



***REPRESENTATIVE***

***COUNCIL MEETING***

***MAY 3, 2021***

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**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

East Lansing, May 3, 2021

**Members Present:**

Eric Albright, Midland  
Nicole Carter, Novi  
Judy Cox, Auburn  
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Kyle Guerrant, Lansing  
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace  
Kris Isom, Adrian  
Sean Jacques, Calumet  
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake  
Mark Mattson, Maple City  
Will McKoy, Romulus  
Jason Mensing, Ottawa Lake  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Chris Miller, Gobles  
Steve Newkirk, Clare  
Chris Riker, Portage  
John Thompson, Brighton  
Alex Tiseo, Marquette

**Member Absent:**

Jay Alexander, Detroit

**Also Present:**

Scott Eldridge, Lansing  
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

**Staff Members Present:**

Tony Bihn  
Jordan Cobb  
Sam Davis  
Andy Frushour  
Nate Hampton  
Dan Hutcheson  
Cody Inglis  
Geoff Kimmerly  
Cole Malatinsky  
Andi Osters  
Tom Rashid  
Brent Rice  
Jon Ross  
Adam Ryder  
Mark Uyl (Recorder)  
Kathy Westdorp  
Karen Yonkers

**Accounts of Meetings** – Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of March 26, 2021; and the Executive Committee meeting minutes of March 25 and April 21, 2021. Adopted.

**REPORTS**

The following reports were provided to the Council.

**Administration – MHSAA membership** during the 2020-21 school year was 747 high schools and 751 junior high/middle schools as of April 1, 2021. This compares with 753 and 819, respectively, as of April 1, 2019. In addition, there were 69 elementary schools with 6<sup>th</sup>-grader participation.

As of April 4, 2019, there were 355 **cooperative program agreements** for high schools for 640 teams (an increase of 16 programs and 33 teams over the previous year). There were 86 cooperative program agreements for 330 teams for junior high/middle schools (an increase of 1 program and 5 teams). The most frequent sports involved in cooperative programs at the high school level are (in order) ice hockey, boys and girls swimming & diving, girls softball and boys lacrosse. At the junior high/middle school level, the sports most frequently involved in cooperative programs are boys and girls track & field, boys and girls cross country and wrestling.

There were no **Eligibility advancement** applications received during the 2020-21 school year, which was the lowest number since the eligibility advancement provision was begun during the 1987-88 school year. This compares with 3 during 2019-20, 3 during 2018-19, 6 during 2017-18, 5 during 2016-17, 5 during 2015-16, 4 during 2014-15, 14 during 2013-14, 15 during 2012-13, 9 during 2011-12, 15 during 2010-11, 2009-10 and 2008-09, and 7 during 2007-08. The highest number of applications was 94 during the 1991-92 school year.

There were 110 **Educational Transfer Forms** processed for the 2020-21 school year through April 5, 2021. That number cannot be compared to previous years because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and all spring sports transfers were eligible in 2020-21. However, previous years' numbers were 213 for the 2019-20 school year, 215 for the 2018-19 school year, 219 for the 2017-18 school year, 237 for the 2016-17 school year and 266 for the 2015-16 school year. Public-to-public school transfers continue to be the most common (67), and the divorce exception (#8) continues to be the most frequent reason (40) for the Educational Transfer Form to be used.

There were 6 "**Travel Forms for Out-of-State Practice**" filed during 2020-21, compared to 72 the year before. The highest number filed was 113 during the 2007-08 school year. The lowest was 40 during the 2003-04 school year. The requirement began in 1994-95. Once travel returns in the post-pandemic environment, staff will monitor these numbers in light of the recent change that will allow teams on spring break to hold up to four scrimmages against other MHSAA member school teams.

A listing of **violations** by schools and officials between April 9, 2020 and April 8, 2021 indicated that the total number of violations for the year was much lower than in previous years, due to the cancellation of contests and seasons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Athletic Director In-Service and Update Meeting** programs conducted virtually by the MHSAA attracted more than 732 registrants in 2020-21. The schedule for the fall of 2021 in-person meetings was presented. Topics for those meetings were identified throughout this meeting. For the 11<sup>th</sup> year, two in-service programs for athletic department administrative assistants are being planned for September due to high interest in recent years.

The MHSAA **Coaches Advancement Program (CAP)** has already involved more than 2,000 participants in 2021-22, with over 1,200 registrations in CAP 1. CAP programs continue to be developed and held throughout the year, and include the added value benefits of insurance, *GamePlans* and SCECHs. This has been a successful year with many CAP programs held virtually as well as in Michigan colleges and universities. By the end of this year, individuals will have completed more than 33,000 Coaches Advancement Program levels since the start of the 2004-05 school year.

The decade-long decline in **officials' registrations** continued through the 2020-21 school year with the pandemic creating challenges in recruiting and retaining officials.

**Officials Reports** for the spring 2020, fall 2020 and winter 2020-21 seasons were provided. The reports were broken down not only by sport but also by level: varsity, junior varsity, and sometimes also 9<sup>th</sup>-, 8<sup>th</sup>- and 7<sup>th</sup>-grade levels. The frequency of sportsmanship problems is statistically rare in sports conducted by MHSAA member schools.

**National Federation of State High School Associations** – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Reaching Higher event in girls volleyball will not be held in the summer of 2021. Final decisions on basketball summer plans will be made by May 15.

**Legislation** – Bill Zaagman reported that current focus in the State Legislature is devoted to the budget process. He will continue to monitor bills that could impact the association.

**Litigation** – Scott Eldridge reported that the MHSAA is not involved in public, legislative or judicial challenges. An update was provided on recent COVID-19 legal activity involving MDHHS and local health departments.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

**COVID-19 Update** – The Council discussed the financial impact of the pandemic, and the formation of a task force to meet three times during the spring and summer and discuss out-of-season contact days. This task force will meet over the summer to develop concrete proposals for school discussion and input during the fall of 2021.

The Council discussed the summer dead period, and the staff will send a summer guidance document to remind schools that the traditional summer dead period regulation will be in place.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by John Thompson, to extend the waiver of the previous academic record regulation (Regulation I, Section 7) for sports played in the fall of 2021. Adopted.

**Common Fall Practice Date** – Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Eric Albright, to move the start of all fall high school sports practices to Monday, Aug. 9, 2021. Beginning in the fall of 2021, all high school fall sports may begin practice on the 16<sup>th</sup> Monday before Thanksgiving (same as football). Adopted.

**Volleyball Scheduling** – Staff provided an update on input received from school administrators and volleyball coaches relative to the MHSAA Finals and the length of the volleyball season. It was noted that the issue also involves the start date of winter sports and will be included in future discussions.

**Multi-School District Cooperative Programs** – In May of 2016, the Representative Council approved a two-year experiment, which was extended by the Council for two additional school years (through the 2020-21 school year) for two or more schools of the same public school district (same governing board) to submit applications for cooperative programs in nine sports, regardless of the student enrollment. These applications could be approved by the Executive Committee regardless of the 3,500-student enrollment maximum in nine sports: baseball, bowling, girls competitive cheer, cross country, golf, soccer, girls softball, tennis and wrestling. There must be a demonstrated history of inadequate numbers of participants and the programs would not be approved based on financial concerns. Staff recommended permanent adoption of these types of programs, with the same requirements as all other programs, specifically, the two-year renewal process with league approval.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Karen Leinaar, to approve multi-school district cooperative programs in these nine sports on a permanent basis, as stated above. Adopted.

**Topics for the Fall Tour** – Staff reported that plans are underway for a “normal” fall Update tour schedule but alternative plans will be ready should remote or virtual communication be necessary if the COVID-19 pandemic will still not allow face-to-face meetings to be conducted. Topics for discussion and input will include lessons of the pandemic in terms of remote learning and instruction, the potential use of school transportation in the summer, classification and cooperative program limits, out-of-season regulations, basketball contest limitations and the length of the girls volleyball and basketball seasons. Council members were encouraged to share any other suggested topics to staff for consideration.

## REGULATIONS

**Regulations I through V** of the *MHSAA Handbook* and their interpretations were submitted for review by the Representative Council.

The Council discussed efficiencies and possible cost savings for the coming school year resulting from the pandemic, including the small number of 2021-22 *Handbook* changes.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Jason Mensing, to not print the *MHSAA Handbook* for the 2021-22 school year only, and provide an online password-protected version for administrators, as in the past. A printed and emailed **supplement** of any changes and calendars for 2021-22 and beyond will also be online and provided to schools. Adopted.

Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Steve Newkirk, to approve the consent package of miscellaneous changes for the purpose of organization, clarity or updating and to incorporate changes or interpretations previously adopted by the Representative Council. Adopted.

**Regulation I, Section 4, Interpretation 24** – Motion by John Thompson, supported by Jason Mensing, to approve the following, consistent with increased demand in many schools for earning high school credit as a middle school student (underlined is new): When a student’s classwork is divided between the 8th and 9th grades, that student shall be considered enrolled in that grade in which the individual is taking the major part of his/her work in that term. If the student is taking the same amount in both grades, he/she shall be considered enrolled in the 8th grade. However, a student who has completed the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at any school may be considered an 8<sup>th</sup>-grader if that student does not exceed the enrollment threshold of Int. 46 (enrollment in 3 high school classes of 4 taken in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 4 or 5 of 6 high school classes taken in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 5 of 7 high school classes taken in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade or 6 of 8 high school classes taken in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade). This 66% allowance of Int. 46 only applies to a student enrolled for the first time in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and not to a student who is repeating the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. A student who is not in the 9th grade or higher is ineligible for senior high school athletics except as provided in Regulation I, Section 1(D) and Regulation III, Section 2(B). Adopted.

**Regulation I, Section 12(C)** – Motion by Chris Riker, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the following (underlined is new): A student who has completed his or her 12th-grade season in a sport may participate without loss of eligibility for other sports in one high school all-star event in that sport if held after the MHSAA Final in that sport, provided the following are complied with:

- (1) The student is eligible under all MHSAA regulations, including but not limited to MHSAA minimum standards for academic eligibility and amateur status.
- (2) The event requires or receives no financial support from an MHSAA member school or organization that exists because of the school.

- (3) Participation is approved by the student's high school principal or athletic director and the MHSAA is notified in writing by the principal at least 30 calendar days prior to the event.

Adopted.

**Regulation II, Section 3(B)** – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the following changes to the regulation: High schools must attest by each season's established deadline that all head coaches of each high school team (varsity, JV or 9<sup>th</sup> grade) have a valid current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification. This will ensure that each team generally has one coach present who is CPR certified. The requirement for non-varsity head coaches takes effect Aug. 1, 2022. The established deadline shall be the latest date set for the completion of the MHSAA rules meeting for the sport. A person who is head coach for more than one sport during the school year must meet the deadline for the first of those sports. It is expected that schools will impose the penalty of Section 8(B) to varsity head coaches who do not meet this requirement and effective Aug. 1, 2022, to JV and 9<sup>th</sup>-grade coaches. Adopted. The Council also discussed the pros and cons of extending this regulation to middle schools in the near future.

**Handbook Discussion Item** – The Council was updated on a fall discussion item of allowing school transportation to be used for out-of-season activities during the summer, possibly with some limitations.

## CLASSIFICATION

The Summary of MHSAA Tournament Classification for 2021-22 was provided to Council members. It was reported that future committee agenda topics will include the possibility of creating a fifth division in sports where 600 or more schools sponsor the sport. This discussion would include cooperative programs.

## ATHLETIC EQUITY

Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Chris Riker, to approve the Athletic Equity Committee recommendation to publish the following statement to suggest to local schools that they review nicknames and school logos that are considered offensive or hurtful to minority groups or demonstrate an insensitive bias: "The MHSAA recognizes the importance of equity in high school sports. Schools and mascots are rich in tradition and unique to each community. Although we understand the tradition of those individual communities, we also wish to support and foster an environment of inclusion. It is in this spirit that the MHSAA encourages member schools and communities to evaluate and reconsider names and mascots that may be offensive to groups of individuals." Adopted. In the fall, at Update and Athletic Director In-Service sessions, schools will be encouraged to review this information and discuss locally. The Council discussed a possible sanction of schools of not being able to host tournaments in the future.

## OFFICIALS

The Council was given a demonstration of proposed revisions to the rating system as recommended by the Officials Review Committee and staff, previously considered in May of 2020.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Jason Mensing, to adjust the officials rating system for the 2021-22 school year to encourage more ratings from schools by using a simpler format, provide more specificity to officials for areas of improvement, and to get a better understanding of an official's overall body of work. There will no longer be a 1-5 rating but four categories: judgement, presence and demeanor, attitude and effort, and administration and communication. Adopted.

Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the Officials Review Committee recommendation to change the format for assignments of baseball umpires at the Quarterfinal round from three umpires assigned to officiate three games with two umpires (i.e., two Regional Finals and a Quarterfinal), to four umpires assigned to officiate the two Regional Final games with two umpires, and the Quarterfinal game with all four umpires. This will increase the number of umpires selected at this level by 16, and will be comparable to softball in that the number of umpires used for the Quarterfinal game is the same used for the Semifinal/Final rounds. Adopted.

### **SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Council was provided a report on the subject of ongoing discussions held by the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee regarding the Pre-participation Physical Exam being provided on a two-year cycle with an interim history (Health Questionnaire) taken in the intervening years. Further discussion included that health history was the most important part of the Pre-participation Physical Examination. In 2020-21, the Health Questionnaire was already established with good results. Additional rationale will include the ease of application in recordkeeping. Further outreach will occur with other state associations which already use a two-or-more-year PPE cycle. Communication and discussion will occur with constituency across the state to ensure an understanding of this potential new requirement.

### **COMMITTEES**

In late April, the Council was supplied with a description of MHSAA committees, a review of the committee appointment procedures adopted by the Representative Council, a list of those who had identified themselves as candidates for committees in 2021-22, and a list of schools not represented on any committees for the past five years. Council members were encouraged to submit nominations for committees, making special efforts to provide nominations from superintendents, principals, small schools, females and minorities, and any school that has not been represented in recent years. The staff will compile the suggestions and submit them to the Executive Committee for review and appointment.

Names of committee members selected to serve during the 2021-22 school year will be published in *benchmarks*. The only exceptions are those committees involving the selection of tournament officials and award recipients. Some committees were identified as having converted to online and email or conference call formats. The MHSAA staff suggested that all committee meetings remain virtual for the 2021-22 school year.

### **SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

**Bowling** – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Don Gustafson, to approve the Bowling Committee recommendation to adopt the Phantom oil pattern for the 2021-22 bowling season. Adopted.

**Girls Competitive Cheer** – Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Vic Michaels, to approve the Girls Competitive Cheer Committee recommendation to continue to study a new choreography chart that awards points based on team tumble, OLEs, vertical twist/360s and release skills. This chart will award a range of points and can benefit both small and large teams which have various skill levels. Adopted.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Nicole Carter, to approve the following Girls Competitive Cheer Committee technical recommendations:

- Allow a connected tumbling skill to be considered a new variety point for Round 3.
- Allow four difficulty points for a one-leg flair at the elevator level for middle schools.

Adopted.

**Football** – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Eric Albright, to not approve the Football Committee recommendation to expand the “5-quarter rule” to exempt special teams play (kickoffs and scrimmage kick plays) from the application of the rule. A down in which the offensive team is in a scrimmage kick formation or a free kick occurs does not count in the quarter limitation. Adopted (no change).

Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Football Committee recommendation that sideline officials (linesman and line judge) shall change sidelines at halftime for all varsity contests (optional at the subvarsity level). Adopted.

Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by Chris Miller, to not approve the Football Committee recommendation to seed Playoff Regions based on Playoff points (1 vs. 8 and 4 vs. 5 matchups would make up one District; 2 vs. 7 and 3 vs. 6 would be the opposite District). Adopted (no change).

**Golf** – Motion by John Thompson, supported by Karen Leinaar, to approve the Golf Committee recommendation to require the use of the iWanamaker scoring program and app during the golf regular season beginning in 2021-22. Adopted.

**Girls Gymnastics** – Motion by John Thompson, supported by Karen Leinaar, to approve the Girls Gymnastics Committee recommendation to provide the additional option for officials to wear a specified black quarter-zip with the MHSAA logo. Adopted.

**Boys Lacrosse** – There was a recommendation by the Boys Lacrosse Committee to study and possibly modify and continue for future school years the voluntary coach/player contact days permitted for spring sports. This subject was discussed earlier in the meeting under COVID-19 Updates and a task force was created to review prior to August 2021.

**Softball** – Motion by Don Gustafson, supported by John Thompson, to approve the Girls Softball Committee recommendation to add a suspended game policy to the MHSAA playing rule adoptions in the *MHSAA Handbook*. This policy provides that, by default, a game will be suspended any time the game is called before it reaches regulation, or if called any time with the score tied. This will mirror the policy approved in baseball in 2020. Adopted.



**Tennis** – Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Tennis Committee recommendation that a player may participate in no more than 117 games in a given day. This may result from short sets, 8-game pro-sets, 2 out of 3 sets or any combination of these options. Matches could include a full 3rd set or a match tiebreak in lieu of a 3rd set. Adopted.

Motion by Chris Riker, supported by Don Gustafson, to approve the Tennis Committee recommendation that when a seeded player withdraws on the day of the tournament, the tournament manager will adjust the new seeds so that they are on the proper line for their seed. This would include the provisional seed. The substitute will be placed on the line vacated by the provisional seed. Adopted.

Motion by John Thompson, supported by Karen Leinaar, to not approve the Tennis Committee recommendation that when a school wishes to opt up in tennis, it must submit a letter to the MHSAA giving the reasons for doing so. Adopted (no change).

**Wrestling** – Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Wrestling Committee recommendation to add girls wrestling as an individual division, as opposed to a new sport (D1, D2, D3, D4, Girls). This system will be based on a “sectionals” concept that will allow for a qualifying event before the Finals. Girls will still be allowed to wrestle on the boys teams during the team postseason series, and may choose to participate in either the boys individual postseason or the girls individual postseason. Adopted.

Motion by John Thompson, supported by Don Gustafson, to approve a late arrival skin check for multiple dual meets for the regular season. This will allow individuals the opportunity to compete mainly during weekend dual competitions where a student may have weighed in the night before, but missed morning inspection due to educational reasons or unforeseen circumstances. Coaches must alert the officials during the regularly scheduled team inspection time. The late skin check must be completed prior to the start of the dual meet in which the wrestler may compete. Adopted.

## OPERATIONS

**Calendar** – Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Jason Mensing, to approve the Quick Reference Calendars for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, as well as the seven-year calendar of MHSAA events, reflecting changes required by other Representative Council action. Adopted.

**Allen W. Bush Award** – Council members were invited to vote for up to two candidates from the five presented. The award winners will be notified in May and honored at events important to them during the fall of 2021 or early in 2022. The recipients will be featured in the fall issue of *benchmarks*.

**Future Meetings** – The next meeting of the Representative Council is Dec. 3, 2021, at the MHSAA office in East Lansing. The March meeting of the Representative Council will be the morning of Friday, March 25, 2022 in East Lansing. The May meeting of the Council will be Sunday and Monday, May 1 and 2, 2022.

Motion by Sean Jacques, supported by Karen Leinaar, to hold the May 2022 Representative Council meeting at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. Adopted.

**Budget** – In taking a short-term view of MHSAA finances since COVID hit in March of 2020, the association has done a solid job in managing unprecedented times with severe reductions in tournament revenue. The sacrifices of MHSAA member schools and others, especially those hosting tournament events in 2020-21, greatly contributed to the MHSAA's ability to provide uninterrupted service and support to schools. While two installments of the federal government's Payroll Protection program have been helpful to the MHSAA, the reality of two budget deficits in excess of \$670,000 in two of the past four years still exists. The 2021-22 budget proposed a modest increase in most ticket prices **beyond** the entry level of the tournament, allowing prompt repaying of a line-of-credit loan and rebuilding reserves to be better prepared for future challenges which could include similar government restrictions and limits in light of another public health situation or pandemic.

The MHSAA anticipates a "break-even" 2020-21 fiscal year with an average spring tournament season. Staff salaries will remain frozen again for 2021-22 in the budget, including the hiring of three new staff members with the retirements of Nate Hampton and Peggy Montpas along with the departure of Faye Verellen. The budget for 2021-22 forecasts an addition in cash of \$818,301 and will see a profit of \$318,301 after the repayment of the line-of-credit loan from last spring and fall.

Motion by Karen Leinaar, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the 2021-22 budget. Adopted.