

CLASS in SESSION

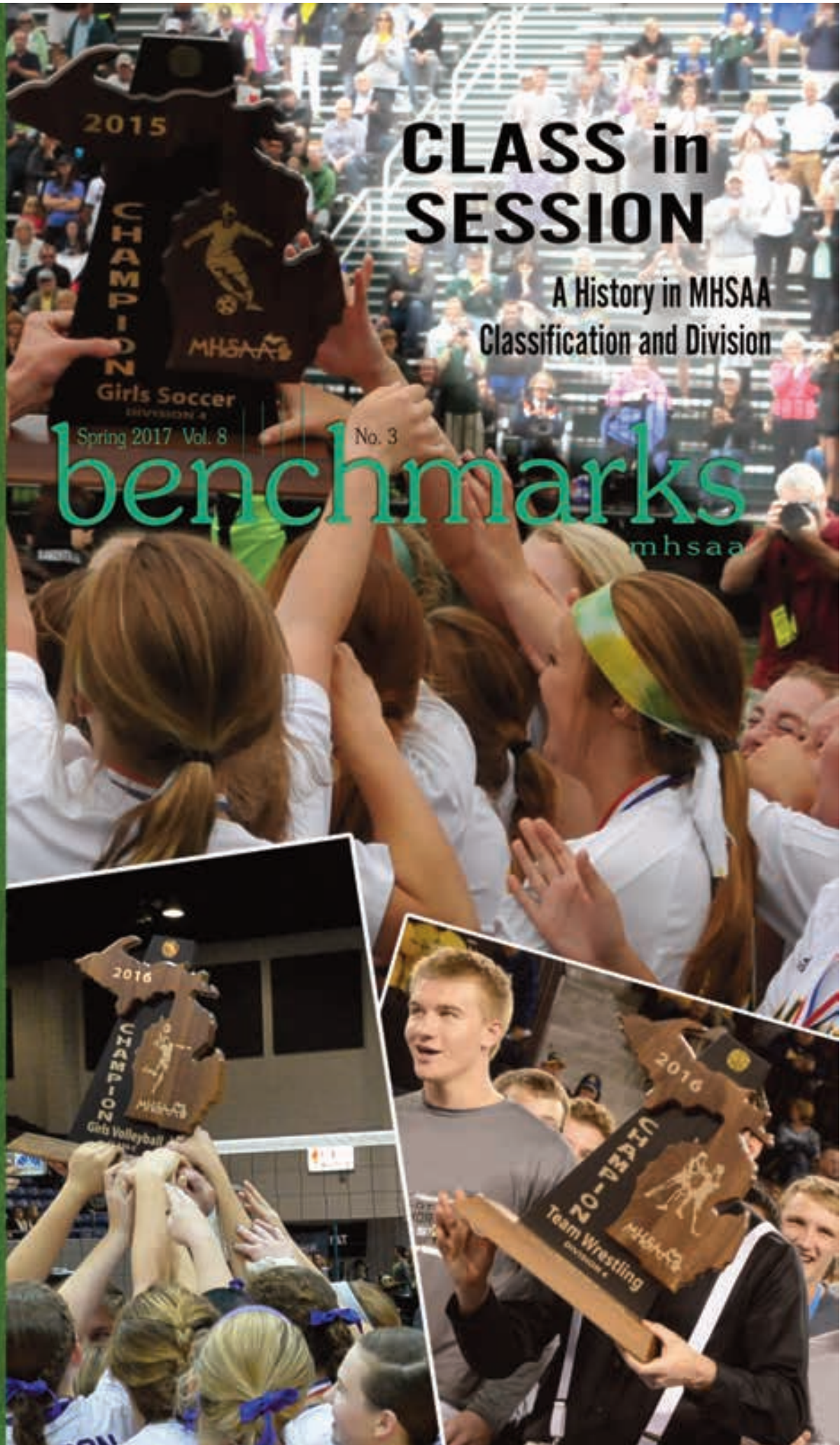
A History in MHSAA
Classification and Division

Spring 2017 Vol. 8

No. 3

benchmarks

mhsaa





I have a
story...



I have a
story...



I have a
story...



I have a
story...

We tell their stories

SECOND HALF

by MHSAA



Class in Session: History and Division



4 Long recognized as the first state association to implement a class structure for its post-season tournaments, the MHSAA modified its approach nearly 20 years ago. Whether sports remained in classes or moved to divisions, equal opportunity was the driving force.

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The Vault – 18

Unified Division

MHSAA membership spoke in support of a move from class to division through a 1996 Update Meeting Survey, yielding a new look for tourneys.



MHSAA News – 22

8-Player Football Grows

The MHSAA 8-Player Football Playoffs will have a new look in 2017, as two divisions will be in place leading to two championship games.



Regulations Review – 38

Getting Physical

In May 2016, the Rep Council added requirements which start with fall sports 2017-18. Here is a guide to understanding the proper physical form procedure.



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First-Class Education



Michigan is generally accepted as the first state to direct its schools into different tournament classifications based on school enrollment. Much has happened here and across the country during the century since we began doing so.

But what is much more important than the number of classes in MHSAA tournaments is the number of lessons in the classroom of educational athletics.

There is far too much attention – **far too much** – on the number of classes or divisions in postseason tournaments.

Of far more importance – **far more** – is what’s actually occurring during the regular season; during practices as well as contests in local schools every day.

School sports done right provides an energetic, engaging classroom for efficient yet life-altering lessons. For an education that goes beyond instruction in athletic skills and strategies to life lessons for adolescents’ journey to adulthood.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John E. “Jack” Roberts
MHSAA Executive Director



The daily lessons which occur during practices are far more important than the small percentage of postseason games for school sports participants.

The Expanding Nature of School Sports...and Titles

The following "From the Director" Blogs on MHSAA.com outline the expansion of the MHSAA 8-Player Football Tournament and some of the issues moving forward.

Balancing Football Playoffs April 18, 2017

Every time the Michigan High School Athletic Association Football Playoffs have been expanded, two voices have been heard – one complaining that too many teams or divisions have watered down the tournament; the other advocating that every school should qualify for the tournament regardless of their regular-season performance.

The playoffs have expanded from 32 to 64 to 128 to 256 to 272 teams; and in 2017, with the addition of 16 more 8-player teams, to 288 of the 626 MHSAA member schools' football teams in Michigan.

We have reached the point where 46 percent of the schools which sponsor football qualify for the Football Playoffs, and we are approaching closely the point of qualifying every team with winning records during the regular season.

Those stats sound about right for a collision sport conducted mostly outdoors in a cold climate for teenagers. A longer tournament is unwise; a larger tournament is unneeded.

What is needed and wise is more attention to the regular season, and especially to practices which occur at least five times more frequently than games. That's where the teaching and learning of football and life skills can be everyday occurrences for every team in Michigan.

Five Questions for 8-Player FB April 7, 2017

The 2017 8-Player Football Playoffs will be conducted over four weeks in two divisions of 16 teams each for the 60-plus

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

teams sponsored by Michigan High School Athletic Association Class D schools.

That much was decided by the MHSAA Representative Council on March 24.

There are five questions (at least) that the Council still must answer:

How should teams qualify? Since the first 8-player tournament in 2011, teams have qualified by playoff point averages – the 16 highest qualified for the tournament. Should this be changed to a system of automatic qualifiers on the basis of wins, plus additional qualifiers on the basis of playoff points to complete the field – like the 11-player tournament operates?

When should divisions be determined? Should it be in late March when division breaks for other "equal divisions" tournaments are set? Or should divisions be determined nearer the start of the season – say, September 1 – so all late additions, deletions, and cooperative program changes can be factored in before the two divisions, based on enrollment, are determined?

Where will the championship games be played? Should the Council designate a double-header at the Superior Dome in Marquette so the MHSAA can focus all its resources on one climate-controlled facility? Or should two sites be designated now (perhaps the Superior Dome in Marquette and Legacy Field in Greenville), and the specific games and times assigned as the playoffs progress in an attempt to reduce travel times for teams and spectators?

Should the maximum enrollment for the 8-player tournament be the moving target of the Class D maximum (203 in 2017) or a fixed number – for example, 215, the Class D maximum in 2011 when the 8-player tournament began? This decision could be deferred to the Council's meeting in December.

Should there be a "grace period" for schools that are eligible for the 8-player tournament one year but have enrollments that exceed the 8-player limit the next

year – for example, eligible only the following year and only if the enrollment does not exceed the 8-player enrollment limit by more than 12 students? This decision could also be delayed to the December meeting of the Council.

As our excitement builds for the expanded 8-player tournament, so do the questions.

Backing benchmarks

I should do this more often, but I wanted you to know how much I enjoy receiving the *benchmarks* publication. I read the winter edition and felt compelled to write. I really enjoy all of the issues, but this issue was filled with articles and information I really enjoyed. The 8-man/11-man issue, the state tournament attendance information, the Hoops Heritage piece (right in my wheelhouse), the feature on Barb Beckett, the expansion of cooperative programs and, as always, the survey results from the Update meetings. I especially appreciate the great job that you and the team at the MHSAA do to keep those of us who have moved on connected to the organization's successes and challenges.

– Chip Hansen
Charlevoix

Keep it Simple

I need to comment on Jack Roberts' 4/11/17 posting on MHSAA.com with the title "Beyond Fairness." Great minds think alike. That was my philosophy throughout my days as both a member and chair of the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee, and it carries on with the NFHS. In other words, why put in obscure rules and language that clutter up the word count and will be neither understood nor properly enforced by the majority of officials? The KISS rule is my guiding star – keep it safely simple (a slight variation from the more familiar phrase, but clearly PC). Right on, Jack.

– Bob Hayden
Monroe
NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Chair



MHSAA File Photo

Class in Session

When the MHSAA Team Wrestling Tournament took center stage at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena in 1996, a fourth mat was added to the spotlight, and a new trend in postseason classification began. In the two decades to follow, more tournaments were added by division, and class structure faded.

Conversation and discussion at the March 2017 MHSAA Representative Council Meeting leaned heavily toward the subject of 8-Player Football and how to properly balance its tournament with the growing number of schools sponsoring the sport.

While the proposal to split the tournament into two divisions beginning with the 2017 school year was adopted, the MHSAA then faced questions such as when to set the divisions, how to determine qualifiers and where to host the championship games.

The topic continues to create a buzz in Class D schools across both peninsulas, and likely will do so as the coming summer leads into the start of school next fall.

Likewise, the lone holdouts still conducting tournaments by class – MHSAA Boys and Girls Basketball and Girls Volleyball – took center stage at the May Council discussion, and following the 2017-18 school year, class is out for good. Both genders of basketball, and girls volleyball, will move to divisional formats thereafter.

There is much to be decided to be sure, but as those in education are well aware, history is the best teacher.

Fortunately for the sports in flux and for all sports under the governance of the MHSAA, the Association more or less wrote the book on the subject of sport classification. Following is a history lesson, with a little advanced division thrown in.

Class Structure

Credited with being the first state with multiple tournament classifications, Michigan’s attention to trends and shifts in philosophy aimed at fair play and equal tournament opportunity can be traced from 80 years ago to the present.

In the earliest years of the MHSAA, there were four classifications for elections and tournaments – Classes A, B, C and D. Classes C and D had far more schools than Classes A and B. For example, 80 years ago (1937), there were only 58 schools in Class A, 94 schools in Class B, 297 schools in Class C and 253 schools in Class D.

Gradually through the years, as Michigan’s major cities spawned suburbs, there was a shift in the other direction to the point 30 years ago (1987) where school size became more balanced: 173 Class A schools, 178 Class B schools, 179 Class C schools and 182 Class D schools.

Up until 1987, the MHSAA published the dividing line between each classification, after which schools submitted their enrollments. Then, for 1988 and thereafter, the MHSAA adopted the plan of gathering all enrollments first and then placing 25 percent of the schools in each of four classes. This completed the equalization of the number of schools in each class for elections.

However, the change for 1988 did nothing to equalize the number of teams actually entered by each class in each sport. And unlike the early years of the Association when there were many more Class C and D teams than A and B teams, there were more Class A and B teams than C and D teams entering MHSAA tournaments decades later.

Moreover, the difference in number of teams entered in the different classifications for a sport con-

Reaching the End
MHSAA Basketball and Volleyball tournaments will still employ classes in postseason tournaments for one more school year before these trophies are also inscribed with “Division.”



John Johnson, Okemos

– continued next page

LONG DIVISION: A Comparative Look at Divisions Then and Now

Following are the initial divisional breakdowns for the 1997-98 school year for the first group of sports migrating out of the class format for postseason tournaments, compared to the same sports for the 2016-17 school year (in green).

Sport	Schools	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4
Baseball	633	1,077 & Above	565 to 1,076	293 to 364	292 & Below
	635	1,010 & Above	504 to 1009	268 to 503	267 & Below
Boys Soccer	351	1,316 & Above	871 to 515	516 to 870	515 & Below
	472	1,235 & Above	678 to 1,234	368 to 677	367 & Below
Girls Soccer	265	1,270 & Above	826 to 1,269	825 & Below	(No D4 in 1998)
	466	1,200 & Above	680 to 1,199	382 to 679	381 & Below
Softball	629	1,077 & Above	565 to 1,076	293 to 564	292 & Below
	618	1,010 & Above	504 to 1009	268 to 503	267 & Below
LP Boys Tennis	339	1,402 & Above	969 to 1,401	633 to 968	632 & Below
	293	1,527 & Above	1,005 to 1,526	661 to 1,004	660 & Below
LP Girls Tennis	316	1,421 & Above	1,030 to 1,420	685 to 1,029	684 & Below
	327	1,418 & Above	913 to 1,417	600 to 912	599 & Below
Wrestling	442	1,210 & Above	737 to 1,209	477 to 736	476 & Below
	467	1,235 & Above	675 to 1,234	383 to 674	382 & Below

tinued to increase as many small schools, the fastest growing part of the MHSAA's membership, sponsor only a few sports, or they sponsor no sports at all but enter into cooperative programs with other schools.

Because of these differences, Class A or B schools sometimes had to win twice as many games as Class C or D schools to reach the MHSAA Finals in a sport. At times, the larger classifications had District Tournaments, even rat-tail games, and/or a Quarterfinal game, and the smaller classifications did not. Most Class D Districts have had four teams (some only three), while Class A Districts often had seven or eight teams. In Regional levels of individual sports, the number of entries in the larger classification once greatly outnumbered those in the smaller classifications of the tournament for the same sport.

Over the years these dividing lines between classes escalated gradually, as did the differences in enrollments of largest and small schools in each class. In 1937 the dividing lines were 700, 300 and 100 between Class A and B, B and C, and C and D, respectively. By 1987, the dividing lines were 1,129, 571 and 298, respectively, leading to the current method of collecting enrollments and then setting the classification.

With the pendulum swinging well past center by the late 1980s, coaches associations, MHSAA sport committees, tournament managers and school administrators began discussion and offered proposals to correct what many believed had become a flawed system of MHSAA tournament classification.

Problem-Solving Through Division

At the 1996 MHSAA Update Meetings, three-fourths of 858 respondents to that year's annual survey indicated they favored a system that would divide schools which actually sponsor each sport into two, three or four nearly equal divisions. (See "The Vault," page 18)

At its meeting May 4-6, 1997, the Representative Council defeated a motion that would have adopted in one action a coordinated plan of reclassification for all sports to equalize the number of schools in each tournament for each respective sport. Instead, the Council discussed and voted on each proposal that had been presented from sport committees.

This resulted in the Representative Council adopting four equal divisions for baseball and softball, four equal divisions for boys and girls tennis, four equal divisions for boys soccer and three equal divisions for girls soccer, effective with the 1997-98 school year. Helping in the decision was the success of the 1995-96 MHSAA Wrestling season, which saw the sport move to four divisions for its tournament structure (See inset above).

Pinning Down an Answer

Wrestling became the first MHSAA Tournament to be conducted in nearly equal divisions when team and individual champions were crowned in Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 rather than Classes A, B, C/D for the 1996 winter championships. The movement was well received, as schools saw more opportunity for success: four champions where there once were three at the District, Regional and Final levels, and a smaller range of enrollment between the smallest and largest school in all four tournaments, leading to the impetus for the Fall 1996 Update Meeting Survey of schools regarding similar movement in other sports.

Team champions that year were Holt (D1), Petoskey (D2), Middleville Thornapple-Kellogg (D3) and Dundee (D4).

The Council delayed action on similar proposals for football and boys golf at that time to glean additional input. The same decision was made with respect to a proposal from the Ice Hockey Committee that would have split the Class A schools in two divisions and left the Class B/C/D Tournament unchanged.

"The gist of the move from classes to divisions was to equalize the path to championships for students of all schools, regardless of the size of those schools," said MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts.

While the restructuring accomplished that goal for the majority of competitors, opposition exists now as it did then. The primary argument in opposition to the changes is that, in some sports, it increases the range between largest and smallest schools in the division for smallest schools, even as the range is usually reduced for other divisions.

Larger schools offered a counterpoint.

"The larger schools suggested that while they may have more students, they also attempt to sponsor more sports than the smaller schools, in some cases spreading the enrollment as thin as a much smaller school with fewer sports," Roberts said.

"Even today, the idea of four equal divisions can be unpopular among some Class D schools which feel especially burdened by the equal division concept," Roberts said. "There was enough opposition in 1997 that equal divisions were rejected for boys and girls basketball and girls volleyball, and some of that opposition remains."

The number of schools sponsoring the sports listed in the inaugural 1996-97 table on the preceding page are still close to the totals today, with the exception of soccer in both genders, which has enjoyed substantial increases. This spring, 466 girls teams will compete in the MHSAA Soccer Tournament, while 473 boys teams will suit up next fall.

Since the beginning of MHSAA divisions in 1996 with wrestling, 147 additional team champi-

“The gist of the move from classes to divisions was to equalize the path to championships for students of all schools, regardless of the size of those schools.” — MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts

ons have been crowned and countless individuals have known the thrill of victory due to an extra level of Finals in various sports. Girls soccer has seen the most growth in opportunity, moving from two classes in 1987 to three divisions the following year, and then four divisions in 2000. Boys soccer had enjoyed four classes for two years prior to the new four-division format, and it was the sport of soccer that helped to create a caveat in the nearly equal division movement.

Lower Peninsula boys and girls swimming & diving expanded from two to three divisions in 2008, while boys and girls bowling are the most recent sports to enjoy increased tournament opportunity, adding a fourth division in 2010.

“Fairness is in the eye of the beholder. While having the same number of schools in each division is one kind of fairness, holding in check the

enrollment range between the largest and smallest schools in Division 4 is another kind of fairness that is dear to a great number of people,” Roberts said. “Because more schools sponsor basketball and volleyball than other sports, Class D schools would have been least affected by the equal divisions concept in those sports; but that, and ‘tradition,’ did not dissuade the opponents in the 1990s.”

The shift to divisions not only paved the way for student-athletes, but also assisted administrators and schools hosting tournaments. MHSAA tournament managers looked to equal divisions to more closely equalize the number of schools in District or Regional Tournaments and to better equalize the length of day required for these rounds of tournaments, both for management and participating teams and individuals.

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Getting Their Kicks

When the “equal divisions” concept was approved by the Representative Council for most MHSAA Tournaments for the 1997-98 school year, there was opposition from the smallest schools which, under the equal divisions, are forced to play against larger schools than reside in Class D. Compelling arguments were made – and still are – that an enrollment difference between schools with smaller enrollments (e.g., Class D) is more difficult to overcome in athletic competition than an even larger enrollment difference between schools with larger enrollments (e.g., Class A).

The opposition was most intense in soccer because of the number of students needed to field a team and the physical nature of the sport. As a result, from 2000-01 through 2010-11, soccer operated with a “20-percent modification.” This placed 20 percent of all schools that actually sponsored soccer in Division 4, and the remaining 80 percent were placed equally in Divisions 1, 2 and 3.

At the time the 20 percent modification was adopted, it was also established that soccer would return to four equal divisions when the largest Division 4 soccer school had an enrollment equal to or smaller than the mid point for Class C schools. That occurred in 2010.



Addition By Division

The shift to Divisions for MHSAA Tournament play in numerous sports has added up to a greater number of champions for teams and individuals across the state. Following are the sports currently employing a divisional format, and the procedures for determining enrollment and classification.

In 23 statewide or Lower Peninsula tournaments, schools which actually sponsor the sport are currently divided into nearly equal divisions. They are:

Baseball - 4 Divisions
Boys Bowling - 4 Divisions
Girls Bowling - 4 Divisions
Girls Competitive Cheer - 4 Divisions
LP Boys Cross Country - 4 Divisions
LP Girls Cross Country - 4 Divisions
LP Boys Golf - 4 Divisions
LP Girls Golf - 4 Divisions
Ice Hockey - 3 Divisions
Boys Lacrosse - 2 Divisions
Girls Lacrosse - 2 Divisions
Boys Skiing - 2 Divisions
Girls Skiing - 2 Divisions
LP Boys Soccer - 4 Divisions LP
Girls Soccer - 4 Divisions
Girls Softball - 4 Divisions
LP Boys Swimming & Diving - 3 Divisions
LP Girls Swimming & Diving - 3 Divisions
LP Boys Tennis - 4 Divisions
LP Girls Tennis - 4 Divisions
LP Boys Track & Field - 4 Divisions
LP Girls Track & Field - 4 Divisions
Wrestling - 4 Divisions



Lists of schools for each division of these 23 tournaments are posted on MHSAA.com approximately April 1. Listings of schools in Upper Peninsula tournaments for their sports are also posted on MHSAA.com. The lists are based on school memberships and sports sponsorships in effect or anticipated for the following school year, as known to the MHSAA office as of a date in early March.

In football, the 256 schools which qualify for MHSAA 11-player playoffs are placed in eight equal divisions annually on Selection Sunday. Beginning in 2017, the 8-player divisions will be determined in a like manner on Selection Sunday as well, with 32 qualifying schools placed in two divisions.

Schools have the option to play in any higher division in one or more sports for a minimum of two years.

The deadlines for "opt-ups" are as follows:

- Applications for fall sports must be submitted by April 15
- Applications for winter sports must be submitted by Aug. 15
- Applications for spring sports must be submitted by Oct. 15

Subsequent to the date of these postings for these tournaments, no school will have its division raised or lowered by schools opening or closing, schools adding or dropping sports, schools exercising the option to play in a higher division, or approval or dissolution of cooperative programs.

When the same sport is conducted for boys and girls in the same season (e.g., track & field, cross country and baseball/softball), the gender that has the most sponsoring schools controls the division breaks for both genders.

Last Class on the Schedule

In the same volume of “history being the best teacher,” one can also find the adage, “times change.” While the division format was a welcome change in some sports, others were left to hold class without change.

In the sports of boys and girls basketball, and girls volleyball, the number of schools sponsoring the sports were so close to the overall membership of the MHSAA that divisions were not necessary; the enrollment breakdowns themselves were enough to delineate equal opportunity for tournament success.

That is no longer the case, according to MHSAA membership. The last move from classes to divisions occurred for the 2006-07 school year following Council action. Before this May, that is. Action at the most recent Representative Council meeting, May 2017, called for the shift to divisions for MHSAA Boys and Girls Basketball, and Girls Volleyball, beginning with the 2018-19 season.

“Because the MHSAA Volleyball Committee had requested this change several times a number of years ago, and because the Council felt the change inevitable, there should not be further delay,” Roberts said. “It is an important detail that the Class D maximum has dropped 50 students over the past decade so the objection that much larger schools would be competing in Division 4 isn’t very strong now.”

Using the 2017-18 enrollment figures, just eight Class C schools would be competing in Division 4 for boys basketball, 11 for girls basketball and 14 for girls volleyball.

Competitive Cheer was reclassified from Class A, B and C-D into four equal divisions assisting in the rapid growth of sponsoring schools (approximately 80 schools per division). Alpine skiing was changed from Class A and B-C D to two equal divisions.

At that time, the MHSAA Basketball Committee had recommended to the Council the study of increased classifications, but status quo remained.

– continued next page

Through the Years

A chronology of when which sports moved from Class to Division in the MHSAA.

1995-96

LP Wrestling

1997-98

Baseball, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Softball, LP Girls Tennis, LP Boys Tennis

1998-99

LP Boys Golf, LP Girls Golf

1999-00

Ice Hockey, LP Boys Track & Field, LP Girls Track & Field

2000-01

LP Boys Cross Country, LP Girls Cross Country, UP Boys Cross Country, UP Girls Cross Country, UP Boys Golf, UP Girls Golf, UP Boys Tennis, UP Girls Tennis, UP Boys Track & Field, UP Girls Track & Field

2002-03

LP Girls Swimming & Diving, LP Boys Swimming & Diving

2005-06

Boys Bowling, Girls Bowling

2006-07

Girls Competitive Cheer, Boys Skiing, Girls Skiing

2018-19

Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Girls Volleyball

Note: Boys and Girls Lacrosse has been a divisional sport since it began in during the 2004-05 school year.



Volleyball will continue to operate its post-season events by class this school year before moving to divisions in 2018-19.

Back on the Grid

As such, MHSAA Basketball and Volleyball remained the only holdovers of the MHSAA class structure. Discussion resurfaced periodically during the last two decades to bring those tournaments in line with the other MHSAA sports.

Regular-season football-playing schools are separated by class, then are reshuffled by divisions for the playoffs. Football, as we know, underwent a significant postseason facelift in the late 1990s.

While MHSAA Football also remained a class sport through 1998, it had expanded from four to eight classes from 1990-98, becoming the first MHSAA sport to crown more than four team champions. Member schools were asked to consider a pair of options in November of 1997. One called for eight equal divisions, and the second would leave Class D by itself as division 8, and split Class A, B and C schools into seven nearly equal divisions.

After much discussion, retooling, and crunching of formulas, the MHSAA unveiled its revised Football Playoff model that continues to roll today, nearly 20 years later. It was determined that 256

Not only did the 8-player option restore recently canceled programs, but it also created teams in schools which previously had none, and convinced some 11-player schools that this new division was the best path to take.

some 11-player schools that this new division was the best path to take.

What did this do for the Class D holdovers staying in the traditional 11-player game? Well, a couple of things, positive and negative. As two and three dozen Class D schools opted for the 8-player game, the remaining 11-player Class D schools at times found themselves in disrupted leagues and had to travel further to complete schedules. They also competed against larger teams in Division 8 of the 11-player MHSAA Football Playoffs.

However, the growth of the 8-player game among the smallest schools also resulted in more Class D schools qualifying for the MHSAA Football



Two schools will have the opportunity to become No. 1 during the 2017 MHSAA 8-Player Football Season.

teams would qualify for the tournament based first on a minimum of six wins, then by Playoff Points determined by formula. From there, the field would be divided into eight divisions, with the field being filled out by a nearly equal number of five-win teams in each division as needed to reach 256.

Eight championships would indeed be enough, until football sponsorship among the MHSAA's smallest schools – some with rich football traditions – began to trend downward. The MHSAA again went to the drawing board, examining the viability of 8-player football. After an experimental year in 2010 without a tournament, the 8-player game was playoff-ready for 2011, with a field of 16 qualifiers embarking on a four-week tournament.

Not only did the 8-player option restore recently canceled programs, but it also created teams in schools which previously had none, and convinced

Playoffs than ever before. In 2012, an all-time high 44.0 percent of Class D schools sponsoring football qualified for either the 8-player tournament or Division 8 of the 11-player tournament. That compared to 42.2 percent of Class C schools, 44.9 percent of Class B schools and 41.6 percent of Class A schools which qualified for the 2012 playoffs.

Much is to be determined in the most recent chapter of MHSAA Tournament expansion as the 8-Player Football Playoffs welcome a second division. As the past illustrates, there will be pluses and minuses. History also shows that the MHSAA has received maximum input from its constituents, researched all possibilities, and will find solutions to questions still in the balance before an additional group of athletes hoists a new trophy in November.

– Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

New Math: Division Creating Multiplication Problems

High school tournament classifications went viral before there was social media and most of us knew what “viral” meant.

Much as a virus infects computers today or has created epidemics of disease around the world for centuries, high school tournament classification – once introduced – tends to spread uncontrollably. Once started, it tends to keep expanding and rarely contracts.

While we are still some distance from providing every team a trophy as a result of expanding high school tournament classification across the country, there is criticism nevertheless that we are headed in that direction – a philosophy which is supposed to exist only in local youth sports for our youngest children.

Michigan could be blamed for all this. Michigan is generally accepted as the first state to provide different classifications for season-ending tournaments for different sized schools. It started a century ago. Today, every state has various classifications for its tournaments in most if not all sports. And it is a bit ironic that Michigan – creator

“Michigan could be blamed for all this. Michigan is generally accepted as the first state to provide different classifications for season-ending tournaments for different sized schools.”

of the classification chaos – more than most other states has kept the number of tournament classes or divisions under control.

Yes, there is evidence in other pages of this issue that tournament classifications have expanded over the years in Michigan, especially with the relatively recent introduction of tournaments in football and the late 1990s’ move from classes to divisions in most MHSAA tournaments. But the MHSAA Representative Council has held true to its word when it expanded the playoffs for football from four classes to eight divisions: this is needed because of unique factors of football, factors that exist in no other sport; and all other sports should be capped at a maximum of four classes or divisions.

Kentucky is the preeminent defender of single-class basketball. All of its 276 high schools compete for the single state championship for each gender. In Indiana, there are still open wounds from its move in 1998 from one to four classes for its 400 schools in basketball.

Multi-class tournaments have tended to increase the number of non-public school championships, which some states are trying to lower through enrollment “multipliers,” and also tends to increase

the number of repeat champions, which some states are trying to affect with “success factors” which lift smaller schools into classifications for larger schools if they take home too many trophies.

While there is considerable evidence that state tournaments do as much bad as good for educational athletics, state associations persist in providing postseason tournaments because, on balance, the experiences are supposed to be good for student-athletes. And once we reach that conclusion it is just a small leap to believe that if the tournaments are good for a few, they must be better for more – which leads to creating more and more tournament classifications. One becomes two classes, then three, then four and so forth.

While the argument is that more classifications or divisions provides more students with opportunities to compete and win, it is undeniable that the experience changes as the number of tournament classifications expands. It is not possible for state



associations to provide the same level of support when tournament classifications expand to multiple venues playing simultaneously. For example, there is less audio and video broadcast potential at each venue, and less media coverage to each venue. Focus is diluted and fans diminished at each championship.

No one can argue reasonably that today's two-day MHSAA Football Finals of eight championship games has the same pizzazz as the one-day, four-games event conducted prior to 1990.

In some states the number of divisions has grown so much that it is difficult to see much difference between the many season-ending state championship games and a regular-season event in the same sport.

It is a balancing act. And Michigan has been studying that balance longer than any other state, and charting a steadier course than most.



Add, Subtract, Multiply, Divide. MHSAA Not Alone

As the MHSAA faces its most recent classification task with 8-Player Football, and opinions continue to swirl about as to the method, timeframe, location and other procedures, a look around the country provides plenty of company among state association brethren factoring variables into their own equations.

In the Pacific Northwest, the **Oregon School Activities Association** Football Playoffs are under public scrutiny as leadership ponders a five or six classification format beginning with the 2018-19 school year.

The OSAA has crowned six champions on the gridiron since 2006-07. Many of the state's smaller schools would like to keep it that way, while larger schools lean toward a five-classification system, citing larger leagues, ease of travel and credibility to state championships as the advantages.

Still others would prefer more than six classes, pointing to safety issues and the opportunity to increase participation numbers as positives.

Moving southeast of Oregon, the **Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association** recently voted to hold serve on a classification proposal that was volleyed to the membership.

However, changes still could be forthcoming by as early as the 2018-19 season which would add a fifth classification in more populated southern Nevada while allowing northern schools to participate in four classifications. Such divisions could mean no state championship for the fifth class in southern Nevada.

Because of that, the NIAA wants equal numbers of schools in each classification on both ends of the state. Complicating the issue is the fact that the 24 largest schools in the state, by enrollment, are all in Clark County in Southern Nevada.

Across Nevada's border into Arizona, charter schools are asking the **Arizona Interscholastic Association** to reconsider classification that was voted upon and approved in September 2015. That agreement called for the largest 33 percent of charter schools by enrollment to be placed in the state's

largest school classification, 3A, the middle 33 percent into 2A, and the smallest 33 percent into 1A.

Less than two years later the charter schools have had a change of heart and have asked to be considered the same as other Arizona public schools and be placed appropriately by enrollment beginning with the 2018-19 school year.

The situation in Arizona further illustrates the public / private debate that all state associations have faced throughout existence now has the added dynamic of rapidly growing charter schools in today's educational system, along with virtual school enrollment.

In the nation's heartland, Nebraska has retooled its football classifications by using enrollment of boys students only in its schools rather than total enrollment. The **Nebraska School Activities Association** football-playing schools will kick off the 2018 season using this alignment.

Nebraska has three classes of 11-player football, with the smallest class divided in two, Class C-1 and C-2. The state also will have 8-player football for boys enrollments under 47, and the NSAA will sponsor a new 6-player tournament in 2018 for schools with 27 or fewer boys.

"This is a good proposal because some schools have a sizable imbalance between the number of boys and girls, and there's a large gap (in enrollment) between the largest and smallest schools in Classes A and B," NSAA executive director Jim Tenopir said. "I think this addresses both of those concerns."

Swimmers in Georgia, meanwhile, will feel like they are moving with the current, rather than upstream in 2017-18, as the **Georgia High School Association** recently doubled the number of team championship events from two to four.

Swim enthusiasts can also count on longer days at the finals, as the top 30 finishers from the prelims will advance to the finals instead of 20, and all championship events will have three heats versus two.

Classification Can Still Create Hoosier Hysteria

20 years ago, Bloomington North High School won the Indiana High School Athletic Association Boys Basketball championship, defeating Delta 75-54 at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis. The date, March 22, 1997, is at the same time revered and disdained by traditionalists in the state who saw it as the last school-boy championship game the state would ever host.

That's how devout the game of basketball, particularly interscholastic basketball, had become in the Hoosier state during the 87 years a state champion – one state champion, to be precise – was crowned.

Following that 1997 season, the IHSAA moved to a four-class system for its roundball tournaments like so many of its state association counterparts had done years earlier.

It would be shocking to find more than a small percentage of current high school basketball players around the country unfamiliar with the iconic movie *Hoosiers*, even though the film is now more than 30 years old.

And, the storyline for that blockbuster unfolded more than 30 years prior to its release, when small-town, undermanned Milan High School defeated Muncie Central High School 32-30 in the 1954 IHSAA title game.



It's been 20 years, but the last year of single-class basketball in Indiana still casts a shadow over the current tournament format for some avid basketball fans.

Perhaps it's because of the David vs Goliath notion; or the notoriety of the movie that replaced Milan with the fictional Hickory, and real-life star Bobby Plump with Hollywood hero Jimmy Chitwood; or the simple fact that Indiana had something that other states didn't.

Whatever the reason, plenty of opposition remains to this day to basketball classification in the state.

The fact is, the small rural schools were regularly being beaten handily by the much larger suburban and city schools as the tournament progressed each season.

Small schools also were closing at a rapid rate following the state's School Reorganization Act in 1959, as students converged on larger, centralized county schools. From 1960 to 2000, the number of schools entering the tournament dropped from 694 to 381, and in 1997 a total of 382 schools and

4,584 athletes began competition at the Sectional level (the first level of the IHSAA Basketball Tournament).

It was at the entry level of the tournament where school administrators felt the pain of the new class system, but not necessarily for the same nostalgic reasons as the fans who either attended or boycotted the tournament.

At the Sectional round of the tournament, the IHSAA was culling just 2 percent of the revenue, with the participating schools splitting the balance. So, when Sectional attendance dropped by 14 percent in that first year of class basketball, many schools realized a financial loss. It was money which they had grown to count on in prior years to help fund various aspects of the department.

Schools cumulatively received more than \$900,000 from Sectional competition in 1998, but that total was down from more than \$1 million in the last year of the single-class tournament.

Yet, the current format provides a great deal more opportunity and realistic chances at championship runs for schools of all enrollments.

To date, 60 additional teams have championship or runner-up trophies on display in school trophy cases around Indiana.



The truth is, the tournament's attendance had been on a steady downward spiral since its peak of just over 1.5 million in 1962. By the last single-class event in 1997, the total attendance was half of that.

That was the mission in front of then-IHSAA commissioner Bob Gardner (now NFHS Executive Director) once the board made its decision: to give thousands more student-athletes the opportunity for once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

As any statistician knows, figures can be manipulated to tell any side of a story. Declining attendance in year No. 1 of class basketball is such a number.

The truth is, the tournament's attendance had been on a steady downward spiral since its peak of just over 1.5 million in 1962. By the last single-class event in 1997, the total attendance was half of that.

The challenge then and today, as it is for all state associations, is to find that delicate balance for those holding onto tradition, those holding onto trophies, and the number of trophies to hand out.

Editor's Note: Stories from the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette in 1998, and from a 2007 issue of Indianapolis Monthly provided facts in this article.

States Continue to Address Competitive Balance of Schools

The search for competitive balance of schools has led many state associations in recent years to develop multiplier rules, formulas or other plans to address this issue. Indiana's "tournament success factor" and Oregon's school socioeconomic status (SES) factor are among the plans instituted to address any perceived imbalance between private and public schools in athletic competition.

In the March 2017 issue of *High School Today*, 21 state associations indicated that they employ a multiplier or other plan to level the playing field among their schools. That number is up from 2009 when eight of the 50 member state associations, plus the District of Columbia, had adopted a multiplier. Through this plan, private schools are reclassified to compete against larger schools in team sports.

"The discussion's not about public and private. It's about winning, and that's where everyone gets uncomfortable," said Bobby Cox, Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) commissioner. "The public doesn't want to see a team continue to go to the state championship and continue to win the sectionals and regionals on the way to state every single year. They would like to see more schools have that opportunity."

Cox and the IHSAA are among the states to stray from multipliers, instead opting to author the success factor. In Indiana, the success factor, also known as Rule 2-5 of the IHSAA bylaws, states that if a school in any classification reaches six points or greater during the previous reclassification period (two-year cycle) in a specific sport's tournament series, the school will be promoted to the next available higher enrollment class for the next reclassification period. Schools earn one point for a sectional championship, two points for a regional championship, three points for a semi-state championship and four points for a state championship.

"Over the years leading up to us authoring the success factor, we observed a variety of states that use multipliers, reverse multipliers, counting students as less than a full student for those that might be on free and reduced lunch, and things of that nature. We even had some of those things proposed to our board of directors," Cox said. "In each case, the board did not feel comfortable with multiplying students artificially to get to some kind of number that would place them in a different enrollment classification."

The success factor has proved valuable since its inception during the 2013-14 school year, ac-

National Federation of State
High School Associations



ording to Cox. He indicated that the state has seen improved contests, fewer repeat champions and more first-time schools reaching state finals than ever before. At the end of the 2014-15 school year, the first two-year cycle of the success factor, a perfect balance of 13 private schools and 13 public schools were reclassified.

"We've been able to forward our concept to our members and it's really dampened the discussion in Indiana about public versus private. To be honest, I don't really ever hear it anymore. It's more about who's winning," Cox said. "Now, we'll get some pushback. It's not to say it's perfect, but there's no silver bullet that's going to solve competition. There's not a state association in our country that's going come up with something that can 100 percent solve competition. It's not going to happen. But this is one that our folks can live with because it's applicable to everyone – not just private schools, not just charter schools. The success factor is applicable to all of our 410 members."

"The discussion's not about public and private. It's about winning, and that's where everyone gets uncomfortable." — Bobby Cox, Indiana High School Athletic Association commissioner

The Ohio High School Athletic Association's (OHSAA) competitive balance plan is a more complex take on what Indiana has been able to do with its success factor. Scheduled to be implemented in the 2017-18 school year, the plan imposes a formula across eight sports (football, volleyball, boys soccer, girls soccer, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball) that assigns tiers zero, one or two to students in grades 9-12.

"For public schools, factors will be added depending upon where the student and his or her parents reside for each student on each team's roster," said Bob Goldring, OHSAA associate commissioner. "For non-public schools, factors could be added depending upon the educational history of the students on each particular team's roster."

The competitive balance plan was passed by member schools in May 2014 after proposals failed in 2011, 2012 and 2013. In 2010, the OHSAA's Competitive Balance Committee was formed as a response to a growing concern from member

schools regarding the number of state championships being won by non-public schools, which Goldring said was approximately 43 percent. Non-public schools comprised only 17 percent of the OHSAA's membership.

Oregon's approach, based on free and reduced lunch percentages, was put in place four years ago and coincides with the Oregon School Activities Association's (OSAA) team sports ranking system.

"We had looked at a multiplier for private schools," said Peter Weber, OSAA executive director. "Every four years we do our reclassification and redistricting. In the past, we had looked at what some other states had done, some issues that had come out of that, and played with some numbers. Here in Oregon, it didn't really seem to address the issue appropriately."

What resulted was the association beginning preliminary discussions in which it looked at free and reduced lunch percentages thanks to previously conducted research in the state based on its ranking system. Research unveiled a correlation between the schools with very high percentages of free and reduced lunch and the schools that finished in the lower 25 percent of team sports rankings.

Weber added that the OSAA also developed criteria that allows schools to petition to play down – not just up – a class after experiencing a lack of success at a higher classification. To be automatically approved, schools must meet all four criteria during a four-year time block:

- Documentation showing the school's percentage of students on free lunch at 50 percent or higher.
- Documentation showing that the school's teams finished in the bottom 50 percent of the final frozen rankings at their current classification at least 75 percent of the time for the previous three years.
- Documentation showing that the school's teams finished in the bottom 20 percent of the final frozen rankings at their current classification at least 50 percent of the time for the previous three years.
- Documentation showing that the winning percentage for the school's teams in team sports was 25 percent or less at least 40 percent of the time for the previous three years.

Although more than 40 percent of state associations have adopted competitive balance plans, a true solution may never be clear. Mike Colbrese, executive director of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association, said one issue for states is treating one part of the membership different than the other.

"It's like making sports rules," Colbrese said. "You've got to make sure that you don't change the

rule so much that you don't tip the balance of the offense and defense schematic, and so you have to be sensitive to all factors. The basic issue of whether a student is in a public or private school is that you're still dealing with students. They all deserve an opportunity to participate and to be treated fairly."

In Ohio, Goldring said he believes there are three concerns with the new competitive balance plan. First, it is a very complex plan for the OHSAA's member schools, the public and the media to understand. Second, he said entering roster data can be a time-consuming task for administrators. Third, there is the issue of how success is determined with regard to the effectiveness of the plan.

"... Perhaps this plan will allow for more public schools to advance in our state tournaments and maybe even allow for more to win championships," Goldring said. "However, there is nothing that says what that magic number will be that will make our schools – and in particular public schools – say that the plan is working."

Bernard Childress, executive director of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA), said the state's "need-based financial aid" multiplier hasn't presented the perfect solution since it was put in place in 1997-98.

"You have smaller numbers of private schools that are in Division I since the multiplier was put in place," Childress said. "That has paved the way for schools to win championships, but you're looking for competitive balance, a level playing field so to speak, not winning championships. We're not interested in designing a classification based upon who can win a championship; that's not what educational athletics should be about."

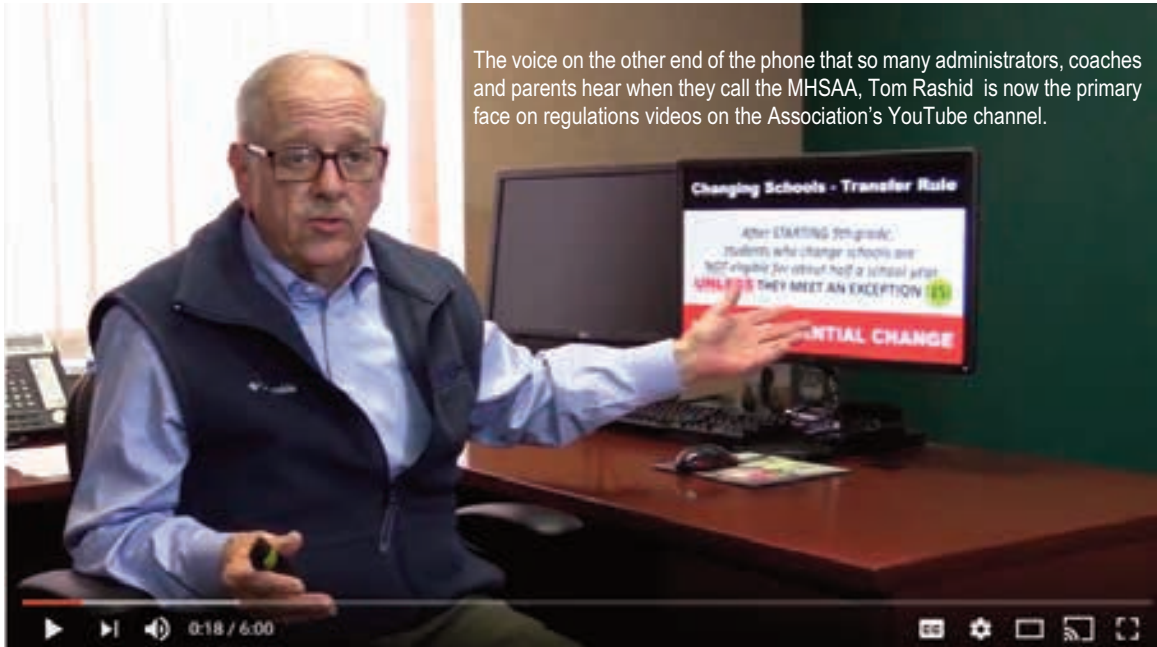
Tennessee's private schools can elect whether to provide need-based financial aid to athletes or their siblings. For the majority that do, they are placed in the independent school-laden Division II. The small group that doesn't provide that assistance are placed in Division I with public schools and have their enrollment classification multiplied by 1.8.

"A lot of people in surrounding states think that since you've been doing it for so long, you've got it figured out. We still don't have it figured out," Childress said. "It's still something that is a real hub-bub in our state."

– Cody Porter

Cody Porter is a graphic arts/communications assistant in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department.

Videos Assist in Getting MHSAA Messages Out



The voice on the other end of the phone that so many administrators, coaches and parents hear when they call the MHSAA, Tom Rashid is now the primary face on regulations videos on the Association's YouTube channel.

It is fitting that MHSAA Associate Director Tom Rashid celebrates the anniversary of his hiring in 2003 every August.

Not only does August signify the start of each school year, but it is in that month that Rashid conducts New Athletic Director Orientation sessions, followed a month later by the AD In-Service tour which accompanies MHSAA Update Meetings.

The gatherings rank among Rashid's favorite responsibilities for their personal nature in a world all too often trending toward less eye contact and fewer handshakes.

"One of best parts of my job is being face to face with the ADs through our in-service programs," Rashid said, "So, we share a good laugh over my recent and un-preferred YouTube 'celebrity' status."

The "status" Rashid jokes about refers to a series of videos on the MHSAA YouTube channel under the title, "In Other Words. . .," which help to explain the most common regulations and answer the most frequent questions in a concise, convenient manner.

In a video-laden, electronic landscape, the move was perhaps only a matter of time, but it was spurred on during those personal meetings last fall.

"In the fall when we met face to face – which I still think is an irreplaceable method to communicate – we asked ADs how we could help with rules which are becoming increasingly complicated," Rashid said. "The video series evolved from AD sentiment for quick and easy access. Fortunately we have I.T. people and social media experts in our office who are far more qualified than me. They moved this project along."

"We have had a lot of very good reviews. Not only are they valuable to administrators, but to parents, students and coaches. We also try not to 'time-stamp' them, so that they are applicable whenever people view them." – MHSAA's Tom Rashid

In truth, Rashid had been producing and publishing "In Other Words . . ." flyers and documents for years, which are then disseminated at meetings and posted to MHSAA.com. With a little help, they've translated well to video.

"I know the regulations, Dan Hutcheson has done a great job with the graphics on the PowerPoints, Cody Inglis assists in reviewing the pieces, John Johnson films the sessions and then Andi Osters, Andy Frushour and Rob Kaminski get them to YouTube and to MHSAA.com," he said. "It's a team effort."

The videos have been well received. At 10 installments and counting, they've covered a wide range of topics in as short a time as possible.

"We like to keep them about three minutes but a couple topics take a little more time than that," he said. "We have had a lot of very good reviews. Not only are they valuable to administrators, but to parents, students and coaches. We also try not to 'time-stamp' them, so that they are applicable whenever people view them."

The topics are discussed amongst MHSAA staff to determine subjects which draw the most frequent

benchmarks

inquiries, from filling out enrollment declarations to concerns about home-school student eligibility.

When Rashid receives such phone calls or email inquiries, he now has another avenue to offer while talking them through scenarios, and points them toward the web.

Rashid has “starred” in nine of the 10, but he would like to see that change in the future.

“You’ll see this expanding to address not just regulations, but amateur status, summer dead period, and other topics,” Rashid said. “I’d love the rest of the staff to be utilized.”

Ironically, Rashid will now incorporate the video sessions into his syllabus of topics when he personally greets the new ADs this fall.

Yet, there will be one difference on the videos from the man who will stand before the group in a few months.

“Our brand management and social media people said the videos should be informal and easy to produce,” he said. “So, they made me take my tie off.”

The voice that so often represents the MHSAA, however, will be unmistakable.

“In Other Words . . .”

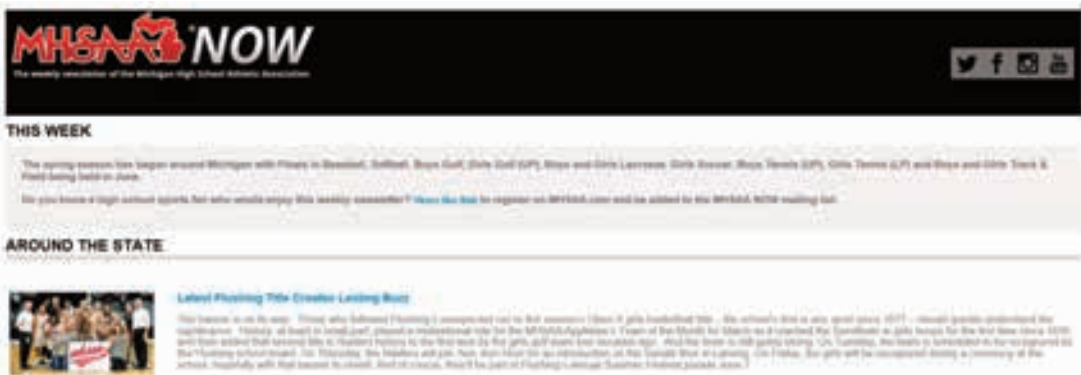
The following videos are available on the MHSAA’S YouTube Channel Series, “In Other Words . . .”

- Out-of-Season Coaching (4-Player Rule & Rotations)
- Preventing Athletic-Related Transfers (LINKS Rule)
- Academic Eligibility
- When Transfer Students Become Eligible
- Non-Traditional or Alternative Ed. Schools/Programs
- Completing an Enrollment Declaration
- Non-Enrolled Students (Home School)
- Limited Team Membership Rule
- The Transfer Rule
- Cooperative Programs



Scan the code at right on your mobile device to access the videos

MHSAA NOW Provides Internet Home Delivery



MHSAA member school administrators, contest officials and coaches and statewide media are now receiving home delivery of the Association’s internet content, as the most pertinent news and features from MHSAA.com and SecondHalf.com are sent directly to their computers each week.

MHSAA NOW, an e-newsletter produced by Ticketing, Promotions & Marketing Coordinator Jeremy Sampson, recaps the top stories around the state along with upcoming events, streams, audio content and ticket information. The newsletter – the first of which hit cyberspace just after the start of 2017 – is sent each Tuesday morning, during which time a spike in MHSAA Web traffic can be traced using Google Analytics, proof that the project is hitting its mark.

“It’s another way to promote awareness about all the great things that are happening in school sports,” Sampson said. “Just as consumer habits for news changed over time regarding print, radio and television, it has also changed regarding the web. Simply because something is available doesn’t mean people are clicking. MHSAA NOW is an initiative that allows us to push the news to our audiences in hopes of attracting them for a period of time during their busy days. So far, we’ve received positive feedback and the numbers illustrate a degree of effectiveness.”

This issue's trip to the "vault" takes readers to the fall of 1997 when the MHSAA was taking the temperature of schools with an Update Meeting Survey to determine the percentage leaning toward a new method of classifying postseason tournament groups.

Polling for Divisions: Senior HS Survey for Reclassification of Tournaments

In 1997, the following was included in the Annual MHSAA Update Meeting Survey to test the climate of membership regarding the change in classification to nearly equal divisions. It was requested that ONLY schools which sponsored the sports in consideration would vote.

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1. We prefer reclassifying **BASEBALL/SOFTBALL** into four divisions of an equal number of schools for tournament classification.

YES=286	NO=159	No Response-33
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 2. We prefer reclassifying **FOOTBALL** into eight divisions of an equal number of schools for tournament classification.

YES=301	NO=129	No Response-43
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 3. We prefer reclassifying **BOYS SOCCER** into four divisions of an equal number of schools for tournament classification.

YES=214	NO=89	No Response-170
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 4. We prefer reclassifying **GIRLS SOCCER** into three divisions of an equal number of schools for tournament classification.

YES=198	NO=69	No Response-206
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 5. We prefer reclassifying lower peninsula **BOYS AND GIRLS TENNIS** into four divisions of an equal number of schools for tournament classification.

YES=212	NO=76	No Response-18
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 6. We prefer splitting lower peninsula **BOYS AND GIRLS CLASS A TENNIS** into two divisions (AA & A) of an equal number of schools for tournament classification.

YES=145	NO=112	No Response-0
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 7. We prefer reclassifying lower peninsula **BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK & FIELD** into four divisions of an equal number of schools for tournament classification.

YES=272	NO=132	No Response-69
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 8. We prefer splitting **CLASS A ICE HOCKEY** into two divisions (AA & A) of equal number of schools for tournament classification.

YES=137	NO=68	No Response-268
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MHSAA Changes Class System

*Tom Gantert
Lansing State Journal
5/29/1997*

The state high school athletic association has made a move to ensure equality.

Now, schools in six sports will be grouped for state tournaments by divisions instead of the traditional class system.

It is the same system high school wrestling has adopted.

It will take some getting used to, but some area coaches say the realignment is more fair.

Starting with the fall season, girls and boys tennis, girls and boys soccer, softball and baseball will change how schools are classified for state tournament play.

In the past, schools have been classified solely by student enrollment. A school with about 1,280 students was a Class A school for all sports regardless of how many other schools sponsored that sport.

The problem was that some schools with smaller enrollments didn't offer a sport. Therefore, some Class D teams didn't have to play as many games in the tournament to win a championship.

Now, classification for each of the six sports will be calculated by the number of schools that sponsor a team in that sport. For example, if 100 schools offer a sport, then the new alignment will be 25 for each division based on the enrollment of the 100 participating schools.

"It is a major change in how sports are being broken down but still follows some traditional reasoning for classifying teams for tournaments," said John Johnson, communications director for the MHSAA.

The shift to divisions will ensure that each category has about the same number of schools.

The changes make for some confusing alignments.

For instance, East Lansing and Okemos high schools are big rivals in tennis and boys soccer.

In the past, East Lansing and Okemos were both Class A schools. Both have met in the Class A playoffs in the past. Now, in boys and girls tennis, both will be Division 2 teams.

Yet in boys soccer, East Lansing will be Division 2 and Okemos will be Division 1. The two teams won't meet in the Districts any more, as they have in the past.

East Lansing soccer coach Nick Archer said this was a more realistic alignment.

"There is probably more equity in this setup," Archer said. "People will adjust to it."

Johnson said sports like basketball, volleyball and football are offered by most every school and therefore don't present problems with an imbalance of teams in one classification.

"The breakpoint is based on those schools that are sponsoring those sports," Johnson said. "In the past, it was just based on enrollment of all schools."

For instance, Williamston (475 students) was grouped with Eaton Rapids (834 students) in class. This spring in baseball, Eaton Rapids will be Division 2 and Williamston will drop to Division 3.

"That is good news," Williamston baseball coach Steve VanderLaan said. "I think it's fair. It puts everybody on the same playing field. In general, in other sports in Class D, there were not as many schools and it kind of takes away from the meaning of a championship."



While the shift to divisions ended some postseason rivalries, it did not affect regular-season meetings between neighboring schools.

Above the Bridge, Before the Bridge, there was Class E

The stories are worthy of the silver screen; long lost legends of lore, forgotten by most in the lower peninsula of the state of Michigan. Absurd anecdotes of basketball played behind glass, and out-of-bounds lines painted on walls. Tales of overlooked places like Trenary and Champion and Doelle and Watersmeet. This is the story of MHSAA Class E basketball.

From 1932 to 1947, Michigan's Upper Peninsula did not compete in the state sponsored basketball tournament. Instead, the UP held a separate basketball tournament, crowning champions in Class B, C and D. In 1941, the state added a fifth classification – Class E, comprised of schools with a student body numbering 75 or less. A fourth bracket was added to the UP tourney.



Hermansville (left) was the first Class E champion, winning in 1948, while Alpha's Mastodons (right, in 1950) loomed large during the era.

no out of bounds lines... the wall itself was 'out of bounds.' On the floor during the game were 10 players and 2 referees. There were no sounds as all the fans were up on the second floor, glassed in.

The cheerleaders tried valiantly to fire up the fans up on the second floor, but the teams couldn't hear in the quiet below. The score clock and statistician personnel were placed in a corner box high over the floor in one corner of the gym. They attained this lofty perch by a ladder that was removed from the trap door after all three were in position and the game could thus commence. The timer then tied a rope around his ankle. To send a sub into the game the coach would send the player along the wall heading for this rope. He would pull the rope causing the timer to look down through the



Following the 1948 season, the Upper Peninsula returned to the state tournament. Winners of the traditional UP tourney were pronounced regional champions, and advanced to the state quarterfinals in Classes B, C and D. However, since there were no Class E schools with basketball teams in the Lower Peninsula, the winner of the UP tournament crown was proclaimed Class E state champion. This arrangement continued through the spring of the 1960 season.

Since they were the state's smallest high schools, the gymnasiums came in all shapes and sizes. Some sported a center circle that intersected with the top of the key. Basketball courts that doubled as a stage required netting to keep the kids and the ball on the court and away from the audience seated below.

Fred Boddy, a former coach at Champion, recalled his first visit to Doelle. Located in copper country near Houghton, the hosts were the proud owners of "the smallest" gym in UP.

"I couldn't believe my eyes...here on the second floor were windows and bleachers all around filled with fans. The gym, of course, was located on the first floor, but to get into the gym one had to go around to the back of the school to enter through the boiler room to the locker rooms, which opened onto the gym floor much like a dugout on a baseball field. The players sat on a bench under the wall and could look out and see the game in this manner. The free throw lines intersected and there were

trap door and at next opportunity would ring the buzzer and admit this substitute"

Regardless of the challenges presented by these cracker-box gyms, the fans loved their basketball. "The enthusiasm was just the same, if not bigger, than schools twice and 10 times their size," noted longtime UP historian, Jay Soderberg.

Coach Joseph Miheve's 1941 Palmer squad captured the state's first Class E title with a 39-28 win over Hulbert at Ironwood. A graduate of Wakefield High School, Miheve had never played high school basketball, serving as the team's manager.

The 1942 tournament, scheduled for March 19-21 was postponed one week because the city of Marquette was more or less taken over "by nearly 1,000 selective service registrants from every county in the Upper Peninsula" who had another and more serious battle in mind – World War II.

Palmer, this time coached by Elvin Niemi, repeated in Class E, with a 37-31 victory over Bergland. It was Palmer's 32nd consecutive victory.

No tournament was held in 1943 due to the involvement of the United States in the war. In 1944, Cedarville jumped out to a 19-14 first quarter lead, but was held to 24 points in the remaining periods, and fell to Amasa, 51-43 at Ishpeming.

Trenary made its lone Class E finals appearance in 1945, losing to Bergland 49-39 at Ishpeming, while the Alpha Mastodons won their first UP title since 1934 with a 48-28 win over Champion in 1946. It was the second of five Class E titles for



With the Mackinaw Bridge not completed until 1957, the UP cage tournament was in a class of its own for decades.

Alpha coach Gerhardt “Gary” Gollakner, one of the finest coaches to come out of the UP. Gollakner had coached at Amasa two years earlier, and his Mastodons would earn three additional titles during the 19-year run of the Class E championships.

Bergland became the tourney's second two-time winner in 1947, with a 40-37 win over the Perkins Yellowjackets. Perkins made four trips to the Class E finals over the years, including an appearance in the final year of the tournament, but came away empty-handed each time.

The Nahma Arrows made their first appearance in the championships in 1951, losing to Michigamme. Led by coach Harold “Babe” Anderson, a cage star at Northern Michigan College in the early 1940s, the Arrows returned to the finals in 1952. Nahma finished the year with a 21-0 mark and a 64-44 win over Marenisco for the crown.

The two teams met again in a finals rematch the following year. The scored was tied six times, while the lead changed hands seven times in this barn-burner. With 15 seconds to play, Nahma led 64-60. Marenisco's Robert Prosser hit a jump shot, then teammate Bill Blodgett stole a pass and scored to knot the game at 64. With two seconds remaining, Nahma's Bernard Newhouse was fouled. Newhouse hit the first free throw, but missed on the second. Teammate Wendell Roddy tipped in the rebound, and the Arrows had their second title.

Alpha returned to the championship circle in 1954 with a 52-48 win over Perkins.

The 1955 title game matched a pair of the finest teams in Class E history. Trout Creek, making its first championship appearance, downed Alpha 84-83 in another Class E thriller. Don Mackey led the winners with 39 points. Tony Hoholek paced Alpha with 31, while junior John Kocinski added 21-points for the Mastodons. Kocinski, a four-year starter at Alpha, scored 1,782 points during his career, then an all-time UP record. He once scored 51 points against Amasa, and could have scored more according to teammate Walter “Slip” Ball. “He refused to shoot in the fourth quarter, and passed up one shot after another.

Without question, Trout Creek was one of the powerhouse squads during the final years of the tourney. The Anglers, coached by Bruce “Pinky” Warren, a former captain of Purdue's football team, made four trips to the finals in the last six years of the Class E tourney. The defending champions downed Alpha in the semifinals of the 1956 tournament, then knocked off Hermansville 86-68 in the finals to repeat. It was a year of celebration for fans of UP basketball, as four of the state's five champions - Stephenson (B), Crystal Falls (C), Chassell (D) and Trout Creek (E), came from Michigan's northern peninsula.

Hermansville returned to the finals in the spring of 1957, and earned its second Class E title with a 77-51 win over Michigamme at Escanaba. Trout Creek downed Perkins 61-41 for their third crown in 1958.

The 1959 championship, hosted at Northern Michigan College's fieldhouse, was a showdown of the UP's only undefeated squads, Trout Creek and Nahma. Trout Creek was riding a 24-game winning streak that dated back to the 1958 season. A scoring machine, Warren's Anglers averaged 81.7 points per contest. Nahma, 19-0 on the season, boasted the UP's strongest defense. Still coached by “Babe” Anderson, the Arrows had allowed an average of 38.2 points per game. Led by senior Warren Groleau, Nahma was last defeated by Trout Creek in the semi-finals of the 1958 tourney.

Leading 25-15 at the intermission, Nahma matched Trout Creek point for point in the second half for a 55-45 victory.

Hermansville, behind Richard Polazzo's 29 points and Irwin Scholtz's 27, downed surprise finalist Perkins 72-50 in the 1960 finale, to end this chapter in MHSAA history.

Today, most of the former Class E high schools are long gone. Many have closed their doors and consolidated with other area schools. Amasa and Alpha merged with Crystal Falls to form Forest Park. Palmer is now part of the Negaunee school system. Bergland and Trout Creek joined forces with Class D Ewen to form Ewen-Trout Creek. Hermansville combined with Powers to form North Central, to name but a few. A few remain: Dollar Bay, Marenisco (now Wakefield-Marenisco), Watersmeet, and their enrollments are much the same as in the glory days of the state's fifth classification.

Special thanks to Jay Soderberg and Roger Finlan, who assisted in gathering statistics and quotes used in this article. Thanks also to Dick Kishpaugh, Bob Whitens, Walter “Slip” Ball, Dennis Grall, Fred Boddy, Bruce Warren, Gene Maki, Harold “Babe” Anderson and the various personnel at UP high schools for their contributions to this story.

– Ron Pesch

Ron Pesch has taken an active role in researching the history of MHSAA events since 1985 and began writing for MHSAA Finals programs in 1986. He inherited the title of MHSAA historian from the late Dick Kishpaugh following the 1993-94 school year, and resides in Muskegon. Contact him at peschstats@comcast.net.

MHSAA Finds Championship Homes for 2017-18

Championship rounds for girls basketball, team wrestling and individual wrestling will have new homes for the 2017-18 season, as approved by the MHSAA Representative Council during its annual Spring Meeting, May 7-8, in Glen Arbor.

The Girls Basketball Semifinals and Finals, played from 2004-06 and then 2010-17 at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center at Michigan State University, will move to Van Noord Arena on the campus of Calvin College in Grand Rapids. The Team Wrestling Finals, contested the last two seasons at McGuirk Arena at Central Michigan University after a long run at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena, will begin at least a four-year engagement at Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo.

The Individual Wrestling Finals, previously a three-day event hosted by The Palace of Auburn Hills from 2002 through this March, will be contested at Ford Field in Detroit over two days.

In addition to those changes, the Representative Council also approved keeping the MHSAA Boys Basketball Semifinals and Finals at the Breslin Center for the 2017-18 season and approved a return to Northern Michigan University's Superior Dome

excited to work with these next facilities and their staffs, who are similarly passionate about creating the finest experiences for our athletes and fans," MHSAA Executive Jack Roberts said.

Roberts noted that contracts for the girls and boys basketball and individual wrestling tournaments are for 2017-18 only, but with the possibility of remaining at those sites additional years. The Council also discussed the possibility of changing both girls and boys basketball tournament schedules beginning with the 2018-19 season to help keep more Division I college and commercial venues available to host those events. The MHSAA will investigate alternative sites and develop an adjusted basketball season schedule for Council consideration in December. The Boys Basketball Finals weekend in 2019 as scheduled conflicts with the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament.

Van Noord Arena twice has hosted NCAA Division III Women's College Basketball Finals. The 5,000-seat arena hosted its first game in 2009, and while smaller than Breslin, is expected to provide a festive atmosphere with the possibility of being filled to near capacity for many of the MHSAA's tournament games.

Wings Event Center will allow the MHSAA to again stage all four championship matches on adjacent mats simultaneously – the format for most of the first 29 years of the Team Finals, but not last season as the Finals were split into two two-match blocks to help accommodate for attendance after the Team Finals session sold out in 2016. Wings has seating for 5,100 fans and additional standing-room capacity for 1,000 more.

Ford Field, which has hosted MHSAA football championship games since 2005, will be configured for placement of up to 20 mats covering approximately half the football playing surface area. Seating will be configured to a capacity of roughly 24,000 in the lower bowl. The tournament schedule, which previously included one round of wrestling on the first day, followed by four rounds on both the second and third days of the event, will be adjusted to begin with four rounds Friday, March 2, 2018, and end with five rounds on Saturday, March 3. The three-day wrestling event drew 37,013 fans this past winter.

The 14,579-seat Breslin Center has been home to the Boys Basketball Finals since 1994. The event drew 53,990 fans over three days of Semifinals and championship games this winter, the largest overall attendance since 2012.

For 8-player football, the Council discussed long-distance travel possibilities to both sites that previously have hosted MHSAA Finals – the Superior Dome hosted the first 8-player championship game in 2011, and Greenville High School's Legacy Field served as host from 2012-16. The 8-player tournament will move to two divisions this fall after playing with only one division during the first six years of its tournament history, and both championship games will be played during the same weekend at NMU.



The MHSAA 8-Player Football Finals will return to Northern Michigan University for two title games in November.

as the host of both 8-Player Football Finals in 2017. NMU hosted the first 8-Player Final in 2011; the 8-Player Football Playoffs will move from one to two divisions beginning this fall.

The moves of the Girls Basketball and Individual Wrestling Finals were made necessary by conditions outside of MHSAA control. The Girls Basketball Finals weekends in 2018 and also 2020-22 will conflict with the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament and an opportunity for Michigan State's women's team to host first and second-round games. The Individual Wrestling Finals – formerly held at multiple sites before moving together to Joe Louis Arena in 1999 – needed a new host as the Palace is expected to close before next season.

"It is with much gratitude to our recent hosts of the Girls Basketball and Wrestling Finals that we make these changes. But although we have enjoyed our time and relationships built, we also are

Nurek Named 2017 Forsythe Winner

Longtime Auburn Hills Avondale athletic administrator Chuck Nurek dedicated much of his career to the training and educating of athletic directors and coaches that continues to impact schools and communities all over Michigan. In recognition of his work for educational athletics, Nurek is the 2017 recipient of the MHSAA Charles E. Forsythe Award.

The annual award is in its 40th 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.

Nurek served as athletic director at Auburn Hills Avondale High School from 1978-1999 after previously serving as assistant athletic administrator beginning in 1968. In addition to his leadership at that school – Avondale named its fieldhouse after him in 2012 – Nurek also was active in county and league leadership and statewide as part of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA).

In all three roles, Nurek helped to provide tools, training and mentoring for those charged with directing high school sports programs and teams. One of his far-reaching impacts came as a long-time member and chairperson of the MIAAA Convention Program Committee, growing and planning an event that regularly draws more than 500 athletic directors, secretaries and assistants. Nurek also served as an early steering committee member of the MHSAA coaches education program that has evolved to educate and certify thousands over the last 30 years.

“Chuck Nurek has dedicated decades to educational athletics and particularly to the training of those who in turn lead our programs in their daily pursuits,” MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. “He has impacted multiple generations of school leaders in our state, both through his assistance in building up our coaches education and then his work in making the MIAAA conference one of the most valuable teaching tools of its kind. We’re pleased to present Chuck Nurek with the Charles E. Forsythe Award.”

It was during his time as athletic director that Nurek saw the need for education, both to combat heavy turnover among athletic directors and also to provide framework for an influx of coaches who did not work fulltime in schools.

He first began in coaches education as part of a small group of athletic directors building a program for Oakland County. That group merged with another, and in 1987 Nurek contributed in the creation of what became known as the MHSAA’s Program of Athletic Coaches Education (PACE), the predecessor of the current Coaches Advancement Program (CAP).

“Just being able to work with all the great people over the years that I worked with, whether it be the leaders in Oakland County or leaders at the MIAAA,” Nurek said of his favorite memories over four decades, “and especially just the outstanding people on the conference committee, putting together one of the best conferences in the country.”



Chuck Nurek

Nurek also served as part of the MIAAA’s State Sportsmanship Committee and Exemplary Athletic Programs Committee and as a representative to the 5 State Exchange Committee, chairing that group for a year.

Nurek graduated from Avondale in 1958 and then earned his bachelor’s degree in education from Northwest Missouri State University in 1966. He also earned a master’s in education from Eastern Michigan University in 1971 and received Certified Athletic Administrator certification from the NIAAA in 1994.

Past recipients of the Charles E. Forsythe Award

- 1978 - Brick Fowler, Port Huron; Paul Smarks, Warren
- 1979 - Earl Messner, Reed City; Howard Beatty, Saginaw
- 1980 - Max Carey, Freesoil
- 1981 - Steven Sluka, Grand Haven; Samuel Madden, Detroit
- 1982 - Ernest Buckholz, Mt. Clemens; T. Arthur Treloar, Petoskey
- 1983 - Leroy Dues, Detroit; Richard Maher, Sturgis
- 1984 - William Hart, Marquette; Donald Stamats, Caro
- 1985 - John Cotton, Farmington; Robert James, Warren
- 1986 - William Robinson, Detroit; Irving Soderland, Norway
- 1987 - Jack Streidl, Plainwell; Wayne Hellenga, Decatur
- 1988 - Jack Johnson, Dearborn; Alan Williams, North Adams
- 1989 - Walter Bazylewicz, Berkley; Dennis Kiley, Jackson
- 1990 - Webster Morrison, Pickford; Herbert Quade, Benton Harbor
- 1991 - Clifford Buckmaster, Petoskey; Donald Domke, Northville
- 1992 - William Maskill, Kalamazoo;
Thomas G. McShannock, Muskegon
- 1993 - Roy A. Allen Jr., Detroit; John Duncan, Cedarville
- 1994 - Kermit Ambrose, Royal Oak
- 1995 - Bob Perry, Lowell
- 1996 - Charles H. Jones, Royal Oak
- 1997 - Michael A. Foster, Richland;
Robert G. Grimes, Battle Creek
- 1998 - Lofton C. Greene, River Rouge; Joseph J. Todey, Essexville
- 1999 - Bernie Larson, Battle Creek
- 2000 - Blake Hagman, Kalamazoo; Jerry Cvengros, Escanaba
- 2001 - Norm Johnson, Bangor; George Lovich, Canton
- 2002 - John Fundukian, Novi
- 2003 - Ken Semelsberger, Port Huron
- 2004 - Marco Marcet, Frankenmuth
- 2005 - Jim Feldkamp, Troy
- 2006 - Dan McShannock, Midland; Dail Prucka, Monroe
- 2007 - Keith Eldred, Williamston; Tom Hickman, Spring Lake
- 2008 - Jamie Gent, Haslett; William Newkirk, Sanford-Meridian
- 2009 - Paul Ellinger, Cheboygan
- 2010 - Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock; Mike Boyd, Waterford
- 2011 - Eric C. Federico, Trenton
- 2012 - Bill Mick, Midland
- 2013 - Jim Gilmore, Tecumseh; Dave Hutton, Grandville
- 2014 - Dan Flynn, Escanaba
- 2015 - Hugh Matson, Saginaw
- 2016 - Gary Hice, Petoskey; Gina Mazzolini, Lansing

2017 WISL Award Goes to Davis

A valued voice both for female athletes and educational athletics as a whole, Ann Arbor Huron administrator Dottie Davis has worked nearly 40 years to create opportunities for high school students to excel. To recognize her vast contributions, Davis received the MHSAA's 30th Women In Sports Leadership Award during the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association conference March 19 in Traverse City.



Dottie Davis

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

Davis was a three-sport athlete at both Ypsilanti High School and then Eastern Michigan University before becoming a teacher, coach and later administrator for the last 39 years, along the way making significant contributions especially in the development of girls sports that didn't exist as part of the MHSAA's tournament offerings during her scholastic career.

"I always wanted the best for our female athletes. They need somebody to be their voice, and I'm all about being positive and what can we do to change and make things better for the women of today," Davis said. "I think through that, people listen, and we get a chance to make improvements for kids coming up.

"I love being a pioneer and trying to make it better for those that follow. I have such a passion for sports that I want them to be the best for both male and female athletes. I'm glad women are now finally getting recognition they deserve, and it's kind of cool to hand off the baton to the next person."

A 1971 graduate of Ypsilanti High, and 1978 grad of Eastern Michigan University – she took off three years from studies after high school to care for her mother, who was recovering from carbon monoxide poisoning at the time – Davis took her first job out of college at Byron High School during the 1978-79 school year, teaching and coaching volleyball, basketball and softball.

She moved closer to home the next fall, joining the staff at Huron as a teacher, and she went on to also coach a variety of sports: varsity volleyball for five seasons from 1979-84, girls varsity basketball from 1980-92 first for eight seasons as head coach and then as an assistant, varsity softball a total of 10 seasons between 1980-2006, and a season each of boys freshman basketball in 2003 and varsity tennis in 1987. She became Huron's athletic director heading into the 2005-06 school year.

"Dottie Davis is a fantastic advocate for girls sports and simply an awesome administrator – she's a great role model for all students and continues to provide a strong voice in support of female athletes," MHSAA Executive Jack Roberts said. "We're delighted to present Dottie with the Women In Sports Leadership Award."

Davis earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from EMU in health and physical education/fitness. She was inducted in 1990 into EMU's Athletic Hall of Fame for earning a combined 10 letters in volleyball, basketball and track & field, and later inducted as well into Huron's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001.

In addition to those accolades, Davis was inducted as a player into both the United States Slow-pitch Softball Association Hall of Fame in 1985 and Michigan Softball Hall of Fame in 1986, and also was named USSSA-deBEER Richard Pollack Memorial "Sportswoman of the Year" in 1986. She has been part of 20 softball world championships.

Davis is a member of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) and National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), as well as the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MAHPERD), and the Association for Supervision and Curricular Development (ASCD).

Past recipients of the WISL Award

- 1990 – Carol Seavoy, L'Anse
- 1991 – Diane Laffey, Harper Woods
- 1992 – Patricia Ashby, Scotts
- 1993 – Jo Lake, Grosse Pointe
- 1994 – Brenda Gatlin, Detroit
- 1995 – Jane Bennett, Ann Arbor
- 1996 – Cheryl Amos-Helmicki, Huntington Woods
- 1997 – Delores L. Elswick, Detroit
- 1998 – Karen S. Leinaar, Delton
- 1999 – Kathy McGee, Flint
- 2000 – Pat Richardson, Grass Lake
- 2001 – Suzanne Martin, East Lansing
- 2002 – Susan Barthold, Kentwood
- 2003 – Nancy Clark, Flint
- 2004 – Kathy Vrugink Westdorp, Grand Rapids
- 2005 – Barbara Redding, Capac
- 2006 – Melanie Miller, Lansing
- 2007 – Jan Sander, Warren Woods
- 2008 – Jane Bos, Grand Rapids
- 2009 – Gail Ganakas, Flint; Deb VanKuiken, Holly
- 2010 – Gina Mazzolini, Lansing
- 2011 – Ellen Pugh, West Branch; Patti Tibaldi, Traverse City
- 2012 – Janet Gillette, Comstock Park
- 2013 – Barbara Beckett, Traverse City
- 2014 – Teri Reyburn, DeWitt
- 2015 – Jean LaClair, Bronson
- 2016 – Betty Wroubel, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep

Gentry Tabbed for 2017 Norris Award

Shelby Township's Michael Gentry, a top-flight official who recently worked his 10th championship game, and also a mentor to many throughout Macomb County during nearly four decades of service, has been selected to receive the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Vern L. Norris Award for 2017.



Mike Gentry

The Norris Award is presented annually to a veteran official who has been active in a local officials association, has mentored other officials, and has been involved in officials' education. It is named for Vern L. Norris, who served as executive director of the MHSAA from

1978-86 and was well-respected by officials on the state and national levels.

Gentry was honored at the Officials' Awards & Alumni Banquet on May 6 at Eagle Eye Golf Club in East Lansing. He is in his 38th year as an MHSAA-registered official, this school year for football, basketball and baseball, and has worked MHSAA Finals in four tournaments (boys and girls basketball separately) and 10 championship games total during his tenure serving Michigan's high school athletes.

A member of the Metro Detroit Officials Association, Gentry has officiated MHSAA Finals in baseball (1992, 1999, 2003, 2010), football (1994, 2005, 2010, 2016), boys basketball (2008) and girls basketball (2013) and most recently the Division 4 Football Final on Nov. 25 between Grand Rapids Catholic Central and Detroit Country Day at Ford Field.

He's also mentored or assisted in guiding a number of young officials from his community over the years and frequently served as a presenter and clinician at local and MHSAA clinics and officials meetings.

"Michael Gentry's work encompasses all that is recognized by the Vern L. Norris Award," MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. "He's at the top of his game on the field. But his contributions off the field recruiting and mentoring young officials are just as significant. Ask those who have had an opportunity to receive his guidance, and they'll describe him as selfless, dedicated and truly invested in building up the next generation."

Gentry initially hoped to stay in athletics as a coach after graduating from Harper Woods Notre Dame High School in 1971. He had played basketball as a freshman in high school and also as part of Detroit's Catholic Youth Organization athletic program growing up, and he had coached CYO teams for nearly a decade when one of his players'

parents who also served as a local referee suggested Gentry give officiating a try.

He first registered as an MHSAA official for the 1978-79 school year and was mentored early on by Detroit's Ted Wilson, the eventual first recipient of the Norris Award in 1992.

Following Wilson's lead, Gentry took an interest in not just officiating, but teaching others how to do so. His current football crew includes six officials he helped mentor, including three who are 25 or younger.

"To this day, I derive more pleasure from passing on what I know and helping people take advantage of the resources that are there for them nowadays," Gentry said. "I had dinner with one of (the officials I mentored) ... and he told me he still has the pen-and-paper evaluations I did and still reviews them to this day, and that just stuns me. I never realized the impact you can have on fledgling officials."

Gentry, who also has officiated at the Division III college level, took classes at Macomb Community College and Wayne State University after high school before taking a fulltime job at General Motors. For the last 20 years he has worked for Carmela Specialty Foods in Clinton Township, currently as the chief operating officer of the wine division.

Gentry was inducted into the Detroit Catholic High School League Hall of Fame in 1996. He also is a dedicated contributor to his parish community at St. Isidore Church in Macomb.

Past recipients of the Vern L. Norris Award

- 1992 – Ted Wilson, East Detroit
- 1993 – Fred Briggs, Burton
- 1994 – Joe Brodie, Flat Rock
- 1995 – Jim Massar, Flint
- 1996 – Jim Lamoreaux, St. Ignace
- 1997 – Ken Myllyla, Escanaba
- 1998 – Blake Hagman, Kalamazoo
- 1999 – Richard Kalahar, Jackson
- 2000 – Barb Beckett, Traverse City; Karl Newingham, Bay City
- 2001 – Herb Lipschultz, Kalamazoo
- 2002 – Robert Scholie, Hancock
- 2003 – Ron Nagy, Hazel Park
- 2004 – Carl Van Heck, Grand Rapids
- 2005 – Bruce Moss, Alma
- 2006 – Jeanne Skinner, Grand Rapids
- 2007 – Terry Wakeley, Grayling
- 2008 – Will Lynch, Honor
- 2009 – James Danhoff, Richland
- 2010 – John Juday, Sr., Petoskey
- 2011 – Robert Williams, Redford
- 2012 – Lyle Berry, Rockford
- 2013 – Tom Minter, Okemos
- 2014 – Hugh R. Jewell, West Bloomfield
- 2015 – Sam Davis, Lansing
- 2016 – Linda Hoover, Marshall



Classifications Announced for 2017-18

Classifications for Michigan High School Athletic Association elections and post-season tournaments in traditionally classified sports (A, B, C, D) for the 2017-18 school year have been announced, with enrollment breaks for postseason tournaments set up by divisions posted to each sport's page on MHSAA.com.

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 September 1 of the current school year and will not include alternative education students if none are allowed athletic eligibility by the local school district.

After all counts are submitted, tournament-qualified member schools are ranked according to enrollment, and then split as closely into quarters as possible. For 2017-18, there are 750 tournament-qualified member schools with 186 schools in Class A, 187 schools in Class B, 188 schools in Class C and 189 schools in Class D.

Effective with the 2017-18 school year, schools with 881 or more students are in Class A in MHSAA postseason tournament competition. The enrollment limits for Class B are 406-880; Class C is 204-405; and schools with enrollments of 203 and fewer are Class D. The break between Classes A and B is the same as for 2016-17, the break between Classes B and C decreased six students, and the break between Classes C and D is three students fewer than the current school year.

The new classification breaks will see 21 schools move up in class for 2017-18, while 24 schools will move down.

Schools have the option to play at any higher classification for a minimum of two years, but must exercise the option by April 15 for fall sports, August 15 for winter sports and October 15 for spring sports.

MHSAA tournament sports that will be conducted in traditional classifications for 2017-18 are Basketball and Girls Volleyball. Football will use traditional classifications to determine playoff points.

Sports which will compete in nearly equal divisions are: Baseball, Bowling, Girls Competitive Cheer, Lower Peninsula Cross Country, Lower Peninsula Golf, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Lower Peninsula Soccer, Skiing, Softball, Lower Peninsula Swimming & Diving, Lower Peninsula Tennis, Lower Peninsula Track & Field and Wrestling.

Visit the respective sport pages on the MHSAA Website to review the divisional alignments.

The divisions and qualifiers for the MHSAA Football Playoffs will be announced on Selection Sunday, Oct. 22, 2016.

A complete list of school enrollments used to determine classifications for the 2017-18 school year can be found on the Enrollment & Classifica-

tion page of the MHSAA Website.

Here is a complete list of schools changing classification for 2017-18. (Note: This list does not include schools opting up in class/division for tournaments, which can be found on the Administrators page of the MHSAA Website, under Enrollment and Classification):

Moving Up From Class B to Class A

Battle Creek Harper Creek
Hazel Park
Redford Union
Stevensville Lakeshore
Zeeland West

Moving Down From Class A to Class B

New Boston Huron
Niles
Parma Western
Pontiac
Romulus

Moving Down from Class A to Class C

Detroit International Academy

Moving Up From Class C to Class B

Boyne City
Detroit Cornerstone Health & Technology
Detroit West Side Academy
Ecorse
Harrison
Jonesville
Michigan Center
Millington

Moving Down From Class B to Class C

Canton Preparatory
Clinton Township Clintondale
Detroit Henry Ford
Detroit School of Arts
Flint Academy West
Houghton
Ithaca
Pinconning
Sanford Meridian Early College
Ypsilanti Arbor Prep

Moving Up From Class D to Class C

Brighton Charyl Stockwell Prep Academy
Detroit Leadership Academy
Detroit Public Safety Academy
Jackson Preparatory & Early College
Marcellus
Mendon
Pittsford
Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary

Moving Down From Class C to Class D

Detroit Randolph Technical
Genesee
Kingston
Melvindale Academy for Business & Technology
Munising
Muskegon Heights Academy
Rudyard
West Bloomfield Frankel Jewish Academy

New Postseason Eligible Tournament Schools in 2017-18

Ann Arbor Washtenaw Tech Middle College
Detroit Leadership Academy
Detroit Hope of Detroit
Hudsonville Libertas Christian
Mancelona North Central Academy
Westland American International Academy

Make Plans to Attend the 2017 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.



Scan to download registration form to mobile device

2017 AD In-Service/Update Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, Sept. 20	Kalamazoo, Four Points by Sheraton
Monday, Sept. 25	Warren, DeCarlos Banquet/Convention
Wednesday, Sept. 27	Frankenmuth, Zehnder's
Monday, Oct. 2	Comstock Park, English Hills Country Club
Monday, Oct. 9	Gaylord, Otsego Club & Resort
Wednesday, Oct. 11	Lansing, Causeway Bay (Annual Business Meeting)
Friday, Oct. 27	Marquette, Superior Dome (no fee, no meal)

Got the MHSAA.com to register for a session near you!

Inform Students, Coaches and 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.

A Call to Arms: State Associations Adopt Pitch Limits

Overuse injuries are a growing concern in all high school sports – particularly in baseball with overuse injuries to pitchers in the sport.

Ulnar collateral ligament surgery, more commonly known as Tommy John surgery, is being performed on an increasing number of high school pitchers. Top Velocity, a pitcher-specific baseball website, published an article that stated that 85 percent of high school students who underwent the surgery were overused in their roles. (67% threw breaking pitches before the age of 14.)

In 2015, the NFHS convened a joint meeting with its Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and USA Baseball’s Medical Safety Committee to discuss risk of injuries with high school baseball pitchers. What these groups knew heavily outweighed what they didn’t about the main cause of pitching injuries – overuse. As a result, the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee, at its 2016 meeting, approved a new pitch-count restriction rule.

To protect the arms of high school pitchers, high school rules now require a pitching-restriction policy based on the number of pitches thrown in a game and a required rest period. Each NFHS member state association is required to develop its own pitching-restriction policy based on pitches thrown in a game rather than innings pitched.

“We are happy at a national level that our member associations have implemented ways to limit risk to pitchers for longevity in their interscholastic athletic careers,” said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of sports and student services and staff liaison for baseball.

Hopkins said most of the feedback from states has involved logistics. What is the magic pitch number? How many days rest is required after you hit the number? Can there be different increments of pitch counts? Ultimately, the final decision rests with each member state association.

Vermont has been using a pitch-count restriction for 20 years. Currently, 44 states have developed pitch-count restrictions for this season with others pending approval. “The numbers we have seen are fair. I think they will be adjusted because of hard data and concerns regarding pitching in postseason tournaments,” Hopkins said.

The previous restriction of limiting innings pitched still created overuse issues as innings vary in terms of pitches thrown. It also allowed players to pitch consecutive days on a fatigued arm, thereby increasing the risk of soreness and injury. On top of overuse, hot weather in the South, or cool temperatures in the North play into injury risk as well. Hopkins hopes the new rule will protect high school pitchers’ arms and allow the proper rest period between pitching appearances.

“A byproduct of the new rule is the growth in the pitching staff that also puts less stress on one pitcher,” Hopkins said. “The new pitch restrictions will incentivize coaches to have a deeper bullpen to avoid ineligible pitchers and provides for participation growth in baseball and, if managed well, a successful pitching rotation.”

In the end, Hopkins believes coaches have an obligation to protect their pitchers, not to overuse or abuse them. “No single win is worth the unnecessary risk of injury to a young

player. The overuse risk factor as well as other risk factors for pitchers are avoidable with proper education and guidance,” Hopkins said.

– Bryce Woodall

Bryce Woodall is an intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. He is a senior at Franklin (Indiana) College studying public relations.



State high school associations are now required to implement baseball pitch restrictions based on the number of pitches thrown in a given time period rather than by innings or outs. The MHSAA pitch limitation can be found on MHSAA.com, and is explained in the Q & A on the next page..

MHSAA Baseball Pitch Count Q & A

- 1. What happens when a pitcher moves between the varsity and JV team?**

The number of counted pitches for a pitcher “go” with that individual if the student plays on multiple team levels (varsity, JV, freshmen) during a period of days. For example, if a pitcher throws 77 counted pitches on Monday for the varsity team and moves to the JV team on Wednesday, that pitcher is ineligible to pitch for JV team (or any team for that matter) on Wednesday due to his required 3 days of rest following his 77 pitches on Monday. The first day this pitcher could again pitch for any team would be on Friday.
- 2. What happens if a pitcher starts an at-bat with 102 counted pitches? Does he have to leave the game once he throws his 105th pitch?**

If a pitcher would reach the maximum of 105 while facing a batter (but started the at-bat with less than 105), the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occur:

 - a. That batter reaches base.
 - b. That batter is put out.
 - c. The third out of the inning is made (pick off, caught stealing, etc).
- 3. How does the rule work if a school has a pitcher that is ambidextrous?**

If a pitcher is ambidextrous, the pitch count limitations apply to the individual pitcher, not to the individual arm.
- 4. Can a pitcher be moved to shortstop and then return to the mound two innings later? Can a pitcher throw in both games of a doubleheader or multiple games in a tournament on a Saturday?**

A pitcher that remains in the game but moves to a different defensive position may again pitch in that game if allowed by the pitch count limitation, substitution and charged conference rules. A pitcher may throw in multiple games on a calendar day but all pitches thrown on that day must be added together in establishing that pitcher’s daily number of pitches.
- 5. Once a pitcher reaches 105 pitches in a game, can the player continue to play at another position or is the player “done for the day”?**

Yes, the player can continue to play at another position. Once a pitcher reaches the maximum number of allowed daily pitches, the pitcher may play one of the eight other defensive positions with no limitation.
- 6. Do the pitches thrown “count” if rain, darkness or other events halt or suspend a game? Are the pitches counted if it is not a regulation game?**

If a game is started and then halted, suspended or not completed due to darkness, weather or any other reason, all counted pitches must be included on the Pitching Record Form (PRF) even if the interrupted game will not be made-up or completed. A counted pitch thrown in any game situation (regulation game, suspended game, halted game, game started but abandoned) must be recorded on the PRF for purposes of this rule.
- 7. Are pitches thrown in a scrimmage or practice counted on the PRF for purposes of this rule?**

No. Only regulation pitches thrown in a game are counted and recorded on the PRF. Remember that all regulation pitches that are thrown to a batter that result in a ball, strike (called or swinging), foul ball or fair batted ball put into play are considered a “counted pitch” for purposes of this rule. An illegal pitch, a pitch that follows a balk or timeout being called, warm-up pitches, throws when playing a batted or thrown ball and pick-off throws to a base are NOT counted under this rule.
- 8. How will teams report to each other during the course of the game regarding the number of pitches thrown? How will disputes be settled?**

The base coach that is moving to their position in front of the opposing team’s bench/dugout will inform the opposing coach of the number of pitches thrown in the previous half inning.
This method will be used in assuring that both teams are on the “same page” in terms of the number of pitches thrown by each pitcher. If the counts differ, the team who is tracking their pitcher will be considered the official count. Umpires will not become involved in any pitch count dispute between the two teams/coaches other than to facilitate the conversation.
- 9. Is this process any different for games played in the MHSAA tournament series (District- Finals)?**

At all MHSAA tournament sites, the tournament manager must appoint a “pitch count recorder”. If the counts differ at any MHSAA tournament site, the following will be used to determine the pitch count:

 - If two of the three agree (pitch count recorder and one team), the majority will be considered official.
 - If none of the three agree (pitch count recorder and both teams), the pitch count recorder will be considered official.

The MHSAA tournament process should be similar to the regular season in that the base coach that is moving to their position in front of the opposing team’s bench/dugout will inform the opposing coach and pitch count recorder (who should be placed near the backstop) of the number of pitches thrown in the previous half inning. Umpires will not become involved in any pitch count dispute between the two teams/coaches and pitch count recorder other than to facilitate communication between the parties at any MHSAA tournament site.
- 10. How will teams track the number of pitches thrown in each game? What are the pregame responsibilities for both coaches/teams? What must happen after each game?**

Each school’s team (varsity, JV and freshmen) must keep a season-long log of pitches thrown on the MHSAA Pitching Record Form (PRF). This log must be available for presentation at the pre-game plate meeting if requested by the opposing coach. Following each game, the PRF must be presented to the opposing coach for verification and a signature is required following the game or last game of the doubleheader. Each line-up card MUST include a list of any pitcher that is ineligible to pitch that day due to a required day of rest.

Scholar-Athlete Class of 2017 Honored

The Michigan High School Athletic Association/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award has been recognizing the top student-athletes for 28 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 2016-17 Scholar-Athlete Award receive a \$1,000 college scholarship to be used at the college, university, or trade school of their choice during the 2016-17 school year. This year, 1,515 applicants from 409 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 in ceremonies at halftime of the Class C Boys Basketball Final at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing on March 25.



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

2017 Scholar-Athlete Award Winners

Grace Alvesteffer, Pentwater, Class D
 Hope Baldwin, Kalamazoo Hackett, Class C
 Justin Beemer, Fenton, Class A
 Michael Bian, BH Cranbrook Kingswood, Class B
 Clark Brady, Bad Axe, Class C
 Tyler Brant, Watervliet, Class C
 Aidan Carichner, Saline, Class A
 Morgan Colling, Houghton, Class B
 Lindsay Duca, East Grand Rapids, Class A
 Connor K Fischer, Grandville, Class A
 Jordan George-Nwogu, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Class A
 Paige Hallock, Greenville, Class A
 Jasmine Harper, Clare, Class B
 Sasha Hartje, Detroit Country Day, Class B
 Brayden Huddleston, Benzie Central, Class B
 Nathan Jones, Battle Creek Lakeview, Class A

Landon Kemp, Greenville, Class A
 Adam Kozinski, Edwardsburg, Class B
 Mary Leighton, Mendon, Class D
 Connor Bryant Meehan, Saline, Class A
 Tait Morrissey, Big Rapids, Class B
 Elijah Newton, Central Lake, Class D
 Kim Anh Nguyen, Wyoming Kelloggsville, Class B
 Emma Nowak, Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard, Class B
 Seth Polfus, Powers North Central, Class D
 Varun R Shanker, Midland Dow, Class A
 Jacob Shoop, Mason County Central, Class C
 Nikki Sorgi, Utica Ford, Class A
 Khora Swanson, Ishpeming, Class C
 Caroline Szabo, Midland Dow, Class A
 Jordan Walker, Muskegon Mona Shores, Class A
 Madeline Wu, Grosse Pointe Woods U. Liggett, Class C



Alvesteffer



Baldwin



Beemer



Bian



Brady



Brant



Carichner



Colling



Duca



Fischer



George-Nwogu



Hallock



Harper



Hartje



Huddleston



Jones



Kemp



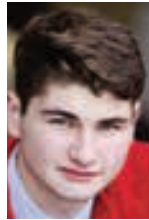
Kozinski



Leighton



Meehan



Morrissey



Newton



Nguyen



Nowak



Polfus



Shanker



Shoop



Sorgi



Swanson



Szabo



Walker



Wu

Visit the Students page of MHSAA.com
for a Scholar-Athlete History, and
for 2017-18 Application Information

Montrose Repeats As SBP Program of the Year

Montrose High School maintained its spot as the “Program of the Year” in the MHSAA’s School Broadcast Program Excellence Awards in 2016-17, claiming the top honor for the fourth straight year.

The SBP Excellence Awards will award certificates and plaques to the schools which took individual honors; presentation dates and times to be announced.

Montrose took first place in Best Multicamera Production; Best Single Camera Production with PlayOn! Sports Graphics; Best Use of PlayOn! Sports Graphics; and swept the top three spots in the Best Produced Commercial/Feature category.

Montrose became the first SBP school to produce live coverage of its entire regular-season football schedule during the 2016 season; continued to demonstrate good blend of productions in a variety of sports covered; and an overall command of the PlayOn! Sports software used for graphics and inserting commercials/features during the course of productions.

Nationally, **Eric Vandefifer**, a junior at Montrose, was named the Best Student Broadcaster in the NFHS Network School Broadcast Program Awards. For the second straight year, **James Kitts**, coordinator of the program at Montrose, was a finalist in the Teacher of the Year category.

Other MHSAA category winners were: Negaunee High School for Best Highlight; and Lake Orion High School for Best Play-by-Play.

Other criteria used in selecting the top program awards were sporting events produced, where East Lansing High School headed the list, followed by Comstock Park High School and Montrose; and subscriptions sold, which was led by Calumet High School, followed by Negaunee, Lake Orion and Marquette High School.

Here is the complete list of the schools and students honored in this year’s SBP Excellence Awards:

Best Highlight:

- *First Place* – Negaunee – Evan Hassell, Keegan McGonigle, Hannah Skewis – Football game v. Charlevoix.

Best Multicamera Production:

- *First Place* – Montrose – Eric Vandefifer, David Sackrider, Elyssa Climie, Ben Dennings, Sam Wade, Jared Adams, Noah Rowe – Football game v. Birch Run.
- *Second Place* – Montrose – Eric Vandefifer, David Sackrider, Peyton Hobson, Noah Rowe, Cameron Tupper, Sam Wade, Randal Smith, Amanda Conrad – Football game v. Corunna.
- *Third Place* – Lake Orion – Micah Williams, Ben Wellman, Brad Daenzer, Brandon Morrow, Gracen Zotter, Jack LaBounty, Rachele Pozzo – Boys Basketball game v. Birmingham Seaholm.

Best Play-By-Play:

- *First Place* – First Place – Lake Orion – Brad Daenzer and Ben Wellman – Boys Basketball game v. Oxford.
- *Second Place* – Montrose – Eric Vandefifer and David Sackrider – Football game v. Birch Run.
- *Third Place* – Lake Orion – Brad Daenzer and Ben Wellman – Boys Basketball game v. Birmingham Seaholm.

Best Produced Commercial/Feature:

- *First Place* – Montrose – Jared Adams, Elyssa Climie, Eric Vandefifer – Mike Young Buick/GMC Commercial.
- *Second Place* – Montrose – Elyssa Climie, Jared Adams, Camryn Blair, Molly Dunton, Sarah Jones – Ford Field Trip Feature.
- *Third Place* – Montrose – Eric Vandefifer, David Sackrider, Jared Adams – Detroit Sports Broadcasters Association MSU-U of M Tailgate Luncheon Feature.

Best Single Camera Production with PlayOn! Graphics:

- *First Place* – Montrose – David Sackrider, Elyssa Climie, Sarah Jones – Boys Basketball game v. Flint Kearsley.
- *Second Place* – Cedar Springs – Noah VanKampen – Boys Soccer game v. Greenville.
- *Third Place* – Negaunee – Evan Hassell, Hannah Skewis – Football game v. Calumet.

Best Use of PlayOn! Graphics/Software:

- *First Place* – Montrose – David Sackrider, Elyssa Climie, Sarah Jones – Boys Basketball game v. Flint Kearsley.
- *Second Place* – Negaunee – Robby Williams, Travis Nelson – Girls Basketball game v. Iron Mountain.
- *Third Place* – Montrose – Carter Inman, Reco Delacruz, Camryn Blair, Jared Adams, John Blackford – Boys Basketball game v. Burton Bendle.



Student Advisory Council in Place for 2017-18

Eight student-athletes who will be juniors at their schools during the 2017-18 academic year have been selected to serve a two-year term 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 2017-18 are: **Taylor Adams**, Alendale; **Neil Bazaj**, Ann Arbor Greenhills; **Megan Corbe**, St. Joseph; **Shane Dolan**, Clarkston Everest Collegiate; **Chloe Idoni**, Fenton; **William Jontz**, Brighton; **Pierce Morrissey**, Big Rapids; **Abigail Nelson**, Negaunee.

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 95 schools from 43 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in 11 MHSAA sports, and all eight will be the first SAC members from their respective schools.

The Student Advisory Council 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 judged the sixth “Battle of the Fans” after creating the contest during 2011-12 as a way to promote positive sportsmanship. The Council first published its “Captains 101” guide in 2009, and in fall 2017 will be distributing a follow-up book titled “The Captains Playbook.” The 24-page book will be sent to schools throughout Michigan and also, by request, to other states and internationally.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2018 members who were selected a year ago: **Rachel Cummings**, Mayville; **Darby Dean**, Lowell; **Danny deForest**, Holland West Ottawa; **Aaron Fahrner**, Owendale-Gagetown; **Hunter Gandee**, Temperance Bedford; **Sydney Hanson**, Alma; **Grace Reetz**, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart; **Jordan Tirico**, Ann Arbor Skyline.

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

Frankenmuth Wins Battle of Fans VI



When Shafer Webb and his classmates were middle schoolers, they watched the high school student section turn into a party at every Frankenmuth home game.

Webb's older brother Brennan led the 2012 section that won the inaugural MHSAA Battle of the Fans. And, of course, older brother told younger that no student section would ever measure up to the original champion.

Shafer, and about 300 of his friends, took that as a challenge – and have responded by earning a second championship banner as the first two-time winner in BOTF history.

“It shows we had good leadership this year, and it sets the standard for next year,” Shafer Webb said. “It helps we won; now we have something tangible to show how good we were, and hopefully that will inspire them to continue next year.”

Frankenmuth accepted its Battle of the Fans VI championship banner during halftime of the Class B Girls Basketball Final on March 18 at Michigan State University's Breslin Center. The other four finalists also were invited to Breslin to be honored for this season's achievement.

Frankenmuth was chosen based on a vote by the MHSAA's 16-member Student Advisory Council influenced by public vote on the MHSAA's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram sites. A total of 20,125 social media votes were received, with those results then equated against a school's enrollment.

The Council based its vote on the following criteria: positive sportsmanship, student body participation, school spirit, originality of cheers, organization of the group, section leadership and overall fun.

Boyer City totaled the most public social media support, finishing first across all four ways votes

were accepted (Facebook likes and shares, Twitter re-tweets and Instagram likes) – despite being the smallest school among our finalists. Votes were scaled to take into account a school's size – although Traverse City West received the most social media votes total, Boyer City's when compared to its student enrollment pushed the Rambler Rowdies to the top of the list. Frankenmuth finished second in the social media voting.

“It helps we won; now we have something tangible to show how good we were, and hopefully that will inspire them to continue next year.” – Frankenmuth student Shafer Webb

Other numbers to consider from this season's contest: The application videos have been watched more than 16,600 times, and the MHSAA-produced videos from our tour stops have nearly 5,700 views. The stories on the five finalists plus Tuesday's explanation of how to vote had been viewed 10,270 times as of 8:30 this morning. The five Snapchat stories covering our visits were viewed nearly 13,000 times combined.

Battle of the Fans VI received the most entries since the first BOTF in 2012, and the most first-time entries ever (of course not counting that first contest). That means the spirit of Battle of the Fans is thriving in a number of communities, while also catching on in more every year. This year's finalists no doubt will inspire student leaders at more schools to create championship-caliber student sections.

Going the Extra Miles to Recruit New Officials

The road to becoming a successful official can be a lengthy one, and the current ledger of sports officiating personnel in Michigan reveals far more individuals nearing the end of the journey rather than the beginning.

To that end, one MHSAA official is doing his share to provide a proper foundation while infusing youth into the avocation. One could say the Lapeer native is going the extra mile(s).

Jack Miles, a three-sport veteran in his second decade as a registered MHSAA official has expanded upon the premise of the MHSAA Legacy Program which provides for one-to-one, on-the-job training to create a curriculum of sorts at a pair of local schools.

Working with Otisville Lakeville Athletic Director Drew Johnson and Davison Athletic Director Dave Beamer, Miles has created a 10-hour course in umpiring baseball during which students satisfy all requirements to become MHSAA resistered officials.

“They give me time during school hours and allow me to teach umpiring,” said Miles, who also officiates football and basketball. “What’s unique is that we get them registered through coordination with the MHSAA through the process.”

The registration process can be daunting for students as they attempt to navigate studies, sports and the typical social scene for all high school students. There is the *Officials Guidebook* exam, on-line rules meetings and start-up costs. Miles takes them through the process first and foremost.

“Explaining the process, we get them through the paperwork. We start out with registration and the exams,” Miles said. “I’m not kidding when I say it’s kind of like Christmas when they get the (MHSAA) patch. It’s like getting driver’s ed permit.”

While the MHSAA Legacy program waves the registration fee, Lakeville and Davison high schools foot the bill for the sport fee for these students as well, further encouraging the students.



When Logan Vamos (fourth from left) worked his first game this spring, the rest of the Davison High School legacy umpires – self dubbed “The Strike Force” – were there to support him.



Jack Miles (right) leads a group of sports officiating students through a session on baseball mechanics.

“Hey, after all, they’ve got equipment fees, too, so we try to help as much as we can,” Miles said.

Once the prospective officials are registered, the course moves on to lessons in using the Arbiter, the online game assignment tool used by most leagues and conferences.

“I’ve found that for today’s students, even emailing is a thing of the past,” Miles said. “It’s all texting and instant messaging, but they have to know that it’s their responsibility to keep their Arbiter accounts updated and check emails regularly. That’s all part of this training.”

Having educated the class on the administrative side of officiating, Miles then gets into the nuts and bolts: mechanics, rules knowledge, and interactive sessions which are conducted like typical clinics.

The courses take place during the winter so that the “graduates” are ready for assignments come spring time. The students are trained in both two-person and one-person mechanics, as many of the summer youth league games in which Miles helps to place them are single-umpire games.

The real reward, of course, are the middle school and freshmen games assigned to the newest MHSAA officials during the school seasons, where they will work with veteran mentors.

“Tom Rau (fellow official from Burton) has been helpful in coordinating a schedule of middle school and freshman games,” Miles said. “I select mentors to work with them early in the season, many of whom have worked MHSAA Semifinals and Finals. We try to schedule a couple of games a week.”

And, there’s an added bonus.

“For the legacy games with a mentor, the mentor doesn’t accept the pay; the legacy students get the whole thing,” said Miles.

Miles himself will continue his journey, and take the program with him when he relocates to the Upper Peninsula next year. One of the great aspects of officiating, as his students have found out and future classes will realize, is that once it’s in you, you can take it with you wherever you go.

For more information, call Jack at 810-287-6369 or email him at jkmiles2001@yahoo.com.

Rules of the Games

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

Baseball

- On a fair hit ball to the outfield, F8 throws the ball to the infield, where B1 is running to second and while not sliding, deliberately reaches out and grabs the glove of F4, who cannot accept the throw. What is the result of the play?
 - The ball becomes dead immediately and B1 is ruled out for interference.
 - The ball becomes dead immediately but B1 does not have to slide and is ruled safe.
 - It is the responsibility of F4 to be in position to accept the ball, regardless of what B1 does and the ball remains live.
 - The ball remains live and B1 is ruled out.
- During a live ball situation with the bases empty, F1 – the pitcher – throws the ball to F5. What is the protocol following this act?
 - An automatic ejection for F1 for delaying the game.
 - This is legal and no actions are required.
 - A verbal warning for the first offense and an ejection on the second offense.
 - Restriction to the dugout for the head coach of F1.



- On a throw from F9 to the plate, R1 slides headfirst into F2, who is blocking the base in anticipation of the throw reaching home plate. After the collision, R1 rolls to the plate and touches it before F2 secures the ball. The result of the play shall be:
 - R1 is not permitted to slide headfirst at home plate and is ruled out.
 - F2 is in violation of obstruction and R1 is awarded home.
 - As the play is a “baseball play” there should be no ruling and the result of the play is a run scored due to R1 touching the plate.
 - F2 has the right to block the base and R1 interferes with his ability to receive the ball. Call R1 out.

Boys Lacrosse

- Check all that are true regarding mouth guards.
 - A completely clear or completely white mouthguard is permitted so long as it is de-

signed specifically for the athlete by a dentist and a letter is provided to the officials prior to the game.

- A player may receive one warning from an official during a live ball to put their mouthguard in; a second mouthguard infraction will result in a one minute non releasable foul.
 - Failure to wear a required mouthguard – fully in the mouth, no “fish hook” – is a technical foul and must be penalized unless the mouthpiece comes out during play.
 - The recent lessening of the penalty for not wearing a mouthguard is intended to make it more likely to be enforced by officials and thus increase the safety of players.
- Check all that are true regarding players entering the crease.
 - It is a conduct foul if a defensive player, other than a



- properly equipped goalkeeper, enters his own crease with the perceived intent of blocking a shot or acting as a goalie.
 - A second violation by any player on the same team will result in a releasable unsportsmanlike conduct foul.
 - A second violation by the same player on the same team will result in a releasable unsportsmanlike conduct foul.
 - An official who notices a non-goalie defensive player in the crease should whistle the play as soon as they notice the situation, however a shot already in flight will be allowed to come to its normal conclusion before the whistle blows to stop play.
- Which of the following statements are true with regard to stalling?
 - During the last two minutes of regulation play, stalling rules are in effect for the team that is ahead by four goals or less.
 - When the score is tied or the differential is five goals or more, neither team is forced to keep the ball in the goal area.
 - There is an incorrect phrase at the end of this new rule in the printed version of the NFHS 2017 Rule Book. When a team is ahead by four goals or less an official would not issue a “keep it in” warning
 - An “automatic stall warning” in the last two minutes creates a dangerous situation where a team that is essentially “out of the game” is given more opportunity to “punish” the team that is ahead since that team is forced to “keep it in”.

Girls Lacrosse

1. With the draw, on the whistle, all players below the restraining lines may not cross until:
 - a. A player of either team has gained possession of the ball.
 - b. The ball goes out of bounds off of a player.
 - c. The ball crosses the restraining line.
 - d. A whistle stops play for a foul.
 - e. Includes everything listed.

2. Attack player A1 has the ball in front of goal between 12 and 8 meters, and her teammate A2 is being guarded deep and to the side of the goal circle by a defensive player. The low attack (A2) player begins to run across the goal, and her defense (D2) player decides to stop and tries to play the attack (A1) player, moving straight on to her, more than a stick's length away.
 - a. Legal
 - b. Illegal



3. The White team is passing the ball around outside of the Critical Scoring Area as it stalls.
 - a. Obstruction of free space to goal should not be called. The ball is outside of the Critical Scoring Area. Additionally, White is not creating an opportunity to shoot.
 - b. Obstruction of free space to goal should be called.

Soccer

1. On a kickoff the ball is in play...
 - a. when it is touched.
 - b. when it is kicked and moves forward.
 - c. when it is kicked in any direction.
2. A goal MAY be scored directly from a...
 - a. goalkeeper's throw.
 - b. free kick into a team's own goal.
 - c. goal kick into a team's own goal.
 - d. corner kick into a team's own goal.



3. How many ball holders are required by the rule book?
 - a. No ball holders are required.
 - b. At least two ball holders.
 - c. At least four ball holders.

Softball

1. R1 is on first base with fewer than two outs when B2 hits a ground ball to F4. When F4 moves to tag R1, she steps back toward first to avoid the tag and then reverses direction toward second after F4 throws to first where B2 is safe. R1 is also safe at second.
 - a. R1 is declared out for stepping back toward first.
 - b. The ball is immediately dead.
 - c. No violation has occurred and the play stands.
2. R3 is on third and R1 is on first with no outs and B3 at bat. B3 hits a hard ground ball to F6, who tosses to F4 at second to force out R1, but R1 illegally interferes with F4 attempting to throw to first base. Which of the following are true?
 - a. R1 is out on the force out. (Rule 8-6-16c)
 - b. B3 is out for the interference by R1.
 - c. R3 is out for the interference by R1. (Rule 8-6-16c)
 - d. Only R1 is out for interference.
 - e. The ball is delayed-dead.



3. All of the following are true statements regarding the designated player (DP), EXCEPT:
 - a. The DP is one of the nine hitters in the batting order.
 - b. The DP may be substituted for at any time by a legal substitute.
 - c. The DP may play defense only for the FLEX.
 - d. The DP has left the game if the FLEX bats.
 - e. The DP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.

Baseball Answers: 1-a (8-4-2); 2-c (6-2-2); 3-b (2-22-3)
 Boys Lacrosse Answers: 1-c, d (1-9-c, 6-5-2); 2-a, c, d (4-18-4); 3-a, b, c, d (6-10-3)
 Girls Lacrosse Answers: 1-e (5-2f); 2-b (10-1b); 3-a (10-1-1f)
 Soccer Answers: 1-b (8-1-3; note: this rule will change in fall 2017 when a kickoff will be allowed in any direction); 2-a (10-1-2); 3-b (6-1-1)
 Softball Answers: 1-c (8-8-1); 2-c (8-6-16c); 3-c (3-3-6)

“Physical” Nature of Sports to Forefront in 2017-18

“Not so new” Physicals: In May 2016, the Representative Council added requirements which **start with fall sports 2017-18**. The new requirements have been included on all physical cards since May 2016. The old blue ink on white cards will be obsolete starting next fall but the **black on tan cards are up-to-date and good for 2017-18**. The MHSAA website always has had the newest forms and Pivrit is also up-to-date. Spanish and Arabic translations are on MHSAA.com. The “not so new” requirements are eligibility rules beginning Aug. 1, 2017 and **are made easier with all signatures being placed on the MHSAA physical form**. These “not so new” components include 1) A consent and assumption of risk statement and 2) An annual concussion awareness acknowledgement. **These must be signed by both the parent and student.**

If a school uses its own physical form be sure to use the exact MHSAA language. If a doctor submits a different form, we suggest you staple an MHSAA form with the parent and student signatures to the doctor’s signed statement. A one-page document on Concussion Awareness is on MHSAA.Com and can be shared with parents and students. Click on Health & Safety then under Concussion Resources > Concussion Education Materials/ Acknowledgement Form.

If a school uses its own physical form be sure to use the exact MHSAA language. If a doctor submits a different form, we suggest you staple an MHSAA form with the parent and student signatures to the doctor’s signed statement.

All schools are asked to inform your junior/high middle school families as early as 5th grade that sport’s physicals must be dated after April 15 of the previous school year to be current for the coming school year. It is suggested for insurance coverage purposes, that parents get on a **spring-summer yearly physical cycle** if their child is in sports. Please be sure this is publicized to your middle school parents.

Coaching Rules Meetings & Concussion Awareness: Next school year, beginning with fall sports 2017, only one rule meeting option per sport will be offered for **subvarsity and assistant coaches**. This is the same rules meeting that is for head coaches. These meetings will allow for

concussion training for all high school coaches in order to comply with anticipated changes to state law that require coaches training be updated every three years. The MHSAA rules meeting will contain concussion education for coaches every other year, starting with fall sports 2017. The process for taking rules meetings will be the same as in years past. As an individual assistant or sub varsity coach, if the AD has registered the coach on MHSAA.com or as a group with the head coach logged in.

As in past years, it will be for each school to monitor and report that all its assistant and sub varsity coaches have complied by the established deadline (Sept. 14, 2017 for fall sports). Athletic Directors will be asked to attest once each season (fall, winter, and spring) through MHSAA.com that this requirement has been met. Schools must withhold from MHSAA tournaments any assistant or sub varsity coach who has failed to meet this requirement.

YouTube of MHSAA Regulations “In other words...” The MHSAA staff has several short videos now on MHSAA.com explaining MHSAA Regulations. Either view the “In other words.” page at Schools > Administrators, then see Regulations Summary on the right or click on the YouTube icon in the upper right corner of our home page. See pages 16-17 of this issue for complete story and topics.

Think of Sanctioning Two Times: 1) Events sponsored or titled by a **non-school** group or 2) Events against teams from more than state (not all, but some events). ADs, coaches or individuals organizing a non-school event can see the list of events already sanctioned and the process to sanction an event: MHSAA.com - click on Schools > Administrators then under Event Management > NFHS and MHSAA Sanctioned Events. Not sure if an event needs sanctioning, see the **Sanctioning Grid** at this same location. Be alerted that MHSAA schools can only play schools from other states who are members of their state high school association.



The Only Official Interpretations are Those Received in Writing



MEDICAL HISTORY: Completed by Parent or Guardian or 18-Year-Old

Student Name: _____ Date of Exam: _____
 Family Doctor: _____ Phone: _____

- GENERAL QUESTIONS		Y	N	- MEDICAL QUESTIONS		Y	N
Has a doctor ever denied or restricted your participation in sports for any reason?				Do you cough, wheeze or have difficulty breathing during or after exercise?			
Do you have any ongoing medical conditions? If so, please identify below: <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> Anemia <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Infections <input type="checkbox"/> Other:				Have you ever used an inhaler or taken asthma medicine?			
Have you ever spent the night in the hospital or have you ever had surgery?				Is there anyone in your family who has asthma?			
- HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU		Y	N	Were you born without, or missing a kidney, eye, testicle (males), spleen or any other organ?			
Have you ever passed out or nearly passed out DURING or AFTER exercise?				Do you have groin pain or a painful bulge or hernia in the groin area?			
Have you ever had discomfort, pain, lightheadedness, or pressure in your chest during exercise?				Have you had infectious mononucleosis (mono) within the last month?			
Does your heart ever race or skip beats (irregular beats) during exercise?				Do you have any rashes, pressure sores or other skin problems?			
Has a doctor ever told you that you have any heart problems? Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure <input type="checkbox"/> Heart murmur <input type="checkbox"/> Heart infection <input type="checkbox"/> High cholesterol <input type="checkbox"/> Kawasaki disease <input type="checkbox"/> Other:				Have you had a herpes or MRSA skin infection?			
Has a doctor ordered a test for your heart? (example, ECG/EKG, echocardiogram)				Do you have headaches or get frequent muscle cramps when exercising?			
Do you get lightheaded or feel more short of breath than expected during exercise?				Have you ever become ill while exercising in the heat?			
Do you have a history of seizure disorder or had an unexplained seizure?				Do you or someone in your family have sickle cell trait or disease?			
Do you get more tired or short of breath more quickly than your friends during exercise?				Have you had any problems with your eyes or vision or any eye injuries?			
- HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY		Y	N	Do you wear glasses or contact lenses?			
Has anyone in your family had unexplained fainting, unexplained seizures or near drowning?				Do you wear protective eyewear such as goggles or a face shield?			
Does anyone in your family have a heart problem, pacemaker or implanted defibrillator?				Immunization History: Are you missing any recommended vaccines?			
Has any family member or relative died of heart problems or had an unexpected or unexplained sudden death before age 50 (including drowning, unexplained car accident or sudden infant death syndrome)?				Do you have any allergies?			
Does anyone in your family have hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, Marfan syndrome, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy, long QT syndrome, short QT syndrome, Brugada syndrome or catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia?				Have you ever had a head injury or concussion?			
- BONE AND JOINT QUESTIONS		Y	N	Do you have any concerns that you would like to discuss with a doctor?			
Have you ever had an injury to a bone, muscle, ligament or tendon that caused you to miss a practice or a game?				Have you ever received a blow to the head that caused confusion, prolonged headache or memory problems?			
Have you ever had any broken or fractured bones, dislocated joints or stress fracture?				Have you ever had numbness, tingling, weakness or inability to move your arms or legs after being hit or falling?			
Have you ever had an injury that required x-rays, MRI, CT scan, injections, therapy, a brace, a cast or crutches?				Do you ever have an eating disorder?			
Do you regularly use a brace, orthotics or other assistive device?				Do you worry about your weight?			
Do you have a bone, muscle or joint injury that bothers you?				Are you trying to or has anyone recommended that you gain or lose weight?			
Do any of your joints become painful, swollen, feel warm or look red?				Are you on a special diet or do you avoid certain types of foods?			
Do you have any history of juvenile arthritis or connective tissue disease?				- FEMALES ONLY (Optional)		Y	N
Have you ever had an x-ray for neck instability or atlantoaxial instability (Down syndrome or dwarfism)?				Have you ever had a menstrual period?			
				How old were you when you had your first menstrual period?			
				How many periods have you had in the last 12 months?			
CURRENT-YEAR PHYSICAL = GIVEN ON OR AFTER APRIL 15 OF THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR							

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION & MEDICAL CLEARANCE: Completed by MD, DO, PA or NP - RETURN DIRECTLY TO PATIENT

EXAMINATION: Height: _____ Weight: _____ Male Female BP: _____ / _____ Pulse: _____ Vision: R 20/____ L 20/____ Corrected: Y N

MEDICAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL	MUSCULOSKELETAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL
Appearance: Marfan stigmata (kyphoscoliosis, high-arched palate, pectus excavatum, arachnodactyly, arm span > height, hyperlaxity, myopia, MVP, aortic insufficiency)			Neck		
Eyes/Ears/Nose/Throat: Pupils Equal Hearing			Back		
Lymph nodes			Shoulder/Arm		
Heart: Murmurs (auscultation standing, supine, +/- Valsalva) Location of point of maximal impulse (PMI)			Elbow/Forearm		
Pulses: Simultaneous femoral and radial pulses			Wrist/Hand/Fingers		
Lungs			Hip/Thigh		
Abdomen			Knee		
Genitourinary (males only)			Leg/Ankle		
Skin: HSV: Lesions suggestive of MRSA, tinea corporis			Foot/Toes		
Neurologic			Functional Duck Walk		

RECOMMENDATIONS: _____
 I certify that I have examined the above student and recommend him/her as being able to compete in supervised athletic activities NOT crossed out below.
 BASEBALL – BASKETBALL – BOWLING – COMPETITIVE CHEER – CROSS COUNTRY – FOOTBALL – GOLF – GYMNASTICS – ICE HOCKEY
 LACROSSE – SKIING – SOCCER – SOFTBALL – SWIMMING/DIVING – TENNIS – TRACK & FIELD – VOLLEYBALL – WRESTLING

EXAMINER → Name of Examiner (print/type): _____ Date: _____
 Signature of Examiner: _____ (Check One): MD DO PA NP
 ----- (DETACH HERE IF NEEDED TO ACCOMPANY STUDENT-ATHLETE) -----

EMERGENCY INFORMATION: COMPLETED BY PARENT or GUARDIAN or 18-YEAR-OLD

Student: _____ Grade: _____ Doctor: _____ Phone: (____) _____
 IN EMERGENCY (1): _____ Home #: (____) _____ Cell #: (____) _____
 IN EMERGENCY (2): _____ Home #: (____) _____ Cell #: (____) _____
 Drug Reactions: _____ Current Medications: _____
 Allergies: _____

FORM A: FEB-20-17

The revamped MHSAA Medical History form (front page shown here) can be downloaded from MHSAA.com on the Health & Safety Page

MHSAA Representative Council

Dave Derocher**

Athletic Director
Reese High School
Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula

Scott Grimes**, President

Assistant Superintendent of Human Services
Grand Haven Public Schools
Statewide At-Large

Vicky Groat**

Principal/Athletic Director
Battle Creek St. Philip High School
Appointee

Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio)

Director, Coordinated School Health & Safety
Programs Unit, Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing
Designee

Don Gustafson*

Superintendent
St. Ignace Area Schools
Junior High/Middle Schools

Courtney Hawkins*

Athletic Director
Flint Beecher High School
Appointee

Kris Isom*

Athletic Director
Adrian Madison High School
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

Sean Jacques**

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

Karen Leinaar*

Athletic Director
Bear Lake High School
Statewide At-Large

Cheri Meier*

Assistant Superintendent
Okemos Public Schools
Appointee

Vic Michaels**, Secretary-Treasurer

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

Chris Miller*

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

Steve Newkirk**

Principal
Clare Middle School
Junior High/Middle Schools

Peter C. Ryan**

Athletic Director
Saginaw Township Community Schools
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

Fred Smith**, Vice President

Athletic Director
Benton Harbor High School
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

John Thompson**

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

Al Unger*

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

Alvin Ward*

Administrator of Athletics
Detroit Public Schools
Detroit Public Schools Position

Pat Watson**

Principal
West Bloomfield High School
Appointee

*Term Expires December 2017

**Term Expires December 2018

ANALYSIS OF MHSAA MEMBERSHIP

April 18, 2017

750 Total High Schools

Total Public Schools	643	86%
Charter (Public School Academies)	58	8%
Traditional Schools	585	78%
Total Non Public Schools	107	14%
Religious	97	13%
Secular (Non-Public)	10	1%

760 Total Junior High/Middle Schools

Total Public Schools	666	88%
Charter (Public School Academies)	38	5%
Traditional Schools	628	83%
Total Nonpublic Schools	94	12%
Religious	88	12%
Secular (Non-Public)	6	0.8%

Happy New Year! Prep for 2017-18 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 subvarsity 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. Athletic Directors also must attest each season that all their coaches have met MHSAA coaching requirements and that all head varsity coaches have a valid CPR Certification. Coaches who have not met the two requirements (rules meeting or CPR Certification) are not allowed to be present at that school’s MHSAA tournament in the sport they coach.

FIRST TIME HEAD VARSITY COACHES – 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 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. The many coaches who have been attendance at CAP clinics over the last ten years have indicated these are worthwhile sessions of learning and collaboration. Additionally, liability insurance, State Continuing Education Clock Hours, and GamePlans are available to coaches who take CAP coursework.

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 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, 2017), are to attend a 2017-18 AD Orientation Program on either

Thursday, July 27, Tuesday, Aug. 8 (Tuesday, Sept. 12 for later hires). 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. Direct questions to Tom Rashid (tomr@mhsaa.com) or Camala Kinder (camala@mhsaa.com).

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 on page 31 of this issue.

The MHSAA Office Summer Hours are 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday from June 26-July 27. Normal Monday-Friday hours resume July 31 (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; close Fridays at 4 p.m.).

Ratings Due June 1

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 1. 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 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 and athletic directors each May and are due back to the MHSAA by July 31.

Candidates Set for September 2017 Election

BALLOTS TO BE MAILED TO SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER 2017

Ballots for Representative Council elections will be mailed to principals of member schools from the MHSAA office Sept. 1, 2017. The ballots will be due back in the MHSAA office Sept. 22, 2017.

Six positions for membership on the Representative Council will be up for election this fall. Vacancies for two-year terms beginning December 2017 will occur as follows: Class C-D Southwestern Section L.P. and Southeastern Section L.P.; Class A-B Upper Peninsula; Statewide At-Large; Junior High/Middle School, elected on a statewide basis; and Detroit Public High 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 A-B, Class C and Class D 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.

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

Following the due date of Sept. 22, 2017, the Board of Canvassers as provided in Article IV of the Constitution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, will meet 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, 2017. 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 2017:

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL CANDIDATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 ELECTION

Southwestern Section, Lower Peninsula -- Class C and D Schools

- Ken Dietz, Athletic Director, Watervliet High School
- Chris Miller, Athletic Director, Gobles High School

Southeastern Section, Lower Peninsula -- Class C and D Schools

- Kristen M. Isom, Athletic Director, Adrian-Madison High School

Upper Peninsula -- Class A and B Schools

- Al Unger, Athletic Director, Kingsford High School

Statewide At-Large

- Karen S. Leinaar, CAA, Athletic Director, Bear Lake Schools

Junior High/Middle Schools

- Don Gustafson, Superintendent, St. Ignace Area Schools

Detroit Public Schools

- Alvin Ward, Executive Director of Athletics, Detroit Public Schools

UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Class D Schools

- Rick Pepin, Athletic Director, Rapid River High School

Class C Schools

- Jon Beckman, Athletic Director, Ishpeming-Westwood High School
- Andrew Brunette, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Negaunee High School

Class A and B Schools

- Nick Nolde, Athletic Director, Escanaba High School

Diving in to Discover What You've Got on Your Team

When packing – or downloading – summer reading for the beach in the coming weeks, how about a true story right off the shores of New Jersey?

It's not your typical, relaxing beach romp, but chances are that those involved in athletics can relate to several components of the trials and tribulations experienced by the focal participants in *Shadow Divers*, by Robert Kurson.

A group of professional divers from disparate backgrounds with an array of egos, personalities and values must work together to identify a discovery of historical significance.

The mission calls for all the attributes of a successful athletic team: physical skills, teamwork,

leadership, goals, rules and ethics. As readers shall find, schoolwork and preparation are also key to attaining the ultimate prize.



Official Review

Video review in professional and collegiate sports – and in certain circumstances high school sports – has become a fabric of the sports officiating landscape.

Our games are now viewed and officiated differently, with one eye on the multiple mechanical eyes that bring the contests to our homes, laptops and mobile devices.

How did it all evolve? Well, for an inside look at the game of football, *After Further Review: My Life Including the Infamous, Controversial, and Unforgettable Calls That Changed the NFL* pro-

vides an insightful, informative and often humorous look at the rise of replay from the man who moved from the field to the first full-time television rules analyst position: Mike Pereira.

If the book's title is a mouthful, it's less complicated than most of the plays which led to rules modifications as explained by Pereira, with co-author Rick Jaffe.

From his days as an aspiring baseball player in Alaskan summer leagues, to his meteoric rise as a football official in the collegiate and professional ranks, to his pioneering position with FOX Sports, Pereira tells his tale in the affable manner to which all sports officials will relate.

Read any good books lately? News articles? We'd love to know. Submit recommendations to benchmarks@mhsaa.com.



Award Honors Those Lending a Hand

Sports often make up a significant, although singular part of the lives of Michigan's high school student-athletes and coaches.

Many also find ways to have significant impacts on the lives of others – and we'd like to tell the rest of our state how they're making a difference.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association, together with Lake Trust Credit Union, awarded this spring the inaugural Community Service Awards to recognize individuals and teams that have worked to benefit their communities.



Members of the Adrian boys track & field team help clean up after a tornado in Dexter in 2012.

Each winner receives a \$1,000 award to be applied toward an individual college scholarship, credited to a team's account with its athletic department or even gifted to the group helped by our honoree.

Please help us get the word out for the upcoming school year. Encourage a student, coach or administrator to tell us about a completed or ongoing community service project. Any student, team or coach participating at an MHSAA member high school can apply. Applications should be e-mailed both to the school's athletic director and MHSAA's Kurt Tiesman at kurt@mhsaa.com.

The deadline for applications will be May 1 each school year.

We hear and read about these contributions and successes throughout the school year. Thank you in advance for your help in allowing us to honor some of this great work in the community by those who also shine on the field.

Important Fall 2017 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)
Aug. 1 to Start of Fall Sports	Preseason Down Time
Aug. 15	Four Player Rule Resumes
July 3-7	MHSAA Office Closed
Mid-July	School Year Start-Up on MHSAA.com
July 27 & Aug. 8	New AD Orientation at MHSAA
July 24 & Aug. 7	Fall Online Rules Meetings Launch
Aug. 1	MHSAA Membership Resolution due
Sept. 12	New AD Orientation at MHSAA (later hires)
Sept. 13	Administrative Assistant In-Service MHSAA
Sept. 14	ADs must attest CPR for Head varsity coaches
	Subvarsity & assistant coach completion of fall rules meetings
Sept. 20	Kalamazoo Update & AD In-Service
Sept. 25	Warren Update & AD In-Service
Sept. 27	Frankenmuth Update & AD In-Service
Oct. 2	Comstock Park Update & AD In-Service
Oct. 9	Gaylord Update & AD In-Service
Oct. 11	Lansing Update & AD In-Service (Annual Business Meeting)
Oct. 27	Marquette Update Meeting



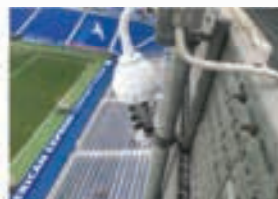
AUTOMATED SPORT PRODUCTION

The NFHS Network has partnered with **Pixellot** to offer a new hardware & software solution for automated live event production.

- One-time installation in your athletic venue
- All events can be live broadcasted to the NFHS Network
- Fully automated *(no people required)*

HOW IT WORKS

- Panoramic 4-camera view captures the whole playing field
- Auto-tracking feature enables cameras to follow the action (panning and zooming)
- No camera operator required
- Score graphics sync with venue scoreboard
- All events stream to your branded school page on NFHSnetwork.com



HARDWARE

Fixed installation includes:

- **Camera unit** – 4 weatherproof HD cameras in a single mounted unit
- **Scoring device** – plugs into scoreboard for automated score integration into the broadcast
- **Desktop Computer** – for production integration & video processing

PRICING

- Exclusive pricing only through NFHS Network

Contact Tom Neiman for more information: tom.neiman@nfhsnetwork.com

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

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