

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
SWIMMING & DIVING COMMITTEE MINUTES
East Lansing, February 1, 2023

Members Present:

Tim Eastman, Lawton
Tom Flynn, Birmingham
JT Hogan, Spring Lake
Megan Merchant, St. Johns
Darrin Millar, Royal Oak (MISCA)
Andrea Murphy, Plainwell
Eric Talsma, Hamilton
Andrew Thomson, Chelsea
Alex Tiseo, Marquette (remote)
Doug VanderJagt, Hudsonville
Nikki Norris, East Lansing (MIAAA)

Members Absent:

Dana Kirk, Dimondale
Mike Wagner, Okemos
Joe Wallace, Portage

Guest:

Mitch Smelis, Fenton (MATS)

MHSAA Staff:

Andi Osters (Recorder)

The 2022-23 MHSAA Swimming & Diving Committee met at the John E. “Jack” Roberts building in East Lansing on Feb. 1, 2023, to review topics involving swimming and diving and MHSAA Championships. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision-making process and charge of the Swimming & Diving Committee. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members, and the coaches association. The committee was reminded that the scope of their work was to focus on growing the sport of swimming and diving, protecting the health & safety of participants, and maintaining the proper philosophy of educational, school-based athletics.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

MHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP MEET BREAK INTERVALS & TIMING OF EVENTS

The Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association suggested that the committee review the current format of MHSAA Preliminary and Final Championships – specifically the defined breaks provided by meet managers for competitors. Clearly defined intervals allow swimmers ample time to rest between heats and also provide consistency across all three divisions. A proposal was developed to prescribe three specific breaks for preliminary and championship time schedules. Additionally, the committee requested that the paralympic exhibition heats in the 50 Freestyle and 100 Freestyle be held immediately prior to the Final events in the same corresponding categories.

BACKSTROKE LEDGES

The use of backstroke ledges in high school swimming is currently prohibited by NFHS Swimming & Diving Rule 2-7-2(b). Citing a current proposal and anticipated action by the NFHS Swimming Committee, MHSAA committee members asked that a contingent proposal be advanced. If the NFHS authorizes states to adopt the equipment, Michigan will allow ledges to be used beginning with the 2023-24 school year for high school swimming. Ledges would be considered permitted equipment (but not required) for use during regular season competition and required equipment for MHSAA Finals events.

ENTRY PROCESS FOR MHSAA EVENTS

Meet managers at three separate venues handle entries for qualified swimmers (and divers) to MHSAA Championship meets. Standardizing the format and requirements for entries remains a focus, specifically an emphasis on integrity and ethical behavior by swim coaches. MHSAA rules require that (1) coaches enter the best time achieved by swimmers for individual events and (2) that coaches enter relay times equal to the best time achieved in varsity competition by the entered relay competitors. Committee members agreed that language needs to be added to meet confirmation emails to reflect those two requirements. If entry issues persist, regular-season times may need to be collected by the MHSAA to improve the accuracy of entries.

DISCUSSION ITEMS – NO ACTION

1. Championship Venues, Regional Dive Hosts
2. NFHS Guidelines for Officiating Swimmers with Disabilities
3. Upper Peninsula Championship Dive Format
4. MHSAA Paralympic Exhibition Heats/Timing
5. Limited Team Membership & 4-Player Out-of-Season Coaching
6. Diving Regional Qualification

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MHSAA REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Require the following set of breaks to be taken at MHSAA Swimming & Diving Championship preliminary and final rounds:
 - Friday - Preliminary Breaks:
 - 10 minutes between the 200 Medley Relay and 200 Freestyle
 - 15 minutes between the 50 Freestyle and 100 Butterfly
 - 10 minutes between the 200 Freestyle Relay and the 100 Backstroke
 - Saturday - Final Breaks:
 - 10 minutes between the 200 Medley Relay and 200 Freestyle
 - 15 minutes between the conclusion of Diving and the 100 Butterfly
 - 10 minutes between the 200 Freestyle Relay and the 100 Backstroke(11-0)
2. Beginning in 2023-24 (if the NFHS Rules Committee permits state associations to do so with a change to NFHS Swimming & Diving Rule 2-7-2(b)), authorize schools in Michigan to use backstroke starting ledges during the regular season and require them for all MHSAA Championship meet venues. (11-0)