has over 8,000 members," Bush said. "Over 65 percent of them were high school athletes. We are moving forward in helping to recruit them in exchange for them wearing a patch on the uniform. This is a way for the Guard to become more involved in their local communities."

Perhaps the most significant and encouraging reveal from the recent survey is this: 89 percent say they will return to officiate next school year, and another 9 percent are considering the return.

The work must continue, because the games must go on.

— Rob Kaminski
benchmarks editor



Crampton Hangs Up Whistle After 46 Years



Retiring official Tom Crampton, middle, shares a laugh with referee colleague Chris Dauterman and Whiteford varsity football coach Todd Thieken before Crampton's final game this past October.

After most high school football games end, the referees typically head for the exits, get to the locker rooms and head home. Rarely do fans, players and coaches notice how they disappear.

Things were a little different one Friday night in Ottawa Lake last fall.

After Ottawa Lake Whiteford beat Pioneer (Ohio) North Central 30-0, the fans stayed in their seats, the players stayed in the handshake line and coaches gathered around as retiring referee Tom Crampton received his place in the spotlight. After nearly 50 years as a high school football referee, Crampton had blown his whistle a final time.

"I feel like I'm at that point," Crampton said. "I wanted to go as long as I could. I've been fortunate to get to this stage."

Crampton turned 76 in September. The Jackson native got his start as an official during the 1977-78 school year after hurting his knee in a flag football game.

"I was just running across the field and heard something pop," he said. "I realized my playing days were over. I had a friend who was an official. He got me into it."

For years Crampton was a football referee in the fall, basketball official in the winter and umpire in the spring. He gave up the other

sports about a decade ago but never wanted to give up football, the game he learned as a 10-year-old growing up in Jackson under the tutelage of Howdy Woods.

"He brought sports into my life," Crampton said. "He worked with the juveniles of Jackson County and was an official himself, I believe. All of us kids knew Howdy. He got me started in sports."

Sports became a lifelong passion for the retired director of pharmacy for Henry Ford Allegiance. When he and his wife Colleen had children, he thought about stepping back from his referee duties, but his family wasn't having it.

"My wife and children all encouraged me to keep doing sports," he said. "When the kids were younger, I said, 'I really need to taper this back,' and they didn't want me to. They followed me. My wife was my biggest fan. After I retired from work, I thought maybe it was time, but she would not let me quit."

For years Crampton was a back judge. He transitioned to umpire a few years ago because he felt he was better equipped for that role than running up and down the field.

Chris Dauterman has been an official for 27 years and was a back judge for years before becoming a crew chief only few years

ago. Crampton joined his crew when the group of officials he had been working with for decades disbanded due to retirements.

“It’s hard to imagine being dedicated to a hobby that long,” Dauterman said. “That’s really what it is, a hobby. Nobody who does this is doing it for the money. They are doing it for the love of the kids and game. I give him all the respect in the world for putting up with the things he does for so long.

“His knowledge of the rule book and mechanics of an officiating crew is unbelievable,” Dauterman added. “I’ve worked with a lot of officials over the years. In the three years I’ve

you respect those around you and the competition.

“I think that has waned a little over the years, but most of the kids haven’t changed. Being a referee has been a great experience. I love being out with the kids. Most of the kids out there are great kids, great people. You just have to give them a chance.”

Crampton said he realized his time as an official was nearing the end about a year ago when he said he couldn’t quite get into the position that he wanted during a game. He hopes new officials sign up for the gig and continue the tradition of helping high school athletics.

“When I played in the 60s, sports were an extension of the classroom. It was learning things of life and that things don’t always work right.” — Official Tom Crampton

worked with Tom, he’s helped me transition from back judge to the crew chief. The knowledge he has is tremendous. It’s nice to have him as a sounding board. As another official, it means the world.”

Crampton lives in Lake Columbia, not far from Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn. He primarily has done games in the Jackson area, including the Cascades Conference and Southeastern Conference the last few years. Friday he was doing a nonleague game between Whiteford and a school from northwest Ohio.

The game ended prematurely when North Central pulled its players off the field at half-time due to injuries and lack of available players to continue.

Before anyone left, however, Crampton was presented with a golden whistle and received a standing ovation for his years of service. After the handshakes, players from both sides greeted Crampton at midfield.

Crampton said most kids haven’t changed in the last 45-plus years he’s been on the field with them. Except for just a few players, most are respectful of him and the sport.

“When I played in the 60s, sports were an extension of the classroom,” he said. “It was learning things of life and that things don’t always work right. There are failures sometimes, but you go on and you pick yourself up and

“We’ve tried recruiting some new officials,” he said. “They were moving up fast now from lower levels to varsity. We’ve lost so many officials over the last few years. I couldn’t have done this without the support of the MHSAA. I’ve enjoyed being everywhere and meeting all the people.”

Crampton worked two MHSAA Finals games during his officiating career and has memories of great athletes, great coaches, and great games to last a lifetime.

“I’ve been fortunate my whole life,” he said. “I’ll miss it, there’s no doubt about it. This is my 66th year of football. How lucky can a person be?”



– Doug Donnelly
Special for MHSAA.com

Little Hits Major Stride as 1st Woman to Officiate Boys Hoops Final since 1995



Delonda Little was already a trailblazer to many before this year's MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals.

But what happened last month at Breslin Center made her even more of one on a statewide level.

A referee and assigner for 20 years in the Detroit area, Little is a female boys and girls basketball official who mentors both male and female referees – no matter the gender or level, as she officiates high school and college games.

Officials often go to Little for guidance, direction and assignments, which has made her respected for years throughout Metro Detroit in the prep basketball community. Then, her status as a trailblazer grew even more.

Little was assigned as an official for the Division 3 Boys Basketball Final between Flint Beecher and Traverse City St. Francis, and she became the first female referee to officiate an MHSAA Boys Basketball Final since Traverse City's Barb Beckett 1995.

"It was a very good feeling to know I was the one selected," said Little, who officiated the Final with Matt Olson and Zach Porritt.

In fact, while attending a Semifinal game the Friday before the Final, Little received a phone call from an area code she didn't recognize.

She answered, and it was Beckett.

"At first I didn't know the name," Little said.

"I said, 'No, I don't know you, but that's fine.'"

Beckett then explained she was the first female referee to be assigned a Boys Basketball Final, and just wanted to offer support to Little.

At that point, Little became excited and thankful she answered the call.

"It was very nice to hear from her because she wanted to reach out and if not pass the torch, to congratulate me," Little said.

Little, 51, said she found out she was going to be refereeing the Division 3 boys championship game just before the start of the post-season when she received an email from the MHSAA.

"I'm looking at the email and I'm like, boys?" Little said. "I was shocked."

But she was shocked in a good way, and obviously excited for the honor.

Little didn't find out until a couple of days before the St. Francis/Beecher contest that she would be officiating that specific championship game, but the Monday of boys championship week was when she really started to receive congratulations from friends and colleagues.

That's when an article came out in the Detroit News detailing her selection, which led to countless calls, texts and congratulatory messages on social media.

"I couldn't even (keep up with the comments)," she said. "That's how overwhelming the actual tags were. It came from all across

the state with officials, men and women, because I do women's college (games). Some of the college ladies were reaching out. I was getting all the hoopla before the game."

Little said she normally doesn't get nervous for games, but not having some nerves became a bit harder once so many people knew of her achievement.

However, she settled into a normal routine quickly once the game started.

"I wanted to get it done, get it over with and do well," she said.

Little did do well, which is no surprise to everyone who knew her before she officiated on the boys championship stage.

It was just another feather in the cap for Little, who in 2016 became the first woman to officiate a boys Detroit Public School League championship game.

"Delonda is one of the top officials in the Detroit area, and our staff doesn't look at Delonda as a female working a boys game – we see one of the top officials in Detroit working a basketball game," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "There are females officiating in the NBA and female officials in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. The aspect that made Delonda's selection for this MHSAA championship game nearly unique will soon be the norm at all levels of athletics."

Little graduated from Detroit Osborn in 1989 and starred on the basketball court at Wayne State, earning induction into WSU's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

Her day job is as an officer for the Michigan Department of Corrections, but her passion is officiating. She's been an MHSAA-registered official for basketball for two decades and also was registered for volleyball for four years. This past fall she registered for football for the first time.

"I get something from it because it keeps me in shape, I love the people I work with and I like the kids," Little said. "You are always teaching, and I like training the newer officials. I just enjoy it. I don't know what I'd be doing if I wasn't refereeing."

Going forward, Little hopes her championship game assignment will now be an inspiration for other female referees.

"There aren't very many women who would like to work boys basketball or feel comfortable," Little said. "If that's something they desire, I'm hoping more women are selected to work the games if they feel comfortable."

– Keith Dunlap
Special for MHSAA.com



Retired NHL-er Back on Ice to Answer Call —



The most accomplished skater on the ice during this winter's triple-overtime MHSAA Division 1 Semifinal hockey thriller between Hartland and Brighton was not wearing the school colors of either team.

In front of a packed house at Plymouth's USA Hockey Arena, referee Bryan Smolinski was in stripes, just like the rest of his officiating crew.

In his former life, he pulled on plenty of sweaters before lacing up the skates. That happens when one logs more than 1,000 games, tallies nearly 300 goals (274) and close to 400 assists (377) with eight teams spanning a 15-year playing career in the National Hockey League.

So, how did the 52-year-old former star player find himself on the ice last weekend as one of the referees for the pinnacle weekend of this high school season? Good question, even for the man known as "Smoke" during his playing days.

"I was working in youth development programs a few years back and reached out to some Michigan guys I had connections with about other ways to help the game," Smolinski said. "I called Kevin May just to chat and asked, 'Hey, how's your reffing going?' He said, 'You know, we're down a little bit,' then said, 'Why don't you do it?' I said, 'Not a chance,'" Smolinski laughed.

Never Say Never

May persisted, imploring his friend to skate with him during a Fall league at Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. After eight weeks, once a week, Smolinski had a revelation.

"I'm like, 'I'm kind of diggin' this,'" Smolinski said "So, I did all the testing, and the educational part of it, and I really enjoyed it. I got with Danny (DiCristofaro) and his group, and he put me in as much as he could, and I really started to get my feet wet."

DiCristofaro is the assigner and referee-in-chief for the MHSAA's Northeast Hockey Referees Association, and he has seen Smolinski's growth first-hand.

"Obviously he's got great instincts and a feel for the game, along with a wealth of experience, all of which has allowed him to climb the ladder quickly," said DiCristofaro. "It's been a joy to watch his growth as an official."

Fast forward to this March, and there were Smolinski and May sharing duties as referees during the MHSAA Semifinal with linesmen Michael Andrews and Thomas Robbins.

In between, there has been a learning curve that still continues, but the jump to officiating was not quite as daunting as his introduction to the NHL.

"I was scared to death. My first game was against Mario Lemieux. I'm in the old Boston Garden and now I'm playing against these guys and it's their job, and they're out there trying to make a living," Smolinski recalled.

By Making Them

“I prefer high school because I think there’s more decorum, more administrative structure. Kids are playing for their schools, there’s loyalty there. Other levels can be more loosely governed, or a bit more maverick in nature.” — Official Bryan Smolinski

The emotions were not running nearly as frenzied for his first game as an MHSAA official, yet respect came in a different form.

“I couldn’t pick the puck up, I was breathing heavily; it was Kevin and me doing a two-man game in Brighton,” Smolinski recalled. “There were a few high-end kids playing, and I’m thinking, ‘I’m dying here.’ You know, there’s no training for that first time.”

What that experience did, however, was revitalize Smolinski in a new way. His playing career is well documented, not only in the NHL, but around Michigan. He enjoyed an honor-laden career at Michigan State University from 1989-93 before joining the Boston Bruins (who had drafted him three years earlier) at the end of the ’93 NHL campaign. Even after his final season, with Montreal in 2007-08, he stayed in the game via men’s leagues, or coaching his son, Max.

Smolinski and his wife, Julie, have three daughters: Ashtyn (22), Jojo (16) and Rylen (12), along with Max, whom dad coached for seven years including during a national championship run with a Little Caesars U15 team in 2019. Max, 19, is now playing collegiately at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

So, for Smolinski, officiating offers a new chapter.

“Reffing brought back ... I wouldn’t say love of the game, because that’s always been there; it’s a different side of enjoying the game now. I have no horse in the race, my son’s off to college, my daughters are doing their thing; I wanted to find something new in the game,” Smolinski said. “I’ve coached, and I don’t want to do that. I found this, and I’ve stuck with it.”

Both Sides Now

Having been to the top of his profession, now moving to another side, the respect has grown for those blowing the whistle.

“The preparation for officiating is much more mental,” Smolinski said. “Way more rules oriented. You’re always trying to get away with things that you can as a player; now you have to police that.”

Smolinski has a distinct advantage.

“I know everything they’re trying to do because I’ve done it. I know where you’re going

with the puck, I know what kind of breakout you’re trying to do,” Smolinski said. “I have all the instincts, now I just try to stay out of the way and not ruin their game. The most fun is watching the game develop and the ups and downs. For me to be out there and enjoy it with them, that’s the fun part.”

Those who have played hockey at any level have a built-in advantage should they consider the officiating avocation: the ability to skate. Unlike officiating in any other sport, skating is a prerequisite. This makes the pool limited, and almost solely composed of former players. Smolinski offers this advice.

“I prefer sticking with high school because I think there’s more decorum, more administrative structure. Kids are playing for their schools, there’s loyalty there,” said Smolinski. “And there is more accountability. People need report to athletic directors and supervisors. Other levels can be more loosely governed, or a bit more maverick in nature. Moms and dads get involved more, coaches maybe know a little less,” said Smolinski.

He has, in fact, worked a handful of non-school games, and there’s a stark difference.

“I wanted to see what was going on, and I see it first-hand,” Smolinski said. “There are some crazy people and parents out there, and these guys are getting absolutely tortured. I’ve been tortured. There has to be a level of respect for what officials do. I think schools can rein that in a little more.”

All sports need an assist from school administration and from those who once played the games to keep the officials recruitment moving in the right direction. People like Smolinski can help.

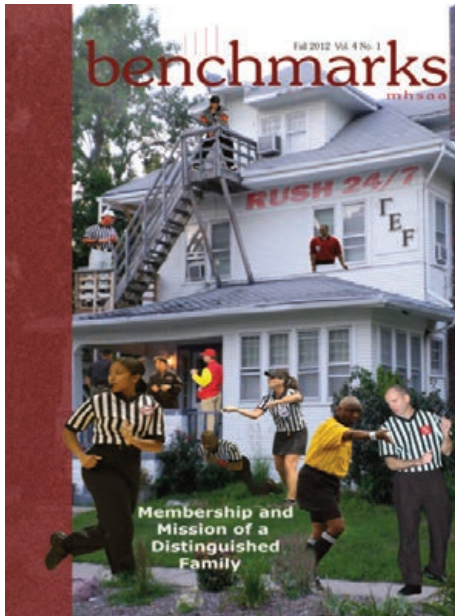
“He clearly doesn’t need to do this, and that’s what makes it so fantastic,” DiCristofaro said. “We need more people who have played – at any level – to do what he’s done and stay in the game as officials.”

The idea is to have fun first, which can translate into years and maybe even a lifetime in the sport. It’s a lifetime that has given Smolinski so much, and continues to do so as he gives back from a new vantage point.

— Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

This issue's trip to the "vault" offers a look at the 2012 fall issue of benchmarks, which put a spotlight on officials around the state.

Making – and Answering – the Call



“Life is a game with many rules but no referee. Small wonder, then, that so many play dirty, that so few win, that so many lose.” – Joseph Brodsky, Russian Poet and Essayist

To varying degrees, the world of athletics mirrors society. There are winners and losers. There are participants who look for ways to skirt the rules. However, in considering Mr. Brodsky's quotation above, there is one glaring difference between sports and life. Our games *do* have referees. Because of that, dirty play is less rampant and our games yield more winners than losers, for the scoreboards only tell part of the story. There are lessons in winning *and* losing within the framework of enforced rules, lessons which equip young people with the tools to make society a little better in the future.

In life, the deck is stacked in favor of the players. According to one 2010 census, there were 1.8 police officers per 1,000 citizens in Michigan, a ratio which ranked 40th in the United States.

In contrast, during the 2011-12 school year, there were 37.2 registered MHSAA officials per 1,000 high school participants. Maybe, just maybe, that's why school sports are at odds with Brodsky's depiction of society; there are simply more cops on the beat.

At the very least, officials play a vital role in the existence of school sports. The games can't go on without these men and women, and the MHSAA annually seeks improved recruitment and retention methods to promote growth of this group so integral to the health of its product.

So who are these people whose best work goes unnoticed; of whom perfection is the expectation; and who automatically alienate 50 percent of interested parties each time they make a decision? Who applies for this job? Why are some suited for the task, and others not? Asking why people leave the officiating life can often reveal just as many clues as talking to those who stay.

In 2004, the MHSAA conducted a survey targeting former officials to reveal their reasons for leaving the avocation and ask what might be done to bring them back.

The top three reasons people hung up their whistles or other tools of the trade were as follows: 1) career change/job demands; 2) poor sportsmanship by coaches and fans; 3) local association politics. Time spent away from family was also cited as a prime reason for leaving the games.

Eight years later, in a survey this August, the MHSAA again called upon former officials to generate data which can be helpful in recruiting new officials or luring back "retired" veterans.

Of more than 600 respondents at press time, the consensus of comments indicate a shift in culture. Career and personal demands no longer top the chart as reasons for leaving. Today's barometer indicates that local association politics (the ability to receive games and advance through the ranks) and a lack of adequate training for new, younger, officials rank as the prime reasons for people exiting the game relatively early in their quest.



Sportsmanship concerns for the behavior of coaches, parents and participants still rates as the second-greatest deterrent.

“It is imperative to survey our constituents on a frequent basis so we can react to the various factors which prompt trends in the industry,” said Mark Uyl, (then) MHSAA assistant director who oversees the state’s nearly 11,000 registered officials. “I think we’ve successfully addressed some issues based on the findings from the 2004 survey, and we expect to analyze this year’s questionnaire at length to address the most pressing issues accordingly.”

The majority of the slips filling the suggestion box from the August survey: 1) provide increased training opportunities for new officials; 2) work with local associations to create more opportunities for new people to receive a greater number of games; 3) allow officials to rate schools and coaches, and develop programs for peer evaluation, rather than receiving ratings from coaches only.

The MHSAA has made strides in tackling each issue, and this year’s data will further focus its efforts to improve the officiating environment. While the officials ratings still come from the schools, local approved officials associations now submit candidates for MHSAA tournament assignments, and the nominations hold more weight with the MHSAA than ever before. As a result, local associations are better evaluating their members.

Additionally, officials can now access and submit a school sportsmanship feedback form to rate school facilities and coach, player and spectator behavior.

Key to growth and improvement of MHSAA sports officials are the efforts of local approved associations. There are no better recruiters – no more qualified individuals to blare the trumpets – than officiating’s own family members. It’s a theme repeated by numerous individuals.

That’s the hook; making new officials feel comfortable while increasing their skill level and affording them ample opportunities to work. At times, it seems, the biggest roadblock to officials advancement is officials themselves, resulting from a collision of two eras.

When it comes to younger officials proclaiming a lack of training opportunity and game assignments, how much of it is a reflection of societal change? Newer officials are raised in a world of instant gratification; from fast food, to satellite TV, to smart phones and the Internet, they are of the culture that gets anything it wants, when it wants.

Older officials, who tend to be the assigners, have an understanding of what it takes to work the highest levels of a sport. They know what they’ve been through to move up the ranks, and they know who they’ve moved up with. They’ve put in the time. It becomes a matter of trusting the known, and being suspicious of the unknown. Yes, at times, the industry can be a “good ol’ boy network.”

The challenge is to make sure the new kids are aware of existing training opportunities and the investment necessary for advancement, while opening the veterans’ eyes to a pool of new talent and identifying those best suited to lead the neophytes.

“We try to encourage our leaders around the state to take ownership in the development of our young officials,” Uyl said. “We encourage our associations to nominate ‘new blood’ for our tournaments, and I think associations can take pride in turning out young people who are knowledgeable, physically fit and passionate about this business we’re in. It’s a people business, first and foremost, so it’s paramount that our own kind work together.”



Classifications Announced for 2023-24

Classifications for Michigan High School Athletic Association elections and post-season tournaments for the 2023-24 school year have been announced, with enrollment breaks for postseason tournaments posted to each sport’s page on the MHSAA Website.

Classifications for the upcoming school year are based on a second semester count date, which for MHSAA purposes was Feb. 8. The enrollment figure submitted for athletic classification purposes may be different from the count submitted for school aid purposes, as it does not include students ineligible for athletic competition because they reached their 19th birthday prior to Sept. 1 of the current school year and will not include alternative education students if none are allowed athletic eligibility by the local school district.

All sports’ tournaments are conducted with schools assigned to equal or nearly equal divisions, with lines dependent on how many schools participate in those respective sports.

For 2023-24, there are 750 tournament-qualified member schools. MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said schools may not subsequently lower their enrollment figure. However, if revised enrollment figures are higher and indicate that a school should be playing in a higher division, that school would be moved up.

Five MHSAA Finals champions awarded so far during the 2022-23 school year are assigned to different divisions for 2023-24. Division 6 champion Grand Rapids West Catholic will play 11-player football in Division 5 this upcoming season. The Holland Christian boys soccer team will be moving into Division 2 after winning the Division 3 Final in the fall, and East Grand Rapids’ girls swimming & diving program is headed back to Lower Peninsula Division 3 after winning in LP Division 2 this past season. A pair of cross country champions are on the move – LP Division 4 boys champion Wyoming Potter’s House Christian to LP Division 3, and Upper Peninsula Division 3 girls champion Munising into UP Division 2 – and the Grass Lake boys bowling team will compete in Division 3 next winter after winning the Division 4 championship last month.

Visit the respective sport pages of MHSAA.com to review the divisional alignments for all MHSAA-sponsored tournament sports.

Traditional classes (A, B, C, D) – formerly used to establish tournament classifications – are used only for MHSAA elections. To determine traditional classifications, after all counts are submitted, tournament-qualified member schools are ranked according to enrollment and then split as closely into quarters as possible. For 2023-24, there are 187 member schools in Class A, Class B and Class C, and 189 member schools in Class D.

Effective with the 2023-24 school year, schools with 807 or more students are in Class A. The enrollment limits for Class B are 380-806, Class C is

177-379, and schools with enrollments of 176 and fewer are Class D. The break between Classes A and B decreased eight students from 2022-23, the break between Classes B and C decreased 11 students, and the break between Classes C and D is six students fewer than for the 2022-23 school year.

The new classification breaks will see 21 schools move up in Class for 2023-24 while 24 schools will move down:

Moving Up From Class B to Class A

Bay City John Glenn
Fowlerville
Garden City
Lansing Eastern
Orchard Lake St. Mary’s
Tecumseh

Moving Down from Class A to Class B

Detroit Henry Ford
Detroit Mumford
Harper Woods
Plainwell
Sault Ste. Marie
Spring Lake

Moving Up from Class C to Class B

Ann Arbor Greenhills
Grand Rapids Covenant Christian
Hartford
Ishpeming Westwood
Kent City
Mason County Central
Pinconning

Moving Down from Class B to Class C

Blissfield
Clawson
Clinton Township Clintondale
Detroit Northwestern
Elk Rapids
Fennville
Sanford Meridian
Stockbridge

Moving Up from Class D to Class C

Auburn Hills Oakland Christian
Benton Harbor Countryside Academy
Detroit Crocket Midtown Science & Medicine
Grand Traverse Academy
Martin
Munising
Rudyard
Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary

Moving Down from Class C to Class D

Eau Claire
Fowler
Jackson Prep
L’Anse
Marcellus
Merrill
Mesick
Morenci
Muskegon Heights Academy
St. Ignace

New Postseason-Eligible Tournament Schools in 2023-24

Waterford Oakside Prep

Enrollment Breaks by Classes – 2023-24

(Number of schools in parentheses)
Class A: 807 and above (187 schools)
Class B: 380 – 806 (187)
Class C: 177 – 379 (187)
Class D: 176 and below (189)

Karen Leinaar is 2023 Forsythe Winner

Few people in Michigan have had a longer-lasting influence on the rules and policies of educational athletics than Frankfort's **Karen Leinaar**, who has served in several roles locally, statewide and nationally over more than 40 years contributing to the school sports community.

Thank you, Bill Baker.

The longtime teacher, coach, principal and superintendent during a career that stretched across multiple schools – including Leinaar's growing up, Delton Kellogg – made an impression on the standout multi-sport athlete before she graduated from high school in 1977. Baker's philosophy and work led Leinaar to study education at Michigan State University and then brought her back as Delton's athletic director to begin four decades of making the same impact on children in her hometown and eventually in hometowns all over Michigan and beyond.

Baker died in 2009, but not before continuing to mentor Leinaar through many good times and tough ones.

"The man had two daughters who I grew up with, his wife was a teacher, and he demonstrated to all of us – he never missed an event – that we were important to him. That even though we weren't his kids, we were his kids and athletics was a way to help kids become better people – and for some kids it was the only thing that they had positive in their life," Leinaar said. "And he made it known just to that individual kid how important their participation was and their involvement, and how that helped them become the person that they were.

"That to me was such an example of how to help people be good people, that I just took that role on."

It's a role in which she continues to serve. Leinaar began her career as an athletic administrator in 1982, and as the interim athletic director currently at Frankfort High School is serving her fifth district in that position. Since June 2019, she also has served as executive director of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA), the professional organization for school sports administrators in the state with a membership of nearly 700.

To recognize that longtime and continuing impact, Leinaar is the 2023 honoree for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Charles E. Forsythe Award.

The annual award is in its 46th year and named after former MHSAA Executive Director Charles E. Forsythe, the Association's first full-time and longest-serving chief executive. Forsythe Award recipients are selected each year by the MHSAA Representative Council, based on an individual's outstanding contributions to the interscholastic athletics community.

Leinaar also served 22 years on the MHSAA's Representative Council and a four-year term from 2009-13 on the Board of Directors for the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), and recently was named to the 2023 class of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Hall of Fame.

"It is impossible even to estimate the number of students, coaches, administrators and others who have been affected by the work Karen Leinaar has done to make school sports the best they can be – not only in her communities, but across Michigan and throughout the country," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "There are few who have equaled her dedication and her support and promotion of the ideals of school-based sports. She has always placed an emphasis on being in the room, on the field or at the arena, actively participating in her leadership roles, and our programs are better for it."

Leinaar first served as athletic director at Delton Kellogg for nearly 17 years, from March 1982 through October 1998. She spent three years at Gaylord, then 8½ at Benzie Central before taking over at Bear Lake in November 2010 and spending the next decade organizing athletic programs for students in grades 5-12 before retiring in January 2021. She came out of retirement to return to the athletic director's chair this past fall as interim AD at Frankfort. She has completed nearly four years as MIAAA executive director, moving into that position after previously serving nine years as an assistant to the executive.

Leinaar began her service on the Representative Council in Fall 1999 and completed her last term as a statewide at-large representative at the Fall 2021 meeting.

She has been honored several times for her contributions. She received the MHSAA's Women In Sports Leadership Award in 1998, a Citation from the NFHS in 2000, and she was named MIAAA Athletic Director of the Year in 2001. She received an MHSAA's Allen W. Bush Award in 2014 – recognition given for work done generally behind the scenes and with little attention.

"This is the top of the mountain, per se. This one does mean so much," Leinaar said of the Forsythe Award. "The names that are associated with this over the years, I never thought I'd be put in that group."

Leinaar remains a continuous source of support at a multitude of MHSAA championship events, and during her time on Council was one of the most frequent representatives handing out trophies and medals to champions and runners-up at Finals events. She began while athletic director at Delton Kellogg hosting the MHSAA Volleyball Finals in Class B and Class C and continues to assist with those championships now played at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

She also hosted Competitive Cheer Finals at Delton Kellogg in 1996 and 1997, Ski Finals while at Gaylord, and many more championship events across the Lower Peninsula. She continues to assist at the MHSAA's Lower Peninsula Cross Country and Track & Field Finals.

After attending Delton Kellogg High School, Leinaar earned a bachelor's degree in physical education, health and recreation, with a minor in driver education, from MSU in 1982. She completed a master's in athletic administration from Western Michigan University in 1994.

Leinaar has been a member for 40 years of both the MIAAA and NIAAA, and has served as chairperson of the MIAAA Annual Conference and awards chairperson for both the state and national bodies. She's also served as chairperson of the MIAAA's Exemplary Athletic Program.



Karen Leinaar

2023 WISL Award Goes to Laurie Glass

Hailing from one of Michigan’s smallest communities, Laurie Glass has made an impact that continues to connect all over Michigan.

Her impact on women’s athletics began long before a career that has seen the longtime Leland volleyball coach become one of the winningest in state history.

As a high school junior in 1976, she recruited seven classmates and a coach to form Leland’s first girls sports team – for basketball – and the same group then played volleyball that winter. She was a senior and major contributor when, during their second season, the Comets won the 1978 Class D volleyball title.

More than four decades later, Glass is a Michigan legend in that sport – a winner of 1,218 matches with Leland and Traverse City Central and three Finals championships with the Comets. She’s also a nationally-recognized voice in volleyball and women’s athletics as a whole – and this year’s MHSAA Women in Sports Leadership honoree for those many and continuing contributions.



Laurie Glass

“Because I’m a teacher and coach, that’s my desire to help the youth be the best they could be. And if I can impact a coach or impact another district or program, that means I’m affecting more youth in a positive way,” Glass said. “So for me, it’s just the ripple effect; it gets a lot bigger when I’m starting little drops in other places. It allows me a wider audience for wanting to help young women to be their best young woman self in however way I can make that happen.”

Each year, the Representative Council considers the achievements of women coaches, officials and athletic administrators affiliated with the MHSAA who show exemplary leadership and positive contributions to athletics.

Leland finished 49-13 this past season and reached the Division 4 Quarterfinals. Glass has a record of 1,218-393-122 over more than three decades as a varsity volleyball coach, having led the Comets for a combined 29 seasons over three tenures, the first beginning with the 1989-90 winter season and later picking up with her most recent return for Fall 2010. She also coached Traverse City Central for four seasons beginning in 1991-92.

Glass led Leland to Class D Finals championships in 2002, 2006 and 2015, and runner-up finishes in Class D in 2014 and Division 4 in 2018 and 2019. She was named to the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association (MIVCA) Hall of Fame in 2006, and selected as national Coach of the Year in volleyball in 2014 by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches Association. She’s a three-time MIVCA Coach of the Year and was named Michigan

High School Coaches Association (MHSCA) Coach of the Year for volleyball in 2015. She also was a finalist for National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) national Coach of the Year in 2014.

Glass has spoken multiple times at the MHSAA Women In Sports Leadership Conference and several times at the MIVCA Coaches Clinic, and among various other engagements was the featured speaker at the Nebraska Athletic Association Coaches Clinic. She will receive the Women In Sports Leadership Award during the MHSAA Division 1 Girls Basketball Final on March 18 at Michigan State University’s Breslin Center.

“Laurie Glass is recognized most on the statewide level for leading one of the most successful volleyball programs in state history. But she is known among her peers most for the way she teaches not only volleyball but life skills to her athletes,” MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. “Her leadership creates more leaders, be they the athletes who have the opportunity to play for her or the coaches who learn from her.”

Glass’ roots are in one of the most accomplished athletic families in Michigan high school history.

Her father Larry Glass coached Northwestern University’s men’s basketball program from 1963-69, and later took over the Leland girls basketball program and led the Comets to a 388-110 record and three straight Class D Finals championships (1980-82) over two tenures from 1977-91 and 2000-05. Laurie’s sister Rebecca McKee played basketball at Leland and Michigan State University, and her brother Michael Glass played basketball at Lansing Community College before also becoming a high school and college coach.

Laurie also coached and parented arguably the most accomplished volleyball player – and perhaps top female athlete across all sports – in Michigan high school history. Her daughter Alisha Glass-Childress graduated from Leland in 2006 with national records for career kills, aces and blocks, and the first two still top those respective lists. Alisha, also an all-state basketball player, went on to star in volleyball at Penn State and as the U.S. Olympic team setter in 2016 in helping that team to the bronze medal.

Laurie Glass has served on the MIVCA Executive Board, including as president, and is a member of the MHSCA and American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA).

Glass has served nearly 35 years in education and retired from her duties as a behavior intervention specialist and special education teacher in the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District in 2019. She has returned to the school setting, now in her second year as a behavior intervention specialist at Leland.

Glass earned a bachelor’s degree in special education with an endorsement in emotional impairment from Western Michigan University in 1988.

Make Plans to Attend the 2023 AD In-Service/Update Meeting Series

Athletic directors should plan now to attend an AD In-Service and Update Meeting in the fall. While attendance is strong, some ADs have not attended as their duties have increased. We suggest the opposite approach and urge those who have not attended recently to make it a point of emphasis. Attending these efficient “2-in-1” programs improves leadership and service skills and can make your work less of a burden.

The Update meetings begin at noon and present current issues, rules, regulations, future plans, and pertinent Representative Council matters. SUPERINTENDENTS, PRINCIPALS, ATHLETIC DIRECTORS and SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS should attend Update Meetings each year. Lunch is served at Update Meetings only. The Athletic Director In-Services runs from 8:30-11:45 a.m. and will focus on new actions, describing and defining regulations, MHSAA procedures, group discussions and more.



2023 AD In-Service/Update Meeting Schedule

Tue. Sept. 12	Kalamazoo, Four Points by Sheraton
Mon. Sept. 18	Warren, Ukrainian Cultural Center
Mon. Sept. 25	Grand Rapids, Calvin University Prince Conference Center
Tue. Sept. 26	Frankenmuth, Zehnder's
Mon. Oct. 2	Gaylord, Otsego Club & Resort
Wed. Oct. 4	DeWitt, Banquet & Conference Center (Annual Business Meeting)
Fri. Oct 20	Marquette, Superior Dome (no fee, no meal)

Go to [MHSAA.com](https://www.mhsaa.com) to register for a session near you!

Inform Students, Coaches, Parents of Summer Dead Period

Each school sets its own Summer Dead Period – a seven-consecutive day “zero player and coach contact period” for all sports and all coaches – no functions, fundraisers, parades, etc.

Non-school baseball and softball teams may continue their schedule during the dead period.

Set the period between a school's last day of participation in any MHSAA tournament and Aug. 1. It is recommended that the dead period include the 4th of July.

There is no requirement to report, but there is a requirement to designate and observe a dead period.

Please include ALL sports, especially tennis and swimming in the discussions. Be sure to publicize your Summer Dead Period to all parties and the community at large.



Efficiency is Effective...

The MHSAA is always willing to assist with issues concerning Association regulations. Please remember, however, the most efficient method of communication with the MHSAA on eligibility questions is through the athletic director or principal. Athletic directors should gather all information necessary on a question and then call or write the MHSAA. Coaches or parents calling the MHSAA on eligibility matters can create confusion and delay. ADs or principals are encouraged to contact the MHSAA office directly. Please follow this efficient path of communication.

Summer Vacation Includes Athletics

During the summer, some limitations continue. Except for football, fewer restrictions are in place.

There are no school teams in the summer; however, school coaches and students may assemble from the same school over the summer in various settings beginning on the Monday after Memorial Day. Football has a practice limit of no more than seven players in the summer prior to Aug. 1 in informal football activities in helmets and shoes with a coach.

••SUMMER COMPETITION LIMITS: Five sports are limited to 15 dates of competition when more than four or seven students from that school and a school coach are present in competition against others not enrolled in that school. Basketball, volleyball and ice hockey (four players and coach); soccer, lacrosse and football (seven players and a coach). Football may only have seven summer dates of competition (7-on-7 passing league games) See Football Section below. Summer competition must be prior to Aug. 1 and must follow the travel rule if held outside of Michigan: However, when “summer teams” travel out of state to a bordering state or a site within 300-miles one-way and teams are present from other states that exceed the MHSAA travel limit, “summer teams” may participate against any team at the event. Sports not on this list are not limited in summer competition, but the Three Year-Round Principles continue to apply.

••INCOMING 9TH GRADERS become “high school students” when the four-player rule ends on the Monday after Memorial Day. Provided these former 8th-graders are not still involved in middle school sports, they may begin working out with high schools of enrollment in the summer.

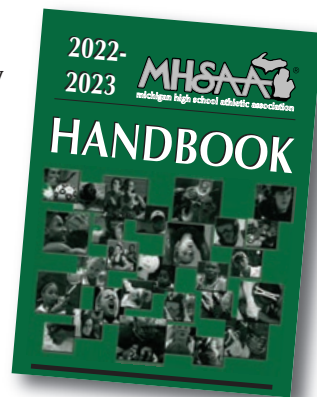
This does not change the rule that prohibits recruiting for athletic purposes (undue influence).

••THE FOUR-PLAYER PERIOD ENDS on the Monday after Memorial Day which is also the Monday after Baseball and Softball District Tournaments and the Track Finals. Except for the dead period (below), any number of players may have contact with their coach in the summer provided the Three Year-Round Principles apply (there is a seven-player limit in football). Schools must regulate the frequency and intensity of any

summer voluntary workouts so students may participate in more than one sport and so that families may have time away from school sports.

••SUMMER DEAD PERIOD: A seven-day zero player/coach and zero school facility period of time from the end of school or participation in the MHSAA spring tournaments to Aug 1. No coach contact whatsoever is allowed including at fundraisers, functions or places of employment. Each school sets its own seven-day dead period and it applies to ALL sports, except that non-school summer baseball or softball games and practices may continue in the summer dead period. Most schools select a seven-day period which includes July 4.

••FOOTBALL: Only football helmets and football shoes are permitted out of season in ANY setting, including camps or clinics, whether held in-state or out-of-state. No pads except during the season. The exception being that shoulder pads may be worn at college summer camps sponsored and run directly by NCAA/NAIA institutions. A football coach may hold 15 dates of non-mandatory activity with any number of players in grades 9-12 or 6-8 separately. Teams may use these dates as they see fit under other regulations (i.e., practice or 7-on-7) but a team or individual may not exceed seven “7 on 7” competitions. Any camp day would be counted among the allowed 15 dates. In the summer, besides the 15 dates, school coaches and up to seven players may assemble at one time for informal football activities or workouts which must also follow the three Year-Round Principles.



Scan the code at right for complete out-of-season regulations



The Only Official Interpretations are Those Received in Writing

Student Advisory Council Names Class of 2025

Eight student-athletes who will be juniors at their schools during the 2023-24 academic year have been selected to serve two-year terms on the Michigan High School Athletic Association’s Student Advisory Council.

The Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student’s perspective, and also is involved in the operation of Association championship events and other programming. Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. Eight new members are selected annually to serve on the SAC, with nominations made by MHSAA member schools. The incoming juniors will join the group of eight seniors-to-be appointed a year ago.

Selected to begin serving on the Student Advisory Council in 2023-24 are: **Cale Bell**, Sault Ste. Marie; **Drew Cady**, Oxford; **Macy Jenkins**, Milford; **Isaiah Kabban**, Harbor Beach; **Ella Knudsen**, Leland; **Kaylee Kranz**, Clinton; **Joey Spada**, Kalamazoo Central; and **Aynalem Zoet**, Grandville Calvin Christian.

Those eight new members were selected from 105 applicants. That number of applicants was the fourth-most ever, with the last four years featuring the four highest totals.

The first Student Advisory Council was formed for the 2006-07 school year. With the addition of this class beginning this summer, members will have represented 137 schools from 50 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in 16 MHSAA sports, and all eight will be the first SAC members from their respective schools.

The Student Advisory Council generally meets seven times each school year, and once more for a 24-hour leadership camp. In addition to assisting in the promotion of the educational value of interscholastic athletics, the Council discusses issues dealing with the 4 S’s of educational athletics: scholarship, sportsmanship, safety (including health and nutrition) and the sensible scope of athletic programs. There also is a fifth S discussed by the group – student leadership.

This school year, the Council handed out championship trophies at Finals events, helped create a new online captains course for students across the country and provided feedback to the MHSAA Representative Council on proposed rule changes.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2024 members who were selected a year ago: **Kannon Duffing**, Manchester; **Claire Gorno**, Gaylord; **M’Khi Guy**, Muskegon; **Dawsen Lehew**, Marcellus; **Christian Sanders**, Detroit Renaissance; **Ben Sytsma**, Grand Rapids Christian; **Madeline Werner**, Bay City All Saints; and **DaNia Womack**, Dearborn Advanced Tech Academy.

Student Advisory Council Belief Statement

Adopted Nov. 2007

As the voice of Michigan’s student-athletes, the Student Advisory Council’s role is to convey the message of how high school sports are supposed to be played. We are responsible for helping the MHSAA maintain a positive and healthy atmosphere in which interscholastic athletes can thrive.

We believe **athletes** should be competitive, sportsmanlike and excel academically. We believe **students** in the stands should have fun, but not take the focus away from the game. We believe **coaches** should act as teachers, helping student-athletes develop while still keeping high school sports in perspective. We believe that **parents** should always be positive role models and be supportive of their child’s decisions. We believe **officials** commit their own time to high school sports and respect should always be shown and given to them.

The most important goal for student-athletes is to enjoy high school sports while keeping a high level of respect between all those involved in the games.

– Written by the Student Advisory Council, adopted by MHSAA Representative Council in Nov. 2007

Scholar-Athlete Class of 2023 Honored

The Michigan High School Athletic Association/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award has been recognizing the top student-athletes for 34 years. Applicants for the Scholar-Athlete Award must meet the following criteria: A minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale; and must have previously won a varsity letter. Applicants also show involvement in other school and community activities; submit two letters of recommendation and a 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Recipients of the 2022-23 Scholar-Athlete Award receive a \$2,000 college scholarship to be used at the college, university, or trade school of their choice during the 2023-24 school year. This year, a total of 1,440 applications from 421 schools were received for the 32 scholarships. Class A students were guaranteed 12 winners, Class B eight winners, Class C six winners and Class D four winners. Two at-large winners were also selected.

All scholarship recipients were honored during the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Center in East Lansing this March.



32 student-athletes from around the state are honored during the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals each year for academic excellence.

2023 Scholar-Athlete Award Winners

- | | |
|---|--|
| James Baer, Holland, Class A | Shubhan Nagarkar, Midland Dow, Class A |
| Jane Barnett, Royal Oak, Class A | Amos Norland, Dollar Bay, Class D |
| Ella Blank, Birmingham Groves, Class A | Isaiah Pelc, Portland, Class B |
| Brennan Cannaday, Royal Oak Shrine Catholic, Class C | Shane Pitcher, Saline, Class A |
| Nora Chamas, Dearborn, Class A | Isaac Posterna, Grand Haven, Class A |
| Caroline Colt, Milford, Class A | Sreejay Ramakrishnan, Ada Forest, Hills Eastern, Class B |
| Saylor Cuthrell, Cass City, Class C | Jordan Richie, BH Cranbrook Kingswood, Class B |
| Brendan Downey, Grosse Pointe South, Class A | Megan Roberts Hillsdale Academy, Class D |
| Noah Etnyre, Plymouth Christian Academy, Class C | Ian Robertson, Traverse City West, Class A |
| Jacob Fenbert, Dundee, Class B | Carney Salo, Escanaba, Class B |
| Abby Frushour, DeWitt, Class A | Anna Smith, Clawson, Class B |
| Ethan Green, Kingston, Class C | Naomi Sowa, East Lansing, Class A |
| Laina Harger, St Charles, Class C | Allison Tate, Whitehall, Class B |
| Camden Johncheck, Williamston, Class B | Keira Tolmie, Clarkston, Class A |
| Ryan Lee, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern, Class A | Makennah Uotila, Ontonagon, Class D |
| Ryan McDonell, Bay City All Saints, Class D | Quinn Watts, Fowler, Class C |



Baer



Barnett



Blank



Cannaday



Chamas



Colt



Cuthrell



Downey



Etnyre



Fenbert



Frushour



Green



Harger



Johnecheck



Lee



McDonell



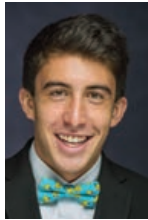
Nagarkar



Norland



Pelc



Pitcher



Postema



Ramakrishnan



Richie



Roberts



Robertson



Salo



Smith



Sowa



Tate



Tolmie



Uotila



Watts

Visit the Students page of [MHSAA.com](https://www.mhsaa.com) for a Scholar-Athlete History, and for 2023-24 Application Information

Rules of the Games

Sharpen your skills with the following rules questions. Answers appear at the bottom of the next page.

Baseball

- The batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop. As the ball is hit, the end cap of the bat comes loose and flies towards the shortstop. This distracts the shortstop and he is unable to make a play on the seemingly routine ground ball.
 - The ball remains live and in play.
 - This is interference; umpire shall call the batter out.
 - Time should immediately be called when the bat breaks apart. Return the batter to the box and he will hit again.
 - The coach and player are ejected for illegal equipment.
- R1 is on 1st with one out. B3 hits a fly ball to deep right field and R1 takes off immediately on contact. The right fielder makes a diving catch for the second out while R1 is now scrambling to get back to first base. The right fielder gets up, and seeing R1 racing back toward first, unleashes a throw that lands over the first base dugout in dead ball territory. At the time of the throw, R1 is roughly 30 feet from first base. Where is R1 placed?
 - First base.
 - Second base.
 - Third base.
 - Home....score the run.
- R1 on first, R3 on third and two outs. The batter hits a home run. R1 misses second base and this infraction is properly appealed by the defense. How many runs score?
 - Three
 - Two
 - One
 - None



Boys Lacrosse

- Which of the following under the Rule 7.8.2 ENDS a flag-down, slow-whistle situation. The officials blow the whistle to stop play when there is a:
 - Ball goes out of bounds.
 - Defensive team gains possession.
 - Ground ball.
 - Subsequent or 2nd foul on the defense.



- True or False: A 1 passes the ball to A 2. While the ball is in flight B 1 targets a body check on A 2 who does not see the hit coming. In this situation, the official needs to judge the hit's intensity and assess a one-three minute non-releasable penalty.
- Which of the following apply to having a clearly marked center line that runs through the entire width of the field:
 - Failure to have this line results in the game beginning with the ball being awarded to the visiting team.
 - Failure to have clearly marked centerline makes faceoffs difficult.
 - Failure to have a clearly marked centerline makes off-sides and over and back difficult to call.
 - A temporary chalk line or shadow line is permitted.



Girls Lacrosse

- The red goalkeeper reaches out to bring the ball back into the goal circle with one foot completely out of the circle and one foot in the air above – but within the plane of – the goal circle.
 - Legal
 - Illegal
- A red player is fouled outside the critical scoring area. After stopping with both feet stationary on the ground, within 4 meters of the spot of the foul, the player runs down the field. The official blows the whistle and requires the player

- to return to the spot of the foul and restart play because the player's full body did not come to a stop before self-starting.
- Correct procedure
 - Incorrect procedure

- Team A has 12 players on the field and two players between the restraining line when the official is ready to start the draw. The official places a hand on the sticks of both centers. A player from Team A crosses the restraining line and take a position just outside the center circle.
 - Legal
 - Illegal



Girls Soccer

- Play has been stopped for a foul by A4. The referee has stopped the clock and has given A4 a caution. As the referee is walking with the player toward the Team A bench to report the caution to the coaches, A4 directs insulting language to the referee. A9, a substitute who is waiting to enter the game for A4, has not yet been beckoned onto the field by the referee.
 - The referee should ignore A4's statement.
 - The referee should show A4 a red card and allow A9 to enter the field.
 - The referee should show A4 a red card and not allow A9 to enter the field.
 - The referee should show A4 a yellow card, followed by a red card and not allow A9 to enter the game.
- Player A of the attacking team is clearly in an offside position when her teammate delivers the ball to her with a throw-in. She collects the ball and kicks it into the goal. The referee should:
 - Award an indirect free kick to Team B.
 - Award a goal to Team A.
 - Award a goal kick to Team B.
 - Award a re-take to Team A.

- On a penalty kick, the goalkeeper moves laterally prior to the kick. At the time of the kick he lunges with one foot in front of the line and one foot over the goal line but not actually touching the ground. The goalkeeper makes the save. What is the result of the penalty kick?
 - Retake the kick
 - Corner kick
 - Goal kick
 - Good save, play continues

Softball

- R1 is on third base and R2 is on first base with one out. B4 hits a fly ball in foul territory near the first-base line. R2 interferes with F3 attempting to catch the fly ball. The correct call is:
 - If the fly ball is caught by F3, both R2 and B4 are out.
 - B4 is out and R2 is returned to first base.
 - The ball is dead immediately, R2 is out and B4 is charged with a foul ball.
 - If the fly ball is caught, B4 is out and the interference by R2 is ignored.
- The DP may be substituted for at any time by:
 - A legal substitute.
 - The FLEX playing offense.
 - Anyone else in the batting order.
 - A and B only.
 - A, B and C.
- B1 hits a ground ball that goes past F3. No other fielder had a chance to make an out, but the ball strikes the umpire. The correct call is:
 - The umpire will watch and judge if the defense was disadvantaged before calling dead ball.
 - The ball is dead; batter awarded one base.
 - The ball remains live; B1 can advance as many bases as possible with the liability to be put out.
 - The ball remains live. Even if F3 grabs the ball and touches first base before B1, B1 is safe because of umpire interference.



Baseball Answers: 1-a (7-3-6); 2-c (8-3-3 c); 3-d (8-2-6; 9-1-1)
 Boys Lacrosse Answers: 1-a, b, d (Rule 7.8.2); 2-False (3 minute non-releasable, ejection possible)
 5.4.6 Situation; 3-a, b, c, d (1.2.1)
 Girls Lacrosse Answers: 1-a 5-(7-1-2); 2-b (5-4-1); 3-b (5-2-5)
 Soccer Answers: 1-c (12-8-2f, 3-3-3 Situation F); 2-b (11-1-1-2); 3-d (14-1-3)
 Softball Answers: 1-c (8-6-10); 2-d (3-3-6d); 3-c (8-1-2)

MHSAA Representative Council

Chris Adams*

Superintendent
Camden-Frontier High School
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

Eric Albright**

Athletic Director
Midland High School
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

Jay Alexander*

Executive Director of Athletics
Detroit Public Schools
Detroit Public Schools Position

Judy Cox**

Principal
Auburn-Bay City Western High School
Appointee

Scott Grimes, President**

Superintendent, Grand Haven Public Schools
Statewide At-Large

Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio)

Deputy Superintendent, Finance Operations
Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing
Designee

Kris Isom*

Athletic Director
Adrian Madison High School
Appointee

Sean Jacques**

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Calumet High School
Class C-D — Upper Peninsula

Jeff Kline*

Athletic Director
Mt. Morris High School
Statewide At-Large

Jason Malloy**

Athletic Director
Westland John Glenn High School
Appointee

Vic Michaels, Secretary-Treasurer**

Director of Physical Education & Athletics
Archdiocese of Detroit
Private and Parochial Schools

Chris Miller*

Athletic Director/Director of Operations
Gobles High School
Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

Anna Rigby**

Athletic Director
Harbor Springs High School
Class C-D — Northern Michigan

Chris Riker**

Athletic Director
Portage Northern High School
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

Meg Seng**

Athletic Director
Ann Arbor Greenhills High School
Appointee

Fred Smith**

Athletic Director
Bangor Middle School
Junior High/Middle Schools

Adam Stefanski*

Principal
Boyer City High School
Junior High/Middle Schools

John Thompson**

Athletic Director
Brighton High School
Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan

Alex Tiseo*

Athletic Director
Marquette High School
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

*Term Expires December 2023

**Term Expires December 2024

ANALYSIS OF MHSAA MEMBERSHIP May 12, 2023

750 Total High Schools

Total Public Schools	647	86%
Charter (Public School Academies)	36	5%
Traditional Schools	611	81%
Total Non Public Schools	103	14%
Religious	97	13%
Secular (Non-Public)	6	1%

767 Total Junior High/Middle Schools

Total Public Schools	673	88%
Charter (Public School Academies)	46	6%
Traditional Schools	627	82%
Total Nonpublic Schools	94	12%
Religious	88	11%
Secular (Non-Public)	6	1%

Candidates Set for September 2023 Election

BALLOTS TO BE MAILED TO SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER 2023

Ballots for Representative Council elections will be mailed to principals of member schools from the MHSAA office Sept. 1, 2023. The ballots will be due back in the MHSAA office Sept. 22, 2023.

Eight positions for membership on the Representative Council will be up for election this fall. Vacancies for two-year terms beginning December 2023 will occur as follows: Class C-D Southwestern Section L.P. and Class C-D Southeastern Section L.P.; Upper Peninsula Class A-B; Statewide At-Large; Junior High/Middle School, elected on a statewide basis; and Detroit Public Schools.

In addition to the above-named Representative Council positions, there are three Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee positions to be voted on in September. A representative of the Class D schools; Class C schools, and Class A-B schools will be elected by Upper Peninsula schools.

Look for the ballots and return them in time to be counted by the Board of Canvassers. Be sure you mark your ballot correctly and signatures are affixed in the proper places. Ballots must have two (2) signatures to be considered valid.

Look for the ballots and return them in time to be counted by the Board of Canvassers. Be sure you mark your ballot correctly and signatures are affixed in the proper places. Ballots must have two (2) signatures to be considered valid.

Details of the Representative Council composition may be found near the beginning of the *MHSAA Handbook*.

Following the due date of Sept. 22, 2023, the Board of Canvassers as provided in Article IV of the Constitution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, will meet on Sept. 26, 2023 and declare the winners for the various vacancies.

In accordance with the approved nomination and election procedures, listed candidates have submitted their desire to run for a position by March 15, 2023. They have included an approval to serve from their respective superintendent or principal and have certified their qualifications to run for the office which they seek. No write-ins will be possible because each candidate must be approved by March 15 in order to run for a position on the Representative Council.

Following are the declared candidates and the vacancies which will occur in December 2023:

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL CANDIDATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2023 ELECTION

Southwestern Section, Lower Peninsula – Class C and D Schools

- Chris Miller, Athletic Director, Gobles High School

Southeastern Section, Lower Peninsula – Class C and D Schools

- Chris Adams, Superintendent, Camden-Frontier Schools

Upper Peninsula – Class A and B Schools

- Alex Tiseo, Athletic Director, Marquette High School

Statewide At-Large

- Jeff Kline, Athletic Director, Mt Morris High School
- Chris Ming, Superintendent, AuGres-Sims School District
- Jeffrey York, Superintendent, Hale Area Schools

Junior High/Middle Schools

- Adam Stefanski, Principal, Boyne City High School

Detroit Public Schools

- Jay Alexander, Executive Director of Athletics, Detroit Public Schools

UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Class D Schools

- Vincent Gross, Athletic Director, Whitefish Township

Class C Schools

- Sam Larson, Athletic Director, Menominee High School

Class A and B Schools

- Paul Jacobson, Asst. Principal/Athletic Director, Negaunee Public Schools

Important Fall 2023 Administrative Dates

June 5	Four-Player Rules ends; Summer Rules begin
June 5-July 31	Summer competition except during dead week (set by each school)
July 3-7	MHSAA Office Closed
Mid-July	School Year Start-Up on MHSAA.com
July 27, Aug. 14 or 16	New AD Orientation at MHSAA
July 24 & July 31	Fall Online Rules Meetings Launch
July 31	MHSAA Membership Resolution due
Aug. 1 to Start of Fall Sports	Preseason Down Time (High School)
14 Calendar days prior to the start of Middle School Practices:	Preseason Down Time (JH/MS)
Aug. 7	Four-Player Rule Resumes
Aug. 7	Practice Starts for all Fall Sports
Sept. 11	New AD Orientation at MHSAA (later hires)
Sept. 14	ADs attest CPR for all head coaches (Varsity, J.V. and 9th grade) & all coaches, all levels complete fall rules meetings
Sept. 12	Kalamazoo Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Sept. 18	Warren Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Sept. 25	Grand Rapids Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Sept. 27	Frankenmuth Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Oct. 9 & 16	Winter Online Rules Meetings Launch
Oct. 2	Gaylord Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Oct. 4	DeWitt Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Oct. 20	Marquette Update Meeting

Ratings Due June 20

Spring is notoriously the season during which MHSAA schools lapse in their duty to rate contest officials. We understand the number of contests taking place, the chaotic nature of scheduling due to weather, and the anticipation of summer vacation, but ratings must be submitted for officials at all levels, and on time: June 20. Not only do ratings supply feedback for officials and tournament assignments – they are a requirement your school and coaches are to follow. Please accomplish this detail in baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse.

Schedule Membership Resolution for Board of Education Meetings

When the Representative Council meets each May, the rules are finalized for the coming school year, and meeting minutes are mailed to each member school. Every member school Board of Education or governing body of a nonpublic school wishing to join the MHSAA for the coming school year must vote to do so and adopt the rules as its own.

The MHSAA Membership Resolution must be signed by the Board of Education and returned to the MHSAA. Please complete both sides of the form: on the reverse side, list schools in your district that will be MHSAA members and include the current enrollment number for 6th, 7th and 8th grades. When membership lapses, insurance coverage, among other matters, is jeopardized.

Administrators: Please be sure to schedule the MHSAA Membership Resolution for your upcoming Board of Education Meeting – Membership Resolution Forms are mailed to superintendents each May and are due back to the MHSAA by July 31.



michigan high school athletic association

help wanted. just whistle.

We Need You!

Register for the
2023-24 School Year
at [MHSAA.com](https://www.mhsaa.com)

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
1661 Ramblewood Dr.
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823-7392**

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