

2020 MIAAA POSITION STATEMENTS

**Not all items recommended to the Representative Council are presented in this document. Only those judged to be more significant and impacting most schools are below.*

1. We support allowing a school to modify uniform playing rules without written MHSAA permission for a student's firmly held religious beliefs (e.g. wearing a hijab or leggings). (MHSAA Staff)

NEW Interpretation. 204 e. Schools may permit the wearing of head adornments such as a hijab or leggings covering the legs because of firmly held religious reasons held by the student without advance MHSAA approval. Head adornments must be securely fastened and not affixed with any non-yielding fasteners (i.e. pins). Hijabs and leggings must be of a single color and not be a safety risk for the student or opponents.

Rationale: This avoids embarrassing situations. Approvals are routinely given each season. A school may still request an MHSAA letter to provide to officials if needed.

2. In the six sports governed by summer competition limits (basketball, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer and volleyball) we support permitting travel to an event out of state that is within the MHSAA travel rule (bordering state or 300 miles one way) and allowing participation against any team who may be present regardless of their travel. Currently a MHSAA summer team cannot attend an event unless all teams participating are within the MHSAA travel limit. (MHSAA Staff)

Rationale: In some cases a summer team is unaware of the schools participating until they arrive on site. Maintains the travel limitation for MHSAA "summer teams."

3. We support requiring the completion of a designated online course before a disqualified student or coach may return to competition. (MHSAA Officials Review Committee)

New Point to Regulation V, Section 3 D.

8. When a disqualification occurs under any portion of this section, completion of a designated online course must occur prior to any future participation. A certificate of completion must be presented to the school athletic director prior to the disqualified coach being allowed to be present at a contest where his or her team is present and for a student to return to participate in competition. Completion of the course prior to the event, does not alter the next day of competition disqualification – the player or coach must still be withheld as under the rules. The course must be completed each time the student or coach is disqualified during a season.

- a. A coach must complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior learning course (\$20 cost)
- b. A student, must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship learning course (free course)

Rationale: Improved sportsmanship through education and not just punishment.

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4. We support requiring officials to complete an MHSAA Sport Rules Meeting (online or in person) to be eligible to officiate high school contests. Currently rules meeting completion is only required for officiating an MHSAA tournament. (MHSAA Officials Review Committee)

Rationale: Improved competency of officials through education. Currently on average, 55% of officials complete a rules meeting. Possibly enact in May 2020 with implementation for 2021-22 school year.

5. We support language that specifies that a host school shall be reimbursed for officials fees from a non-host school that is responsible for a cancellation due to a non-act of God. (MHSAA Officials Review Committee)

Rationale: Officials are still compensated if they arrive at a site and do not work a game even if a team does not show up for a contest or cancels at the last minute. The school that “no showed” should be required to pay the officials.

6. We support revising the MHSAA Enrollment Declaration Form Instructions to not count 5th year 12th-graders who are enrolled in college level courses whose eligibility is exhausted under the (eight-semester rule). High school students taking classes at the college level are not considered 12th graders for the purpose of the Enrollment Declaration Form (MHSAA Staff)

Rationale: Will make the enrollment declaration form more accurate than in previous years. Deals with the increase in the number of early and middle college programs in member schools.

7. In Baseball, we support changing the Super Regional to a quarterfinal game and awarding trophies for each winner of the Regional Finals at the end of the 2nd regional final game. (MHSAA Baseball Committee).

Rationale: Very awkward presenting a trophy to a team who loses the game formerly known as a Super Regional. Quarterfinals in other sports advance to the semifinal and receive no trophy until the state final game.

8. In Baseball, we support a revised suspended game policy that states any time a game is suspended before it is a regulation game (5 complete or 4 ½ innings if home team is ahead) or the score is tied, it is a suspended game and if resumed, it shall be from the point of suspension. (MHSAA Baseball Committee)

Rationale: Easier to apply the regulation in all settings including number of games and pitching regulations.

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9. In Basketball, we support changing the individual player's basketball limitation in regular season games from one game per day to five quarters of play in a day. The current limit of no more than three dates Monday-Sunday or 20 dates per team or individual continue to apply. (MHSAA Basketball Committee)

Rationale: Flexibility when participation is low. Will allow a JV player to enter a varsity game on the same date for up to one quarter. Allows a varsity player to have one quarter of JV play. Similar to what is used in Indiana and Ohio.

10. In Cross Country, we support modifying the finals qualification to include a minimum of 7 individual qualifiers from each Regional. All individuals receiving a medal (top 15) would advance. If the number of individual medalists is less than 7, then the additional qualifiers (up to 7) would be taken from the individual runners following 15th place. (Cross Country-Track & Field Committee)

Rationale: Will allow more participation in the MHSAA finals while not significantly increasing the size of the field. Similar to other MHSAA sports such as downhill ski.

11. In Football, we support increasing the number of players a football coach can work out of season during the school year from four to eight players during the school year. (MHSAA Football Committee)

Rationale: This is more proportional to the number of players that participate in a game compared to other sports (i.e., 11 players in football vs. 5 players in basketball).

12. In Football, we support changing the current rules to permit 15 days of voluntary in summer contact with a coach and any number of players. Currently the rules permit seven 7 on 7 competition dates and a camp allowance of up to 10 days. Individual skill work with 7 players on other dates continues. (MHSAA Football Committee)

Rationale: This is actually a reduction in allowable contact time from the current 17 dates (10 camp days and seven 7-on-7 dates), to 15 dates. This is still more restrictive than the rules for summer contact in other sports and simplifies the current rule. Schools would not be forced to run a "camp" to work with players in the summer. Consistent with summer rules for other sports that allow 15 dates of competition and unlimited voluntary practices.

13. In Football, we support changing the point differential rule to state that when a team leads an opponent by 50 points at any time in the game, the clock will run continuously except for official timeouts for injured players. (MHSAA Football Committee)

Rationale: The current protocol has the clock run continuously only in the second half when the point differential is 50 points. The 35 point running clock in the 2nd half with stoppage of play for penalty enforcement is still in effect until the differential reaches 50 points.

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14. In Girls Competitive Cheer, we support increasing by one the number of safety judges at the regional tournament from two to three, and continue with five panel judges. (MHSAA Competitive Cheer Committee)

Rationale: This will provide better coverage of the competition. Officials are more available at this round.

15. In Girls Competitive Cheer, we support increasing the number of junior high middle school competitions to three in a week (Monday-Sunday) provided that one of the three is on a non-school day or a day not followed by school. Eight competitions are allowed in a thirteen week season. (MHSAA Competitive Cheer Committee)

Rationale: This allows more flexibility in scheduling for a weekend event when two are held during the week.

16. In Ice Hockey, at the regional level, we support seeding and separating the top two teams on the bracket using the MPR formula identical to what is currently done in soccer and basketball. (MHSAA Ice Hockey Committee)

Rationale: Hockey coaches have sought seeding for years. This approach tends to prevent the best two teams from meeting in the first round.

17. In Ice Hockey, seed the quarterfinal winners based on the higher MPR so that the top ranked teams would be on opposite sides of the semifinal bracket. 1 vs 4 and 3 vs 2. This seeding would be announced on the Monday prior to the Thurs-Sat hockey final weekend. (MHSAA Ice Hockey Committee)

Rationale: The intent is to have the best two teams avoid facing each other until the final game. No travel is increased as all teams are on site for the semifinals.

18. In Soccer, we support amending the Limited Team Membership rule to allow students to compete in scrimmages at a maximum of two college ID camps (including visits and play dates) during the season. Currently only drills and practices are permitted under the Limited Team Membership Rule. (MHSAA Soccer Committee)

Rationale: Many college camps are held in the spring during the girls season and involve students scrimmaging which is considered outside competition under the rules. (This is mainly a girls spring sport issue.)

19. In Tennis, we support adding boys and girls tennis to the list of sports that can form cooperative agreement up to a 3,500 student enrollment limit (previously 1,000). A recent history of low participation numbers must be demonstrated at the time of the application. (Classification and Tennis Committees)

Rationale: Since the season's change in 2008 boys tennis (fall sport) sponsorship has declined significantly. The goal is to increase school sponsorship and reduce schools dropping tennis through cooperative programs.

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20. In Tennis, we support adding Wednesday as a possible date for a regional to be played. Currently tennis regionals can only be held on Thursday through Saturday. (MHSAA Tennis Committee)

Rationale: Provides flexibility for facility and weather considerations.

21. In Tennis, we support permitting the tennis finals to occur on a Thursday or Friday when a preferred facility is not available on a Friday or Saturday. More so a problem in boys tennis in the fall. (MHSA Tennis Committee)

Rationale: Conflicts often exist with high school, college, and indoor facilities and staff in the fall that may require a Thursday-Friday tennis final.

22. In regard to Regulation III Section 12, Article C (Regarding Middle School – Limited Team Membership) We support expanding the number from 2 to 4 allowable contests or events. (Region 11)

The article currently reads: *In all sports except football, during the junior high/middle school season (from a student's first participation in a contest or scrimmage until the last day of competition for that student), a member of the school team in that sport may participate in a maximum of two (2) non-school meets or contests in that sport while not representing his or her school.*

Rationale: We are losing participation in our middle school sports because students are choosing the club/AAU sports over our middle school sports when seasons conflict. Adding to the allowable dates of competition, will encourage those student-athletes to play for their schools along with their clubs.

23. In Swimming & Diving We support dividing the number of qualifiers that advance to Finals (36) by the total number of divers who enter Regionals in each division. Apply this percentage to each Regional to determine number of slots that advance. Within each division, the same percentage of divers will advance from each Regional Qualification Meet to the Finals, resulting in 36 divers at each Final. (MHSAA Swimming & Diving Committee)

Rationale: Currently the same number of divers qualify for the state finals from each region regardless of the number of divers present. This will provide a proportionate distribution of divers to the finals from each regional. Better meet management, more equitable.