

Vol. XVII No. 3

Boys and Girls Lacrosse Joins MHSAA Postseason Lineup in 2004-05

The number of postseason tournaments sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association will increase to 28 in 2004-05, as lacrosse was added in a vote taken by the legislative body of the organization, the Representative Council, at its annual spring meeting in Gaylord May 5-6.

By being added to the spring sports season schedule with separate girls and boys tournaments, the MHSAA will have 14 championships for girls and 14 for boys, beginning in 2004-05. Bowling was added by the Council in December, and will debut next year.

By the time of the first MHSAA-conducted postseason tournament two years from now, sponsorship of lacrosse as an interscholastic sport by member schools will likely exceed the 64 school minimum for consideration of MHSAA postseason tournaments. Currently, there more than 60 schools represented in a statewide lacrosse league participating in the spring.

Details about the administration of the sport will be announced at a future date. It is anticipated that there would be at least a Regional level of competition prior to the postseason tournament Finals, and that the calendar would coincide with existing spring sports which end in an MHSAA sponsored

postseason tournament.

"In lacrosse, we have a sport which is primarily available to young people only through the school program — and we wouldn't duplicate or overlap what's generally available to youth in non-school sports programs," said MHSAA Executive Director John E. "Jack" Roberts. "There already exist National Federation rules for competition, and the lacrosse community in Michigan has long been desirous of having MHSAA involvement."

As in the decision to add bowling at its December Representative Council meeting, the MHSAA utilized student interest surveys conducted in 1997-98 and 2001-02, its annual sports participation survey of member schools, and a follow-up survey in the summer of 2002 about sports in which the MHSAA does not currently offer post-season tournaments. An additional survey of member schools was taken following the December meeting to determine participation commitments in potential MHSAA postseason tournaments in girls field hockey, girls ice hockey, lacrosse and water polo.

The MHSAA will begin registering officials in May 2004.



Point-Differential Rule Reinstated in Basketball

In response to action by the National Federation of State High School Associations to allow a point-differential rule by state association adoption beginning in 2003-04, the MHSAA Representative Council reinstated the rule used successfully during the 1999-00, 2000-01 and 2001-02 school years on an experimental basis. The point-differential rule for Michigan will be identical to what was used in 2001-02, and will be used at all levels of play. When a 40-point differential is reached at any time in the second half, the clock will not stop with the following exceptions:

- · Called time outs;
- Injuries;
- The end of a period, and;
- For the shooting of free throws in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter.

During the three-year experimental period, MHSAA member schools reported that the rule was used twice as often in girls play as in boys games. Schools also reported at a rate in excess of 80 percent that the rule was a positive one for the game.

Also in basketball, three-person officiating crews will be used beginning with the Regional level of MHSAA postseason tournaments for boys and girls. Since the mid 1990s, three-person crews have been working from the Quarterfinals onward.

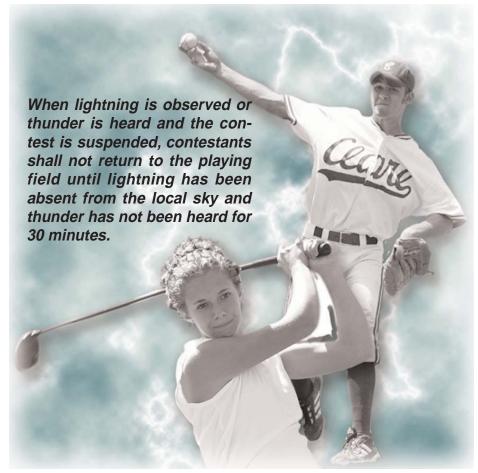
KNOW YOUR EVENT SUSPENSION GUIDELINES

The weather in Michigan can wreak havoc with outdoor sports seasons, and create the temptation to "play through" questionable weather conditions.

However, the MHSAA has strict guidelines regarding weather conditions and the suspension of play and they must be followed to minimize risk for everyone involved at the venue.

Event suspension guidelines are as follows:

- On threatening days, game management should consult with contest officials about steps to be followed if conditions worsen.
- When suspending an outdoor contest, officials and game management shall follow these guidelines.
 - A. Lightning necessitates that contest be suspended. The occurrence of lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion – *lightning is lightning*.
 - B. Severe weather in the form of rain or snow may make the field unplayable.
- III. When a contest is suspended, the home school administration shall attempt to arrange for the security of all participants.
 - Contestants and support personnel shall be moved to appropriate indoor facilities.
 - B. When lightning is observed or thunder is heard and the contest is suspended, contestants shall not return to the playing field until lightning has been absent from the local sky and thunder has not been heard for 30 minutes.
 - C. Spectators shall be advised of the action being taken to seek shelter. (Some hosts may be able to offer shelter to spectators but are not required to do so.)
- IV. In considering resumption of competition, the following steps should be followed.



- A. Suspension for contests scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. should not exceed three hours. Delays for contests scheduled for 3:01 p.m. to 6:59 p.m. should not exceed one and one half hour. Delays for contests scheduled for 7 p.m. or later should not exceed one hour. A postponed contest should be rescheduled on a date/time mutually agreed to by the schools involved.
- B. A decision to resume the contest within the time frame must be made by the officials, who will consult the home team administration and visiting school administration present at the contest.
- C. The home school is responsible for facilities and will be given priority

- consideration in the final decision if there is not consensus among the three parties.
- D. The final decision shall consider liability and conditions of facilities as well as future schedules, need to play the contest and finally the quality of all other options.

NOTE: More restrictive local policies and MHSAA tournament policies would supersede these guidelines and should be shared with the opponents and officials prior to the contest, preferably in writing.

Otherwise, and to the extent allowed by the playing rules code, the official(s) will make the final decision regarding game suspension once the game begins.

MENTOR is published three times per year by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., 1661 Ramblewood Drive, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (phone 517-332-5046). Following this edition, the publication will be available online only at **mhsaa.com**

MENTOR welcomes contributions of articles, information or photos which focus on coaching in Michigan.

PACE Information & Registration

PACE is a program designed and endorsed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrator Association and the Youth Sports Institute of Michigan State University. The course will provide interscholastic coaches with the latest information pertaining to their day-to-day coaching responsibilities.

PACE is offered as an evening program on two separate dates for each level and is also offered in a all day format – one day for each level. A certificate of completition is issued once both Level I and Level II have been completed and an exam score of 80% or better is achieved on the Master-Model Examination.

Originally designed to serve the non-faculty coach, PACE has become popular with many established coaches. Updating coach-

ing practices and protocols provides a current view of topics that change as knowledge and experience grow. Additionally, the legal and medical aspects of coaching are constantly evolving requiring the coach to be better prepared to manage risk and exercise appropriate judgment.

Several school districts have determined that PACE become an integral part of their employee continuing education program, and have made PACE a requirement to coach for the district. Whether you are a coach or an administrator PACE is a key to improve coaching by utilizing effective coaching methods. Learning how to maximize coaching effort and affect athlete performance can make coaching a rewarding activity.

2003-04 LOCATIONS & DATES

LEVEL I

(One-day Seminars Unless Otherwise Noted)

- 1. Mon. Wed., August 4, 6 Saginaw Heritage High School (6-10 p.m.)
- 2. Tues. Thurs., August 5, 7 Carleton Airport HS (6-10 p.m.)
- 3. Saturday, August 9 Troy HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 4. Saturday, August 23 Capac HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 5. Saturday, September 6 Vanderbilt HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 6. Saturday, September 13 West Branch HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- Wednesday, September 17 Farmington Training Center (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 8. Saturday, September 20 Pontiac Northern HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 9. Friday, October 3 BCAM, Lansing Holiday Inn South (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 10. Saturday, October 11 Livonia Stevenson HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 11. Saturday, October 18 Lakeview HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 12. Saturday, February 7 DeWitt HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 13. Saturday, March 20 MIAAA, Grand Traverse Resort (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

LEVEL II

(One-day Seminars Unless Otherwise Noted)

- 20. Mon. Wed., August 11, 13 Saginaw Heritage High School (6-10 p.m.)
- 21. Saturday, August 16 Troy HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 22. Tues. Thurs., August 19, 21 Carleton Airport HS (6-10 p.m.)
- 23. Saturday, September 20 West Branch HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 24. Wednesday, September 24 Farmington Training Center (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 25. Saturday, September 27 Pontiac Northern HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 26. Saturday, September 27 Vanderbilt HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 27. Friday, October 3 BCAM, Lansing Holiday Inn South (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 28. Saturday, October 18 Livonia Franklin HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 29. Saturday, October 25 Lakeview HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 30. Saturday, December 13 Capac HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 31. Saturday, February 7 DeWitt HS (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- 32. Saturday, March 20 MIAAA, Grand Traverse Resort (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

PACE ENROLLMENT FORM - please print

Name	
Home Address	
City	State Zip
E-Mail Address	
Home Phone	Work Phone
School Name	School ID#
Amount Enclosed: \$	
PACE Level I Date	Location
PACE Level II Date	Location

DIRECTIONS

- PACE, Level I registration is \$60 per individual and includes instruction, manual and lunch at site for single-day programs.
- PACE, Level II registration is \$60 per individual and includes instruction and lunch at site for single-day programs. Registrants must first complete Level I.
- 3. Make checks payable to MHSAA.
- Refunds for PACE will not be issued. If a registrant is unable to attend a class for which he/she has pre-registered, the amount paid can only be transferred to another class location and time.

Mail to: Leanne Moore, MHSAA 1661 Ramblewood Dr.

East Lansing, MI 48823

COACHES: YOUR STUDENT-ATHLETES TODAY MIGHT BE YOUR OFFICIALS TOMORROW

Following are accounts of various high school students recently introduced to the vocation of sports officiating through the MHSAA's Legacy Program, designed to recruit and encourage young people to join the ranks of officials throughout the state.

By officiating I've received many benefits. I've gained a whole new respect for officials and for the game of basketball. Also I have become more confident in what I do. Just like making a call on the court. I have to be confident so that the coaches, players and others don't question my calls.

I think it is extremely important for young people like myself to get into the area of officiating because it brings new faces into the field of officiating. Also it gives athletes the understanding of what referees go through. Also it's important because having young people involved will help the officiating program grow and keep going. By young people my age getting started now, helps them be experienced and confident in their officiating when they go on out to do the high level of officiating.

Since I have been in the Legacy Program, I've learned many things. One is the respect officials deserve for the job they have to do. Officiating isn't an easy job, but is very enjoyable and rewarding. Being able to make it possible for kids to play a game they love is a great feeling. I've also learned that officiating is something that I have really come to enjoy and like. I really want to continue officiating when I go to college and through my lifetime. Being a referee has helped me grow as a person too. It has made me a more confident person in what I do. I take being confident officiating on the court out into the real world. I'm very glad that I have been able to be a part of the Legacy Program and that I'm going to be able to continue officiating as my life goes on.

- Ann Zych, Honor

My two years of involvement in the Legacy Referee Program High School have been a great experience. One of the main benefits that I have received from officiating is the opportunity to give back to the sport I love so much. Basketball has been my life for many years and to be able to referee the younger generation of our future basketball program has been a pleasure. Another benefit I have received from officiating is the ability and pleasure of working with great mentors that know and also love the game of basketball as much as I do. These mentors have patiently worked with me, demonstrated for me, and corrected me as I have been a part of the program. Due to their dedication I am prepared to join the ranks of basketball officials.

It is important for young people like me, who know and love the game of basketball so much, to get into the area of officiating so basketball will continue to have qualified referees working the games. Without the continued involvement of young people there will become fewer and fewer as the older generation of referees begin to retire from active duty. The Legacy Program allows a young referee to gain experience and training under the guidance of a master teacher before they begin to referee JV and Varsity contests. When you combine quality training with a love of the game, you have the best situation for officiating.

The main thing I have learned since beginning the Legacy Program is that officiating is not as easy as it looks! I have learned to have a greater respect for the officials that work my games. It is easy to sit in the stands and point out what the official misses, but actually putting on the striped shirt and whistle is not easy. Experiencing this has taught me that officials cannot see everything and that no official makes all the right calls all the time. I have learned to have a greater appreciation for officials and what they do for the game of basketball. Another thing I have learned is how fun, exciting, and challenging the area of officiating

is. The Legacy Program has made me realize that this is something I want to continue to be involved in because of the challenge, excitement, fun, and learning opportunities it presents me.

Thank you to all of the Betsie Valley Officials Association members that have worked with me while I have been a part of the Legacy Program. I appreciate you sharing your knowledge and love of the game of basketball with me.

- Kenneth A. Waterson, Benzonia

I have always had a very strong love for athletics. Officiating has given me an opportunity to be around the game of basketball and hopefully football and baseball in the future. Officiating in the Legacy Program also has given me the opportunity to pursue officiating jobs in the future. I plan to join the officiating association in the Ann Arbor area so that I can continue to be around the high school and junior high game and continue to do what I love, referee athletics.

Officiating gives students like myself the opportunity to be around sports they love even if they don't play these sports or have off-season time to stay active. Also, this program helps teach young people the rules of the game and it gives young people a strong knowledge of the game. Officiating also gave me a new outlook on sportsmanship and respect that needs to be displayed towards high school and junior high athletic events.

Finally, I have gathered a strong knowledge base of officiating from both the mentors in this program and the extensive experience that I obtained. I've learned that the best of the referees are there for the love of the game and for the kids and not for the paychecks. I'm very thankful for the opportunities that this Legacy Program has given me and I look forward to officiating for many years to come.

- Alex Forrest, Beulah

The Legacy Program has been an enjoyable experience for me. It has given me a chance to be involved with basketball, the sport I love, and most importantly, I have gained helpful knowledge about the game. Legacy officiating has also given me the great opportunity of seeing the game of basketball from a different perspective.

When I began officiating, I thought it was going to be easy. However, for me, it was exactly the opposite. It took me many games to finally become comfortable with the task of "enforcing" the rules, instead of a player abiding by them. After my first couple of games officiating, I became very frustrated with myself. Officiating was more difficult than I have though it would be. However, I decided not to give up and I developed a mind set that was focused on learning this new role and officiating to the best of my ability. As I officiated more often and learned from mentor officials, I became more confident and comfortable with my referee position.

I think that officiating is a great experience for all young people. To be a good official, technique and knowledge is vital; however, I have learned so much more than that. Being a Legacy official has helped me grow in confidence, assertiveness, leadership, determination, responsibility, dedication, and respect. The Legacy Program has taught me skills that I will continue to use throughout the rest of my life.

I would like to thank the Legacy mentors for your time and patience in training me. I would like to continue the Legacy tradition

- Meredith Blazejewski, Beulah

These Legacy officials are members of the Betsie Valley Officials Association.

NATIONAL TESTING DATES

ADMINISTRATION - COUNSELORS - COACHES

Please advise students of the 2003-04 test date schedule. Your students should be aware of athletic tournament dates and should attempt to schedule their respective test date away from tournament dates of the sport or sports in which they are interested and participate.

Following are test dates for 2003-04 and possible MHSAA Tournament conflicts:

ACT ASSESSMENT DATES	SPORT CONFLICTS
Test Dates	
October 25, 2003 December 13, 2003 February 7, 2004 April 3, 2004 June 12, 2004	
SAT TESTING DATES	SPORT CONFLICTS
October 11, 2003Football Districts, Boy December 6, 2003	s Soccer Regionals, LP Cross Country Finals
AP EXAM DATES	SPORT CONFLICTS
May 3-14, 2004	

(Advanced Placement Exams are administered over a five-day period for each subject)

2003-04 RULES MEETINGS

By Representative Council Action:

- (1) It is necessary for officials to attend rules meetings if they wish to be considered for tournament play in that sport.
- (2) Each school sponsoring the sport should be represented at one of the meetings for that sport.
- (3) Head coaches must attend or pass a rules examination for the sport.

Plan now to attend a rules meeting in your area.

Click here for a complete list of dates, times and locations

Unselfish Winner

At this year's Lansing Wrestling Officials Honor Roll Meet, a 50/50 raffle was conducted where the winning ticket would win \$162. After a brief pause, the winning number was repeated and an excited fan stood up waving his ticket. He ran down from the bleachers and across the mats to the head table to verify the winning ticket. Yup, the numbers matched – he had the winner.

The young man then said, "I want to donate the entire winnings to the Carlos Martinez Educational Fund." Carlos Martinez was the popular St. Johns wrestling coach who died in an automobile accident last December, leaving behind a wife, Gianna and three young children. I feel the unselfish, generous 50/50 winner needed to be recognized. It was the St. Johns wrestling manager, and Redwing booster, Nate Zigler.

- Submitted by Bill Allen, Lansing

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! AWARD WINTER RECIPIENTS NAMED

The recipients of the top Michigan High School Athletic Association's Good Sports Are Winners! Awards for the recently-completed 2002-03 winter sports season have been named, with each school to receive commemorative banners and crystal trophies from MEEMIC Insurance, the Association's corporate partner in sportsmanship efforts.

Carleton Airport in girls competitive cheer, Bronson in team dual wrestling, Davison in ice hockey, Pellston in girls volleyball and Bark River-Harris in boys basketball, were selected by the tournament management at their respective finals for displaying the most exemplary sportsmanship by their coaches, student-ath-

letes and spectators. Presentation dates at all four schools will be announced soon.

Carleton Airport was the Class B runner-up in girls competitive cheer; Bronson was second in the Division 4 team dual wrestling tournament, Davison was a finalist in the Division 2 ice hockey tournament. Pellston was a Class D semifinalist in girls volleyball and Bark River-Harris was the runner-up in Class D in boys basketball. This is the first Finals level award for all of the schools involved in any sport.

The Good Sports Are Winners! Award is making its return in 2002-03

with the corporate underwriting of MEEMIC Insurance. The program had previously been offered from 1989 to 1996, and again during 2000-01.

At the District and Regional level of MHSAA tournaments, all schools which meet a set of sportsmanlike standards are recognized. There are standards in the program which automatically disqualify a school from consideration from the award. Any team which is disqualified for the Good Sports Are Winners! Award at the District or Regional level of a tournament becomes ineligible for the award at higher levels of that same tournament.

In all, 173 teams in girls competitive cheer, team dual wrestling, ice hockey, girls volleyball and boys basketball are being recognized for their outstanding sportsmanship at Winter tournaments. Those teams will be recognized through the publication of their names in the MHSAA Bulletin, the MHSAA Finals program series, and on the MHSAA Web site. During the course of the school year, over 1,000 teams will be recognized in 11 activities for their sportsmanship efforts during MHSAA tournaments.

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by over 1,300 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common

rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments. which attract approximately 1.6 million spectators each year.

MEEMIĆ Insurance Company, with headquarters in Auburn Hills, writes full coverage private passenger automobile protection and homeowners insurance

Good Sports
Are Winners!

2003 Girls

2003 Girls

Carleton Airport

High School

MEAN

John Johnson, Okemos

Members of the Carleton Airport girls competitive cheer team display the Good Sports Are Winners! Banner and crystal trophy they received for exemplary sportsmanship during the 2003 Finals on March 1.

for educational employees and their immediate families in the state of Michigan. MEEMIC was founded by teachers for teachers in 1950. Most representatives of the company are or were teachers themselves. MEEMIC's history of competitive pricing and a commitment to superior service has cultivated a tradition of teachers serving teachers and their families, our "MEEMIC Club."

On the next page is a list of Good Sports Are Winners! Award recipients as submitted by tournament managers through April 3 for the recently completed Winter sports season.

Get Your Records In

Did one of your student-athletes, coaches or teams record an achievement that may rank among the best in your area last year? If so, the MHSAA wants to hear from you.

If you have information that you believe should be included in the MHSAA record book (additions, deletions or corrections), it may be submitted one of three ways: 1.) By a MHSAA member school athletic administrator on official office letterhead, or by using the National Federation Record Application. Appropriate documentation should be included. 2.) By a media member on official office letterhead, enclosing appropriate documentation. 3.) By a member of the public with appropriate documentation, including the names and phone numbers of contact people at the school involved. The school will then be contacted to verify the information.

Appropriate documentation shall include, but is not limited to, the following: copies of scorebooks or game/season statistical summaries, copies of yearbooks, and copies of newspaper clippings.

To submit changes, mail to: Ron Pesch, 1317 Lakeshore Dr., Muskegon, MI 49441 Phone: (231) 759-7253; E-mail: records@mhsaa.com

E-mails and telephone calls are welcome when inquiring about potential records, but only written submissions with appropriate documentation will be considered for the record book.

GSAW AWARD WINTER RECIPIENTS

(Based on reports received at the MHSAA offices as of 4/3/03.

NOTE: There can be more than one winner at each site, and not all site managers responded.)

BOYS BASKETBALL

District Awards

Class A

Davison

Flint Carman-Ainsworth

Flint Kearslev

Flint Northern

Kalamazoo Loy Norrix

Lapeer West

Portage Central

Portage Northern

Stevensville Lakeshore

Wyandotte Roosevelt

Class B

Allendale

Armada

Capac

. Caro

Frankenmuth

Goodrich

Grandville Calvin Christian

Imlay City

Jackson Northwest

Millington

Mt. Clemens

Muskegon Heights

Muskegon Orchard View

North Branch

Vassar

Class C

Athens Ithaca

Merrill

North Muskegon

Reading

Sand Creek

St. Louis

Union City

Class D

Alanson Littlefield

Detroit East Catholic

Detroit Holy Redeemer

Ellsworth

Harbor Light Christian

Harper Woods Lutheran East

Harper Woods Trinity Catholic

Mackinac City

McBain N. Michigan Christian

Pellston

Saginaw Grace Baptist Christian

Regional Awards Class A

Detroit Murray-Wright Detroit Redford

Class B

No Managers Reports Received

No Managers Reports Received

Class D

Caseville

Fowler

Genesee Christian Kingston

GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER

Regional Awards

Class A

Gaylord Lapeer East

Lapeer West

Midland Dow

Mt. Pleasant

Oxford

Port Huron

Port Huron Northern

St. Johns

Class B

Allendale

Belding

Caledonia

Chesaning

Comstock Park

Flat Rock

Fremont

Grand Rapids Catholic Central

Grosse Ile

Houghton Lake Lake Odessa Lakewood

Otsego

Ovid-Elsie

Plainwell

Riverview

Sparta

Stanton Central Montcalm

Tecumseh

Wyoming Park

Class C-D

Montague

Pewamo-Westphalia

Shelby

ICE HOCKEY

Regional Awards

Division 1

No Managers Reports Received

Division 2

No Managers Reports Received

Division 3

Brighton

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

District Awards

Class A

Ann Arbor Huron

Grand Blanc **Grand Rapids Creston**

Grand Rapids Forest Hills C.

Grand Rapids Forest Hills N.

Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills

Grand Rapids Northview

Holly

Livonia Churchill

Ottawa Hills

Plymouth Canton Port Huron Northern

Rockford

South Lyon

Waterford Kettering

Class B

DeWitt

Eaton Rapids

Class C

Bath

Laingsburg

Class D

Big Rapids Crossroads

Freesoil

Mason County Eastern

Regional Awards

Class A

No Managers Reports Received

Class B

Alma

Fremont

Fruitport Reed City

No Managers Reports Received

Class D

Custer Mason County Eastern McBain N. Michigan Christian

Onekama

Walkerville

Quarterfinal Awards

Class A No Managers Reports Received

Class B Birmingham Seaholm

Fruitport

Marysville Saginaw Nouvel

Class C Concord

No Managers Reports Received

TEAM DUAL WRESTLING

District Awards Division 1

Ann Arbor Huron Ann Arbor Pioneer

New Baltimore Anchor Bay Pinckney

Port Huron Port Huron Northern

Division 2

East Grand Rapids Grand Rapids Creston

Division 3

Allendale

Armada

Bath

Bentley

Benzie Central Coopersville

Goodrich

Manistee Mason County Central

Perry Portland

Reed City

Richmond Williamston

Division 4

Athens

Bronson Carson City-Crystal

Fife Lake Forest Area

Fulton Inkster

Kingsley

Leroy Pine River Lutheran Westland

Mancelona

Manton

Regional Awards

Division 1

Allendale

Bay City Western

Flushina

Grand Haven

Grandville

Hudsonville Rockford Saginaw Heritage

Traverse City Central

Division 2

Coldwater Mattawan

Middleville Thornapple-

Kellogg **Division 3**

Allendale Shelby

Division 4

Carson City-Crystal Hesperia Morley-Stanwood

St. Louis Whittemore-Prescott

Visit mhsaa.net for Resources on Participation Fees For Athletics

With the topic of participation fees for access to school sports being discussed across the state, the Michigan High School Athletic Association is providing services and resources to assist its member schools in dealing with this issue.

Visit the member schools only interactive site – **mhsaa.net** – to engage in an ongoing online discussion about the various aspects of participation fees, participate in an informal survey, and download several support resources.

Schools will be able to access the document, A Participation Fee Primer, and a companion Power Point presentation, which can be utilized in administrative and public meetings. Audio messages and print advertisements can be utilized with local radio stations and in printed documents to help promote the value of educational athletics and emphasize the need to avoid participation fees.

The services and resources being offered are a revamped effort by the MHSAA to assist schools, an updated approach from its campaign in 1993 following the shift of the primary funding base of public education in the state from property taxes to the sales tax. In 1993, the Association sponsored a statewide teleconference, and also provided printed materials to help schools advocate for fully-funded extracurricular sports programs.

The 1993 effort included a follow-up survey of MHSAA member schools to determine if the shift in funding sources caused an increase in the utilization of participation fees. Surveys taken in

the fall of 1993, the last formal survey by the Association, indicated that 96 senior high schools and 51 junior high/middle school programs, had some sort of participation fee assessed. Anecdotal information since then indicates that there has been little change until recently, when the discussion of fees expanded based on economic circumstances statewide. A formal survey of participation fee use is planned by the MHSAA in the Fall.

"We're hopeful that these services and resources we can provide schools will aid them in their discussions about participation fees, and help them educate their constituents about all the many issues related to such programs," said John E. "Jack" Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA.

"We will continue to advocate for school athletic programs that are fully-funded, avoiding the implementation of participation fees," Roberts continued. "The history of participation fees indicates that they do more harm than good financially in those districts that utilize them, and they exclude young people from participation in school sports. We don't want our kids locked out of the opportunity of a lifetime, and we hope that as the discussion of participation fees continue, that schools will see the positive impact this extracurricular program has on young people and communities, and the negative pall that will be cast if fees are implemented."



MHSAA Licensed Merchandise











MHSAA Ball Suppliers

