



## 2016-17 SKI COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

East Lansing, November 1, 2016 – 9:30 am

### **Members Present:**

David Corcoran, Saginaw  
John Deibel, Pontiac  
Mike Foyteck, Clarkston  
Ben Ferris, Traverse City  
Rich Giddens, Cadillac  
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake  
Mark Mattson, Traverse City (video conference)  
Casey McGovern, Grand Rapids  
James Styf, Grand Rapids  
Betty Wroubel, Pontiac

### **Members Absent:**

Kerry Boone, Walled Lake  
Nick Kocsis, Detroit

### **Staff**

Cody Inglis

The committee met on November 1, 2016 at the MHSAA office in East Lansing. The ski committee was reminded of its responsibility and the process that rules changes occur. The following discussion and action took place.

### **Representative Council review**

The committee reviewed last year's Representative Council action taken with skiing. This included a recommendation from the ski committee on the maximum of 15 meets for a team or individual. Discussions on why this recommendation did not pass the Representative Council occurred and lead into the proposals from the MHSSCA.

### **MHSSCA Proposals**

#### **1. Allow each individual/team a maximum of 15 ski meets.**

A thorough and lengthy discussion regarding ski racing, the number of meets required and allowed ensued when taking into account the current MHSAA rule that allows CUSSA and certain USSA races to be counted up to a maximum of 15 meets for a team and individual when combining high school races as well as CUSSA races. These races are currently sanctioned by the USSA and then approved by the MHSAA. This can be a challenging process and one that only impacts a small percentage of high school ski racers. The proposal would open up the number of non-school races that would be allowed for the team and individual while still maintaining a minimum number of starts for the team and individual in high school racing (four). Discussion centered on why this proposal would be benefit high school ski racing and the following points were made in relation to this proposal.

- The ski season is very weather dependent and even in the best years, seven weeks of competition is the most that teams can rely upon to race events. The 15 dates of competition between sanctioned CUSSA races and high school meets is rarely if ever met by teams or individuals.
- CUSSA and USSA participation is down as costs of ski racing have increased. To use CUSSA and USSA sanctioned races as the only non-school races that skiers can use in fact limits all high school ski racers and benefits only a few.
- Currently there is no control on some non-school ski racing that is allowed within MHSAA rules such as NASTAR, which skiers can compete in unlimited starts since it does not count against the 15 meet rule, nor the MHSAA limited team membership rule.
- Removing the USSA sanctioning rule would open up ski racing to other non-school events such as FIS, MAC and Nastar Speed Series.

- MHSAA travel rules would still apply to teams and individuals within the 15 meet maximum.
- MHSAA minimum on high school races would still be 4 meets for the team and the individual.
- The rule would be that a ski team and an individual skier has 15 “starts” that could not be exceeded by either. The rule is the team and the individual and it would be enforced by the coach and the Athletic Director.
- The school athletic director would turn in a team profile with all races associated with school. In addition, each individual would turn in an individual racer profile to the school. There would be a consistent date of Martin Luther King Jr. Day of each ski season that these forms would need to be turned in.

## **2. Discussion on State Finals Venues and locations**

Currently in the MHSAA Ski Finals rotation there are 5 ski hills – (Boyne Mt., Boyne Highlands, Schuss Mt., Nubs Nob and Marquette Mt.) Every 5 years a hill is used in each division. This has become a challenge for many schools in three main areas – logistically, financially and race coordination. Every school besides one has significant travel in Division 1 and every school except three have significant travel issues in Division 2. This burden of travel results in high costs of mileage, hotels and food. This is often not covered by the sponsoring school. This puts a burden on parents as well as booster clubs. Because of the extreme travel, the challenge of getting parent volunteers, required to be supplied by each school at the finals level as a very tough job for coaches and teams. This puts additional burden on Marquette and the number of volunteers needed to successfully run a ski race. Finally, the challenges of running a state final with the protocols, rules and requirements of the MHSAA are a concern. This includes race staff, race results, maintenance, tickets and consistent prices as well as course safety. Because of MHSAA staff changes, there is a new ski administrator who will connect and visit with Marquette HS and Marquette Mt. to determine whether or not they are able to meet some MHSAA standards of the state finals hosting. The committee recommended that Marquette Mt. turn in the rotation at Division 2 ski finals be pushed back to 2018 and Nub’s Nob be recommended as host for Division 2. This adjustment will be done dependent upon the visit to Marquette by MHSAA staff.

## **3. Non-Conforming team rule revision discussion.**

The current MHSAA rule for ski racing is that it does not allow a school to have a team with less than 4 students in each discipline. This results in skiers potentially not being able to ski high school ski racing. A well-developed plan was again submitted to the committee from the coaches association and resulted in committee discussion. The discussion centered on wanting to grow the sport of ski racing by allowing non-conforming teams to enter the MHSAA tournament – not penalizing team athletes who don’t have other team members from their own school. It would also offer schools an option rather than entering into a cooperative ski program with another school and it would allow athletes to represent their own school. Some potential unintended consequences of this proposal include the potential “reduction” in ski programs if there were no ski cooperative programs which could lead to a reduction in divisions of ski racing. The committee recommended that a survey be developed on this topic and sent to ski schools. This would give the committee some data on how many schools this potential rule change would impact.

## **Regional and Final Sites and Hosts**

### 2017 Finals

Division 1 at Nubs Nob – Host, Clarkston

Division 2 at Boyne Highlands – Host, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep

### Regionals

R1 – @ Crystal Mt. hosted by Traverse City West HS

R2 – @ Mt. Holly hosted by Holly HS and Grand Blanc HS

R3 – @ Mt. Brighton hosted by South Lyon

R4 – @ Nubs Nob hosted by Petoskey HS and Harbor Springs HS

R5 – @ Cannonsburg hosted by Forest Hills Central HS

R6 – @ Pine Knob hosted by Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood HS

## **2017 Approved MHSAA/CUSSA Meets**

1. January 7-8 USSA Boyne Highlands
2. January 13-15 USSA Marquette Mt.
3. January 21-22 USSA Cannonsburg
4. \*January 27-29 FIS/ MidAm Spirit, MN  
January 27-29 USSA Boyne Mt.
5. February 3-6 USSA Indianhead
6. February 10-12 FIS/ MidAm Lacrosse  
February 11-12 USSA Boyne Mt.
7. February 18-19 USSA Mt. Brighton

\*The FIS meet January 27-29 in Minnesota is approved for Region 2 only.

## **MHSAA Ski Rules and Ski Manual**

The committee discussed a process for looking at the existing MHSAA ski rules and the MHSAA ski manual to review those rules and determine if they need to be updated or revised as it has been several years since a thorough review has been done. MHSAA staff recommended that the ski coaches association put together a group of coaches or board members to go over this document and submit proposed changes to the MHSAA first and then to the Ski committee for future approval. The MHSAA will be a part of this process as well and should receive updates throughout the process.

## **Recommendation to the Representative Council**

Allow each team and individual a maximum of 15 meets or "starts". The schedule may include school competition, CUSSA and other non-school meets. This change would allow each skier and/or school team to ski in school ski meets, CUSSA meets and any other non-school meets for a maximum of 15 total ski competitions for the team and the individual. An MHSAA individual racer profile (which already exists) would need to be compiled and turned in to the school athletic director for each individual skier and be on file by MLK Jr. Day of each ski season. A team race profile would be developed and placed online to be submitted to the MHSAA by MLK Jr. Day of each ski season by the school athletic director. The MHSAA minimum 4 high school ski races would still apply to the team and the individual skier under this potential change. Approved (10-0)