

# benchmarks

Winter 2022 Vol. 12 No. 2

mhsaa



## The Foundation of the MHSAA

Regulations uphold the MHSAA. People are the backbone.  
Remembering our friend, Tom Rashid.



I have a  
story...

I have a  
story...



I have a  
story...

I have a  
story...



We tell their stories

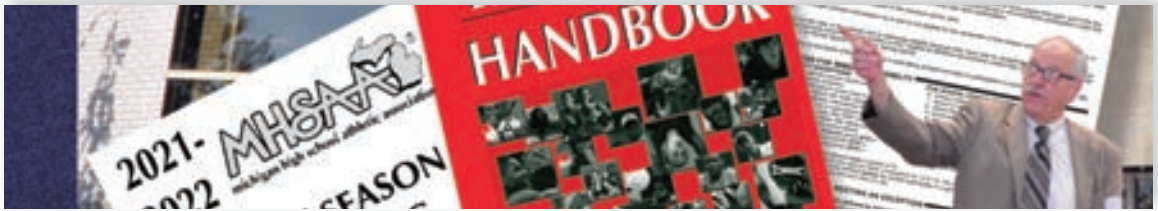
**SECOND HALF**

by MHSAA





# Cover Story: Foundation and Backbone



**4** Regulations serve as the foundation of school sports within the MHSAA; people provide the backbone for meting them out judiciously. No one did it better than Tom Rashid, who helped countless administrators and staff understand their roles around the state for decades before succumbing to cancer in December.

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## MHSAA News - 12

### Survey Says . . .

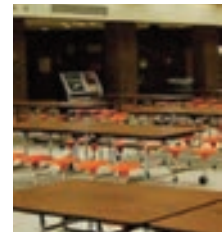
The 2021 Update Meeting Opinion Poll focused on issues pertaining to online ticketing, number of contests and lengths of seasons.



## The Vault - 18

### Not the First Time

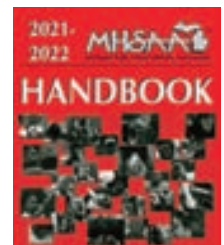
As the COVID pandemic reaches two years of impacting athletic contests, the most recent prior health event is not as long ago as some might think.



## Regulations Review - 28

### Booster Club Review

Booster clubs are a valuable source of support and revenue for school sports. Keep informed on MHSAA guidelines regarding these groups.



## Departments

Wide Angle . . . . .	2
Leading Off . . . . .	3
Student Spotlight . . . . .	20
Officially Speaking . . . . .	26
Reviewing the Regulations . . . . .	28
MHSAA Business . . . . .	30
Overtime . . . . .	36

## A Relationship Business

Our work in school sports can best be summarized in these six words- we are in the relationship business.

I have never worked with anyone who was better at building relationships than Tom Rashid, our Associate Director who lost his nine-month battle with cancer on December 3. Tom had the ability to make everyone feel important, making no difference if you knew him for 30 years, three years, three weeks or even 30 minutes.

He was our regulations quarterback during his 18 years on the MHSAA staff, providing leadership, interpretations and answers to thousands of eligibility questions and issues. Tom was the greatest champion for the rules as he believed, right down to his core, that they were critical in creating a level playing field for all member schools. He had a true gift of being able to deliver honest, direct answers based on the rules which often was not the news that the person on the other end of the call was looking or hoping for. I've never seen anyone deliver bad news in a more compassionate, empathetic way than Tom could do, which is a lesson for all of us in leadership positions.

Since 1988, Tom was perhaps the largest pillar of the MHSAA foundation. He served on the Representative Council from 1988 until 2003 when he joined the MHSAA staff as the Associate Director. He was in the room and part of every big decision made by the association over these past 33 years, and was at the table with his passionate, strong voice advocating for students during every Executive Committee meeting since the fall of 1988, a streak of 396 consecutive meetings that ended on December 2, 2021, the day before his passing.

The three greatest passions of Tom's life were his faith, his family and his work in educational athletics. The thread that ran through these things were the people and relationships connected to his church, his extended family and his work colleagues both inside the MHSAA and in every member school in Michigan. So many of us would give anything to have just one more phone call, conversation or even friendly argument with our dear friend and mentor to so many.

This edition of *benchmarks* celebrates the work and foundation that Tom has left for all of us. Many of us are still hurting professionally and personally with the loss of this man who made us all feel like his best friend. If one's life is defined by the relationships and friendships built, I can say that Tom has left an incredible legacy for all of us to pursue daily in making every relationship count.

Please enjoy the following pages of words about Tom and some fundamental regulations that were so important to him and his work.



Mark Uyl  
MHSAA Executive Director



Tom Rashid was often the voice on the other end of the phone, and the first person new administrators saw at the MHSAA offices.

## CAP Requirement for Head Coaches

Each head coach of a varsity team hired for the first time as a high school head varsity coach at any MHSAA member high school 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. The Regulation reads as follows:



### **MHSAA Handbook Regulation II, Section 3(C)**

Each head coach of a varsity team in an MHSAA tournament sport hired for the first time as a high school varsity head coach at any MHSAA member high school 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.

**The Spring 2022 deadline is April 14**

## How You Help Us Operate

The winter months are laden with committee meetings at the MHSAA Office, the lifeblood for effecting change in the rules and regulations which serve our constituents so well and provide level playing fields (and courts, pools, mats, diamonds, etc.) for the vast span of enrollments and demographics that make Michigan so unique. We encourage you to keep the following in mind in the coming weeks as the committees are putting their best efforts forward on your behalf.

### **Committee Work**

The winter months are the busiest for MHSAA committees, especially for those that must review or prepare recommendations for changes for the following school year.

Each year, up to 20 MHSAA committees consider proposals for Representative Council action relative to MHSAA tournament policies or procedures or *Handbook* regulations or interpretations.

Committees are asked to keep in mind health and safety issues as well as policies and procedures relative to subvarsity and junior high/middle school students while also concentrating on Annual Update Meeting Opinion Poll responses on hot topics around the state.

MHSAA committees are dominated by coaches, but they are not a rubber stamp for proposals that proceed from that sport's high school coaches association. The difference of opinion often results from the committee seeing things differently than a coaches association leadership that the committee believes is not representative of schools of diverse size, location and demographics.

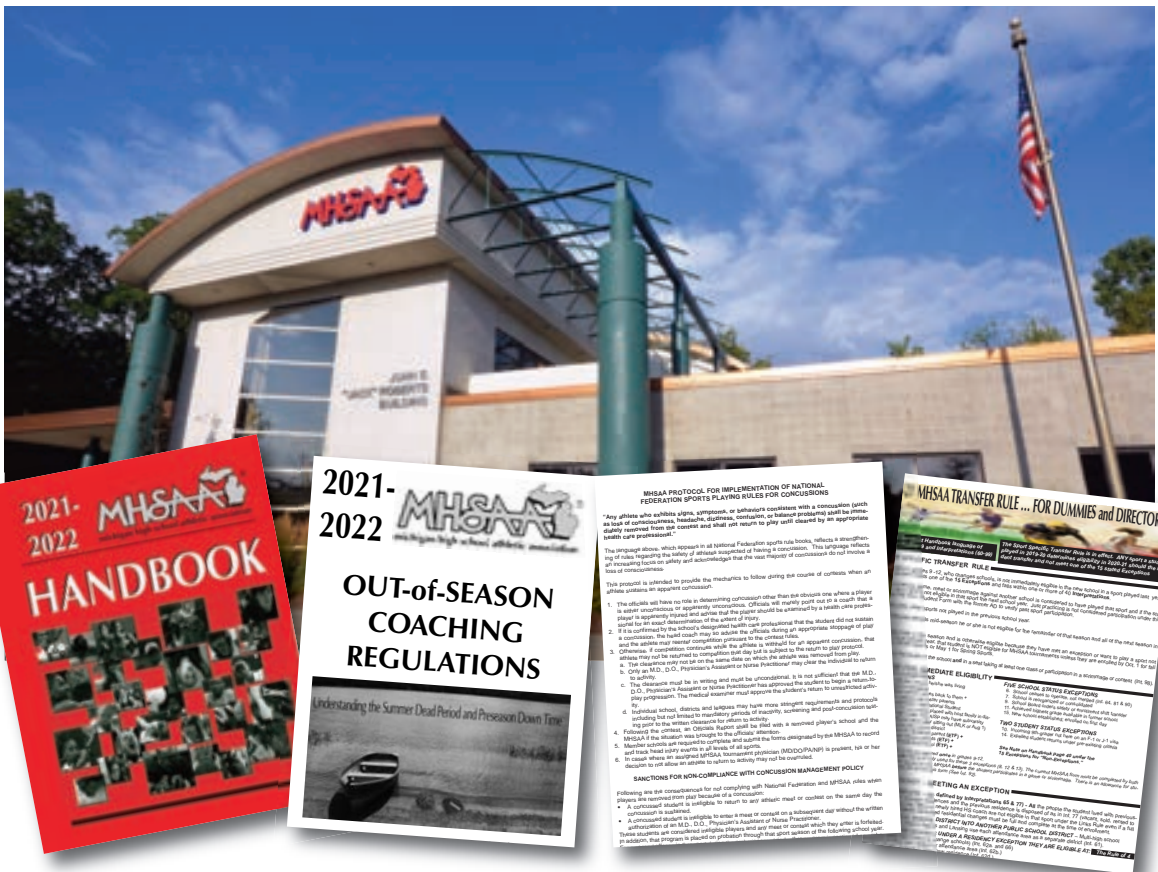
It is appropriate for committees to ask: Who was not in the room when this recommendation was drafted? Who will not be served well by this change?

When committees go through this process, they tend to reduce the quantity but improve the quality of recommendations to the Representative Council, which increases the percentage of recommendations the Council adopts.



# Our Foundation

Regulations are the foundation for school sports in the MHSAA. People are the backbone, and no one stood and delivered the message better than our friend, Tom Rashid.



From within the walls of 1661 Ramblewood Drive for nearly two decades, the voice resonating from the corner almost sounded like a recording as it concluded conversations with administrators, coaches, parents – and occasionally even a student or two – from every area code around the state.

"Well, I hope this helps," it would start. "I know we didn't agree on everything, and I know sometimes this isn't easy, but that's the regulation. These are good rules, they really are. Don't hesitate to call if we can do anything else."

And, just like that, the next call would come in to MHSAA Associate Director Tom Rashid, 18 years worth in all.

Rashid, who passed away at 66 years old in December after an unflinching battle with cancer, often served as the voice of the MHSAA while fielding thousands of eligibility calls over the years. Many times he could talk the caller off the ledge; at other times there was no way to satisfy the disgruntled party. But, always, Rashid offered guidance and explanation. Above all, he was fair, and believed that, "These are good rules, they really are."



If regulations are the foundation for MHSAA membership, then Tom Rashid served as the backbone and the voice for nearly two decades.

After all, he had a front row seat in helping to author several of them, and then was the MHSAA's front man in delivering the message from the mountain top at athletic director in-service meetings and update meetings to start each school year.

"He had so many incredible gifts, the greatest being his ability to talk and communicate with people even when having to share difficult or bad news. He was so good with people, and his care and concern for others is one of Tom's greatest legacies," said MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl.

Vic Michaels, MHSAA Representative Council Secretary-Treasurer, was Rashid's assistant at the Catholic HS League in Detroit until taking over as director in 2003 when Rashid assumed his post at the MHSAA.

"He mentored thousands of athletic directors and his handprints are on every athletic program in the state," Michaels said. "He lived for two things: his faith and educational athletics. He always did the right thing. There were no short cuts."

One of those athletic directors who benefitted from Rashid's tutelage would later join Michaels on the Representative Council and ultimately work be-

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***"He had so many incredible gifts, the greatest being his ability to talk and communicate with people even when having to share difficult or bad news. He was so good with people, and his care and concern for others is one of Tom's greatest legacies" — MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl***

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side Tom as the MHSAA's most recent hire in July.

"Tom was a master communicator. As a young AD early on in my career, to my later more experienced days, Tom made me feel confident that I got the correct answer to any issue, even if I didn't always agree with the answer," said Will McKoy, who spent a decade as athletic director at Summit Academy North Schools in Romulus before joining the MHSAA staff as an assistant director.

"There was no question once done with the conversation that it had to be right because Tom said so. I never really questioned Tom about rules interpretations, because he held such high credibility on that subject."

Under his guidance, there were no gray areas, thanks to his expansive and deep knowledge. Sure, some of that expertise came with repetition of delivery, but Rashid's passion was unmatched. It was not enough that *he* knew the material; he genuinely wanted the masses to understand it, and went the extra mile to author brochures and record videos by topic; he captained in-person sessions himself rather than passing them off.

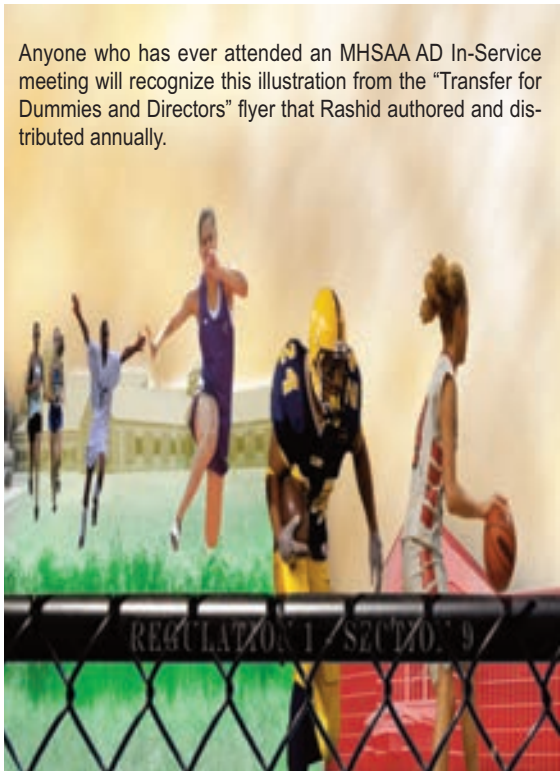
"One of the many things I remember about Tom is you will never find a more honest and loyal person on this planet. Interactions between Tom and us as athletic directors was always 'To the Point' and 'Matter of Fact'" said Brian Gordon, athletic director at Royal Oak High School.

"If there was someone in the room willing to take on Tom in – what they thought was a controversial topic – they had better have done their research. He always loved a great debate. He was never afraid to admit where he 'might' be wrong, and he was always willing to listen to what was being said in and around the state. He is truly the AD of ADs here in Michigan. I will always remember him as the 'Pope' of educational athletics. I am a better AD because of Tom Rashid."

His New AD Orientations each fall were among his most enjoyable endeavors, serving as a platform to get first-year leaders across the state off on the right foot, and also as a stage to outline the many facets that make school sports different and

– continued next page

Anyone who has ever attended an MHSAA AD In-Service meeting will recognize this illustration from the “Transfer for Dummies and Directors” flyer that Rashid authored and distributed annually.



more rewarding than other athletic programs.

Those sessions led to Tom expanding his outreach when he introduced separate Administrator Assistant In-Services, thus reaching yet another valuable group vital to daily operations.

“For him to have a special session for assistants around the state was just so meaningful.” said Shawna Boyle, athletic assistant at DeWitt High School. “He was the perfect person to communicate and explain the things that needed emphasis. I can still hear him saying, ‘All the people; all the things,’ when discussing the transfer rule.”

He also was the master of breaking down the rules and presenting them to the membership in ways that made them easier to grasp.

“The hard part about this job is you don't have interaction with students like you have as a coach or an administrator in the building,” Rashid said during a 2018 interview. “I've learned that I really do like helping people. Most of the day is spent assisting athletic directors, parents, coaches, and over the years I've gotten to know the rules pretty well and can interpret them in plain English, so that really brings me satisfaction.”

He also was master of the understatement. So, here, in “plain English,” are abridged versions of a couple of Tom’s favorite works.

### Transfer Rule “Links” Modification

The transfer rule used from 1982 to 2018 underwent many modifications over the years and was pretty good, but not perfect.

One modification that connects the Athletic Related Transfer Rule – the “Links Rule” (Section 9 E)

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***“His kindness was above and beyond imagination. There was no one kinder, no one of stronger faith, and no one more unselfish. His ability to communicate and deal with all kinds of people in all kinds of situations is something that won’t ever be forgotten.” — former MHSAA Assistant Director Nate Hampton***

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and residential changes was enacted in 2018-19 after several students in football and boys basketball followed their newly hired school coach to his new place of employment and were eligible immediately under Exception 1 – a full residential change. This is a clear link under Section 9 (E) – but they met an exception and ineligibility did not apply. On Aug. 1, 2019, the regulation was changed to say that even if a student had a residential change, the student would not be eligible in that sport at the new school if he followed his newly hired school coach. In other words – this one link – following the school coach – trumps the residential change and the student is not eligible in that sport for one school year.

It intended to catch some of the most overt and egregious of transfers for athletic reasons.

Specifically, after a student had played on a team at one high school and transfers to another where he or she is ineligible, the period of ineligibility was extended to 180 scheduled school days if, during the previous 12 months, this student . . .

- Participated at an open gym at the high school to which the student has transferred.
- Participated as an individual or on a non-school team or activity coached, coordinated or directed by any of that high school’s parents, administrators or coaches in the sport involved for either gender. This includes out-of-season summer basketball teams with school coaches if a student participated prior to registering to attend that school.
- Has a personal sport trainer, conditioner or instructor who is a coach at the high school to which the student has transferred.
- Transfers to a school where his or her previous high school coach is now employed.

Unlike the “athletic-motivated” transfer section, this new section did not require one school to allege athletic motivation. If the MHSAA learns from any source that any one of the four athletic related links existed the MHSAA would impose ineligibility in a sport.

Even if the student’s circumstances subsequently satisfy one of the 15 exceptions of the



transfer rule that would normally allow a transfer student immediate eligibility, the student shall remain ineligible at this MHSAA member school in the sport(s) involved.

### Out-of-Season Coaching Regulations

Rashid authored, "The Boat Brochure," to assist in understanding out-of-season regulations, dead period and down time. Highlights follow.

Even for current coaches within a school building, there are limitations set forth by the MHSAA when specific sports are not in season.

To better explain and understand the Out-of-Season Coaching Regulations, Rashid developed another brochure to help administrators.

First, the document explains four year-round principles for coaches during off-season within the school year, and during summer months.

They are as follows:

1. No activity may be mandatory or part of selection to the school team.
2. No school transportation or school or booster club funds for transportation.
3. No school general funds; a limit of \$200 per student and sport from school-approved fundraised money is allowed.
4. No school competition uniforms or warmups may be used (practice jerseys are permitted).

**During the school year**, much of the restriction centers around the four-player rule and activity that is available to all students, such as open gyms and curriculum courses.

The four-player rule states that coaches can coach out of season up to four "players" (students in grades 7-12 are called players for this rule). This applies to any setting including a camp, clinic, AAU game, travel softball team or indoor soccer league. As has always been the case, two coaches present does not increase the limit to eight players.

Open gyms and curriculum courses must be open to all students.

Open gyms are student-conducted and recreational. There shall be no organized instruction or competition, drills or practice structure and no instruction by captains, parents or others. Open gyms must be open to all students of the school, but not necessarily open to the general public or students from other schools.

Classes with content specific to an MHSAA tournament sport (e.g., football class) must be open to any student and must provide nearly equal attention to three different topics in an academic term such as other sports, weight training, fitness, etc.

Another key aspect to out-of-season coaching is the preseason down time. Just prior to each season, to establish an official start to practice, this period prohibits open gyms, rotations, competitions, or sport-specific camps or clinics from occurring at the school or sponsored elsewhere by the school regardless of whether that school sponsors the sport.

**During the summer**, some limitations continue. Except for football, fewer restrictions are in place.

## OUT-of-SEASON COACHING REGULATIONS



Simply referred to as, "The Boat Brochure," Rashid developed this piece to help administrators understand coaching restrictions outside the school seasons.

There are no school teams in the summer; however, school coaches and students may assemble from the same school over the summer in various settings beginning on the Monday after Memorial Day. Football has a practice limit of no more than seven players in the summer prior to Aug. 1 in informal football activities in helmets and shoes with a coach.

Regardless of sport, the prime concern during the summer is the implementation of the "Summer Dead Period," during which no school-related activity can take place.

The "Dead Period" is a seven-day zero player/coach and zero school facility period of time from the end of school or participation in the MHSAA spring tournaments to Aug 1. No coach contact whatsoever is allowed including at fundraisers, functions or places of employment. Each school sets its own seven-day dead period and it applies to ALL sports, except that non-school summer baseball or softball games and practices (American Legion) may continue in the summer dead period. Most schools select a seven-day period which includes July 4.

It's been mentioned countless times that athletics – particularly school sports – is a relationship business. Communication is key, and Rashid was the delivery truck for the messages.

"You never had to guess what Tom was thinking," said longtime friend and colleague Nate Hampton, who worked side-by-side with Rashid every day at the MHSAA until Hampton retired in May. "But his kindness was above and beyond imagination. There was no one kinder, no one of stronger faith, and no one more unselfish.

"His ability to communicate and deal with all kinds of people in all kinds of situations is something that won't ever be forgotten."

And, neither will Tom, nor his legacy.

– Rob Kaminski  
benchmarks editor

## In Other Words...

In recent years, Tom Rashid began to produce a list of resources for the Administrators page of MHSAA.com, highlighting some of the more prominent regulations from the *MHSAA Handbook*.

From there, he instituted a series of YouTube videos to further explain various regulations. Those tutorials can be accessed by scanning the code next to the screenshot to the right. →

### Video Review of MHSAA Regulations

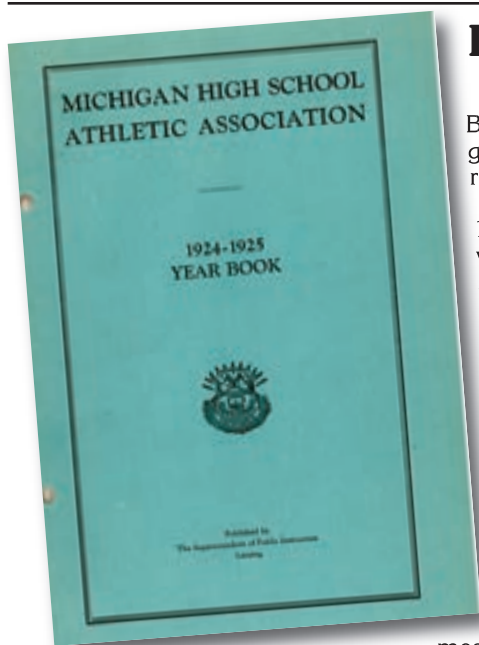
An "In Other Words" YouTube Playlist offers the following informational videos explaining various rules and regulations concerning membership and eligibility. Please refer to the [MHSAA YouTube Channel](#) frequently not only for these videos, but for features and highlights from around the MHSAA.

The Transfer Rule (8:48)





Watch on YouTube



## In the Beginning...

The very first edition of the *MHSAA Handbook* – or “Year Book” as the 1924-25 cover at left suggests – weighed in at a grand total of 48 pages, many of which did not pertain to the rules and regulations at all.

Interspersed among various team photos from 1924 and 1925 football, basketball and swimming championship teams were a “Survey of the Development of Interscholastic Athletics in Michigan;” a “Statement of Reorganization and Aims of the Michigan High School Athletic Association,” and a “Suggested Set of Standards and Practices of Athletic Administration.”

The publication also included the MHSAA Constitution and Senior High and Junior High School Eligibility Rules and Interpretations, from pages 28-38.

In today’s *Handbook*, it takes 10 pages to cover the transfer rule alone, and the book is well over 100 pages with nearly 300 interpretations.

Yet, the foundation of the 1924-25 book remains familiar to this day: Sec. 1 (Enrollment); Sec. 2 (Age); Sec. 3 (# of Seasons/Semesters of Eligibility); Sec. 4 (Total # of credit hours for Graduation-Graduated Seniors); Sec. 5 (Total Semesters of Enrollment); Sec. 6 (Limited Team Membership); Sec.

7 (Amateur Status); Sec. 8 (Current Semester Record); Sec. 9 (Previous Semester Record); Sec. 10 (Awards) (Sweater, jersey or other award exceeding one dollar [\$1.00] in value); Sec. 11 (Transfer).

**From the Editor:** It hit us all like a ton of bricks; the passing of Tom Rashid in December. This spring – for me – the aftershock will come. It was each spring for the past 18 years that Tom and I would work most closely together, editing, updating, and publishing the *MHSAA Handbook*. Prior to that, I worked on the project with Tom’s predecessor, Jerry Cvengros, who retired in 2002, and passed away in 2014. Jerry and Tom had different personalities, but both knew our rules and regulations like the alphabet. And each could use their impeccable character traits to communicate our mission to the diverse membership. As any administrator who pored over its 100-plus pages and nearly 300 interpretations will tell you, the *Handbook* is not exactly appointed summer reading. Yet somehow, I looked forward to the month(s)-long production because (a) I got to work closely with them, and (b) it was meaningful work that they believed in; and their organization was so precise. The *Handbook* was Tom’s second-favorite “bible.” The last step after dozens of proofreadings was always to decide on the cover’s color for the year, then he’d jokingly “bless” it with the sign of the cross and tell me to send it off to the printer. When you get your *Handbook* for 2022-23, remember there are good people behind it; two of the best friends and coworkers one could have asked for.

– Rob Kaminski

## We Always Will Remember Our Friend, Tom Rashid



In the days following the death of Thomas Rashid, many mourning across Michigan recalled the late MHSAA Associate Director as truly one of a kind – both in his work, which has had as significant an impact on the day-to-day processes and policies of school sports as anyone’s in this state’s history, and as a person who made everyone feel like a close friend moments after first meeting him.

Rashid was best-known by the athletic directors who have served the MHSAA’s 750 high schools, as Rashid often was their first call with questions regarding the *MHSAA Handbook* or eligibility issues. Rashid also led the annual update meetings tour, during which he would provide training and answers on the latest rules changes at stops all over the state. He coordinated and presented orientations each fall for newly hired athletic directors and also presented annual sessions to administrative assistants.

He served as the MHSAA’s administrator of boys lacrosse for its entirety as an MHSAA-sponsored sport, beginning in 2005, and also oversaw the MHSAA’s Charles E. Forsythe, Allen W. Bush and Vern L. Norris awards programs.

He received national recognition in 1999 when he was presented with the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association’s State Award of Merit. In 2001, Rashid was honored with the MHSAA’s Allen W. Bush Award, which recognizes noteworthy behind-the-scenes support to interscholastic athletics. In 2003, Rashid received Athletic Director of the Year benchmarks

Tom Rashid was the only MHSAA Boys Lacrosse director since it became a tournament sport. He was chosen for the High School Lacrosse Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2017 and interviewed by Greg Normand for the Michigan Lacrosse Review. Scan this code for the complete interview as Tom explains what drove his life’s work.



awards from the MIAAA and National High School Athletic Coaches Association, and he also received an NFHS Citation that year.

He was named to the Detroit Catholic High School League Hall of Fame in 2002 and Michigan High School Lacrosse Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2017. He received the MIAAA’s Special Recognition Award in 2017 for his continued service to the school sports community.

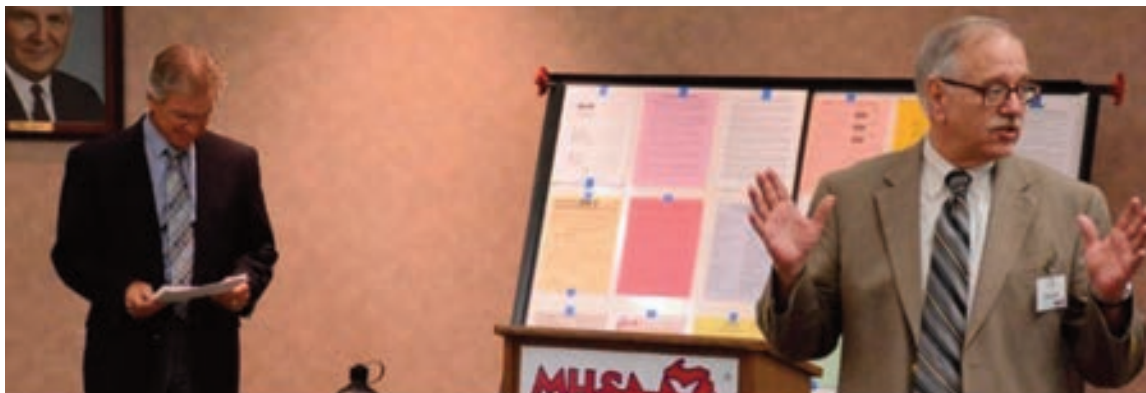
Tom always felt the focus should be on students and what they could learn from school sports – with the beauty of that philosophy meshing well with how his vast contributions mostly took place away from the spotlight.

It’s the way he preferred things, but all who knew Tom knew how deserving he was of such accolades.

— Geoff Kimmerly  
Second Half editor



## One More Call



**M**ore than a decade ago, with his knowledge, I placed in my “Will & Instructions Upon Death” that Tom Rashid was to be the one and only person to speak at my funeral or memorial service. A short number of years later, Tom told me that I was to do the same for him.

Obviously, we knew that we could not both keep our promise to the other. But I must say, if Tom does not actually show up for my funeral, that will be the first time he has not kept a promise to me.

I understand there will be a time in the future, when the weather warms and COVID wanes, when school administrators across Michigan can gather in force to show their respects to Tom, and when I will provide the eulogy that Tom asked of me. But Tom’s recent death reminds us how uncertain life can be and suggests that I say some things now, before it’s too late.

Tom was the unparalleled master of award presentations; and for more than a dozen years he wrote and delivered polished praise on award recipients at the annual conference of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. My tribute now isn’t an awards presentation or hall-of-fame induction, so I won’t recount the particulars of Tom’s career; but what you will see here is the importance of Tom’s life ... the themes that distinguish him from any other person I’ve known.

Tom comes from a large, complicated and compassionate family of parents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces who mourn his loss at levels few of us can fathom. Over the years, and for many years, he was the caretaker for several family members; and he was generous with all of them. My hope for each family member now – and for many days, weeks and months to come – is that you are at peace. Tom’s pain is over; and his place in eternity is secure. Tom purchased a reserved seat.

Tom often joked that his only good habit was prayer. That’s not really true, of course. But for as long as I’ve known Tom, he talked to God many times a day; and I’ve always had the feeling that he talked to God the same way he talked to us: bluntly, forcefully, passionately, honestly, loudly, making very plain what he had on his mind.

Tom was a rigorous practitioner of his devout Catholic faith; and, the God whom Tom believed in is a big God ... the president, general manager and

head coach of a huge, diverse team whose game plan is a large, loving Gospel of limitless parameters and possibilities. I have no doubt that, both in times of need and not, members of the Roberts family – including both my parents, my sister, my wife and our children and grandchildren – have been specific in his petitions to God. I have no doubt that Tom’s daily prayers included many of you, and your loved ones as well.

In addition to Tom’s immediate family is the even larger and even more complicated family Tom developed through a long, illustrious career in Michigan school sports administration: a full 25 years with the Archdiocese of Detroit, until 2003, when I invited him to join me at the MHSAA office in East Lansing.

During my 32 years as the executive director of the MHSAA, I never saw another like Tom ... never, anywhere. He talked to anybody, anytime of the day or night, about any question or problem they might have. Usually, Tom didn’t need to give me notes reviewing his telephone conversations. From my adjacent office, and given his forceful voice, I could hear Tom’s every word, very clearly.

Tom had the ability to anticipate what I might need and take care of it without my asking. It is no exaggeration to say that Tom would do anything for me. For example, Tom’s reluctance to travel and his fear of flying are well known to many of you. I believe the one and only time that Tom flew in an airplane was in 2003, when I ordered him to fly to Texas so that he might receive the highest award of the National High School Coaches Association. He had never flown before; he has never flown since.

Most remarkable was not merely Tom’s unselfish, unlimited, legendary availability to athletic administrators at any hour of the day or night, nor his experienced, learned grasp of the subject matter in answering their calls. What was more remarkable was his effort to help school administrators through their hard times. On many occasions these callers had made an error of commission or omission. They had made a mistake or an oversight; and Tom was supremely compassionate in guiding them through the local fallout from disappointed athletes and disgruntled adults. Secure in himself and our mission to be servant-leaders, Tom very often shared or completely shouldered unjustified blame so others would not.

He gave cover to countless local school administrators every year of his MHSAA career so that those administrators might survive and even thrive in their careers.

Among my remarkably loyal MHSAA staff, Tom still stands out. And he earned the enduring loyalty of those with whom he worked. I think especially of his successor at the Archdiocese of Detroit, Vic Michaels: I doubt that more than two days ever passed between their almost daily telephone conversations ... usually in the morning ... for the full 15 years that my office was next to Tom's at the MHSAA. I have never, ever been witness to anything like that; and I know there is no one in our good work who misses our dear colleague more than Vic.



But most remarkable of all was Tom's ability to turn an adversary into an ally. He could have a knock-down, drag-out argument with a person one day, and by the next day, for years to come, that person was Tom's greatest advocate and admirer.

Well ... maybe second-greatest advocate and admirer. Because no one in athletic administration – no one – loved Tom more than I. And no one in our work told him this more than I did.

I have written often about my admiration and affection for Tom. I have spoken both publicly and privately of it, on many occasions. But let me say it one more time, here, as we celebrate his life, and mourn our loss ...

Tom and I provide proof that opposites attract, and we tag-teamed MHSAA's leadership. One of us was very outgoing and vocal, the other more reserved and reticent. One of us was loud, the other more subdued. One of us was more comfortable on the phone, the other with the pen. One of us had no idea what to do with apostrophes, while the other would put them in the correct places. One of us was more spontaneous and extemporaneous, the other a more detailed planner and measurer of consequences. One of us hated to travel, the other sent messages to him from distant oceans and continents every year on Christmas or New Year's Day to thank him for his life and service. But in our hearts, where one's core values are harbored, we were almost identical twins.

I doubt that any two people who were side-by-side in the workplace for 15 years expressed their gratitude for each other more than we did, nor any two co-workers who said "I love you" to one another as often as we did. We each felt in deep debt to the other for myriad gifts and gestures that improved our careers and our lives.

Over the years, Tom and I developed the strategy of making one more telephone call before we made a final decision in a difficult matter ... making one more call that sometimes made a difference in the controversial decision we had to make or in how that decision was accepted by those it affected. Tom loved to be the one to make those calls. And, sometimes, that "one more call" made all the difference.

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***"Tom very often shared or completely shouldered unjustified blame so others would not. He gave cover to countless local school administrators every year of his MHSAA career so that those administrators might survive and even thrive in their careers." — Former MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts***

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Throughout my adult life, whenever I've attended a funeral or memorial service, I've found myself asking what it is I should learn and try to emulate from the life of the deceased. If you should find your mind and heart doing anything like that now, may I suggest these two answers.

First, Tom's life and death remind us that we should not delay a single day in telling those with whom we work that we appreciate them and are grateful for what they do. And, if it is true and you are able, say you love them. Tom did this more often than anyone I've known.

And the second message is this. Tom's life stands for faithfulness ... faithfulness to his God, faithfulness to his family, faithfulness to his colleagues and friends, and faithfulness to his work and the mission of not just amateur athletics, but particularly school-operated, educational athletics. His was a steadfast faithfulness, never-a-day-off faithfulness, you-come-first faithfulness.

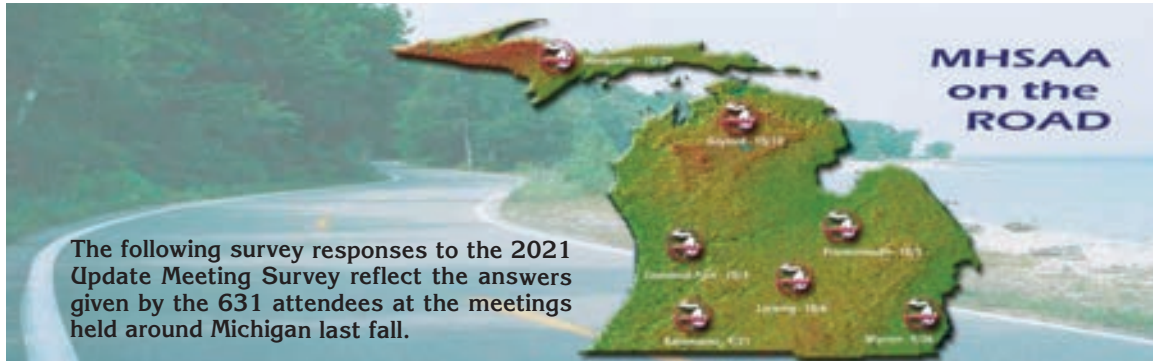
So Tom, my dear friend, once again I say, "I love you."

And, "Rest in peace, Tom. God knows, you rarely rested in life."

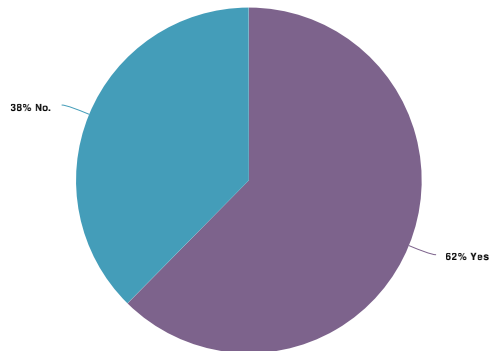
I would give anything for just one more call.

— John E. (Jack) Roberts  
MHSAA Executive Director  
1986-2018

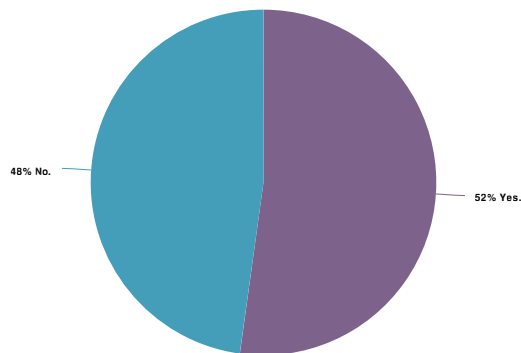
# 2021 Update Meeting Survey Results



1. In an effort to reduce the logistical concerns, such as insurance coverage limits and associated costs of a separate sports physical –especially if tied to a specific date – the MHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) recommends that both a history and a physical examination be provided before participation in organized middle school and high school sports and that a physical exam would be valid for two school years with an interim history (health questionnaire) taken in the intervening year. Does your school support this recommendation?



2. Does your school support continuing to use exclusively digital tickets for future MHSAA tournament events once we reach postpandemic times?



Value

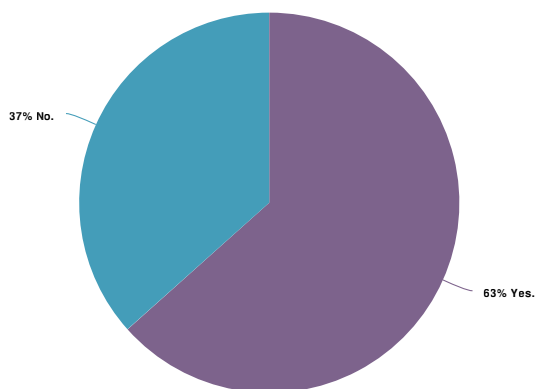
Percent

Responses

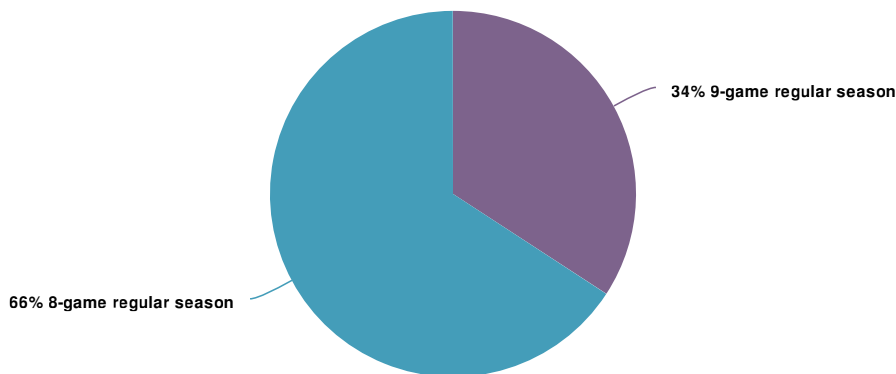


## Update Survey - *continued*

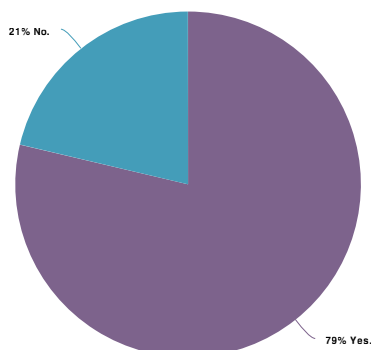
3. In the fall of 2020, 16 voluntary coach-player contact practice days were permitted for spring sports cancelled due to COVID in the spring of 2020. An MHSAA task force met this summer and has recommended that beginning in 2022-23, all sports programs may use up to six dates (maximum of one date per week) when unlimited numbers of players are allowed to workout with their school coaches out of season during the school year. Ice hockey would be allowed a maximum of eight dates due to ice rental costs and almost all rinks being non-school facilities. Note that these permitted contact days would be in addition to all currently allowed out-of-season work (4-player workouts, open gyms/facilities, general conditioning, etc.). These permitted contact days would not begin until in-season competition has started and must be ended prior to the MHSAA tournament. Finally, these permitted contact days could be used for school team/program practice and workouts with your own students – no competition/scrimmages with or against students from other schools. Does your school support this recommendation?



4. As of today, which of the following two scenarios best represents your school's preference for the football regular season and playoffs moving forward on a long-term basis? Note that football schools will receive a targeted survey in late November at the end of this season to formally capture each school's long-term preference.

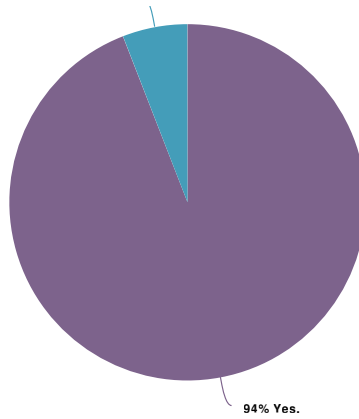


5. Does your school support allowing school transportation (school bus, school van) to be used during the summer for permitted summer activities/competition within the MHSAA travel limitation as long as no school general funds are used (fundraised or booster club money would be permitted)? Current regulations prohibit the use of school transportation or use of funds for any out-of-season (including summer) activity.

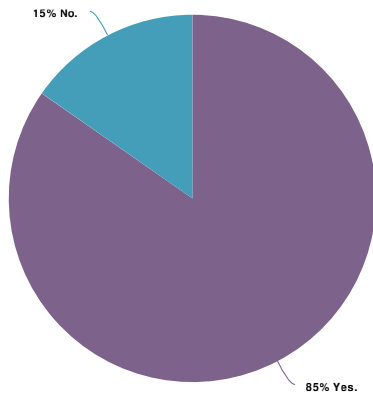


## Update Survey - *continued*

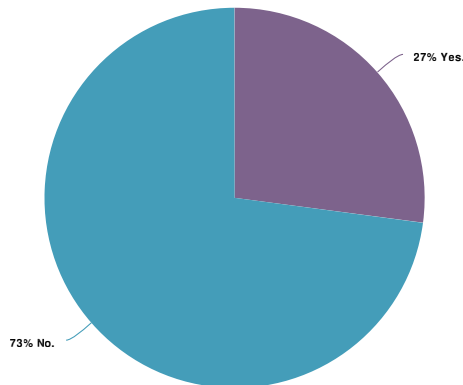
6. Would your school support adding Minnesota as a “border state” under the MHSAA travel rule? Minnesota is a maritime border area on Lake Superior which would be a similar approach to what has been used with Illinois being a maritime border area on Lake Michigan. QIP ice hockey, football and alpine skiing schools have asked for this consideration.



7. For classification purposes each March, should only those schools that entered and actually participated in the MHSAA tournament in that sport during the previous two years be counted for the purposes of setting division enrollments? Current policy requires that a school simply indicate it sponsors the sport to be counted and included in the tournament classification process.

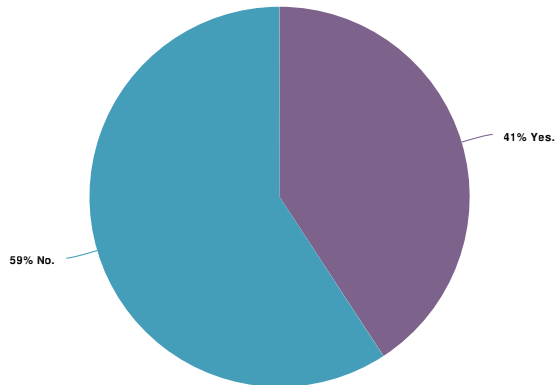


8. Beginning with the 2022-23 basketball season, NFHS playing rules will now allow state adoption in using a :35 shot clock. Does your school support using the shot clock beginning in 2022-23 for all high school basketball games at all levels (varsity, JV, freshman)?

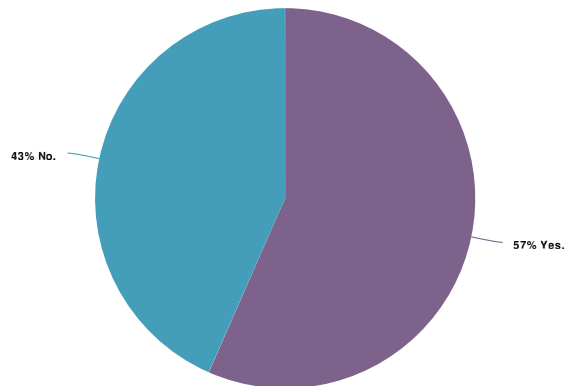


## Update Survey - continued

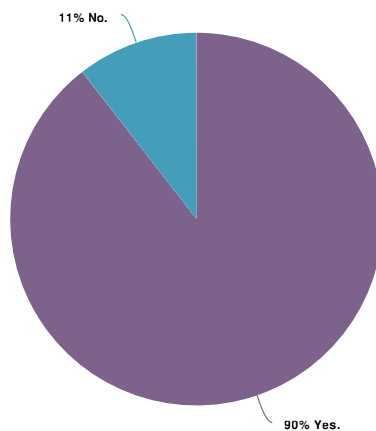
9. In reference to the previous question, does your school support using the shot clock beginning in 2022-23 for all varsity high school basketball games, only?



10. Would your school support increasing the number of regular season basketball games from 20 to 22?



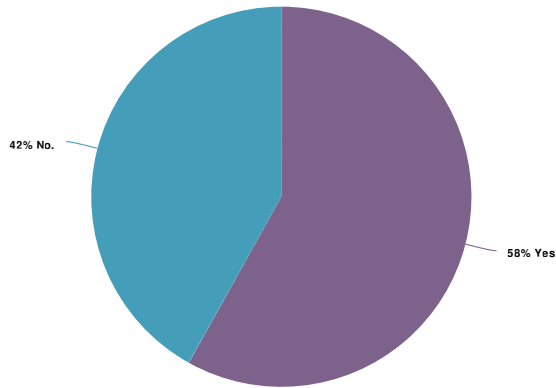
11. Would your school support shortening the high school basketball season by one calendar week (from 19 calendar weeks to 18)? Practice would start one week later for girls and boys basketball with tournament dates remaining unchanged.



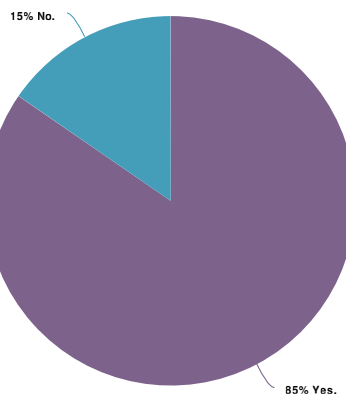


## Update Survey - *continued*

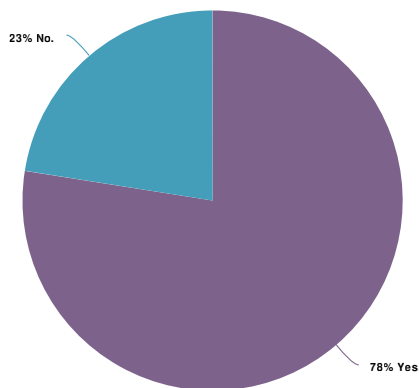
12. Does your school support increasing the number of regular season basketball games from 20 to 22 while shortening the high school basketball season by one calendar week (from 19 calendar weeks to 18)? Practice would start one week later for girls and boys basketball with tournament dates remaining unchanged.



13. Would your school support permitting the opening round District baseball and softball games to be scheduled and played on the Thursday or Friday prior to Memorial Day in addition to the traditional "Predistrict" date of the Tuesday following the Monday holiday as long as teams participating in those games agree?

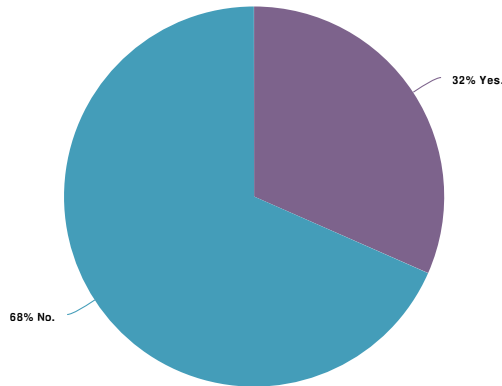


14. Would your school support allowing soccer players to play in three halves in a day, giving players the opportunity to play in both a JV and varsity match on the same day (similar to the 5-quarter rule in football and basketball)?



# Update Survey - continued

15. Given the COVID experience, our school believes that esports should be added as a sport sponsored by the MHSAA.



## Update Survey - Comments

The following questions received particular attention from those in attendance.

Questions 10 & 12 regarding number of games and length for basketball regular season:

- Yes, if season is shorter in length.
- Yes, with structure.
- Yes. ONLY if you shrink the season.
- Move boys basketball districts off of spring sports start week and it's a yes.
- 22 basketball games supported if able to play 2 games in non-school days.

### SURVEY TOTALS

#### Respondents' Title

37 Superintendents (5.9%)  
 71 Principals (11.3%)  
 86 Assistant Principals (13.7%)  
 499 Athletic Directors (79.5%)  
 99 Coaches (15.8%)  
 2 Board Members (0.3%)  
 43 Other (6.8%)

#### Respondents' Classification

181 Class A (28.9%)  
 181 Class B (28.9%)  
 152 Class C (24.3%)  
 120 Class D (19.2%)  
 104 JH/MS (16.6%)

**TOTAL SURVEYS RECEIVED = 631**

## Just Over a Decade Ago, Health Concerns Affect Play

While not as widespread or severe as the COVID pandemic of recent years, an outbreak of influenza during the 2009-10 school year also served to alter schedules and create cancellations around Michigan. Several scenarios ring familiar today.

*From the 2009-10 Winter benchmarks:*

**S**election Sunday was just a couple days away. The Boys Soccer Districts were in progress, and – in the Upper Peninsula – runners were prepping for the Cross Country Finals. In other words, it was a normal fall for MHSAA schools as coaches devised strategies and game plans with the pinnacle of their seasons on the horizon.

Then an opponent materialized that hadn't appeared in any scouting reports or video. An outbreak of influenza blindsided various pockets of the state, forcing school closings at the behest of local county health departments. One of the side-effects: What to do with athletic contests?

While local school policies dictate whether extracurricular activities are conducted on days when school is canceled, the timing of this outbreak added an extra layer of complexity because it aligned with so many MHSAA tournaments.

So, regardless of local policy, the Association in East Lansing began to field inquiries regarding participation in postseason tournaments. Fortunately, a plan was already in place, the MHSAA Representative Council having adopted the "Epidemic Emergency Plan" in November 2007. In summary, the plan defers to local school authorities for regular-season contests. For MHSAA tournaments, schools unable to field teams or individuals unable to participate in such circumstances may be subject to forfeiture.

"In the cases this fall, we believed that situations would worsen before they improved," said MHSAA Executive Director John E. "Jack" Roberts. "Postponing events at that time likely could have led to rescheduling contests at an even more inopportune time for participants. It was our stance that tournament competition proceed as scheduled."

On Oct. 22, the MHSAA sent to member schools and posted on its website the Epidemic Emergency Plan, and added the following: "Scheduled MHSAA tournament dates will be followed. Adhering to established schedules will do most to reduce chaos and promote competitive equity. Special accommodations will not be made later for those who create delay at earlier rounds of a tournament."

Thus, the direction was in place for the tournaments in progress, and the other tournaments soon to follow.

The elephant in the room, looming ever larger, was football. With one game to go in the regular season and schools needing wins and potential playoff points to either simply get into the tournament or improve their lot in the seeding, the ninth week could be pivotal.

Schools affected by the flu and concerns swirling around its contagious nature were given options. If both schools were closed and chose not to play the game, each would have its schedule reduced by one game. Thus, a nine-game schedule would become an eight-game schedule, reducing the number of wins needed to make the MHSAA playoffs. In all other cases, schools not fielding a team would be given a forfeit loss.



MHSAA File Photo

While some local authorities did cancel outdoor sports, others continued in stride.

Since the games were regular-season contests, local policy would preside, but the MHSAA again advised strongly against rescheduling in its statement to schools.

"To minimize gamesmanship and disruption of previously agreed upon schedules on which students, parents, officials and tournament workers have based their planning, and to avoid situations where one level of the tournament is unable to produce a team to advance to the next level of the tournament, the MHSAA strongly advises against delaying events by mutual agreement of competing teams and host schools."

In football, five schools forfeited games in Week 9, while six schools opted for a "no play" against one another in three games, thus reducing their schedules by a game. Three other contests were moved back one day, from Friday to Saturday. Two of the schools receiving forfeit wins – Beal City and Ogemaw Heights – advanced to the MHSAA Semifinals, with Beal City winning the Division 8 crown.

Cheboygan made the playoffs despite forfeiting to Ogemaw Heights. The Chiefs finished 6-3, but lost to Kingsford in the first round of the tournament.

Evart, which forfeited to Beal City, had an outside chance at earning a playoff spot had it played and beaten the Aggies, but finished 4-5 with the loss. None of the schools involved in the "no play" games had a shot at a playoff berth.

## MHSAA Epidemic Emergency Plan - 2007

The “Epidemic Emergency Plan” adopted by the Representative Council on Nov. 30, 2007 states as follows: If the governing health authority of a county, or higher authority of the state or federal government, orders restrictions on interactions between people such that school facilities are closed to the public and/or travel is restricted, the following policies shall apply to interscholastic athletics involving MHSAA member schools:

1. For regular season events, within the restrictions of the governing health authority, the local superintendents of schools or designees within that county will determine if their facilities may host interscholastic events and if their students and spectators will be permitted to participate in interscholastic events at other locations within the county or in other counties not directly affected by the health authorities’ restrictions.
2. For MHSAA tournaments, within the restrictions of the governing health authority, the MHSAA executive director or designee will determine which, if any, schools within that county may host MHSAA events and which, if any, schools’ students and spectators may participate in interscholastic events at other locations within the county or in other counties not directly affected by the health authorities’ restrictions.
  - a. Schools and students who, as a result of these decisions, are unable to participate according to published MHSAA tournament schedules and policies will forfeit the scheduled competition to opponents who will advance in the tournament progression.
  - b. However, the authority and decisions of the executive director or designee in these circumstances supersedes the MHSAA tournament policy that specifies rescheduling in some sports when more than 40 percent of the contestants are prevented by an emergency or act of God from participating at the scheduled time and place.

In Traverse City, the big rivalry game between West and Central took place after some deliberation. Neither team was in the playoff picture.

“We consulted the MHSAA website, the health department and contacted other schools experiencing similar situations,” said Patti Tibaldi, Traverse City West athletic director. “We did not allow any practices on site during the closing of school, but did allow our cross country team to practice off site as it was preparing for Regionals; those practices were not mandatory. So, our policy became that no one could be on site, but with parental approval they could practice off site and compete in any state meets.”

With a state-mandated 75 percent attendance necessary for counted school hours, most districts forced to close began doing so when absences approached 20 percent.

In Gobles, where 37 percent of students were absent district-wide, buildings were shut down for three days and no athletic events took place, including a Friday football game.

“This is a football town, so it did not go over very well that we had to cancel a home varsity football game,” said Gobles Athletic Director Chris Miller. “But, I did not feel that we could put a team on the field without practicing all week.”

At Bellevue, where the county health office advised school buildings be closed for five full days and thoroughly disinfected, the affected parties were a bit more harmonious.

“The student-athletes were disappointed, but both they and the coaches were understanding,” said Bellevue Athletic Director Travis May. “The parents appreciated the decisions. We let our girls go to MHSAA Districts because we did not host, and the cross country team could practice for MHSAA events since it was outdoors.”

While the indoor vs. outdoor circumstances settled the debate for some schools, others deferred



Despite a canceled game in Week 9, the Beal City Aggies showed no signs of rust in rolling to a title at Ford Field.

to a sport’s status in MHSAA Tournaments.

Galesburg-Augusta saw its attendance decline by 30 percent causing its doors to close for four days plus the weekend. There is no district policy regarding athletic events during such times, but administrators canceled all athletic events with the exception of boys soccer, which was in the midst of the MHSAA District Tournament.

“They played all their matches, but were not allowed to practice until Thursday of that week (G-A shut down on Monday),” said Athletic Director Mike Woodard. “The decision was based on the importance of keeping our students at home and away from contact with one another.”

Among the events canceled were a JV and a varsity football game, and a cross country invitational. A league volleyball match was rescheduled.

“The reality is that high school sports drive many decisions we make,” Woodard said. “No AD, principal or superintendent wants to be the one who cancels a ‘Big’ game.”

But, for unexpected situations such as the occurrences this fall, it pays to prepare and react.

– Rob Kaminski  
benchmarks Editor



## Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award in 33rd Year



**T**housands of students voluntarily extend their classroom day by taking part in extracurricular activities, often improving their academic achievements in the process. The value that such programs play in the total education of a high school student is highlighted through the MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award, which will award \$2,000 scholarships to 32 top student-athletes and recognize over 2,000 other outstanding individuals in 2021-22.

Underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance, the Scholar-Athlete Award is now in its 33rd year, and presents scholarships to students in every MHSAA enrollment classification. The scholarships may be used at any institution of higher learning.

“It is amazing to see the number of young people who are proven achievers in academics and activities,” said Mark Uyl, executive director of the MHSAA. “At a time when our educational system is coming under fire, the Scholar-Athlete Award is something that proves how important athletics are to the development of a well-rounded person.”

Students applying for the Scholar-Athlete Award must be graduating during the 2021-22 school year, carry a 3.5 grade-point average, and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport that the MHSAA sponsors post-season competition.

Applicants will also be required to show involvement in other school- community activities and submit an essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.



Application materials can be found on MHSAA.com. Scan the code below to access the page.

Each MHSAA member school is allowed to nominate a number of student-athletes based on the size of the school. Class A schools can nominate six boys and six girls, Class B four boys and four girls, Class C three boys and three girls and Class D two boys and two girls. The first 30 scholarships will be awarded based on this graduated scale, with two additional scholarships intended for minority applicants.

A committee composed of school administrators from across the state will select regional and statewide winners.

Farm Bureau Insurance, a long-time supporter of MHSAA activities, also sponsors other educationally oriented programs.

The 32 scholarship recipients will be recognized at the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing this March.

More Info?  
Scan Here



## Battle of the Fans X Heats Up the Winter Scene

Two past champions and a first-time applicant have earned opportunities to vie for the MHSAA’s “Battle of the Fans X” championship recognizing the top high school student cheering section in Michigan this winter, as awarded by the MHSAA Student Advisory Council.

Buchanan, Midland Dow and Traverse City West were selected as finalists by the Advisory Council from a group of nine semifinalists that took part in a series of challenges highlighting their sections this winter.

Members of the MHSAA staff visited all three finalists in February, producing articles about each section and videos of those sections in action, all published on the MHSAA’s Second Half website.

The winner is selected by another vote by the 16-member Advisory Council, with consideration given to a public vote on the MHSAA’s social media channels. The winner will be announced in late February and recognized March 25 during the Boys Basketball Semifinals at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

Buchanan is a three-time BOTF champ (2013, 2018 and 2020) and has reached the final round for the fourth-straight competition. Traverse City West was the winner in 2016 and has been a semifinalist seven times since 2014. Midland Dow entered the competition this school year for the first time.

Howell, North Muskegon and Spring Lake filled out the next three spots, while Imlay City, Petersburg Summerfield and Yale also were semifinalists.

“After the pandemic cancelled the competition in 2021, it’s no surprise that two schools with rich student section histories made the final three this year,” said Andy Frushour, the MHSAA’s director of brand management and advisor to the Student Advisory Council.



“The Herd from Buchanan and the Bleacher Creatures at Traverse City West have to be considered the favorites going into the final round. They have been in this position many times, winning four of the nine championships. But don’t sleep on Midland Dow; we could tell right away this first-time challenger would be a contender, and this section has been strong all year long.”

Battle of the Fans is organized by MHSAA staff and the Student Advisory Council. Schools were invited throughout the fall to submit short videos, via TikTok, of their cheering sections in action. The Advisory Council then selected nine semifinalists to accomplish a list of tasks showing off their sections over a 12-day span.

Semifinalists were required to complete five mandatory challenges, and up to a total of 20, and highlight them in a three-minute TikTok. The mandatory challenges focused on contest criteria: positive sportsmanship, student body participation, school spirit, originality of cheers, organization of the group, student section leadership and overall fun. Descriptions of all 20 challenges are available on the MHSAA Website.

### SAC Belief Statement

*As the voice of Michigan’s student-athletes, the Student Advisory Council’s role is to convey the message of how high school sports are supposed to be played. We are responsible for helping the MHSAA maintain a positive and healthy atmosphere in which interscholastic athletes can thrive.*

*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.*

– Written by the Student Advisory Council,  
adopted by MHSAA Representative Council November 2007

## February Tabbed for Statewide ‘Oxford Strong’ Support



**S**chools across Michigan dedicated February to “Oxford Strong” in support of Oxford Community Schools as the district continues to mourn the deaths of four students during a shooting at the high school Nov. 30.

The Oakland Activities Association – of which Oxford is a member – as well as the Kensington Lakes Activities Association and Detroit Catholic High School League, with merchandise vendor E.A. Graphics, have been primary organizers of this effort.

E.A. Graphics, based in Sterling Heights, is printing T-shirts and sweatshirts supporting “Oxford Strong” – with schools able to purchase those items and then provide them in their communities. E.A. Graphics is donating the price of the apparel, after costs, directly to Oxford High School and its community. T-shirts, for example, cost \$20, with \$16.20 being donated from each sale.

Schools taking part are asking their spectators to wear the apparel as part of an “Oxford Strong” sporting event at their schools during February. Organizers designated Friday, Feb. 4, as a day for as many schools as possible to be “Oxford Strong” and contribute

to a statewide outpouring of support for the Wildcats and their community. However, it was expected many schools would sponsor “Oxford Strong” events throughout the month.

As of Feb. 1, 14,000 shirts had been sold, with \$225,000 raised thus far.

“Every day since Nov. 30, schools have asked us what they can do, how can they help,” MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. “While there is no way to take away the pain from such a tragedy, our statewide community will be glad to provide any comfort possible to Oxford schools and their community at this time of such great sorrow.”

E.A. Graphics is the merchandising partner of the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA), the professional group for athletic directors and other school sports administrators in Michigan.

Scan this QR Code to order:





## Ford Field Trip Gives Students Taste of Finals Broadcasting

An hour before kick-off of the first game of 11-Player Football Finals weekend – the Division 8 championship decider between Hudson and Beal City – Bally Sports Detroit announcers Evan Stockton and Rob Rubick were busy preparing to call the action from the television booth on the third level of Ford Field.

Four levels above them, in the press box, a group of prospective broadcasters were touring the facilities. The high school students had spent the Fall sports season streaming games to the NFHS Network and now were learning about a career in broadcasting from Eric Vandefifer, a Montrose High grad currently serving as the radio voice of Saginaw Valley State University basketball and as a contributor to a variety of high school broadcast channels including the MHSAA Network.

Seven years ago, Vandefifer was in a similar situation. He was part of a field trip to Ford Field for the Finals that helped him realize sports broadcasting was a career he wanted to pursue. Those field trips were headed by Tom Skinner and Thom Lengyel, who became mentors to Vandefifer. As a high school junior in 2017, Vandefifer was named Best Student Broadcaster nationally by the NFHS Network.

“With Tom Skinner now deceased and Thom Lengyel retired from the broadcast business, I just felt like I had to continue this and their legacy,” Vandefifer said. “It was important to me to keep it going because when I was in school, it was something I looked forward to.”



Eighth-grader Sam Belill, left, and freshman Owen Leitelt from Montrose practice calling a game from the Ford Field press box.

Nearly 50 students from Lowell, Montrose, Lake Orion, Mount Pleasant and Ann Arbor Greenhills high schools made the Nov. 26-27 trip to Ford Field. They were able to film highlights, interview players, practice announcing the games, meet other members of the press and more. For Vandefifer, giving back to students who are in the position he once was is very rewarding.

“We had the ability to feel like real media members for a day. I wanted to be able to give other students that same opportunity,” Vandefifer said. “Seeing kids who have a love for sportscasting and that drive to get better gives me real hope for the next generation in this business.”

And after the field trips were done each day, Vandefifer put his headphones on, got behind the microphone and called the two afternoon games for the MHSAA Championship Network.

— Jon Ross  
MHSAA Director of Broadcast Properties



Mount Pleasant SBP students make a stop at the press conference room beneath the Ford Field stands.

For more  
SBP Info  
Scan Here





## Flynn, Guzzo & Thayer Earn 2021 Bush Award

**B**irmingham Groves' Thomas Flynn, St. Joseph's Kevin Guzzo and Bay City West-ern's Michael Thayer are leaders of Michigan high school athletic programs who have put education and providing a positive student experience at the forefront of their work, while also becoming known among colleagues for their guidance and assistance to others striving to build the same foundations at their schools.

To recognize not only their work within their districts but their impacts on many other leaders in athletic administration, Flynn, Guzzo and Thayer have been named recipients of the MHSAA Allen W. Bush Award for 2021.

Al Bush served as executive director of the MHSAA for 10 years. The award honors individuals for past and continuing service to school athletics as a coach, administrator, official, trainer, doctor or member of the media. The award was developed to bring recognition to people who are giving and serving without a lot of attention. This is the 30th year of the award, with selections made by the MHSAA's Representative Council.

**Flynn** has begun his 21st year as Birmingham Groves High School athletic director and 32nd overall at the school after beginning as a teacher. He has served as a host of MHSAA Tournament events in team and individual wrestling, girls and boys diving, girls and boys tennis, girls and boys basketball, baseball and softball, football, ice hockey, volleyball and girls and boys soccer. Flynn also has served on MHSAA Committees for wrestling, gymnastics, swimming & diving, tennis and various officials topics.

Flynn has served as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer for the Oakland County Athletic Directors Association, and as the Region 11 representative for the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA). A certified athletic trainer, he also is a longtime member of the National Athletic Trainers Association.

He graduated from Hillsdale High School in 1984, then earned a bachelor's in biology with an emphasis on sports medicine from Grand Valley State University in 1990. He received a master's in sports administration from Wayne State University.

"Tom is a guy who is willing to do anything to assist the MHSAA. He's hosted an Individual Wrestling District for 20-plus years, and that's far-and-away the most difficult event to host – and he wants to do it every year," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "Tom is not afraid to do the dirty work, but he's also not afraid to speak up, and that's something I've always admired about him."

**Guzzo** has begun his 26th year with St. Joseph Public Schools and 18th as athletic director after previously serving as a coach and teacher. He earned his elite certification in the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program in 2014 and has

served as a CAP instructor and as an instructor for the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Leadership Training Institute. He also has served as chairperson representing the MIAAA on the Five State Exchange Committee. A frequent contributor as well to MHSAA Committees for sports, officials, classification and site selection, Guzzo recently contributed as part of the MHSAA Multi-Sport Task Force.

He received his certified athletic administrator (CAA) designation from the NIAAA in 2007 and was named an MIAAA Regional Athletic Director of the Year in 2015.

Guzzo graduated from Bessemer High School in 1991, then earned his bachelor's degree in secondary mathematics at Western Michigan University in 1995 and master's from WMU in 2001.

"Kevin has become a real leader in the southwestern corner of the state, and in many rooms has grown into a veteran voice of reason on many topics and issues," Uyl said. "He's taken what he's learned over the years and incorporated it into his teaching as a CAP instructor, and we are thrilled that we have many beginning coaches who have a person like Kevin as one of their first mentors."

**Thayer** has begun his 25th year as an athletic director and also serves as an assistant principal at Western. He served at Merrill Community Schools from 1995-2007 before arriving at Western with the start of the 2007-08 school year. He also is a frequent MHSAA Tournament host and valued voice on a variety of MHSAA Committees. Additionally, he has served as the MIAAA's historical records chairperson.

He is active with the NIAAA and Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) and National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). In 2017, he received the MIAAA's George Lovich State Award of Merit.

Thayer graduated from Muskegon Orchard View High School in 1986, then earned his bachelor's degree in business teaching from Central Michigan University in 1990 and master's in educational administration/school principalship from CMU in 2003. He also is a CAP elite-certification graduate. He has served as a trustee for Thomas Township – with membership in the Michigan Township Association – and been active in the Shields Lions Club.

"Mike has been one of the true leaders of the Saginaw Valley League for a long time, and he's really become the point guard of that league over the last five years," Uyl said. "If ever someone should be defined for quiet, steady leadership, it's Mike Thayer. It's always about substance with Mike. He's as reliable an AD as there is in the country."



## Three Michigan Leaders Earn NFHS National Honors

**T**hree Michigan high school varsity coaches have been recognized among 23 National Coaches of the Year for 2020-21 by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches Association.

Ann Arbor Pioneer girls swimming & diving coach Stefanie Kerska, Bronson volleyball coach Jean LaClair and DeWitt football coach Rob Zimmerman were selected by a committee including representatives from all eight NFHS sections – Michigan is part of Section 4 with Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin.

The following brief bios includes an excerpt from each honoree’s coaching philosophy, which nominees were asked to submit after being identified as candidates for the awards.



**Stefanie Kerska** took over both the Ann Arbor Pioneer girls and boys swimming & diving programs during the 2014-15 school year, and she has led the girls to the last two Lower Peninsula Division 1 Finals championships; her 2020 team doubled up the runner-up’s score with 368 points, and this fall’s team climbed even higher with 405.5 points at the season-ending meet. She also led the girls team to a runner-up Finals finish in 2019 and the boys team to last season’s LPD1 Finals championship. Kerska previously served as an assistant coach at University of Michigan from 1997-2012 and on the USA Swimming national team staff from 2008-16. She remains active with USA Swimming, the FINA Swimming Development Team and as a presenter for the Summit for Empowering Women in Swim. She was named the Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Coach of the Year for both Division 1 girls and boys during the 2020-21 school year.

*“Athletics starts with a belief in belonging and making every team member feel safe and valued. Teammates should depend on coaches and each other for support, guidance and motivation to be the best they can be. Athletics should create an environment where effort, attitude and dependability are valued and required for success. It is often said that athletics builds character. I, however, believe it reveals it.”*



**Jean LaClair** ranks fourth in Michigan high school volleyball coaching history for varsity victories with a record of 1,289-398-99 having led Midland Dow from 1988-90, Pinconning from 1997-99 and Bronson beginning with the 2000-01 winter season. She’s coached Bronson to five MHSAA Finals championships – including four straight in Class C/Division 3 from 2015-18 – and her last two teams have reached the Division

3 Quarterfinals and Regional Semifinals, respectively. She is a longtime executive board member of the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association and has served as president, and was a 2017 inductee to the Michigan High School Coaches Association’s Hall of Fame. She also serves as Bronson’s athletic director and has received both the MHSAA’s Women In Sports Leadership Award and Allen W. Bush Award.

*“High school athletics should be a lifelong, fun experience for our student-athletes where they learn what it takes to be a part of a team, what it means to work hard for the team. Those who play competitive sports in high school demonstrate more confidence, leadership and self-respect. They learn to set goals and manage their time! They have a better appreciation for diversity and a more developed sense of morality. These are all reasons why athletics are important, and I love working with our kids to make them better leaders for the community and world.”*



**Rob Zimmerman** led DeWitt to the last two Division 3 championship games and the Panthers’ first MHSAA Finals title to cap the 2020 season with a 12-0 record. He’s built a 241-67 record coaching DeWitt’s varsity since 1999 after previously coaching the varsity at Cedar Springs from 1996-98. He also has served as a head varsity track & field coach and middle school wrestling coach during his tenure in school sports, and he has served as both a regional director and on the executive board for the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. His teams total have played in six MHSAA Finals, to go with 19 league, 14 District and 12 Regional titles during his 23 seasons at DeWitt. He has five times received statewide Coach of the Year recognition from The Associated Press, and in 2020 was named the state Dream Team Coach of the Year by both the Detroit Free Press and MHSFCA and state Coach of the Year by the MHSCA and Detroit Lions.

*“In an ever-changing world that poses more social and emotional challenges for young people than ever before, systems that can provide a foundational support and teach high levels of collaboration, discipline, accountability and relationships are more important than ever. Athletics provides young people the opportunity to foster and cultivate these key traits that are crucial for their development. For future success, students need to be equipped to handle a variety of diverse situations and work with a variety of diverse people. This is sports at its core.”*

Of note, Rockford wrestling coach Brian Richardson was honored in Section 4 after leading the Rams to the Division 1 SFs and a 20-4 record.

## Rules of the Games

Sharpen your skills with the following rules questions for these winter sports. Answers appear on the next page.

### Basketball

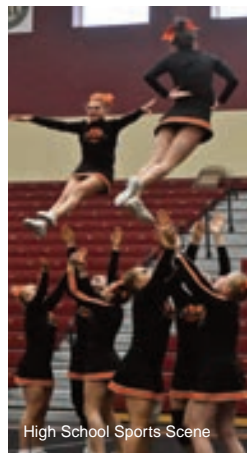
- While driving to the basket, A1's try fails to reach the basket. A1 catches the airborne ball while he is on the floor – then attempts another try that scores.
  - This is a traveling violation.
  - No violation.
- A1 ends his dribble with B1 guarding him / her closely. B1 makes contact with the ball while in A1's hands. A1 begins a new dribble.
  - A1's new dribble is legal because B1's contact with the ball ended A1's player control.
  - This is a dribbling violation because A1 allowed B1 to make contact with the ball while holding it in both hands.
  - This is a dribbling violation unless B1's contact with the ball caused A1 to lose control of it.
  - This is legal because B1's touch of the ball ended A1's dribble, allowing the player to dribble again.
- An errant pass by A5 is headed out of bounds. A1 is able to gain control of the ball before it goes out of bounds, but his momentum carries him over the boundary line. While still airborne, A1 requests timeout.
  - The timeout should be granted.
  - The officials may not grant a timeout unless the player has possession of the ball and is on the floor inbounds.



sition, the flyer is lifted to a shoulder level static inversion with the flyer's hands on the shoulders of the bases.
 

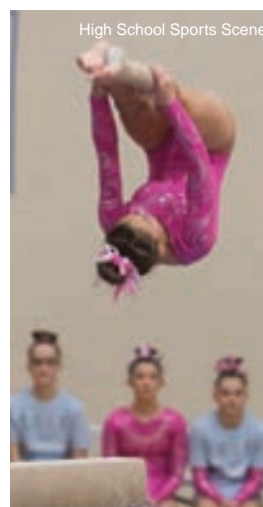
- Legal.
- Illegal.

- A double-braced flyer performs a double-braced forward suspended roll holding onto the hands of the bracers. In addition to the hand-to-hand contact, the flyer places her foot onto the bracer(s) arms/hands/legs and steps up while she is flipping.
  - Legal.
  - Illegal.



### Gymnastics

- A gymnast performs a clear hip circle that finishes below 45 degrees from vertical. The judges deduct up to 0.4 depending on the angle achieved after the wrists shift to the top of the bar.
  - Correct.
  - Incorrect.
- A gymnast performs a split leap with a 135 degree split. The judges give medium Difficulty and do not deduct for degree of split.
  - Correct.
  - Incorrect.
- A gymnast has two acro passes and performs a single back salto into her final pose. The judges deduct 0.2 under Event Requirements for not having three acro passes and 0.2 for not having a superior acro element in a third acro pass.
  - Correct.
  - Incorrect.



### Competitive Cheer

- It is legal for the flyer to start from the floor or an elevator and complete a flatback by being caught between two bases and at least one head and shoulder catcher.
  - True.
  - False.
- A flyer performs an inverted entrance with hands on the cheering surface. The entrance ends in a face-down prone position at shoulder level or below. From the face-down prone po-



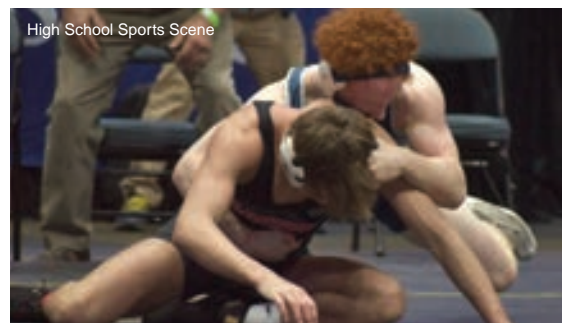


## Ice Hockey

- During the first period, it is brought to the attention of the referee by Team A that Team B has more than 5 team personnel occupying the team bench area. What is the ruling?
  - Minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.
  - Misconduct to the team.
  - Warning to the team, extra personnel must leave bench area, before game can resume.
  - Nothing can be done.
- During a delayed offside situation, a puck is shot directly on goal. What is the officiating procedure?
  - Play is whistled down and the ensuing face-off is carried back into the offending team end zone.
  - Play is whistled down and the ensuing face-off is carried back to the closest dot from where the shot had originated.
  - Play is allowed to continue in the delayed offside situation until all offensive players clear the offensive zone.
  - Play is whistled down and the ensuing face-off is carried into the neutral zone just outside of the attacking zone.
- A player has been diagnosed with a concussion. The player can return when:
  - The coach clears the player to return.
  - A referee clears the player to return.
  - An appropriate healthcare professional clears the player to return.
  - A player, once diagnosed with a concussion, can never reenter that same game.

## Wrestling

- Wrestler B attempts a reversal and before B can complete the maneuver, wrestler A screams. What is the call?
  - The match is stopped, and Wrestler A is charged with stalling
  - If the referee determines that Wrestler B would have completed the maneuver, then Wrestler A would be charged with an injury time-out and Wrestler B awarded 2 points for the reversal
  - Wrestler A is charged with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for feigning an injury
  - A referee's time-out to protect the wrestlers
- Which of the following is a false statement?
  - Wrestlers shall be clean shaven
  - Hair shall not extend below the top of an ordinary shirt collar in the back and on the sides
  - A neatly trimmed mustache that does not extend below the line of the lower lip is permissible
  - Sideburns must be trimmed no longer than earlobe level
- In the offensive starting position, the offensive wrestler shall:
  - Place their head on or above the mid-line of the opponent's back
  - Place their arm loosely around the opponent's body with the palm of the hand placed loosely over the defensive wrestler's navel
  - Not have their legs or feet in contact with the defensive wrestler
  - All the above



**Basketball Answers:** 1. b. (4-41-2); 2. c. (4-15-4) (9-5) (4-12-1); 3. a. (5-8-3)

**Cheer Answers:** 1. T. Comment: The only time that a flatback is allowed to have three catchers is when it originates from the floor, an elevator or below shoulder level stunt. (GCC Manual, p. 48 – Section F – Types of Stunts); 2. Legal. Comment: the flyer finishes the inverted entrance before performing the static inversion. Movement in a static inversion is permitted. (GCC Manual, p. 70 – Section N – Inversions); 3. Illegal. Comment: Illegal: all stunts and/or pyramids are limited to two persons high, meaning the flyer receives primary support from a base(s) who is in direct, weight-bearing contact with the cheering surface. (GCC Manual, p. 70 – Section M – Rolls and Tumbling)

**Gymnastics Answers:** 1. Correct. Comment: To incur no deduction, proper technique for a clear hip circle is to achieve a 45 degree angle away from the bar after the shift of the wrists at the completion of the circle. A clear hip circle with no shift of the wrist that comes straight down, well below horizontal, would receive the maximum deduction of 0.4. (Rule 7.3.4); 2. Correct. Comment: To earn medium credit the split leap may be given with an up to 0.2 deduction if the split is at least greater than 90 degrees. Superior credit may be given with an up to 0.2 deduction if the split is at least greater than 135 degrees. (Rule 8.4.4); 3. Incorrect. Comment: The superior acro element may be in the third acro pass or as the last single acro element performed. A deduction of 0.2 would be taken for not having three passes. (9.2.3)

**Hockey Answers:** 1. c. (1-9-2); 2. c. (9-6-2); 3. d. (NFHS and MHSAA concussion management guidelines and Michigan Concussion law)

**Wrestling Answers:** 1. b. (8.2); 2. b. (4.2); 3. d. (5.19)



## What to Know Before Getting a “Boost”

**B**ooster Clubs are present in most every MHSAA member school and have a long history of supporting youth sports throughout the nation. These organizations are vital and in many schools greatly enhance the student-athlete’s experience. In some schools and teams – especially new sports, Booster Clubs are THE source of most all funding. Some Booster Clubs make sports possible and without their great work and results fewer opportunities for students and schools would be offered.

Booster Clubs exist because of the school and they have the same obligation to follow the rules that schools have agreed to follow. The MHSAA 2021-22 *Handbook* has several regulations and interpretations that directly reference Booster Clubs. While the list is not all-inclusive, it may be of interest to administrators and those great parents and community supporters who make School Sports so valuable in the education of students and the lives of communities.

### MHSAA BOOSTER CLUBS REGULATIONS

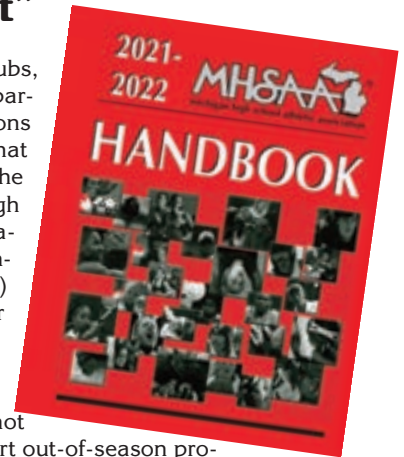
#### Undue Influence – Anti-Recruiting Rules

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.
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.

#### Out-of-Season Camps and Coaching Activities

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:
- the student’s parents, grandparents or siblings; or
  - 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.
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.

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 127 for amateur status concerns related to students’ involvement in out-of-season activities with financial support from school-approved fundraisers.



#### Fundraising, Pay to Participate, 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 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.
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.
147. In general, students may engage in school or nonschool 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.
- 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.
  - If cash is donated on behalf of a student, it must be paid directly to the organization.
  - 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,



MHSAA regulations permit banquets or meals when received “in kind,” but restrict the cost of any one symbolic award to \$40 (engraving or embroidery not included).

and may not convert funds to their own use.

- 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.

#### Coaches Compensation

184. Neither faculty nor nonfaculty coaches may receive compensation for interscholastic coaching duties except through the school, and such compensation shall not be based on wins, championships and tournament participation and 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 warmups.
- 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.

#### Awards, Rings and Banquets

- 116. A student may accept, for participation in athletics, a symbolic or merchandise award which does not have a fair market value or cost in excess of \$40 (not including engraving/embroidery).
- 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.
- 120. Special offers to purchase rings, plaques, jackets, sweaters or other mementos in excess of \$40 to commemorate sport seasons are permitted so long as the opportunity to purchase such items is made available to all students, not just athletes.
- 123. When any part of the purchase price of an award is paid by the student or the school, is donated or raised through individual or group action to reduce the cost to \$40, it is a violation.

#### 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 nonprofit nonschool 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 \$40, or meals in kind are allowed.

## 2021-22 MHSAA Budget

The following budget for operation of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., for the 2021-22 school year was considered and approved at the May 2021 Representative Council Meeting.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION .....	\$ 3,895,255
GENERAL PRINTING .....	110,000
GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSES .....	1,199,000
GENERAL MEETINGS .....	100,700
COACHES & OFFICIALS .....	389,400
CORPORATE SALES .....	259,500
STUDENT SERVICES .....	125,100
BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS .....	222,800
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS .....	1,273,200
BOWLING TOURNAMENTS .....	85,200
COMPETITIVE CHEER .....	113,700
CROSS COUNTRY MEETS .....	119,450
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS .....	1,204,500
GOLF TOURNAMENTS .....	46,600
GYMNASTICS MEETS .....	23,250
HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS .....	215,850
LACROSSE TOURNAMENTS .....	62,250
SKI MEETS .....	34,400
SOCCER TOURNAMENTS .....	208,500
SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS .....	212,800
SWIMMING MEETS .....	93,500
TENNIS TOURNAMENTS .....	95,900
TRACK MEETS .....	231,800
VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS .....	287,000
WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS .....	625,150
BROADCASTING .....	100,000
REVENUE SHARING .....	150,000
<b>TOTAL 2021-22 BUDGET .....</b>	<b>\$11,484,805</b>

## Out-of-State Travel Form and Regulations

The tradition of taking a team on a “spring trip” for practice only has gotten a new twist with the allowance that a team may scrimmage another MHSAA member school team while on a “spring trip.”

Any school which conducts practice sessions out of state at a site more than 600 miles round-trip must submit to the MHSAA office a **Travel Form for Out-of-State Practice** at least 30 days in advance of departure.

The new rule allows schools in spring sports only to compete in up to four scrimmages with another MHSAA member school team while on a spring trip. The allowance is to other MHSAA teams only and scrimmages that follow the elements of a scrimmage.

This will likely save schools money as they can split the cost of renting a facility for a baseball, softball, soccer or lacrosse field.

**Regulation II, Section 6 (C)** follows with most recent change in boldface: “Schools which desire to conduct practice sessions out of state at a site more than 600 drivable miles round-trip from their location must complete and submit to the MHSAA office the

“Travel Form for Out-Of-State Practice” at least 30 calendar days in advance of departure (see MHSAA.com, “Schools>Forms & Resources”). No competition (scrimmage or contest against another team) is allowed **except that in spring sports, two or more MHSAA member schools which have submitted the MHSAA Out-of-State Travel Form may scrimmage or hold joint practices with other MHSAA member schools up to the maximum of four allowed scrimmage dates in that sport. These days shall count in the total of four allowed for the season.** Regulation II, Section 11 (B) and applicable interpretations regarding scrimmages shall apply. Dates of competition may not be converted to scrimmages as permitted under this allowance. No more than four dates will be allowed while operating under the out-of-state travel form allowance.”

MHSAA catastrophic insurance does not cover such events. The form can be found on the MHSAA Website. Pursuant to action of the Representative Council, all schools which complete this form will be listed in benchmarks at the end of the school year.

## MHSAA Representative Council

**Eric Albright\*\***

Athletic Director  
Midland High School  
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

**Jay Alexander\*\***

Executive Director of Athletics  
Detroit Public Schools  
Detroit Public Schools Position

**Brad Bush\*\***

Athletic Director  
Chelsea High School  
Statewide At-Large

**Nicole Carter\*, Vice President**

Principal  
Novi High School  
Appointee

**Judy Cox\***

Principal  
Auburn-Bay City Western High School  
Appointee

**Scott Grimes\*\*, President**

Superintendent of Human Services  
Grand Haven Public Schools  
Statewide At-Large

**Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio)**

Deputy Superintendent, Finance Operations  
Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing  
Designee

**Kris Isom\*\***

Athletic Director  
Adrian Madison High School  
Appointee

**Sean Jacques\***

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director  
Calumet High School  
Class C-D — Upper Peninsula

**Jason Malloy\***

Athletic Director  
Westland John Glenn High School  
Junior High/Middle Schools

**Mark Mattson\***

Superintendent  
Glen Lake Schools  
Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula

**Jason Mensing\*\***

Athletic Director  
Ottawa Lake Whiteford High School  
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

**Vic Michaels\*, Secretary-Treasurer**

Director of Physical Education & Athletics  
Archdiocese of Detroit  
Private and Parochial Schools

**Chris Miller\*\***

Athletic Director  
Gobles High School  
Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

**Chris Riker\***

Athletic Director  
Portage Northern High School  
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

**Meg Seng\*\***

Athletic Director  
Ann Arbor Greenhills High School  
Appointee

**Adam Stefanski\*\***

Athletic Director  
Boyer City High School  
Junior High/Middle Schools

**John Thompson\***

Athletic Director  
Brighton High School  
Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan

**Alex Tiseo\*\***

Athletic Director  
Marquette High School  
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

\*Term Expires December 2022

\*\*Term Expires December 2023

## Efficiency is Effective...

The MHSAA is always willing to assist with issues concerning Association regulations. Please remember, however, the most efficient method of communication with the MHSAA on eligibility questions is through the school athletic director or principal. Athletic directors should gather all information necessary on a question and then call or write the MHSAA. Coaches or parents calling the MHSAA on eligibility matters can create confusion and delay. ADs or principals are encouraged to contact the MHSAA office directly.



## 2022-23 MHSAA Committee Membership Nominations

A procedure has been adopted and recently refined by the Representative Council to select MHSAA committee members. In the early spring each year, all superintendents, principals, athletic directors, coaches and board of education members who desire to serve on MHSAA committees may submit their names for nomination. This is a summary of the make-up and responsibilities of MHSAA standing committees:

### SPORT COMMITTEES

**Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Girls Competitive Cheer, Cross Country/Track & Field, Football, Golf, Girls Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Skiing, Soccer, Girls Softball, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Girls Volleyball, Wrestling**

Consists of administrators and varsity coaches in the particular sport, plus the president of the coaches association for that sport. Responsible for: (a) recommending to the Representative Council changes regarding MHSAA regulations relative to the sport. (b) recommending to the staff procedures, sites, and assignments for the MHSAA tournament in that sport. **Note:** Some sport committees serve multiple functions including officials selection, tournament sites, and seeding.

### SITE SELECTION/TOURNAMENT COMMITTEES

**Baseball, Girls & Boys Basketball, Cross Country, Girls Softball, Track & Field, Track & Field Standards, Girls Volleyball**  
Consist of administrators responsible for selecting sites and assigning teams for all levels of MHSAA tournaments in the particular sport.

### SEEDING COMMITTEES

**Girls Tennis Area Seeding, Boys Tennis Area Seeding, Team Wrestling Finals**

Tennis consist of tournament managers and varsity coaches responsible for determining seeded players and their positions in each flight and for assisting tournament managers in conducting the tournament draw. For Team Wrestling, select coaches and school administrators representing all divisions (and not involved from quarterfinals forward) meet via teleconference to seed prior to quarterfinals.

### OFFICIALS SELECTION COMMITTEES

**Baseball, Boys and Girls Basketball, Girls Competitive Cheer, Football, Girls Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Softball, Girls Volleyball, and Wrestling**

Consist of tournament managers, athletic directors and coaches responsible for selecting officials for most levels of tournaments in most sports.

### OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES (Established and appointed by the Representative Council)

- 1. Athletic Equity Committee** - Committee is to meet once a year to recommend to the Representative Council annual objectives designed to encourage participation by more women and minorities in interscholastic coaching, officiating and administrative positions.
- 2. Awards Committee** - This committee corresponds throughout the year to extend nominations and to nominate and screen candidates for four MHSAA awards: Forsythe, Bush, Norris, and Women in Sports Leadership.
- 3. Classification Committee** - The committee meets annually to study and make recommendations to staff and Council regarding policies and procedures of classifying schools for tournaments and elections.
- 4. Board of Canvassers** - Comprised of a superintendent, two high school principals, one junior high/middle school principal, and one athletic director. Members are responsible for counting the ballots for the election of Representative Council members and members of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee.
- 5. Junior High/Middle School Committee** - This committee is comprised of junior high/middle school principals and athletic directors to review rules and regulations as they pertain to junior high/middle schools.
- 6. Officials Review Committee** - This committee meets for the purpose of reviewing issues and concerns related to all officials in order to put forth recommendations to the MHSAA Representative Council.
- 7. Scholar-Athlete Committee** - Established to administer the MHSAA Scholar-Athlete program, this committee consists of approximately 80 people to review award applications both online and in-person.
- 8. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee** - The SMAC exists to serve the MHSAA membership while emphasizing the health and safety of students in interscholastic sports.

## Criteria for Nomination and Selection of MHSAA Committee Members

There are several criteria to consider before completing the Nomination Form:

1. Coaches must be employed by the school and be able to obtain release time from school.
2. The nominee should have at least two years of experience in the position currently holding.
3. Most committees require only a one meeting date commitment at the MHSAA Jack Roberts Building in East Lansing. Committee meetings are held during the work week, while some others meet via email (i.e., Officials Selection).

Appointments to committees are based on the following criteria:

1. Committees should have male, female, and minority membership which reflects the total pool of available personnel.
2. Committees should maintain geographic and class size representation.
3. Some administrators will be appointed to sport committees.
4. The coaches association president/secretary of each sport is appointed to that sport committee, if the person is a school employee. If the President/Secretary is not a school employee, the Association must send a designee who is an administrator, faculty member or board of education member of an MHSAA member school.

Names of nominees will be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Representative Council for selection.

Over 500 people will be selected from the list of nominees submitted to serve on MHSAA committees.

## MHSAA Committee Membership Nomination Form

Member school superintendents, principals, athletic directors, board of education members and coaches are eligible to be a member of any one of the following MHSAA committees for the 2022-23 school year. If you desire to place yourself as a nominee complete this form and fax it to the MHSAA office by March 31, 2022. THE PRINCIPAL MUST sign this form for it to be considered a valid nomination for athletic directors and coaches. Schools may choose to use this form for more than one nomination. The following form lists the committee and the month in which the meeting will be held. Please print the nominee's name and title (specify boys or girls if a coach) on the appropriate line.

Committee	Meeting Month	Nominee's Name & Title
Board of Canvassers (35)	September	
Girls Gymnastics (100)	September	
Athletic Equity (5)	October	
Awards (10)	October	
Boys Tennis Seeding (50)	October	
Junior High/Middle School (120)	October & February	
Boys Lacrosse (125)	October & May	
Girls Lacrosse (130)	October & April	
Ski (150)	October	
Golf (95)	December	
Basketball Rules (30)	December	
Track & Field Standards (190)	December	
Girls Volleyball Rules (200)	December	
Baseball/Girls Softball Site Selection (25)	December	
Ice Hockey (110)	December	
Baseball Rules (20)	January	
Girls Softball Rules (85)	January	
Classification (55)	January	
Cross Country/Track & Field Reg. (70)	January	
Track & Field Site Selection (185)	January	
Football (75)	January	
Tennis (180)	January	
Wrestling (215)	January	
Girls Competitive Cheer (60)	January	
Soccer (155)	January	
Scholar-Athlete (145)	January	
Swimming & Diving (175)	February	
Bowling (40)	March	
Boys/Girls Basketball Site Selection (135)	May	
Girls Volleyball Site Selection (210)	May	
Girls Tennis Seeding (90)	May	
BXC/GXC Site Selection (225)	May	

City/School \_\_\_\_\_ School ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Principal (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO MHSAA NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2020**

# Official Report of the Board of Canvassers

East Lansing, September 27, 2021

*We, whose signatures appear below, declare the following to be nominees for, or members- elect of, the Representative Council or the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., as a result of ballots received in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Section 6 of the Constitution, or as authorized by the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee at its meeting on October 3, 1941.*

## REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

### UPPER PENINSULA – CLASS A AND B SCHOOLS (#1)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 3  
 Alex Tiseo, Marquette . . . . . 3  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received. . . . . 0

**Elected by Majority of Votes – Alex Tiseo**

### SOUTHWESTERN SECTION – CLASS C AND D SCHOOLS (#3)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 19  
 Chris Miller, Gobles . . . . . 19  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received. . . . . 0

**Elected by Majority of Votes – Chris Miller**

### SOUTHEASTERN SECTION – CLASS C AND D SCHOOLS (#4)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 22  
 Jason Mensing, Ottawa Lake . . . . . 22  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 0

**Elected by Majority of Votes – Jason Mensing**

### STATEWIDE AT-LARGE (#5)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 317  
 Brad Bush, Chelsea. . . . . 108  
 Jessica Harrand, Buckley . . . . . 60  
 Jeff Kline, Mt. Morris . . . . . 88  
 Doug VanderJagt, Hudsonville . . . . . 61  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 13

**No Majority – Names of Brad Bush and Jeff Kline submitted to schools.**

### JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS (#6)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 116  
 Chris Hartman, Kingsford . . . . . 32  
 Adam Stefanski, Boyne City . . . . . 84  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 9

**Elected by Majority of Votes – Adam Stefanski**

## UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

### CLASS D SCHOOLS (#7)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 17  
 Jim Bobula, Ontonagon . . . . . 17  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 0

**Elected by Majority of Votes – Jim Bobula**

### CLASS A AND B SCHOOLS (#8)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 3  
 Paul Jacobson, Negaunee. . . . . 3  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 0

**Elected by Majority of Votes – Paul Jacobson**

### CLASS C SCHOOLS (#9)

Total number of legal ballots received. . . . . 8  
 Jon Beckman, Ishpeming-Westwood . . . . . 8  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 0

**Elected by Majority of Votes – Jon Beckman**

### BOARD OF CANVASSERS (Signed)

Andrew Laboe, Kalamazoo-Loy Norrix High School  
 Jody McKean, DeWitt High School  
 Nicole Norris, East Lansing High School  
 Fr. Leon Olszamowski, Pontiac-Notre Dame Preparatory School  
 Brian Osborn, Fowlerville High School

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## OFFICIAL REPORT OF SECOND MEETING OF BOARD OF CANVASSERS

East Lansing, October 19, 2021

## REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

### DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS (#2)

Total number of legal ballots received . . . . . 1  
 Jay Alexander, Detroit . . . . . 1  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 0

**Elected by Majority of Votes – Jay Alexander**

### STATEWIDE AT-LARGE (#5)

Total number of legal ballots received . . . . 298  
 Brad Bush, Chelsea . . . . . 183  
 Jeff Kline, Mt. Morris . . . . . 115  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . . 13

**Elected by Majority of Votes – Brad Bush**

### BOARD OF CANVASSERS (Signed)

Jody McKean, DeWitt High School  
 Leon Olszamowski, Pontiac-Notre Dame Preparatory School



# Representative Council & Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee Nomination Procedures for 2022-23

**T**he Representative Council has established procedures for indicating the intention to run for elected positions on the MHSAA Representative Council.

1. Any individual who is a representative of a member school (administrator, 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. This includes administrators but not non-faculty coaches.
    - 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 **MHSAA.com** in May, in the fall issue of benchmarks in August, and on the ballot mailed to member schools in September.

Elections will be held in the fall for the following positions:

**Class A and B Schools — 3 openings**

Northern Lower Peninsula  
Southwestern Section  
Southeastern Section

**Class C and D Schools—2 openings**

Upper Peninsula  
Northern Lower Peninsula

**Statewide At-Large —1 opening**

**Jr. High/Middle Schools —1 opening**

**Private and Parochial —1 opening**

The procedures established for indicating the intention to run for elected positions are the same for the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee as those stated above for the Representative Council.

Elections will be held in the fall for the following:

**Class D U.P. School—1 opening**  
**Athletic Coach—1 opening**

**NOTE: Candidates will first appear on the Administrators page of MHSAA.com in May.**

## Annual Business Meeting of the MHSAA, Inc.

Lansing, Wednesday, October 22, 2021

Karen Leinaar

MHSAA Representative Council Member

Mark (Uyl) will address program and policy matters in his presentation. As a member of the MHSAA Representative Council, I will now provide the annual Audit and Finance Committee report as required by the MHSAA Constitution. The Audit and Finance Committee includes Scott Grimes, Assistant Superintendent of Grand Haven Public Schools; Vic Michaels, Director of the Detroit Catholic League; John Thompson, Athletic Director at Brighton High School; and Karen Leinaar, the MIAAA Executive Director.

The MHSAA had an improved fiscal year in 2020-21, ending with an operating surplus of \$877,564. This was a significant improvement from an abnormally poor fiscal year in 2019-20 due to COVID. This improved financial position last year can be attributed to the significant reduction in tournament expenses and internal costs. This positive number also includes \$314,000 of employee retention credits from the federal government which inflates the surplus number significantly. Two installments of payroll protection funds had been secured over the past 19 months which were critical in keeping all MHSAA staff members employed with no reduction in staffing or hours.

The MHSAA budgets for and attempts to operate within a narrow profit each year. In normal years, the MHSAA sells approximately 1.5 million tickets; due to COVID restrictions, only 750,000 tickets were sold in 2020-21. Given this significant reduction in revenue, a commendable job was done in reducing expenses and internal costs in tournament operations and office expenses. It is important to note that in “normal” times, 76 percent of the annual revenue of the MHSAA comes from ticket sales at District, Regional, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final tournament contests. The MHSAA’s ability to withstand the financial crisis of the pandemic and provide as normal a tournament experience as possible was in great part due to the sacrifices of member schools which absorbed expenses and the usual reimbursements.

Costs at our most expensive venues continue to be a concern and we hope that diminished sponsorship revenue since March of 2020 will rebound, as well. The Representative Council has addressed these expense issues by increasing Final ticket prices at Ford Field and the Breslin Center just prior to the pandemic, which are our two most expensive venues. We will continue to monitor this situation and work to negotiate fair agreements that work for both the MHSAA and these venues.

All in all, the financial position of the association is very positive given the challenging times created by COVID. The MHSAA maintains a reserve that ranges between 30 and 40 percent of its annual operating budget so it can withstand a single year’s setback. The Council believes the MHSAA is in a good position to serve schools in 2021-22 and beyond.

## Johannesburg-Lewiston Duo has Seen it All

“I’ve seen it all,” is a phrase often meant to imply nothing surprises someone, and rarely is a literal statement.

However, when it comes to Johannesburg-Lewiston High School football timer/clock operator John Righi, that declaration is fact. Longtime partner on the public address microphone, Tom Zick, can almost boast the same.

The two have been together in the J-L press box every Friday for 37 years, and Righi has been there from the beginning. And, the beginning meant Saturday games at times.

“When football began (1969) we had a field at the south end of the school,” Righi recalls. “There were no lights, press box, scoreboard or bleachers. The games were played either immediately after school, to take advantage of the daylight, or on Saturdays. The timekeeping and scoring was kept on the field by the officials.”

That same year was the year Righi began his teaching career, one which he figured would be a short stint.

“I had planned to stay at Johannesburg only three years and then move on to a ‘bigger’ school. Three years suddenly turned into 33 years. I found I liked the people I was working with, the students, the parents and the small-town atmosphere,” said Righi, who continued to work with the school’s computers and network for six years after retiring.

It’s no surprise that Jo-Burg wanted to hold onto a guy like Righi; the feeling was mutual. It was clear that the community had a hold on him, too.

When wooden bleachers and a scoreboard were added to the field, Righi volunteered as the timekeeper, working the control unit from his lap on the top row of the bleachers. Not an easy task given Johannesburg’s fall climate.

“I kept the clock and score in all kinds of weather. I especially remember the cold and snow,” Righi said. “As I look back, it didn’t really bother me. My second year the school felt sorry for me so they put a 4X8 piece of plywood behind me to help block the wind. That’s a true story.”

Help later arrived in the form of a two-story press box/concession stand. Then, when he’d been at it for more than a decade, Righi got his biggest assist when Zick began handling the public address duties in 1984. They have been inseparable to this day on fall Fridays.

Zick owned a CPA firm in Lewiston which audited the school’s accounting records for 38 years, and he also served on the school board in the mid-1970s. During that time, the board was instrumental in getting lights installed at the football field so Friday night games became a reality.

“Early in the fall of 1984, Ray Hyek (J-L superintendent) asked if I’d be interested in doing the public address announcing,” Zick said. “I announced a JV game the following Thursday night, and have been announcing JV and varsity football ever since. In 37 years, I’ve missed two home varsity games.”

Zick was familiar with the school system, as he and his wife, Marilyn, taught adult education computer classes through the school in the early ‘80s,



The team of Tom Zick (left) and John Righi have seen it all throughout the decades of Johannesburg-Lewiston HS football.

then served as class sponsors for 1989 and ‘93 when they had daughters graduating.

“Both daughters were the videotape experts for the football teams while they were in school,” Zick said. “The oldest daughter also kept football statistics for the head coach. My wife has been in the booth as the primary spotter for over 28 years so it has been a family affair that we all participated in.”

It’s that family feeling that a small town can offer which helped keep the fires burning for both Righi and Zick.

“Over the years I have also served as a director of our local bank, assistant treasurer of our church, treasurer and member of the Lewiston Lions Club,” said Righi, also a member of various other commissions and the current Treasurer of Albert Township. Like Zick, he and his wife also served as class sponsors at J-L. “People who say there is nothing to do in a small town have never lived in a small town.”

In such towns, strong bonds are formed.

“Working in the booth with John the entire 37 years has made my job as announcer easier. John is always quick with the down and yard marker. We work well together to get correct information on the scoreboard and over the PA quickly. My wife and I have been friends with John and his wife, Kay, for more than 45 years.”

It’s a period that spans a lifetime, and in some cases spreads to two lifetimes.

“I am announcing games now where the current players’ fathers also played when I was announcing,” said Zick. “I know of at least two specific occasions where a father sitting in the stands got credit for a big tackle or scored a touchdown when his son was the one playing the game.”

In 2014, Righi and Zick were inducted into the Otsego County Sports Hall of Fame, shining a light on the two for their dedication to the community.

“My wife and I were always involved in community activities, and in a small Michigan town Friday night football was always a big deal,” said Zick.

It still is. And, ask anyone in the Johannesburg-Lewiston community, and they’ll tell you Righi and Zick are a big deal as well.

— Rob Kaminski  
benchmarks editor





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