



***REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 7-8, 2023***

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MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Gaylord, May 7-8, 2023

Members Present:

Chris Adams, Camden
Eric Albright, Midland
Jay Alexander, Detroit
Judy Cox, Auburn
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Kris Isom, Adrian
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Jeff Kline, Mt. Morris
Jason Malloy, Westland
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Chris Miller, Gobles
Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs
Chris Riker, Portage
Meg Seng, Ann Arbor
Fred Smith, Bangor
Adam Stefanski, Boyne City
John Thompson, Brighton
Alex Tiseo, Marquette

Staff Members Present:

Tony Bihn
Brad Bush
Sam Davis
Andy Frushour
Dan Hutcheson
Cody Inglis
Geoff Kimmerly
Cole Malatinsky
Will McKoy
Andi Osters
Jon Ross
Mark Uyl (Recorder)
Jamie VanDerMoere
Kathy Westdorp
Paige Winne

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of March 24, 2023; the Executive Committee meeting minutes of March 23 and April 19, 2023; and the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting minutes of April 20, 2023. Adopted.

REPORTS

The following reports were provided to the Council.

Administration – MHSAA membership during the 2022-23 school year was 750 high schools and 767 junior high/middle schools as of April 1, 2023. This compares with 750 and 759, respectively, as of April 1, 2022. In addition, there were 63 elementary schools with 6th-grader participation.

As of April 19, 2023, there were 376 **cooperative program agreements** for high schools for 692 teams (a decrease of 2 programs and 1 team over the previous year). There were 110 cooperative program agreements for 376 teams for junior high/middle schools (an increase of 30 programs and 33 teams). The most frequent sports involved in cooperative programs at the high school level are (in order) ice hockey, girls and boys swimming & diving, boys lacrosse and girls softball. At the junior high/middle school level, the sports most frequently involved in cooperative programs are boys and girls track & field, football and boys and girls cross country.

There were 3 **eligibility advancement** applications received during the 2022-23 school year. This compares with 0 during 2021-22, 0 during 2020-21, 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 127 **Educational Transfer Forms** processed for the 2022-23 school year through April 13, 2023. Other than 114 during the 2020-21 school year (which cannot be compared to previous years because of the COVID-19 pandemic), previous years' numbers were 153 for the 2021-22 school year, 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 (83), and the divorce exception (#8) is the most frequent reason (50) for the Educational Transfer Form to be used.

There were 54 "**Travel Forms for Out-of-State Practice**" filed during 2022-23, compared to 45 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. Staff will continue to 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, 2022 and April 8, 2023 indicated that the total number of violations for the year was much higher for schools than in any previous year since 2010-11. Staff reported an increase in the number of undue influence violations and significant penalties for schools and coaches in rules meetings and failure to attest to requirements.

Athletic Director In-Service and Update Meeting programs conducted by the MHSAA attracted more than 768 registrants in 2022-23. The schedule for the fall of 2023 in-person meetings was presented. Topics for those meetings were identified throughout this meeting. For the 13th 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 2022-23, with over 1,400 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 in many area high schools and at the MHSAA, as well as in Michigan colleges and universities. By the end of this year, individuals will have completed more than 38,000 Coaches Advancement Program levels since the start of the 2004-05 school year.

A brief update was given on concussion insurance claims, coaching compliance reports and concussion report data. Staff highlighted the benefits of the MHSAA-provided concussion insurance program, along with the data and challenges of getting 100% compliance from schools in reporting coaching requirement completion and concussions.

For the second consecutive year, **officials' registrations** increased. This year's increase was more than 300 officials from the previous low of 7,907 in 2020-21, caused by the lingering pandemic challenges in recruiting and retaining officials. A report on the new partnership with Ref Reps was provided which will give schools a turnkey curriculum program for officials' education. One of the reasons for registered officials leaving the game is the lack of sportsmanship from adults, coaches and spectators. This environment and culture within school sports must continue to be addressed.

Officials Reports for the spring 2022, fall 2022 and winter 2022-23 seasons were provided. The reports were broken down not only by sport but also by level: varsity, junior varsity, and sometimes also 9th-, 8th- and 7th-grade levels. The frequency of sportsmanship problems is statistically rare in sports conducted by MHSAA member schools when compared to other levels of non-school sports, but data was provided that shows trends and situations that must be addressed now. One positive data point again was that the number of “repeat offenders” of ejected coaches and players, who now must complete an online sportsmanship course before being eligible to return to competition, was extremely low which shows that this requirement is achieving the desired results.

Brief updates were given on the new AD Connection program, 5th quarter rule violations and student services from the 2022-23 school year along with plans and goals for next year and beyond.

National Federation of State High School Associations – Staff provided an update on the NFHS Network. As of April 20, there are 584 MHSAA member high schools in the NFHS Network. National issues regarding transgender policy, NIL, amateurism and current NCAA challenges were discussed, and Council members will continue to receive regular updates as these issues continue to evolve and develop which could impact school sports in Michigan.

Legislation – A brief report was provided that included that the current focus in the State Legislature is devoted to the budget process. The key issue for MHSAA member schools continues to be finding a solution for PA 184 that negatively impacts recent public-school retirees.

Litigation – An update was provided on current legal items that involve the association.

ONGOING BUSINESS

MHSAA Building Renovation Update – A brief report was given on the Phase I plans and timeline for renovating the public areas of the John E. Roberts office building. It is anticipated that the work will begin in the summer of 2023.

Winter Calendar Discussion – Staff presented possible calendar options for winter sports. Current concerns include the length of the winter sports season along with the late finish in March, which now impacts several schools and spring break. Council members provided good feedback and this topic will be a major focus of the fall Update tour in 2023.

Constituent Survey Results – Staff reported on results gleaned from two recent surveys. The first survey was of registered officials following both the fall and winter seasons for feedback and insights on the officiating experience during this school year. Those results are being used to improve support and service to officials next year and beyond. The second survey was a technology survey of schools in identifying what software programs are being used in terms of school grades, athletic scheduling, officiating scheduling, student data management and transportation. This data will also help staff provide better technology support and help for member school athletic departments.

Undue Influence & Links – Staff led a discussion on concerns of undue influence at the middle school and junior high level. Council members provided feedback and opinions on whether the links rule should be extended to 7th and 8th grade students. This issue will continue to be studied by staff.

Emerging Sports – Staff led a discussion on girls wrestling, along with emerging sports within the membership. Water polo will be a consideration by the Council in December for the 2024-25 school year. Boys volleyball data and progress will also be shared with the Council in December of 2023.

REGULATIONS

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

Motion by Jason Malloy, supported by Kris Isom, 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 10, Interpretation 108 – Motion by Jeff Kline, supported by Alex Tiseo, to approve the following:

108. It is a violation of the undue influence regulation if coaches or their representatives call, send questionnaires, cards, electronic messages, letters or connect (“follow”, “friend request”, direct message, etc.) with students on any social media platform which includes any public sites, private sites and direct messages of any kind with students either at another high school (once a student begins the 9th grade) or with any student who has not yet enrolled in a high school or participated in an athletic practice or competition as a high school student. It is also a violation of the undue influence regulation if coaches or their representatives visit prospective athletes and their families at their homes or other locations.

Adopted.

Regulation I, Section 1D – Motion by Jason Malloy, supported by Eric Albright to approve the following:

High schools or cooperative programs having a total enrollment of less than 100 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, may allow participation, in all sports except football, ice hockey and wrestling, by students from the 8th grade of a member school of the same school system. High schools or cooperative programs with enrollments of less than 50 may allow participation by students from the 7th grade of a member school of the same school system. This must be indicated on the Master Eligibility List for the sport. Such students must meet the high school academic requirements in the previous and current academic term as they participate as a 7th or 8th-grade student and as they enter the 9th grade for the first time. See Interpretations 7, 8, 9, 81 and 270. Participation by 7th or 8th-graders under this section does not count as a high school academic term under the maximum enrollment or competition regulations (Sections 4 and 5). Sixth graders may not participate on high school teams regardless of the high school enrollment. Allow high schools with less than 125 students to request an Executive Committee waiver with cause and rationale to allow the use of 8th-grade students in all sports except football, ice hockey and wrestling. Schools with less than 75 students can make this same request with cause and rationale to use 7th and 8th-grade students in all sports except football, ice hockey and wrestling.

Adopted.

Regulation I, Section 9E – Motion by Eric Albright, supported by Fred Smith, to adopt the following:

~~Except as noted under circumstance five (5) of this Section,~~ A student who changes schools and is ineligible under Section 9(A) and applicable Interpretations is ineligible to compete in the sport involved for the remainder of the current season and the next season in an inter-scholastic scrimmage or contest for the high school to which that student transferred if any one of the following circumstances existed during the previous 12 months:

This Section 9(E) applies only to students after enrollment in the 9th grade at any school (MHSAA member or non-member.)

Even if the student's circumstances subsequently satisfy one of the exceptions of Section 9(A) that would normally allow a transfer student immediate eligibility, the student shall remain ineligible pursuant to Section 9(B) at this MHSAA member school in the sport(s) involved. If one of the circumstances existed during the previous 12 months, the student will be ineligible in the sport involved even if an exception to the transfer rule is met.

Adopted.

Regulation I, Section 9, Interpretation 84 – Motion by Kris Isom, supported by John Thompson, to approve the following:

Eligibility for an international student under Exception 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12 or 13 is immediate and not time-limited under Interpretation 84(b) or level-limited under Interpretation 85. Interpretation 62 (residency) applies. An AISP student not enrolled in accord with Interpretation 62 (public school of residence or closest nonpublic or charter school of the host family) is subject to Interpretation 85, subvarsity eligibility after 90 scheduled school days. MHSAA staff may make individual determinations for exchange students placed through an AISP-approved program with host families that reside outside of the district of residency when the host family has students or extenuating circumstances that would require the exchange student to attend a school other than the one where they are placed.

Adopted.

Regulation I, Section 12, Interpretation 163 – Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Jeff Kline, to approve the following:

163. An "all-star" contest is one which is called "All-Star" and/or in which there is participation by one or more "all-star" teams. This interpretation does not apply to individual students in girls competitive cheer contests or sideline cheer contests provided the selection components of Interpretation 162 are complied with (e.g. the event is not called all-star and participants are not selected).

Adopted.

Regulation II, Section 3 – Coaches of Teams and Interpretation 182. Note that this same change is also made under the Junior High / Middle School section in Regulation IV, Section 3 – Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Jason Malloy, to approve the following:

SECTION 3—COACHES OF TEAMS SECTION 3 (A) – The person responsible for the immediate training or coaching of a secondary school athletic team SHOULD be a member of the regular teaching staff of the school district. If a non-faculty member is used (paid or volunteer), that person **should receive guidance, direction and training from the school district** must be registered by the school with the MHSAA through its website or on a form provided for that purpose BEFORE assuming any coaching duties. A non-faculty member coach must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and not a current high school student. Individuals paid, unpaid or volunteer are considered coaches. (Also see Regulation II, Section 8 for other coaching requirements).

Note: The Representative Council URGES that all schools strive to the standard that only qualified faculty members are used as head coaches of interscholastic athletic teams, and that all non-faculty coaches complete the MHSAA's Coaches Advancement Program (CAP) or equivalent program. It should be the goal of every member school to require coaching education for every coach, every year.

INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 3

182. The **hiring or appointment of a non-faculty coach by a school district** registration of a non-faculty member under the requirements of this Regulation in no sense constitutes certification for teaching or coaching.

Adopted.

Regulation II, Section 6(A-C) and Interpretations 193, 194 and 196 – Contests with out-of-state schools. – Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Jason Malloy, to approve the following:

SECTION 6(A) – Requirements for MHSAA Sanctioning No MHSAA member school may participate in competition in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest at a site where a school from another state or country is competing UNLESS all of the following apply:

1. All teams present are bona fide school teams,
2. All schools and teams are in good standing with their respective National Federation member high school association (if eligible),
3. All National Federation* (see below) sanctioning requirements are fulfilled, if applicable, and
4. There is compliance with MHSAA travel limitations. The event is located in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin or Ontario. ~~or outside of these border state areas but within 600 drivable miles round-trip for the MHSAA member school.~~

SECTION 6(B) – BORDERING STATES – The approval of the MHSAA and each state high school association involved is required for any event (meet, tournament or showcase) conducted in ~~and involving schools exclusively from~~ Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and Ontario UNLESS the competition involves only MHSAA schools and schools from just one of the following: Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and Ontario. National Federation* (see below) sanctioning is required regardless of the number of schools and states involved, if the event is sponsored or co-sponsored or titled or co-titled in the name of an outside organization or individual (see Section 6[A]).

SECTION 6(C) – OUT-OF-STATE PRACTICES – Schools which desire to conduct practice sessions outside of a border state ~~out of state at a site more than 600 drivable miles round-trip from their location~~ must complete and submit to the MHSAA office the “Travel Form for Out-Of-State Practice” at least 30 calendar days in advance of departure (see MHSAA.com, “Schools/Forms & Resources”). No competition (scrimmage or contest against another team) is allowed except that in spring sports, two or more MHSAA member schools which have submitted the MHSAA Out-of-State Travel Form may scrimmage or hold joint practices with other MHSAA member schools up to the maximum of four allowed scrimmage dates in that sport. These days shall count in the total of four allowed for the season. Regulation II, Section 11 (B) and applicable interpretations regarding scrimmages shall apply. Dates of competition may not be converted to scrimmages as permitted under this allowance. No more than four dates will be allowed while operating under the out-of-state travel form allowance.

193. TRAVEL LIMITATIONS

- a. Except as permitted under Section 6(C) Out-of-State Practices, no member school shall compete in any interstate meet, contest or scrimmage which involves travel outside a border state. ~~or more than 600 drivable miles round-trip for any participating team.~~
- ~~b. Schools are prohibited from participating in two-team competition at multi-school inter-state events where any team involved in any contest of the event must travel more than 600 drivable miles round-trip.~~
- b. For competition involving schools ~~exclusively from and~~ occurring within Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and Ontario ~~or outside of these border state areas but within 600 drivable miles round-trip for the MHSAA member school.~~ MHSAA member schools may compete. regardless of the travel distance for any participating team.

~~194. For the purposes of this Section, drivable miles are to be determined from the location of each team (school) to the site of the competition (not the location of the opposing school and not the state’s border).~~

196. When a school-sponsored team, or group of students which resembles the school team, intends to conduct practice sessions outside of a border state area ~~out of state at a site more than 600 drivable miles round-trip from that school,~~ a Travel Form for Out-of-State Practice is required. For the purpose of this Section, it shall be considered a practice for a school team if a school coach in that sport is present with any number of players from that school’s team, other than his/her family members.

Adopted.

Regulation II, Section 11(H) 2 a – Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Fred Smith, to approve the following:

2. These limitations out of season apply to COACHES:
 - a. Outside the school season during the school year (from ~~Monday the week of Aug. 15~~ the first day of Fall practice in August through the Sunday after Memorial Day observed), school coaches are prohibited from providing coaching at any one time to more than four students in grades 7-12 of the district or cooperative program for which they coach.

Adopted.

Regulation II, Section 11(H) 4 – Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Adam Stefanski, to approve the following:

4. Except as limited by 2b (3) and (4) preceding, school-sponsored “open-gyms” or “after school” activities are permitted in the school district’s facilities out of season if they are voluntary and not part of the team selection process and adhere to these principles:
 - a. Diversity of students – open to all students of that school (it is not required that an open gym be open to the general public). **A school-sponsored open gym may only include students from that school. High school open gyms may only include high school students participating with and against other high school students of the same school. Middle school/junior high open gyms may only include middle school/junior high students of the same school.**
 - b. Student-conducted – students choose from offered activities. Any coach of a sport under MHSAA jurisdiction who is present shall not coach, instruct, critique, direct, evaluate or participate in a sport he/she coaches.
 - c. Recreational emphasis – not an organized program of instruction and/or competition. There must not be any organized drills, practice structure and no instruction regarding offensive or defensive schemes by any person, including team captains and parents.

Adopted.

Regulation IV, Section 3(B) – Motion by John Thompson, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the following:

New SECTION 3 (B) –

Junior High/middle schools must attest by each season’s established deadline that all head coaches at all levels of each junior high/middle school team have a valid current Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification. This will ensure that beginning in the 2024-25 school year, each team generally has one coach present who is CPR certified. The requirement for junior high/middle school head coaches takes effect August 1, 2024. 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 Regulation II, Section 8(B) to junior high/middle school head coaches who do not meet this requirement.

Adopted.

Regulation V, Section 3(C) – Motion by Jason Malloy, supported by Jay Alexander, to approve the following:

New SECTION 3(C) –

When a contest ends prematurely because of breakdown of proper sportsmanship and whether or not on-site officials forfeit the contest to one team, one or both schools may be subjected to any or all, but not limited to, the following: censure, probation with competition, probation without competition, forfeiture, loss of privilege of revenue sharing, expulsion. In addition, it may be required of one or both schools that their coaches and administrators appear before the Executive Committee to indicate why additional action should not be taken.

When video exists, MHSAA staff may review a bench-clearing situation or incidents where team members enter the area of competition during an altercation (court, field, mat, etc.). Identified individuals (team members, coaches, other staff) that enter these areas to participate or engage in such an altercation may be assessed additional penalties by MHSAA staff (ejections/suspensions) based on the video evidence in light of published MHSAA Due Process procedures.

Adopted.

CLASSIFICATION

The Summary of MHSAA Tournament Classification for 2023-24 was provided to Council members. The proposal from the committee was addressed in the regulation changes portion of the agenda.

Discussion also took place on MHSAA Handbook Regulation I, Section 9, Interpretations 61 and 62. The issue centered on multi-high school districts that have both boundary and non-boundary schools in determining eligibility for transfer students. An ad-hoc group of Council members and staff will be formed soon to further discuss and study this issue.

JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Motion by Vic Michaels supported by Chris Miller, to approve the Junior High/Middle School Committee recommendation to extend the zone events in cross country and track & field beyond the two-year pilot program timeframe. Note that the original request of the Representative Council was for a two-year pilot program experiment with these activities. With the second pilot program year coming to a close, the current request is to make offering these activities permanent in cross country and track & field along with expansion to two sites per zone with each site hosting a large-school (boys and girls division) and a small-school (boys and girls division) grouping. Division assignments would be based on the high school enrollment connect-ed to that junior high / middle school. (e.g. D1 & D2 large schools, D3 & D4 small schools). Adopted.

OFFICIALS

Motion by Chris Adams, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Officials Review Committee recommendation to adjust the minimum requirements for postseason consideration in selected sports. Changes include reducing the minimum required number of ratings in wrestling from 100 to 75, requiring competitive cheer judges be members in good standing of a Local Approved Association and reducing the minimum number of regular season games required to officiate in soccer from 10 to five. Adopted.

Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Meg Seng, to approve the Officials Review Committee recommendation to increase the minimum amount paid when an official arrives on site before receiving notice that a contest has been canceled due to an act of God from 1/3 of the contract fee to 1/2 of the contract fee. Adopted.

Motion by Jay Alexander, supported by Jeff Kline, to approve the recommendation to revise the criminal history background check process for the 2023-24 registration year. This change reflects best current practices as this process has been ongoing since the 2004-05 registration cycle. Adopted.

SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Motion by John Thompson, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee recommendation to require middle schools to attest, by each season's established deadline, that their middle school head coaches have a valid, current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification. This will ensure that each team at the middle school level has at least one coach at each level present who is CPR certified. This change would be effective with the 2024-25 school year. Adopted.

The Council was provided a report on emergency action plans which will be an area of focus during the fall Update tour program with a possible requirement coming back to the Council at a future meeting.

COMMITTEES

In early May, 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 2023-24, 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 2023-24 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.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Baseball – Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by Kris Isom, to not approve the Baseball Committee recommendation to require all schools to submit information at MHSAA.com by Noon the day after each game that includes the names of all individuals that pitched the previous day along with the number of pitches thrown in that game or those games starting with the 2024 season. Adopted (no change).

Motion by Jason Malloy, supported by Chris Adams, to approve the Baseball Committee recommendation to require that the trophy presentation for the Regional Champions be done at the conclusion of the quarterfinal game. Both teams will be presented with their championship trophies at the conclusion of the competition for the day. The quarterfinal losing team will be presented first, followed by the quarterfinal winning team. This would be effective immediately for 2023. Adopted.

Basketball – Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Alex Tiseo, to not approve the Basketball Committee recommendation to restructure the District and Regional basketball tournament pairings using MPR to rank teams in balanced Regionals, with the purpose of ensuring the top-seeded teams meet in the Regional Finals. Adopted (no change).

Staff also provided data from the 2023 MHSAA Girls and Boys Semifinals and Finals (24 total games) of possession and times shots were taken to better assess the future need for a shot clock. It was noted that the average offensive possession time before a shot was taken during these 24 games was 13.5 seconds.

Bowling – Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Jason Malloy, to approve the Bowling Committee recommendation to adjust the MHSAA calendar to allow for common UP and LP start date for the bowling season: (1) move the LP practice start date to match the earlier UP practice start date, and (2) move the LP competition start date to match the earlier UP date. Adopted.

Motion by Adam Stefanski, supported by Jason Malloy, to approve the Bowling Committee recommendation to expand the MHSAA bowling tournament format to 8 regions in each of the 4 Divisions, with the top 2 teams and top 7 individuals per gender advancing to the Finals. Adopted.

Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Fred Smith, to change the MHSAA Team Finals match-play to a head-to-head, best-of-five Baker game format. Adopted.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Vic Michaels, to approve the Bowling Committee recommendation to adopt the Phantom II oil pattern for MHSAA tournament competition. Adopted.

Girls Competitive Cheer – Motion by Jeff Kline, supported by Jay Alexander, to approve the Competitive Cheer Committee recommendation to expand the restricted period in girls competitive cheer to start at the end of winter sports (current policy) until the Monday following Memorial Day instead of the 3rd Saturday in June. Adopted

Motion by Chris Adams, supported by Jason Malloy, to approve the Competitive Cheer Committee recommendation to delay the starting date for girls competitive cheer by one week, reducing the length of the season by one week to provide a gap between sideline cheerleading and girls competitive cheer. Practice would be allowed to commence two Mondays before Thanksgiving rather than three Mondays before Thanksgiving. The Finals dates would remain the same. This would begin in 2024-25. Adopted.

Cross Country / Track & Field – Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve the Track and Field Committee recommendation to eliminate the MHSAA rule adaptation in Cross Country and Track & Field that the only head attire that may be worn during competition will be a knit stocking cap, sweatband, ski band, hats with bills (baseball style) or the hood of a one-piece uniform. Adopted.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve the Track and Field Committee recommendation to eliminate the MHSAA rule adaptation in Cross Country and Track & Field that competitors may not wear temporary body adornment (painted or fastened) during competition. Adopted.

Football – Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Jason Malloy, to not approve the Football Committee recommendations to move the deadline for coaches to complete the online football rules meeting to before the first contest of the football season. Adopted (no change).

Motion by Alex Tiseo, supported by Eric Albright, to not approve the Football Committee recommendation to expand the use of the “5-quarter rule” to exempt special teams plays (kickoffs and scrimmage kick plays) from the application of the rule at the varsity level. 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 Kris Isom, supported by Fred Smith, to not approve the Football Committee recommendation to seed playoff Regions instead of Districts. Districts would be formatted 1 v 8 and 4 v 5 on one side of the bracket, with 2 v 7 and 3 v 6 on the other side of the Region bracket. Adopted (no change).

Football Playoffs – An extensive discussion took place on the current MHSAA Football Playoff format (Strength of Schedule qualification), and the Council looked at the details of alternate approaches that included almost all schools “in” the tournament, a model where the MHSAA establishes regular season scheduling groups or pods and a new concept of a “Hybrid 48”. The feedback received from Council members will help fine-tune these options and approaches for school review and input during the fall 2023 tour. The Football Committee will meet prior to December of 2023 so an update can be provided to Council prior to the December meeting.

Discussion also centered on small-school issues for 11-player teams, along with concerns in 8-player football with the enrollment cap and current divisions.

Golf – Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the Golf Committee recommendations to require student-athletes to participate in at least four (4) varsity competitions (9- or 18-hole events) prior to representing their school in the MHSAA Golf Tournament. Adopted.

Girls Gymnastics – Motion by Vic Michaels, supported by John Thompson, to approve the Girls Gymnastics Committee recommendation to include Xcel levels Sapphire and Diamond be a part of the divisional structure criteria. The policy would read as follows: A gymnast who has EVER competed in a non-school competition at the USAG level or above, USAIGC Intermediate Optional Level, USAIGC Open Optional Level or Y Program at Level 8, AAU-Michigan qualifying meet judges at Level I or competed at AAU Xcel Sapphire level OR a gymnast who has competed in USAG Optional 7 or USAIGC Developmental Optional Level or AAU Xcel Diamond level or Level 7 equivalent Y program since January 1, 2021. Adopted.

Softball – Motion by Jay Alexander, supported by Fred Smith, to not approve the Softball Committee recommendation that beginning with the 2023-24 softball season, require all regular season and post-season contests to use the double first base. NFHS Rule 1-2 Note stipulates that the base be a one- or two-piece unit, 15 inches by 30 inches and manufactured to be of equal height. The base in foul territory shall be a color other than white. Adopted (no change).

Swimming & Diving – Motion by John Thompson, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the Swimming & Diving Committee recommendation requiring the following set of breaks to be taken at MHSAA Swimming & Diving Championship preliminary and final rounds:

Friday - Preliminary Breaks:

- 10 minutes between the 200 Medley Relay and 200 Freestyle
- 15 minutes between the 50 Freestyle and 100 Butterfly
- 10 minutes between the 200 Freestyle Relay and the 100 Backstroke

Saturday - Final Breaks:

- 10 minutes between the 200 Medley Relay and 200 Freestyle
- 15 minutes between the conclusion of Diving and the 100 Butterfly
- 10 minutes between the 200 Freestyle Relay and the 100 Backstroke

Adopted.

Motion by Eric Albright, supported by Judy Cox, to approve the staff recommendation to adjust qualifying time calculation to increase participation and field size across all three divisions for boys and girls swim Finals. Adopted.

Tennis – Motion by Jeff Kline, supported by Vic Michaels, to approve the Tennis Committee recommendation to allow Regional #1 Doubles Finalists to Qualify for the State Finals. The #1 Doubles Finalists on a non-qualifying team may advance to the State Finals if their team's #1 Singles player also qualifies: Adopted.

Girls Volleyball – Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Eric Albright, to approve the Volleyball Committee recommendation to separate the top two seeds in each district using the Michigan Power Rating formula (MPR), mirroring the draw model currently used in Boys and Girls Basketball starting with the 2024-25 season. Adopted.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Kris Isom, to approve the Volleyball Committee recommendation to permit the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association a 3-minute on-court presentation for the Miss Volleyball recipient during the MHSAA Division 1 Championship, to be conducted between the 2nd and 3rd sets of that match. Adopted.

Wrestling – Motion by Jason Malloy, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the Wrestling Committee recommendation to allow two additional dual meet competitions to be added to the wrestling contest dates. Adopted.

Staff provided an overview of next steps for girls wrestling in terms of MHSAA championships being awarded in light of what is done in other dual gender sports. More information will be provided to the Council at future meetings.

OPERATIONS

Calendar – Motion by Fred Smith, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the Quick Reference Calendars for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years, as well as the seven-year calendar of MHSAA events, reflecting changes required by other Representative Council action. Adopted. It was noted that in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years, the Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament dates will switch (the boys will play before the girls).

Meeting Expenses – Meeting expenses for this meeting were approved for the specified hotel rate, the IRS-stipulated amounts for meals, and a 40¢ per mile mileage allowance, round trip.

Future Meetings – The next meeting of the Representative Council is Dec. 1, 2023, at the Jack Roberts Building in East Lansing. The March meeting of the Representative Council will be the morning of Friday, March 22, 2024, in East Lansing. The May meeting of the Council will be Sunday and Monday, May 5 and 6, 2024.

Budget – In taking a view of MHSAA finances over the past two years, the association has done a good job in managing and rebuilding the association's financial position. The MHSAA has experienced excellent budget performance in 2021-22 and again in 2022-23 with reserves being returned to pre-pandemic levels.

The 2023-24 budget does not include any ticket price increases but does include capital improvement funds for the MHSAA building "refresh" project. Money has been allocated for an additional staff position along with funds for the new AD Connection program. While the 2023-24 budget does not include increases in host school shares or officiating tournament fees, study and discussion is ongoing for anticipated increases in both these areas for 2024-25. The presented budget included revenue of \$13,604,550 and expenses of \$13,333,478 for an anticipated budget surplus of \$271,072.

Motion by Kris Isom, supported by John Thompson, to approve the 2023-24 budget. Adopted.