



**2018-19 SKI COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
East Lansing, October 30, 2018 – 9:30 am

**Members Present:**

Corey Anderson, Grand Rapids  
Fred Bryant, Cadillac  
Mike Cowdrey, Bloomfield Hills  
Mike Foyteck, Clarkston (MHSSCA)  
Nick Kocsis, Detroit  
Mark Mattson, Maple City (MIAAA) (by video)  
Duane Petrosky, Caledonia  
Bruce Rosengren, Bloomfield Hills

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Josh Vandruska, Orchard Lake  
Kerry Weber, Walled Lake

**Guests:**

Rich Kieft, (MATS)  
Don Tyrell

**Staff:**

Cody Inglis

The committee met on October 30, 2018 at the MHSAA office in East Lansing. The ski committee was reminded of its responsibility and the process from which 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 that included two significant changes. The first was the increase in the number of contests allowed in ski racing from 15 to 17. This also reduced the scrimmages allowed from four to two. Ski committee members expressed strong support for this change in MHSAA rules as a way to counteract the inconsistent Michigan weather and snow conditions, season length and USSA ski racers in high school programs. This increase is a strong step in both improving ski racing while still "guarding the gate" on the scope and perspective of school based sports.

The second change to ski racing was a complete rewrite and revision of the MHSAA Ski Manual, almost two years in the making. The committee reviewed the process by which the rewrite occurred and were reminded that along with competitive cheer, ski is the only other sport under MHSAA auspices that writes its' own rules and does not rely upon national governing bodies or the NFHS for updates to rules. For this reason, along with the fact that the ski manual of the MHSAA had not be significantly updated since the 1990's, the committee was appreciative of the update and the time put in by ski coaches and others to help with the revisions. Significant time was spent going over the organization of the manual and the new document has already been posted online at MHSAA.com.

**Limited Team Membership Update and Review**

With the increase in competitions allowed the committee reviewed the oft-misunderstood Limited Team Membership rule and how it applies to ski racers across the state. The committee reviewed a list of USSA approved or "sanctioned" races that Michigan skiers can participate in as part of their 17 contests. Committee members were reminded of the MHSAA rule of submission of the ski racer profile sheet to the MHSAA and their own athletic director prior to any races occurring. A review and approval of the USSA races and discussion on the MHSAA travel rule ensued with philosophy, implementation and why Minnesota, unlike Illinois, was not considered a bordering state. While there was discussion on whether asking for Minnesota to be a bordering state of Michigan through Lake Superior, the committee ultimately felt that any change to the travel rule would benefit only a select few and not contribute to the overall growth of ski racing in Michigan. In addition, the increase in contest limits allows for high school ski racers to travel by rule to two

outside of school events while still maintaining a strong and full high school and USSA race schedule.

### **Coaches Association Update**

Mike Foyteck, Michigan High School Ski Coaches Association President updated the committee on topics that the ski association board is discussing and planning. Mike's goals as the ski coaches president has been to increase communication with membership and collaboration with the MHSAA to ensure that rules and regulations are being followed, including a more thorough understanding of what the coaches association's role is in the sport of ski racing. In addition, the future of the sport of ski racing was discussed as a topic of the ski coaches association board to ensure proper growth and structure in the sport. Mike emphasized the need for coaches to have a strong connection with their school athletic director despite being a sport that completely operates outside of the school walls. Mike also updated the committee on the ski coaches association plans to have a JH/MS ski invitational for Michigan racers on the Sunday before the ski state finals. While details are being worked out, the MHSSCA wants to try to reach JH/MS kids prior to their enrollment in HS and help promote the sport of high school ski racing as a viable and important way to represent your school and community while enjoying the benefits of a lifelong sport. The MHSSCA will work together with the MHSAA to ensure that all rules are being followed.

### **Results, Timing and MHSAA Ski Team Requirements**

The ski committee reviewed past MHSAA results and the haphazard way that each region and state finals host delivered the team and individual results to the MHSAA at the end of those races. In addition, the committee reviewed the submission process for team ski running orders to those regional hosts and schools. All agreed that significant upgrades to the process were in order especially with new technology helping to standardize the process. Don Tyrell, an invited guest who has served as an MHSAA region timer was asked about the process he uses as well as the programs that allow him to "push" results out accurately, consistently and timely. Don updated the committee on his programs and shared that he has developed an electronic file that would allow coaches to submit their running orders electronically instead of filling out a handwritten form which is currently done. The committee offered their overwhelming support for this new process and unanimously approved a recommendation that MHSAA staff use the electronic form of race running order submission this ski season.

With Don's help, MHSAA staff will update running form submission to an all-electronic form for regionals. In addition, Don will work with regional managers on a common standardized results file to submit when races are completed. Finally, the MHSAA, like it already does in cross country will use a Google Docs form to allow ski coaches to submit running order changes by a deadline between the regional and state finals races. The ski committee feels these suggested changes will help bring needed standardization and consistency to a difficult process for regional and state final host schools and managers.

### **Medical, Health and Safety Update**

The committee reviewed two incidents that occurred during MHSAA competition last February. The first incident that occurred at Caberfae in Cadillac during a Regional race that resulted in a girl ski racer being evacuated via helicopter because of several facial cuts and bruises after a fall. The committee was updated on the process and protocol for such issues. The second incident occurred at the state finals in D2 when another ski athlete fell and was sledged off the hill by the ski patrol, checked by EMT's and was subsequently approved to race again later in the day. Rich Kieft, an invited certified Athletic Trainer representing MATS, helped the committee by reviewing MHSAA protocol on concussion and emergency medical situations. In addition, recommendations to the committee when emergencies occur at a ski race were discussed including the different and defined roles of both medical and non-medical personnel. The committee was reminded that athletic trainers at an MHSAA events are an allowed expense and both are recommended and reimbursed by the MHSAA to host schools.

## **Other discussion**

The committee discussed the longstanding MHSAA policy of allowing racers that compete in the ski state finals to only compete in the event (Giant Slalom or Slalom) that they actually qualified in at the regional meet. Ski coaches on the committee felt that this rule has been discussed by coaches, ski committee and others throughout the years without any change despite what they feel is an overwhelming sentiment to change the rule and allow skiers to compete in both events at the ski finals. The committee was reminded of early statements made by MHSAA staff about proposals and recommendations. For proposals to be passed, discussed and changed at the Representative Council level, there needed to be data presented along with the proposal for change. This data included research on how it will impact the sport of ski racing, a survey of coaches, how many skiers this will impact, what impact it will have on the length of a state finals and any past data or proposals that could give historical context to this request. The ski coaches association will bring this up to membership and at their board meetings later this year.

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

### **2019 Finals**

Division 1 at Schuss Mountain – Host, Clarkston with co-host Bloomfield Hills

Division 2 at Boyne Mountain – Host, Elk Rapids (Great Northern Alpine Ski cooperative program)

The committee reviewed and approved the tentative MHSAA regional assignments. The responsibility of assignment rests with MHSAA staff and goes to the school athletic director who works to confirm things with the home hill of that school. Site selection for regional assignments is done by MHSAA staff based upon enrollment and geography as well as the number of schools assigned to each regional.

### **Regionals**

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

R2 – @ Pine Knob hosted by Bloomfield Hills HS

R3 – @ Mt. Brighton hosted by Brighton HS

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

R5 – @ Cannonsburg hosted by East Grand Rapids HS

R6 – @ Alpine Valley hosted by Orchard Lake St. Mary's HS

## **2019 Approved MHSAA/USSA Meets**

1. JANUARY 4-6 US Granite Peak, WI
2. JANUARY 5-6 US Boyne Highlands, MI
3. JANUARY 11-13 US/FIS Mont Ripley, MI
4. JANUARY 18-20 US Marquette Mt., MI
5. JANUARY 26-27 US Boyne Mt., MI
6. JANUARY 26-27 US/FIS Mt. LaCrosse, WI
7. FEBRUARY 1-3 US/FIS Spirit Mt. MN (MHSAA 600 round trip travel rule applies)
8. FEBRUARY 2-3 US Indianhead, MI
9. FEBRUARY 9-10 US Chestnut Mt., IL
10. FEBRUARY 16-17 US Nub's Nob, MI
11. FEBRUARY 22-24 US Marquette Mt. MI

## **Recommendations for MHSAA Staff**

Recommend to MHSAA staff to require the use of an electronic submission form for MHSAA running orders for Regional races.

Recommend to MHSAA staff that there be a standardization of MHSAA results documents for both Regionals and Finals in ski racing.

Recommend to MHSAA staff to use a new change form for changes made by coaches between Regionals and Finals in ski racing.

## **Recommendations to the Representative Council**

NONE

