



**2021-22 SKI COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Virtual**  
East Lansing, October 21, 2021 – 9:30 am

**Committee Members**

Patty Costigan, Beverly Hills  
John Kasben, Maple City  
Jeff Kosin, Clarkston  
Laurie Kusch, Detroit  
Casey Lombard, Holly  
KC McGovern, East Grand Rapids

Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs  
Justin Thorington, Traverse City (MIAAA)  
Alex Tiseo, Marquette  
Josh Vandruska, Milford (MHSSCA)

**Staff:** Cody Inglis

**Guests:** Don Tyrell, Timer/Scorer

**AGENDA**

The Ski committee met virtually on October 23, 2021. The committee was reminded of its responsibility and the process from which rules changes occur. The following discussion and action took place.

**2020Ski Meeting Minutes Review**

The committee reviewed last year's Ski meeting minutes including staff recommendations that were additions to the MHSAA Ski tournament in 2021. There were many COVID restrictions in ski racing last school year including team restrictions, masking requirements and hill spectator limits. In planning for the 2021-22 ski season, the committee was reminded local ski facility, venue and health department restrictions such as masking indoors may still be in place, including while in the lodge, cafeteria and other common areas. It is best to check locally with your ski facility and venue. Committee members were reminded of the importance of The committee agreed that seeking consistency across all six Regional sites, in addition to the two Finals races, was much improved.

**Ski Manual Edits**

The committee was led through a discussion of the ski manual edits and proposals for change as recommended by a subcommittee of the ski coaches association who came together to evaluate the ski manual. The ski manual was given a complete rewrite in 2018-19 and has not be updated or edited since then. The committee approved the changes, clarifications and edits to the manual for use in the 2021-22 ski season.

Josh Vandruska, the Michigan High School Ski Coaches Association President, updated the committee on topics that the ski association board has discussed. The coaches association is coming off of their ski coaches clinic done virtually on October 17. Josh updated the committee on plans to have a third JH/MS ski invitational for Michigan racers on the Saturday before the ski Finals. The desire is to hold this race at the site of the D1 Finals. The MHSSCA, with the support from the MHSAA, 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. A new registration process will be used this year to streamline the entries. Josh indicated that the board would continue to support high school ski coaches and be willing partners to support the MHSAA and build this sport. One area of focus for the Coaches Association board will be on fundraising through a golf outing to raise funds for new B-netting to be used for the MHSAA postseason ski events.

Don Tyrell, who serves as a timing/scoring advisor to the ski committee provided an update on the new rule of allowing individual qualifiers that qualify in one discipline to compete in the other discipline even if they only qualified in one event at Regionals. The data showed in the 2020-21 Finals that it added 4-6 racers per event and added approximately 10 minutes of time to each Finals. This data was a key reason why the approval for this relatively new rule was given. Discussion then centered on alternatives to hand timing and potential solutions to this required rule that is difficult to implement. A subcommittee of timers/scorers and coaches will come together to work on what other states and levels do with hand timing to see if there is an alternative. The challenges associated with hand timing include: volunteers, accuracy, synced watches and lost watches. Don also will work to identify timers/scorers from around the state in the area of consistency in reporting results and providing accurate data to the Final host and timer from the 6 Regional races.

MHSAA travel rule was discussed including providing the committee with an Update Meeting survey question – “Would your school support adding Minnesota as a “border state” under the MHSAA travel rule? Minnesota is a maritime border area on Lake Superior which would be a similar approach to what has been used with Illinois being a maritime border area on Lake Michigan. UP ice hockey, football and alpine skiing schools have asked for this consideration.” Data was shared on the initial feedback from the survey where 93% of the nearly 600 respondents approve of this potential change to rule. The ski committee supported this direction and noted the positive impact it would have on Michigan HS ski racing.

A discussion on a potential wind chill/cold weather temperature guideline or rule for Alpine Ski racing in the MHSAA was presented. The MHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee was meeting at the same time as the MHSAA Ski Committee and both committees had the cold weather discussion topic on their agendas. There was support to have SMAC members come together with the Ski Coaches association to discuss these potential changes for future implementation in MHSAA competition. MHSAA staff will coordinate this process.

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

### **2022 Finals**

Division 1 is tentatively scheduled at Boyne Mt. but that is still to be confirmed in a meeting with the MHSAA and Boyne Mt. – Host will Traverse City Central HS

There is a back up plan in case Boyne Mt. can't/won't host the D1 Finals

Division 2 at Schuss Mountain with a host school to be determined by the MHSAA.

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 details 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. Protocols for site selection and regional assignments based upon a school's home hill during the

regular season were discussed. The MHSAA will now consider home hills as a factor in selecting regional assignments. Assignment based solely on a school ski team's home hill would not work because of the sheer number of teams on some hills, the committee encourages a strong look at the home hills for ski teams while assigning regionals that will allow teams to see their home hill in a regional on a more regular basis. The MHSSCA assisted the MHSAA in determining an accurate list of home ski hills that will be regularly updated.

### **2022 MHSAA Ski Regionals to be held the week of Feb. 14, 2022**

R1 – **Cannonsburg – Forest Hills Northern**

R2 – **Pine Knob – Clarkston**

R3 – MHSAA staff will connect with schools and host hills on whether **Mt. Brighton – Detroit Catholic Central/Mercy or Alpine Valley – Walled Lake Central** will host

R4 – **Need Host school and hill** – Nubs Nob and Harbor Springs HS will host if needed – MHSAA staff will confirm after other discussions are completed

R5 – **Caberfae – Cadillac HS**

R6 – **Pine Knob – Notre Dame Prep**

### **2021-22 Approved MHSAA/USSA Meets**

The USSS meet schedule was provided and approved. The committee was reminded that a racer profile form for each USSS skier needed to be on file with the school athletic director and MHSAA. MHSAA staff will update MHSAA materials to reflect the schedule and allowed non-school ski races.

### **Recommendations to the Representative Council**

No proposals from the committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.