

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.  
CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK AND FIELD REGULATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
January 25, 2011, 9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Ray Antel, Kentwood  
Kevin Behmer, Ann Arbor  
Richard Carter, Detroit  
Chris Ceresa, Milford  
Amy Coughlin, Waterford  
Ted Duckett, Kalamazoo  
Rudy Godfroidt, Hemlock  
Derek Gonzales, Ypsilanti  
Jerry Haggerty, Hamilton

Cody Inglis, Traverse City  
Steve Linn, Harbor Beach - MITCA  
Brian Macomber, Comstock Park  
Greg Russick, Grand Haven  
Tim Simpson, Lansing  
Fred Smith, Buchanan  
Mike Unger, Westland  
Tom Gass, MITCA

**Members Absent:**

Mike Jurasek, Albion

**MHSAA Staff Present:**

Nate Hampton  
Mark Uyl  
Tom Minter

**Guests Present:**

Lew Clingman, ATOM  
Dave Emeott, Caledonia  
Don Passenger, Grand Rapids

The committee met for the purpose of reviewing specific National Federation sport rules and MHSAA tournament policies, and interpretations that are applicable to Track and Field and Cross Country during the regular season and MHSAA tournaments. The following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to staff for inclusion in tournament information and recommendations that will advance for Representative Council consideration.

Following the welcome, introductions, statement of committee purpose and the committee relationship to the Representative Council, the committee reviewed the 2010 committee minutes.

**Medical History Form:** Assistant to the Executive Director, Mr. Thomas Minter, presented to the committee, MHSAA staff suggestions for considered changes to the current form that will include a larger size and additional medical history information.

**Cross Country Discussion:**

Review 2010 Tournament and related issues  
Regional and Final timing and scoring concerns  
Timing chip and body placement  
Scoring technology changes  
Online Rules Meetings required for all head coaches  
Discussion on division make-up; Not listing those schools in the division listing/classification that did not sponsor a team for two consecutive years even though listed as sponsoring for the current year  
2011 Final Site: Michigan International Speedway

**Track and Field 2011 Final Sites:**

Division 1: Rockford High School  
Division 2: Grand Rapids Houseman Field  
Division 3: Comstock Park High School  
Division 4: Jenison High School

The committee reviewed the work of the Regional Site Assignment Committee, the work of the Standards Committee and also reviewed the Final meet time schedule.

### **2011 National Federation Rules and Editorial Changes:**

MHSAA staff presented to the committee two NFHS rules changes that will have a major impact on current MHSAA interpretations and penalty enforcement.

**4-3-3 new d:** Allows bobby pins, barrettes and hair clips no longer than 2 inches to be worn to control a competitor's hair. These items are no longer considered jewelry.

**4-3-3 new PEN:** Modifies the penalty for the wearing of jewelry. A first violation will no longer result in immediate disqualification, instead a team warning will be issued and any subsequent violation by any team member will result in disqualification from the event. (see recommendations below)

#### **National Federation Points of Emphasis**

1. Excused Time from Field Event
2. Discus Cage Guidelines
3. Preventive Officiating
4. Concussion Management, Casts, Braces, Protheses and Blood on Uniform

#### **Discussion Items**

1. 2011 Track and Field additional qualifier standards to Regional and from Regionals to Finals.
2. Participating School Tournament Information
3. MHSAA Protocol for concussion management
4. Out of Season 3-4 player clarification
5. Regional Entry Times must be entered as handheld times rounded to the highest tenth (.0) or the FAT equivalent adjusted by subtracting -.4 and rounding to the highest tenth. (same as last year)

#### **Committee Recommendations for the 2011**

##### **Track and Field/Cross Country Regionals and Finals**

**Regarding NFHS Rule 4.33 New PEN:** Modifies the penalty for wearing jewelry. A first violation will no longer result in immediate disqualification, instead a team warning will be issued and any subsequent violation by any team member will result in disqualification from event.

The committee discussed at length and reviewed the many variables that are associated with the administration of this new penalty. The committee recommends the following:

**For Track and Field Regular Season Events:** To follow the prescribed penalty format. Given the many varying meet composition for duals, double duals and multi team events.

**For MHSAA Track and Field/Cross Country Regional and Final Tournament:** Given the varying facilities and field events that may be in areas that are not easily communicated with by officials – notification of warnings may be difficult. Locating a team's coach may also prove difficult in giving a timely notification of any warnings issued. There is also the difficult process of a coach then issuing the warning to all team members that will be dispersed in competition, warm-up and not in an area for easy communication.

It is the committee's opinion that for Regional and Final competition by direction of the MHSAA (games committee) that a general jewelry warning will be issued to all coaches and athletes prior to competition. The warnings will be written (all pre-meet information) including MHSAA tournament information for participating teams, all regional specific information, during the meet PA announcements and signage in all venues.

Should a competitor compete while wearing jewelry – the athlete/relay team will be disqualified from further competition in that specific event.

NOTE: NFHS will allow this as an administrative action and not consider it a playing rules deviation. (13-5)

**Recommendation to the Representative Council**

1. Allow watches to be worn by competitors in track and cross country competition. (18-0)

The “no watch rule” was initiated with the “no jewelry rule” of 1991. The NFHS removed watches as jewelry in the late 1990’s. The MHSAA has maintained that watches are jewelry. Michigan is currently the only state that continues this interpretation.

2. Allow track and field teams 8 additional competition dates starting January 1<sup>st</sup> and ending before the official pre-season down-time begins. (13-4)

NOTE: The approval would allow track and field coaches to coach students in their school district in grades 7-12. Also, the proposal purports that there are no additional cost to the MHSAA and no additional cost to schools.