

2014-  
2015



# HANDBOOK



**SENIOR HIGH—  
REGULATIONS I, II and V**

**JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL—  
REGULATIONS III, IV and V**

**NOTE:** All substantive changes for 2014-15, as well as corrections and clarifications, are indicated with a shaded background.

**2014-15 CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS  
(For Representative Council elections and some sports)**

CLASS A .....	882 and above
CLASS B .....	424-881, inclusive
CLASS C .....	215-423, inclusive
CLASS D .....	214 and below

**Note:** see page 95 for 2014-15 Tournament Classifications for all sports.

**2015-16 CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS**

School enrollment count for MHSAA purposes for 2015-16 will be the State of Michigan count of the second semester (Feb. 11, 2015). In the event the State of Michigan does not have a February count, the MHSAA count date shall be the first Wednesday of February (Feb. 4, 2015). Schools will be notified of their class or divisions for 2015-16 MHSAA postseason tournaments in late March.

Schools may choose to play at any higher classification or division in a sport for a minimum of two years:

Applications for **fall** sports must be submitted by April 15.

Applications for **winter** sports must be submitted by Aug. 15.

Applications for **spring** sports must be submitted by Oct. 15.

**THE MHSAA, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

**Additional Copies of HANDBOOK**

Copies of this *HANDBOOK* are sent to all member schools.

Additional copies of this *HANDBOOK* in limited numbers may be secured for \$20 per copy from the MHSAA, 1661 Ramblewood Dr., East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

**Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.**

1661 Ramblewood Drive  
East Lansing, Michigan 48823-7392  
Phone (517) 332-5046  
Fax (517) 332-4071  
MHSAA.com

# Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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## HANDBOOK FOR 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR



## FOREWORD

The Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., is a private, voluntary association for public, private and parochial secondary schools which choose to join and participate in the organization. The primary function of the Association is to conduct postseason tournaments and to help member schools have rules and guidelines to follow and enforce locally to promote equitable competition.

The Attorney General has rendered four published opinions holding that the MHSAA is a private (not public) entity; and in 1977 and again in 1986 stated that public school districts may join an association but that the district is responsible for rule enforcement. Most public school districts throughout the state and most non-public schools have chosen to join the MHSAA on an annual basis and have agreed voluntarily to enforce the rules and regulations. In essence, schools adopt the Regulations and Interpretations of this *Handbook* as their own and agree to be primarily responsible for their enforcement.

The legislative body of MHSAA is the Representative Council. The fourteen elected, one ex-officio and four appointed members of the Representative Council represent many segments of the state's public, private and parochial secondary schools. The primary function of the Council is to develop rules and regulations that tend to promote fairness in competition for the student athletes and a balance with other educational programs and activities of schools. The Council continues to be responsive to requests for rule modifications from member schools, appointed committees, and coaches' associations and actively solicits input from the various organizations. Your Representative Council has attempted to ensure that competition is conducted in a fair and sportsmanlike atmosphere.

The MHSAA's primary purpose in promulgation of rules for eligibility minimums and competition maximums is to establish conditions by which students and schools may qualify for MHSAA postseason tournaments – in other words, to promote a level playing field for MHSAA-sponsored tournaments.

Because entry into the MHSAA's tournaments requires season-long, sometimes school year-long and even year-round adherence to basic rules, member schools reap an important byproduct: they have some standardized rules for their regular-season competition – in other words, a more level playing field for the rest of their interscholastic experience.

It is not necessary for any school to join the MHSAA in order to conduct a program of competitive athletics, and MHSAA member schools are not prohibited from engaging in competition against non-member schools. MHSAA sponsored postseason tournaments are limited to MHSAA member schools which choose to join the organization, are in good standing and agree to participate according to all policies, procedures and schedules of MHSAA Tournaments.

The MHSAA is a self-supporting organization that does not rely on taxpayer dollars from any agency of the state or federal government. Schools do not pay membership dues, tournament entry fees, or service fees. When schools host MHSAA events they are reimbursed their itemized expenses and usually generate additional income from concession and program sales, parking fees, and a portion of gate receipts.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc. Constitution, together with the Eligibility and Contest Regulations as published in the *Handbook*, are important if effective and fair treatment is to be provided all participants. Between publications of the *Handbook*, *benchmarks* and the website of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc. – MHSAA.com – are the official publications.

June 1, 2014

Jim Derocher, President  
Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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## MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

### STAFF

<b>Tony Bihn</b> , Director of Information Systems	<b>Andrea Osters</b> , Program and Development Assistant
<b>Jordan W. Cobb</b> , Assistant Director of Information Systems	<b>Thomas M. Rashid</b> , Associate Director
<b>Andy Frushour</b> , Director of Brand Management	<b>John E. Roberts</b> , Executive Director
<b>Nate Hampton</b> , Assistant Director	<b>Laura Roberts</b> , Receptionist / Officials Registrar
<b>Cody Inglis</b> , Assistant Director	<b>Adam Ryder</b> , Assistant Director of Information Systems
<b>John R. Johnson</b> , Communications Director	<b>Mark Uyl</b> , Assistant Director
<b>Rob Kaminski</b> , Website and Publications Coordinator	<b>Jamie VanDerMoere</b> , Administrative Assistant
<b>Geoff Kimmerly</b> , Media & Content Coordinator	<b>Faye Verellen</b> , Administrative Assistant
<b>Camala Kinder</b> , Administrative Assistant	<b>Kathy Vrugink Westdorp</b> , Assistant Director
<b>Cole Malatinsky</b> , Administrative Assistant	<b>Tricia Wieferich</b> , Administrative Assistant
<b>Gina Mazzolini</b> , Assistant Director	<b>Paige Winne</b> , Administrative Assistant
<b>Peggy Montpas</b> , Accounting Manager	<b>Karen Yonkers</b> , Executive Assistant

## OFFICERS OF THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

(Elected December 6, 2013)

<b>President</b> —	Jim Derocher, Superintendent, Negaunee Public Schools
<b>Vice President</b> —	Scott Grimes, Assistant Superintendent, Grand Haven Area Public Schools
<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b> —	Vic Michaels, Director of Physical Education and Athletics, Archdiocese of Detroit

## MEMBERS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL <sup>(1)</sup>

### CLASS A AND B SCHOOLS

#### Upper Peninsula:

\* Al Unger, Athletic Director, Kingsford High School

#### Northern Section Lower Peninsula:

\*\* Peter C. Ryan, Athletic Director, Saginaw Heritage High School

#### Southwestern Section:

\*\* Fred Smith, Athletic Director, Buchanan High School

#### Southeastern Section:

\*\* John Thompson, Athletic Director, Brighton High School

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<sup>(1)</sup> Any individual who is a representative of a member school (administrator, faculty member or board of education member) may submit his/her name to the MHSAA by March 15. See MHSAA Constitution Article IV, Section 6-1 for details (page 15).



## Council Members (Concl'd)

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### CLASS C AND D SCHOOLS

#### Upper Peninsula:

- \*\* James Derocher, Superintendent, Negaunee Public Schools

#### Northern Section Lower Peninsula:

- \*\* Dave Derocher, Athletic Director, Reese High School

#### Southwestern Section:

- \* Chris Miller, Athletic Director, Gobles High School

#### Southeastern Section:

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

### STATEWIDE AT-LARGE

- \*\* Scott Grimes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Services, Grand Haven Area Public Schools
- \* Karen Leinaar, Athletic Director, Bear Lake High School

### JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- \* Jason Mellema, Superintendent, Pewamo-Westphalia Community Schools
- \*\* Steve Newkirk, Principal, Clare Middle School

### PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL HIGH SCHOOLS

- \*\* Vic Michaels, Director of Physical Education and Athletics, Archdiocese of Detroit

### DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- \* Alvin Ward, Administrator of Athletics, Detroit Public School League

### APPOINTED MEMBERS

- \*\* Carmen Kennedy, Principal, St. Clair Shores South Lake High School
- \* Maureen Klocke, Athletic Director, Yale High School
- \*\* Orlando Medina, Athletic Director, L'Anse Creuse High School
- \* Cheri Meier, Principal, Ionia Middle School

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

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

- \* Term expires December, 2015
- \*\* Term expires December, 2014

## CODES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF ATHLETICS

### Statement of Relationship

Membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association is comprised of individual public, private and parochial junior high/middle schools and high schools, approved annually through resolution by their respective Boards of Education. Because such board action results in adoption of the MHSAA *Handbook* as their own, local boards of education are urged to review annually all substantive *Handbook* changes before acting on the membership resolution.

The **superintendent** is responsible for the athletic activities of the school system. The duties will vary according to the size of the school system, ranging from the larger schools where all duties are delegated, to the smaller schools where the superintendent may be both the administrative and executive officer. In either case, it is a duty to have set up a definite school athletic policy and have a complete understanding of that policy by those concerned.

The **principal** usually is the official representative of the member school and is directly responsible for the general attitude of the student body and the conduct of athletic affairs by the athletic director and the coach.

It is the duty of the above-named officers to derive from the athletic program a full measure of educational value in developing good sportsmanship on the part of the student body, faculty, parents, and general public. Mutual cooperation is essential in order to carry out properly the work of any or all of these officers.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association offers voluntary in-service programs for **athletic directors** and the Coaches Advancement Program (CAP) for **coaches**. Appropriate institutional control requires that schools help facilitate athletic directors' and coaches' learning and supervise their athletic activities.

The MHSAA also provides training curricula for **officials** and their local associations. It is the responsibility of officials as independent contractors to seek and attain knowledge and techniques appropriate for the sports and levels of competition for which they contract.

It is the policy of the Michigan High School Athletic Association that no person who meets essential eligibility requirements shall be discriminated against or excluded from the opportunity to try to participate in Michigan High School Athletic Association serviced activities, solely on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender, marital status, or disability.

### AN ATHLETIC CODE FOR ADMINISTRATORS

School Administrators at the local level are the final authorities for the athletic activities of the school. In realization of this responsibility these guiding principles should prevail:

#### For the Superintendent

1. Use all means possible to bring to the community a full realization of the value of athletics as an educational tool in training citizens.
2. Develop district-wide policies that foster good sportsmanship, protect civil rights of all constituents, and promote maximum opportunities for participation by students.
3. Create a definite understanding with principals and athletic directors concerning the school athletic policy and expect and give mutual support in carrying out that policy.
4. Evaluate those in charge of the athletic program by the conduct and attitude of contestants and spectators rather than on the number of games won or lost.
5. Advise the board of education of the privileges and obligations of schools' membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association, keep the board informed of proposed and adopted changes in MHSAA regulations, and hold the board accountable for the support and enforcement of regulations it adopted when it accepted membership for its school(s) in the MHSAA.

#### For the Principal

1. Develop a complete understanding of the athletic policy of the school system and of the individual responsibility of all concerned.
2. Certify eligibility of contestants and base that certification on complete information concerning the student's athletic and scholastic status. Questionable cases will be referred to the Michigan High School Athletic Association before the privilege of competition is given.
3. Support coaches in their efforts to carry out MHSAA and local athletic policies.
4. Instruct the student body of its responsibilities in making the athletic program a valuable one and require desirable types of conduct at "home" and "away" games.

## **Athletic Codes (Cont'd)**

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5. Endeavor to foresee possible differences and misunderstandings with other schools and, as far as possible, settle them or provide means of settlement before they materialize.
6. Insist that any misunderstandings that may arise be settled privately between official representatives of the schools concerned.
7. Have a definite understanding with the athletic director about officials, schedules, finances, care of fields and gymnasiums, handling of spectators, supervision of coaches, etc., and give that person every assistance in carrying out such duties.
8. Present promptly and privately to the school involved any information received about possible rule violations by that school; and if the internal investigation and action by that school is not satisfactory, report that potential violation to the MHSAA.
9. Attend as many of the athletic contests of the school as responsibilities will allow.
10. Commend opposing schools for outstanding examples of fine citizenship and sportsmanship.

### **For the Athletic Director**

1. Place the athletic policy of the school district in writing and communicate it often to coaches, athletes, parents, spectators, and support groups.
2. Cooperatively lead the school and community in creating and maintaining an atmosphere which is conducive to an educationally sound athletic program.
3. Develop schedules which are educationally and physically sound for the athlete.
4. Originate contracts with schools and officials which are complete and specific.
5. Hire officials who have the confidence and agreement of both teams, and arrange for their comfort and security.
6. Support officials in cases of adverse rulings, and rate officials objectively on the basis of all parts of their effort and all events, not isolated parts of a single contest.
7. Provide every athlete on each level in all sports proper equipment and uniforms for practice and competition.
8. Prepare and maintain the contest site in the best possible condition.
9. Maintain sidelines for exclusive use of players, coaches and officials, and handle crowds so there is no encroachment on playing space.
10. Refuse admission to athletic contests to persons who have shown a lack of sportsmanship.
11. Provide printed programs which accurately report names of players and help spectators understand the purpose and rules of the sport and encourage good sportsmanship.
12. Provide working accommodations for media covering the contest.

### **ATHLETIC CODE FOR COACHES**

The Coach is the official representative of the school at interscholastic athletic activities. In this important capacity, these standards should be practiced:

1. Develop an understanding of the role of interscholastic athletics and communicate it to players, parents and the public.
2. Develop an up-to-date knowledge of the rules, strategies, precautions, and skills of the sport and communicate them to players and parents.
3. Develop, communicate and model policies for athletes' conduct and language in the locker room, at practice, during travel, during competition, and at other appropriate times.
4. Develop fair, unprejudiced relationships with all squad members.
5. Allow athletes to prove themselves anew each season and do not base team selections on previous seasons or out-of-season activities.
6. Allow athletes time to develop skills and interests in other athletic and non-athletic activities provided by the school and community groups.
7. Give the highest degree of attention to athletes' physical well-being.
8. Teach players, by precept and example, respect for school authorities and contest officials, providing support for them in cases of adverse decisions and refraining from critical comments in public or to the media.
9. Teach players strict adherence to game rules and contest regulations.
10. Present privately, through proper school authorities, evidence of rule violations by opponents; and counteract rumors and unproven allegations of questionable practices by opponents.
11. Attend required meetings, keep abreast of MHSAA policies regarding the sport, and be familiar with MHSAA eligibility and contest regulations.
12. Present a clean and professional image in terms of personal appearance and provide a positive role model in terms of personal habits, language and conduct. Use of tobacco within sight of players and spectators and use of alcohol any time before a contest on the day of the contest is not acceptable.

**CODE FOR ATHLETIC OFFICIALS**

1. Register with the MHSAA each year on a timely basis (by July 1) and attend all required meetings. Work no interscholastic contests with officials who do not hold current registration in the sport.
2. Join and actively participate in an Approved Association for officials.
3. Accept contracts for and officiate only contests for which you are qualified and experienced. Execute and honor contracts in a timely and ethical manner. Complete reports and follow up all obligations resulting from a contest.
4. Be prepared, physically and mentally, to officiate according to the principles and philosophy promoted by the MHSAA.
5. Refrain from the use of tobacco or alcohol within sight of players and spectators and avoid the use of alcohol anytime before a contest on the day of the contest.
6. Cultivate professional relationships with partners, players, coaches, administrators, and spectators. Refrain from comment to the media.
7. Commit to a personal lifestyle which avoids sexual misconduct, use of illicit drugs and public abuse of alcohol, and will not in other ways impinge upon your perception in the community to fulfill the obligations and standards of the MHSAA "Code for Athletic Officials."
8. Officiate according to the rules and manuals adopted for MHSAA competition. Admit and correct one's own errors, hold to correct but unpopular decisions, and support the decisions of other officials.
9. Exercise self-control at all times. Guard against baiting or taunting which may generate loss of poise or demeanor which can erode the professionalism expected of officials in even the most difficult circumstances.
10. Hold to and maintain the basic tenets of officiating which include honesty, integrity, neutrality, respect, sensitivity, professionalism, discretion and tactfulness.

**CODE FOR ATHLETES**

1. Know and adhere to the athletic code of the school.
2. Exceed all attendance and academic requirements as practical evidence of loyalty to school and team and a proper philosophy of school-sponsored athletics.
3. Observe completely all policies regarding conduct, doing so as a duty to school, team and self.
4. Counsel with the athletic director over questions of eligibility.
5. Practice and play fairly, giving complete effort in all circumstances and credit in victory to teammates and to opponents in defeat.
6. Accept favorable and unfavorable decisions, as well as victory and defeat, with equal grace.
7. Demonstrate respect for opponents and of officials before, during and after contests.

Participation in extracurricular competitive interscholastic athletics is a student's privilege, not a right, that can be removed at any time for failure to meet the standards and requirements of particular teams, school or school districts, leagues or conferences, and regional, statewide or national organizations to which the student's school belongs.

**STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL BELIEF STATEMENT**

We believe athletes should be competitive, sportsmanlike and excel academically. We believe students in the stands should have fun, but not take the focus away from the game. We believe coaches should act as teachers, helping student-athletes develop while still keeping high school sports in perspective. We believe that parents should always be positive role models and be supportive of their child's decisions. We believe officials commit their own time to high school sports and respect should always be shown and given to them.

The most important goal for student-athletes is to enjoy high school sports while keeping a high level of respect between all those involved in the games.

**GENDER AND ETHNICITY – POSITION STATEMENT**

The MHSAA believes that gender and ethnicity equity is more than being in compliance with the law. It is a spirit. It is a personal ethic. It is a commitment to do what is right and fair for all athletes, officials, coaches and athletic administrators. It means creating an atmosphere and an environment where opportunities and resources are distributed fairly to all. An atmosphere where no person experiences discrimination on the basis of gender or ethnicity.

It is the position of the MHSAA that its member schools monitor their athletic programs to ensure that athletic offerings are equitable and meet the interests and abilities of student-athletes.

While the MHSAA does not have the authority to promote specific Interpretations or to rule on compliance issues regarding federal and state laws, it does believe that all concerned should take steps to promote the spirit and intent of gender and ethnicity equity.

## PURPOSES OF THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

1. Increase and promote the educational value of interscholastic athletic programs throughout the state.
2. Assist member institutions in their regulation of interscholastic athletic eligibility and competition.
3. Promote uniformity, predictability and competitive equity in the application of eligibility rules for athletic contests.
4. Promote the physical welfare of participating students.

## LEADERSHIP & SERVICES AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS

The MHSAA is a voluntary association of schools. MHSAA member schools may sponsor programs in sports for which the MHSAA has no involvement. Member schools may engage in competition against schools which are not members of the MHSAA. Nothing real or imagined compels a school to belong to the MHSAA except the quality service and programs the MHSAA attempts to provide its members, including:

1. Assistance to schools in planning and developing a better athletic program by supervision of interscholastic athletic contests, counseling with schools on athletic problems, special meetings and publications.
2. Printed materials, including eligibility forms, calendars, *Handbook*, sports rules books, and souvenir programs at championship events.
3. Registration and recognition of athletic officials.
4. Rules meetings and clinics for coaches and officials in various sports.
5. Planning and administering MHSAA tournaments and meets.
6. Catastrophic Insurance Plan.
7. In-service programs for athletic directors and coaches.
8. Women in Sports Leadership Conference, mini-grants and annual award.
9. In-service for officials, trainers and assigners.
10. Sportsmanship meetings, materials and mini-grants.
11. Team Captains Clinics.
12. Student Advisory Council.

## MHSAA PUBLICATIONS

**BENCHMARKS**—Published three times each school year, August through April, *benchmarks* provides national and local content impacting school sports in addition to administrative regulations and business components affecting MHSAA schools and officials. *Benchmarks* replaced the long-standing *MHSAA Bulletin* and *Mentor* in 2009-10, offering more in-depth accounts and an enhanced design. Athletic administrators, coaches and officials will receive the publication, and it may be purchased by others for \$15 per year. Also available online at MHSAA.com

**OFFICIALS DIRECTORY**—The MHSAA *Officials Directory* may be found online only at MHSAA.com, with the ability to print sections on-demand (login required). A list of local officials associations is also included. Printed portions may be purchased by non-member schools at \$20 per request.

**SCHOOL DIRECTORY**—Published in November, the *School Directory* includes the names, addresses, phone numbers and administrators of all member junior high/middle schools and high schools. A list of leagues and conferences is also enclosed. The School Directory is sent without charge to high school and city-wide athletic directors, high school and middle school principals and to media. It may be purchased by others for \$20 (\$10 with officials registration application). Also available online at mhsaa.com

**OFFICIALS GUIDEBOOK**—Prepared in May, the *Officials Guidebook* includes policies and procedures which must be known to register as an MHSAA official and administer athletic contests involving MHSAA member schools. Available online only at mhsaa.com

**COACHES GUIDEBOOK**—Prepared annually in June, the *Coaches Guidebook* includes MHSAA policies and regulations applicable for coaching in Michigan schools. Available online only at mhsaa.com

**GAMEPLANS**—Provided electronically six times each year free of charge to coaches who complete coursework in the MHSAA's Coaches Advancement Program.

## HOW TO JOIN THE MHSAA

Membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association is optional. It is a choice schools make through their local governing boards. Schools may conduct a comprehensive program of interscholastic athletics and may participate against MHSAA member schools in regular-season competition without joining the MHSAA.

Membership in the MHSAA is **free of charge**. There are no membership dues. While MHSAA tournaments are limited to MHSAA member schools in good standing, there are no tournament entry fees for qualifying schools.

Article II of the Constitution of the MHSAA describes which schools may become members of the MHSAA and how this occurs. Through their boards of education, member schools voluntarily join the MHSAA each and every year by adopting a **Membership Resolution** which stipulates the school district **has adopted the organization's rules as its own and agrees to primary enforcement of those rules**.

Beginning Aug. 1, 1997, boards of education for member schools also are required to have a **code of good sportsmanship, an educational program to communicate that code, and an enforcement plan to implement the code**.

Beginning Aug. 1, 2010, it is a condition of membership that this code of good sportsmanship and/or a separate code of conduct for athletes must prohibit use of illegal performance-enhancing substances and specify a period of ineligibility for students who violate the school's policy.

By Representative Council action of May 4, 1988, only those schools for which a Membership resolution has been received by the fourth Friday after Labor Day are permitted entry in MHSAA tournaments for that school year.

Pursuant to Representative Council action March 21, 1997, the MHSAA Executive Committee must review the application of a school which joins the MHSAA for the first time or after a lapse of its membership for one or more school years, and such school may not become a member of the MHSAA until specifically approved for membership by the MHSAA Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may determine if MHSAA membership is approved or denied and, if approved, when MHSAA tournament participation shall be allowed to commence for each new member school.

By Representative Council action on May 1, 2005 and beginning Aug 1, 2005, prior to participation in future MHSAA tournaments, a new member school or school whose membership has lapsed is required to have a designated athletic administrator in attendance at a New Athletic Directors Orientation Program conducted by the MHSAA in the fall of each year.

Practices and behaviors by a non-member school that are in opposition to the regulations and principles for interscholastic athletics of the Michigan High School Athletic Association may cause the MHSAA Executive Committee to deny or delay that school's membership in the MHSAA. Competitive equity requires that non-member schools be held to the same standards as current member schools for up to three years immediately preceding their first year of membership. Institutions denied membership in the MHSAA or participation in its tournaments may appeal the Executive Committee's decision to the Representative Council.

Except when a new school is merely an addition on the MHSAA Membership Resolution to the list of schools from a school district which had high school members the previous school year, a new school is not eligible for MHSAA tournaments until its second consecutive full year of membership, unless otherwise determined by action of the MHSAA Executive Committee.

In other words, if the Membership Resolution is submitted before the fourth Friday after Labor Day in 2014, the new school becomes eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the first time in the fall tournaments of the 2015-16 school year, provided all conditions of membership have been met.

If the completed Membership resolution is received after the fourth Friday after Labor Day in 2014, the new school becomes eligible for MHSAA tournaments no earlier than the fall tournaments of the 2016-17 school year, unless otherwise determined by the MHSAA Executive Committee.

### ANNUAL CONTRACT

In Michigan, schools make for themselves the rules which serve and support interscholastic athletics. The rules cover hundreds of policies and procedures for administration of local programs.

In addition, schools have the option to adopt rules of qualification into the postseason tournaments conducted by the MHSAA. MHSAA rules – prepared by the elected representatives of member schools (Representative Council) – are not intended to govern regular-season competition, but to determine the qualifying standards, terms and conditions for MHSAA postseason tournaments.

An ancillary but still important benefit is that by adopting these tournament qualifying rules, schools gain a greater degree of standardization for their regular-season competition.

For MHSAA member schools, these and other agreements are published in the MHSAA *Handbook*; and each year the local governing boards of member schools sign a Membership Resolution, a contract really, that they will enforce those rules locally, while the MHSAA agrees that the rules will not be changed during that school year.

The expectations of member schools include:

- **Educating** student-athletes, staff and other involved personnel about MHSAA rules and procedures.
- **Monitoring** compliance year-around.
- **Investigating** possible violations and reporting findings.
- **Administering** penalties.

### A COVENANT WITH SPORTS OFFICIALS

Sports officiating is an honorable avocation<sup>1</sup> requiring those who engage in it to have strong moral character and integrity. Officials must be fair-minded and courageous. They are expected to embrace and adhere to the Code for Athletic Officials published by the Michigan High School Athletic Association<sup>2</sup>.

It takes a special person to be an official. Sports officials bear great responsibility for engendering public confidence in sports. They are critical to the health of athletic competitions. Officials ensure games are played fairly, by the rules, within the spirit of the rules and in a safe manner. Officiating takes a great deal of preparation, continuing education and commitment of time. Much is asked of those who officiate.

Therefore, those organizations and individuals that assign, evaluate or require the use of officiating services are hereby asked to resolve and affirm the following:

- 1) That game assignments and career advancement be provided without regard to age, sex, race, national origin, religion or other factors unrelated to the ability to properly perform officiating duties.
- 2) That effective security be provided to protect sports officials from physical assaults, unseemly verbal abuse and the loss of or damage to personal property, from the time of arrival at the game site through the time of departure.
- 3) That efforts be supported to limit the liability sports officials can incur as a result of the reasonable and customary decisions they make in fulfilling their officiating duties.
- 4) That the obligations sports officials are expected or required to fulfill be clearly communicated, preferably in writing, in advance of when those obligations are to be carried out.
- 5) That sports officials who are subject to an inquiry concerning alleged improper or inadequate fulfillment of their responsibilities be given fair treatment and an opportunity to respond to the findings through a prescribed appeal process before disciplinary measures are taken.

— Adapted from the *National Association of Sports Officials*

<sup>1</sup> The word "profession" in NASO's original version has been replaced by the word "avocation."

<sup>2</sup> NASO's original version referenced the "Code of Conduct for Officials, as adopted by the Officiating Development Alliance in January 2002, a copy of which is available from the National Association of Sports Officials."

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

**ARTICLE I—NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc. (MHSAA)

**ARTICLE II—MEMBERSHIP AND CLASSIFICATION**

- Sec. 1 All high schools, junior high/middle schools, or other schools of Michigan doing a grade of work corresponding to such schools, may become members of this organization provided (a) the school building has an enrollment and on-site attendance of at least 15 students, whether for grades 7 and 8, or 7 through 9, or 10 through 12, or 9 through 12; and (b) if a nonpublic school, the school qualifies for federal income tax exemption as a not-for-profit organization.
- Sec. 2 For a school to become a member of this organization, its board of education/governing body must complete the annual Membership Resolution stating that the board of education/governing body has adopted the organization's rules as its own and agrees to primary enforcement of such rules as to its own schools. Failure to implement required effects of policies and procedures promulgated by the organization to govern eligibility, competition and tournaments shall require that members of the administration and board of education/governing body appear before the Representative Council or Executive Committee to show cause why the school is not in violation of the terms of its Membership Resolution.
- Sec. 3. It is an essential part of the responsibility for the supervision and control of interscholastic activities that each board of education/governing body adopt a code of good sportsmanship for its athletes, coaches and spectators, an educational program to promote good sportsmanship, and a system of progressive discipline for failures to behave according to the code of good sportsmanship. It is a condition of membership that this code of good sportsmanship, and/or a separate code of conduct for athletics, must prohibit use of illegal performance-enhancing substances and specify a period of ineligibility for students who violate the school's policy.
- Sec. 4. The Representative Council shall have the authority to classify schools as a basis for competition in the organization's tournaments and for the organization's elections.

**ARTICLE III—ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

- Sec. 1. The Annual Business Meeting of representatives of member schools of this Association shall be held not later than the third Friday following Thanksgiving Day each year.
- Sec. 2. The Annual Business Meeting shall be held for the purpose of receiving reports from the several officers of the Association, discussing interscholastic athletic problems, and electing representatives to the Council in case of tie votes.
- Sec. 3. Each member school of this association shall be entitled to only one vote to be cast by the principal or superintendent or a faculty representative authorized in writing by the principal or superintendent.

**ARTICLE IV—THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL:  
HOW CONSTITUTED AND ELECTED**

- Sec. 1. The Representative Council shall consist of fourteen elected members and the Superintendent of Public Instruction or his/her representative as an ex-officio member. The Council may appoint not to exceed four members for two year terms, and such appointments may not exceed two successive terms. The Council total membership is not to exceed fourteen elected, four appointed, and the ex-officio member, for a total of nineteen voting members.
- Sec. 2. Four members of the Council shall be representatives of Class A and B high schools according to the most recently determined classification of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the school year next preceding the election. One of these representatives shall be from the Upper Peninsula, one from the four southern tiers of counties east of a line running north and south between the counties of Eaton and Ingham, exclusive of the city of Detroit, one from the four southern tiers of counties west of said line, and one from the remaining part of the Lower Peninsula.
- Sec. 3. Four members of the Council shall be representatives of Class C and D high schools according to the most recently determined classification of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the school year next preceding the election. One of these representatives shall be from the Upper Peninsula, one from the four southern tiers of counties east of a line running north and south between the counties of Eaton and Ingham, one from the four tiers of counties west of said line, and one from the remaining part of the Lower Peninsula.



## Constitution (Cont'd)

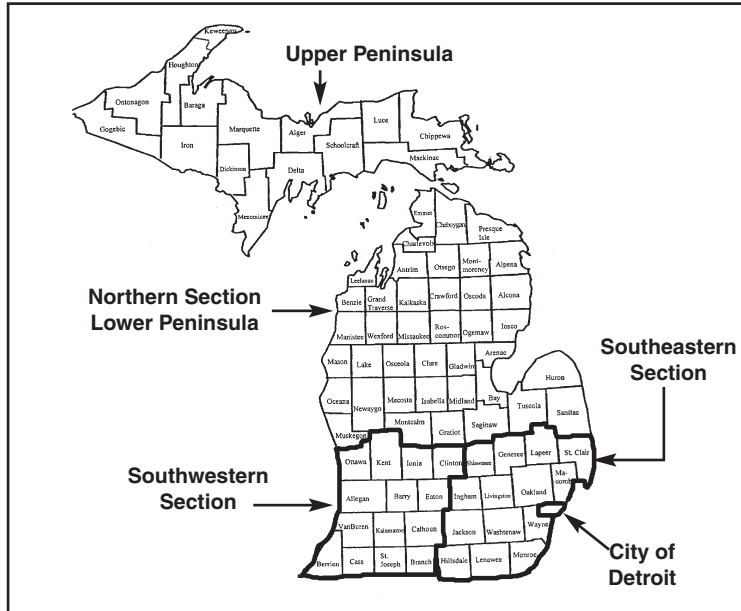
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- Sec. 4. The other six members of the Council shall be elected with the following provisions:  
Two shall be statewide at-large representatives, two shall be representatives of junior high/middle schools, one shall be a representative of the Detroit Public Schools, and one shall be a representative of private and parochial high schools.
- Sec. 5. The regularly elected members of the Council as provided for above shall hold office for two years or until such time as their successors are duly elected.
- Sec. 6. The procedure in nomination and election of candidates for membership on the Representative Council is as follows:
1. Any individual who is a representative of a member school (faculty member or board of education member) may submit his or her name to the MHSAA office by March 15.
    - A. Candidates must have superintendent or principal approval in writing.
    - B. It is essential that candidates be qualified for the position they seek.
      - (1) If the position is for a representative of a certain area of the state, they must represent a school of the appropriate class (A and B or C and D) in that geographic area.
      - (2) If they seek the position of a statewide at-large representative, they must be a faculty or board of education member of an MHSAA member school.
      - (3) If they seek the position of statewide representative of junior high/middle schools or private and parochial high schools, they must be faculty (teacher or administrator) or board members for such schools.
  2. Names submitted will be published on the MHSAA Website by April 15 and included on the ballot mailed to schools in September.
  3. Ballots received from schools at the office of the Executive Director postmarked a date later than two weeks after they were sent to schools will not be counted.
  4. A Board of Canvassers composed of five members is to be appointed annually for the purpose of counting the ballots and declaring candidates elected or those nominees whose names shall appear on the election ballot for a run-off election, if necessary.
  5. The classification of schools for nominations is to be based on the school enrollment as reported on the Enrollment Declaration Forms filed in the office of the Michigan High School Athletic Association the previous school year.
  6. In Class A, B, C, and D schools the ballot is to be signed by the principal of the high school and the superintendent of schools. Ballots signed in only one of the provided spaces are to be declared illegal votes by the Board of Canvassers.
  7. Only those junior high/middle schools which are listed as member schools by the Michigan High School Athletic Association are eligible to vote and in such schools the ballot is to be signed by the principal of the junior high/middle school and the superintendent of schools. Ballots signed in only one of the provided spaces are to be declared illegal votes by the Board of Canvassers.
  8. For the Detroit Public Schools and statewide at-large positions, the ballot is to be signed by the principal of the school and the superintendent of schools. Ballots signed in only one of the provided spaces are to be declared illegal votes by the Board of Canvassers.
  9. In private and parochial schools the ballot is signed by the principal.
  10. The nominee receiving a majority of all legal votes cast by his or her group or section on the first ballot shall be declared elected.
  11. If no majority is received on the first ballot, the names of the two nominees (or more in case of ties) receiving the greatest number of votes shall be submitted to the group or section concerned for election by mailed vote.
  12. The nominee receiving a majority on the second ballot shall be declared elected.
  13. If no nominee receives a majority on the second ballot, the names of the two nominees (or more in case of ties) receiving the greatest number of votes shall be submitted to the group or section concerned for election by mailed ballot.
  14. The nominee receiving a majority on the third ballot shall be declared elected.
  15. In case of a tie vote or no majority on the third ballot, the election shall be carried to the Annual Business Meeting.

**Constitution (Cont'd)**

Sec. 7. A vacancy on the Representative Council occurs when for any reason a representative becomes no longer eligible to represent that particular group or section. The person receiving the second greatest number of votes in the last election for that position shall be declared elected for the balance of the term vacated. In the event there were not two candidates in that election, the Representative Council will appoint a representative for the balance of the term.

**MAP OF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL SECTION**



**ARTICLE V—MEETINGS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

- Sec. 1. Meetings of the Representative Council shall be held at least once a year.
- Sec. 2. Meetings of the Representative Council may be called by the Superintendent of Public Instruction or by the President of the Representative Council, and shall be called at the written request of any three members of the Representative Council.

**ARTICLE VI—DUTIES OF THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

- Sec. 1. The Representative Council shall have general control of the organization's operating policies.
- Sec. 2. It shall develop and promulgate minimum standards for student-athlete eligibility, rules to govern competition between schools and penalties for violations, as well as Interpretations of these policies and procedures, compliance with which is a pre-condition for members to participate in the organization's sponsored tournaments.
- Sec. 3. It shall develop and promulgate terms and conditions for association sponsored tournaments and limit competition in those tournaments to member schools and their student-athletes who have been in compliance with the regulations and Interpretations promulgated under Sec. 2.
- Sec. 4. It shall adopt a Due Process Procedure to be followed in the disposition of alleged violations of the Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations or Interpretations as promulgated by the association.
- Sec. 5. It may discipline member schools and contest officials for violations of rules and regulations.
- Sec. 6. It shall provide for the hearing of appeals from decisions of the Executive Director and Executive Committee.
- Sec. 7. It shall exercise all other functions necessary for carrying out the spirit and purpose of the Constitution.
- Sec. 8. It shall be the annual responsibility of the Representative Council to ascertain that the Council elective process has provided for representation of females and minorities. If, in the judgment of the Representative Council, these results have not been achieved, said Council shall appoint not to exceed four Representative Council members-at-large for two year terms.

**ARTICLE VII—OFFICERS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL:  
JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY**

- Sec. 1. The officers of the Representative Council shall be a President, Vice-President and a Secretary-Treasurer.
- Sec. 2. The President, the Vice-President, and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected at a meeting of the Representative Council conducted between the conclusion of the Council elections and the end of that calendar year (outgoing Council members shall not vote for officers for the next year). They shall perform the usual duties pertaining to their respective offices. The President shall preside at the Annual Business Meeting.
- Sec. 3. An Executive Committee of 5 members shall be created. The executive committee shall be made up of the elected officers of the Representative Council plus 2 members appointed by the President of the Representative Council. Other appointments may be made from among the Representative Council members to substitute for those who must be absent from an Executive Committee meeting. A quorum for conducting Executive Committee business is three members.
- Sec. 4. The Executive Committee shall, in addition to powers granted elsewhere in this Constitution, exercise the following powers:
- A. Interpret the Constitution and all legislation enacted by the Representative Council.
  - B. Make all rules necessary for effective administration of the organization's sponsored tournaments, consistent with policies enacted by the Representative Council and with this Constitution.
  - C. Adjudicate all controversies between member schools which have been appealed to it.
  - D. For violation of this Constitution, or rules adopted by the Representative Council, the Executive Committee may impose such penalties as are authorized by the Representative Council.
  - E. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to set aside the effect of any regulation governing eligibility of students or the competition between schools when in its opinion the rule fails to accomplish the purpose for which it is intended, or when the rule works an undue hardship upon the student or school.

Request for the consideration of such exceptions shall be acted upon by the Executive Committee not less frequently than three (3) times during each school year. The first meeting for the consideration of such exceptions shall be held during the month of August, the second meeting shall be held during the month of November and third meeting shall be held during the month of March. Other cases may be heard at the discretion of the Executive Committee if the incident causing the hardship occurred between the regular meeting scheduled or the hardship ruling.

Application for the consideration of such exceptions must be made in writing (not email) by the superintendent or principal or athletic director of the member school and should contain all the facts pertinent to the case, including sufficient documentation to make it possible to reach a decision without further investigation. Such application shall be filed in the office of the Executive Director not later than five (5) days before the meeting of the Executive Committee. A personal appearance before the Executive Committee is not necessary and will be allowed only if requested in the application.

Appeals from decisions of the Executive Committee shall proceed in a like manner to the Representative Council.

**ARTICLE VIII APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF**

- Sec. 1. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Representative Council upon recommendation by the Executive Committee.
- Sec. 2. The Executive Director shall be the executive officer in control of daily operations of the organization.
- Sec. 3. The Executive Director shall personally or shall designate a person or persons to collect information, render decisions and fix penalties based on evidence and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Such decisions shall be subject to review by the Executive Committee and/or the Representative Council, upon appeal by the Administration of the Member School or Schools involved.
- Sec. 4. The Executive Director shall try to develop a high type of sportsmanship among schools, athletes, and the general public.
- Sec. 5. Assistant Directors and/or an Associate Director may be appointed. Such Appointments shall be made by the Executive Director with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. In the absence of the Executive Director, the Associate Director or a designated Assistant Director shall act in the capacity of the Executive Director.

## Constitution (Cont'd)

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### ARTICLE IX—FINANCES

- Sec. 1 The Representative Council shall have power to make arrangements for meeting the expenses incident to carrying out the work of the Association.
- Sec. 2 An Audit and Finance Committee consisting of at least three members shall be created. The Audit and Finance Committee shall be chaired by the Secretary-Treasurer and include the President who shall appoint at least one additional member from among the Representative Council who has training and experience in financial policies and procedures. The Audit and Finance Committee shall meet at least once annually. The committee shall review financial reports, including the independently prepared annual audit, and approve a budget of revenue and expenses for submission to the Representative Council for approval for the subsequent fiscal year.

### ARTICLE X—BY-LAWS

The Representative Council shall make such by-laws as may be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this Constitution.

### ARTICLE XI—AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 1. The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the legal and complete ballots returned when mailed to member schools and counted not less than two weeks after mailing.
- Sec. 2. Any member school or conference of schools or the Representative Council may propose amendments to the Constitution. If by a member school, the proposal must be in writing and signed by the principal and superintendent. If by conference, the proposal must be in writing and signed by an administrator of each member school of the conference. Only those proposals which are approved by the Representative Council shall be submitted to the membership for a vote.
- Sec. 3. If the Representative Council fails to submit for a membership vote a proposed amendment to the Constitution, a member school may propose an amendment by submitting to the MHSAA executive director, within 90 days of the Council's action, a petition containing the signatures of the superintendent and principal of one-third of the member schools. Upon certification of the signatures on the petition, the executive director shall prepare a ballot containing the proposed amendment, and present the ballot to the member schools for vote according to Section 1 of this Article.
- Sec. 4. Amendments which are passed by vote of the member schools become effective the next Aug. 1.

## Due Process Procedure

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### DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE

The following Due Process Procedure shall govern the investigation into alleged or contested violations by a party of the Constitution, Bylaws, regulations, rules, or Interpretations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.

1. When admissions of violations occur, penalties may be assessed without regard to these procedures regardless of the date of the violation(s). However, unless specifically requested to do so by the MHSAA Executive Committee or Representative Council, the MHSAA executive director will not conduct or authorize investigatory efforts into alleged violations that ended more than four years prior to the start of such investigation.
2. Inasmuch as a protest is not allowed by the MHSAA when it is based on judgment decisions of officials or misinterpretation or misapplication of playing rules, no investigation which affects the outcome of a contest or the disqualification of players, coaches and other bench personnel shall be conducted into the decisions of contest officials.
3. After the tournament opt-out due date for a sport (after the sixth Friday playing date of the football season), there is no appeal from a decision of the MHSAA executive director concerning issues relating to the conduct of or participation by schools or students in the MHSAA tournament for that sport.
4. As used herein unless the context otherwise requires:
  - (a) Party may mean any of the following or a combination thereof:
    1. Any school which is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., through its officially designated representative (superintendent, principal or athletic director);
    2. Any official, referee, judge or starter who is registered by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc. (Disputes regarding officials' conduct, compliance with the "Code for Athletic Officials," and administration of playing rules and contests are not subject to these procedures but are governed by "Disciplinary Procedures for MHSAA Officials" as written in the MHSAA Officials Guidebook.)
  - (b) When these rules require the "giving of notice," the notice shall be in writing and shall be mailed, by first class United States Mail, to the last known address of the party, or delivered personally.
  - (c) Executive director shall mean the duly appointed and serving executive director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.
  - (d) The designee of the executive director shall mean a person duly appointed by the executive director. Persons eligible to be a designee shall include employees of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc. and all administrators of public or nonpublic Michigan schools which are members of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.
  - (e) Executive Committee shall mean the Executive Committee of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.
  - (f) Investigations shall mean either a review of inquiries by others - including but not limited to the school districts(s) involved, other organizations or individuals, parties involved in litigation, and the media – and/or an independent inquiry by MHSAA staff or designees.
  - (g) Violation shall mean a breach of the rules and standards set forth in the Constitution, Bylaws, regulations, rules, or Interpretations promulgated by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.

### RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. The executive director, or his or her designee may ask the party about whom allegations have been made to conduct an inquiry and report its findings, conclusions and actions. If the party fails to respond or contests the allegations, the executive director or designee may conduct further investigation. Failure of a school to provide the executive director or designee the documentation deemed necessary by the executive director to perform a complete investigation under MHSAA Constitution Article VIII, Section 3 shall result in an immediate requirement that the school show cause before the Executive Committee why it is not in violation of the terms of its Membership Resolution. In reviewing the financial aid practices of schools, identities of individuals will not be required and family privacy will be respected.

## Due Process Procedure (Cont'd)

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2. The executive director or designee shall give notice to the party being investigated within a reasonable time.
3. If a designee conducts the investigation, the designee shall submit a written report to the executive director which shall contain:
  - (a) Findings of fact;
  - (b) An opinion of whether a violation has been committed by the party; and
  - (c) If the opinion is that a violation has been committed by the party, a recommended penalty for the alleged violation.

This written report shall be submitted within a reasonable time after the appointment of designee. The written report will be in no way binding on the executive director.
4. The executive director, after receiving the written report from his or her designee or after completing the investigation personally, shall prepare a preliminary determination which shall contain:
  - (a) Statement of the alleged violation;
  - (b) Proposed findings of fact;
  - (c) A determination of whether a violation has been committed by the party; and
  - (d) If it is determined that a violation has been committed by the party, a proposed penalty to be imposed.

It is permissible for the executive director or designee to provide an expanded infractions report on each case appealed.
5. If the executive director determines a violation has occurred, a copy of the determination shall be given to the party charged with the violation, along with a statement of the right to appeal, if any.
6. A written notice of appeal (not e-mail) by a party to the Executive Committee must be postmarked or received by the executive director within fourteen (14) calendar days after notice of the decision is postmarked or personally delivered. The notice of appeal must be addressed to the executive director.
7. After receiving a timely and valid request to appeal, the executive director or designee shall give notice to the party of the time and place where the appeal will be considered. The appeal shall be at the next meeting of the Executive Committee, or if circumstances require, an earlier meeting may be held pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.
8. All appeals to the Executive Committee shall be in writing on school letterhead, submitted by a school administrator, and contain the basis for the appeal and all facts pertinent to the appeal, including sufficient documentation to make it possible to reach a decision without further investigation. An appeal to the Executive Committee is not de novo. An appearance by the officially designated representative of the member school involved or the MHSAA registered official him/herself will be allowed only if requested in the application. Any designee of the executive director who conducted the investigation may be in attendance and may address the Executive Committee and the appealing party if present. Both the designee(s) and the appellant(s) shall be excused for the Executive Committee's deliberation and vote.
9. The Executive Committee shall render a written decision to the party within a reasonable time after the meeting and shall publish an account of the appeal in Association meeting minutes, setting forth:
  - (a) Findings of fact;
  - (b) A determination of whether a violation has been committed by the party;
  - (c) The penalty imposed if a violation is found to have occurred. The Executive Committee may modify (increase or decrease) or eliminate the penalty (Constitution Article VII, Section 4-D).
10. A written notice of appeal (not e-mail) by a party to the Representative Council must be postmarked or received by the executive director within thirty (30) calendar days after notice of the Executive Committee's decision is postmarked or personally delivered. The notice of appeal must be addressed to the executive director.

## Due Process Procedure (Cont'd)

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11. After receiving a timely and valid request to appeal, the executive director or designee shall give notice to the party of the time and place where the appeal will be considered. The appeal shall be at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Representative Council.
12. All appeals to the Representative Council shall be in writing and contain all facts pertinent to the case, including sufficient documentation to make it possible to reach a decision without further investigation. An appeal to the Representative Council is not de novo. An appearance by the officially designated representative of the member school involved or the MHSAA registered official him/herself will be allowed only if requested in the application. Any designee of the executive director who conducted the investigation may be in attendance and may address the Representative Council and the appealing party if present. Both the designee(s) and the appellant(s) shall be excused for the Representative Council's deliberation and vote.
13. The Representative Council shall render a written decision to the party within a reasonable time after its meeting and shall publish an account of the appeal in Association meeting minutes, setting forth:
  - (a) Findings of fact;
  - (b) A determination of whether a violation has been committed by the party; and
  - (c) The penalty imposed if a violation is found to have occurred. The Representative Council may modify (increase or decrease) or eliminate the penalty (Constitution Article VI, Section 5).

**LEGAL STATUS OF THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**On Aug. 8, 1978, the Attorney General issued Opinion No. 5348 which states in part:**

“As a private nonprofit corporation, the MHSAA has the same rights as any other private nonprofit corporation and may engage in any conduct or activity not prohibited by law or beyond the purpose as stated in its articles of incorporation . . .

**On April 8, 1986, the Attorney General issued Opinion No. 6352 which states in part:**

“MHSAA is not an agency or instrumentality of the state. The tournaments sponsored by MHSAA are a private corporate activity of the association. Public high schools may participate in such tournaments. MHSAA may establish whatever conditions and requirements it sees fit for participation in these tournaments. . .

“The representative council of the MHSAA and its executive committee are not state or local legislative or governing bodies. They are not empowered by the state constitution, statute, charter, ordinance, resolution or rule to exercise authority. The representative council rather, is the board of directors of a private, nonprofit corporation which has as its members both public and private schools. The Open Meetings Act does not purport to apply to private, nonprofit corporations.”

**On July 29, 2004, the Michigan Supreme Court held that the MHSAA is not a public body subject to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act.** The Supreme Court found that the MHSAA is funded neither by nor through a government authority, is not a creation of either state or local government, and is not an agent of schools.

**RESERVATION OF RIGHTS**

Michigan High School Athletic Association tournaments are the collective property of the MHSAA and not of any individual member school. The MHSAA reserves the right to promote and advance the membership's interests with publication information; exclusive arrangements to create recognition and exposure for school-sponsored activities; restrictive policies prohibiting exploitation and commercialization of MHSAA-sponsored tournaments; appropriate proprietary interests; and the use of images or transmissions identifying contest officials, spectators and member schools' students, personnel and marks.

**MHSAA TOURNAMENT TICKET DISCLAIMER**

This ticket is a revocable license to attend an athletic event. The holder of this ticket, on behalf of the holder and any minor accompanying the holder (individually and collectively, the “holder”), agrees to all of the terms hereof. The use of this ticket authorizes an inspection to ensure the absence of prohibited materials, including but not limited to: laser pointers, laser sights, flashlights, noisemakers of any type at indoor events, signs on sticks, confetti and any other materials which may be thrown. Ticket holders assume all risks of lost, stolen or damaged property or personal injury. Spectator videotaping or still photography of this event is allowed strictly for personal, non-commercial purposes only. Ticket holder expressly waives any claims against the MHSAA, local tournament management and their officers, employees, agents, contractors and invitees on account of the risks listed above. By accepting or using this ticket, the holder agrees that he or she will not directly or indirectly aid in transmitting or distributing any picture, account or description (whether text, data or visual) in any media now or hereafter existing of all or any part of this competition or related events. Breach of the foregoing may result in legal action against the holder. The ticket holder grants the MHSAA and local tournament management and their designees the irrevocable permission to use his or her voice or likeness in any media now or hereafter existing in connection with all or any part of this competition or related events, for any purpose whatsoever, including the commercial purposes of the MHSAA, its member schools and their sponsors, licensees, advertisers or broadcasters; without further authorization or compensation. The MHSAA and local tournament management may refuse admission to, or eject, any ticket holder without refund who is deemed to be disorderly or who fails to comply with these terms and all security measures.



## INDEMNIFICATION POLICY

### OF THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, EMPLOYEES, COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND AGENTS

- Sec. 1. The Michigan High School Athletic Association shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the Michigan High School Athletic Association) by reason of the fact that he/she is or was an Executive Committee member, Representative Council member, officer, employee, committee member, or agent of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, or is or was serving at the request of the Michigan High School Athletic Association as an officer, employee, committee member, council member or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise; against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts to be paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him/her in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if he/she acted in good faith and in a manner he/she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his/her conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he/she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe his/her conduct was unlawful.
- Sec. 2. The Michigan High School Athletic Association shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the Michigan High School Athletic Association to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that he/she is or was an Executive Committee member, Representative Council member, officer, employee, committee member, or agent of the Michigan High School Athletic Association or is or was serving at the request of the Michigan High School Athletic Association as a director, officer, employee, committee member, council member or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him/her in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if he/she acted in good faith and in a manner he/she reasonably believed to be in the not opposed to the best interests of the Michigan High School Athletic Association and except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his/her duty to the Michigan High School Athletic Association unless and only to the extent that the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which such court shall deem proper.
- Sec. 3. Any indemnification under Sections 1 and 2 (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by the Michigan High School Athletic Association only as authorized in a specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the Executive Committee member, Representative council member, officer, employee, committee member, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he/she has met the applicable standards of conduct set forth in Sections 1 and 2, and has acted with such care as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under the same or similar circumstances. Such determination shall be made (1) by the Executive Committee by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of Executive Committee members who were not parties to such action, suit or proceeding, or (2) if such a quorum is not obtainable, or even if obtainable, a quorum of disinterested Executive Committee members so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion, or (3) by the Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

## Indemnification Policy (Concl'd)

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- Sec. 4. Expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding may be paid by the Michigan High School Athletic Association in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding as authorized in the manner provided in Section 3 upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the Executive Committee member, Representative Council member, officer, employee, committee member, or agent to repay such amount unless it shall ultimately be determined that he/she is entitled to be indemnified by the Michigan High School Athletic Association as authorized in this indemnification provision.
- Sec. 5. The indemnification provided by this section shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of Representative Council members or disinterested Executive Committee members or otherwise, both as action in his/her official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be an Executive Committee member, Representative Council member, officer, employee, committee member or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.
- Sec. 6. The Michigan High School Athletic Association may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was an Executive Committee member, Representative Council member, officer, employee, committee member, or agent of the Michigan High School Association, or is or was serving at the request of the Michigan High School Athletic Association as a director, officer, employee, committee member or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any liability asserted against him/her and incurred by him/her in any such capacity or arising out of his/her status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him/her against such liability under the provisions of this indemnification provision.
- Sec. 7. This indemnification policy shall be effective for acts and/or omissions occurring on or after May 3, 1998 and shall remain in effect until amended or terminated by the Michigan High School Athletic Association Executive Committee or its successor.
- Sec. 8. Registered officials of the Michigan High School Athletic Association are specifically excluded from this Indemnification Policy as their status is one of independent contractor by definition.

## REGULATIONS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS General Introduction

The member public, private and parochial schools of the Michigan High School Athletic Association have adopted voluntarily, through their elected representatives, three types of regulations to govern interscholastic athletics; and each year the schools which wish to become or remain members of the MHSAA adopt, by local board of education action, a resolution which states that the schools of that district will enforce those regulations. The Attorney General has ruled that local school districts have the authority to adopt MHSAA regulations and when they choose to do so, they have the responsibility to enforce those rules as their own.

**The regulations apply specifically to the following sports, and any other activities to which a member school wishes to apply the regulations: baseball, basketball, bowling, girls competitive cheer, cross country, football, golf, girls gymnastics, ice hockey, boys and girls lacrosse, alpine skiing, soccer, girls softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, girls volleyball, and wrestling, as well as member schools' involvement in activities so closely related to any of these sports that if left unregulated could lead to competitive inequities in one more of these sports.** Throughout these regulations, these listed sports are sometimes referred to as "MHSAA Tournament sports." It is in these sports that the MHSAA conducts postseason tournaments. In these sports the regulations apply in subvarsity, as well as varsity, interscholastic scrimmages as well as games, and regular season as well as MHSAA tournaments.

Consistent with the rulings of the Attorney General and Michigan Supreme Court, schools are not bound by the decisions of the Executive Committee, but the Association may limit participation in the postseason tournaments it sponsors to those schools which apply rules and penalties as promulgated by the MHSAA and adopted by each member school's board of education. The MHSAA exercises no independent authority over schools or students.

One type of regulation provides the rules of eligibility, Regulation I for senior high school students and Regulation III for 7th and 8th-grade students. A second type of regulation provides the rules of competition between schools, Regulation II for senior high schools and Regulation IV for junior high/middle schools. The third type of regulation, found in Regulation V, provides the penalties for violations.

Eligibility regulations (I and III) are minimum requirements. Member schools may adopt more rigid rules than stated in these regulations. The competition regulations (II and IV) are maximum limitations, and schools may adopt more limiting rules than stated in these regulations. In the event of conflict in rules, those of the Michigan High School Athletic Association shall apply if the school is to enter MHSAA tournaments.

Interpretations under each section cannot cover all possible cases which will arise. They will aid in answering questions. Interpretations are numbered consecutively and apply primarily to specific sections under which they appear. When an Interpretation states that a student is eligible, it means eligible insofar as the specific rule at issue is concerned. In order to participate, students must be eligible under all sections as well as local rules.

Refer to MHSAA.com for additional Interpretations and qualifications, as well as for supplementary policies, guidelines and recommendations. The only official Interpretations provided by the MHSAA are those received in writing to questions posed in writing.

No student has the right to participate in the voluntary competitive interscholastic athletic program sponsored and conducted at an MHSAA member school. All students are assumed to be ineligible for participation until they have earned the privilege of participation. They do this by demonstrating that they have met every pre-requisite condition to participation which, at minimum, are the eligibility rules of Regulation I (for high schools) and Regulation III (for junior high/middle schools) and the limitations of competition under Regulation II (for high schools) and Regulation IV (for junior high/middle schools) and the penalties under Regulation V. A student must be eligible under every Section of every Regulation before he or she may compete in a scrimmage or contest.

When administration of a member school determines that a student is ineligible under MHSAA regulations adopted by its board of education, that school's administration may request that the matter be reviewed at a meeting of the MHSAA Executive Committee which may waive the regulation, pursuant to the MHSAA Constitution, Article VII, Section 4E. Note that the maximum age limitation may not be waived.

A request for waiver must be submitted by a school administrator in writing on school letterhead at least five days prior to the Executive Committee meeting and contain the basis for the appeal. All information necessary for the Executive Committee to reach a decision must be included with the written request. E-mailed requests will be accepted if they are on school letterhead.

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## SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL RULES— REGULATIONS I AND II

### Introduction

The membership of the Michigan High School Athletic Association has developed voluntarily through their elected representatives and adopted by each local board of education/governing board a single regulation (Regulation I) with 12 inter-related sections which list the essential eligibility requirements for high school interscholastic athletic competition. These sections establish the threshold (minimum standards) and boundaries (maximum limitations) for all qualified participants within the interscholastic athletic program, and they work together to define and preserve the fundamental nature of the program.

**It is a condition for participation in any MHSAA postseason tournaments that member high schools (teams and students) adhere to at least the minimum standards of Regulation I and the maximum limitations of Regulation II in ALL MHSAA Tournament sports.**

Ninth-graders housed in junior high/middle school buildings must comply with Regulation I. Ninth-graders housed in junior high/middle school buildings who are considered part of the senior high athletic program under Regulation I, Section I(C) must comply with Regulation II. Ninth-graders housed in junior high/middle schools who compete with or against 7th and 8th-graders must comply with Regulation IV.

## REGULATION I—ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

### SECTION 1—ENROLLMENT

#### SECTION 1 (A)—

1. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics during the first semester or the first and second trimesters of the school year, a student must be enrolled in a high school (except as provided in [D] below) not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day.
2. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics during the second semester or the second or third trimester of the school year, a student must be enrolled in a high school (except as provided in [D] below) not later than the fourth Friday of February.
3. Unless a specific exemption is stated in this section or Section 8, a student must be enrolled in and receiving credit (courses awaiting grades for credit) in at least 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student (as explained in Interpretation 46) in the school for which he or she participates.

SECTION 1 (B)—Students of senior high schools who are housed or enrolled in buildings other than the senior high school may be eligible for senior high school athletic teams provided the local board of education has formally approved the arrangement and all other Regulations are followed.

SECTION 1 (C)—Senior high schools are not permitted to use junior high/middle school students, except that senior high schools may draw on the 9th grade of a junior high/middle school for athletes. If the local administration of a system includes the 9th grade of a junior high/middle school with the senior high school for athletic purposes, no 9th-graders may compete as members of junior high/ middle school interscholastic athletic teams (for one exception see Regulation III, Section 12[B]). In such cases the entire 9th-grade enrollment must be included with the high school enrollment for classification purposes, and the 9th-grade athletic program must be under the administration of the high school.

SECTION 1 (D)—High schools or cooperative programs having a total enrollment of less than 100 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, may use, in all sports except football, ice hockey and wrestling, 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 use students from the 7th grade of a member school of the same school system.

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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 271. 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).

**SECTION 1 (E)**—In any sport, two or more member high schools whose combined enrollment does not exceed 1,000 students may conduct, with the approval of the Executive Committee, a Cooperative Program in the specific sports for which application has been made and approval has been granted.

**SECTION 1 (F)**—Two or more member high schools whose combined enrollment does not exceed 3,500 students may conduct, with the approval of the Executive Committee, a Cooperative Program in the following specific sports (sponsored by 250 or fewer schools) for which application has been made and approval has been granted: girls gymnastics, ice hockey, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys alpine skiing, girls alpine skiing, boys swimming & diving, and girls swimming & diving.

If none of the schools involved in a proposed cooperative agreement sponsored the sport at any level on an interscholastic basis during the previous school year, then the 3,500 maximum enrollment may be waived by the Executive Committee. However, the cooperative agreement may not exist beyond three school years.

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 1

1. A student who is not in the 9th grade or higher is not eligible for high school interscholastic athletic competition except as provided in Section 1 (D) and the Eligibility Advancement Provision of Regulation III, Section 2 (C).
2.
  - a. A “semester” is one of two nearly equal in length sessions of the school year for which credit is granted, exclusive of summer sessions.
  - b. A “trimester” is one of three nearly equal sessions of the school year for which credit is granted, exclusive of summer sessions.
  - c. When it is necessary to determine a semester for interscholastic athletic purposes in schools not having defined semesters, or which have “trimesters,” the total number of days of the regular school year shall be divided approximately equally in two halves, as determined by the local board of education, and considered as “semesters.”
  - d. In determining the total number of days, all days on which classes for students are scheduled are to be counted (cancelled school days may be counted). Days on which only practices or contests occur (no classes scheduled) are not counted.
3. In this Section, the word “**enrolled**” means (a) actually having attended in person or online one or more classes in a school as well as the appearance of a student’s name in the official records of that school, or (b) representing that school in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest.
4. Ninth-graders enrolled in a junior high or middle school may participate in the senior high school program if it is in the same building or, if in separate buildings, the following criteria are met:
  - a. The 9th-graders are from a junior high/middle school in the district and are included in the enrollment figures of the single senior high school in that district where the 9th-graders participate; and
  - b. No 9th-graders participate on teams with 7th or 8th-graders in any sport; and
  - c. The 9th-grade athletic program is directed by the senior high school administration (the high school principal must sign the eligibility lists; and schedules, transportation, coaches, expenses, etc., must be under the direction of high school administrators).
  - d. Ninth-graders of a designated junior high/middle school in a school district with multiple junior and senior high schools may be counted for athletic purposes and therefore be eligible in the senior high school designated by residence in those sports not sponsored by their junior high school.
5. Students who are certified by the Individual Educational Planning Team (IEPT) and are assigned for some or all instruction to another MHSAA member high school that sponsors an interscholastic athletic program may be considered eligible at their school of residence or at the school to which they are assigned that sponsors an interscholastic athletic program provided they maintain an enrollment relationship at their school of residence (at minimum, remain involved in the preparation of the IEP). A student may change the school of eligibility one time while in grades 9-12.

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6. Only those schools which submit the MHSAA Enrollment Declaration Form the previous February having a total enrollment of less than 50 or less than 100 students are entitled to use 7th and/or 8th-grade students under Section I (D). These students must be reported on the Master Eligibility List.
7. When students of the 8th grade or 7th and 8th grades are allowed to participate in the 9-12 grade program under Section 1(D), the 8th-grader or 7th and 8th-graders must be enrolled in a MHSAA member junior high/middle school that is a part of the same public or non-public school system. A system does not require the same building or administration, but does require the same governing board.
8. Students of the 8th grade or 7th and 8th grades who are allowed to participate in the 9-12 grade program under Section 1(D) may also participate at the junior high/middle school level; however, once the student has reached the maximum contests or days of competition for junior high/middle school eligibility, he/she can continue at the senior high school only up to the limitation for that particular sport.
9. A 7th or 8th-grade student who plays on a high school team under the provisions of Section I (D) must be identified on the Master Eligibility List.
10. There must be on file in the superintendent's or principal's or athletic director's office a physician's statement and consent to information otherwise protected by FERPA and HIPAA, covering the physical fitness of 7th- or 8th-grade students participating on high school teams (See Regulation I, Section 3).
11. With district administration approval, students in grades seven and eight, or grade nine of a junior high/middle school, may observe high school practices, and schools may conduct separate practices for junior high schools at the same site and time as senior high school students if the schools are part of the same district. However, the senior high school students shall not engage in direct participation with or against junior high/middle school students during such practices. Designations such as "student manager" do not alter this Interpretation. Managers may assist coaches in drills and assist the team in general, but they may not participate in practices as team members do. If it is not the junior high/middle school season or the junior high/middle school does not sponsor the sport, out-of-season coaching controls and/or undue influence rules may apply. MHSAA member high school teams may not practice or compete with or against junior high/middle school students or teams (except as permitted in Regulation I, Section 1 [D]).
12.
  - a. Cooperative Programs are arrangements made for a minimum of two years but may be voided at any time by resolutions of any cooperating board of education. If the agreement is voided before completion of the second year of the cooperative program, the school or schools that terminated the agreement may not enter into another cooperative program in the sports involved in the initial agreement until another two-year period has transpired. Deadlines for dissolution of cooperative programs are May 1 for fall sports and Aug. 15 for all other sports. When programs are dissolved after the above deadlines, it may not be possible to reflect changes to tournament divisions or classifications.
  - b. Cooperative agreements established under Section 1 E (combined enrollments not exceeding 1,000 students) which eventually rise above 1,000 students as established each February will be dissolved prior to the start of the school year in which the new enrollment is effective.
  - c. If the combined enrollment of a Cooperative Program exceeds the original Class or Division in the second year of an agreement, the schools will play in the higher Class or Division of MHSAA tournaments in the sports for which there are cooperative teams.
  - d. A new school which would not be eligible for MHSAA tournaments until its second full year of MHSAA membership may participate in MHSAA tournaments sooner if that school becomes part of a Cooperative Program with a tournament-eligible member school.
  - e. Should the MHSAA Membership Resolution for a school which is a part of a cooperative agreement not be submitted on or before the fourth Friday after Labor Day, students of that school may not participate in any MHSAA tournament including those sports for which the school is part of a cooperative program.
13.
  - a. Cooperative Programs formed by schools of any class in sports sponsored by 250 or fewer schools will be assigned tournament classification corresponding to the total enrollment of the cooperating schools.
  - b. When removing a sport from those listed in Section 1(F), existing Cooperative Programs in those sports are grandfathered; however, each renewal is to be subject to Executive Committee review and approval.
  - c. For classification purposes, cooperative programs established under Section 1 F (newly sponsored sports in excess of 3500 students allowed to operate for three years) must report their plans to the MHSAA by February 1 of the final school year of operation as to how the schools and team(s) will be operating under 3500 students in the fourth and subsequent years.
  - d. Cooperative programs whose schools' combined enrollment as declared on the Enrollment Declaration Form in February exceeds 3,500 students or the enrollment limit of Section 1 (E) will not be allowed to operate in the coming school year.

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14. Deadlines for newly forming Cooperative Programs are April 15 for fall sports, Aug. 15 for winter sports and Oct. 15 for spring season sports. When one or more of the schools making application for a Cooperative Program is established and opened after the fall and winter deadlines, application may be made until MHSAA tournament assignments are made for the sport(s) involved or Oct. 15, whichever occurs first.

### SECTION 2—AGE

**SECTION 2 (A)**—A student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contests must be under nineteen (19) years of age, except that a student whose nineteenth (19th) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year. Any student born before Sept. 1, 1995, is ineligible for interscholastic athletics at an MHSAA member school in a MHSAA Tournament sport. See Regulation III Section 2 (C) for Eligibility Advancement.

**SECTION 2 (B)**—The Executive Committee may consider an exception to the maximum age limitation for up to one year only (student not to exceed age 20 prior to Sept. 1) for students (1) who, following medical documentation sufficient to establish that they had a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act and/or the Persons With Disabilities Civil Rights Act, were delayed in their education progress prior to their initial enrollment in the 9th grade in any school solely by reason of such disability; and (2) who at the time of the request for waiver are determined by the Executive Committee (a) to not present a significant risk of injury to themselves, teammates or opponents, and (b) to not create a competitive advantage in comparison to teammates and opponents. The burden of proof regarding these factors rests with the party seeking the waiver; the Executive Committee has no duty to conduct an independent inquiry. If the Executive Committee determines in its sole discretion that it is impossible to make a determination about a particular student's competitive advantage or physical risk, it is not required to consider the request any further.

Waiver may be approved in the Executive Committee's sole discretion only for students who are documented by qualified medical professionals to have a disability which at the time of the request for waiver limits both physical and either intellectual or emotional capabilities. The disability must have a direct and significant negative impact on the student's physical athletic ability. Policies and procedures for submission and review of waiver requests shall be determined by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may develop a list of disabilities recognized by the medical community to severely diminish both physical and either intellectual or emotional capacity that may qualify for review. If the Executive Committee chooses to develop such a list, each individual for whom waiver is approved must be determined by the Executive Committee to meet all criteria for waiver; no approval is automatic.

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 2

15. The following precedence in records of dates of birth has been established by the Representative Council: 1—Birth Certificate (Filed on or near date of birth, not affidavit type filed later); 2—Baptismal Record; 3—School Record: (a) Child Accounting, (b) Census, (c) Other School Records; 4—Affidavits: (a) Attending Physician, (b) Mid-Wife, (c) Delayed Birth Certificate—Affidavit Type, (d) Parents, (e) Student.

### SECTION 3—PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

**SECTION 3 (A)**—No student shall be eligible to represent a high school for whom there is not on file in the offices of the superintendent or principal or athletic director of that school, signed statements for the current school year certifying that (1) the student has passed a physical examination and is physically able to compete in athletic tryouts, practices and contests and (2) there has been consent for disclosure to the MHSAA of information otherwise protected by FERPA and HIPAA for the purpose of determining eligibility for interscholastic athletics.

**SECTION 3 (B)** - The penalties for failure to have a physical examination on file as stated in this section include those of Regulation V, Section 4 except that forfeiture will not be required if consent to information otherwise protected by FERPA and HIPAA are absent from the physical form or not on file. Once discovered, the individual student whose form is in question shall not be eligible to participate until the consent form and physical are both on file.

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 3**

16. The physical examination form must be signed by the M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner who administers the physical examination.
17. A school may use a locally created physical examination card and consent form or an MHSAA-provided form in complying with this Section; but in all instances there must be at least (a) a signed statement by the medical examiner (M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner) that the student is physically able to compete in the athletic activity concerned and (b) a signed statement by the parent or guardian or 18 year-old student for consent to the disclosure to the MHSAA of information otherwise protected by FERPA and HIPAA for the purpose of determining eligibility for interscholastic athletics.
18. Athletic equipment should not be issued and students must not be allowed to try out or practice until an acceptable signed statement of physical examination and consent has been provided.
19. A statement for the current school year is interpreted as any physical examination given on or after April 15 of the previous school year.
20. In cases of serious injury or extended illness, including concussion or symptoms of concussion and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest, there must be a statement signed by the examining MD, DO, Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner that the student has been examined and is physically able to return to athletic tryouts, practices and contests. In addition, failure to comply with the concussion protocols shall result in forfeiture of contests (see MHSAA Concussion Protocols page 111).

**SECTION 4—MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT**

**SECTION 4 (A)—A student shall not compete in athletics who has been enrolled in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, for more than eight semesters or 12 trimesters. The seventh and eighth semesters of enrollment or the 10th, 11th and 12th trimesters of enrollment must be consecutive. Enrollment in a school beyond the fourth Friday after Labor Day (of the first semester or trimester) or fourth Friday of February (of the second semester), or the fourth Friday of the second or third trimesters, or competing in one or more interscholastic athletic scrimmages or contests, shall be considered as enrollment for a semester or trimester, respectively, under this Section.**

**SECTION 4(B) — If a student has been enrolled in a school (or schools) that has used both semester and trimester academic systems, all sessions are to be converted to semesters for the purpose of determining maximum enrollment. See Interpretation 21.**

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 4**

21.
  - a. **A "semester"** is one of two nearly equal in length sessions of the school year for which credit is granted, exclusive of summer sessions.
  - b. **A "trimester"** is one of three nearly equal sessions of the school year for which credit is granted, exclusive of summer sessions.
  - c. When it is necessary to determine a semester for interscholastic athletic purposes in schools not having defined semesters, or which have "trimesters," the total number of days of the regular school year shall be divided approximately equally in two halves, as determined by the local board of education, and considered as "semesters."
  - d. In determining the total number of days, all days on which classes are scheduled are to be counted (cancelled school days may be counted). Days on which only practices or contests occur (no classes scheduled) are not counted.
22.
  - a. **Semester withdrawals:** If a student withdraws from school (is marked "left" or "moved" or "withdrawn" or a notation of similar intent) on or before the fourth Friday on the yearly calendar after Labor Day of the first semester or fourth Friday of February of the second semester, and has not participated in an interscholastic athletic scrimmage or contest prior to withdrawal that semester, the period of attendance is not charged as a semester of enrollment.
  - b. **Trimester withdrawals:** If a student withdraws from school (is marked "left" or "moved" or "withdrawn" or a notation of similar intent) on or before the fourth Friday on the yearly calendar after Labor Day of the first trimester or fourth Friday on the yearly calendar of the second or third trimester, and has not participated in an interscholastic athletic scrimmage or contest prior to withdrawal that trimester, the period of attendance is not charged as a trimester of enrollment.
  - c. Enrollment beyond the fourth Friday on the yearly calendar of either the first or second trimester also counts as a first semester of enrollment should it be necessary to consider this for a student who is later



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- subject to a semester system. Likewise, enrollment beyond the fourth Friday on the yearly calendar of either the second or third trimester of the school year also counts as a second semester of enrollment.
23. When a student leaves a school, the date marked "left" on the school attendance records will be regarded as official.
  24. 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. If the student is taking the same amount in both grades, he/she shall be considered enrolled in the 8th 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).
  25. If a student is suspended or expelled from school for one or more semesters or trimesters, those sessions do not count against the maximum enrollment (Interpretation 22 applies).
  26. If a student drops out of school of his or her own choice for one or more semesters or trimesters, those sessions do not count against the maximum enrollment (Interpretation 22 applies).
  27. If a student who has completed the 8th grade enrolls at another school, including a school in a foreign country, a home school, university, early or middle college, junior college or college on a credit or non-credit basis, these sessions do count as semesters or trimesters of enrollment.

### SECTION 5—MAXIMUM COMPETITION

**SECTION 5 (A)—A student, once enrolled in grade 9 pursuant to Section 4, shall be allowed to compete in only four first and four second semesters or four first, four second and four third trimesters. A student who is ineligible for exceeding the maximum number of first semesters or the maximum number of first or second trimesters has no further eligibility in any semester or trimester at any MHSAA member school.**

**SECTION 5 (B)—A student shall be limited to participation in only one sports season when that sport, leading to a MHSAA championship, is sponsored twice during the school year.**

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 5

28. a. A "semester" is one of **two** nearly equal in length sessions of the school year for which credit is granted, exclusive of summer sessions.  
b. A "trimester" is one of **three** nearly equal sessions of the school year for which credit is granted, exclusive of summer sessions.  
c. When it is necessary to determine a semester for interscholastic athletic purposes in schools not having defined semesters, or which have "trimesters," the total number of days of the regular school year shall be divided approximately equally in two halves, as determined by the local board of education, and considered as "semesters."  
d. In determining the total number of days, all days on which classes are **scheduled** are to be counted (cancelled school days may be counted). Days on which only practices or contests occur (no classes scheduled) are **not** counted.
29. If a student who is enrolled in grades 9 through 12 and is eligible for athletics chooses not to participate in athletics for one or more semesters or trimesters or does not participate because no sports are offered or a particular sport is not available, those sessions count against the maximums of enrollment and competition.
30. If a student who is enrolled in grades 9 through 12 is ruled ineligible for any reason for one or more semesters or trimesters, those sessions count against the maximums of competition.
31. Participation in one or more interscholastic athletic scrimmages or contests is considered as a semester or trimester of competition and should be so included on the Master Eligibility List under the heading "Number of Seasons of Participation in This Sport Including Present Season."
32. Students who represent their school on a boys team (game, meet or scrimmage) shall not be eligible to compete on a girls team during the same school year in the same sport if that sport is conducted in separate seasons. Likewise, those who participate on the girls team may not compete on the boys team in the same school year in the same sport if that sport is conducted in separate seasons.
33. Co-Ed Relay Teams are permitted at Relay Invitational Track Meets.

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SECTION 6—UNDERGRADUATE STANDING

**SECTION 6—A student who is a graduate of a regular four-year high school or who is a graduate of a secondary school which has the same requirements for graduation as a regular four-year high school shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics. However, a student who satisfactorily completes the required number of credits for graduation in less than eight semesters or 12 trimesters shall not be barred from interscholastic athletic competition, while passing at least 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student of undergraduate work, until the end of the eighth semester or 12th trimester as far as the provisions of this Section are concerned.**

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 6**

34. **A graduate** is a student who has accepted a diploma, including the GED, or whose name appeared on the official list of graduates, or who has been voted a diploma or a certificate of completion by a board of education.
35. A student who graduates at the end of the first semester or first or second trimester is ineligible on the first day of the following semester or trimester on which regularly scheduled classes are actually held. A student who graduates at the end of the second semester or third trimester is ineligible at the close of the regular-season athletic activities of the school or its participation in the MHSAA tournament whichever is later.
36. A regularly enrolled undergraduate high school student may take courses in advance of the high school level during any semester or trimester of a current school year. These courses may be included for high school graduation credit and for athletic eligibility purposes when previous and current academic credit eligibility reports are made in accordance with provisions of Sections 7 and 8 of Regulation I.

**SECTION 7—PREVIOUS ACADEMIC CREDIT RECORD**

**SECTION 7 (A)—No student shall compete in any athletic contest or scrimmage who does not have to his or her credit in the official records of the school to be represented, at least 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student for the last semester/trimester during which he or she shall have been enrolled in grades 9 to 12, inclusive. A student entering the 9th grade for the first time, except those who participated under Regulation I, Section 1(D) or who had eligibility advanced under Regulation III, Section 2 (C), may compete without reference to his/her record in the 8th grade.**

**SECTION 7 (B)—In determining the full credit load potential for a full-time student and courses passed during a semester or trimester under this Section, the usual credit allowed by the school shall be given (See Interpretation 46). However, reviews and extracurricular work, and work for which credit previously has been received, shall not be counted.**

**SECTION 7 (C)—Deficiencies in credits of the previous semester/trimester (not current semester/trimester), including incompletes, conditions, and failures from a previous semester/trimester may be made up during a subsequent semester/trimester, summer session, night school, by correspondence, online or by tutoring, as long as a school's policies are applied equally to all student-athletes without regard to athletic performance or potential. Eligibility may be reinstated during the next semester/trimester when the school accepts the credit. It is not required under the MHSAA minimum standards that courses used to make up a deficiency of credit be the same as a course not passed in the previous academic term.**

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 7**

37. Two current and complete documents are prerequisites for participation in interscholastic athletics.
  - a. A physical examination/consent statement for the school year, which must be completed and on file at the school before that student's first participation in a practice (see Regulation I, Section 3); and
  - b. An official record of the school that shows the student's academic and enrollment record since that student's first enrollment in 9th grade of any school, which must be on file at the school before that student's first participation in a game, scrimmage or meet.
38.
  - a. A **"semester"** is one of **two** nearly equal in length sessions of the school year for which credit is granted, exclusive of summer sessions.
  - b. A **"trimester"** is one of **three** nearly equal sessions of the school year for which credit is granted, exclusive of summer sessions.
  - c. When it is necessary to determine a semester for interscholastic athletic purposes in schools not having

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defined semesters, the total number of days of the regular school year shall be divided approximately equally in two halves, as determined by the local board of education, and considered as “semesters.”

- d. In determining the total number of days, all days on which classes for students are **scheduled** are to be counted (cancelled school days may be counted). Days on which only practices or contests occur (no classes scheduled) are **not** counted.
39. If a student transfers from a school using semesters to a school using trimesters, and does so before the end of a semester, the previous semester record for the purposes of this Section is the most recent completed semester. For example, eligibility at the start of the second trimester at the new school depends on the academic status of this transfer student at the end of the second semester of the previous school year at the former school.
40. a. **Semester Withdrawals:** If a student withdraws from school (is marked “left” or “moved” or “withdrawn” or a notation of similar intent) before the fourth Friday on the yearly calendar after Labor Day of the first semester or fourth Friday of February of the second semester, and has not participated in an interscholastic athletic scrimmage or contest prior to withdrawal that semester, the period of attendance is not charged as a semester of enrollment; and the student’s immediately preceding semester of actual enrollment is used to determine eligibility under this Section.
- b. **Trimester Withdrawals:** If a student withdraws from school (is marked “left” or “moved” or “withdrawn” or a notation of similar intent) before the fourth Friday on the yearly calendar after Labor Day of the first trimester or fourth Friday on the yearly calendar of the second or third trimester, and has not participated in an interscholastic athletic scrimmage or contest prior to withdrawal that trimester, the period of attendance is not charged as a trimester of enrollment; and the student’s immediately preceding trimester of actual enrollment is used to determine eligibility under this Section.
41. a. If the academic term of a non-traditional school or program is different than the academic term of the base original school, students shall follow applicable regulations and Interpretations of the base/ original school insofar as the academic credit record regulations are concerned.
- b. Students who participate in cooperative agreements shall be subject to the regulations and academic term of the school in which they are enrolled.
- c. Students who transfer schools and who are eligible insofar as the transfer regulation is concerned shall be subject to the period of ineligibility at the new school of enrollment with respect to the previous academic credit record regulation (trimester schools, one trimester; non-trimester schools, 60 scheduled school days which may include days enrolled at the former school).
42. **Trimester Schools:** In accordance with Section 7 (A) students who have not received 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student are ineligible for the next trimester unless the deficiencies are made up as under Section 7 (C).  
Except for the conditions of Section 7(C), change in the eligibility status of a trimester student under this Section shall occur:
1. **First trimester:** on the first day of practice or competition for the school team.
  2. **Second or third trimester:** on the first day of the new trimester on which classes for students are scheduled.

**Note:** In both (1) and (2) above in order to restore eligibility, the student must have received credit for 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student during the trimester of their ineligibility.

**Schools Not Using Trimesters:** Students who have not received 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student in the previous academic term are ineligible from the day grades are reported at the term’s end through and including the 60th scheduled school day as defined under Interpretation 2d. or 38 unless the deficiencies are made up as under Section 7 (C).

Except for the conditions of Section 7(C), change in the eligibility status of a student not in a trimester school under this Section shall occur on the first scheduled day of classes for students following 60 scheduled school days of ineligibility provided the student is currently passing 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student for those 60 days.

**Note 1:** Students who are ineligible for 60 scheduled school days due to previous academic term deficiencies may regain eligibility through a check of their grades at the end of the 60-day period of ineligibility or the nearest regular check conducted by the school after the 60-day period of ineligibility. Such grade checks must be for cumulative academic performance from the first day of classes of the academic term.

**Note 2:** Students not passing 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full time student on the 60th scheduled school day are ineligible until passing this standard. These students become eligible on the first scheduled day of classes for students once passing the standard (it could be a matter of days, weeks, months or not at all). Eligibility may be reinstated when the school accepts the credit.

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43. Eighth-grade students become eligible at the senior high at the beginning of the fall practice date as determined by the MHSAA, except as permitted in Regulation I, Section I(D).
44. If a United States student enrolls in school in a foreign country but receives no grades or credit for those studies and does not participate in interscholastic athletics, then enrolls in a member school in Michigan, the previous session academic record is based on the most recent semester or trimester in a United States school.
45. Students who are certified by the Individual Educational Planning Team (IEPT) are eligible under Regulation I, Section 7 provided they have completed satisfactorily the equivalent of at least 66 percent of the course of study prescribed by the IEPT for the most recent previous semester or trimester. There may be modification in the curriculum or additional services or support.

### SECTION 8—CURRENT ACADEMIC CREDIT RECORD

**SECTION 8—Academic eligibility checks of not more than 10 weeks (semesters) or seven weeks (trimesters) are required. If a student is not passing at least 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student when checked, that student is ineligible for competition until the next check but not less than for the next Monday through Sunday. If the next eligibility check reveals the student is still not passing at least 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student, that student is ineligible for competition for not less than the next Monday through Sunday, and so on until the student is passing 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student from the start of the semester or trimester through the most recent eligibility check.**

#### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 8

46. In schools whose classes are approximately equal in length, “receiving credit” (as in Section 7) or “passing” (as in Section 8) 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student is defined here and throughout these regulations as meeting requirements of courses for which credit toward graduation or a certificate of completion would be granted by the school. Except as provided under Note 2 below, the credit load potential shall be the same for all students enrolled in the school to be represented. The minimum would be met, for example, by the following:
  - Passing 3 of 4 classes
  - Passing 4 of 5 classes
  - Passing 4 of 6 classes
  - Passing 5 of 7 classes
  - Passing 6 of 8 classes

The minimum would **not** be met by students receiving credit for or passing 3 of 5 or 4 of 7 classes (assuming all classes are nearly the same length).

**Note 1:** When determining the full credit load potential, schools need not count “zero hour” courses where a small portion of the student body is enrolled; however, grades from a zero hour course may be included in calculating an individual student’s percentage of courses credited or passed.

**Note 2:** Individual students whose normal credit load potential at the school of participation is reduced due to travel to, enrollment in or attendance at a school-approved off-campus program, (for example, college courses or vocational education) may have a credit load potential calculated differently than other students in the school but to not less than 50% of full credit load potential for a full time student. This determination shall be made in advance of the academic term and only be applied to the individual students involved in the off campus program and to the specific academic term when the off-campus program is conducted. The student must be passing at least 66% of the reduced course load at the school where he or she participates.

**Note 3:** If classes are different lengths, students must pass 66 percent of the potential minutes for a full-time student’s regular class cycle (usually one or two weeks). Passing time is not included in these calculations.

47. a. Courses taken in a school other than the one in which a student is enrolled (eg. vocational education) may be counted toward athletic eligibility in the school of actual enrollment provided arrangements for current eligibility reports are made between the two schools in accordance with the provision of this section.
- b. **Long distance learning and online courses** may be counted toward athletic eligibility in the school of actual enrollment provided the school to be represented is granting current credit toward graduation or a certificate of completion in measured units over a pre-determined period of time similar to traditional trimester or semester terms. Arrangements for current eligibility reports corresponding to the reports of the school of participation must be in accordance with the provisions of this Section.
48. a. If a student is enrolled in a non traditional program **administered directly by the school district**, and that program does not have an interscholastic athletic program, that student is eligible at the base school

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as defined in d. below, provided all conditions of eligibility are met and the base school named the specific non-traditional program on the Enrollment Declaration Form submitted the previous February and included in its MHSAA membership count on that form all students that are enrolled in this non traditional program.

- b. If a student is enrolled in a non traditional program administered through a consortium of more than one school district, and that program does not have an interscholastic athletic program, that student is eligible at the base school as defined in d. below, provided all other conditions of eligibility are met and the base school named the specific non-traditional program on the Enrollment Declaration Form submitted the previous February and included in its MHSAA membership count on that form all students that are enrolled in this non-traditional program who reside in that district or attendance area of a multi-high school district.
- c. If a student is enrolled in a non traditional program administered by a single school district that has more than one high school, and that program does not have an interscholastic athletic program, that student is eligible at the base school as defined in d. below provided all other conditions of eligibility are met and the base school named the specific non-traditional program on the Enrollment Declaration Form submitted the previous February and included in its MHSAA membership count on that form all students who reside in the attendance area of the school or who were randomly assigned to that school.
- d. The **base school** for a first time 9th-grader or for a student whose base (original) school has ceased to operate is the public high school which serves his/her residence, as described in Interpretation 61 or the public school academy or non-public school closest to the student's residence as described in Interpretation 62. The **base school** for a student previously enrolled in grades nine through twelve (unless that student has transferred and is immediately eligible under one of the exceptions to the transfer rule) is that school in which the student has most recently been enrolled prior to being enrolled in the non-traditional program (See Note 2 for transfer students and non-traditional programs).

**Note 1:** See page 95, Classification of MHSAA Member Schools - Item 8 for instructions on counting and listing students in a non-traditional school or program.

**Note 2: Non-Traditional School /Program Transfer Students**

A student who enrolls from a non-traditional school or program (administered by that student's base/original school) into the base/original school is not considered to be transferring between schools, insofar as the transfer regulation is concerned, regardless of whether the base school counts nontraditional students on its Enrollment Declaration Form.

A student who enrolls from one school district into a non-traditional school of another school district which is not affiliated with that student's base/original school will be determined under the transfer regulation.

- a. The student may be eligible if he or she meets a stated exception or interpretation, or becomes eligible at the date specified in Section 9(D).
- b. The period of ineligibility stated under Section 9(D) may be served while enrolled in the non-traditional program which is affiliated with the subsequent school of enrollment or participation."
- c. First-time 9th-graders have immediate eligibility at the base/original school that serves his/her residence"
- d. A first-time 9th grade student whose intention it is to attend a non-traditional school or program and then participate in athletics at a school **other than his or her base school** may only have immediate eligibility at that non- base school if the student has formally registered to attend that non-base school prior to enrollment as defined under MHSAA regulations. If this condition is not met the student would become eligible on the date specified in Section 9 D (transfer regulation). All other applicable regulations apply. Immediate eligibility under this provision is allowed one time. The member school must also name the non-traditional program and count its students as specified in the regulations on the Enrollment Declaration Form.
- e. The eligibility of a student (who is not a first-time 9th grader) who enrolls (see Interpretation 98) from a non-traditional school into a traditional school which is not that student's base/original school will be determined under the transfer regulation. The student may be eligible if he or she meets a stated exception or interpretation, or becomes eligible at the date specified in Section 9(D).

**Note 3:** See Interpretation 176 which allows a non-traditional school or program to have three (3) contests or days of competition for boys and three (3) for girls per season which are an outgrowth of the intramural program which would not, in and of themselves, classify the non-traditional school or program as having an interscholastic athletic program. These events need not follow eligibility regulations, but no one participating in such activities is eligible to represent the traditional school in that sport on an interscholastic team that season.

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49. If a student is enrolled in the **adult education or night school** of his/her community for at least some courses and receives credit toward graduation at the high school in the district of his/her residence, that student may be eligible for interscholastic athletics provided local school policy allows and the student is receiving current credit (courses awaiting grades for credit at the school of participation) and passing the equivalent of 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student overall which count toward the graduation or certification of completion requirements of the high school to be represented.
50. If a student is enrolled in a high school (including a home school) from which he or she expects to graduate, and where the student's basic records are filed, **and that school sponsors no interscholastic athletic program in any sport**, such student may take "shared time" work in another school. That student may participate in interscholastic athletic activities as a representative of the second school immediately upon enrollment at the second school, provided the student is receiving current credit (courses awaiting grades for credit at the school of participation) and passing a minimum of 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student in the latter school, and complies with all other MHSAA Eligibility Regulations.  
**Note:** If, after 90 scheduled school days or more of dual enrollment, an eligible "shared time" student becomes a full-time student of the second school where the student already had athletic eligibility and there is no interruption in his/her enrollment at that school, the student is immediately eligible under the transfer regulation (**See Interpretation 2d.**)
51. If a student is enrolled in a high school which **does** have an interscholastic athletic program and from which he or she expects to graduate and where the student's basic records are filed, **and that school does not provide courses which that student desires and can take at another school for credit at the first school**, that student may take even a majority of his or her course work at that other school and remain eligible at the first school provided the student is receiving current credit (courses awaiting grades for credit at the school of participation) and passing overall a minimum of 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student at the school to be represented. The student is not eligible at the second school.
52. If a student who has been attending a high school for at least the two most recent previous semesters or three most recent previous trimesters enrolls in another MHSAA member high school that offers a **specialized curriculum** which is not available in the curriculum of the previous school, that student may continue to be eligible for athletic teams of the previous school in sports not sponsored by the **specialized school**, provided the student is taking and passing overall at least 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student at the school to be represented, there are regular academic reports between schools, and there is compliance with all other Eligibility Regulations of the MHSAA and both schools.  
**Note:** If a student who remains eligible at his/her school under this Interpretation subsequently transfers back to the original school directly from the specialized school, that student is immediately eligible under the transfer regulation.
53. The determination of whether the specialized curriculum of one school without a sport is not available in the curriculum of a school with that sport shall be made by the school providing the sport. The majority of courses provided by the school without the sport must be different in type (not degree of difficulty) from those available at the school with the sport. The two schools may set up academic reporting procedures that suit them, as long as they meet the minimum requirement of providing academic progress reports at least every ten weeks. The two schools determine for themselves how to share state funding for the student and what, if any, athletic participation fee is appropriate.
54. If a regularly enrolled undergraduate high school student takes courses **in advance of (higher than) the high school level** during a semester or trimester of a current school year, these courses may be included for high school graduation credit and for athletic eligibility purposes when arrangements of current academic session eligibility reports are made in accordance with provisions of this Section.
55. Only that work for which a school allows credit toward graduation or certification of completion, except as explained in Interpretation 47a., shall be counted to determine athletic eligibility.
56. A system of identifying athletes who are not passing 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student is to be implemented by each school system to avoid using ineligible players. Passing or failing in a class is not based on a particular day or week or marking period, but from the first day of the semester or trimester until the day of the eligibility check.
57. A student's eligibility depends on a passing grade from the beginning of the semester or trimester to the date of the eligibility check. If an athlete is not passing at least 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student when checked, that athlete becomes ineligible for competition for the next Monday through Sunday. Eligibility is reinstated after the seven day period and a grade check indicates the student is passing 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student. Reinstatement occurs the following Monday.

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58.
  - a. A “**semester**” is one of **two** nearly equal in length sessions of the school year for which credit is granted, exclusive of summer sessions.
  - b. A “**trimester**” is one of **three** nearly equal sessions of the school year for which credit is granted, exclusive of summer sessions.
  - c. When it is necessary to determine a semester for interscholastic athletic purposes in schools not having defined semesters, or which have “trimesters,” the total number of days of the regular school year shall be divided approximately equally in two halves, as determined by the local board of education, and considered as “semesters.”
  - d. In determining the total number of days, all days on which classes for students are **scheduled** are to be counted (cancelled school days may be counted). Days on which only practices or contests occur (no classes scheduled) are **not** counted.
59. Students who are certified by an Individual Educational Planning Team (IEPT) are eligible under Regulation I, Section 8 provided they are completing satisfactorily the equivalent of at least 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student prescribed by the IEPT for the current semester or trimester. There may be modification in the curriculum or additional services or support.

### SECTION 9—TRANSFERS

**SECTION 9 (A)—A student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 who transfers from one high school or junior high/middle school to another high school is not immediately eligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest or scrimmage in the school to which the student transfers, UNLESS the student qualifies under one or more of the following Exceptions and all related Interpretations (See Section 9[D] for students who do not qualify for one of the exceptions or interpretations, and Section 9 [G] for MHSAA Tournament Eligibility and Interpretations 83-89 for eligibility of international students):**

1. A student makes a full and complete residential change as defined throughout this Section to a different public high school district with the persons with whom he or she was living for at least the last 30 calendar days during his or her most recent previous high school enrollment (not summer school). See Interpretation 67.
2. A student who has not been living with either parent or parents and moves into (changes his or her residence to) a different public high school district to reside with his or her parents, the single parent if divorced, or only living parent who already reside in that district or attendance area of a multi-high school district. The change is permitted with immediate eligibility only one time in grades 9 through 12.
3. A student is a ward of the court or state and is required to reside in a public high school district or school service area by court order. Guardianship does not fulfill this requirement.
4. An International student on either a J-1 or F-1 visa is placed in a residence in a public high school district or school service area by an MHSAA Approved International Student Program (See Interpretation 83). Compliance with Interpretations 83-89 is required.
5. A student marries and establishes a new residence in a different public high school district or different attendance area of a multi-high school district.
6. A student transfers to another school because his or her school ceases to operate. See Interpretation 90.
7. A student in attendance at a school designated by the governing body of that school as the result of reorganization of attendance areas, consolidation or annexation, or at the public school in the district where he or she resides. See Interpretation 90.
8. A student of parents who are divorced moves from one public high school district into a different public high school district (changes his or her residence) with or to one of those parents, and the principal of each of the two schools involved signs the Educational Transfer Form which certifies the reason for the move as it relates to the divorce and the transfer is not significantly related to or motivated by athletics. Eligibility under this exception is permitted once and must be approved by the Executive Director before the student competes in interscholastic athletic competition. See Interpretation 92 if parents never married. The student is not eligible until the form is completed and returned to the new school signed by the MHSAA Executive Director. Only updated forms (MHSAA.com) will be accepted.
9. A student is transferred within a school system, for other than athletic or disciplinary reasons, as a result of an initiative and order by the board of education or the governing body of a private or parochial school system, specific to the student(s) involved. See Interpretation 80.

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10. A student enters in the 9th grade of a four-year high school and has not been previously enrolled in the 9th grade or a student completes the 9th and highest grade of a junior high/middle school in which he or she was enrolled for at least the two most recent consecutive school years and enrolls for the first time in the 10th grade of a three-year or four-year high school, and has not previously been eligible by the school district's structure to participate in the interscholastic athletic program of a three-year or four-year high school.
11. A student completes the last grade available to any students in the school system previously attended.
12. A student eighteen (18) years or older moves out of one public high school district or attendance area of the multi-high school district and into a different public high school district or attendance area (changes his or her residence), without being accompanied by a parent or parents, and both principals sign the Educational Transfer Form certifying the transfer is in the best educational interest of the student and the transfer is not significantly related to or motivated by athletics. Eligibility under this exception is permitted once and must be approved by the Executive Director before the student competes in interscholastic athletic competition. The student is not eligible until the form is completed and returned to the new school signed by the MHSAA Executive Director. Only updated forms (MHSAA.com) will be accepted.
13. A student becomes a bona fide boarding student of a boarding school, as defined in the school code, and the principal of each of the two schools involved signs the Educational Transfer Form certifying the transfer is not significantly related to or motivated by athletics. Eligibility under this exception is permitted once and must be approved by the Executive Director before the student competes in interscholastic athletic competition. The student is not eligible until the form is completed and returned to the new school signed by the MHSAA Executive Director. Only updated forms (MHSAA.com) will be accepted.
14. A student returns to the high school from which he/she was expelled by the board of education/governing body after successfully completing the expelling board of education's/governing body's documented pre-existing criteria. Athletic eligibility would require (a) the student passed at least 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student during each semester/trimester of attendance at another school, (b) that student did not participate for any school in any MHSAA Tournament sport during the expulsion, and (c) the student is eligible in all other ways. The transfer is permitted one time.
15. A student enrolls on the first day of the first grading period of a high school which is being established and opened for the first time and has not represented another school in interscholastic scrimmages or contests in any sport that school year.

Note: Many common reasons for changing schools are NOT exceptions to the period of ineligibility, including but not limited to the following: "school of choice" enrollment after once starting the 9th grade, guardianship, transferring into one's school of residency after high school enrollment elsewhere, transferring from a school because it does not sponsor a sport, cancels or adds a sports team, etc. These students are ineligible as stated in Section 9D.

**SECTION 9 (B)**— The Executive Committee has the authority to approve immediate eligibility at the subvarsity level for transferring 9th or 10th-grade students (after entering 9th grade, before completing 10th grade) who have not previously participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in any MHSAA sport at the high school level (whether MHSAA member schools or not) and who do not qualify for one of the 15 stated exceptions to the transfer regulation and have transferred for reasons having nothing to do with athletics, discipline or family finances and would not require Executive Committee evaluation or comparison of school demographics or curriculum.

**SECTION 9 (C)**— The Executive Committee has the authority to approve immediate eligibility for students transferring between schools involved in a Cooperative Agreement. Immediate eligibility may only be granted in the sport(s) in which the student actually was a team member during the previous season and the transfer has nothing to do with athletics, discipline or family finances and would not require Executive Committee evaluation or comparison of school demographics or curriculum. Reasons for the transfer must be clearly stated and support presented from both schools. The transfer is permitted one time.

**SECTION 9 (D)**—

1. Except for the conditions of Sections 9E or 9F, a student who does not qualify for one of the exceptions under Section 9(A) and has transferred (changed enrollment) by the fourth Friday after Labor Day, becomes eligible for interscholastic scrimmages and contests the following Martin Luther King Day (Monday) regardless if classes are actually conducted on that day.



2. Except for the conditions of Sections 9E or 9F, a student who does not qualify for one of the exceptions under Section 9(A) and has transferred (changed enrollment) by the fourth Friday of February, becomes eligible for interscholastic scrimmages and contests the following Aug. 1.
3. For certain requests approved by the Executive Committee, the period of ineligibility is 90 scheduled school days from the date of enrollment in the receiving school. See Interpretation 99.

**SECTION 9 (E)**— When the administration of the school from which a student who is ineligible under 9 (A) has transferred, alleges that the motivation for the transfer is primarily for athletic reasons, the granting of eligibility as in Section 9(D) is not automatic. The burden of proof will be for the administration of the accusing school to demonstrate to the MHSAA Executive Director or designee that the transfer has more to do with interscholastic athletics than with other compelling factors. A transfer for athletic reasons is defined as, but not limited to:

1. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, is dissatisfied with the student's position or the amount of playing time which he/she receives;
2. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, has a problem with a coach at either a personal or professional level;
3. The student, or parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, seeks relief from conflict with the philosophy or action of an administrator, teacher or coach relating to sports;
4. The student, or parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, seeks to nullify punitive action by the previous school, relating to sports eligibility;
5. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, desires that the student play on a less successful or lower profile team in order to be ranked higher among the players on that team;
6. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, desires that the student play on a more successful or higher profile team to gain a higher level of competition and/or more exposure to college scouts.
7. The student seeks to participate with teammates or coaches with whom he/she participated in non-school competition during the preceding 12 months.

A challenge that a transfer is athletically motivated must be received by the MHSAA Executive Director in writing with initial proofs within 40 consecutive calendar days of the student's new enrollment (See Interpretation 3). Notification of the challenge will be made to the school that the student is currently attending so the receiving school has the opportunity to respond and to have input into the determination by the Executive Director.

An ineligible transfer student who is confirmed to have transferred for athletic reasons is ineligible for 180 scheduled school days to participate in an interscholastic contest for the school to which the student transfers. 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 for 180 scheduled school days at this or any other MHSAA member school. If undue influence is alleged, Section 10 applies. (See Interpretation 2d.).

Note: The MHSAA will not be involved in investigating or mediating athletic motivated transfer issues between member schools of the same school district or when one school releases the student to another district.

**SECTION 9 (F)**— A student who changes schools and is ineligible under Section 9(A) is ineligible for 180 scheduled school days to participate in an interscholastic contest for the high school to which that student transferred if any one of the following circumstances existed during the previous 12 months:

1. That student participated at an open gym at that high school to which the student has transferred.
2. That student participated as an individual or on a non-school team or activity coached by any of that high school's coaches in the sport involved for either gender, including contact permitted under Regulation II, Section 11(H) 2 b (summer days of competition) or at camps or clinics. A transfer student's participation in otherwise allowed out-of-season or summer activity prior to being on the written or electronic records of the school that the student transfers into would cause the student to be ineligible for 180 school days. A new student's enrollment information must be on file in the offices -of the superintendent or principal or athletic director prior to participation in otherwise allowed out-of-season or summer activity.
3. One of that high school's coaches served as a personal sport trainer, conditioner or instructor (paid or volunteer) for that student. Note: The 180 days of ineligibility will apply to all sports a student previously participated in when transferring into a school where a non-sport specific instructor (strength and conditioning coach) is on staff.

4. That student transfers to a school where the coach of his/her previous high school is employed (any level, paid or volunteer).

This applies only to students who have participated in a game or scrimmage on any interscholastic team of the previous high school of enrollment and only in the sport or sports in Items 1 through 4 above. 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 for 180 scheduled school days at this MHSAA member school.

A student's new school may petition the MHSAA Executive Director for eligibility as under Section 9 (D) when an adult described in No. 2, 3 or 4 becomes a school coach at the new school AFTER a student has enrolled or under compelling circumstances. The school must provide the basis for the request with sufficient documentation to make a decision. The Executive Director will make eligibility determinations on a case-by-case basis as to the student's period of ineligibility and possible forfeitures. The student's period of ineligibility could be as under Section 9(D) or 180 scheduled school days from the point of discovery or 180 scheduled school days from the date of enrollment.

**SECTION 9 (G)—Students who transfer from one school to another and are eligible immediately under one or more of the exceptions to the transfer rule and eligible under all other regulations, are eligible for MHSAA tournaments only if they are enrolled in the new school (actual attendance in one or more classes and on the official records of the school) prior to Oct. 1 (fall sports), Feb. 1 (winter sports) or May 1 (spring sports). Such students must also be in compliance with all requirements and deadlines for tournament participation, including but not limited to entry forms, eligibility lists, rosters, participation minimums, and qualifying standards of the specific sport tournament in which they wish to participate.**

#### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 9

60. A student who is not eligible under other MHSAA regulations can never be made immediately eligible by virtue of a transfer from one school to another.
61. a. If, in cities or towns which have more than one public or nonpublic high school, no definite geographical attendance lines between the different schools exist, such cities or towns will be considered as one school district.
- b. If there are defined geographical attendance lines between the different high schools in a multi-school district, each school will be treated as a separate district for transfer eligibility purposes. Whenever reference is made to different school districts in the Interpretations, the same is true for board of education defined geographical attendance areas of high schools in multi-school districts.
- c. When a student relocates his/her residence under the conditions of Exceptions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 or 12 into a multi-high school district that has both types of high schools – some that are district-wide (a. above) and others which have more limited geographical attendance areas (b. above) – the student is immediately eligible only at the one public high school of that district in whose attendance area the student's new residence is located (b. above), subject to all other conditions of the transfer regulation.
- d. Public school academies (charter schools) and non-public schools do not have "districts" for the purpose of this section. A student must relocate from one traditional public school district (or attendance area of a multi-high school district) to a second traditional public school district (or attendance area of a multi-high school district) to be considered eligible under the transfer regulation at a charter school or non-public school.
62. When a student moves into (changes his or her residence to) a different public school district under the conditions of exceptions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 or 12, and if the student was eligible under all MHSAA regulations when he/she relocated, then the student is eligible immediately at:
- a. the high school he/she had been attending, or
- b. the public high school of the new district, or
- c. the public high school academy under PA 362 (charter school) closest to the student's new residence, or
- d. the nonpublic high school which is closest to the student's new residence:
1. the nonpublic high school of the same denomination if the student had most recently been attending such a high school, or
2. a nonpublic, non-denominational, non-religious high school if the student had most recently been attending such a high school.

**Note:** The closest nonpublic school or public school academy shall be determined by driveable highway miles from the residence to the school.

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63. Even if Interpretation 62(b), (c), or (d) is not satisfied, when a student who has not been living with a parent or parents returns to live with that parent or parents in the same public school attendance area as before and re-enrolls at the same high school he or she most recently attended while living in that public school attendance area, the student is immediately eligible (one time only) at the school to which he/she returns insofar as the transfer regulation is concerned. (Exception [2])
64. When a school ceases to exist (Exception 6), or a student completes the last grade available to any students in that school system (Exception 11), and the student does not change his or her residence into a new public school district, then that student has the same choice as students under Exception 10.
65.
  - a. References to “parent/parents” in all Regulations and Interpretations are intended to include stepparent/stepparents.
  - b. References to “persons with whom the student was/has been living” in the Regulations and Interpretations always include parents (whether married or not) and minor siblings. Depending on the specific circumstances that assure a complete change of residence for the student, references may also include adult siblings, step-siblings, aunts, uncles and grandparents and others who have been a family unit and not merely co-inhabitants of the same dwelling who have been and remain financially self-sufficient.
66. If a student remains at the school he or she has been attending, after the only parent, parents, single parent if divorced, guardian or other persons with whom the student has been living during the period of his or her last high school enrollment move into (change their residence to) another school district, the student still is eligible at the original school as far as this Regulation is concerned. The student may transfer at any time and be eligible immediately as outlined in Interpretation 62. For this Interpretation to be applied, the change of residency must occur after the student in question has first enrolled in the 9th grade.
67. The change of schools under Exception 1 is permitted with immediate eligibility only one time in grades 9-12 when the circumstances are those of a student who has moved out of state with one or more parents, enrolled in a high school there while attending a specialized sports academy, and then returned to live in Michigan. (Exception [1])
68. A student who has been attending a high school and moves (changes residence) by himself or herself into a new public school district, attends a new high school, and then returns to his or her parents’ residence in the original public school district, is immediately eligible at either the public school of that district or the closest non-public school or public school academy (charter school) under exception (2) of Regulation I, Section 9 (A).
69. If during a student’s most recent previous high school enrollment, that student was living with one parent only for the most recent 30 consecutive calendar days, the student must move (change residence) with that parent to be immediately eligible. If a student was living with both parents or grandparents or with an aunt and uncle, the student must move (change residence) with both persons to be immediately eligible. (exception [1])
70. If a student makes a full and complete residential change (as defined in this Section) to a different school district having a high school and the student enrolls in a school other than the one in his or her new home district (or as permitted under Interpretation 62), that student is not immediately eligible in that school until there has been attendance pursuant to Section 9(D). A change of residence with “school of choice” enrollment does not grant immediate eligibility; Interpretation 62 applies.
71. If the only parent, parents, or guardian of a student, or other persons with whom he or she has been living during the period of his or her last high school enrollment, move into (change residence to) a different public school district which does not have high school grades in that district as yet not completed by the student, he or she is free to attend any other high school and become eligible immediately for athletic competition. (exception [11])
72. If a student moves (changes residence) during the summer with his/her parents from a school district where this student is eligible to another school district, and before the school year begins moves back to the original school district or to another school district, that student is eligible for interscholastic athletics at either the previous school of enrollment or the school in the district where his/her parents reside at the start of the school year, provided the student has not participated in a contest or scrimmage prior to the second move.
73. When a student moves (changes his or her residence) from one school district to another without the persons he/she had most recently been living and is ineligible under Section 9(A), and before the completion of at least 90 scheduled school days for students that student moves back to the original district or to a third school district with the persons he or she had been living in the second district, that student remains ineligible (See Interpretation 2d.).
74.
  - a. A first-time 9th-grade student who practices with a 9-12 grade team in August before school begins **but has not attended class or played in a scrimmage or contest (enrolled)**, is not immediately eligible in **that** sport at any school if he or she actually enrolls at a high school other than the one with which he or she practiced or unless another of the 15 stated exceptions to the transfer regulation applies. This interpretation would apply to an over-age 8th-grade student who has completed an Eligibility Advancement

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Application. This interpretation would also apply to a student who completes the 9th (and highest) grade of a junior high/middle school and is a first-time 10th-grader. (Exception [10])

b. A first time 9th-grade student who participates in a scrimmage or contest in August before school begins is considered enrolled in that school and is not eligible for **any** sports according to Section 9 D should the student enroll at another school unless another of the 15 stated exceptions to the Transfer Regulation applies. This interpretation would also apply to a student who completes the 9th (and highest) grade of a junior high/middle school and is a first-time 10th-grader. (Exception [10])

75. If a transfer student and the person(s) with whom the student has been living move (change residence) to a residence in a different school district and the student participates in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in that district, and then the student and/or the person(s) with whom the student has been living move (change residence) back to the former district before the completion of 90 school days for students, the student is ineligible for any interscholastic athletic competition at any school until approved by the two school districts and the MHSAA (See Interpretation 2d.).
76. A student may take summer courses at a school other than the school in which a student has been enrolled or intends to enroll without affecting his/her eligibility under the transfer regulation.
77. A change of residence for eligibility purposes must be full and complete.
- a. Before being deemed eligible, the student and his or her parents must attest to the facts and/or produce documentation of the following:
1. That all personal belongings have been moved from the prior residence,
  2. That mail is received at the new residence; telephone listing, driver's license and voter registration have been changed to the new address.
- b. Additional proofs, including, but not limited to, proof of rental or completed sale of the former residence and rental or completed purchase of the new residence, may also be required. The former residence must be either vacant, sold or rented to persons other than family members. A former residence may not be occupied for any residential purposes at any time by the student or his or her parents or minor siblings.
- c. For the purposes of achieving a full and complete change of residence, all family members with whom the student was residing during his/her most recent previous high school enrollment must change residence with the student. "Persons" who remain in the "former residence" shall not be the student's parents or step-parents, shall not be the student's siblings or stepbrothers/sisters under 18 years of age, and shall not be any other family member who is not financially self supporting. The only family members who remain at the former residence must be 18 years of age or older and financially self-supporting. (See Interpretation 65).
- d. At the time of registration, the school to which the student transfers should inform the student and his or her parents of the proofs required for eligibility and shall complete documentation thereof before the student is deemed eligible to participate.
78. If a student enters a member school from a home school, the student is not eligible for interscholastic athletics pursuant to Section 9(D) unless, after attendance at that home school for at least 270 consecutive calendar days, the student transfers under the terms of Exception 6, 11 or 12 of Section 9(A). The transfer is permitted with immediate eligibility one time only.
79. When an accredited senior high school becomes available to a student in that student's home district for the first time, he or she may transfer from the school of previous attendance to such an accredited senior high school and be eligible there immediately provided a transfer to the new home district accredited senior high school is made at the first opportunity (beginning of the semester) that such transfer possibility existed and the student is eligible under all other Regulations.
80. Exception 9 may be applied in the following types of circumstances:
- a. To protect individuals from threatening situations that are not their fault;
- OR**
- b. As a temporary measure to equalize enrollment between schools of a district without making permanent attendance area boundary changes.
81. A student entering the 9th grade for the first time is immediately eligible regardless of where that student attended the 8th grade, even if the student participated in a 9-12 grade program as an 8th-grader, as permitted under Regulation I, Section 1(D). (exception [10])
82. A student moving into (changing residence to) a different public school district with or to one of his/her separated parents becomes immediately eligible when the divorce settlement becomes final and the educational transfer form has been completed. (exception [8])

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83. Approved International Student Programs are those which have been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel and the MHSAA for the current school year. Programs not listed by CSIET may be included after they have been reviewed and approved by the MHSAA (see MHSAA.com for criteria and forms).
84. To be immediately eligible for interscholastic athletics, an international student, including a 9th-grader enrolling for the first time, must either (a) qualify under Exception 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12 or 13, or (b) have a current J-1 or F-1 visa and be enrolled through an MHSAA Approved International Student Program, and in both cases be eligible under all MHSAA Regulations.
  - a. 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 86. Interpretation 62 (residency) applies.
  - b. Eligibility through an MHSAA Approved International Student Program is for a maximum of the first two consecutive semesters or three consecutive trimesters at any secondary school in the United States, after which the student is ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition at any MHSAA member school for the next academic year (next two consecutive semesters or next three consecutive trimesters). No exceptions to the Transfer Regulation apply during that academic year of ineligibility (Exception [4]).

**Note:** If, after or during the academic year of ineligibility, the student transfers to an MHSAA member school from another school, the Transfer Regulation applies. All other eligibility and contest regulations apply to these students.
85. International students who are not required by Federal law to have either a J-1 or F-1 visa are not subject to Interpretation 84 but are subject to all other aspects of the Transfer Regulation. Unless an exception and applicable interpretation are met, these students are not immediately eligible under Section 9. After a period of ineligibility, these students are eligible as any other transfer student would become.
86. Except as indicated in Interpretation 85, an international student who is not enrolled through an MHSAA Approved International Student Program is not eligible for interscholastic athletics at the varsity level or in MHSAA tournaments for the duration of his or her enrollment in an MHSAA member school. After complying with the period of ineligibility of Section 9(D), a member school may determine that an international student may participate at the subvarsity level only without meeting the elements of subvarsity waivers (9th or 10th grade and no prior athletic participation). After the period of ineligibility, that international student would be eligible by rule at the subvarsity level only; no waiver is necessary.
87. International students who are enrolled in a school under an agreement between that school's governing body and an entity in another country are not exempt from Interpretation 84.
88. International students who are provided housing free of charge or at a cost by a school or school district are not exempt from Interpretation 84 nor can they become eligible under Exception 13 unless their school of enrollment qualifies as a boarding school under Exception 13 and Interpretation 94 and an Educational Transfer Form is completed.
89. If a student has received a diploma or completed the courses to graduate from a secondary school in another country, that student is not eligible for interscholastic athletic competition as a representative of an MHSAA member school.
90. Students whose school of residence is changed when a school district simultaneously closes one or more schools and reorganizes attendance boundaries for one or more schools of the same district (Exception 7) are not immediately eligible at any school as under Exception 6, unless the school district determines this preference that students from the closed school be eligible immediately at any school. Immediate eligibility would then apply to any student enrolled on the first day of the next school year at any school within the district or outside the district as under Interpretation 64.
91. A student who would be ineligible for any reason in the next semester/trimester at a school is ineligible at any school to which he or she is assigned under school consolidation or any school he or she attends after his or her school ceases to operate. (Exception [7])
92. Students who change residence with or to one of his/her parents who were never married and therefore not divorced may seek eligibility using an Educational Transfer Form by submitting one or more of the following documents: A valid birth certificate indicating both parents, Circuit Court or Friend of the Court documents indicating the parents and the student, An Order of Filiation and Support, a notarized Affidavit of Parentage from the State Dept. of Community Health. All other applications and Interpretations related to Exception 8 continue to apply. The student is not eligible until the form is completed and returned signed by the MHSAA Executive Director and allowed one time in grades 9-12.
93. A student must turn 18 years of age before his or her transfer to a school in order to be immediately eligible at that school, unless, to facilitate educational continuity, the student enrolls in the new school district during the school year in which that student will turn 18 years of age. In that case, the student becomes eligible after

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turning 18 years of age when the Educational Transfer Form has been completed by both principals and the MHSAA office. (Exception [12])

94. A **boarding school** is defined as a school which has an enrolled boarding school population in grades 9 through 12 of at least 25 students or 10 percent of the full student enrollment, whichever is larger. Boarding students must spend at least an average of five days per week living and boarding on campus while school is in session. Additionally, the school shall be recognized as a boarding school through its own literature and be licensed by the State of Michigan as a boarding school. For the purposes of this Section, the Michigan School for the Deaf is considered a boarding school but the completion of the Educational Transfer Form is not a required condition of eligibility. (Exception [13])
95. If a student participates under exceptions 8, 12, or 13 without first fulfilling the requirements of the Educational Transfer Form, he or she may not transfer a second time under the same exception and qualify for the one-time exception.
96. A newly established school may include one which is substantially different than a school that has previously occupied the same site (for example, public to nonpublic, secular to non-secular, Missouri Synod to Wisconsin Synod). It does not include a school that has simply relocated from one building to another or merged with another of the same district. (Exception [15])
97. A student who is not enrolled at any school by the fourth Friday after Labor Day or the fourth Friday of February, may not transfer any time thereafter to another school and be eligible immediately.
98. In this Section, the word **“enrolled”** means (a) actually having attended in person or online one or more classes in a school as well as the appearance of a student’s name in the official records of that school, or (b) representing that school in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest.
99. The primary purpose of the 90-school day provision of Section 9(D) is to be more flexible to serve those students who miss the “fourth Friday” by a brief number of days and thus would be ineligible for nearly a full academic year.

The Executive Committee may also apply this provision in other compelling circumstances for changing schools having nothing to do with athletics, discipline or family finances and would not require Executive Committee evaluation or comparison of school demographics or curriculum.

In determining 90 school days, all days on which classes are **scheduled** are to be counted (cancelled school days may be counted). Days on which only practices or contests occur (no classes) are **not** counted.

### SECTION 10—UNDUE INFLUENCE

**SECTION 10—The use of undue influence for athletic purposes by any person or persons directly or indirectly associated with a student, a student’s parents, the school or its athletic program to secure or encourage the attendance of a student or the student’s parents or guardians as residents of the school district, shall cause the student to become ineligible for a minimum of 90 scheduled school days and a maximum of four years. The offending school shall be placed on probation for up to four years and offending individuals disconnected from the program. The offending coach or coaches shall not be permitted to coach at that school for up to four years in any sport and shall not coach for up to four years at any other member school in any MHSAA tournament in any sport. Examples of undue influence would include but not be limited to offers of or acceptance of: residential relocation, financial aid to parents, guardians or student; reduced or eliminated tuition and/or fees; any special privileges not accorded to other students, whether athletes or not; transportation allowances; preference in job assignments; room, board or clothing; promotional efforts and admission policies for athletes which are in excess of efforts for other students.**

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 10

100. Funds which have been donated to schools by clubs and individuals may be given as financial aid to students through the normal financial aid program of the school **for all students**, without regard to athletic potential. Financial aid based even partially on athletic potential or performance **is not permitted** from the school or from groups that exist because of or for the benefit of the school (e.g., booster clubs).
101. Individuals not exclusively representing athletic interests of a high school may make general presentations (not just athletic) to 7th and 8th-grade students (not just athletes). There should be a **diversity** of presenters, speaking on a variety of topics to students of **all** interests.

In addition, high school coaches or athletic directors may conduct **once** each school year for **each** sport – at the high school building for all feeder schools **or** at each of the feeder schools as defined below – a sport specific group presentation to a group of 7th and 8th grade students and/or their parents assembled in advance by the school for the purpose of encouraging students to participate in specific sports when enrolled in that high

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- school. Once each school year for each sport sponsored by that high school these presentations may be conducted for junior high/middle school teams or groups of students from schools which either (1) are subject to the same governing board, or (2) are of the same religious denomination as the high school **and** from which at least 25 percent of the students in the previous year's 8th grade attended that high school. (Single gender high schools count only 8th grade students of that gender.)
- Informational communication (written or oral) announcing the starting dates of practices and other allowed summer activity may be distributed to groups of 8th grade students (not individuals) on or after April 1, provided they are informational only and confined to students who have formally registered an intention to attend that high school in the fall or who attend a junior high/middle school which has a relationship to a high school as described above (same governing board or religious denomination and 25 percent previous enrollment).
102. These sport specific group presentations must adhere to all applicable Undue Influence Interpretations and the following:
- They must be voluntary on the part of the junior high/middle school (a school or team may decline to permit the presentation).
  - They may only be conducted at the high school or junior high/middle school building, regular practice location for the junior high/middle school team, or a facility/location jointly operated and governed by the high school and junior high/middle school.
  - They may not be held in conjunction with regular season high school or junior high/middle school contests or MHSAA tournament competitions (on the same day, site or time as a game, meet or scrimmage).
103. It is a violation of this Section for a coach or any other unauthorized representative of a school to suggest or promise that any part of tuition will be waived for a prospective student for any reason, including financial need. The only person who may address the possibility of fee reduction is that person who has specific responsibility for admissions and financial aid policies and procedures.
104. If it is a faculty member's responsibility to recruit students (not just athletes) and that person makes such contact irrespective of athletic eligibility, such contact is permitted. However, except as permitted under Interpretations 101 and 102, anything done for athletes that is not done in a comparable fashion for all students is undue influence.
105. When a student at a junior high/middle school or other high school, or the parents of that student, contacts the coach about attending the coach's school, the coach shall refer the student or parent to the appropriate school personnel (those who have the responsibilities for seeking and processing prospective students). It is not a coach's role to explain or encourage a transfer student in how to gain interscholastic athletic eligibility. There should be no contact or communication regarding enrollment between coaches and potential transfer students or their parents.
106. Except as permitted under Interpretations 98 and 99, a high school coach may not **initiate** contact with a student at a junior high/middle school or other high school, or the parents of that student, about attendance at the school. It is not a violation for a coach to have normal community contact with a student who attends a junior high/middle school of the same system which is a feeder to the high school.
107. Normal community contact may include but is not limited to that which is unavoidable, brief, incidental to other intentions and without prior knowledge that it is likely to occur.
108. It is a violation of the undue influence regulation if coaches or their representatives call, send questionnaires, cards, electronic messages or letters or visit prospective athletes and their families at their homes.
109. High school coaches or their representatives may not attend grade school or non-school games for the purpose of evaluating or recruiting specific prospective athletes.
110. High school coaches and administrators may not request booster clubs, players or alumni from the high school to discuss the merits of their athletic program with prospective athletes or their parents by phone, through electronic messages, in person or through letters.
111. Except for MHSAA Tournaments, any high school may allow all students of any junior high/middle school (not just athletes) to attend its athletic events without charge. See Interpretation 140 for high school team admission.
112. A coach may conduct an athletic camp at his or her school or another site during the summer if enrollment at the camp is open to all students at all schools. The coach is subject to the limitations of Regulation II, Section 11(H)
113. Persons "indirectly associated with the school" include but are not limited to parents of players, booster club members and representatives of non-school athletic programs. Such persons are prohibited from providing or performing any of the examples of undue influence listed in this Section and its Interpretations.

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114. Only those schools which qualify as boarding schools under Section 9 (Interpretation 94), may provide any assistance for room and board and only if based on financial need. In no other schools may room and board expense be included in the determination of school expenses and financial need.
115. It is an undue influence violation for a person directly or indirectly associated with a school or for a person whose activities are related to athletics to arrange, secure or encourage the arrival or residency of a student into a school district or the enrollment of a student into a school based on athletic ability or potential.

### SECTION 11—AMATEUR STATUS/AWARDS

**SECTION 11 (A)—Eligibility for interscholastic athletics at MHSAA member schools is limited to amateurs, meaning those student-athletes who have not received gifts of material or money and have not received other valuable considerations, including special considerations for loans, because of athletic performance or potential. Treatment of or privileges received by athletes or their families that are not provided or available to all students violate the principles of amateurism in interscholastic athletics. Gifts or loans to family members, based on the student’s athletic performance or potential, are treated as gifts or loans to the student and violate that student’s amateur status.**

**SECTION 11 (B)—After once representing any MHSAA member school in competition in any MHSAA Tournament sport, a student shall not be eligible to represent his or her high school if that student: (1) receives money or other valuable consideration from any source for participating in athletics, sports, or games listed in Section C; (2) receives money or other valuable consideration for officiating in interscholastic athletic contests, except as allowed by Interpretation 143 and 144; or (3) signs a professional athletic contract; or (4) violates any of the Interpretations included in this Section.**

**SECTION 11 (C)—A student shall be ineligible under this Section if he or she violates its amateur and awards provisions only in the following activities: baseball, basketball, bowling, girls competitive cheer, cross country, football, golf, girls gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, alpine skiing, soccer, girls softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, girls volleyball, or wrestling. In sports where playing rules also have separate Amateur Status rules (e.g., USGA, USTA, USBC), the limits and restrictions in Section 11 apply, not those of the National Governing Body.**

**SECTION 11 (D) —A student violating this Section shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of not less than the next 90 scheduled school days after the date of the student’s last violation, except that a student violating Interpretation 129 may not apply for reinstatement until the equivalent of one full school year of enrollment has elapsed following the date of his or her last violation. (Also see Interpretation 154.)**

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 11

#### ***Awards Limits***

116. A student may accept, for participation in athletics, a symbolic or merchandise award such as trophies, medals or plaques which do not have a fair market value or cost in excess of \$25.
117. Awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any other type of negotiable documents are never allowed.
118. Banquets, luncheons, dinners, non-competitive trips, and fees or admissions to be a spectator at events, if accepted in kind, are permitted under this Regulation.
119. Rings and jewelry presented in any form or manner for non-school competition with a full retail value in excess of \$25 are violations of this Regulation.
120. Special offers to purchase rings, plaques, jackets, sweaters, or other mementos in excess of \$25 to commemorate sport seasons are permitted so long as the opportunity to purchase such items is made available to all students, not just athletes.
121. A school, organization, or individual may present one or more symbolic or other acceptably defined awards to athletes, provided the cost of each award does not exceed \$25.
122. Acceptance of game balls from contests in which students participated does not violate the Awards Regulation.
123. When any part of the purchase price of an award is paid by the student or the school, is donated, or is raised through individual or group action to reduce the cost to \$25, it is a violation.



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124. Acceptance of an award by an athlete for accomplishments in non-MHSAA tournament sports and other non-athletic activities is not considered a violation, e.g. archery, water polo, equestrian, extreme sports, etc.
125. The cost of the regular letter award of the school is not limited to the \$25 maximum. Chenille lettering on school letter awards is permitted. In addition, the cost of engraving on medals or similar awards need not be included in determining the value of a medal or other similar award.
126. Knowledge that there will be presentation of an award at or after graduation, or the previous acceptance or holding of an award by anyone, which would render a student ineligible if accepted by that student during the school year, is regarded as a violation of the Regulation calling for disciplinary action.

### **Uniforms/Equipment**

127. Fundraising by team members to purchase athletic equipment, clothing, shoes or other items specific to that team membership is allowable as long as the item(s) remains a part of the school athletic department inventory.
128. Players may purchase at fair (current) market value and keep equipment such as shoes, gloves, jerseys, jackets, and award sweaters without incurring a loss of eligibility. Personal wear items such as caps, shoes, and swimsuits may have a value of zero at the end of the season.

### **Contracts**

129. After once representing any MHSAA member school in competition in any MHSAA Tournament sport, a student shall not be eligible to represent his or her high school if that student signs a professional athletic contract which involves monetary payment, valuable consideration or any other compensation in exchange for participation or endorsement. Agreements, contracts or rosters that simply indicate a commitment to play for a non-school team or in age group events with no compensation or valuable consideration are not considered contracts and are not violations of MHSAA regulations.

### **Camps, Clinics, Competitions**

130. Students may accept reduced or waived tuition, and in-kind travel and room and board from those who sponsor or conduct specialized (single-sport focus) team or individual athletic camps, clinics, competitions or leagues provided such is offered to all other participants or based on economic need (as interpreted by a neutral, non-athletic interest), not athletic ability or potential.
131. Students may accept reduced or waived tuition (scholarships) to specialized (single-sport focus) team or individual athletic camps, clinics, competitions or leagues without violating the amateur regulation, provided the funds are paid by:
  - a. the student's parents, grandparents or siblings; or
  - b. the school district, not with general funds, but with funds generated through school approved fundraising activities of booster clubs, school teams, student groups, and community, civic or service groups, and are not provided on the basis of athletic ability or potential subject to the limits of Interpretation 146.

### **Skills Contests**

132. A student may receive the benefits of participation in any "skills contest" activity that is open to participation by the general public. Open to participation by the general public involves more than just the participants at a prearranged competition or camp. Events such as 3-point shots, slam dunk, home run derby, long drive contests, half court shots, etc., are considered skills contests when open to participation by the general public.

### **Lodging, Travel, Meals – Non-School Competition**

133. A student may accept, in-kind, travel and room and board to participate in an all-star event permitted under Section 12 (C) or as a member of a National Team or in an Olympic Development Program as defined in Section 12 (D).
134. A student may accept in kind, travel, and room and board to participate for a non-school team or as an individual when competing in open competition and/or advancing through levels of competition or qualifying events, provided such is offered to all other participants or based on economic need (as interpreted by a neutral, non-athletic interest), not athletic ability or potential.

### **Scholarships**

135. Prior to graduation, senior athletes may accept monetary awards designated for continuing education after their graduation without a loss of high school eligibility as long as the award is based wholly or in part on non-athletic, academic achievement. Such criteria must be a meaningful measurement of academic achievement such as a specific GPA at graduation, not just completing high school. Grants-in-aid awarded by colleges and universities are permitted, regardless of criteria, provided the scholarships are allowed by the college conference

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and national intercollegiate athletic association to which the institution belongs.

### **Valuable Consideration, Benefits, Discounts**

136. "Valuable consideration" includes, but is not limited to rent, room and board, discounts, loans, privileges from individuals or companies, memberships or privileges in clubs or organizations, or personal services. Items or privileges accepted by students as prizes or payments will result in a loss of athletic eligibility. Valuable consideration to family members based on the student's athletic performance or potential is considered valuable consideration to that student and violates the student's amateur status.
137. It is a violation if an individual student (not the team or school) receives valuable consideration in the form of equipment or waiver of fees at sport clubs. Items of equipment may not be retained by the student but must be returned to the school or benefactor at the conclusion of the season.
138. If a student takes part in an athletic tryout or in a non-school competition as an individual or on a team, negotiable items such as money, tickets, gifts, certificates, etc., are not to become the possession of the high school student or his/her parent(s) at any time. Handling of funds must be done by someone who is in charge of the event or trip.
139. It is a violation if a golf course, tennis club, ski facility, etc., waives or reduces fees for selected individual members of school teams in that sport to use the facility on his/her own time. Such waivers or discounts must be available to all team members in season. Out of season, no such waivers or discounts may be provided that are not available to all students of that school.
140. It is not a violation for high school students who are participants (team members of other levels in the same sport) to be admitted without admission charged to other levels of games played in that same sport whether or not the event is scheduled on the same day if such is available to all participants on that level in that sport; e.g. Admitting high school sub varsity football players to varsity football games would be permitted if local school policy allows. This is not permitted for MHSAA tournament competition.

### **Student Employment**

141. In general, students may work in school or other recreational programs, on play grounds, golf courses, swimming pools or beaches, at tennis or skiing facilities and receive appropriate pay without losing athletic eligibility.
142. A student may be compensated for giving lessons as part of a youth camp or recreation program (school or non-school), but may not also be a camper or participant in the camp or program.
143. A student may be compensated for officiating in CYO, YMCA, YWCA, church, and other youth programs without violating this section.
144. A 12th-grader who is 17 years of age or older may register with the MHSAA and officiate subvarsity high school or lower level contests and, through the Legacy Program, an 11th or 12th-grader who is 16 years of age or older may register to officiate subvarsity high school as well as 7th and 8th-grade contests with a registered official who has been authorized by the MHSAA as an acceptable mentor. The student may receive the normal compensation paid to officials by schools.

### **Fundraising**

145. Students may accept in kind waivers, discounts or the results of opportunities to work off or fundraise school financial assessments required for participation in athletics, provided the allocation is available to all students in that sport. A program may not be based on athletic ability or potential. If based on financial need, awards must be determined by a neutral, non athletic entity such as the federal school lunch program or other non-athletic determination.
146. A student may accept in kind up to \$200 per sport per year (September through August) from approved school fundraisers to participate out-of-season in specialized team or individual athletic camps, clinics, competitions or leagues (but not to tryouts or combines). This does not permit schools or booster clubs to sponsor, fund or support out-of-season activities which are prohibited under Regulation II, Section 11 (H) and Interpretation 231.
147. In general, students may engage in school or non-school fundraising either as an individual or as part of a group, to pay the costs to attend specialized team or individual athletic camps, clinics, or leagues or to participate in cultural/athletic exchanges, or travel to and enter team or individual competitions.
  - a. Funds must be in the form of checks made out to the camp, clinic, exchange coordinator or competition sponsor, or to the school or tax-exempt organization for which the student is fundraising.
  - b. If cash is donated on behalf of a student, it must be paid directly to the organization.
  - c. Students who receive cash in exchange for the sale of items through bona fide fundraising activities (raffle tickets, candy, calendars, etc.) are accountable to the sponsoring organization, bound by the amateur status regulations and may not convert funds to their own use.

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- d. Neither cash nor checks payable to the student may be accepted by the student unless the student has been employed and performed labor or service for which the payment is reasonable compensation.
- 148. Students may accept items included in an entry fee for a camp, clinic or competition provided the fee covers the actual cost of the item (e.g. golf towel, practice jersey) as well as all event activities in the entry fee for a tournament or materials, instruction, room and board at a clinic or camp.
- 149. Prizes or awards to team members who raise the most money through team fundraising efforts, which involve athletes or their parents only, are subject to awards limits: No cash or negotiable certificates are allowed; maximum value of \$25. Fundraising that involves all students in the school are not subject to this restriction. Prizes, cash or merchandise awards to students from third party fund raising organizations are not allowed unless the fund raising activity is open to other students in the school, not just team members.

### **Commercial Endorsements**

- 150. A student may never be paid or given merchandise or privileges in exchange for a commercial endorsement; and a student may not pose in the school's athletic uniform to promote a for-profit or non-profit non-school commercial enterprise, even if the student is not paid for the endorsement.
- 151. It is not a violation for school calendars, programs, rosters and other school publications that include photography of athletes to have advertising material or sponsorships. Generally, student-athletes may appear in advertisements that promote their school, school team or a nonprofit cause, but not in advertisements that promote a business or commercial enterprise. It is not a violation for a student or team to be recognized for athletic achievement by a media organization or commercial enterprise (e.g. athlete of the week, team of the week) provided there are no benefits of cash, negotiable certificates, or merchandise to students, no statement or endorsement by students and no third party or outside media promotion of the award (e.g. billboards, bus banner ads, etc). Certificates of recognition, plaques, other symbolic awards with a value of less than \$25, or meals in kind are allowed.
- 152. Advertising is allowed on warm-up apparel not considered uniforms as defined by applicable playing rules. In sports governed by National Federation playing rules (published or endorsed), advertising is not allowed on competition uniforms. In all other sports advertising may be allowed as specified in the Participating School Tournament Information and/or the playing rules governing that sport (USTA, USGA, USBC, MHSAA Competitive Cheer Rules).

### **Definition of Sports (Covered by MHSAA Regulations)**

- 153. MHSAA Amateur Status rules apply to the following sports: baseball, basketball, bowling, girls competitive cheer, cross country, football, golf, girls gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, alpine skiing, soccer, girls softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, girls volleyball, or wrestling. The following lists make distinctions about similar activities to MHSAA Tournament sports and when athletes may or may not receive benefits of participation.
  - a. These are **DIFFERENT sports or activities than those listed above**, and a student may participate without loss of eligibility and may receive the benefits of participation:
    - Slow Pitch Softball
    - Freestyle Wrestling
    - Greco Wrestling
    - 2-Person Beach Volleyball
    - Flag Football
    - Snowboarding
    - Bowling with Non-Standard Pins and Balls
    - Wheelchair or Donkey Basketball
    - Biathlon or Triathlon
    - Scramble Golf
    - Freestyle Skiing
    - Cross Country Skiing
  - b. These are the **SAME sports or activities**, and receiving benefits from participation is not allowed and would be considered a violation of Section 11:
    - Fast Pitch Softball
    - Game/Sideline Cheerleading competition (girls or co-ed)
    - Indoor Lacrosse
    - Indoor Soccer
    - Futsal Soccer

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Indoor Track & Field  
Inline Roller Hockey with standard Stick & Puck  
3 on 3 or more in Anything and **Standard Numbers for the Sport**

### ***Penalties/Remedies***

154. A student may remedy a violation of this Section (except Interpretation 129) by promptly reimbursing or returning to the originating party the payment, merchandise, gift certificates, valuable consideration and awards in excess of the stated limitations. In such instances, written documentation of return must be submitted to the MHSAA for final determination of eligibility and forfeitures.

### **SECTION 12—LIMITED TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 12 (A)—A student who, after practicing with (including tryouts) or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a high school athletic team, participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next three (3) days of competition and maximum of the remainder of that season in that school year. The following exceptions to this Section will apply:**

1. Ice hockey, bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming & diving, track & field and wrestling shall apply the limited team membership rule from the point of a student's first participation in a contest or scrimmage, rather than practice.
2.
  - a. Alpine skiing shall apply the limited team membership rule to each individual from the point of the TEAM'S first participation in an interscholastic contest or scrimmage; rather than the first practice or competition of the individual.
  - b. Tennis shall apply the limited team membership rule to all students in that season commencing with the first day of allowed practice under MHSAA regulations, regardless of when the team begins practice or the player joins the team.
3. During the high school season in bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, alpine skiing, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field or wrestling, a member of the school team in that sport may participate in a maximum of two non-school meets or contests in that sport while not representing his or her school. An event held on not more than three consecutive calendar days is considered a single meet (for the purposes of this section only).
  - a. Points earned, weight established, times or records established shall not count toward any qualifying requirement for MHSAA meets or tournaments.
  - b. Meets or tournaments entered under the above provisions shall not affect the number of games, contests, or days of competition specified for each school team and individual under Regulation II, Sections 10 and 11.

**SECTION 12 (B)—After once representing any MHSAA member school in competition in any MHSAA Tournament sport, a student shall not compete at any time in any MHSAA Tournament sport in any of the following events: (1) Any event which is or purports to be an "All-Star" contest, regardless of the method of selection or one in which there is participation by one or more all-star teams; (2) "All-Star" fundraising events or similar exhibitions if they involve participants other than the students and faculty of that student's school; (3) Any event which is or purports to be a national high school championship, or the qualification thereto.**

**Except as permitted under Section 12(C), participation in (1), (2), or (3) above by a high school student shall cause that student to become ineligible for all interscholastic athletics for a maximum period of one year of school enrollment from the date of the student's last violation of this Section (Also see Regulation II, Section 13 A).**

**SECTION 12(C) – 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, providing the following are complied with:**

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

- c. Participation is approved by the student's high school principal, and the MHSAA is notified in writing by the principal at least 30 calendar days prior to the event.
- d. The student makes prior arrangement to complete missed academic lessons, assignments and tests before the last day of classes of the credit grading period in which that student's absence occurs.
- e. The student misses no MHSAA-sponsored tournament event involving that student's school team in the subsequent sport in which the student intends to be eligible.
- f. The student does not violate the MHSAA amateur status/awards rule as a result of any activity directly or indirectly associated with the event.

**SECTION 12 (D)—A student MAY participate as an individual without loss of interscholastic eligibility:**

1. As a member of a National Team, (and the actual, direct tryouts thereto), which is defined as one selected by the national governing body of the sport on a national qualification basis either through a defined selective process or actual tryouts for the purpose of international competition which requires the entries to officially represent their respective nations, although it is not necessary there be team scoring by nation; or
2. In an Olympic Development Program (ODP), which is defined as a training program or competition:
  - a. conducted or sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC); or
  - b. directly funded in major part and conducted by the USOC member national governing body (NGB) on a national level (e.g., NGB national championship competition and the direct qualifications thereto); or
  - c. specifically authorized by a national governing body involving only athletes previously identified by the NGB as having bona-fide potential for participation in national or international competition in the sport involved.

The following procedures are required in (1) and (2):

- a. Participation, if during the school season, shall be approved by the student's high school principal, and the MHSAA is notified in writing by the principal at least 30 calendar days prior to the event; and
- b. The student shall make prior arrangement to complete missed academic lessons, assignments and tests before the last day of classes of the credit grading period in which that student's absence occurs; and

The following additional principles apply in (2):

- c. An ODP student-athlete shall be allowed no more than one competition during the school season in that sport.
- d. The ODP student-athlete shall miss no MHSAA-sponsored tournament event involving that student's school team in that sport.

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 12**

155. a. The purpose of Section 12 (A) is to limit a student's athletic competition to his or her high school team during the season of the sport concerned. The purpose of the exception to this regulation is to allow individual athletes reasonable opportunities to participate in non-school competition important to their continued development in the sport.
  - b. The regulation is violated in its purpose when coaches arrange these outside opportunities to allow athletes to exceed the maximum days of competition permitted under Regulation II, Section 11. School personnel cannot plan or supervise these events.
  - c. An individual may not participate unattached at a meet or tournament where his/her school team is prohibited from participating due to a lack of interstate competition approval by the National Federation of State High School Associations or the National Federation member high school association of the state where the event will occur or the MHSAA. (See Regulation II, Section 6).

Note: This does not prohibit a student from competing on his or her own at an event which includes "open" competition where participants do not compete with or against students representing school teams.
  - d. An individual may practice (or try out) but not compete with a non-school team during the season, if the school allows, provided the coach has not arranged these opportunities as in b. above.
156. Outside competition usually involves an event publicized in advance to competitors or others, league, tournament or organized play and whether or not admission is charged or officials are used. Competition involving more than a spontaneous neighborhood pick up contest may be in violation.

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157. a. For the purposes of Section 12, these are DIFFERENT sports or activities:

**Baseball & Softball**

Slow Pitch Softball & **Fast Pitch Softball**

Freestyle Wrestling & **Folkstyle Wrestling**

Greco Wrestling & **Folkstyle Wrestling**

2-Person Beach Volleyball & **Volleyball**

Flag Football & **Football**

Scramble Golf & **Golf**

Cross Country Skiing & **Alpine Skiing**

Freestyle Skiing & **Alpine Skiing**

Snowboarding & **Alpine Skiing**

Bowling with Non-Standard Pins and Balls & **Bowling**

Wheelchair or Donkey Basketball & **Basketball**

Triathlon & **Swimming, Cross Country or Track**

For example, a student may represent the high school in baseball and that same student may play on an outside softball team during the same season, and vice versa, without incurring ineligibility in either sport.

- b. For the purpose of Section 12, these are the SAME sports or activities, and a student's participation during the same season is a violation, except as permitted twice for individual sports under Section 12(A) 3.:

Game/Sideline Cheerleading competition (girls or co-ed) and **Girls Competitive Cheer**

Indoor Lacrosse & **Lacrosse (Boys and Girls)**

Indoor Soccer & **Soccer**

Futsal Soccer & **Soccer**

Indoor Track & Field & **Outdoor Track & Field**

Inline Roller Hockey with Standard Stick and Puck & **Ice Hockey**

3-on-3 or More in Anything & **Standard Numbers for the Sport**

158. A member of a school's interscholastic team may not participate in either a school or non-school 3-on-3 (or more) competition in that sport during the MHSAA season for that sport without loss of eligibility under this Section.
159. Participation as members of class, intramural, student-faculty, or club teams composed exclusively of students and faculty members playing within that senior high school is not regarded as outside competition.
160. A season in any sport ends when the last athletic contest or scrimmage is played in that sport by the school team during that school year. If a student plays on a non-school team at the conclusion of the season for his/her level, that student is ineligible for the remainder of the season for other levels of that team.
161. The phrase "next three days of competition" means the next three days of competition after the school becomes aware of the violation.
162. **An "all-star" team** is one which is called "all-star" or one whose membership is elected by ballot, or selected by any organization, league, newspaper, radio/television station, or by any similar method or agency, and which is composed of outstanding competitors from two or more high school teams. Alumni games are not considered "all-star" games but must be counted as a scrimmage or contest.
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.
164. If there is no limit to the number of people invited to a tryout, or if the tryout is performed throughout a non-school season (such as summer American Legion baseball), athletes may be selected for and compete on teams on the basis of those tryouts without violating the "All-Star" Regulation. To meet the requirement of an open tryout, notice must be provided in at least two different public media, or at least twice in the same public medium, at least seven days prior to the tryouts.
165. If based on performance during a camp open to all students, and not on their performance during the interscholastic season, then students may be selected for and compete in feature contests at the end of that camp. However, it is a violation of the all-star regulation to invite a limited number of students to a camp on the basis of their demonstrated interscholastic ability, place them on teams and play games between those teams.
166. If a non-school tournament host posts times, heights, distances or scores that qualifiers must achieve to enter a competition which is not counted as one of the allowable contests or days of competition for the school or individuals involved, all who meet the standards must be allowed to compete; and if they compete as **individuals** and are not placed on teams (such as North vs. South; class A vs. classes B, C, D; Michigan vs. Ohio,

## Regulation I

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German Nationals, etc.) they will not violate the "All-Star" Regulation. However, if only the top several qualifiers are allowed to compete, they will violate the "All-Star" Regulation even if they compete as individuals.

**Note:** The above does not apply **during the school season in meets sponsored and conducted by schools and counted as one of the allowable contests or days of competition** by all schools and individuals.

167. When the basis of selection to participate is limited to athletic performances in non-school events, and the event is not called an all star event, an individual may participate in that event without violating the all star prohibition of this section.
168. Except as permitted in Section 12 (C), students in grades 7-12 shall not compete in "all-star" contests in any MHSAA Tournament sport. Students may be named to an all star team and practice with that team. A violation occurs when students **compete** with or against an all star team or in an event or program termed "all star" or meeting the all star criteria of Interpretations 162-168.
169. **A national high school championship** includes any athletic event, regardless of title, which attempts to draw to it or its qualifying rounds only the top place winner or winners from more than one state high school association championship meet or is based upon high school regular-season or postseason tournament performances. A student may participate without loss of eligibility if all of the following conditions are met:
  - a. The event is not called or promoted as a national high school championship;
  - b. Qualification is not based on performances in the high school season or MHSAA tournament results;
  - c. The event is open to all non-school teams or individuals who qualify directly through one or more non-school events, or the event is without qualifying standards and is open to any individual who pays the entry fee;
  - d. If a team event, teams are not to be made up of students from a single MHSAA member school;
  - e. Teams and individuals do not represent an MHSAA member school; and
  - f. No MHSAA member school uniforms, transportation, funds or coaches are involved.
170. The exception of Section 12 (D) applies to the requirements of Section 1 (A), Section 8 and Section 12 (A). Students returning from National Team competition and Olympic Development Program activities must adhere to all other sections of this Regulation.
171. A 12th-grade student who is not still competing with his/her high school team and who has completed classes and exams for the second semester or third trimester of his/her senior year but for whom graduation ceremonies have not been conducted is **not** considered to be "enrolled in a MHSAA member school at the time of the event" for the **purposes of Regulation 1, Section 12 (B) and Regulation II, Section 13 (A) only (all star, national high school championships)**.
172. "Olympic Development Programs" or "national teams" do not gain the exclusive and exceptional treatment of Section 12(D) because of what they are called. They are evaluated on the basis of what they are. Regardless of what they are called, the following situations (not all-inclusive) do not qualify for the exception of Section 12(D):
  - a. state, regional or national championships for non-school club/community teams; and/or
  - b. any team whose makeup is less than statewide; and/or
  - c. any competition that involves residents of Michigan only.A program containing any one of the above (but not limited to these situations) is NOT an Olympic Development Program for the purposes of this Section.
173. A student may participate in the one qualifying round of the Michigan Amateur Tournament conducted by the Golf Association of Michigan without counting against his/her two non-school competitions during the season allowed under Section 12.

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**REGULATION II—RULES FOR CONTESTS INVOLVING  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS**

**SECTION 1—COMPETITION LIMITED TO ELIGIBLES**

**SECTION 1 — No high school shall enter any students or athletic teams in any contest or scrimmage unless the students or athletic teams of that high school are eligible under all Regulations, nor shall any high school knowingly permit its students or athletic teams to compete in a game, contest or scrimmage against a member school in which an ineligible athlete is used by either school. This applies to all students and interscholastic teams sponsored by the school in MHSAA Tournament sports and whether or not that school's team enters an MHSAA tournament.**

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 1**

174. Any change in the eligibility status of a student under this Regulation shall occur:
  - a. **First semester**, on the first day of practice or competition for the school team; or
  - b. **Second semester**, at the beginning of the first full day of the new semester on which regularly scheduled classes are held.
175. Member schools may not waive either rules of eligibility (Regulation I) or rules for contests (Regulation II) by mutual agreement, and member schools must observe all such rules when competing against non-member teams.
176. A member school (including a member school's non-traditional school or program) may have three (3) contests or days of competition for boys and three (3) for girls per season which are an outgrowth of the intramural program. These need not follow eligibility regulations but no one participating in such activities is eligible to represent the school in that sport on an interscholastic team that season.
177. Member schools cannot conduct, support, or recognize teams in any sport under MHSAA jurisdiction other than those that compete strictly on an intramural basis or on an interscholastic basis following all MHSAA rules. A team shall not be defined as a club team simply because it is funded with other than school finances. Internal descriptions of school teams such as club, non-varsity, etc do not change the school's responsibility to follow the regulations for interscholastic athletics for sports in which the MHSAA sponsors a postseason tournament as agreed to in the school's annual membership resolution.
178. Except as required by Regulation II, Sections 5 and 6, member schools may participate against non-member teams (including non-school community teams), regardless of who the sponsor is and the number of school and non-school teams involved, except that senior high school varsity football competition may only be against bona fide high school teams. See Regulation II Section 9(D).
179. MHSAA member high school teams may not practice or compete with or against junior high/middle school students or teams except as permitted in Regulation I, Section 1 (D).
180. Member schools may determine that ineligible student-athletes may practice during the season; however, MHSAA catastrophic insurance coverage is extended to eligible student-athletes only.

**SECTION 2—ADMINISTRATION**

**SECTION 2—The superintendent of schools or principal of the high school, or that member of the faculty designated by either of them, shall administer the teams representing the school and shall sign all contest and officials contracts.**

**INTERPRETATION—SECTION 2**

181. Contest and Officials contracts are required and should include specific dates, times, financial provisions and the specific sport and level of competition to be contested. No protest involving violation of obligations, either on the part of schools or athletic officials, will be considered by the Representative Council or Executive Committee unless there are properly executed contracts on file for the contest in question.

**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 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**



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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.

**SECTION 3 (B) – Effective with the 2015-16 school year, high schools must attest by each season's established deadline that all varsity head coaches have a valid current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification.**

**SECTION 3 (C) – Effective with the 2016-17 school year, each head coach of a varsity team in a sport under MHSAA jurisdiction hired for the first time at any MHSAA member school after July 31, 2016 shall have completed either Level 1 or Level 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP). If the head coach does not complete CAP Level 1 or 2 prior to the established deadline, that coach shall be prohibited from coaching in that season's MHSAA tournament for the sport involved and shall not be present at the facility where the MHSAA tournament involving that coach's team is being held. See Regulation II, Section 15 H(4). An administrator or faculty member designee of that school shall be present with supervisory capacity over the school's competitors. Failure to receive reminder notifications (email or other) does not change the requirement of this Section. The MHSAA may substitute an alternative coach's education program for late hires which will fulfill the requirement on a temporary basis.**

**SECTION 3 (D) – The use of a third-party contactor does not change a member school or coach's responsibility to follow all MHSAA regulations.**

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 3

182. The registration of a non-faculty member under the requirements of this Regulation in no sense constitutes certification for teaching or coaching.
183. The superintendent of schools or principal of the high school, or that member of the faculty designated by either of them, shall be responsible to assure that a non-faculty coach is aware of MHSAA eligibility and contest regulations and the rules of competition for the sport the person is assigned to coach.
184. Neither faculty nor non-faculty coaches may receive compensation for interscholastic coaching duties except through the school, and such compensation shall not exceed predetermined payments and limitations which are commensurate with compensation to classroom teachers' schedules for supplementary assignments. Prohibited payments to coaches include, but are not limited to:
  - a. compensation (directly or indirectly from any source) to supply team members with equipment, supplements, uniforms, shoes or warm-ups.
  - b. compensation (directly or indirectly from any source) to encourage or facilitate students' enrollment at a particular college or university.
  - c. compensation (directly or indirectly from any source) as an inducement for the school team to be scheduled for a game or tournament.
  - d. compensation (directly or indirectly from any source) as an inducement to obtain the presence of one or more students of the school to participate in a camp, clinic, combine, game or tournament sponsored by any entity.
  - e. compensation (directly or indirectly from any source) which exceeds the existing payment schedule for coaches.

**Note:** Booster Clubs may donate funds to schools for coaches compensation provided the school determines and issues the compensation and all other Interpretations are followed. Schools may use third party contractors for the purpose of coaches compensation provided the school remains the source of the funds and all other Interpretations are followed.

### SECTION 4—MASTER ELIGIBILITY LISTS

**SECTION 4—Schools shall prepare a Master Eligibility List or its equivalent of all students eligible for that sport under the provisions of the Regulations, including current term academic record. A list must be prepared prior to participation and at the beginning of each semester/trimester. Additions to the squad should be duly added. Current copies of the Master Eligibility List are to be available to competing schools upon re-**

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**quest and must be submitted by the opt-out due date to the manager at the entry level of each MHSAA Tournament to which the school is assigned.**

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 4

185. Participation in one or more interscholastic athletic contests is considered a season of competition under this Regulation and should be so included on Master Eligibility Lists under the heading “Number of Seasons of Participation in this Sport Including Present Season”.
186. No change shall be made in the name, record of age, number of semesters or trimesters of enrollment, or seasons of competition, from that which has previously appeared on the Master Eligibility Lists, where such a change would be to the advantage of the student concerned, until permission has been secured from the MHSAA office.
187. a. Regardless of the method used to submit an eligibility list (electronic or otherwise), the school principal or superintendent shall verify that the list which is submitted is truthful and accurate, has met the approval of the appropriate school administrator and is submitted on the school's behalf.
- b. If the school eligibility list (electronic or otherwise) is provided in any other manner than the MHSAA Master Eligibility List (MHSAA.com, "Forms and Resources"), it still must provide for all the information and certifications as found on the MHSAA form; and whether or not the statements of certification and compliance included on the MHSAA form are a part of the modified form used by the school, the certification of the administrator is deemed to be an attestation that the terms and conditions of the Master Eligibility List are being followed.
- c. Failure to have the Master Eligibility List on file (electronic or otherwise) in the offices of the superintendent or principal or athletic director of the school at the time of a contest, that includes the name of all the participants in that contest, subjects the school to penalties prescribed in Regulation V, Section 4(A), except that forfeiture will not be required if all the participants in the contest were otherwise eligible except for the omission of one or more eligible athletes from the Master Eligibility List.

### SECTION 5—CONTESTS WITH IN-STATE SCHOOLS ONLY

**SECTION 5 (A)—Competition held in Michigan, conducted by member schools, needs no MHSAA approval. All such meets and tournaments shall be conducted in accordance with all rules and regulations as set forth by the MHSAA.**

**SECTION 5 (B)—Any event (meet, tournament or showcase) with three or more teams held within Michigan for MHSAA member schools and sponsored by a non-member school, organization or individual, shall receive written approval by the MHSAA at least 30 days prior to the contest.**

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 5

188. Schools may participate in events sponsored by organizations other than MHSAA member schools or which involve schools from out-of-state as in Section 6 (A) and (B) **only if they have been approved by the MHSAA or the National Federation.**
189. Approval of meets and tournaments is based on the assurance by the sponsors that they will be conducted in accordance with MHSAA eligibility Regulations, MHSAA registered officials and rules of competition adopted by the MHSAA for that sport. An MHSAA member school representative shall be involved in the administration of the event.

### SECTION 6—CONTESTS WITH OUT-OF-STATE SCHOOLS

**SECTION 6 (A)—No MHSAA member school may participate in competition at a site where a school from another state or country is competing unless all schools are in good standing with their respective National Federation member high school association (if eligible), all National Federation sanctioning requirements are fulfilled, and there is compliance with MHSAA travel limitations.**

**National Federation sanctioning is required for:**

1. An interstate event involving two or more schools which is sponsored or co-sponsored by or titled or co-titled in the name of an outside organization or individual; or
2. An event involving schools other than Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin and Ontario in which (a) five or more states are involved or (b) eight or more schools are involved.

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**SECTION 6 (B) – 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, Ohio, Wisconsin and Ontario. However,**

- 1. No state association approval is necessary, regardless of the number of schools involved, if competition involves only MHSAA schools and schools from just one of the following: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin and Ontario.**
- 2. National Federation sanction 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)—Schools which desire to conduct practice sessions out of state at a site more than 600 highway 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.**

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 6

190. MHSAA member schools shall determine whether out-of-state schools are members in good standing of their state associations. The regular MHSAA game contract may be used for dual competition with out-of-state schools.
191. No member school may travel out of state to play another MHSAA member school, except as allowed in Interpretation 192 and 193.
192.
  - a. MHSAA member schools shall adhere to the provisions governing interstate contests of the National Federation of State High School Associations. See Application for Sanction on NFHS.org Sanctioning.
  - b. MHSAA member schools may not participate in an out-of-state contest, meet or tournament that is not approved by the host state high school association belonging to the National Federation of State High School Associations. No action by the host state high school association is considered the same as that association's not approving the event.
193.
  - a. No member school shall compete in any interstate meet, contest or scrimmage which involves travel of more than 600 highway miles round-trip for any participating team.
  - b. Schools are prohibited from participating in two-team competition at multi-school interstate events where any team involved in any contest of the event must travel more than 600 highway miles round-trip.
  - c. For competition involving schools exclusively from and occurring only within Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin and Ontario, MHSAA member schools may compete regardless of the travel distance for any participating team.
  - d. The Michigan School for the Deaf may compete against other state residential schools for the deaf in events of the Central States Schools for the Deaf Association regardless of the distance for any participating school.
194. For the purposes of this Section, highway 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).
195. Playing rules for competition against out-of-state teams shall be those adopted by the MHSAA unless an express written exception has been granted by the MHSAA for a specific event or series of events.
196. When a school-sponsored team, or group of students which resembles the school team, intends to conduct practice sessions out of state at a site more than 600 highway 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.
197. No member school or individuals representing a member school may participate in any athletic event which is or purports to be an all-star competition or a national high school championship, or the qualification thereto, in a sport under MHSAA jurisdiction if any of the participants is enrolled in a MHSAA member school at the time of the event.

### SECTION 7—USE OF REGISTERED OFFICIALS

**SECTION 7 (A)—High schools and others which sponsor competition for member high school teams, shall use in the sports concerned, only those athletic officials who are registered with the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the current year in football, basketball, baseball, ice hockey, wrestling, girls competitive cheer, girls gymnastics, boys and girls lacrosse, girls softball, girls volleyball and soccer. The referee and/or starter used in**

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all interscholastic swimming, cross country or track and field meets must be registered for the current year in that sport. In girls volleyball, the referees must be registered.

**SECTION 7 (B)**—Schools are responsible for rating officials who officiate contests involving their teams in sports for which officials' ratings are maintained. Schools which fail to rate any officials during the season prior to the deadline shall be subject to the penalties outlined under Regulation V, Section 4. Regardless of the method used to submit officials ratings, the school principal or athletic director shall verify that the ratings submitted are truthful and accurate, have met with the approval of the appropriate school administrator and are submitted on the school's behalf.

**SECTION 7 (C)** – High Schools and others which sponsor competition for member high school teams and utilize and pay for services of a third-party, non-school assigner for high school officiating contests, shall use only those individuals who are assigners registered with the MHSAA for a current school year.

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 7

198. Responsibility for assurance that registered officials only are used rests primarily with the host school, although school executives are reminded that both parties to a contest are responsible for compliance with this regulation and may receive penalties for failure to adhere to it.
199. Member schools are responsible to assure that individual officials contracted to officiate for that member school shall be provided a contract (hard copy or electronic) for each date or event hired. Any multiple date or official contract form will list all officials scheduled and include the signature or electronic acceptance of each contracted official and/or all dates and events for which an individual is contracted.
200. Any interscholastic contest in baseball, basketball, football, girls competitive cheer, girls gymnastics, ice hockey, boys and girls lacrosse, soccer, girls softball, girls volleyball or wrestling and any meet in cross country, swimming or track and field (either with other schools or with non-school teams) must be officiated by registered officials of the MHSAA or the state Association in which the game is played. Six-man or eight-man football games must be officiated by registered football officials.
201. Schools may be certain that officials are registered with the MHSAA for a current year by consulting the online *Officials Directory* in which their names and classifications appear, or by contacting the MHSAA in the case of late registration. Each registered official also should have proof of registration in his or her possession and be wearing the MHSAA officials' emblem.
202. An official who officiates in high school athletic contests without having completed the required registration for a current school year, is to have the case reviewed by the Executive Director before any subsequent registration will be accepted. In all cases, such officials will not be given credit toward their MHSAA Service awards and any ratings given them for contests worked while they were not registered will be discarded. The official may be censured, placed on probation (no tournament assignment), suspended, or refused registration in one or more sports for one or more years. A suspended official may be reinstated to good standing as an athletic official at the conclusion of a period of suspension upon payment by that person of all registration fees in which he or she is in arrears; it being understood, however, that no registration fee is to be charged such an official for the period of his/her suspension.

### SECTION 8—PLAYING RULES

**SECTION 8 (A)**—Schools shall adhere to the playing rules adopted by the Michigan High School Athletic Association to govern games and meets in baseball, basketball, bowling, girls competitive cheer, cross country, football, golf, girls gymnastics, ice hockey, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, soccer, girls softball, alpine skiing, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, girls volleyball, and wrestling.

**SECTION 8 (B)**—Each head coach of a varsity team in a sport under MHSAA jurisdiction shall complete (in person or online) the MHSAA rules meetings for that sport for the current school year prior to the deadline if meetings are provided and attendance is required. If the head coach does not complete a rules meeting prior to the deadline that coach shall be prohibited from coaching in that season's MHSAA tournament for the sport involved and shall not be present at the facility where the MHSAA tournament involving that coach's team is being held. See Regulation II, Section 15 H(4). An administrator or faculty member designee of that school shall be present with supervisory capacity over the school's competitors. Failure to receive reminder notifications (email or other) does not change the requirement of this Section.

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**SECTION 8 (C)—Schools shall attest that all assistant and sub varsity coaches have completed an MHSAA rules meetings (online or in person) for that sport for the current school year prior to the deadline or, in the alternate, one of the free online sports safety courses posted on or linked from MHSAA.com and designated to fulfill this requirement. It is expected that schools will impose the penalty of Section 8 (B) to assistant or subvarsity coaches who do not meet this requirement by the deadline.**

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 8

203. Unless modified elsewhere in the regulations, the official playing rules for competition involving one or more MHSAA member junior high/middle schools or high schools are as follows:
- Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Girls Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field, Girls Volleyball, and Wrestling** - National Federation of State High School Associations (published or endorsed).
  - Bowling** - U.S. Bowling Congress (applicable rules as stated in MHSAA Participating School Tournament Information).
  - Competitive Cheer and Skiing** - MHSAA.
  - Golf** - U.S. Golf Association.
  - Tennis** - U.S. Tennis Association.
204. Exceptions to or modifications of playing rules shall not be made by competing schools.
- a. **For sports at the sub varsity or junior high/middle school levels only**, in order to reduce the competitive demands on younger athletes, deviations or modifications of playing rules adopted by the MHSAA may be requested in writing annually by leagues and conferences or individual schools.
  - b. Modifications permitted in National Federation sport rule books by state high school association adoption must be approved by the MHSAA (see pages 105-110 for the current year's modifications).
  - c. Skills contests (3-point shots, slam dunk, home run derby, etc.) held before, during or after competition for students who are team members participating in that competition, are considered deviations to playing rules and not allowed.
  - d. By prior mutual consent of competing teams in regular-season contests, schools may agree to vary the color of uniforms (e.g. pink or camouflage) to commemorate events or causes important to those schools, provided all other uniform specifications are followed. Such deviations are not allowed in MHSAA tournament competition.
205. Playing rules for competition against out-of-state teams shall be those adopted by the MHSAA unless an express written exception has been granted by the MHSAA for a specific event or series of events.

### SECTION 9—FOOTBALL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION— EARLY SEASON PRACTICE AND SCRIMMAGE SESSIONS

**SECTION 9 (A)—Football practice may begin on the 16th Monday before Thanksgiving (National Federation Week No. 6), and shall adhere to football practice policies adopted by the Representative Council (see page 112).**

**SECTION 9 (B)—A school team shall not play a game of football until it has practiced for a period of 16 calendar days during which practices are conducted on at least 12 separate days. The first varsity game may be played on Thursday or thereafter of the 13th week before Thanksgiving (NF Week No. 8). The first freshman or junior varsity game may be played on the day before that Thursday varsity game.**

**SECTION 9 (C)—A school may not take part in a scrimmage session with other schools until practice has occurred on nine separate days (which may include the day of the scrimmage). A football team (any level) shall not participate in a football scrimmage with or against any other team(s) after the last contest (regular season or MHSAA tournament) for that team.**

**SECTION 9 (D)—There shall be no varsity football scrimmage or competition except between teams composed exclusively of senior high school students who represent high schools in such scrimmage or competition. Subvarsity high school and junior high/middle school teams are permitted to schedule games with nonschool teams. Ninth-grade students representing the school in which they are enrolled may compete as members of or against junior high/middle school teams on which there are 7th or 8th-graders, or both, if the games are played under rules governing junior high/middle school football.**

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### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 9

206. a. During the four days of practice required without full pads (See page 112), schools may use equipment such as goal posts, ropes, dummies, hand shields and sleds.
- b. Preseason football practice where more than footballs, helmets and football shoes are used shall be conducted at the place where practice will be held after school starts. Preseason scrimmages with students from more than one school may take place on any facility selected by the host school.
207. Schools may conduct formal practice only during the specified dates. Spring football practice is prohibited under this Regulation.
208. If a school offers instruction in football **skills** as part of its regular school year curriculum (first or second semester), it must be open to all students, and football must be no more than one-third of the course content taught to all students in the course in nearly equal portions of any trimester or semester. No regular or improvised football equipment other than a football may be used and no offensive and defensive plays and schemes of the interscholastic football team may be taught except during the football season as defined in Section 9 (A). There is to be no summer school instruction in football skills. See Regulation II, Section 11(H)6.
209. No games or scrimmages in varsity football may be arranged by high schools with college varsity, college reserve, or college freshman teams, junior college teams, non-school teams, independent teams, or alumni teams. The only varsity football scrimmages or varsity football games in which high school students may engage are those against teams composed exclusively of high school students and representing high schools. (See last sentence of Section 9 [D].) It is to be understood, however, that this restriction applies only to varsity football. Competition between any of the above in other sports is a matter for local school determination.
210. Non-varsity senior high school and 9th grade junior high/middle school football teams may play their first football games on Thursday of the third week of regular-season practice, or on Wednesday if the varsity team plays on Thursday.
211. Regardless of the location or time of year, after once representing an MHSAA member school in competition in any MHSAA sport, an individual student(s) shall not participate in any out-of season football camp, competition, clinic or combine with equipment of more than football helmets and football shoes. Out-of-season during the school year and summer (except as prohibited during the summer dead period), participation by a student in football practice involving physical activity which may be offered as part of an out of season or summer camp combine, competition or clinic is not a violation of this section as long as player equipment is limited to football shoes, helmets and footballs. See Regulation II, Section 11(H) 2.b. (1) (2) and (3).
212. In addition to summer time out-of-season practice and competition regulations (7 on 7) of Regulation II, Section 11 (H), informal activities (with footballs, helmets and football shoes – not sleds and dummies) may take place on any number of days during the summer (prior to Aug. 1) as long as no more than seven students in grades 7-12 of the district are assembled with a football coach of that district.
213. Teams may, by game contract or league and conference adoption, follow National Federation rules for less than 11-person football.
214. Junior high/middle school teams composed only of 9th-grade students may play contests under game rules for senior high schools.
215. This Section and Interpretations also are applicable to junior high/middle school football.

### SECTION 10—LIMITATIONS OF COMPETITION

**SECTION 10 (A)—Students and teams are subject to the following limitations:**

#### 1. BASEBALL

**A student shall not pitch more than three consecutive days regardless of the outs pitched; and a player shall not pitch for two calendar days following that in which he pitched his 30th out. A student or team shall participate in no more than two games per school day. A student or team shall compete in no more than four scrimmages and in no more than 38 games, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament.**

#### 2. BASKETBALL

**A student or team shall participate in no more than three games Monday through Sunday and observe the season maximum of four scrimmages and 20 games, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament. A student or team shall participate in no more than one game of interscholastic basketball per day. A student or team participating in an MHSAA tournament shall compete in no other basketball game during the week of that tournament (Monday through Sunday).**

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### 3. BOWLING

A student or team shall participate in no more than four scrimmages and 24 days of competition during the season, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament. A student shall participate in no more than 18 games per day and no more than eight games on a day which precedes a day of school. (Five “Baker” format games shall be the equivalent of one game for purposes of this rule).

### 4. GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER

All school sponsored cheerleading competition must be in the MHSAA Competitive Cheer Format. A student or team shall participate in no more than four scrimmages and in no more than 12 days of competition, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament.

### 5. CROSS COUNTRY

A contestant in a cross country meet shall not run a distance greater than 5,000 meters (3.1 miles). A student or team shall participate in no more than four scrimmages and in no more than 15 days of competition, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament.

### 6. FOOTBALL

A student or team shall participate in not more than one game of interscholastic football in five consecutive calendar days and in no more than four scrimmages and in no more than nine games in a season, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament.

### 7. GOLF

A student or team shall participate in no more than four scrimmages and in no more than 16 days of competition, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament.

### 8. GYMNASTICS

A student or team shall participate in no more than four scrimmages and in no more than 15 days of competition, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament.

### 9. ICE HOCKEY

A student or team shall participate in no more than one interscholastic ice hockey game per day and in no more than one scrimmages before the first game and in no more than 25 games during the regular season, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament. A student or team shall participate in no more than three games Monday through Sunday.

### 10. LACROSSE

A student or team shall participate in no more than three games and/or scrimmages of lacrosse in one week (Monday through Sunday), including regular and MHSAA tournament play. An individual is limited to one game per school day. A student or team shall participate in no more than four scrimmages and in no more than 18 games, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament.

A student or team may participate in a multi-team tournament in which the total allowable playing time for any team is no more than 150 running time minutes and the event counts as one of the 18 regular-season contests. The following provisions would apply:

- a. A student or team shall participate in no more than two (boys)/three (girls) multi-team tournaments in its regular-season schedule, each tournament counting as one of the 18 games of competition allowed.
- b. No more than 25-minute running time halves could have been played. Clock stops for injuries with one time out allowed per team per half. For girls, two regular games may be played (no overtimes permitted).
- c. Multi-team tournaments may only be held on non school days.
- d. There are no overtimes permitted; the games shall end in a tie.
- e. If a student or team participates in a multi-team tournament, that student or team shall participate in no more than two regulation games or scrimmages that week, Monday through Sunday, in addition to the multi-team tournament.

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### 11. SKIING (Alpine)

A student or team may only participate in those CUSSA meets sanctioned by the MHSAA, and each meet shall count as one of the 15 ski meets allowed for that team and individual that season. If two members of a team participate in two different MHSAA sanctioned CUSSA meets in the same weekend, they count as only one of the 15 meets allowed. Each student must have on file with the schools administration (athletic director or principal) his/her complete and up-to-date CUSSA/high school meet schedule. An eligibility list from the school must be presented to the designated high school representative for the sanctioned meet prior to the student's participation in that meet. See Regulation II, Section 15(F). No student or team shall participate in more than four scrimmages and in no more than 15 meets total, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament but including MHSAA sanctioned CUSSA meets and meets against other school teams.

### 12. SOCCER

A student or team shall participate in no more than three games and/or scrimmages of soccer in one week (Monday through Sunday), including regular and MHSAA tournament play. A student or team is limited to one game per school day. A student or team shall participate in no more than four scrimmages and in no more than 18 games, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament.

A student or team may participate in a multi-team tournament in which total allowable playing time for any team is no more than 180 minutes and the event counts as one of 18 regular-season contests. The following provisions would apply:

- a. A student or team would be allowed a maximum of two multi-team tournaments in its regular-season schedule, each tournament counting as one of the 18 games of allowed competition.
- b. No more than 30-minute halves could have been played.
- c. Multi-team tournaments could only be held on non-school days.
- d. The games may only be resolved by a shoot-out method; no overtime could be played.
- e. If a student or team participates in a multi-team tournament, that student or team shall participate in no more than two regulation games or scrimmages that week, Monday through Sunday, in addition to the multi-team tournament.

### 13. GIRLS SOFTBALL

A student or team shall participate in no more than two games per school day. A student or team shall participate in no more than four scrimmages and in no more than 38 games, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament.

### 14. SWIMMING & DIVING

A student or team shall participate in no more than 17 days of competition, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament. A student shall participate in no more than four events per meet, no more than two of which shall be individual events. Diving only competitions held on one day, which are scored as part of a swimming & diving meet held on a day other than the swimming events are held, will count as the same day of competition as the swimming event.

### 15. TENNIS

A student shall participate in no more than three matches per day, singles or doubles, except that in a league championship meet involving more than eight schools, a player may play a fourth match if the player has not played in more than six sets in the first three rounds and the fourth match would complete the tournament. A student or team shall participate in no more than four scrimmages and in no more than 16 days of competition, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament.

### 16. TRACK & FIELD

A student or team shall participate in no more than four events per meet (National Federation listed events only, but not javelin in any form). A student or team shall participate in no more than four scrimmages and in no more than 18 days of competition in a season, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament.

### 17. GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

A student or team shall participate in no more than 21 sets (games) per day. A student or team shall participate in no more than four scrimmages and in no more than 18 days of competition in a season, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament. See Interpretation 216.



**18. WRESTLING**

- a. A student shall participate in no more than five matches per day and no more than two matches on a day of school (Monday-Thursday).
- b. A student or team shall participate in no more than three days of competition, Monday through Sunday, but only two of the three days of competition shall occur on a day or night before a school day.
- c. A student or team is limited to eight events in which a wrestler may participate in more than two matches.
- d. A student or team is limited to four scrimmages and 14 days of competition, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament.
- e. Weigh-ins do not count as a day of competition for an individual unless the student steps on the mat to wrestle or receive a forfeit.
- f. A maximum of 40 matches for a student is recommended prior to the MHSAA tournament series.
- g. Prior to the MHSAA tournament series, a student shall participate in no more than 52 total matches (eight events of five matches and eight events of two matches [8 x 5 + 6 x 2 = 52])
- h. Schools and their students are subject to all aspects of the Michigan Weight Monitoring Program.

**SECTION 10 (B)**—There shall be no interscholastic competition in boxing.

**SECTION 10 (C)**—A contestant in any sport shall not participate on two different teams on the same date in the same sport, except wrestling.

**SECTION 10 (D)**—No student or team shall represent their school in a sport under Michigan High School Athletic Association jurisdiction unless accompanied to the event by the coach, administrator, or appointee of the school.

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 10**

- 216 Except for wrestling, a student shall not play for two or more teams on any level (varsity or subvarsity, scrimmage or contest) in the same sport on the same day, regardless of the sport. Participation in any part of a contest or scrimmage constitutes competition in a game or scrimmage under the provisions of this Section.
- 217. It is not prohibited for a student to participate in contests or scrimmages of two different sports in the same day, although local school policies may be more restrictive.
- 218. It is not permissible for a student to participate in both a scrimmage and a game, meet or contest on the same day in any one sport unless the regulations allow two games, meets or contests to be played in that sport on that day. "Fifth quarters," which do not count in the final score, are allowed in subvarsity competition; but students who participate in a "fifth quarter" of a game shall not have participated in the regulation game.
- 219. A student ineligible under any of the provisions of Regulation I, or one who has competed in a meet or tournament in accordance with the maximum limitations of competition for that meet or tournament in the sport concerned, shall not take part in such meet or tournament immediately preceding, during, or immediately after either of the above in a so-called "exhibition or practice event," or in one in which points may not be scored.

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**SECTION 11—MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTESTS—  
BEGINNING OF PRACTICE (INCLUDING TRYOUTS)—SCRIMMAGE SESSIONS**

**SECTION 11 (A)—**A high school may have any number of teams in each sport, but only one team from that school may enter the MHSAA tournament for that sport each season. No team schedule or individual is to exceed the following number of contests, games or days of competition exclusive of the MHSAA meet or tournament:

Games—Contests			Days of Competition		
Sport	Games/Contests	Scrimmages Allowed Per season	Sport	Days of Competition	Scrimmages Allowed Per season
Baseball	38	4	Bowling	24	4
Basketball	20	4	Girls Comp. Cheer	12	4
Football	9	4	Cross Country	15	4
Ice Hockey	25	1	Golf	16	4
Lacrosse	18	4	Girls Gymnastics	15	4
Skiing	15	4	Swimming	17	4
Soccer	18	4	Tennis	16	4
Softball	38	4	Track	18	4
			Girls Volleyball	18	4
			Wrestling	14	4

**SECTION 11 (B)—**Each school team and all players are allowed a maximum of four scrimmages per season (see No. 2). A team (any level) shall not participate in a scrimmage with or against any other team(s) after the last contest (regular season or MHSAA tournament) for that team. Scrimmages may occur at any time during the season, but not after the team’s last scheduled regular-season or MHSAA Tournament contest. See Regulation II, Section 9 for specifics on football scrimmages.

1. Any of a school's varsity and non-varsity teams may scrimmage at different sites and on different days.
2. In ice hockey, each school team and all players are allowed a maximum of one scrimmage per season
3. In wrestling, after MHSAA Individual District Tournament competition, qualifiers to Individual Regional tournaments may practice with/scrimmage qualifiers from other schools.

**SECTION 11 (C)—**A scrimmage is a practice session involving students from more than one school, organization or group and when it is prearranged or scheduled or directed by the school coach or representative.

1. This scrimmage definition is not intended to exclude an individual from playing or training or practicing on an individual basis, on his/her own time, and without instruction from his/her coach or school representative.
2. Whenever a scrimmage takes place as defined, it counts as a scrimmage. If a team has used all allowable scrimmages but has not used all games or days of competition, that team may conduct additional scrimmages up to the combined limit of games or days of competition and scrimmages. However, it can not be a game or day of competition for one team and a scrimmage for the other.

**SECTION 11 (D) —** The following provisions are in effect for regular-season athletic contests which are suspended by local management or game officials due to emergencies that might endanger participants, such as but not limited to, extreme heat and humidity, rain, lightning, darkness, tornadoes, light failure, etc., unless otherwise stated in the published rules for that sport:

1. If an athletic event is terminated due to the above mentioned reasons, it will count as a game/day of competition.
2. If that athletic event is to be continued from its point of suspension on another day, it will not count as an additional game/day of competition.
3. If that athletic event is to start over from the beginning, it is to count as an additional game/day competition.
4. When a multi-team event is suspended, it shall be counted as a contest/day of competition for any school which has had one or more eligible athletes participate regardless of scoring opportunities or results.

**Note regarding the maximum number of contests or days of competition: If a contest is not started**

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and not forfeited, it shall not be counted as a contest or date of competition. If an event or contest is not started and forfeited by one team, it is considered a forfeit for both teams and counts as a contest or day of competition for both individuals and teams.

**NOTE:** If a football game is stopped by officials under conditions outlined in Regulation II, Section 11 (D), the game may be rescheduled without reference to a student's limitation of one football game being played within a five-day period.

**SECTION 11 (E)—For a school to be eligible to enter the MHSAA tournament for a particular sport, practice (including tryouts) may commence no earlier than:**

**Fall Sports:** **Football:** The 16th Monday before Thanksgiving (Aug 11, 2014)

**All other sports:** The 16th Wednesday before Thanksgiving (Aug. 13, 2014).

**Winter Sports:** **Girls Gymnastics:** Monday, the week of Nov. 1 (Oct. 27, 2014)

**Ice Hockey:** 4th Monday before Thanksgiving (Nov. 3, 2014)

**Girls Basketball, Girls Competitive Cheer, U.P. Swimming & Diving:** Three Mondays before Thanksgiving (Nov. 10, 2014)

**Boys Basketball, L.P. Bowling, Skiing, Wrestling:** Two Mondays before Thanksgiving (Nov. 17, 2014)

**U.P. Bowling:** Two Thursdays before Thanksgiving (Nov. 13, 2014)

**L.P. Boys Swimming & Diving:** The Monday before Thanksgiving (Nov. 24, 2014).

**Spring Sports:** The second Monday after March 1 for all sports (March 9, 2015).

**SECTION 11 (F)—For a school to be eligible to enter the MHSAA tournament for a particular sport, contests may commence no earlier than:**

**Fall Sports:** **Golf and Tennis:** After 3 separate days of practice for the team and not before 7 calendar days after the first date practice is permitted. (Wed., Aug. 20, 2014)

**Football:** As described in Regulation II, Section 9(B): After 12 separate days of practice for team (the first three without pads) and not before 16 calendar days after the first date practice is permitted. (Wed., Aug. 27, 2014 for sub varsity games).

First varsity game may be on Thurs. (Aug. 28, 2014). Subvarsity on Wed. before that Varsity game.

**All Other Fall Sports:** After 7 days of practice for team and not before 9 calendar days after the first date practice is permitted (Fri., Aug. 22, 2014).

**Winter Sports:** **Girls Gymnastics:** After 7 separate days of practice for the team and not before 19 calendar days after the first practice is permitted (Sat., Nov. 15, 2014).

**Ice Hockey:** After 7 separate days of practice for the team and not before 14 calendar days after the first practice is permitted (Mon., Nov. 17, 2014).

**U.P. Swimming & Diving:** After 7 separate days of practice for the team and not before 12 calendar days after the first practice is permitted (Sat. Nov. 22, 2014).

**Girls Competitive Cheer:** After 7 separate days of practice for the team and not before 14 calendar days after the first practice is permitted (Mon., Nov. 24, 2014).

**L. P. Bowling:** After 7 separate days of practice for the team and not before 19 calendar days after the first practice is permitted (Sat., Dec. 6, 2014).

**U.P. Bowling:** After 7 separate days of practice for the team and not before 16 calendar days after the first practice is permitted (Sat., Nov. 29, 2014).

**Wrestling:** After 7 separate days of practice for the team and not before 19 calendar days after the first practice is permitted (Wed. Dec. 10, 2014). In years with 16 Saturdays in a season it is 23 calendar days (Dec. 10, 2014).

**L.P. Boys Swimming & Diving:** After 7 separate days of practice for the team and not before 12 calendar days after the first practice is permitted (Sat., Dec. 6, 2014).

**Boys Basketball:** After 7 separate days of practice for the team and not before 21 calendar days after the first practice is permitted (Mon., Dec. 8, 2014).

**Girls Basketball:** After 7 separate days of practice for the team and not before 21 calendar days after the first practice is permitted (Mon., Dec. 1, 2014).

**Skiing:** After 7 separate days of practice for the team and not before 26 calendar days after the first practice is permitted (Sat., Dec. 13, 2014).

**Spring Sports:** **L.P. Boys Golf, L.P. Girls Tennis, U.P. Boys & Girls Golf, U.P. Boys Tennis:** After 3 separate days of practice for the team and not before 7 calendar days after the first practice is permitted (Mon. March 16, 2015).

**Other Spring Sports:** After 7 separate days of practice for the team and not before 9 calendar days after the first practice is permitted (Wed., March 18, 2015).

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See “Quick Reference Calendar,” page 123, for summary of 11(E) and 11(F)

**NOTE:** Scheduled practices cancelled or discontinued due to the MHSAA “Model Policy for Managing Heat and Humidity” (page 113) count toward the required number of team practices for this section.

**SECTION 11 (G)—**The last game of the regular season in Ice Hockey shall not be played after the last Saturday of February unless MHSAA tournament requirements specify an earlier date.

**SECTION 11 (H)—**There is no such thing as a school team outside the interscholastic season of practice and competition. Schools shall not require or sponsor activities in the name of the school team outside the school season for the sport involved. That the regulations or their Interpretation do not prohibit a specific action or activity does not mean that such is permissible. When the regulations or their Interpretation describe an allowed out-of-season contact between the coach and students of his/her school, it does not mean such may be required, conducted or sponsored explicitly or implicitly by their school district.

1. As a general rule, the activity of STUDENTS is not restricted outside the high school season, subject to limitations of the amateur and awards rules as well as prohibitions on all-star and national high school championship competition. An individual student-athlete may obtain any amount of coaching from any coach, including his or her school coach, any time, year-around except during the summer dead period, provided the restrictions placed upon school coaches are followed. (See Interpretations 234-239)

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 through the Sunday after Memorial Day observed), school coaches are prohibited from providing coaching at any one time under one roof, facility or campus to more than three (or four) students in grades 7-12 of the district or cooperative program for which they coach (four students if the coaching does not involve practice or competition with students or others not enrolled in that school district). This applies only to the specific sport(s) coached by the coach, but it applies to all levels, junior high/middle school and high school, and both genders, whether the coach is paid or volunteer (e.g., a volunteer JV boys soccer coach may not work with more than three girls in grades 7-12 outside the girls soccer season during the school year).

- (1) In schools that sponsor girls competitive cheer, all cheer-related activities of both competitive cheer and sideline cheerleading (including but not limited to tumbling/gymnastics instruction and routine development) are prohibited for students with competitive cheer coaches and/or sideline cheerleading advisors, except as permitted by the three- (or four-) player rule, from the last Monday of March through the third Friday of May. Interpretation 236 applies. Competitive cheer coaches remain subject to the three- (or four-) player rule with respect to competitive cheer activities until the Monday after Memorial Day when summer rules begin for all sports.

- b. When school coaches are in contact with students during the summer, they do so un-sponsored by the school where they coach. These activities must be entirely non school programs:

- (1) During the summer prior to Aug. 1, except as limited during the summer “dead period” (see (3) below), coaches are limited to 15 days when they can coach in competition students in grades 7-12 of their school district if the teams involve more than the following number of players:

Soccer - 7

Lacrosse - 7

Volleyball - 3

Basketball - 3

Ice Hockey - 3

Only the sports listed above are subject to these limitations on summer competition; and there are to be no summer competitions (as defined for these sports) on or after Aug. 1.

In football, a maximum of seven players at one time may engage in organized competition with their school coach present for a maximum of seven days (more than seven players may be present). These 7-on-7 events may not be played on or after Aug 1 for both high school and junior high/middle schools and must adhere to travel limitations for events held outside of Michigan.

In addition, informal activities (with footballs, helmets and football shoes – not sleds and dummies) may take place on any number of days during the summer, prior to Aug. 1 as long as no more than seven students in grades 7-12 of the district are assembled with a football coach of that district.

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- These 15 (or 7) days of competition in the summer with the school's coaches of the sport present are subject to the same out-of-state travel limits that apply to school teams during the school season under Regulation II, Section 6, except for camps conducted within Michigan.
- (2) During the summer prior to Aug. 1, except as limited during the summer "dead period" (see (3) below), football coaches may participate at bona fide summer football skills camps where more than 7 students from their school district in grades 7-12 are participating.
    - a. Bona fide football camps are those sponsored by institutions or business enterprises including: colleges, individual schools or intermediate school districts, community school programs, etc.
    - b. The camps must be open to students from any school district, and are subject to player equipment limitations of shoes and helmets. Sleds and dummies may be used at these camps.
    - c. Camps limited to students entering grades 9-12 must be promoted and advertised in public media to be open to students from more than one high school.
    - d. Camps sponsored by a high school and limited to students entering grades 9-12 may not extend more than 10 days total.
  - (3) Summer "Dead Period"- In addition to (1) and (2) above, member schools shall designate a minimum of seven full consecutive calendar days during the summer when school is not in session and after the school's last participation in any MHSAA Tournament sport and prior to August 1 when open gyms (see 4 below) and conditioning programs, including weight training, (see 5 below) are not permitted to be conducted on school premises or sponsored by the school at other facilities. None of the 15 or seven days of competition permitted under (1) above shall occur during this dead period. The summer dead period applies to all levels of MHSAA member schools, coaches and students in grades 7-12 (See Interpretation 238).
    - a. During the summer dead period, coaches may not provide coaching instruction to any students from the district in which they coach in any setting (including camps), except that non-school, organized baseball and softball practices or competitions regularly scheduled throughout the summer with schools' coaches and students from the same district may continue without interruption (e.g., American Legion)."
    - b. Within a school, the dead period shall be the same for all MHSAA tournament sports sponsored by that school, and it shall not overlap any portion of the fall preseason downtime. It is recommended that these seven days include the 4th of July.
  - (4) Preseason "Down Time" - Preseason "Down Time" - Beginning August 1 for all fall sports, March 1 for spring sports and 14 calendar days prior to the earliest start of practice for each winter sport:
    - a. No open gyms which involve that sport or sport-specific camps or clinics shall occur at the school or be sponsored elsewhere by the school. Open gyms are prohibited during this period whether or not coaches are present. No competition (intrasquad or intersquad) between groups that resemble school teams (more than three [or four] students of grades 7-12 of the district) may occur in that sport at any school facility or any other location with any of that school district's personnel present.
    - b. Regardless of what they are called or where they are held, coach-conducted running or swimming sessions which involve the structure of distances and timing and/or teach sport specific technique shall not be provided even on a voluntary basis during the down time prior to cross country, track & field or swimming & diving seasons if they are conducted by the school coaches of those sports.
3. These limitations apply to member SCHOOLS year-round:
- a. At no time out of season may school transportation be used. There may be no use of school owned and issued competition warm-ups and/or uniforms (non-competition practice jerseys may be worn whether or not school-owned or issued). Neither the school nor its coaches shall allow the out-of-season activity to be mandatory or to be any part of the basis for selection of the school team.
  - b. School operating funds may not be used in any way to support out-of-season activities; only funds from school-approved activities of booster clubs, school teams, student groups and community, civic or service groups may be used to pay fees for individuals on some basis other than

athletic ability or potential (qualification for federal school lunch program is a suggested criterion). The limit is \$200 per sport per student per year (September through August). Booster Clubs may not sponsor or fund those out-of-season activities during the school year which the school or coach would be prohibited from doing, including but not limited to rentals for fall or spring ice time, fall or winter batting cages, or indoor lacrosse, soccer or tennis facilities.

- c. Because students and coaches may assemble from the same school, there is a tendency at summer camps and in summer leagues or in non-school events held during the school year, to call teams by their school names, but it must be understood they are not school-sponsored teams. They can't be. To assure there are no misunderstandings about the school's authority and responsibility (including liability for injuries), the following should occur:
  - (1) School administration must not allow camp and league organizers to use the school designations. "Lansing" is permissible; it's a city; but not "Lansing Everett" or "Lansing Catholic Central," which are the names of schools.
  - (2) School administrators should not allow school public address announcements or school website, newspaper or school yearbook coverage of any non-school sports activity or accomplishment that is not typical of promotion given to non-athletic non-school activities of students.
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).
  - 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.
5. Except as limited by 2b.(3) and (4) preceding, school-sponsored "conditioning programs" are permitted out of season if they are voluntary and not part of the team selection process and do not involve equipment which is specific to a sport conducted on an interscholastic basis in Michigan. Examples of prohibited equipment include, but are not limited to, basketballs; volleyballs or nets; hockey sticks or pucks, track starting blocks, batons, shots, discuses, hurdles, or high jump and pole vault standards; football helmets, pads, footballs, sleds or dummies; baseball/softball bats, balls or bases; competitive cheer mats; wrestling mats; gymnastics mats or apparatus; swimming starting blocks. Generic equipment such as cones, weights, jump ropes, and other fitness apparatuses are permitted. See Interpretations 235-237.
6. Curriculum Courses - Interscholastic athletics are extracurricular and may not be part of any curriculum. If classes contain no content specific to an MHSAA tournament sport, they are allowed. If any subject matter specific to any MHSAA tournament sport is taught to students, instruction to every student during any trimester or semester shall include nearly equal attention to at least three different topics such as other sports, lifesaving, water safety instruction, CPR, officiating, sportsmanship and first aid, as well as fitness, general weight training and conditioning. Classes must be open to all students. See Interpretation 208.
7. Depending on the severity and/or frequency of out-of-season coaching violations, a coach or member school may be subject to any or all, but not limited to, the following:
  1. Censure. Further restrict coach/player contact out of season.
  2. Probation. Prohibit out-of-season coach/player contact, including at otherwise permitted conditioning programs, open gyms, summer competitions and three-player coaching situations.
  3. Probation. Restrict coaches' attendance at in-season practices, scrimmages and/or games, including regular season and/or MHSAA tournament.Regulation V, Section 4 may also be applied.

#### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 11

220. Game or contest conditions usually involve league, tournament or organized play or when admission is charged.

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221. MHSAA Tournament games or meets are not included in the maximum number of games, contests or days of competition allowed.
222. Each game played in a county, league, or invitational basketball tournament must be counted in the allotted twenty (20) games.
223. **Scrimmages** are for instruction more than competition. Schools may not charge admission (or accept cash donations), charge for parking or conduct raffles in lieu of admission, or publicize results of interscholastic scrimmages in any sport (voluntary donations for third parties without any benefit to any school are allowed). Awards cannot be given and results may not count on won-loss records of the school. If a timing device is used, normal time shall be altered. The same competition may not be a game for one team and a scrimmage for another; if it is a game for one team, it is a game for both teams. Schools may share in the payment of expenses associated with conducting a scrimmage.
224. The girls teams are permitted four scrimmages per sport and the boys teams are permitted four scrimmages per sport. Each team within each sport is permitted the same option. The varsity team is permitted four scrimmages and the junior varsity is permitted four scrimmages. Each player may be involved in a maximum of four scrimmages. A student may not compete in four scrimmages for the varsity and four scrimmages for the junior varsity.
225. When a member school is not in session (not weekends but before school begins in August and during holiday vacation), up to three graduates of that school may be present at a practice and prepared to participate in it without their presence and participation counting as a scrimmage, regardless of the sport and the activities of the practice.
226. It is permissible and does not count as a scrimmage for two or more junior high/middle schools and/or high schools to designate the same person to coach their students in an individual sport or specific skill of a team sport provided there is no competition between an athlete of one school against an athlete of another school (for example, to coach the pole vault, diving, uneven parallel bars, catching, serving, goal keeping or punting). It is permissible and does not count as a scrimmage for two or more schools to conduct practice sessions at the same facility at the same time provided there is no competition between an athlete of one school against an athlete of another school. The three- (or four) player rule applies to this coach out-of-season during the school year.
227. Track practice, whether for indoor or outdoor track, may begin the second Monday after March 1.
228.
  - a. Before the first day of practice for any sport season, voluntary informational meetings conducted by coaches are allowed, but coaches **may not** conduct tryouts, mandatory meetings or mandatory conditioning sessions prior to the first official practice date.
  - b. One day prior to the earliest allowable date of practice, schools may permit teams in any sport to assemble at a site other than the regular location of practice. School vehicles may be used.
229. Schools are not prohibited from conducting a sport outside the season of the corresponding MHSAA tournament, but those schools may not enter that MHSAA tournament. See Interpretation 247. These schools remain subject to every section of every regulation and they must adopt starting and ending dates that conform to other MHSAA sports in that season.
230. The Representative Council is opposed to athletes being pressured directly or subtly into practicing or competing with their school teammates and/or for their school coaches outside of the school season. Blanket statewide policies to prohibit excessive school and school personnel involvement out of season are difficult to write and more difficult to enforce. Each individual school district has the authority to develop and enforce policies that fit the community's resources and school-community relationship, and is encouraged to do so.
231. Booster clubs, alumni groups, parent organizations and groups that exist because of the school, and high school administrators (including athletic directors) acting on their own in programs involving students in grades 9-12, may not sponsor or support out-of-season programs or perform out-of-season functions which the school or coach is prohibited from doing. See Interpretation 131 for amateur status concerns related to students' involvement in out-of-season activities with financial support from school-approved fundraisers.
232. A school-sponsored team, or group of any number of students sponsored by the school which resembles the school's team, is not permitted to practice or compete outside the MHSAA defined season for that sport. Activities out-of-season must meet the conditions of Section 11 (H), and non-school groups can sponsor activities which involve groups of athletes which are mainly or exclusively members of a school-team; **but a school cannot sponsor practice or competition by its team out-of-season.**
233. School buses, vans or other school vehicles shall not be used to transport a school's students to athletic practices, camps, clinics or competitions outside the MHSAA defined season for that sport. It is not permissible to use school transportation even if the school is reimbursed by a non-school organization for the expenses of the school

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vehicle and driver. "School transportation" for the purpose of this Section includes those vehicles owned or leased by the school district or those operated by any entity with which the district contracts to provide transportation services.

234. If a school offers an out-of-season sports program to all students but the coach cuts participants or conducts the program in such a way as to be attractive to and involve only those who have been or want to be members of the school's competitive teams, it is a violation.
235. The regulation which permits a coach to coach a maximum of three (or four) students from the same school out-of-season during the school year does not allow two coaches to coach six or eight students from the same school. No matter how many coaches are present, no more than three (or four) players from the same school district may be involved out-of-season during the school year. Structured and scheduled rotations throughout a facility of three-(or four)-player groups moving from conditioning programs or weight training or open gyms to skill development sessions (e.g. hitting, throwing, running, lifting) are prohibited. It is also intended that the three-player rule apply to internet-based or other digital presentations. See Interpretation 241. For the purposes of out-of season coaching regulations, non-public school and charter school coaches shall consider junior high/middle schools to be of the same school district as the high school (and limited to out-of-season coaching) if the junior high/middle school is either (1) subject to the same governing board or (2) from which at least 25 percent of the students in the previous year's 8th grade attended that high school. (Single gender high schools count only 8th grade students of that gender).
236. During, or in preparation for, the three-(or-four)-player limitation period, coaches shall not coordinate, officiate at, or in other ways assist with out-of-season school or non-school athletic events which involve more than three (or four) students from the same school district in grades 7-12 in a sport they coach that is sponsored by that school district in grades 7-12. This applies to coaches on all levels (varsity, junior varsity, etc.), for either gender, whether paid or volunteer. Violations of the three-(or four)-player rule are likely, and allegations of violations are inevitable if coaches fail to heed this precaution. Administrators should work with coaches to keep them above suspicion, avoiding even the appearance of violations at out-of-season athletic events.
- a. Some activities **generally prohibited** under Interpretations 235 and 236 are listed below. This is a partial list, there may be other unlisted activities not in compliance with out of season coaching controls:
1. A coach may not book, schedule, or make other arrangements for more than three players to participate in an out of season activity (e.g. batting cages, tennis lessons, indoor soccer or lacrosse leagues, indoor track, fall ice time, etc.).
  2. A coach may not post or distribute a time or event schedule designed specifically for more than three players to attend out of season activities.
  3. A coach may not arrange for a parent or other non staff person to act as coach in an out of season coaching activity. A coach may not arrange for a parent or non staff person to do that which the coach is prohibited from doing under the regulation.
  4. A coach may not arrange transportation nor provide transportation on a regular basis to more than three players so they may be part of an out of season activity.
  5. The three-player limitation period applies to all out of season environments during the school year including club and AAU teams, camps, clinics, combines, leagues, profit or non profit facilities or enterprises.
- b. Some activities **generally permitted** under Interpretations 235 and 236 are listed below. This is a partial list; there may be other unlisted activities that would be in compliance with out of season coaching controls:
1. The coach may be a spectator at an out of season activity but should have no contact with the athletes in competition.
  2. The coach may be present as an employee of a facility where sport coaching is taking place and where they are not providing coaching directly to more than three players from their district but are providing coaching to other players from other school districts. The presence of more than three students from the coach's district within the same facility but not receiving coaching from a school coach is permitted if it is incidental to the coach's presence or employment and not scheduled or prearranged. This allowance is not intended to permit an employee of the facility who is also a school coach to provide coaching or to coordinate or assist in non-school activities which involve more than three players from the district during or in preparation for the three-player period. This same allowance shall be permissible for coaches of bowling and golf regardless of the coach's employment by the facility provided the coaching occurs at a non-school bowling or golf facility and meets all other stated conditions.



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3. The coach may be present as a school employee or volunteer at school sponsored competition as an administrator or contest worker (scorer, timer, announcer, etc).
  4. The coach may discuss or distribute information produced by others outside the school district that advertise out of season opportunities such as camps, clinics, competitions, or leagues that occur out of season and are not designed or arranged specifically for more than three players from the coach's school district. These communications must involve students enrolling and participating completely voluntarily of their own accord, disconnected from the school or coach and in no way may be mandatory or part of team selection.
  5. A coach who is also a registered official may officiate an athletic event in which more than three players from the district in grades 7-12 are participating out of season provided that the coach/official working the athletic event was assigned by an independent agent or organization and the contest is a random assignment for the official or the result of a random tournament progression. In general, coaches shall not officiate when it is known in advance that they will encounter more than three players from the school district for which they coach.
  6. In ice hockey, a school may commit to renting ice for the out-of-season period in order to secure ice and pricing discounts for in-season practice and contests. This is permitted provided the school and coach are in compliance with Section 11(H). This ice may be rented or brokered to non-school programs.
237. School-sponsored conditioning programs shall not be mandatory or part of the team selection process which begins on the first day of practice as allowed under Regulation II, Sections (A) and (E). Conditioning programs are for the purpose of providing students a non-mandatory, non sport specific opportunity to improve their speed, strength endurance, cardiovascular capacity, coordination and flexibility. Conditioning programs provide injured athletes an opportunity to regain these attributes diminished by injury and illness and to help prevent injuries. Conditioning programs generally do not involve competition and may not involve instruction in skills of a particular sport.
- a. If a school were to include skills instruction by the school coach or another person arranged by the school coach during what is called conditioning, it would not be a violation of MHSAA rules if this occurred during the summer months (except during the summer dead period and preseason down time) or if it occurred out-of-season during the school year with a maximum of three students in grades 7-12 of the school district present in the facility (no scheduled rotations permitted).
  - b. The school or a school related organization shall not contact or arrange for out of season instruction or conditioning programs that the school coach would be prohibited from doing. For example:
    - It is a violation for the school, coach or a school related organization to have an outside shooting or dribbling instructor teach basketball skills to more than three 7-12 grade students of the school district at one time during conditioning programs out-of season during the school year.
    - It is a violation for the school, coach, or a school related organization to have an outside gymnastics instructor arranged for to teach tumbling skills, whether or not mats other than those used for competitive cheer are utilized, outside the competitive cheer season during the school year.
238. The Summer Dead Period is intended to provide at least seven consecutive days when school coaches will have no contact with students in grades 7-12 of the school district in any manner related to any sport sponsored by that school. Unplanned, casual, normal community contact is permitted.  
It is intended that no sport-related involvement, including attendance at school sport-related fundraisers and functions, take place during the Summer Dead Period.  
It is intended that no sport activities occur on school premises during the Summer Dead Period that involve school coaches or are sponsored by the school or supported by the school.  
Because school personnel are prohibited from holding such activities, it is intended that no school facilities be planned for use by non school groups or individuals for athletic purposes (including student-led practices or conditioning) during the Summer Dead Period.
239. The preseason down time is intended to demonstrate a clear demarcation to the start of the upcoming season and its practices and to provide all students a legitimate opportunity to make the school team during try-outs (which are only to occur after the MHSAA designated start date). Out-of-season sports activities should have no bearing on school team qualification.
240. Out-of-season activities of competitive cheer teams shall adhere to the preseason down time regulations regardless of a school's sponsorship of sideline cheerleading in the fall or winter.

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241. Due to staffing and facility limitations, the Executive Committee may grant exemption from the three-or-four-player limitation for school coaches in the individual sports of bowling, golf, gymnastics, swimming & diving and tennis in a specific program or business. Application is to be made **prior** to the start of the interscholastic season for school coaches who are in a non-school business or program which meets the following criteria and/or other compelling circumstances:
- The school coach whose primary source of income is in full- or part-time paid employment by a program or business not affiliated with or connected to any of the following: the school, a school booster club or parents of athletes from the same school as the coach.
  - The program or business the coach is involved with is open to the general public and advertised as such in advance in public media.
  - The program or business the coach is involved with is not promoted nor advertised in the buildings of the school district the coach is from. Students choose freely, and no insinuation of a connection to the coach's school is offered or implied.
  - The program or business the coach is involved with is in strict compliance with MHSAA member school prohibitions against national high school championships and high school all-star competition, and the coach is not involved during the school year in any way with national competition involving athletes of the age of junior high/middle school or high school students.
  - The program or business for which the coach is requesting exemption actually involves students from more than one school district or cooperative program and does not exclusively involve students of the district where the coach is coaching.
- The exemption may be granted on a case-by-case basis so the school coach may continue to coach one of these named sports for up to the one requested school year only. The distinction is made between an **administrator** of a non-school program and a **coach** who provides teaching and instruction.
242. When the **member** junior high/middle school season for a sport occurs at a time different than the high school's season, high school coaches may be appointed by the district to coach, teach or supervise interscholastic or intramural programs at **that** junior high/middle school level without violating the three-or-four-player rule.
243. When the junior high/middle school season for a sport occurs at a time different than the high school's season, high school coaches who coach junior high/middle school students in non-school programs are subject to the three-player rule.
244. It is a violation of the three-or-four-player rule for a boy to practice with the girls team, or a girl (who is not on the boys team) to practice with the boys team, in the same sport when the boys season and girls season do not coincide and the school sponsors both a boys and girls team in that sport. Designations such as "student manager" do not alter this Interpretation. Managers may assist coaches in drills and assist the team in general, but they may not participate in practices as team members do. Boys and girls teams may practice together during any period when the seasons overlap.
245. A coach may not show films, DVDs, videotapes, internet based or other digital programming out-of-season during the school year to more than four students of grades 7-12 of the same school district, assembled at one time in-person or electronically, if that coach provides any instruction during or within the presentation.
246. Curriculum courses in a sport are subject to Regulation II, Sections 9 and 11(H) and sports or general conditioning courses are not prohibited by Section 11(H) if they are open to all students. (Also See Interpretation 208)

### SECTION 12—POSTSEASON CONTESTS

**SECTION 12—There are to be no postseason contests sponsored by or involving MHSAA schools beyond the end of the MHSAA season in any sport. All sports seasons are to terminate practice and competition on or before the final date of the statewide or Lower Peninsula MHSAA sponsored meet or tournament in the sport, with the exception of baseball and softball in the Upper Peninsula. Seasons for those two sports are to terminate not later than July 31 for UP schools that do not participate in the MHSAA Tournament. No team schedule or individual student may exceed season maximum limitations (See Section 11[A]).**

247. This Section does not negate Interpretation 229. Schools may conduct their entire season outside the season of the MHSAA tournament.

**SECTION 13—“ALL-STAR” CONTESTS/NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**SECTION 13 (A)**—No athletic director, coach, teacher, or administrator of an MHSAA member school, and no athletic official registered with the Michigan High School Athletic Association, shall at any time during the school year for his or her school, assist either directly or indirectly with the coaching, management, direction, selection or transportation of players, promotion, or officiating of any “All-Star” exhibition or similar contest, or of any contest that is or purports to be a national high school championship event (or national junior high/middle school championship event) or the qualification thereto, in any MHSAA tournament sport if any of the participants is enrolled in a MHSAA member high school at the time of the event (Also see Regulation I, Section 12 [B]).

**SECTION 13 (B)**—Any high school which uses an individual as a coach or manager of an interscholastic athletic team who has violated the provisions of Section A of this Regulation or Regulation IV, Section 11 shall be placed on probation for one year and offending coach or coaches shall not be permitted to coach in any sport at that school for a one-year period and shall not coach for a one-year period at any other member school in any MHSAA tournament in any sport.

**SECTION 13 (C)**—Any individual who violates the provisions of Section A of this Regulation shall be ineligible for registration as an athletic official with the Michigan High School Athletic Association for a period of at least one year.

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 13  
(See Interpretations 158-165)**

248. The membership of the Michigan High School Athletic Association is opposed to all-star events and national championships and urges its member schools and their personnel and booster clubs to have no involvement with such events at any time. The meaning of Section 13 is to prohibit any involvement.

NOTE: A school may allow graduating 12th-graders with no remaining interscholastic eligibility in any sport to wear school uniforms in one all-star game sponsored and conducted by the Michigan High School Baseball or Softball Coaches Associations.

**SECTION 14—MULTIMEDIA/INTERNET**

**SECTION 14(A)**—No school may sell or rent videos (DVD, tape or film) or sell still images of contests which are part of an MHSAA tournament without the permission of the MHSAA.

**SECTION 14(B)**—

1. No school may distribute live video – or grant on a complimentary or fee basis to either a profit or nonprofit entity the rights to distribute live video – of any interscholastic event in which any MHSAA member school is a participant in any MHSAA tournament sport.
2. A member school may not participate in a contest in which the video is distributed live by any entity (school or other) in any sport regardless of location.
3. Delayed video distribution of events involving any MHSAA member school in any MHSAA tournament sport may begin one hour after the completion of the live event.
4. Video of MHSAA postseason tournament contests may be distributed according to policies and procedures established by the MHSAA for its tournaments.

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 14**

249. Distribution of live video involves any medium currently available or not yet developed; and includes, but is not limited to, the following: Over-the-air television, cable television, satellite television, Internet, wireless devices.

250. Available video from a single outlet (highlights) of an event exceeding three minutes in length is subject to the delayed distribution timeline.

251. Approval for video distribution of interscholastic contests in sports under MHSAA jurisdiction prior to one hour after the completion of the live event may be granted to a school by the MHSAA Executive Director when the following conditions are met:

- a. The video distribution is by (1) an over-the-air or (2) a cable television station or (3) a website licensed to and/or owned and operated by the school which, in all three cases, broadcasts exclusively school-based content. Internet distribution shall be on a subscription basis, or on a password-protected basis that is free

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to viewers. Schools are to exercise appropriate care in the release of the password.

- b. The video distribution is at least partially student-produced.
- c. All other MHSAA member schools within the viewing area of a cable or over-the-air telecast provide in advance their written statements of support for the distribution

Approval shall not be granted to schools for MHSAA Tournament contests.

252. Member schools may prohibit filming and videotaping of practice sessions and intrasquad scrimmages.

### SECTION 15—MHSAA TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS

**SECTION 15 (A)**—Schools and their students shall be subject to the terms and conditions for schools' and students' participation in the specific tournaments of the Michigan High School Athletic Association as adopted by the Representative Council, staff and the appropriate sport committees, as published in the Participating Schools Tournament Information and Tournament Manager's Manual for each sport.

**SECTION 15 (B)**—To be eligible for MHSAA sponsored meets and tournaments, a school must have a bona fide team, which is one that has an actual schedule in that sport for the current season and has participated against MHSAA member schools in four or more contests in that sport during the current season. A school may enter only one team in the MHSAA tournament for a sport each season.

**SECTION 15 (C)**—To be allowed to compete in the MHSAA ice hockey tournament, a school must play no fewer than half its games against teams sponsored by high schools.

**SECTION 15 (D)**—To be allowed to compete in the MHSAA football playoffs, a school must play no fewer than seven varsity games.

**SECTION 15 (E)**—Except for football, to be eligible for MHSAA sponsored meets and tournaments, a school must submit the Master Eligibility List and other requirements by the opt-out due date according to the procedures specified in the MHSAA Participating School Tournament Information and Tournament Managers Manual for the sport involved. Additions or updates to the list (except transfer students who enroll after the dates in Regulation I, Section 9 [G]) may be accepted by the Tournament Manager if submitted and received prior to the start of competition for ANY team in the first level of that tournament to which the school is assigned.

**SECTION 15 (F)**—To be eligible to compete in the MHSAA Alpine Ski Tournament, a student must have actually competed in at least four meets with his/her school team against other MHSAA member school teams. See Regulation II, Section 10(A)9.

**SECTION 15 (G)**—To be allowed to compete in the MHSAA boys lacrosse tournament, all of a school's boys lacrosse teams must play no fewer than half its boys lacrosse games against MHSAA member high schools.

**SECTION 15 (H)**—Except for additional penalties which may be adopted for some sports, to be eligible to enter or continue in the MHSAA tournament in a sport, a member school must agree to prohibit from being present on the property of the tournament venue for the remainder of the tournament series:

1. any coach who has been disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct two or more times in that sport that season;
2. any player who has been disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct three or more times in that sport that season; or
3. any coach or player who has been ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing or intentionally and/or aggressively physically contacting an official at any time during that season.
4. any person who as a head coach did not complete the rules meeting requirement prior to the deadline and is prohibited from being in attendance at an MHSAA Tournament pursuant to Regulation II, Section 8(B).

**SECTION 15 (I)**—To be eligible for MHSAA-sponsored meets and tournaments a high school shall designate a person to serve as high school athletic director or coordinator. Athletic directors or coordinators in their first year of service at an MHSAA member high school shall attend an Athletic Directors Orientation Program sponsored by the MHSAA prior to December 1 of that school year.

1. Attendance is not required if the designated person has served as a full-time athletic director or coordinator at the high school level for at least one full school year during the previous five school years at an MHSAA member high school.

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2. **Schools which fail to have a first-year athletic director or coordinator (as defined above) attend an MHSAA Athletic Directors Orientation Program shall be placed on probation, prohibited from receiving any tournament reimbursement or from hosting an MHSAA tournament for one school year, and the school name shall be published in the MHSAA benchmarks.**
3. **If a school fails for two consecutive years to have the same person attend the Athletic Director Orientation Program, the restrictions will be repeated for the second school year and the school will be required to show cause before the Executive Committee why it is not in violation of the terms of its MHSAA Membership Resolution.**

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 15

253. Boys may not participate on a girls team in MHSAA sponsored postseason meets and tournaments.
254. Only those teams playing in a sport during a current season will be eligible to enter the MHSAA meet or tournament in that sport. For example: Girls tennis teams or individuals playing in the fall season will not be eligible to enter the Girls Tennis Tournament in the spring. See Interpretation 229.
255. Only those teams authorized by the board of education and conducted by a school on an interscholastic basis are eligible for MHSAA tournaments, and only if they meet all tournament requirements and deadlines and the criteria of Regulation II, Section 15 (B-G). Except for football, the “four or more contests” may be at the sub-varsity levels (football requires seven varsity contests for MHSAA Playoff qualification). Only varsity performances may be considered for seeding purposes of entries in individual sports.
256. Students who transfer from one school to another and are eligible immediately under one or more of the exceptions to the transfer rule and eligible under all other regulations, are eligible for MHSAA tournaments only if they are enrolled in the new school (actual attendance in one or more classes and on the official records of the school) prior to Oct. 1 (fall sports), Feb. 1 (winter sports) or May 1 (spring sports). Such students must also be in compliance with all requirements and deadlines for tournament participation, including but not limited to entry forms, eligibility lists, rosters, participation minimums, and qualifying standards of the specific sport tournament in which they wish to participate.
257. The MHSAA will consider sponsoring tournament competition in a sport when at least 64 schools sponsor the sport. The MHSAA will consider terminating sponsorship of tournament competition when fewer than 64 schools sponsor a sport for two consecutive years. The addition or deletion of MHSAA tournament competition in a sport will be at such time as deemed appropriate by the Representative Council.
258. A school shall not enter an MHSAA tournament if it knows in advance it cannot complete all rounds of that tournament as scheduled. If a school withdraws or fails to show for scheduled competition after the draw is completed for team sports, (or after the pairings, heat assignments or flights are determined for individual sports) of the first level of the MHSAA tournament in a sport, the MHSAA staff person responsible for the sport will request from the school principal a written explanation for the no-show/withdrawal. If the reason is determined to be unacceptable by MHSAA staff, the MHSAA Executive Director will place the school on probation for the next two school years. A second offense within the two-year-probationary period will cause the school to be prohibited from tournament play in that sport for the two years following the second offense.
259. In the interest of fairness to all participants, if an injunction or restraining order is served or presented at an MHSAA tournament site and such purports to require the eligibility of or participation by a student or team which a school and/or the MHSAA has ruled to be ineligible under MHSAA regulations, the on-site tournament manager is to suspend the entire competition (team competition) or events in which that student is intending to participate (individual competition). If the meet or game has begun, it shall be completed.
260. As a result of Representative Council action of November 2, 1988, only those schools which submit their membership resolution by the Fourth Friday after Labor Day are permitted entry in MHSAA Tournaments for that school year. See Interpretation 12-e.
261. If a student is omitted by **clerical error** from the Master Eligibility List submitted to the MHSAA Tournament Manager, and reported after the tournament starts for any team in the first level of that tournament but the school principal attests in writing that the student is eligible, has played on any level of that school’s team in that sport during the season and was omitted from inclusion on the eligibility list submitted for the MHSAA tournament, that student’s name may be added at any time.  
Schools can avoid problems with tournament rosters by submitting one complete Master Eligibility List including names of eligible athletes from all levels of competition in that sport.
262.
  - a. Individuals or teams which are defeated by an ineligible opponent or teams which allowed one or more ineligible students to participate do not advance in MHSAA tournaments.
  - b. If placements in MHSAA tournaments are vacated as a result of an individual being ineligible or a team allowing one or more ineligible students to participate, other individuals or teams neither advance to those placements nor receive awards for those places.

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**JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL RULES  
REGULATIONS III-IV  
FOR 7TH AND 8TH-GRADE  
STUDENTS**

**Introduction**

The membership of the Michigan High School Athletic Association has developed voluntarily through their elected representatives and adopted by each local board of education/governing board a single regulation (Regulation III) with 12 inter-related sections which list the essential eligibility requirements for junior high/middle school interscholastic athletic competition. These sections establish the threshold (minimum standards) and boundaries (maximum limitations) for all qualified participants within the interscholastic athletic program, and they work together to define and preserve the fundamental nature of the program.

Regulations III & IV apply to all member junior high/middle schools having 7th and/or 8th grades, both for boys and girls interscholastic athletic competition. Ninth-graders housed outside the senior high school building but who are considered part of the senior high school athletic program must comply with Regulations I and II. Ninth-graders housed outside the senior high school building who are not part of the senior high school athletic program must comply with Regulations I and IV.

**The Junior High/Middle School Committee reminds schools of the overall philosophy of junior high/middle school athletics. The program should parallel that of the academic philosophy of junior high/middle schools. It should encourage participation and experiences in a variety of activities. Keep in mind that the goal of “winning” must be superseded by the goal of “participation.”**

**REGULATION III—ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR  
JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**SECTION 1—ENROLLMENT—GRADES OF WORK**

**SECTION 1 (A)—**

- 1. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics during the first semester or the first and second trimesters of the school year, a student must be enrolled in a junior high/middle school not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day.**
- 2. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics during the second semester or the second or third trimester of the school year, a student must be enrolled in a junior high/middle school not later than the fourth Friday of February.**
- 3. Unless a specific exemption is stated in this section or Section 8, a student must be enrolled in and receiving current credit (courses awaiting grades for credit) in at least 50 percent of his/her current course load in the school for which he or she participates.**

**SECTION 1 (B)—No student who carries 50 percent of his or her work in the 10th grade, or who through credits earned, is entitled to carry 50 percent of his or her work in the 10th grade, shall be eligible for athletic competition between junior high/middle schools except as provided in Section 6 of this Regulation.**

**SECTION 1 (C)—No student who is enrolled in the 7th and/or 8th-grade may compete on the same team with or against teams consisting of students in the 6th grade or below of a member school, except as might occur under Interpretations 265, with Executive Committee approval.**

**SECTION 1 (D)—Two or more MEMBER junior high/middle schools may conduct, with the approval of the Executive Committee, a Cooperative Program in the specific sports for which application has been made and approval has been granted. Programs are limited to grades 7 and 8 and may include grade 9 only if it is not a part of the senior high school enrollment figure or athletic program.**

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 1**

(Interpretations 1-11 of Regulation I, Section 1 are applicable to junior high/ middle schools.)

263. Students in the 6th grade or below may participate against one another in athletic contests or events at the site of, but not the same time as students in grade seven or above compete. The scoring of such contests or events may not be a part of the scoring for the events involving students in grades seven or above.
264. With district administration approval, students in the 6th grade may observe or be a part of practices at the same site and time as students in grades seven and eight if the schools are part of the same district. However, 7th and 8th-grade students shall not engage in direct competition with students in the 6th grade and below during such practice. See Interpretation 11.
265. The Executive Committee has the authority to approve eligibility for students in grade 6 for participation with or against students on 7th-and 8th-grade teams in certain sports, but in no case in football, hockey or wrestling, upon written request of the administration of smaller member junior high/middle schools. Such requests must be made in writing on an annual basis for each specific sport and follow Executive Committee procedures as outlined in the MHSAA Constitution (Article VII, Section 4). Criteria used by the Executive Committee to grant such waivers may include, but not be limited to, enrollment of the affiliated high school, enrollment by grade level and gender of the junior high/middle school grades 6-8 and any other information the requesting schools may submit regarding the viability of the specific sports program involved. Sixth-graders approved under this allowance must be in compliance with all other Sections of Regulations III, IV and V.

**SECTION 2—AGE**

**SECTION 2 (A)—A 7th-grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest limited to 7th-graders must be under fourteen (14) years of age, except that a student whose (14th) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year. Any 7th-grade student born before Sept. 1, 2000, is ineligible for interscholastic athletics in Michigan except that he or she may play on the 8th grade or 9th-grade squad of that junior high school, or on a team of combined seventh and 8th-grade students. In each case all other regulations pertaining to eligibility must be met.**

**SECTION 2 (B)—An 8th-grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest limited to 8th-graders must be under fifteen (15) years of age, except that a student whose (15th) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year. Any 8th-grade student born before Sept. 1, 1999, is ineligible for interscholastic athletics in Michigan except that he or she may play on the 9th-grade squad of that junior high school, provided all other regulations pertaining to eligibility are met.**

**SECTION 2 (C)—If the local school administration and parents can agree and arrange, 7th and 8th-grade students who are eligible for junior high/middle school in all respects except that they became 15 years old before Sept. 1 may participate in a 9-12 grade program of that school district, even if it is in a separate building. Those students would be limited to four years of high school eligibility and all other regulations would apply (including the requirement to be doing passing work in at least 66 percent of full-credit load potential for a full-time junior high/middle school student in that school). Ninth-grade students of a 10-12 high school system who are eligible in all respects, except that they became 16 years of age before September 1, may participate in the 10-12 program. Academic terms of a student's participation under Eligibility Advancement count against the total permitted under Regulation I, Sections 4 and 5.**

In addition, such students who will become 14 years old before Sept. 1 of their normal 7th grade year or 15 years old before Sept. 1 of their normal 8th grade year may, while in 6th grade, apply for eligibility at the junior high/middle school level through the same process as stated above. These students would be limited to a maximum of two years of junior high/middle school eligibility starting in 6th grade and must be in compliance with all other Sections of Regulations III, IV and V, including that they would be required to meet the junior high/middle school academic standard of passing a minimum of 50 percent of full-credit load potential for a full-time junior high/middle school student in that school.

Application for these options must be made and approved on MHSAA "Eligibility Advancement Applications."

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**SECTION 2 (D)**—Ninth-grade students competing with or against 7th and/or 8th-grade students must not have reached their 16th birthday prior to Sept. 1 of the current school year.

**SECTION 2(E)** – Utilizing the same criteria and processes as stated in Regulation I, Section 2(B), the Executive Committee may consider an exception to the maximum age limitations of Regulation III, Sections 2(B) and (D) above for students who, solely by reason of a medically documented disability, have been delayed in their education process prior to their initial enrollment in the grade for which waiver is sought.

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 2

(Interpretation 15 of Regulation I, Section 2 is applicable to junior high/middle schools.)

266. a. In schools for which 9th grade is the highest grade available, it is permissible for 7th-graders to play on 8th or 9th-grade teams, and 8th-graders to play on 9th-grade teams competing under junior high/middle school regulations.
- b. In schools in which 8th grade is the highest grade available, it is permissible for 7th-graders to play on 8th grade teams competing under junior high/middle school regulations.
267. It is permissible for 8th-graders, who have not exceeded the maximum age for competition limited to 7th-graders, to play in events otherwise limited to 7th-graders.

### SECTION 3—PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

**SECTION 3 (A)**—No student shall be eligible to represent a junior high/middle school for whom there is not on file in the offices of the superintendent or principal or athletic director of that school a statement for the current school year certifying that (1) the student has passed a physical examination and is physically able to compete in athletic practice and contests and (2) there has been consent for disclosure to the MHSAA of information otherwise protected by FERPA and HIPAA for the purpose of determining eligibility for interscholastic athletics.

**SECTION 3 (B)**—The penalties for failure to have a physical examination on file as stated in this section include those of Regulation V, Section 4 except that forfeiture will be not be required if consent to information otherwise protected by FERPA and HIPAA are absent from the physical form or not on file. Once discovered, the individual student whose form is in question shall not be eligible to participate until the consent form and physical are both on file.

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 3

(Interpretations 16-20 of Regulation I, Section 3 are applicable to junior high/middle schools.)

### SECTION 4—MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT

**SECTION 4**—Students in grades 7 or 8 are not limited in the number of semesters or trimesters in which they may be eligible for interscholastic athletics. Ninth-grade students in junior high/middle and senior high schools are subject to Regulation I, Section 4 and applicable Interpretations. Interpretations 21-27 of Regulation I, Section 4 are applicable to junior high/middle schools.

### SECTION 5—MAXIMUM COMPETITION

**SECTION 5**—Students enrolled in grades 7 or 8 are not limited in the number of semesters or trimesters of competition. Ninth-grade students in junior high/middle schools and senior high schools are limited in the number of semesters of competition as in Regulation I, Section 5.

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 5

(Interpretations 28-33 of Regulation I, Section 5 are applicable to junior high/middle schools.)

268. Participation in one or more interscholastic athletic scrimmages or contests is considered a semester or trimester of competition and should be so included on Master Eligibility Lists (Form-1) under the heading Number of Seasons of Participation in this Sport Including Present Season. This applies to 9th-graders in a three-year junior high/middle school.



**SECTION 6—UNDERGRADUATE STANDING**

**SECTION 6—7th and 8th-grade students who have satisfactorily completed enough credits to advance from a junior high/middle school may continue to be eligible to represent that school as long as the student has not advanced and is eligible in all other respects.**

**SECTION 7—PREVIOUS ACADEMIC CREDIT RECORD**

**SECTION 7 (A)—No student shall compete in any junior high/middle school athletic contest during the current semester/trimester who does not have in the official records of the school represented for the last semester/trimester credit in at least 50 percent of the total periods of work carried. An academic term is a period during which a student has been enrolled in grades 7 or 8, prior to the fourth Friday after Labor Day or the fourth Friday of February, or during which he or she shall have taken part in any interscholastic athletic contests. A first year junior high/middle school student may compete without reference to his or her record in the 6th grade; however, a student who repeats grade 7 is subject to previous semester/trimester academic requirements.**

**SECTION 7 (B)—In determining the full credit load potential for a full-time student received during a semester or trimester under this Section, the usual credit allowed by the school shall be given. However, reviews and extracurricular work, and work for which credit previously has been received, shall not be counted.**

**SECTION 7 (C)—Deficiencies in credits of the previous semester/trimester (not current semester/trimester), including incompletes, conditions, and failures from a previous semester may be made up during a subsequent semester, summer session, night school, by correspondence or by tutoring. Eligibility may be reinstated during the next semester when the school accepts the credit.**

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 7**

(Interpretations 37-45 of Regulation I, Section 7 are applicable to junior high/middle schools.)

**SECTION 8—CURRENT ACADEMIC CREDIT RECORD**

**SECTION 8—Academic eligibility checks of not more than ten weeks are required. If, when checked, a student is not passing at least 50 percent of a full class load for a regularly enrolled full-time student, that student is ineligible for competition until the next check but not less than for the next Monday through Sunday. If the next eligibility check reveals the student is still not passing at least 50 percent of a full class load of a regularly enrolled full-time student, that student is ineligible for competition for not less than the next Monday through Sunday, and so on until the student is passing 50 percent of the credit hours from the start of the semester or trimester through the most recent eligibility check. Reviews and extracurricular work, and work for which credit previously has been received, shall not be counted.**

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 8**

(Interpretations 46-59 of Regulation I, Section 8 are binding, where applicable to junior high/middle schools and would apply the 50 percent principle, not “66 percent of full credit load potential.”)

269. If a student is enrolled in a junior high/middle school (including a home school) from which he or she expects to graduate, and where the student’s basic records are filed, and that junior high/middle school sponsors no interscholastic athletic program in any sport, such student may take shared-time work in another school. That student may participate in interscholastic athletic activities as a representative of the second school, provided he or she is taking at least 50 percent of the total periods of work required for regularly enrolled full-time students in the latter school and passing them. It is to be understood that such student complies with all other Eligibility Regulations.

270. A regularly enrolled junior high school student may take courses in advance of the junior high school level during a current school year. These courses may be included for high school graduation and for current athletic eligibility purposes in the junior high school as long as the student is passing 50 percent of the total periods of work carried at both schools. If the majority of a student’s classwork is at the 9th-grade level or higher, See Interpretation 24. Semesters/trimesters in which this occurs do not count toward the maximum of eight semesters or 12 trimesters of eligibility allowed at the high school level.

### SECTION 9—TRANSFERS

**SECTION 9 (A)**—Section 9 (transfer) does not apply to 7th and 8th-grade students. A 9th-grade student who transfers from one high school or junior high/middle school to another high school or junior high/middle school is not immediately eligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest or scrimmage in the school to which he or she transfers, in accordance with Regulation I, Section 9 and appropriate Interpretations.

**SECTION 9 (B)**—A student entering the 9th grade for the first time in any junior high/middle school or senior high school and who has not utilized the advanced eligibility provision is immediately eligible under the transfer regulation regardless of where that student attended the 8th grade. This does not exempt students from other Sections of this Regulation, including Undue Influence.

#### **SECTION 9 (C)**—

1. A 9th-grade junior high /middle school student who does not qualify for one of the exceptions under Section 9(A) and has transferred (changed enrollment) by the fourth Friday after Labor Day, becomes eligible for interscholastic scrimmages and contests the following Martin Luther King Day (Monday).
2. A 9th-grade junior high /middle school student who does not qualify for one of the exceptions under Section 9(A) and has transferred (changed enrollment) by the fourth Friday of February, becomes eligible for interscholastic scrimmages and contests the following Aug. 1.
3. For certain requests approved by the Executive Committee, the period of ineligibility is 90 scheduled school days from the date of enrollment in the receiving school. See Interpretation 99.

#### **INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 9**

271. A 9th-grade student who participated in the 9-12 grade program as an 8th-grader under Regulation I, Section 1(D), is eligible immediately at any 9-12 grade school.
272. If an 8th-grade student, who has been participating in the 9-12 grade program of one school under Regulation I, Section 1 (D), transfers to another school district where 8th-graders do not participate in the 9-12 grade program, that student is eligible immediately at the 8th-grade level (but may not exceed the number of allowable contests in a sport for the junior high/middle school level if the transfer is during the season for that sport). This student will be eligible at any school insofar as the Transfer Regulation is concerned when he/she becomes a first-time 9th-grader.

### SECTION 10—UNDUE INFLUENCE

**SECTION 10**—The use of undue influence for athletic purposes by any person or persons directly or indirectly associated with the school to secure or encourage the attendance of a student or the student's parents or guardians as residents of the school district, shall cause the student to become ineligible for a minimum of 90 scheduled school days and a maximum of one year. The offending school shall be placed on probation for one year and the offending coach or coaches shall not be permitted to coach at that school for a one-year period and shall not coach for a one-year period at any other member school in any MHSAA tournament in any sport. Examples of undue influence would include but not be limited to offers of or acceptance of: financial aid to parents, guardians or student; reduced or eliminated tuition and/or fees; any special privileges not accorded to other students, whether athletes or not; transportation allowances; preference in job assignments; room, board or clothing; promotional efforts and admission policies for athletes which are in excess of efforts for other students.

#### **INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 10**

(Interpretations 100-115 of Regulation I, Section 10 are applicable to junior high/middle schools.)

**SECTION 11—AMATEUR STATUS/AWARDS**

**SECTION 11 (A)**—Eligibility for interscholastic athletics at MHSAA member schools is limited to amateurs, meaning those student-athletes who have not received gifts of material or money and have not received other valuable considerations, including special considerations for loans, because of athletic performance or potential. Treatment of or privileges received by athletes or their families that are not provided or available to all students violate the principles of amateurism in interscholastic athletics. Gifts or loans to family members, based on the student’s athletic performance or potential, are treated as gifts or loans to the student and violate that student’s amateur status.

**SECTION 11 (B)**—After once representing any MHSAA member school in competition in any MHSAA Tournament sport, a student shall not be eligible to represent his or her high school if that student: (1) receives money or other valuable consideration from any source for participating in athletics, sports, or games listed in Section C; (2) receives money or other valuable consideration for officiating in interscholastic athletic contests, except as allowed by Interpretation 143; or (3) signs a professional athletic contract; or (4) violates any of the Interpretations included in this Section.

**SECTION 11 (C)**—A student shall be ineligible under this Section if he or she violates its amateur and awards provisions only in the following activities: baseball, basketball, bowling, girls competitive cheer, cross country, football, golf, girls gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, alpine skiing, soccer, girls softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, girls volleyball, or wrestling. In sports where playing rules also have separate Amateur Status rules (e.g., USGA, USTA, USBC), the limits and restrictions in Section 11 apply, not those of the National Governing Body.

**SECTION 11 (D)** —A student violating this Section shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of not less than the next 90 scheduled school days after the date of the student’s last violation, except that a student violating Interpretation 129 may not apply for reinstatement until the equivalent of one full school year of enrollment has elapsed following the date of his or her last violation. (Also see Interpretation 154.)

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 11**

(Interpretations 116-154 of Regulation I, Section 11 are applicable to junior high/middle schools.)

**SECTION 12—LIMITED TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 12 (A)**—A student who, after practicing with (including tryouts) or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a junior high/middle school athletic team, participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next two (2) days of competition and a maximum of the remainder of that season in that school year.

The following exceptions to this regulation will apply:

1. Ice hockey, bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming & diving, track & field and wrestling shall apply the limited team membership rule from the point of a student’s first participation in a contest or scrimmage, rather than practice.
2.
  - a. Alpine skiing shall apply the limited team membership rule to each individual from the point of the TEAM’S first participation in an interscholastic contest or scrimmage; rather than the first practice or competition of the individual.
  - b. Tennis shall apply the limited team membership rule commencing with the first day of allowed practice under MHSAA regulations, regardless of when the team begins practice or the player joins the team.
3. During the junior high/middle school season in bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, alpine skiing, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field or wrestling, a member of the school team in that sport may participate in a maximum of two (2) non-school meets or contests in that sport while not representing his or her school. An event held on not more than three (3) consecutive calendar days is considered a single meet (for the purposes of this section only).

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**SECTION 12 (B)**—A junior high/middle school student who has competed on a senior high school athletic team shall be ineligible for junior high/middle school athletics, except that a 9th-grade student who has competed on a high school team in a school organized on the 8-4 plan, still is eligible under this Regulation for junior high/middle school competition if that student transfers to a junior high/middle school.

**SECTION 12 (C)**—After once representing any MHSAA school in competition in any MHSAA Tournament sport a student shall not compete at any time in any sport under MHSAA jurisdiction in any of the following events: (1) Any event which is or purports to be an “All-Star” contest, regardless of the method of selection or one in which there is participation by one or more all-star teams; (2) “All-Star” fund-raising events or similar exhibitions if they involve participants other than the students and faculty of that student’s school; (3) Any event which is or purports to be a national junior high or middle school championship, or the qualification thereto. Participation in such a contest by a junior high/middle school student shall cause that student to become ineligible for all interscholastic athletics for a maximum period of one year of school enrollment from the date of the athlete’s last violation of this Regulation.

**SECTION 12 (D)**—A student MAY participate as an individual without loss of interscholastic eligibility:

1. As a member of a National Team, (and the actual, direct tryouts thereto), which is defined as one selected by the national governing body of the sport on a national qualification basis either through a defined selective process or actual tryouts for the purpose of international competition which requires the entries to officially represent their respective nations, although it is not necessary there be team scoring by nation; or
2. In an Olympic Development Program (ODP), which is defined as a training program or competition:
  - a. conducted or sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC); or
  - b. directly funded in major part and conducted by the USOC member national governing body (NGB) on a national level (e.g., NGB national championship competition and the direct qualifications thereto); or
  - c. specifically authorized by a national governing body involving only athletes previously identified by the NGB as having bona-fide potential for participation in national or international competition in the sport involved.

The following procedures are required in (1) and (2):

- a. Participation, if during the school year, shall be approved by the student’s school principal, and the MHSAA is notified in writing by the principal at least 30 days prior to the event; and
- b. The student shall make prior arrangement to complete missed academic lessons, assignments and tests before the last day of classes of the credit grading period in which that student’s absence occurs; and

The following additional principles apply in (2):

- c. An ODP student-athlete shall be allowed no more than one training or competition event during the school sport season.
- d. The ODP student-athlete shall miss no MHSAA-sponsored tournament event involving that student’s school team in that sport.

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 12

(Interpretations 155-173 of Regulation I, Section 12 are applicable to junior high/middle schools.)

**REGULATION IV—RULES FOR CONTESTS  
INVOLVING JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

**SECTION 1—COMPETITION LIMITED TO ELIGIBLES**

**SECTION 1—No junior high/middle school shall enter any athletes or athletic teams in any contest or scrimmage unless the athletes or athletic teams of that junior high/middle school are eligible under Regulation I or III; nor shall any school knowingly permit its athletes or athletic teams to compete in a game, contest or scrimmage against a member school in which an ineligible athlete is used. This Regulation applies to all interscholastic teams sponsored by the school in MHSAA Tournament sports for high schools.**

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 1**

(Interpretations 174-180, of Regulation II, Section 1 are applicable to junior high/ middle schools.)

**SECTION 2—ADMINISTRATION**

**SECTION 2—The principal of the junior high/middle school, or that member of the faculty approved by the principal, shall administer the teams representing the school, and shall sign all contest and officials contracts.**

**INTERPRETATION—SECTION 2**

(Interpretation 181 of Regulation II, Section 2 is applicable to junior high/middle schools.)

**SECTION 3—COACHES OF TEAMS**

**SECTION 3—The person responsible for the immediate training or coaching of a junior high/middle 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 must be registered by the school with the MHSAA on a form provided for that purpose BEFORE beginning duties. A non-faculty member coach must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and not a high school student.**

**Note: The Representative Council URGES that all schools strive to the standard that only qualified faculty members are used as head coaches for interscholastic athletic teams, and that all non-faculty coaches complete the MHSAA's Coaches Advancement Program (CAP) or equivalent program.**

273. An individual high school student may serve as an unpaid volunteer and assist the junior high/middle school coach (the person the junior high/ middle school designates as the person responsible for the immediate training or coaching of a secondary school athletic team) but may not participate in practices thereby increasing his or her own training as an athlete in that sport. All involvement must occur during the junior high/middle school season and must be supervised onsite at all times by the designated school coach. The student's involvement is allowed only with district administration approval and applicable only to students from high schools which either (1) are subject to the same governing board or (2) are of the same religious denomination as the junior high/middle school and from which at least 25 percent of the students in the previous year's 8th grade attended that high school. (Single gender high schools count only 8th grade students of that gender.) These students are not to be considered or registered as non-faculty coaches. Undue influence and out of season coaching restrictions continue to apply.

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 3**

(Interpretations 182-184 of Regulation II, Section 3 are applicable to junior high/middle schools.)

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### SECTION 4—MASTER ELIGIBILITY LISTS

**SECTION 4—Schools shall prepare a Master Eligibility List of all students eligible for that sport under the provisions of the Regulations, including current term academic record. Additions to the squad should be duly added. Current copies of the Master Eligibility List are to be available to competing schools upon request.**

#### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 4

(Interpretations 185-187 of Regulation II, Section 4 are applicable to junior high/middle schools.)

### SECTION 5—APPROVED IN-STATE MEETS OR TOURNAMENTS

**SECTION 5 (A)—Any meet or tournament with three or more teams held within Michigan for Michigan schools and sponsored by a non-member school or organization, must be approved by the MHSAA prior to the contest.**

**SECTION 5 (B)—Competition held in Michigan, conducted by member schools, needs no MHSAA approval. All such meets and tournaments shall be conducted in accordance with all rules and regulations as set forth by the MHSAA.**

#### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 5

(Interpretations 188-189 of Regulation II, Section 5 are applicable to junior high/middle schools.)

274. MHSAA member school teams or individuals may not participate in any event that is or purports to be a state junior high/middle school championship in any MHSAA Tournament sport.

### SECTION 6—CONTESTS WITH OUT-OF-STATE SCHOOLS

**SECTION 6 (A)—No MHSAA member junior high/middle school may participate in competition at a site where a school from another state or country is competing unless all schools are in good standing with their respective National Federation member high school association (if eligible), and there is compliance with MHSAA travel limitations.**

**SECTION 6 (B)—Schools which desire to conduct practice sessions out of state at a site more than 600 highway 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 days in advance of departure.**

#### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 6

(Interpretations 190-197 of Regulation II, Section 6 are applicable to junior high/ middle schools.)

### SECTION 7—USE OF REGISTERED OFFICIALS

**SECTION 7—Junior high/middle schools shall use, in the sports concerned, only those athletic officials who are registered with the Michigan High School Athletic Association of the current year in football, basketball, girls competitive cheer, baseball, ice hockey, wrestling, girls gymnastics, boys and girls lacrosse, softball, girls volleyball and soccer. The referee and/or starter used in all junior high/middle school swimming, cross country or track and field meets must be registered for the current year in that sport: In girls volleyball, the referee and umpire must be registered.**

#### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 7

(Interpretations 198-202 of Regulation II, Section 7 are applicable to junior high/middle schools.)

**SECTION 8—SPORTS LIMITATIONS - PLAYING RULES**

**SECTION 8**—It is a matter of local school determination if a 7th or 8th-grade student may be a member of an interscholastic team in more than one sport at the same time. This includes students who are participating with a high school team as allowed under Regulation I, Section 1(D).

**INTERPRETATION—SECTION 8**

(Interpretations 203-205, of Regulation II, Section 8 are applicable to junior high/ middle schools.)

275. When junior high/middle schools desire to compete in interscholastic athletics in more than one division for sake of uniformity, it is recommended that such divisions be established on the basis of height, age and weight.

**SECTION 9—TIMES OF GAMES**

**SECTION 9**—Whenever possible, junior high/middle school competition should be played before 5 p.m. and should not be scheduled at a time and place which would require unreasonable hours or overnight trips.

**SECTION 10—LIMITATIONS OF COMPETITION  
JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL VARIATIONS**

**SECTION 10 (A)**—A junior high/middle school may have any number of teams but no school may allow any team or student to participate in more than the following number of games or meets within a period of 13 consecutive weeks in the sports concerned, and in accordance with the conditions indicated.

**SECTION 10 (B)**—Fall sports practices for 7th and 8th grades may begin on the 14th Monday before Thanksgiving, regardless of the date of the first day of school. When school begins before the first allowable practice date, fall sports for a school may begin on the first day of classes for that school. Ninth-grade football teams of junior high/middle schools may begin practice on the same date as the grade 10-12 football teams of that school district if the 9th-grade team is comprised only of 9th-graders or students who have been approved for eligibility advancement. Other seasons and starting dates will be established by the local district, league or conference.

**SECTION 10 (C)**—9th-grade students may engage in interscholastic athletic competition as representatives of their school, if the junior high/middle school elects to have them do so, under the same limitations of competition and other senior high school eligibility rules that are allowed 9th-graders in senior high schools. There shall be mutual agreement by competing schools to the modifications allowed 9th-graders of junior high/middle schools as hereinbefore provided, otherwise the competitive policies for the sports hereinafter listed as applying to junior high/middle schools are in effect.

**SECTION 10 (D)**—Each school team and all players are allowed a maximum of four scrimmages per season; one allowed in ice hockey. (See Regulation II, Section 11 (B) and (C) for definitions and applications).

**1. BASEBALL/SOFTBALL—**

—The season shall be a maximum of 13 consecutive weeks from the start of practice, including tryouts, during which a student or team shall participate in no more than 10 days of competition. The maximum softball pitching distance for junior high/middle school fast-pitch 7th & 8th-grade softball shall be 40 feet.

**2. BASKETBALL—**

—The season shall be a maximum of 13 consecutive weeks from the start of practice, including tryouts, during which a student or team shall participate in no more than 12 games. A student or team shall participate in no more than one (1) game of interscholastic basketball per day except that a student or team may participate in two games on a day not followed by a day of school for either team. The two games must be on the same gender team and on the same level for each student. Each game, one or two on a day, shall count as one game each toward the total of 12 allowed games. Games involving only students below the 9th

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grade shall be played in a maximum of eight (8) minute quarters. A school sponsoring games involving teams which combine 9th grade students with the 8th and/or 7th grades may be played in a maximum of eight (8) minute quarters.

1. The regulation size basketball will be used for 7th and 8th-grade boys basketball unless the two competing teams (by contract or league adoption) mutually agree to use the smaller ball.
2. The three-point line and goal will be used for all boys and girls interscholastic competition unless the two competing teams (by contract or league adoption) mutually agree not to do so.

### 3. COMPETITIVE CHEER—

—The season shall be a maximum of 13 consecutive weeks during which a student or team shall participate in no more than eight dates. A student or team shall participate in no more than one competition per day and no more than two competitions per week (Monday through Sunday).

1. All school-sponsored cheerleading competition must be in the MHSAA competitive cheer format, but consisting of a Required Round and an Open Round only.
2. During competition a minimum of four and a maximum of 16 team members are allowed on the floor for competition in either round.

### 4. CROSS COUNTRY—

—The season shall be a maximum of 13 consecutive weeks from the start of practice, including tryouts, during which a student or team shall participate in no more than 10 meets per season with a maximum of two meets per week. Students shall not participate in two meets on the same day.

Rules of junior high/middle school cross country are those printed in the National Federation Track and Field Rule Book with MHSAA modifications included in Regulation IV, Section 7 of the MHSAA *Handbook*.

Cross Country distances may be shortened by mutual consent of the competing schools prior to the date of the meet.

### 5. FOOTBALL—

—The season shall be a maximum of 13 consecutive weeks from the start of practice, including tryouts, during which a student or team shall participate in no more than six games. Games involving only students in grades 7 and/or 8 shall be played in a maximum of ten (10) minute quarters. Games which include a combination of 9th grade students and those in the 8th and/or 7th grades may be played in a maximum of ten (10) minute quarters. A student or team shall not participate in more than one game of interscholastic football in six consecutive calendar days. There shall be no competition between junior high/middle school and senior high school teams in football, except that junior high/middle schools may participate in football with 9th-grade teams from four-year schools provided the games are played under rules governing junior high/middle school football.

Regulation II, Section 9(B-C-D) and Interpretations 206-215 are applicable to junior high/middle schools.

### 6. LACROSSE—

—The season shall be a maximum of 13 consecutive weeks during which a student or team shall participate in no more than 12 dates.

A student or team shall participate in no more than three games Monday through Sunday, but only two of the three games may occur on a day or night before a school day.

A student or team shall participate in no more than one game of interscholastic lacrosse per school day.

A student or team may participate in a multi-team tournament in which the total allowable playing time for any student or team is no more than 150 running time minutes and the event counts as one of the 12 regular-season contests. The following provisions would apply:

1. A student or team shall participate in no more than two (boys)/three (girls) multi-team tournaments in its regular-season schedule, each tournament counting as one of the 12 games of allowed competition.
2. No more than 25-minute running time halves could have been played. Clock stops for injuries with one time out allowed per team per half. For girls, two regular games may be played (no overtimes permitted).
3. Multi-team tournaments may only be held on non school days.
4. There are no overtimes permitted, the games shall end in a tie.
5. If a student or team participates in a multi-team tournament, that student or team shall participate in no more than two regulation games or scrimmages that week, Monday through Sunday, in addition to the multi-team tournament.

Boys games involving teams with 8th and/or 7th-graders may not exceed 10-minute quarters.



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### 7. SOCCER—

—The season shall be a maximum of 13 consecutive weeks from the start of practice, including tryouts, during which a student or team shall participate in no more than 12 games. A game shall consist of four (4) 15 minute quarters. Games that are tied at the end of regulation playing time shall remain tied.

### 8. SWIMMING AND DIVING—

—The season shall be a maximum of 13 consecutive weeks from the start of practice, including tryouts, during which a student or team shall participate in no more than two meets per week and a maximum of 12 days of competition.

### ORDER OF EVENTS

—All events for junior high/middle school are as published in the National Federation Swimming and Diving Rules Book. Distances may be shortened or events eliminated by mutual consent of competing schools prior to the day of the meet.

### SCORING

—All dual league and invitational meets—Scoring is to be in accordance with provisions of the current year National Federation Swimming and Diving Rules Book.

### ENTRIES

—A student may participate in a total of four (4) events, two of which must be relays. Preliminary trials and/or finals constitute participation in one event. Diving and relays are considered as events.

### 9. TENNIS—

—The season shall be a maximum of 13 consecutive weeks from the start of practice, including tryouts, during which a student or team shall participate in no more than 12 days of competition and no more than three (3) individual matches daily. There are no weekly limitations. USTA rules are to be used (with only MHSAA modifications allowed).

### 10. TRACK AND FIELD—

—The events are to be in accordance with the Michigan High School Athletic Association approved Track and Field List for junior high/middle schools.

A student may participate in any three track and/or field events from the approved list of Junior High/Middle School order of events.

Preliminary trials and relays are considered as events. A student shall not participate in events in 2 track meets held on the same date or 1 meet held on two days which would be in violation of these limitations of competition for 1 meet.

The season shall be a maximum of 13 consecutive weeks from the start of practice, including tryouts, during which a student or team shall participate in no more than 10 days of competition.

### TRACK AND FIELD—ORDER OF EVENTS

**Note 1:** When boys and girls meets are conducted simultaneously, the events listed below are to be used. The boys events shall precede the girls events in even years; the girls events shall precede the boys events in odd years. If meets are not run simultaneously, the events listed for those not participating are to be eliminated. Schools must mutually agree to run the order of events in yards or meters prior to the meet. If schools cannot mutually agree, the host school will decide. Distances may be shortened or events may be eliminated by mutual consent of competing schools before the meet begins.

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### Junior High/Middle School Order of Events for Boys and Girls

1. 3200 Meter Run
2. 55 Meter Hurdles (5 hurdles) (33" boys, 30" girls)
3. 4 X 200 Meter Relay
4. 800 Meter Run
5. 1600 Meter Run
6. 100 Meter Dash
7. 400 Meter Dash
8. 4 X 800 Meter Relay
9. 70 Meter Dash
10. 200 Meter Hurdles (5 hurdles, 35 meter intervals) (30")
11. 200 Meter Dash
12. 4 X 400 Meter Relay
13. 4 X 100 Meter Relay

### Field Events

1. Pole Vault
2. Shot Put (8 lb. 13 oz. or 4 Kg. for boys; 6 lb. for girls)
3. Running High Jump
4. Running Long Jump

**Note 2:** The 3200 Meter Run must be conducted during the field events.

**Note 3:** Both the boys and girls 55-meter hurdles will be over five hurdles spaced as follows: 13 meters to the first hurdle 8.5 meters between the hurdles and 8.0 meters from the last hurdle to the finish.

**Note 4:** 200-meter (30") low hurdles: If using a facility with a common finish line and the traditional 200-meter start on the curve, the 30" low hurdles are set 50 meters from the start, 35 meters between hurdles and 10 meters to the finish.

**Note 5:** One false start shall be permitted in Junior High/Middle School competition (When the above order of events are used.)

**Scoring — Dual Meets** — Individual events are to be scored 5-3-1

**Other Than Dual Meets** — Scoring is to be in accordance with the National Federation Edition of the Track and Field Rules Book and the current year.

**Scoring Note:** By prior mutual agreement of competing schools or by league or conference adoption, teams may score four places in dual meets and five places in triangular meets.

### 11. GIRLS VOLLEYBALL—

—The season shall be a maximum of 13 consecutive weeks from the start of practice, including tryouts, during which a student or team shall participate in no more than 12 days of competition, and no more than 15 sets (games) per day. A student or team shall participate in no more than three days of competition per week and only two may be on a day or night before a school day. A student or team shall compete in no more than five days of competition during any 14-day period Monday through Sunday.

If there is no prior mutual consent by competing schools to lower the net height, the net would be set at the National Federation regulation height of 7 feet 4 1/8 inches for girls or 7 feet, 11 5/8 inches for boys.

### 12. WRESTLING—

—The season shall be a maximum of 13 consecutive weeks from the start of practice, including tryouts, during which a student or team shall participate in no more than 12 days of competition with a limit of 60 days of practice and or competition. A student or team shall participate in no more than three days of competition Monday through Sunday. A student shall participate in no more than five matches per day. Only two of the days of competition may occur on a day of school (Monday-Thursday). A student shall participate in no more than 42 total matches (six events of five matches and six events of two matches [(6 x 5) + (6 x 2) =42].

### RULES AND WEIGHT CLASSES

The National Federation Wrestling Rules Book shall be followed except as indicated below:

1. In dual or tournament competition, matches shall consist of three (3) periods, one and one-half (1 1/2) minutes each.
2. An overtime match shall be a maximum of one minute. The overtime tie-breaker period will remain a maximum of 30 seconds.

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3. All schools shall provide legal uniforms for the team no later than the third year of the school sponsorship of a wrestling program.
4. Leagues may establish their own weight classification procedure for league, dual meet and league tournaments. Unless mutual agreement is made prior to the date of the competition they shall use the mutual pairings procedure using the weight classification chart as **guidelines for determining those pairings**, no wrestler shall be paired where the difference of weight between them is more than one weight class.

70 lbs.	95 lbs.	120 lbs.	155 lbs.
75 lbs.	100 lbs.	125 lbs.	167 lbs.
80 lbs.	105 lbs.	130 lbs.	185 lbs.
85 lbs.	110 lbs.	137 lbs.	Heavyweight
90 lbs.	115 lbs.	145 lbs.	

**Note:** All contestants in the Heavyweight Class must weigh at least 168 lbs. The maximum weight allowable for heavyweight wrestlers shall not exceed 250 lbs.

5. It is recommended that the Wrestling Nutrition Education Program be presented by the local nutrition education coordinator to schools sponsoring junior high/middle school wrestling.
6. It is strongly recommended that in non-tournament competition team scores be eliminated. If final team scores must be kept, they shall be based on actual matches wrestled.
7. A junior high/middle school may participate in the minimum weight program. However, all calculations must be conducted at the local level. The MHSAA will not process the skinfold data.

### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 10

(Interpretations 216-219 of Regulation II, Section 10 are applicable to junior high/ middle schools.)

276. Competition limitations pertain to both boys and girls.
277. Out of season coaching limitations also apply to junior high/middle schools. See Regulation II, Section 10, (B, C, D); Section 11, (B, C, D and H); and Interpretations for additional limitations of competition and scrimmage regulations. The Preseason Down Time out-of-season restriction shall apply 14 calendar days prior to the start of practice in the fall and 14 calendar days prior to the first day of practice in subsequent seasons for junior high/middle schools. The Summer Dead Period applies to all levels of MHSAA member schools; coaches and students in grades 7-12.
278. It is optional with junior high/middle schools to have separate 9th-grade teams in any sport and if they elect to do so these teams may compete against other 9th-grade junior high/middle school teams or against senior high school teams under the same regulations pertaining to number of games, length of games, or competition limitations that apply to senior high schools. In the event there are any 7th or 8th-grade members on a junior high/middle school team, junior high/middle school regulations pertaining to length of games and limitations of competition are to be in effect for the competition.
279. Junior high/middle school football has the same practice limitation as high schools football.
280. Game or contest conditions usually involve league, tournament or organized play or when admission is charged.
281. A school is required to conduct a minimum of ten (10) days of practice in wrestling prior to the first contest, to be included within the 13-week period.
282. A student ineligible under any of the provisions of Regulations I or III, or one who has competed in a meet or tournament in accordance with the maximum limitations of competition for that meet or tournament in the sport concerned, may not take part in a meet or tournament immediately preceding, during, or immediately after either of the above in a so-called "exhibition or practice event," or in one in which points may not be scored.
283. Alternatives to the lengths of contests are permitted as long as no student exceeds the maximum minutes of playing time stated in specific game rules and the total extra playing time for the team does not exceed 25 percent of a regulation game or contest.
284. If a school district chooses to sponsor interscholastic sports competition for 6th or lower grades, it is recommended that those teams should not exceed the limitations of competition for grades 7-8 in the *MHSAA Handbook*.

## Regulation IV

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### SECTION 11—"ALL-STAR" CONTESTS/NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**SECTION 11 (A)**—No athletic director, coach, teacher, or administrator of a MHSAA member school, and no athletic official registered with the Michigan High School Athletic Association, shall at any time during the school year for his or her school, assist either directly or indirectly with the coaching, management, direction, selection or transportation of players, promotion, or officiating of any "All-Star" exhibition or similar contest, or of any contest that is or purports to be a national high school or a national junior high or middle school championship event or the qualification thereto, in any MHSAA tournament sport if any of the participants is enrolled in an MHSAA member junior high/middle school at the time of the event.

**SECTION 11 (B)**—Any junior high/middle school which uses an individual as a coach or manager of an interscholastic athletic team who has violated the provisions of Section A of this Regulation or Regulation II, Section 13 shall be placed on probation for one year and offending coach or coaches shall not be permitted to coach in any sport at that school for a one-year period and shall not coach for a one-year period at any other member school in any MHSAA tournament in any sport.

**SECTION 11 (C)**—Any individual who violates the provisions of Section A of this Rule shall be ineligible for registration as an athletic official with the Michigan High School Athletic Association for a period of at least one year.

#### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 11

**(See Interpretations 162-169)**

(Interpretation 248 of Regulation II, Section 13 is applicable to junior high/middle schools.)

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## REGULATION V—VIOLATIONS BY SENIOR AND JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS

### Introduction

Attorney General Opinion No. 6352 (1986) states that “while a school district is not bound by decisions rendered by the MHSAA regarding rule violations, the Michigan High School Athletic Association may condition eligibility for and participation in its tournaments on compliance with its rules and its determinations concerning rules violations and the penalties to be imposed upon school districts for violations of its rules.”

School districts which desire to be members of the MHSAA and/or participate in MHSAA tournaments must be in “good standing” which means they have applied Regulations I through IV and have enforced the penalties of Regulation V.

The expectations of member schools include:

- Educating student-athletes, staff and other involved personnel about MHSAA rules and procedures.
- Monitoring compliance year-around.
- Investigating possible violations and reporting findings.
- Administering penalties.

### SECTION 1—ALLEGATIONS

**SECTION 1—Allegations concerning violations of MHSAA Regulations I through V and their Interpretations should be submitted in writing to the MHSAA and be signed by the principal of the junior high/middle school or senior high school or the superintendent of schools. Definite evidence upon which the allegations are based should be stated. MHSAA staff may request or conduct investigations on the basis of any information in any form from any source. Member schools are obligated to follow the rules regardless of whether an allegation has been made.**

#### INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 1

285. When the eligibility of any player is questioned, or allegations against member schools arise, the information should be communicated quickly and **confidentially** to the superintendent or principal of that school. If the matter is not satisfactorily settled, notice concerning the violation or allegation should be submitted in writing to the MHSAA.
286. If a school has information regarding the ineligibility of a student of another school, it must be communicated to that school before contests are played rather than after their completion or **both** schools will be subject to MHSAA penalties.
287. Protest is not allowed by the MHSAA when it is based on judgment decisions of officials or on misinterpretation or misapplication of playing rules. **The use of video for review on site or subsequently is not permitted unless specifically allowed by the playing rules of the sport and specifically adopted by the MHSAA.**

### SECTION 2—FAILURE TO KEEP CONTRACTS

**SECTION 2—Failure on the part of a junior high/middle school or senior high school to fulfill a contract, properly executed by the superintendent, principal, or athletic director, may subject a school to probation or suspension.**

**Note: The MHSAA will not be involved in investigating or mediating contract disputes between member schools of the same league or conference.**

#### INTERPRETATION—SECTION 2

288. a. Contest and officials contracts should include specific dates, times and financial guarantee provisions. No protest involving violation of contract, either on the part of a school or athletic official, will be considered unless there are properly executed contracts for the contest in question.  
b. Officials are not obligated to work optional, voluntarily-extended periods (e.g., fifth quarters in basketball, **additional sets of volleyball after the winner is determined, exhibition heats in swimming & diving**) unless the official’s contract stipulates such may or will occur.
289. If a member school forfeits a varsity football contest and it is alleged by the opponent that the forfeit is for reasons other than health or risk issues or other compelling circumstances but rather to avoid competition, the forfeiting school athletic director, coach and principal must appear before the Executive Committee to show cause why other sanctions should not be applied.

**SECTION 3—SPORTSMANSHIP**

**SECTION 3 (A)**—If a team is removed from competition in protest, the contest is forfeited to the opponent and the coach and principal of the removed team must appear before the Executive Committee to indicate why additional action should not be taken. The Executive Committee may also require the appearance of personnel from other schools and game officials.

**SECTION 3 (B)**—If the coach is ejected from the contest and an assistant coach, or an assigned school representative is not available to continue as the coach the event is terminated and forfeited to the opponent.

**SECTION 3 (C)**—When a contest ends prematurely because of breakdown of proper sportsmanship and whether or not the 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.

**SECTION 3 (D)**—The following policies for disqualification shall apply in all sports:

1. When a student is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for the remainder of that day of competition and for at least the next day of competition for that team (two or more dates for ice hockey. See ice hockey playing rule adoptions).  
If a disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament, the next day of disqualification must be served during the next day of that team's MHSAA tournament participation that season as well as the next non-MHSAA tournament contest (if any) prior to the next day of competition in the MHSAA tournament for that team. MHSAA Tournament disqualification does not carry over to the next MHSAA tournament in another sport.
2. When a coach is disqualified during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, that coach shall be prohibited by his/her school from coaching for the remainder of that day of competition and from coaching at or attending at least the next day of competition for that coach's team (two or more dates for ice hockey. See ice hockey playing rule adoptions).  
If a disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament, the next day of disqualification must be served during the next day of that team's MHSAA tournament participation that season as well as the next non-MHSAA tournament contest (if any) prior to the next day of competition in the MHSAA tournament for that team. MHSAA Tournament disqualification does not carry over to the next MHSAA tournament in another sport. That person shall not be present on site or within sight, sound or communication.
3. Failure of the school for any reason to enforce this regulation will prohibit the school from entry in the next MHSAA tournament for that sport, or from the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament or during the last regular-season contest.
4. Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches, or the next contest in any other sport for seniors.
5. If the playing rules for a sport specify an additional penalty or more rapid progression, or use of such a progression for other violations, the playing rules apply.
6. Any coach who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct two or more times during a season, any player who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct three or more times during a season, and any coach or player who is ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing or intentionally and/or aggressively physically contacting an official at any time during that season, or who commits such acts after being ejected, is not eligible to participate in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season. If the tournament disqualifying ejection for that individual occurs during the MHSAA tournament, that player or coach is ineligible for the remainder of that tournament. The disqualified coach shall not be present on site or within sight, sound or communication.

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 3**

290. Taunting includes any actions or comments by coaches, players or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs or personal matters.  
Examples of taunting that would lead to ejection include but are not limited to, 'trash talk;' physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game; reference to sexual orientation; 'in the face' confrontation by one player to another; standing over/straddling a tackled or fallen player.
291. In all sports, officials are to consider taunting a flagrant unsportsmanlike foul that disqualifies the offending bench personnel or contestant from the contest/day of competition (and the next contest/day of competition). A warning may be given but is not required before ejection.
292. At all MHSAA tournament venues, tournament management may give spectators one warning for taunting. Thereafter, spectators who taunt others are to be ejected by security.
293. Allegations of registered officials or administrators of member schools that representatives of member schools exhibited poor sportsmanship before, during or after an interscholastic contest shall be investigated and resolved by the schools involved and also may be investigated by the Executive Director or designee, who may impose the penalties described in this Section.
294. It is the official's responsibility to notify the MHSAA and the offending school whenever disqualification from a succeeding contest/day of competition for a coach or athlete is necessitated. However, whether or not the school receives notification, it is the school's responsibility to be aware of the violation and enforce the regulation.
295. Pursuant to Item No. 2 of the Due Process Procedure (p. 19) and consistent with Interpretation 287, there is no appeal of a penalty that automatically results in a suspension either from the next day of competition or the MHSAA tournament. Neither inaction by an official nor an ejection by an official resulting in suspension, either for the next day of competition or the entire MHSAA tournament, is reviewable by MHSAA staff, Executive Committee or Representative Council.

**SECTION 4—VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES**

**SECTION 4 (A)—Violations of *Handbook* regulations I through V and their Interpretations shall subject a member school to any or all, but not limited to, the following: censure, probation with competition, probation without competition, forfeiture, loss of privilege of tournament hosting or revenue sharing, denial of entry into or removal from MHSAA tournaments in one or more sports, suspension, expulsion.**

**SECTION 4 (B)—Accidental, intentional or other use of ineligible players by a junior high/middle school or senior high school shall require that team victories are forfeited to opponents; and any one or more of these additional actions may be taken: (1) that individual or team records and performances achieved during participation by such ineligibles be vacated or stricken; and (2) that team or individual awards earned by such ineligibles be returned to the MHSAA.**

**SECTION 4 (C)—If a student is ineligible according to MHSAA rules but is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such MHSAA rules but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction against his/her school and/or the MHSAA, and that injunction is subsequently voluntarily or involuntarily vacated, stayed, reversed or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified or expires without further judicial determination, those actions stipulated in SECTION 4 (B) shall be taken.**

**SECTION 4 (D)—If a contestant or team competes in a meet, match, or tournament in violation of any of the limitations of competition of Regulations II and IV, the entire meet or contest is forfeited. Individual students or teams which participate in excess of the season limitations for a sport as stipulated in Regulation II, Section 11 (A) shall not be permitted to participate in that season's MHSAA tournament in that sport. Students or teams exceeding the maximum number of contests/days of competition allowed during the regular season shall forfeit the contests in excess of the season maximum and not be allowed to enter or advance in the MHSAA tournament.**

**INTERPRETATIONS—SECTION 4**

296. Even if a student later satisfies the normal conditions of eligibility, that student may be deemed **ineligible** for the same number of semesters, trimesters, weeks, contests or days of competition as he or she had participated in while ineligible. The period of ineligibility shall be determined by the MHSAA executive director.
297. Individual honors and finals qualifying marks by teammates of ineligible athletes remain standing even if the team must forfeit a place, award or championship for use of ineligible. NFHS and MHSAA sport records are not considered individual honors for the purpose of this interpretation.
298. **Probation**, which may be applied for any length of time, may serve only as a warning that if schools commit additional violations of MHSAA regulations, additional penalties may be imposed, including suspension from MHSAA membership. Probation may be accompanied with additional provisions, including, but not limited to:
1. Prohibition from membership on one or more MHSAA committees for one or more years.
  2. Prohibition from hosting one or more MHSAA tournaments for one or more years.
  3. Prohibition from revenue sharing, if any, for one or more years.
  4. Prohibition from reimbursement of expenses for participation in one or more MHSAA tournaments for one or more years.
  5. Prohibition from participation in one or more MHSAA tournaments for one or more years.
- It is within the discretion of the Executive Director, Executive Committee or Representative Council to reduce or eliminate any of the above conditions or the probationary status when the school takes internal action to correct the personnel and/or procedures which caused the violation.
299. **Suspension** which may be applied for any length of time, addresses membership status. A school's membership in the MHSAA and thus **all** the privileges of membership, may be revoked during a school year and or renewal of membership may be prohibited for any period of future years determined by the Executive Director, Executive Committee or Representative Council.
300. Any league or association of schools may, by notification to the MHSAA, determine the standing of schools within its own league or organization with reference to forfeiture.
301. Failure to comply with the concussion protocols shall result in forfeiture of contests (see MHSAA Concussion Protocols, page 111).



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## CLASSIFICATION OF MHSAA MEMBER HIGH SCHOOLS

Classification of member high schools for MHSAA tournaments is the responsibility of the Representative Council and is based on enrollment as reported by member schools on their Enrollment Declaration forms. Classification is necessary before any school is permitted to compete in MHSAA Meets or Tournaments.

Schools may choose to play at any higher classification in a sport for a minimum of two years.

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

15. Applications for spring sports must be submitted by Oct. 15.

The determination of enrollment is based on the following:

1. Students shall be counted for MHSAA purposes on the State of Michigan February pupil accounting date or, if the State of Michigan does not require a count date in February, then on the first Wednesday of February. The form should be mailed to the MHSAA within ten days of the count date.
2. Private and Parochial schools not required to prepare an official count for State Department of Education purposes are to use the same date as public schools (see No. 1) MHSAA enrollment day.
3. Students who are 19 years of age prior to Sept. 1 and in grades 9, 10 or 11 of the current school year, are subtracted from the count for classification purposes on the Enrollment Declaration Form.
4. All students enrolled in school on the official count date and substantiated by either their presence in school on that date, or through knowledge of their whereabouts with intention of attending on a daily basis, are to be included in the count. (This includes international students, including foreign exchange students, and students receiving credit for online courses)
5. Each student shall be counted as one (1), regardless of the percentage of hours enrolled. (This includes students receiving credit for online courses)
6. Students who are certified by Individual Educational Planning Team (IEPT) and assigned to another school for more than 50 percent of the school day shall not be counted for athletic eligibility purposes by either the sending or receiving school. Any IEPT student who remains in his or her home (original) school must be counted for athletic classification purposes.
7. Students enrolled on a "Shared Time" basis shall be counted by the school where the permanent records are on file.
8. The determination of which school, if any, must count students in non-traditional programs (sponsors no interscholastic athletic program in any sport) is controlled by Interpretation 48.
  - a. For a student to be considered eligible in the interscholastic athletic program of a traditional MHSAA member school, the student must meet at least the minimum requirements of MHSAA *Handbook* Regulation I. In addition, the governing board of the traditional school must have determined that the students of this non-traditional school may participate on its interscholastic sports teams.
    1. The administration of that traditional school must have named the actual program(s) and counted on the MHSAA Enrollment Declaration Form of the previous February all the students who are enrolled in the non-traditional program(s) who reside in the attendance area of the traditional program.
    2. Non-traditional or alternative school programs may or may not be housed in the same building as the traditional high school, may or may not have school administration separate from the base (original) school and may or may not grant credit toward graduation or a certificate of completion at the base (original) school.
    3. In a school which sponsors a non-traditional program for its students only or one which is open to students of any school district without connection to any other school district, **all students enrolled in the non-traditional program regardless of residence**, must be counted and the actual program(s) named on the Enrollment Declaration Form if any of those students are permitted to participate on that school's interscholastic teams.
    4. If a school is involved in a non-traditional school or program through a consortium of more than one school district, only those students who reside in that district, or attendance area of a multi high school district, must be counted and the actual program(s) named on the Enrollment Declaration Form if any of those students are permitted to participate on that school's interscholastic teams.
    5. Traditional schools without attendance boundaries must name the non-traditional program on the form and count all former students who were enrolled in that traditional school immediately before they began to take their course work in the non traditional program.

## Classification

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- b. Once MHSAA classifications or tournament divisions are publicized the previous March or April, a school may add a non-traditional school or program and adjust its count upward when three conditions exist: (1) The Board of Education or Governing Body of a non-public school officially adds a newly created non-traditional program that did not exist at the time the Enrollment Declaration Form was submitted; (2) Students of grades 10, 11 and 12 in the new program were counted in the basic enrollment count submitted on the Form; and (3) The program addition does not cause a change in division/classification that would alter that school's published tournament division unless the change is prior to when MHSAA tournament assignments are made for the sport(s) involved or Oct. 15, whichever occurs first. This may be granted on a case by case basis by the Executive Director upon the written request of a member school.
9. If, under Interpretation 51, a school allows one of its students to remain eligible for its interscholastic teams after enrolling at another MHSAA member school which it has determined has a specialized curriculum under Interpretation 52, then the school must count all similarly situated students. That is, it must count all of its former students who are enrolled at that school.
10. Students enrolled in a high school and taking classes at the college level shall be counted by the high school.
11. In schools where the enrollment is made up of 75 percent or more of one gender, the enrollment of the majority gender is doubled and added with the enrollment of the other gender for classification purposes for the majority gender. This could provide a double classification for that school.
12. All high schools must report and count their 9th-grade enrollment UNLESS the 9th grade is part of a junior high/middle school in a separate building under separate administration.
13. If the 9th-graders of a junior high/middle school are permitted to participate on the high school teams, the entire 9th-grade enrollment must be included with grades 10, 11 and 12 of the high school.
14. In cases where a high school consists of grades 10, 11 and 12, or any combination of these grades, the enrollment must be determined on an equated basis for classification purposes. The equated figure is calculated by taking the total enrollment of the high school grades, dividing by three and adding that figure to the actual school enrollment. In the event that fractional numbers are involved in connection with the procedure, the next highest number is to be used for addition purposes.

### Notes:

- a. The final figure of the official count submitted to the State Department of Education may be different than the count submitted to the MHSAA.
- b. After schools are notified by the MHSAA in writing of their classification, no change or correction will be allowed that lowers enrollment figures submitted by any school.
- c. The enrollment figure submitted in February and on which the following school year's classifications are based may differ from the school's actual enrollment at the start of that school year.

## MHSAA TOURNAMENT CLASSIFICATION POLICY

(Adopted by the Representative Council, May 6, 1991)

### PRINCIPLES

1. If there are fewer than 32 schools which sponsor a sport in a class, those schools will be combined in a single tournament with another class in that sport.
2. If those two classes combined total fewer than 32 schools which sponsor the sport, those schools will be combined in a single tournament with a third class in that sport.
3. If those three classes combined total fewer than 32 schools which sponsor the sport, those schools will be combined in a single tournament with the fourth class. See Girls Gymnastics.
4. When school sponsorship fluctuates and classification groupings may be affected, it will be policy to preserve the status quo until the sport demonstrates several years of one grouping or the other.
5. The Representative Council will consider exceptions to this policy for the tournament in a specific sport after review with comment and/or recommendation by the Classification Committee following affirmative input from the MHSAA staff, tournament management for the sport, the appropriate sport committee, and a survey of member schools that the modified format would better serve the MHSAA membership and that sport. (Adopted May 2, 1994.)

**SEE CLASSIFICATIONS FOR THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR ON THE NEXT PAGE**

## Classification

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### 2014-15 Classification Variations for Statewide Tournaments

#### Tournament Classification Variations

Baseball - 4 divisions  
Boys Basketball - Class A,B,C,D  
Girls Basketball - Class A,B,C,D  
Boys Bowling - 4 divisions  
Girls Bowling - 4 divisions  
Girls Competitive Cheer - 4 divisions  
Boys Cross Country - 4 divisions  
Girls Cross Country - 4 divisions  
Football (11-Player) - 8 divisions  
Football (8-Player) - 1 division  
Boys Golf - 4 divisions  
Girls Golf - 4 divisions  
Girls Gymnastics - 1 division  
Ice Hockey - 3 divisions  
Boys Lacrosse - 2 divisions  
Girls Lacrosse - 2 divisions  
Boys Skiing - 2 divisions  
Girls Skiing - 2 divisions  
Boys Soccer - 4 divisions  
Girls Soccer - 4 divisions  
Girls Softball - 4 divisions  
Boys Swimming & Diving - 3 divisions  
Girls Swimming & Diving - 3 divisions  
Boys Tennis - 4 divisions  
Girls Tennis - 4 divisions  
Boys Track & Field - 4 divisions  
Girls Track & Field - 4 divisions  
Wrestling (Individual) - 4 divisions  
Wrestling (Team) - 4 divisions  
Girls Volleyball - Class A, B, C, D

#### Traditional Calendar Date of MHSAA Final

3rd Saturday after Memorial Day  
4th Saturday in March  
3rd Saturday in March  
1st Saturday in March and preceding Friday  
1st Saturday in March and preceding Friday  
1st Saturday in March and preceding Friday  
1st Saturday in November  
1st Saturday in November  
Friday and Saturday of Thanksgiving Weekend  
Friday or Saturday before Thanksgiving  
2nd Friday and Saturday after Memorial Day  
3rd Friday and Saturday in October  
2nd Saturday in March  
2nd Saturday in March  
2nd Saturday after Memorial Day  
2nd Saturday after Memorial Day  
Last Monday in February  
Last Monday in February  
1st Saturday in November  
3rd Saturday after Memorial Day  
3rd Saturday after Memorial Day  
2nd Saturday in March  
Weekend before Thanksgiving  
3rd Saturday in October  
Saturday after Memorial Day  
Saturday after Memorial Day  
Saturday after Memorial Day  
1st Saturday in March  
Last Saturday in February  
Saturday before Thanksgiving

#### Tournament Classification Variations

##### 2013-14 For Upper Peninsula Tournaments

Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving - 1 division  
Boys Tennis - 2 divisions  
Girls Tennis - 2 divisions  
Boys and Girls Cross Country - \*3 divisions  
Boys and Girls Golf - \*3 divisions  
Boys Soccer  
Girls Soccer  
Boys and Girls Track & Field - \*3 divisions

#### Traditional Calendar Date of Upper Peninsula MHSAA Final

3rd Saturday in February  
Wed.-Sat. after Memorial Day  
2 weeks earlier than fall (Wed.-Sat.) L.P.  
2 weeks earlier than L.P.  
Wed.-Sat. after Memorial Day  
2nd Saturday after Memorial Day (not held in 2015)  
Last Saturday in October (not held in 2014)  
Saturday after Memorial Day

*\* UP 3 division formula: Sponsoring Class A, B and C schools divided into 2 divisions; Sponsoring Class D schools will be the third division*

## Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee

### UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

At the Representative Council meeting on Dec. 7-8, 1933, the Council formally adopted the concept of an Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee to deal with sport championships for Upper Peninsula schools. The committee met for the first time on Dec. 16, 1933 to select sites for basketball and spring sport Regionals. Teams did not advance beyond the Region level.

In 1946, the UP Athletic Committee continued scheduling tournament competition in the Upper Peninsula until 1948 when the Boys Basketball Regional champions advanced to competition downstate.

The UP Committee operates at the pleasure of the Representative Council. It may not modify anything within the MHSAA Handbook and may not alter policies, procedures or schedules of MHSAA tournaments without permission of the Council. The committee acts essentially as a site and officials selection committee for statewide as well as Upper Peninsula tournaments. The committee is also a sounding board to filter suggestions from coaches' organizations and schools regarding any number of issues related to high school sports in the Upper Peninsula.

The current UP Athletic Committee is made up of seven elected persons who meet three times yearly. The UP Athletic Committee consists of individuals representing the following:

1 Class A & B Schools	1 Representative Council Member
1 Class C Schools	Class A & B Schools
2 Class D Schools	1 Representative Council Member
1 Athletic Coach	Class C & D Schools

The existence and makeup of the UP Athletic Committee is within the jurisdiction of the Representative Council and changes in its makeup do not require amending of the MHSAA Constitution. Elections and length of terms are similar to that of the Representative Council (two years). The Council may appoint additional persons to serve and has done so when one geographic region is underrepresented.

### UPPER PENINSULA SCHOOLS' PARTICIPATION IN MHSAA TOURNAMENTS

(Adopted by MHSAA Executive Committee, August 5, 1987)

When a new Michigan High School Athletic Association tournament is initiated or the format of an existing tournament is significantly altered, MHSAA member schools of the Upper Peninsula will be contacted regarding their intention to participate in the new or revised tournament.

When Upper Peninsula schools choose to participate in the statewide tournament, no Upper Peninsula tournament is sponsored by the MHSAA in that sport. If Upper Peninsula schools choose not to participate in the statewide tournament, then the MHSAA will conduct an Upper Peninsula tournament.

There cannot be an Upper Peninsula championship and Upper Peninsula schools' participation in the statewide meet in the same sport. If there is no Upper Peninsula championship in a sport, Upper Peninsula schools are welcome in the statewide meet if their local administration authorizes their participation in it. (A 2003 Federal Court Order prohibits schools' participation in MHSAA Lower Peninsula Soccer Tournaments.)

The role of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee is not to determine if Upper Peninsula schools will participate in an Upper Peninsula tournament or the statewide tournament, but to help plan and facilitate their involvement in one or the other place as the schools themselves determine as a group.

## Sports Participation

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### FACTS ABOUT THE MHSAA, INC.

1. There were 751 member public, private and parochial Senior high schools and 725 junior high/middle schools in the MHSAA during 2013-14. Schools do not pay membership dues nor are they assessed entry fees for tournament participation.
2. There were 293,921 participants in sports for which the Association sponsored postseason tournaments during 2012-13.
3. Over 500 different people, including Representative Council members, served on 43 MHSAA committees last year. They helped to determine policies and make plans for the wide range of sponsored activities.
4. There were 10,495 athletic officials registered with the MHSAA during 2013-14.

### MHSAA SPORTS PARTICIPATION 2013-14

There were 742 of the MHSAA's 751 member high schools which participated in MHSAA Tournaments during 2013-14. Last year, participating schools offered the following MHSAA Tournament sports:

<b>Boys Sports</b>	<b>No. of Schools (2013-14)</b>	<b>Girls Sports</b>	<b>No. of Schools (2013-14)</b>
1. Basketball	729/3	1. Basketball	720/3
2. Track & Field	664/15	2. Volleyball	707/4
3. Baseball	630/15	3. Track & Field	657/16
4. Football	620/39	4. Softball	622/11
5. Cross Country	614/11	5. Cross Country	610/11
6. Golf	534/8	6. Soccer	466/12
7. Soccer	482/15	7. Tennis	343/4
8. Wrestling	458/16	8. Bowling	349/8
9. Bowling	351/8	9. Competitive Cheer	333/4
10. Tennis	313/5	10. Golf	322/4
11. Swimming & Diving	217/49	11. Swimming & Diving	225/51
12. Ice Hockey	159/111	12. Skiing	73/31
13. Lacrosse	111/19	13. Lacrosse	72/16
14. Skiing	74/28	14. Gymnastics	52/23

**Note:** The first number indicates all schools sponsoring the sport, including primary schools in cooperative programs. The second number is the number of additional schools participating in the sport through cooperative programs. (In many cases, girls play on teams listed under "Boys Sports.")

**Source:** School's actual sponsorship for MHSAA Tournaments (not the year-end participation survey).

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2014

## Catastrophic Insurance

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### ATHLETES AND OFFICIALS CATASTROPHIC ACCIDENT MEDICAL INSURANCE

*(This is **not** intended to be a complete description of coverage and exclusions)*

Since the 1970-71 school year, the Michigan High School Athletic Association has provided participants at each member school and all registered officials with insurance that is intended to help pay catastrophic excess accident medical bills to administer to injuries sustained in athletic activities under MHSAA jurisdiction. Here are the traditional features:

Coverage is provided for grades 7-12 for all students accidentally injured while students are engaged in interscholastic athletic activities under the jurisdiction of the Michigan High School Athletic Association; namely: baseball, basketball (boys and girls), bowling (boys and girls), cross country (boys and girls), football, golf (boys and girls), gymnastics (girls), competitive cheer (girls), ice hockey, lacrosse (boys and girls), soccer (boys and girls), softball (girls), alpine skiing (boys and girls), swimming and diving (boys and girls), tennis (boys and girls), track and field (boys and girls), volleyball (girls), and wrestling.

All eligible students who participate in interscholastic athletic activities at an MHSAA member school in sports which end with an MHSAA tournament are covered provided their school principal attests in writing and the MHSAA agrees that they were eligible under all MHSAA regulations at the time of the injury. **Eligible** student athletes are covered while traveling directly to and from a scheduled event as a representative of the school while traveling in transportation sponsored by the school, and while participating in season in an allowed activity under the direct supervision of a full-time school employee or coach designated by the school acting within the scope of his/her coaching duties in those sports for which the MHSAA provides a tournament series.

#### **Student-athletes ineligible under MHSAA Regulations are not covered.**

- Students who are ineligible under local school rules but would be eligible under MHSAA rules would be covered if they were allowed to practice with their school team.
- Students who are otherwise eligible but are suspended from contests under Regulation V, Section 3 (contest disqualifications) would be covered if they were to continue practicing with the school team.

Officials must be on the premises of the contest to be covered under the policy.

Sideline cheerleaders are covered while traveling directly to and from interscholastic athletic events as a representative of the school while traveling in transportation sponsored by the school, and while cheering at interscholastic athletic events under the direct supervision of a school employee designated by the school.

**MHSAA Catastrophic Accident Medical Insurance does NOT cover ANY out-of-season activities or any activities occurring beyond the mileage limits of Regulation II, Section 6, Interpretation 193, even if those activities are not expressly prohibited by the MHSAA.**

This coverage is provided at no cost to the eligible athletes of MHSAA member schools and to registered officials. The MHSAA is the policyholder and pays the premium for this layer of catastrophic accident medical coverage. It will pay up to \$500,000 in medical expenses **after a deductible of \$25,000 in paid medical expenses per claim has been met**. The MHSAA arranged program will then pay medical expenses above the \$25,000 deductible left unpaid by the parents' or official's insurance or any other sources such as school purchased insurance.

A payment of a catastrophic cash benefit payment of up to \$50,000 will be made if a covered person is paralyzed or in a coma within 180 days after the accident. Payment will not be made until a physician certifies that, after a 16-month waiting period, the injury is permanent and irreversible. This payment is in addition to those payments already covered for medical expenses and must result in disability. This payment is in addition to those payments already covered for medical expenses.

The first medical expense must be incurred within 90 days after the date of the accident. The \$25,000 deductible must be met within 2 years of the date of the accident. An accidental death or dismemberment benefit of \$10,000 is paid if either event occurs within 365 days of the date.

#### **The Claims Administrators' name, telephone number and e-mail address is:**

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Mr. Bryan Cronen, FIRST AGENCY, INC., 5071 West H Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009-8501  
Phone: 269.381.6630 Fax: 269.381.3055  
Email: bcronen@1stagency.com

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**MAKE SURE ALL HIGH SCHOOLS AND JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN YOUR DISTRICT ARE DESIGNATED BY YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION AS MHSAA MEMBER SCHOOLS SO ATHLETES ON BOTH LEVELS ARE COVERED BY THIS MHSAA-PURCHASED PLAN**

**TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL POLICY  
AT MHSAA TOURNAMENTS  
May 1992**

**Policy**

For coaches and officials at all MHSAA tournaments, use of tobacco products of any kind within sight of players and spectators and use of alcohol during a contest or at any time before it on the day of the contest is prohibited.

**Enforcement**

**Tobacco:** It is not intended that a violation of the tobacco policy should lead to immediate ejection of a coach. He or she should be reminded of the policy and reported to his or her school administration after the contest. Only if the coach is unwilling to comply promptly shall he or she be disqualified from coaching at the event.

Officials should be reminded of the tobacco policy and reported in writing by the tournament manager to the MHSAA.

**Alcohol:** Historically, officials promptly disqualified coaches, and tournament managers immediately replaced officials who were under the influence of alcohol; and no change in such procedures is intended by these policies.

**GAME SUSPENSION POLICIES  
(Inclement Weather Affecting Outdoor Venues)**

- I. On threatening days, game management should consult with contest officials about steps to be followed if conditions worsen.
- II. When suspending an outdoor contest, officials and game management shall follow these policies.
  - A. When lightning is observed or thunder is heard, the contest must be suspended. The occurrence of lightning or thunder is not subject to Interpretation or discussion — *lightning is lightning; thunder is thunder.*
  - 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.
  - A. 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 shall be followed.
  - A. Delays for contests scheduled prior to 3 p.m. must not exceed three hours. Delays for contests scheduled for 3 p.m. or later must not exceed one and one half hour. Delays on nights not followed by school for all the competing teams may be longer by mutual agreement of participating schools. A postponed contest shall 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 shall 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:** MHSAA tournament policies for MHSAA tournament contests, or more restrictive local policies for regular-season contests would supersede these policies 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) shall make the final decision regarding game suspension once the game begins.

## REGULAR-SEASON CONTEST DELAYS

When a league or conference does not have a written policy regarding late contest start time, the following MHSAA policy shall apply:

1. If a team fails to arrive for a regular-season contest at the time stated on the contract, it shall be necessary for the host administration to delay the contest, declare the game forfeited, reschedule the contest, or declare the event "no contest."
  2. If the host management has been notified of the reason for the delay and projected arrival, the officials must stand by for 60 minutes beyond the scheduled starting time. When the team arrives, a reasonable amount of time must be provided for the visiting team to conduct a pregame warm-up. In any case, warm-up shall not be less than 15 minutes.
  3. If the host management has not been notified that there is a delay and the reason for it, the officials have permission to leave the site, without obligation, 30 minutes after the contracted start time has passed.
- (In MHSAA tournament play, the Participating School Tournament Information for each sport will prescribe the specific action to be taken. For regular-season play, league and conference policy supercedes the policy above, so coaches and officials should inquire with their league to see if any policy exists.)

## RESCHEDULING AND REFUND POLICY December 2008

**Rescheduling:** If an MHSAA tournament meet or contest is postponed or suspended because the facility becomes unusable or as a result of acts of persons or nature, and the playing rules require that the meet or contest must be played or resumed, the meet or contest must be played or completed on the first available subsequent date, at the same facility.

If that facility is unavailable at any future time within the tournament schedule, MHSAA staff shall determine if other facility options are available. If no reasonable options exist, the contest(s) shall not be played and a coin toss or tosses will determine which team or teams shall advance to the next level of the tournament. If it is the championship game of the entire tournament series, co-champions shall be named and awards provided.

**Refunds:** Refunds on admission tickets or parking are not provided by the MHSAA for postponed or suspended MHSAA tournament meets or contests, or for such meets or contests that are terminated before their normal conclusion for any reason. Tickets shall be honored for admission to a rescheduled or resumed contest.



**TORNADO POLICY**  
**May 1981, Revised May 2004**

- I. IF THERE IS A WATCH OR WARNING AT AN MHSAA TOURNAMENT SITE —
- A. Watch or warning issued **at least three hours** prior to the event:
1. If the local district policy closes the tournament facility, all participating teams must be called and informed of postponement with information pertaining to next playing date and time included in the call.
  2. If the host district policy **does not** close the facility, all participating schools who have not called the host must be called to be sure all who are scheduled to play will be present. (The participating school local policy must prevail).
    - a. If one team of a dual type competition (i.e. Baseball Tournament) cannot be present by their policy, no contest shall be held. The competition for that day/night must be rescheduled on the next possible day.
    - b. If the competition is multiple team type (i.e. Track, Tennis), the meet shall be conducted as long as a reasonable number of teams (60 percent) can be present.
- B. Watch or warning **less than three hours** before event:
1. If the competing teams are enroute, no decision shall be made until both teams in a bracket have arrived or contact has been made, unless local policy forbids use of facility once the watch or warning has been issued.
  2. If competing teams arrive, are on the premises, and local policy permits, play the contest when and if time permits.
  3. If it is not possible that date, reschedule for next playable date.
  4. Local policy shall always prevail.
- C. Watch or warning first issued during contest:
1. Suspend play.
  2. Take necessary steps and precautions as directed by local policy.
  3. Resume play at the point of suspension as soon as permitted. If not that day/night, then reschedule for the next possible date.
- II. IF THE WATCH OR WARNING IS IN AN AREA OF ONE OR MORE COMPETING SCHOOLS AND NOT AT A TOURNAMENT SITE:
- A. It shall be the responsibility of the competing school to inform the manager of the tournament immediately.
- B. The decision as to play or not to play shall be made by the Tournament Manager, based on the information presented and the type of sport event involved.
1. If one or more local policies do not permit travel or competition, the game, games, or tournament shall be postponed.
  2. If the scheduled competition is of a multiple team nature (i.e. Track and Field), the competition may take place even though all teams are not able to be present. (60 percent is suggested guideline).
  3. The rationale for No. 1 and No. 2 hinges on the fact that in No. 1, both teams of a dual type competition must be present if a contest is to take place. No. 2 permits competition, even though all teams cannot be present.
- C. If one or more schools are on the road to the tournament site at the time of watch or warning, no decision shall be and until contact has been made with all concerned. (An authorized person from the assigned schools).
- D. If one school arrives on site and the opponent cannot travel due to local policy, the game shall be postponed and rescheduled on the next possible date.

**GENERAL GUIDELINE:** The local Tournament Manager has full jurisdiction over the policies of the tournament site. If the above guidelines do not cover a certain situation, the decision on the matter shall be that of the Tournament Manager.

## BASEBALL PITCHING LIMITATIONS

May 1978

**A player shall not pitch more than three consecutive days regardless of the outs pitched; and a player shall not pitch for two calendar days following that in which he pitched his 30th out. A student shall participate in no more than two games per school day.**

### Comments and Interpretations.

1. Regardless of the number of outs pitched, no player shall pitch more than three consecutive days.
2. MHSAA tournament pitching regulations shall not displace regular-season pitching regulations. The "30 out" tournament rule is not automatic unless the player has not pitched for two consecutive calendar days prior to the MHSAA tournament in question.
3. Following the 30th out in any sequence which does not include a two-day rest period, a player shall not pitch for two calendar days.
4. Violations of the 30 out rule are considered the same as a school using an ineligible player. The minimum penalty in this case is forfeiture of the game.
5. At the beginning of each day of competition coaches of teams competing shall exchange up-to-date "rotation" records.
6. Failure to present the up-to-date **Pitching Rotation Record** form will require verification by the violating school athletic director the next school day. If verification is not provided the penalty will be the same as for using an ineligible player.
7. A pitcher is allowed a maximum of 30 outs in each of the following rounds of the baseball tournament: District Quarterfinal Round; District Semifinal and Final Round (if preceded by at least two days rest); Regional Semifinal and Final Round; Quarterfinal Round; Semifinal and Final Round.

**Note:** If a pitcher exceeds the 30-out limit because a batter hits into a double or triple play, that pitcher shall be credited with 30 outs and removed from the game as a pitcher. The one or two outs beyond the 30 shall not be credited to any pitcher.

It is critical to recognize that the Pitching Limitation Rule can be observed in two ways. **First, a player shall qualify for a new set of 30 outs by voluntarily resting two calendar days after pitching less than 30 outs. Secondly, a player shall qualify for a new set of outs following a required rest of two consecutive calendar days after pitching the 30th out.** Finally, in order to begin a new set of 30 outs, there must be two days of required or voluntary rest, regardless of the number of outs credited to a player. The "three-day period" is interpreted as the most recent three days.

## GIRLS GYMNASTICS

May 1992

Many high school coaches of gymnastics work with gymnasts who also take lessons and participate in Club Gymnastics. Therefore, high school coaches and the school administration must make decisions regarding the amount of time a club gymnast spends in high school practice during the high school season.

The MHSAA Gymnastics Committee developed, and the Representative Council approved, the following guideline regarding this concern:

"The school administration should determine the amount of practice time each gymnast must participate with the high school team. In addition, the school administration should determine a reasonable date in the season when no more athletes may become part of the team. This suggestion is based on the philosophy that steps should be taken to keep the team concept intact."

### Requirements for Regular-Season Meets

#### Dual Meets

- (1) Exhibition performances are prohibited.
- (2) There can be no more than 6 competitors per team event when 2 judges are contracted to judge the events.
- (3) There can be no more than 7 competitors per team per event when 4 judges are contracted and 2 events are conducted simultaneously.

#### Double Dual Meets or Quad Meets

- (1) Exhibition performances are prohibited.
- (2) No more than 6 competitors per team can compete in each event.
- (3) There can be no more than 7 competitors per team per event when 4 judges are contracted and 2 events are conducted simultaneously.

#### Tri Meets

- (1) Exhibition performances are prohibited.
- (2) There can be no more than five competitors per team per event when two judges are contracted to judge each event.
- (3) There can be no more than seven competitors per team per event when four judges are contracted and two events are conducted simultaneously.

## 2014-15 MHSAA PLAYING RULE ADOPTIONS

*(Including Point Differential Rules)*

Regulation II, Section 8 (A) states that schools shall adhere to the playing rules adopted by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The source for playing rules for competition involving one or more member schools include the National Federation of State High School Associations for most sports, the MHSAA for alpine skiing and girls competitive cheer, the U.S. Bowling Congress, the U.S. Golf Association and the U.S. Tennis Association. Currently there are no adoptions or modifications of playing rules listed for alpine skiing, golf, or bowling. Schools and officials should consult Regulations II, Sections 8-10, Representative Council Policies in the back of the *Handbook*, the sport specific rule book, Participating School Tournament Information and Tournament Managers Material for complete sports playing rule information.

### BASEBALL and GIRLS SOFTBALL

#### I. Regulation Game

- A. A regulation called game where a winner cannot be determined, shall be counted as 1/2 game won and 1/2 lost for each team. (MHSAA allowed – requires league adoption)

#### II. Game Shortening/Ending Procedures

- A. The four options listed are the only permitted game-shortening procedures allowed for baseball and softball games at the varsity and subvarsity levels. (Schools, leagues or invitational tournament management shall determine which are to be utilized with prior mutual written consent): Item '1' shall be observed for every game of the MHSAA Baseball and Girls Softball tournament series.
  - 1. Requires games to be terminated when there is a 15-run difference after three innings or a 10-run difference after five innings;
  - 2. Allow a team to discontinue play any time it trails by more than 15 runs;
  - 3. Establish shortened games of five or six innings in doubleheaders.
  - 4. Establish a time limit at the subvarsity level (1 hour, 45 minutes recommended if a time limit is used).
- B. For MHSAA softball tournament games the tiebreaker will be used with the beginning of the 11th inning. For regular-season games, the tiebreaker may be used by local league and conference adoption beginning with the 8th inning.

#### III. Equipment

- A. Middle School Bats: For games at the middle school level, member schools may deviate from National Federation rules and use the bat standard currently allowed by Little League Baseball.
- B. Double First Base: During MHSAA Tournament contests, the double first base will not be used and must be manually removed. For regular-season games, use of the double first base is optional by mutual consent of competing teams or by league adoption. If not used, the double first base is not required to be removed.

#### IV. Protests

- A. The MHSAA does NOT recognize protests of any playing rule, disqualification or ejection.  
*See Baseball Pitching Limitations (page 103).*

### BASKETBALL

#### I. Point-Differential Rule

- A. At all levels of play and in MHSAA tournaments, after the first half when one team has a lead of 40 points or more, a running clock shall be established. The clock shall revert to regular time schemes should the score be reduced to a 30-point lead or less. During any running clock mode, the clock shall be stopped as normal for all timeouts and between quarters; and for free throws during the last two minutes of the game. By league or conference adoption the point differentials (both to establish a running clock and then resume normal timing) may be modified at the junior high middle school level only.

#### II. Coaching Box

- A. A 14-foot coaching box for regular-season and tournament games shall be used.

## Representative Council Policies

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### FOOTBALL

#### I. Pregame Coin Toss

- A. For regular-season games, the pregame coin toss may be held on the field 20 minutes prior to kickoff games rather than three minutes prior. For tournament games, it is required that the coin toss be held 20 minutes prior to kickoff.

#### II. Point Differential Rule

- A. The running clock, 35-point margin rule shall be used for all football games, regular season and playoffs, varsity and subvarsity, high school and junior high/middle school. After the first half, any time the score differential reaches 35 points or more, the following changes, and only these changes, shall be made regarding rules determining when the clock will and will not be stopped. The clock shall run continuously except for the following situations when it will be stopped (**T I P S**):

1. Timeouts (charged to a team)
2. Intermission (between 3rd and 4th quarters, and after a score)
3. Penalty enforcement (whistle to ready-to-play)
4. Safety reasons (injuries, etc.)

Normal timing procedures shall resume if the point differential is reduced to less than 35 points. Additionally, should the point margin increase to a 50 point differential any time in the second half, the clock will run continuously except for officials' timeouts for injured players.

**Note:** The use of this option does not preclude the use of Rule 3-1-3 which reads: "A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee any remaining periods may be shortened at any time or the game may be terminated."

- B. In 9th-grade and junior varsity contests, the clock shall start on the ready-for-play signal rather than the snap following a change of possession.

#### III. Overtime

- A. The 10-yard-line overtime rule outlined in the National Federation Football Rules Book will be in effect for all varsity regular-season games and MHSAA Playoff games which end with scores tied at the end of regulation.

#### IV. Competition Against Non-school Teams

- A. Only subvarsity football teams may schedule games with non-school teams as is currently allowed in all other sports. Regulation II, Section 9 (D) requires senior high school varsity teams compete only against teams composed exclusively of high school students and representing high schools.

#### V. Eight-Player Football

- A. Schools may support teams using the Eight Player Format. Recommended field size is 100 x 40 yards. National Federation published eight player rules will be used.

#### VI. Casts

- A. Authorization for players to compete while wearing a legally padded cast must be in writing from an M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner.

### GIRLS GYMNASTICS

#### I. Mechanics of Scoring

- A. Regular-season and MHSAA tournament gymnastics shall use open scoring.
- B. An inquiry of an official's score is permitted within 10 minutes after all scores for that team have been recorded for that individual event (rather than 5 minutes). The MHSAA allows unlimited inquiry.

*See Requirements for regular-season Gymnastic Meets (page 100).*

### ICE HOCKEY

#### I. Goal Differential Rule

- A. The 8-goal differential rule is in effect for both the regular season and MHSAA Tournament: A running clock shall be used when a team leads by 8 or more goals during the first and second periods. After two periods of play or anytime during the third period, the game will be terminated when a team leads by 8 goals. During the first or second period when the score differential drops beneath 8 goals, regular time shall be reinstated until an 8-goal margin is reached. The rule is not optional nor shall it be modified.

## Representative Council Policies

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### II. Length of Periods

- A. As allowed by National Federation Rule 6-37, leagues and conferences may, by prior mutual agreement, permit schools to play 17 minute periods during regular-season games. If there is no prior mutual agreement, periods shall be a maximum of 15 minutes in length. In MHSAA Tournament games, periods will be 17 minutes in length.

### III. Regular-Season Overtime Procedures

- A. For regular-season tournaments involving four or more teams played on days not followed by a school day (weekend tournament/holiday tournament), any number of overtimes periods up to eight minutes in length each may be played to determine a winner. Local tournament management may elect to limit the number of overtimes played and break ties by statistical methods.
- B. Schools are not required to play overtime periods however in regular-season single games one eight-minute overtime period may be played after which a game shall end as a tie if no goals are scored in the overtime period. For regular-season single games the MHSAA tournament overtime procedure (See IV below) may be used with written approval from the MHSAA (after either two or four regular eight-minute overtime periods).
- C. Instead of ending in a tie or using the one allowed overtime without a shootout, a third option of proceeding immediately to a shootout to break ties is allowed for regular season conference games by prior adoption or by mutual consent of both teams in non-conference games tied at the end of regulation. The shootout procedures would be as follows:
  - At the end of regulation, the head official will instruct the timekeeper to put two minutes on the clock and immediately start the clock.
  - The other two officials will request a list of three shooters from each coach.
  - The head official will meet at center ice with the captains to explain the protocol during the two-minute period.
  - The goalkeepers remain at the same ends as the third period.
  - The home team has the option of shooting first or defending first in Round 1, with the order reversed in Round 2. Teams will have their three shooters alternate shots in each round. The shootout ends if a team scores more times in its round than the opponent does in its round (1-0, 2-1, 3-2). Each team has an equal number of chances to shoot before a winner is declared.
  - If the shootout remains tied at the end of two rounds, each coach will select a different shooter, this time in a sudden death situation. Neither team may use a repeat shooter until each skater on the smallest team's roster has shot. For example, if Team A has 17 skaters but Team B has only 12 skaters, both may use repeat shooters on the 13th penalty shot but not before.

Only the above options are allowed for regular-season contests that end tied in regulation.

### IV. MHSAA Tournament Overtime Procedures

- A. During MHSAA Tournament contests, four sudden-victory overtime periods not to exceed eight minutes in length followed by unlimited 4-on-4 periods will be used to determine a winner. Procedures for resurfacing are stated in the MHSAA hockey Participating School Tournament Information and Tournament Managers Manual.

### V. Tournament Netting Requirements

- A. All MHSAA ice hockey tournament facilities shall have protective netting behind the goal area, or restrict seating behind the goals.

### VI. Neck Guards

- A. The MHSAA has approved mandatory use of neck guards for all players, including goalies in both MHSAA regular-season games and MHSAA tournament games. Neck guards are to be worn properly during the game and also during pregame and between period warm-up time.

### VII. Sportsmanship - Next Game Disqualifications

- A. The MHSAA penalty for player or coach game disqualifications in the same season is as follows: first game disqualification – two-game suspension; second game disqualification – four-game suspension; third game disqualification – the coach or player is suspended for the remainder of the season.

### VIII. Players in Uniform

- A. A maximum of 22 players, including goalkeeper, may dress for and play in a game.

## Representative Council Policies

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### LACROSSE (Boys and Girls)

#### I. Suspended Games

- A. All regular-season and MHSAA tournament games shall be resumed from the point of suspension whether continued on the original date or on a future date.
- B. A regular-season or tournament game is legal and complete after 80 percent of play is completed (40 minutes for girls, three quarters for boys).

#### II. Casts

- A. Authorization for players to compete while wearing a legally padded cast must be in writing from an M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner.

#### III. Misconduct/Disqualification

- A. In girls lacrosse, follow MHSAA Regulation V, Section 3(D). A spectator ejection does not necessitate the head coach be assessed a card.

### SOCCER (Boys and Girls)

#### I. Goal Differential Rule

- A. The 8-goal differential rule is in effect for the MHSAA Tournament and regular-season varsity play. It is optional for leagues and schools to adopt for subvarsity regular-season competition. A game shall be terminated when a team is ahead by 8 goals or more anytime after the first half is completed. (Note: officials must be aware of this adoption by schools or leagues before the contest begins).

#### II. Overtime Procedures

- A. **Tournament:** The required MHSAA tournament procedures are two full ten-minute overtimes with no golden goal conclusion (play full time regardless of score). Teams shall change ends of the field at the conclusion of the first overtime. If still tied at the end of the second full 10-minute overtime, the shootout (penalty kick) process is used.
- B. **Regular Season:** Leagues and conferences may use the MHSAA tournament overtime procedures (above) or any lesser combination of time for the two periods and/or shootouts. All overtime periods must be of equal length. Shootouts or sudden-victory golden goals may or may not be used in the regular season. Overtime may consist of only shootouts.

#### III. Yellow Card

- A. A player who receives a second yellow card is disqualified from the game (and the next day of competition).

#### IV. Uniforms (Caps)

- A. Players may wear soft and yielding ski caps during inclement weather. Caps must be alike in color.
- B. The requirement that home teams wear white jerseys has been delayed until the 2014-15 school year.
- C. A team not complying with the playing rules for colors of jerseys would be responsible for wearing whatever options are used to attain different jersey colors.

#### VII. Casts

- A. Authorization for players to compete while wearing a legally padded cast must be in writing from an M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner.

#### VIII. Tournament Procedures

- A. The minimum requirement for an official game in an MHSAA tournament game is 60 minutes if the difference in score is one goal or less at the time the game is suspended and cannot be resumed.
- B. Vuvuzela horns are banned at all MHSAA Soccer Tournament matches.

**SOFTBALL** *See Baseball and Girls Softball*

## Representative Council Policies

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### SWIMMING & DIVING

#### I. Water Depth

- A. DEQ Regulation states a pool must have 79 inches of water in order to use starting platforms. (Pools with at least 60 inches of water have been grandfathered by the DEQ).

#### II. Step-Up starts will be used

#### III. Final Meet Qualifying

- A. At the MHSAA Finals, the qualifying criteria has been modified so as to qualify approximately 32 individuals or relay teams per event, per division.

#### IV. Events

- A. Schools may request approval from the MHSAA to modify events for invitationals.

#### V. Diving

- A. Practice dives are permitted only prior to each session of the swimming meet. Divers are permitted adequate warm up, not to exceed 10 minutes immediately prior to the start of diving.

### TENNIS - U.S. Tennis Association USTA

#### I. Scoring

- A. Schools may use no-ad scoring or play pro-sets or shorten the rest period between the second and third set.

#### II. Misconduct, Sportsmanship

- A. Cumulative Point Penalty System applies for all levels of the MHSAA Tournament.
- B. The penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct after or during a match by a player or non-player (Regional or Final) shall be: individual is defaulted for the rest of the tournament (Regional and Final) and one point is subtracted from the team total.
- C. MHSAA Point Penalty System is: warning, point, default.

#### III. Rest Periods

- A. The continuous play rule has been modified; breaks occur at each odd game (including the first game) and a set break of a maximum of two minutes is allowed.
- B. The rest period between second and third set is a maximum of five minutes. Coaching is allowed during every change over, set break and five-minute break between the second and third sets.

#### IV. Seeding

- A. At the Finals, up to six players (per flight) may be seeded.
- B. Seeds at the Regional and Final will be placed, therefore no coin flip is needed.
- C. No appeals or protests regarding the placement or seeds of the Seed Committees for the Regional and Final levels of the MHSAA Tournament are allowed or may be considered by those Committees, MHSAA Staff or MHSAA Executive Committee after the Seed Committee adjourns.  
This does not preclude the MHSAA from removing students from the tournament for violations of MHSAA Regulations.

#### V. Uniforms

- A. The minimum uniform requirement is an unaltered shirt with sleeves, preferably in school colors or with school identification. (Exception: females may wear a sleeveless dress/shirt, including a racer-back top) All uniforms must be approved by the school. Team shorts/skirts are required and shall be the same color. Penalty: Match will not start unless the individual/team has uniform on. Point penalty system for lateness will be used.

### TRACK & FIELD and CROSS COUNTRY

#### I. Uniforms, Attire, Adornments

- A. The only head attire that may be worn during competition will be a knit stocking cap, sweat band, ski band; or hood of a one piece uniform; all must be unadorned, single-colored cloth.
- B. Should the uniform jersey hang below the waistband of the shorts, jerseys must be tucked in.
- C. Ribbons worn to secure the hair do not have to be a solid color. If multiple ribbons are worn they do not have to be the same color.
- D. Sunglasses may be worn in competition only if they are prescription glasses, or prescribed by a physician.
- E. Competitors may not wear temporary body adornment (painted or fastened) during competition.

## Representative Council Policies

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### II. Events

- A. A student shall participate in no more than four events per meet (National Federation listed events only but not javelin in any form).
- B. Schools may request approval from the MHSAA to modify events for invitationals.

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

#### I. Match Format

- A. The fourth or fifth set of a match may be played even after one team has won its third set.
- B. Modification of match format is permitted for competition other than varsity dual matches.

#### II. Warm-Up Time in MHSAA Tournament

- A. During the MHSAA Tournament, the pre-match warm-up is 20 minutes. The first four minutes is shared time; the second four minutes is home team; the next four minutes is visitor; next four minutes is home team; last four minutes is visitor.

#### III. Ball

- A. During regular-season matches, teams may use a solid white ball or a multi-colored ball with gray, white and royal blue panels. The gray, white and royal blue panel ball will be used for all MHSAA tournament rounds. Effective 2014-15 the gray, white and royal blue ball will be required for regular season and all MHSAA Tournament Rounds.

### WRESTLING

#### I. Home weigh-ins

- A. Home weigh-ins are permitted by mutual consent for all regular-season contests.



## MHSAA PROTOCOL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL FEDERATION SPORTS PLAYING RULES FOR CONCUSSIONS

**“Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional.”**

The language above, which appears in all National Federation sports rule books, reflects a strengthening of rules regarding the safety of athletes suspected of having a concussion. This language reflects an increasing focus on safety and acknowledges that the vast majority of concussions do not involve a loss of consciousness.

This protocol is intended to provide the mechanics to follow during the course of contests when an athlete sustains an apparent concussion.

1. The officials will have no role in determining concussion other than the obvious one where a player is either unconscious or apparently unconscious. Officials will merely point out to a coach that a player is apparently injured and advise that the player should be examined by a health care professional for an exact determination of the extent of injury.
2. If it is confirmed by the school's designated health care professional that the student did not sustain a concussion, the head coach may so advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may reenter competition pursuant to the contest rules.
3. Otherwise, if competition continues while the athlete is withheld for an apparent concussion, that athlete may not be returned to competition that day but is subject to the return to play protocol.
  - a. Only an M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner may clear the individual to return to activity.
  - b. The clearance must be in writing.
  - c. The clearance may not be on the same date on which the athlete was removed from play.
4. Following the contest, an Officials Report shall be filed with a removed player's school and the MHSAA.
5. In cases where an assigned MHSAA tournament physician (MD/DO/PA/NP) is present, his or her decision to not allow an athlete to return to activity may not be overruled.

### SANCTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Following are the consequences for not complying with National Federation and MHSAA rules when players are removed from play because of a concussion:

- A concussed student is ineligible to return to any athletic meet or contest on the **same day** the concussion is sustained.
- A concussed student is ineligible to enter a meet or contest on a **subsequent day** without the written authorization of an M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner.

These students are considered ineligible players and any meet or contest which they enter is forfeited.

In addition, that program is placed on probation through that sport season of the following school year.

For a second offense in that sport during the probationary period – that program is continued on probation through that sport season of the following school year and not permitted to participate in the MHSAA tournament in that sport during the original and extended probationary period.

Individual school, districts and leagues may have more stringent requirements and protocols including but not limited to mandatory periods of inactivity, screening and post-concussion testing prior to the written clearance for return to activity.

### MHSAA FORMS

All of the following forms are available on the MHSAA Website at [MHSAA.com](http://MHSAA.com) under **Administrators**, then **“Forms and Resources”** from the left-hand navigation bar.

1. MHSAA Master Eligibility List
2. Educational Transfer Form
3. Registration for High School Non-Faculty Coaches
4. Registration for Jr. High/Middle School Non-Faculty Coaches
5. Eligibility Advancement Form
6. Travel Form For Out-Of-State Practice
7. Cooperative Agreement Applications and Disolution Forms
8. Approved International Student Program Forms

## Representative Council Policies

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### MHSAA FOOTBALL PRACTICE POLICIES Adopted March 21, 2014. Effective August 2014

1. During the first week of practice of the season, only helmets are allowed the first two days, only shoulder pads may be added on the third and fourth days, and full pads may not be worn until the fifth day of team practice.
2. Before the first regular-season game, schools may not schedule more than one “collision” practice in a day.
  - A “collision” practice is one in which there is live, game-speed, player-vs.-player contact in pads (not walk-throughs) involving any number of players. This includes practices with scrimmages, drills and simulations where action is live, game-speed, player-vs.-player.
  - If any part of a drill or scrimmage involves live game-speed player-vs.-player contact in pads, it is a collision practice even if players do not execute full tackles at a competitive pace that takes players to the ground.
  - During any additional practice sessions that day, players may wear helmets and other pads (neither is mandatory). Blocking and tackling technique may be taught and practiced. However, full-speed contact is limited to players vs. pads, shields, sleds or dummies.
3. After the first regular-season game, teams may conduct no more than two collision practice days in any week, Monday through Sunday. During other days of practice, players may wear helmets and other protective pads (neither is mandatory). Blocking and tackling technique may be taught and practiced. However, full-speed contact is limited to players vs. pads, shields, sleds or dummies.
4. No single practice may exceed three hours, and the total practice time for days with multiple practice sessions may not exceed five hours.
  - Warm-up, stretching, speed and agility drills and cool down are all considered part of practice. Neither strength/weight training activities nor video/classroom sessions are considered practice for the purposes of the three- or five-hour limits.

### FOOTBALL PRACTICE Q & A

1. **Q** Would the proposals apply at both the high school and junior high/middle school levels?  
**A** Yes.
2. **Q** Is the purpose of the proposals to improve student-athlete acclimatization or reduce head trauma?  
**A** Both.
3. **Q** What is the Task Force position on “girdle pads” during the first week of practice?  
**A** Girdle pads may be worn under or in place of shorts during the first four days of acclimatization practice that precede the first day in full pads.
4. **Q** Does the three-hour limit on single practices and the five-hour limit for multiple practices on the same day apply only to football?  
**A** Yes. The Task Force recommends that the limits be added as soon as possible to the MHSAA “Model Policy for Managing Heat & Humidity” and apply to all sports.
5. **Q** How much time is required between sessions on days with multiple practices?  
**A** Because practice venues differ greatly and some may raise questions regarding supervision and the possibility of injury risks as great off the field as on, the Task Force declined to set a maximum and minimum length of rest periods. However, one hour between practices when there is no physical activity is the minimum recommendation. Classroom sessions would be allowed during the period of physical rest. To be clear, break time is not included in the five-hour limit.
6. **Q** Can a team have different collision days for different players?  
**A** If varsity and subvarsity squads practice separately, their collision days may be different days. However, if the squads practice together, then their collision days must be the same.

**MODEL POLICY FOR MANAGING HEAT & HUMIDITY**  
**Adopted March 22, 2013**

1. Thirty minutes prior to the start of an activity, and again 60 minutes after the start of that activity, take temperature and humidity readings at the site of the activity. Using a digital sling psychrometer is recommended. Record the readings in writing and maintain the information in files of school administration. Each school is to designate whose duties these are: generally the athletic director, head coach or certified athletic trainer.
2. Factor the temperature and humidity into the Heat Index Calculator and Chart to determine the Heat Index. If a digital sling psychrometer is being used, the calculation is automatic.

**3. If the Heat Index is below 95 degrees:**

- All Sports
  - o Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
  - o Optional water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.
  - o Ice-down towels for cooling.
  - o Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.

**If the Heat Index is 95 degrees to 99 degrees:**

- All Sports
  - o Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
  - o Optional water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.
  - o Ice-down towels for cooling.
  - o Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Contact sports and activities with additional equipment:
  - o Helmets and other possible equipment removed while not involved in contact.
- Reduce time of outside activity. Consider postponing practice to later in the day.
- Recheck temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index.

**If the Heat Index is above 99 degrees to 104 degrees:**

- All Sports
  - o Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
  - o Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.
  - o Ice-down towels for cooling.
  - o Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
  - o Alter uniform by removing items if possible.
  - o Allow for changes to dry t-shirts and shorts.
  - o Reduce time of outside activity as well as indoor activity if air conditioning is unavailable.
  - o Postpone practice to later in the day.
- Contact sports and activities with additional equipment
  - o Helmets and other possible equipment removed if not involved in contact or necessary for safety. If necessary for safety, suspend activity.
- Recheck temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index.

**If the Heat Index is above 104 degrees:**

- All sports
  - o Stop all outside activity in practice and/or play, and stop all inside activity if air conditioning is unavailable.

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**Note:** When the temperature is below 80 degrees there is no combination of heat and humidity that will result in need to curtail activity.

**MHSAA Tournament Managers at all levels will follow this policy without exception**  
**A Heat Index Calculation Chart can be downloaded from the Health & Safety Page of MHSAA.com**

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## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OUT-OF-SEASON PROGRAM RELATIONSHIPS

The following statements were adopted March 27, 1992, as Representative Council recommendations for local school district policy with respect to out-of-season programs, with the intent that these statements encourage and guide local school districts' prevention of or solutions to out-of-season abuses:

1. The mission of MHSAA member schools is to provide well-rounded individuals. The purpose of interscholastic athletics is to help educate boys and girls and not to prepare students for college athletics, which is a by-product of interscholastic participation available to less than 1 percent of high school athletes.
2. For almost all students, specialization in a single athletic activity is not in their best long-term interests.
3. Students should be encouraged by coaches, administrators and parents to participate in a variety of school activities, including more than one sport during the school year.
4. Schools should not allow priority use of school equipment and facilities by non-school organizations which promote a philosophy contrary to Numbers 1, 2 and 3 above.
5. There should be no promotion or publicity within a school for non-school programs which promote a philosophy contrary to No. 1, 2 and 3 above.
6. Neither students nor school coaches should engage in non-school activities during the school year which resemble in any way a school team practicing or competing out-of-season, and thus violate the spirit of rules adopted by Michigan schools to limit out-of-season sports activities sponsored by schools.

## SUMMER POLICY STATEMENT OF THE MHSAA REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The following statement was adopted by the Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association on May 7, 1990, as a recommendation to be considered by school administrators and their boards of education as well as their leagues and conferences, and to be communicated to educational groups in Michigan.

The Representative Council is opposed to the tradition of a small but possibly growing number of schools and/or their coaches to arrange for some or all of the members of a team to practice together regularly and to participate together extensively in summer leagues or a series of team camps. The Representative Council urges MHSAA member schools to discourage their coaches and athletes from engaging together in any regular schedule of practice and competition in the summer, and reminds all involved that **mandatory** practices, competition or camp attendance in the summer is a violation of MHSAA regulations (as are similar activities limited exclusively to prospective members of the interscholastic teams in a particular sport).

The Representative Council also cautions school districts to reduce their exposure to liability for athletic injuries during summer programs by providing no funding or equipment for students to participate in athletic activities at facilities and in programs that are not controlled by the school district. Do not become the "deep pocket" for a personal injury by handling funds for or lending equipment to a student in a program that is not under school district control. (MHSAA catastrophic athletic accident insurance does not cover out-of-season activities.)

In addition to all other policies governing the involvement of schools and coaches outside the school year (Regulation II, Section 11[H]), it is **recommended** that school districts and conferences consider these or more restrictive limitations during the month of July and/or other periods of the summer:

- a) A school district may not conduct or hold in its **indoor facilities** any summer leagues or team camps which involve students entering grades 7 through 12.
- b) A school district may not allow its **equipment** (including football helmets) to be used in summer leagues or team camps which involve any of its students entering grades 7 through 12.
- c) A school district may not allow its **personnel**, including designated nonfaculty coaches (whether paid or volunteer), to be involved in organizing, directing or coaching in a summer league or team camp in basketball, football, soccer, volleyball, ice hockey, lacrosse or wrestling if it involves more than three of its students entering grades 7 through 12.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ATHLETIC CAMPS, CLINICS,  
COMBINES, COMPETITIONS**

As a service to its member schools and their students, parents, coaches and administrators, and for the purpose of promoting high standards at athletic camps, clinics, combines and competitions for junior high/middle school and senior high school students, the Michigan High School Athletic Association Representative Council adopted the following recommendations on May 5, 1997:

**No. 1 — EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

- A. The program should be designed and scheduled to require no loss of classroom instructional time for participants' travel or actual participation. It should not encourage lengthy travel on school nights to practice or compete. It should not be so lengthy or exhausting on Sundays that students miss school on Monday to recover from competition and/or travel.
- B. The program should be designed and scheduled so no interference is created with the practice or competition schedule of a student on his or her school team. It should not discourage students from participation in other school activities.
- C. There should be written assurances from the sponsors and organizers that there is compliance with all MHSAA regulations.
- D. In addition to the teaching of sports skills and strategies, educational programs should be provided to participants at multi-day events.
- E. The emphasis of the program should be to teach skills and to conduct drills rather than to provide competition where participants display skills which have been developed at other times and places.
- F. Coaches and counselors should be screened, selected and trained for appropriate interaction with youth. No one who would fail the background check for employees of schools and/or child care facilities should have assignments as either paid or volunteer staff.

**No. 2 — FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. All participants must be charged the same fee. All teams must be treated the same: if one team receives reimbursement, all must be reimbursed by the same formula.
- B. No fees or admissions may be charged to spectators for any portion of a camp, clinic or combine.
- C. Merchandise gifts and symbolic awards to participants must not exceed \$25 retail value.
- D. Equipment and apparel given to participants for use during the program must not be retained by the participants at the conclusion of the program unless the actual cost of those items is included in the fee paid by all participants.
- E. No compensation may be paid either directly or indirectly to any person for facilitating the attendance of any participant or group of participants.
- F. All participants should be covered by excess accident medical insurance with a deductible no higher than \$25,000 and a maximum benefit per injury no lower than \$100,000.
- G. The program sponsor should have in force a comprehensive general liability policy with a per occurrence limit of \$1,000,000 or higher.

**No. 3 — PROMOTION**

- A. Participants must not be solicited or admitted on the basis of past performance or future potential in interscholastic athletics.
- B. Promotional literature should not suggest attendance by college recruiters or that participation in the program will enhance the prospects that a participating student may receive an intercollegiate athletic scholarship.
- C. Promotional literature should accurately reflect the content and schedule of the program.

**MODEL POLICY FOR TRANSFERS FOLLOWING VIOLATIONS OF A SCHOOL'S  
STUDENT/ATHLETIC CODE  
December 1998**

\_\_\_\_\_ High School will enforce upon a transfer student any period of ineligibility to which that student would have been subject as a result of a student or athletic code violation(s) at that student's most recent previously attended school.

A student who transfers to \_\_\_\_\_ High School after becoming ineligible because of a student or athletic conduct code violation(s) at the previously attended school shall remain ineligible at \_\_\_\_\_ High School for not less than the period of ineligibility imposed by the previously attended school. This would be the case even if the student's situation would otherwise satisfy one or more of the exceptions to the transfer regulation of \_\_\_\_\_ High School and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (Regulation I, Section 9), and even if the act which caused the student's ineligibility at the previous school would not be a violation or cause the same period of ineligibility at \_\_\_\_\_ High School.

That student was subject to the rules and penalties of the previous school and shall not be allowed to escape the consequences of his/her conduct and, in doing so, displace students of \_\_\_\_\_ High School from teams, positions, events and awards at least until the full period of ineligibility has been served.

**Note:** *The name of the school adopting this policy would be inserted on each blank line above.*

**VOLLEYBALL RECOMMENDATIONS  
May 1992  
(Revised May 2003)**

The MHSAA recommends the following guidelines for local school districts, understanding that the location and conference affiliations (or lack thereof) of some schools may require variation from these recommended standards:

1. A school should compete in no more than six invitational meets during a season, preferring member school-sponsored meets over those conducted by colleges and other organizations which might be less familiar with the standards and practices of member schools.
2. No meet should exceed 10 hours in length or extend beyond 10 p.m.
3. Before school administrators agree to allow a team to compete in an invitational tournament, they are encouraged to review the tournament information and determine how many schools will compete and how many courts will be used, as well as how many sets (games) a team is guaranteed. Such an evaluation of the tournament will assist administrators in determining whether the stay at the site, as well as travel time, is too lengthy and not worthy of a team's participation.
4. To assist in MHSAA approving member school and non-school invitational tournaments, the following policies should be forwarded to the hosts:
  - a. MHSAA registered officials must be contracted to work as referees.
  - b. Timed sets (games) are discouraged.
  - c. Two-set (game) matches are approved for pool-play.

**PUBLIC ACT 31 (1990) REQUIRES NOTICE THAT  
POSSESSION/USE OF STEROIDS IS A CRIME**

In 1990, the Michigan Legislature enacted Public Law 31 which requires athletic service providers – including both educational and recreational athletic facilities – to post notice that warns that any person who uses or knowingly possesses an androgenic anabolic steroid violates Michigan law and is punishable by imprisonment and fine.

**PUBLIC ACT 187 (1999) PROHIBITS PROMOTION/DISTRIBUTION  
OF PERFORMANCE ENHANCING SUPPLEMENTS**

Michigan public school employees and volunteers are prohibited by Public Law 187 from promoting or supplying dietary supplements which carry claims of enhanced athletic performance. The Law covers androstenedione, creatine and any compound labeled as performance enhancing. See MCL 380.1317.

**PUBLIC ACTS 111 AND 112 (2004) PROHIBIT AND PENALIZE HAZING**

In 2004, the Michigan Legislature enacted legislation that prohibits hazing activities at educational institutions and provides penalties.

Hazing is defined in the law as an intentional, knowing or reckless act by a person who acted alone or with others that was directed against an individual and that person knew or should have known would endanger the physical health or safety of the individual, and that was done for the purpose of affiliation with, participation in, or maintaining membership in any organization. The law does not apply to an activity that was normal and customary in an athletic program sanctioned by the educational institution.

If the violation resulted in physical injury, the person would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 93 days, a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both. A violation resulting in impairment of a body function would be a felony resulting in imprisonment of up to five years and a fine up to \$2,500, or both. A violation resulting in death of the person hazed would be punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$10,000 or both.

**PUBLIC ACT 215 (2006) BANNED DRUGS**

The law requires all public school districts and academies to include in their local codes of conduct that possession or use of any National Collegiate Athletic Association banned drug is not permitted and shall subject the student to the same penalties that the school district has established for possession/use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs.

- (1) The board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy shall ensure that its policies concerning a pupil's eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics include use of a performance-enhancing substance by the pupil as a violation that will affect a pupil's eligibility, as determined by the board or board of directors. The governing body of a nonpublic school is encouraged to adopt an eligibility policy that meets the requirements of this section.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, the Department of Community Health shall develop, periodically update and make available to school districts, public school academies and nonpublic schools a list of performance-enhancing substances. The Department of Community Health shall base the list on the list of banned drugs contained in the Bylaws of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

**PUBLIC ACTS 342 AND 343 (2012) CONCUSSION AWARENESS  
IN NON-MHSAA SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

The law mandates that the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) establish a concussion awareness website for youth sports sponsoring organizations (including schools) with educational material in **non-MHSAA** sports activities including physical education, intramurals, out-of-season activities, as well as out-of-season camps or clinics.

- Adult coaches must complete a one-time designated online concussion awareness course and the sponsoring organization maintain a record of completion.
- Students and parents must review concussion material and the organization maintain an acknowledgment of this material until age 18 or the student discontinues the activity.
- Participants with a suspected concussion must be withheld from activity and evaluated by an appropriate health care provider and not be returned to activity until written approval is provided by an appropriate health care provider. For MHSAA practices and competition, an MD or DO must provide written return to play. See MHSAA Concussion Protocol on Page 111.

The MDCH Website is accessible through MHSAA.com Health & Safety Page or directly at [michigan.gov/sports-concussion](http://michigan.gov/sports-concussion)

## Anticipated\* 2015 MICHIGAN MERIT EXAM DATES

\*At the time of the MHSAA Handbook publication a determination by the Michigan Legislature was pending as to the future of the Michigan Merit Exam. The Dept. of Education recommended the Smarter Balanced Assessment online testing program be conducted by schools within a window of several weeks. If the MME test returns in its current form, the anticipated corresponding dates in 2015 would be March 3-5, 2015 with make-up dates of March 17-19, 2015. This period of time conflicts with several MHSAA winter sports tournaments dates listed below. Schools should check the Dept. of Education testing program in their school with the MHSAA calendar as soon as possible.

### DATES CONFLICTS

**March 3** .....Ice Hockey Regionals  
**March 4** .....Girls Basketball Districts, Ice Hockey Regionals  
**March 5** .....Individual Wrestling Finals, Ice Hockey Regionals, LP Dive Regionals

### MAKEUP DATES

**March 17** .....Girls Basketball Quarterfinals  
 March 18 .....None  
**March 19** .....Girls Basketball Semifinals

## 2014-15 NATIONAL TESTING DATES

Please advise students of the 2014-15 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 2014-15 (publicized as of May 15, 2014) and dates where tournaments would create conflict.

### ACT ASSESSMENT DATES CONFLICTS

September 13, 2014 .....None  
**October 25, 2014** .....LP Boys Soccer Regionals, LP Cross Country Regionals  
 December 13, 2014 .....None  
**February 7, 2015** .....Individual Wrestling Districts  
 April 18, 2015 .....None  
**June 13, 2015** .....Baseball Finals; Softball Finals, LP Girls Soccer Finals

### SAT TESTING DATES CONFLICTS

*SAT dates are anticipated as of May 2014 – Check Final Dates*

**October 11, 2014** .....LP Girls Golf Regionals, LP Boys Tennis Regionals  
**November 8, 2014** .....Volleyball Districts, 11-Player Football Districts, 8-Player Football Regionals  
 December 6, 2014 .....None  
 January 24, 2015 .....None  
**March 14, 2015** .....Girls Gymnastics Finals, Ice Hockey Finals, LP Boys Swimming & Diving Finals  
 May 2, 2015 .....None  
**June 6, 2015** .....Baseball Regionals, Softball Regionals, LP Boys Golf Finals,  
 Boys Lacrosse Finals, Girls Lacrosse Finals, LP Girls Soccer Regionals

### AP EXAM DATES CONFLICTS

**May 4-8, 11-15, 2015** .....Boys Lacrosse Regionals, Girls Lacrosse Regionals,  
 Track Regionals, LP Girls Tennis Regionals

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



**CALENDAR OF CORRESPONDING TOURNAMENT DATES  
FOR MHSAA SPONSORED SPORTS ACTIVITIES  
2014-2015 THROUGH 2020-2021**

SPORT	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
<b>BASEBALL</b>							
Districts	May 26, 29 or 30 June 6	May 31, Jun 3 or 4 June 11	May 30, Jun 2 or 3 June 10	May 29, Jun 1 or 2 June 9	May 28, 31 or Jun 1 June 8	May 26, 29 or 30 June 6	June 1, 4 or 5 June 22
Regionals	June 9	June 14	June 13	June 12	June 11	June 9	June 15
Quarterfinals	June 11-13	June 16-18	June 15-17	June 14-16	June 13-15	June 11-13	June 17-19
<b>BASKETBALL</b>							
Girls Districts	Mar 2 & 4 & 6 Mar 10 & 12	Feb 29 & Mar 2 & 4 Mar 8 & 10	Feb 27 & Mar 1 & 3 Mar 7 & 9	Feb 26 & 28 & Mar 2 Mar 6 & 8	Feb 25 & 27 & Mar 1 Mar 5 & 7	Mar 2 & 4 & 6 Mar 10 & 12	Mar 1 & 3 & 5 Mar 9 & 11
Girls Regionals	Mar 17, 19-21	Mar 15, 17-19	Mar 14, 16-18	Mar 13, 15-17	Mar 12, 14-16	Mar 17, 19-21	Mar 16, 18-20
Girls Quarters, Semis & Finals	Mar 9 & 11 & 13	Mar 7 & 9 & 11	Mar 6 & 8 & 10	Mar 5 & 7 & 9	Mar 4 & 6 & 8	Mar 9 & 11 & 13	Mar 8 & 10 & 12
Boys Districts	Mar 16 & 18	Mar 14 & 16	Mar 13 & 15	Mar 12 & 14	Mar 11 & 13	Mar 16 & 18	Mar 15 & 17
Boys Regionals	Mar 24, 26-28	Mar 22, 24-26	Mar 21, 23-25	Mar 20, 22-24	Mar 19, 21-23	Mar 24, 26-28	Mar 23, 25-27
Boys Quarters, Semis & Finals	Feb 27-28 Mar 6-7	Feb 26-27 Mar 4-5	Feb 24-25 Mar 3-4	Feb 23-24 Mar 2-3	Feb 22-23 Mar 1-2	Feb 28-29 Mar 6-7	Feb 26-27 Mar 5-6
<b>BOWLING</b>							
Regionals	Feb 20-21	Feb 19-20	Feb 17-18	Feb 16-17	Feb 15-16	Feb 21-22	Feb 19-20
Districts	February 28	February 27	February 25	February 24	February 23	February 29	February 27
Finals	March 6-7	March 4-5	March 3-4	March 2-3	March 1-2	March 6-7	Mar 5-6
<b>COMPETITIVE CHEER</b>							
UP Finals	October 18	October 24	October 22	October 21	October 20	October 19	Oct 24
LP Boys & Girls Regionals	Oct 24 or 25	Oct 30 or 31	Oct 28 or 29	Oct 27 or 28	Oct 26 or 27	Oct 25 or 26	Oct 30 or 31
LP Boys & Girls Finals	November 1	November 7	November 5	November 4	November 3	November 2	November 7
<b>FOOTBALL</b>							
Earliest Practice	August 11	August 10	August 8	August 7	August 6	August 12	August 10
First Game Date (Varsity)	August 28 Oct 31 or Nov 1	August 27 Oct 30 or 31	August 25 Oct 28 or 29	August 24 Oct 27 or 28	August 23 Oct 26 or 27	August 29 Nov 1 or 2	August 27 Oct 30 or 31 & Nov 6 or 7
8 Player Regionals	& Nov 7 or 8	& Nov 6 or 7	& Nov 4 or 5	& Nov 3 or 4	& Nov 2 or 3	& Nov 8 or 9	
8 Player Semifinals & Final	Nov 15 & 21 or 22	Nov 14 & 20 or 21	Nov 12 & 18 or 19	Nov 11 & 17 or 18	Nov 10 & 16 or 17	Nov 16 & 22 or 23	Nov 14 & 20 or 21
11 Player Districts	Oct 31 or Nov 1 & Nov 7 or 8	Oct 30 or 31 & Nov 6 or 7	Oct 28 or 29 & Nov 4 or 5	Oct 27 or 28 & Nov 3 or 4	Oct 26 or 27 & Nov 2 or 3	Nov 1 or 2 & Nov 8 or 9	Oct 30 or 31 & Nov 6 or 7
11 Player Regionals	Nov 14 or 15	Nov 13 or 14	Nov 11 or 12	Nov 10 or 11	Nov 9 or 10	Nov 15 or 16	Nov 13 or 14
11 Player Semifinals	November 22	November 21	November 19	November 18	November 17	November 23	November 21
11 Player Finals	Nov 28-29	Nov 27-28	Nov 25-26	Nov 24-25	Nov 23-24	Nov 29-30	Nov 27-28

**CALENDAR OF CORRESPONDING TOURNAMENT DATES  
FOR MHSAA SPONSORED SPORTS ACTIVITIES  
2014-2015 THROUGH 2020-2021**

SPORT	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
<b>GOLF</b>							
LP Girls Regionals	Oct 8, 9, 10 or 11	Oct 7, 8, 9 or 10	Oct 6, 7, 8 or 9	Oct 11, 12, 13 or 14	Oct 10, 11, 12 or 13	Oct 9, 10, 11 or 12	Oct 7, 8, 9 or 10
LP Girls Finals	Oct 17-18	Oct 16-17	Oct 15-16	Oct 20-21	Oct 19-20	Oct 18-19	Oct 16-17
LP Boys Districts	May 20, 21, 22 or 23	May 25, 26, 27 or 28	May 24, 25, 26 or 27	May 23, 24, 25 or 26	May 22, 23, 24 or 25	May 20, 21, 22 or 23	May 26, 27, 28 or 29
LP Boys Regionals	May 27, 28, 29 or 30	June 1, 2, 3 or 4	May 31, June 1, 2 or 3	May 30, 31, June 1 or 2	May 29, 30, 31 or June 1	May 27, 28, 29 or 30	June 2, 3, 4 or 5
LP Boys Finals	June 5-6	June 10-11	June 9-10	June 8-9	June 7-8	June 5-6	June 11-12
UP Boys & Girls Finals	May 27-30	Jun 1-4	May 31 - Jun 3	May 30 - Jun 2	May 29-31 & Jun 1	May 27-30	June 2-5
<b>GYMNASTICS</b>							
LP Regionals	March 7	March 5	March 4	March 3	March 2	March 7	March 6
LP Finals	March 13-14	March 11-12	March 10-11	March 9-10	March 8-9	March 13-14	March 12-13
<b>HOCKEY</b>							
Regionals	Mar 2-7	Feb 29 - Mar 5	Feb 28 - Mar 4	Feb 27 - Mar 3	Feb 25 - Mar 2	Mar 2-7	Mar 1-6
Quarters, Semis & Finals	March 10-11, 12-14	March 8-9, 10-12	March 7-8, 9-11	March 6-7, 8-10	March 5-6, 7-9	March 10-11, 12-14	March 9-10, 11-13
<b>LACROSSE</b>							
Boys Regionals	May 14-30	May 19-Jun 4	May 18-Jun 3	May 17-Jun 2	May 16-Jun 1	May 14-30	May 20 - June 5
Boys Semifinals	June 3	June 8	June 7	June 6	June 5	June 3	June 9
Boys Finals	June 6	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 6	June 12
Girls Regionals	May 14-30	May 19-Jun 4	May 18-Jun 3	May 17-Jun 2	May 16-Jun 1	May 14-30	May 20 - June 5
Girls Semifinals	June 3	June 8	June 7	June 6	June 5	June 3	June 9
Girls Finals	June 6	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 6	June 12
<b>SKIING</b>							
Boys & Girls Regionals	Feb 9-13	Feb 15-19	Feb 13-17	Feb 12-16	Feb 11-15	Feb 10-14	Feb 8-12
Boys & Girls Finals	February 23	February 29	February 27	February 26	February 25	February 24	Feb 22
<b>SOCCER</b>							
LP Boys Districts	Oct 13-18	Oct 19-24	Oct 17-22	Oct 16-21	Oct 15-20	Oct 14-19	Oct 19-24
LP Boys Regionals	Oct 21-25	Oct 27-31	Oct 25-29	Oct 24-28	Oct 23-27	Oct 22-26	Oct 27-31
LP Boys Semifinals	October 29	November 4	November 2	November 1	October 31	October 30	November 4
LP Boys Finals	November 1	November 7	November 5	November 4	November 3	November 2	November 7
LP Girls Districts	May 26-30	May 31-Jun 4	May 30-Jun 3	May 29-Jun 2	May 28 - Jun 1	May 26-30	June 1-5
LP Girls Regionals	June 2-6	June 7-11	June 6-10	June 5-9	June 4-8	June 2-6	June 8-12
LP Girls Semifinals	June 10	June 15	June 14	June 13	June 12	June 10	June 16
LP Girls Finals	June 13	June 18	June 17	June 16	June 15	June 13	June 19

**CALENDAR OF CORRESPONDING TOURNAMENT DATES  
FOR MHSAA SPONSORED SPORTS ACTIVITIES  
2014-2015 THROUGH 2020-2021**

SPORT	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
<b>SOFTBALL</b>							
Districts	May 26, 29 or 30	May 31, Jun 3 or 4	May 30, Jun 2 or 3	May 29, June 1 or 2	May 28, 31 or Jun 1	May 26, 29 or 30	June 1, 4 or 5
Regionals	June 6	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 6	June 12
Quarterfinals	June 9	June 14	June 13	June 12	June 11	June 9	June 15
Semifinals & Finals	June 11-13	June 16-18	June 15-17	June 14-16	June 13-15	June 11-13	June 18 & 19
<b>SWIMMING</b>							
Girls LP Diving Qualifier	November 13	November 12	November 10	November 9	November 8	November 14	November 12
Girls LP Prelims & Final	Nov 21-22	Nov 20-21	Nov 18-19	Nov 17-18	Nov 16-17	Nov 22-23	Nov 20-21
Boys LP Diving Qualifier	March 5	March 3	March 2	March 1	Feb 28	March 5	March 4
Boys LP Prelims & Final	Mar 13-14	Mar 11-12	Mar 10-11	Mar 9-10	Mar 8-9	Mar 13-14	Mar 12-13
UP Boys & Girls Finals	February 21	February 20	February 18	February 17	February 16	February 15	February 20
<b>TENNIS</b>							
Boys LP Regionals	Oct 9 or 10 or 11	Oct 8 or 9 or 10	Oct 6 or 7 or 8	Oct 12 or 13 or 14	Oct 11 or 12 or 13	Oct 10 or 11 or 12	Oct 8 or 9 or 10
Boys LP Finals	Oct 17-18	Oct 16-17	Oct 14-15	Oct 20-21	Oct 19-20	Oct 18-19	Oct 16-17
Boys UP Finals	May 27-30	June 1-4	May 31 - June 3	May 30 - June 2	May 29 - June 1	May 27-30	June 2-5
Girls LP Regionals	May 14 or 15 or 16	May 19 or 20 or 21	May 18 or 19 or 20	May 17 or 18 or 19	May 16 or 17 or 18	May 14 or 15 or 16	May 20 or 21 or 22
Girls LP Finals	May 29-30	June 3-4	June 2-3	June 1-2	May 31 - June 1	May 29-30	June 4-5
Girls UP Finals	Oct 1-4	Sep 30 - Oct 3	Sep 28 - Oct 1	Oct 4-7	Oct 3-6	Oct 2-5	Sep 30 - Oct 3
<b>TRACK</b>							
Boys & Girls Regionals	May 15 or 16	May 20 or 21	May 19 or 20	May 18 or 19	May 17 or 18	May 15 or 16	May 21 or 22
Boys & Girls Finals	May 30	June 4	June 3	June 2	June 1	May 30	June 5
<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>							
Districts (1st Rounds, Finals)	Nov 3-5, 6 or 7 or 8	Nov 2-4, 5 or 6 or 7	Oct 31 - Nov 2, Nov 3 or 4 or 5	Oct 30 - Nov 1, Nov 2 or 3 or 4	Oct 29-31, Nov 1 or 2 or 3	Nov 4-6, 7 or 8 or 9	Nov 2-4, 5 or 6 or 7
Regionals	Nov 11 & 13	Nov 10 & 12	Nov 8 & 10	Nov 7 & 9	Nov 6 & 8	Nov 12 & 14	Nov 10 & 12
Quarterfinals	November 18	November 17	November 15	November 14	November 13	November 19	November 17
Semifinals & Finals	Nov 20-21 & 22	Nov 19-20 & 21	Nov 17-18 & 19	Nov 16-17 & 18	Nov 15-16 & 17	Nov 21-22 & 23	Nov 19-20 & 21
<b>WRESTLING</b>							
Team Districts	Feb 11 & 12	Feb 10 & 11	Feb 8 & 9	Feb 7 & 8	Feb 6 & 7	Feb 12 & 13	Feb 10 & 11
Team Regionals	February 18	February 17	February 15	February 14	February 13	February 19	February 17
Team Quarters, Semis & Finals	Feb 27, 28	Feb 26, 27	Feb 24, 25	Feb 23, 24	Feb 22, 23	Feb 28, 29	Feb 26, 27
Individual Districts	February 14	February 13	February 11	February 10	February 9	February 15	February 13
Individual Regionals	February 21	February 20	February 18	February 17	February 16	February 22	February 20
Individual Finals	Mar 5-7	Mar 3-5	Mar 2-4	Mar 1-3	Feb 28 - Mar 2	Mar 5-7	Mar 4-6

**CALENDAR OF CORRESPONDING TOURNAMENT DATES  
FOR MHSAA SPONSORED SPORTS ACTIVITIES  
2014-2015 THROUGH 2020-2021**

SPORT	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING	October 8	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
OFFICIALS' BANQUET	May 2	April 30	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 1
REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL	December 5	December 4	December 2	December 1	November 30	December 6	December 4
REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL	March 27	March 25	March 24	March 23	March 22	March 27	March 26
REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL	May 3-4	May 1-2	May 7-8	May 6-7	May 5-6	May 4-5	May 2-3
WISL CONFERENCE		Feb 7-8		Feb 4-5		Feb. 2-3	

**SCHEDULING DATES**

(School Years 2014-2015 Through 2023-2024)

ACADEMIC YEAR	THANKSGIVING *	M.M.E. INITIAL DATES	EASTER SUNDAY	MEMORIAL DAY *
2014-2015	2014 -- November 27	2015: TBA	2015 -- April 5	2015 -- May 25
2015-2016	2015 -- November 26	2016: TBA	2016 -- March 27	2016 -- May 30
2016-2017	2016 -- November 24	2017: TBA	2017 -- April 16	2017 -- May 29
2017-2018	2017 -- November 23	2018: TBA	2018 -- April 1	2018 -- May 28
2018-2019	2018 -- November 22	2019: TBA	2019 -- April 21	2019 -- May 27
2019-2020	2019 -- November 28	2020: TBA	2020 -- April 12	2020 -- May 25
2020-2021	2020 -- November 26	2021: TBA	2021 -- April 4	2021 -- May 31
2021-2022	2021 -- November 25	2022: TBA	2022 -- April 17	2022 -- May 30
2022-2023	2022 -- November 24	2023: TBA	2023 -- April 9	2023 -- May 29
2023-2024	2023 -- November 23	2024: TBA	2024 -- March 31	2024 -- May 27

\* Thanksgiving and Memorial Day control scheduling for many MHSAA tournaments. Because Easter varies and affects many schools' spring vacations, those dates are provided to assist schools' regular season scheduling.

## 2014-15 MHSAA QUICK REFERENCE SPORTS CALENDAR

*\*Calendar subject to change. Always consult mhsaa.com for most updated version.*

SPORT	FIRST PRACTICE DATE	FIRST CONTEST DATE	DAYS OR CONTESTS	OPT OUT DUE DATE	DUE DATE OF RATINGS	MHSAA TOURNAMENT DATES				
						DISTRICTS	REGIONALS	QTR FINALS	SEMI FINALS	FINALS
<b>FALL *</b>										
Cross Country: LP	Aug 13	Aug 22	15D	Oct 17			Oct 24 or 25			Nov 1
Cross Country: UP	Aug 13	Aug 22	15D	Oct 10						Oct 18
Football - 8 Player	Aug 11	Aug 28	9C	N/A	Dec 1		Oct 31 or Nov 1 & Nov 7 or 8		Nov 15	Nov 21 or 22
Football - 11 Player	Aug 11	Aug 28	9C	N/A	Dec 1	Oct 31 or Nov 1 & Nov 7 or 8	Nov 14 or 15		Nov 22	Nov 28 & 29
Golf: LP Girls	Aug 13	Aug 20	16D	Sep 26			Oct 8, 9, 10 or 11			Oct 17-18
Soccer: LP Boys	Aug 13	Aug 22	18C	Sep 24	Dec 1	Oct 13-18	Oct 21-25		Oct 29	Nov 1
Swimming: LP Girls	Aug 13	Aug 22	17D	Nov 17			Dive: Nov 13			Nov 21-22
Tennis: LP Boys	Aug 13	Aug 20	16D	Oct 1			Oct 9 or 10 or 11			Oct 17 & 18
Tennis: UP Girls	Aug 13	Aug 20	16D	Sep 26						Oct 1-4
Volleyball	Aug 13	Aug 22	18D	Oct 8	Dec 1	Nov 3-5 & 6 or 7 or 8	Nov 11 & 13	Nov 18	Nov 20-21	Nov 22
<b>WINTER</b>										
Basketball: Boys	Nov 17	Dec 8	20C	Feb 11	Apr 1	Mar 9 & 11 & 13	Mar 16 & 18	Mar 24	Mar 26-27	Mar 28
Basketball: Girls	Nov 10	Dec 1	20C	Feb 4	Apr 1	Mar 2 & 4 & 6	Mar 10 & 12	Mar 17	Mar 19-20	Mar 21
Bowling: Boys & Girls	Nov 13-UP Nov 17-LP	Nov 29-UP Dec 6-LP	24D	Feb 6			Feb 27-28			Mar 6-7
Competitive Cheer	Nov 10	Nov 24	12D	Feb 6	Apr 1	Feb 20-21	Feb 28			Mar 6-7
Gymnastics	Oct 27	Nov 15	15D	Feb 27			Mar 7			Mar 13-14
Ice Hockey	Nov 3	Nov 17	25C	Feb 6	Apr 1		Mar 2-7	Mar 10-11	Mar 12-13	Mar 14
Skiing: Boys & Girls	Nov 17	Dec 13	15C	Feb 2			Feb 9-13			Feb 23
Swimming: LP Boys	Nov 24	Dec 6	17D	Mar 9			Dive: Mar 5			Mar 13-14
Swimming: UP Boys & Girls	Nov 10	Nov 22	17D	Feb 16						Feb 21
Wrestling: Individual	Nov 17	Dec 10	14D	Jan 21	Apr 1	Feb 14	Feb 21	<b>ALPHA WEIGH-IN</b>		Mar 5-7
Wrestling: Team	Nov 17	Dec 10	14D	Jan 21	Apr 1	Feb 11 & 12	Feb 18	<b>10/27/14 - 1/30/15</b>		Feb 27-28
<b>SPRING</b>										
Baseball	Mar 9	Mar 18	38 C	May 6	Jun 1	May 26, 29 or 30	Jun 6	Jun 9	Jun 11-12	Jun 13
Golf: LP Boys	Mar 9	Mar 16	16D	May 6		May 20, 21, 22 or 23	May 27, 28, 29 or 30			Jun 5-6
Golf: UP Boys & Girls	Mar 9	Mar 16	16D	May 6						May 27-30
Lacrosse: Boys & Girls	Mar 9	Mar 18	18C	Apr 22	Jun 1		May 14-30		Jun 3	Jun 6
Soccer: LP Girls	Mar 9	Mar 18	18C	May 6	Jun 1	May 26-30	Jun 2-6		Jun 10	Jun 13
Softball	Mar 9	Mar 18	38 C	May 6	Jun 1	May 26, 29 or 30	Jun 6	Jun 9	Jun 11-12	Jun 13
Tennis: LP Girls	Mar 9	Mar 16	16D	May 6			May 14 or 15 or 16			May 29-30
Tennis: UP Boys	Mar 9	Mar 16	16D	May 22						May 27-30
Track & Field	Mar 9	Mar 18	18D	May 12			May 15 or 16			May 30

5/9/2014

\* Junior high/middle school fall sports practices may begin on Monday, Aug. 25, 2014 (14th Monday before Thanksgiving).

## 2015-16 MHSAA QUICK REFERENCE SPORTS CALENDAR

*\*Calendar subject to change. Always consult mhsaa.com for most updated version.*

SPORT	FIRST PRACTICE DATE	FIRST CONTEST DATE	DAYS OR CONTESTS	OPT OUT DUE DATE	DUE DATE OF RATINGS	MHSAA TOURNAMENT DATES				
						DISTRICTS	REGIONALS	QTR FINALS	SEMI FINALS	FINALS
<b>FALL *</b>										
Cross Country: LP	Aug 12	Aug 21	15D	Oct 16			Oct 30 or 31			Nov 7
Cross Country: UP	Aug 12	Aug 21	15D	Oct 9						Oct 24
Football - 8 Player	Aug 10	Aug 27	9C	N/A	Dec 1		Oct 30 or 31 & Nov 6 or 7		Nov 14	Nov 20 or 21
Football - 11 Player	Aug 10	Aug 27	9C	N/A	Dec 1	Oct 30 or 31 & Nov 6 or 7	Nov 13 or 14		Nov 21	Nov 27 & 28
Golf: LP Girls	Aug 12	Aug 19	16D	Sep 25			Oct 7, 8, 9 or 10			Oct 16-17
Soccer: LP Boys	Aug 12	Aug 21	18C	Sep 23	Dec 1	Oct 19-24	Oct 27-31		Nov 4	Nov 7
Swimming: LP Girls	Aug 12	Aug 21	17D	Nov 16			Dive: Nov 12			Nov 20-21
Tennis: LP Boys	Aug 12	Aug 19	16D	Oct 2			Oct 8 or 9 or 10			Oct 16 & 17
Tennis: UP Girls	Aug 12	Aug 19	16D	Sep 25						Sep 30 - Oct 3
Volleyball	Aug 12	Aug 21	18D	Oct 7	Dec 1	Nov 2-4 & 5 or 6 or 7	Nov 10 & 12	Nov 17	Nov 19-20	Nov 21
<b>WINTER</b>										
Basketball: Boys	Nov 16	Dec 7	20C	Feb 10	Apr 1	Mar 7 & 9 & 11	Mar 14 & 16	Mar 22	Mar 24-25	Mar 26
Basketball: Girls	Nov 9	Nov 30	20C	Feb 3	Apr 1	Feb 29 & Mar 2 & 4	Mar 8 & 10	Mar 15	Mar 17-18	Mar 19
Bowling: Boys & Girls	Nov 12-UP Nov 16-LP	Nov 28-UP Dec 5-LP	24D	Feb 5			Feb 26-27			Mar 4-5
Competitive Cheer	Nov 9	Nov 23	12D	Feb 5	Apr 1	Feb 19-20	Feb 27			Mar 4-5
Gymnastics	Nov 2	Nov 21	15D	Feb 26			Mar 5			Mar 11-12
Ice Hockey	Nov 2	Nov 16	25C	Feb 5	Apr 1		Feb 29-Mar 5	Mar 8-9	Mar 10-11	Mar 12
Skiing: Boys & Girls	Nov 16	Dec 12	15C	Feb 8			Feb 15-19			Feb 29
Swimming: LP Boys	Nov 23	Dec 5	17D	Mar 7			Dive: Mar 3			Mar 11-12
Swimming: UP Boys & Girls	Nov 9	Nov 21	17D	Feb 15						Feb 20
Wrestling: Individual	Nov 16	Dec 9	14D	Jan 20	Apr 1	Feb 13	Feb 20	<b>ALPHA WEIGH-IN</b>		Mar 3-5
Wrestling: Team	Nov 16	Dec 9	14D	Jan 20	Apr 1	Feb 10 & 11	Feb 17	<b>10/26/15 - 1/29/16</b>		Feb 26-27
<b>SPRING</b>										
Baseball	Mar 14	Mar 23	38 C	May 11	June 1	May 31, June 3 or 4	June 11	June 14	June 16-17	June 18
Golf: LP Boys	Mar 14	Mar 21	16D	May 11		May 25, 26, 27 or 28	June 1, 2, 3 or 4			June 10-11
Golf: UP Boys & Girls	Mar 14	Mar 21	16D	May 11						June 1-4
Lacrosse: Boys & Girls	Mar 14	Mar 23	18C	Apr 27	June 1		May 19-June 4		June 8	June 11
Soccer: LP Girls	Mar 14	Mar 23	18C	May 11	June 1	May 31-June 4	Jun 7-11		June 15	June 18
Softball	Mar 14	Mar 23	38 C	May 11	June 1	May 31, June 3 or 4	June 11	June 14	June 16-17	June 18
Tennis: LP Girls	Mar 14	Mar 21	16D	May 11			May 19 or 20 or 21			June 3-4
Tennis: UP Boys	Mar 14	Mar 21	16D	May 27						June 1-4
Track & Field	Mar 14	Mar 23	18D	May 17			May 20 or 21			June 4

5/9/2014

\* Junior high/middle school fall sports practices may begin on Monday, Aug. 24, 2015 (14th Monday before Thanksgiving).

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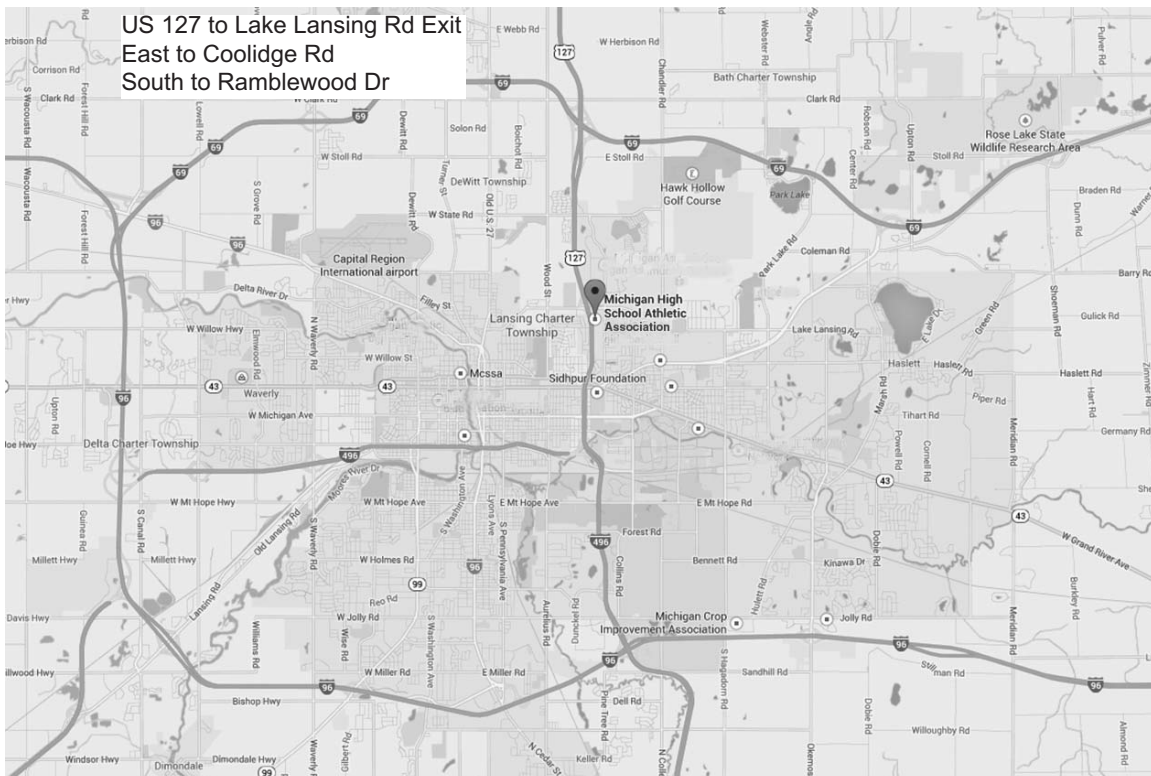






## Ten Basic Beliefs of Michigan Interscholastic Athletics

1. Interscholastic athletics were begun outside the school day and curriculum and remain there as voluntary, extracurricular programs in which qualifying students earn the privilege of participation.
2. Interscholastic athletics are not courses offered by schools but are tools used by schools to reach and motivate students and to rally support within the community for school's academic and activity programs.
3. In order to justify school sponsorship, interscholastic athletics must be compatible with the academic mission of schools, giving priority deference to the academic schedule and requiring proper decorum at athletic events.
4. Interscholastic athletics are secondary to the academic program of schools and are partners with the schools' non-athletic activities in providing students opportunities to develop loyalty and school spirit, to practice teamwork, hard work, discipline, sacrifice, leadership and sportsmanship and to gain lifetime appreciation of the arts, sports and healthy lifestyle.
5. There is equal potential to achieve these objectives in every sport and on the subvarsity as well as the varsity level.
6. A proper philosophy of interscholastic athletics emphasizes participation by many, not for few, and academic scholarship in school, not athletic scholarships to college.
7. To promote competitive equity and a program that is educational in both its means and its ends, the policies and procedures of interscholastic athletics must be determined by school representatives, not by courts, legislatures or commercial interests.
8. Schools, through their elected boards of education and their appointed administrators, are solely responsible, legally and practically, for governing and conducting interscholastic athletics at the local and league levels.
9. Any statewide organization which schools join to assist their administration of interscholastic athletics must be independent of outside interests and guided exclusively by the direct input of its member schools.
10. Interstate competition in interscholastic athletics is unnecessary in most situations; regional and national events are harmful to the purposes of interscholastic athletics in Michigan.



## CALENDARS FOR 2014-15-16

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See MHSAA Calendar of Events for 2014-15 through 2020-21 on pages 119-122