1. We support allowing eligibility in MHSAA tournaments for in-season transfer students otherwise eligible under the new Sport Specific Transfer Rule **only** if they are enrolled prior to October 1 (fall sports), February 1 (winter sports) and May 1 (spring sports). (MHSAA Staff)

**Rationale:** This matches the current rule for students who meet an exception. A student who did not play a sport in the previous or current season and transfers mid-season, but after the stated date cannot enter the MHSAA tournament for any sport that season.

1. We support revising the Links Rule (Athletic Related Transfer Rule) to state that a residential change (Exception 1) will **not** grant immediate eligibility if a student follows his or her newly hired school coach (MHSAA Staff)

**New Point 5 of Section 9 E** Regardless of the student’s eligibility under Exception 1 of Section 9(A), a student who transfers to a school where the coach of his/her most recent previous high school is employed (any level, paid or volunteer), even if the transfer of the student precedes the hiring of the coach. In this circumstance, Exception 1 (residential change) will not permit immediate eligibility. The student will be ineligible in the sport involved if that sport is in progress at the time of the transfer, and the next full season for sports whose seasons have ended. Eligibility under Section 9(B) continues to apply to other sports.

**Rationale:** Addresses concern that students have followed their school coach and moved to gain eligibility. Other Exceptions such as moving between divorced parents or an 18 year old moving without their parents requires the former principal to sign off on eligibility using an Educational Transfer Form.

1. We support creating a 30, 60 or 90 day window on residential changes (Exception 1) that grants immediate eligibility in a sport previously participated in or to avoid a links rule violation. (MHSAA Staff)

**Additional Language to Interpretation 77.** A change of residence for eligibility purposes must be full and complete. A full residential change must be completed prior to a student’s participation in any contest or scrimmage. For a residential change to establish eligibility under Exception 1 and Sections 9(A-F), the change of residency, as defined in these interpretations, must have occurred no later than 30 calendar days following enrollment, as defined under Interpretation 98.

**Rationale:**  A student must always be residing in the new home and be eligible under all rules to participate in a game or scrimmage. A residential change that occurs well after enrollment (first day of classes at the new school) should not grant immediate eligibility in a sport previously participated in. This may tend to discourage students and families from changing residences to become eligible.

1. We support allowing school coaches involved with Unified Special Olympics Programs to have limited contact with more than four players out of season. (MHSAA Staff)

**Rationale:** School coaches who work with special education students and regular team members in programs that run out of season may inadvertently be in violation of the four-player rule.

**New Note Following Four Player Rule**: School coaches who also are involved with coaching Unified Special Olympics programs and have limited contact between coaches and students who are regular season participants are exempt from the four-player rule when working with Unified programs. The contact may only be permitted if it is in preparation for or participation in a Special Olympics Unified event scheduled within 30 days.

1. We support requiring that middle schools who use and compensate individuals to assign officials must be MHSAA Registered Assigners. (MHSAA Staff)

**Rationale**: Corresponds to the high school rule and would provide some oversight and regulation of middle school assigners.

1. We support increasing the amateur status and awards amount for a merchandise or symbolic award for any one single item from $25 to $40. (MHSAA Update Meeting Survey)

**Rationale**: Increasing costs. Current $25 limit is over two decades old.

1. We support seeding the District level of the boys and girls basketball tournaments using the RPI ratings. All teams in the District would be seeded based on the ratings two weeks prior to the start of the District Competition based on 15 or 16 games played to that date. (MHSAA Basketball Committee)

**Rationale**: Prevent the best two teams in a District from playing each other early. Seeding the District level only, does not increase travel.

1. We support allowing Regional track and field competitions to be held on Thursday beginning this spring - 2019. (MHSAA Track & Field/Cross Country Committee)

**Rationale:** This would add an additional day of competition that may alleviate the critical need to find and assign officials and timing crews. In addition, this may assist in finding schools that may not be available to host on either Friday or Saturday.

1. We support allowing boys and girls Regional golf tournament hosts to set the day of the one-day Regional Tournament on any of the days between the Monday-Saturday the week of the Regional tournament. (MHSAA Gold Committee)

**Rationale**: Possible solution to problem with golf course and required golf rules official’s availability. Teams are already missing a day of school.

1. We support adopting the MHSFCA enhanced strength of schedule plan effective with the 2020 football season. (MHSAA Football Committee)

**Rationale:** To ease football scheduling concerns by rewarding teams for playing strong opponents. The hope is that this proposed football playoff system will encourage more “local” scheduling without the need to “schedule for wins.”

**MHSFCA Proposal - Enhanced Strength of Schedule**

Purpose – To ease football scheduling concerns by rewarding teams for playing strong opponents. The hope is that this proposed football playoff system will encourage more “local
 scheduling without the need to “schedule for wins”.

When the initial proposal was made four years ago, it was edited to include automatic qualifiers with 7 wins and the additional protocol that a team have a minimum of 4 games in order to be tournament eligible. The automatic qualifiers with 7 wins and 4 minimum games have been removed from this updated version.

Divisions – Establish prior to the start of the season. Each division will have 72-75 school teams.

Tournament Qualifiers – By playoff points filling 32 positions within each division.

Playoff Points –

Div.1 = 60, Div. 2 = 55, Div. 3 = 50, Div. 4 = 45, Div. 5 = 40, Div. 6 = 35, Div. 7 = 70, Div. 8 = 25

Bonus Points for opponents’ wins/losses – A team will earn points for each of its opponents’ wins regardless of whether or not the team defeated the opponents.

Bonus Point Multiplier – The multiplier is adjusted depending on the enrollment/division of each opponent.

Div. 1 = 6, Div. 2 = 6, Div. 3 = 5, Div. 4 = 5, Div. 5 = 4, Div. 6 = 4, Div. 7 = 3, Div. 8 = 2

Out of State Opponents – Michigan teams will be awarded playoff points and bonus points based on enrollment.

1. We support increasing the 8-player football enrollment cap for participating in the MHSAA tournament from the top of Class D (currently 193 students) to 215 students. The Class D enrollment number when 8 player football began was 215 students. (MHSAA Football Committee)

**Rationale**: This establishes a set number that does not fluctuate as the enrollment of Class D changes. A higher number may make it easier for more teams to sponsor 8-player football and enter the 8-player tournament.

1. We support changes to the football live collision practice limitation that would recognize the difference between live game speed contact that takes a player to the ground and live contact that does not take a player to the ground known as “thud”.
* Thud tempo practices are not considered live collision contact.
* Change the **in-season** limit from a 90-minute maximum per week to a 30-minute maximum of live collision per week.
* Change the **preseason** (before first game) collision contact time from no more than one collision practice in day to a maximum of six hours in a week during the first two weeks of practice.
* Intra-squad and inter-squad scrimmages will equal one-half the total time of collision contact hours (two hour scrimmage equals 1 hour of collision contact). (MHSAA Football Committee)

**Rationale**: Lessens live contact time. Gives teams more opportunity for teaching proper blocking and tackling techniques. More closely matches national norms for instruction.

1. We support, beginning with the 2019-20 season to start the **ice hockey** tournament three Mondays (Feb. 24, 2020) before the current date of the Finals The Finals would remain on the same date, the second Saturday in March (March 14, 2020). The regular season would begin on the same date as in the past, but end one week earlier (Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020).

**Rationale**: The current calendar includes playing six games in two weeks, which is more rigorous than any stretch of the regular season. This allows for the use of better and more accessible arenas and rinks to be used for Regional Finals and Quarterfinals. The hockey Quarterfinals begin on a Saturday which allows more planning for the teams that win to get prepared for the Semifinals and Finals. This does not change the tournament end date but the season would end for one-half the hockey playing schools one week earlier as they are defeated in the first round.

1. In boys lacrosse, and possibly other winter or spring sports, permit four voluntary days of practice out of season during the school year (November-March) with any number of players present.

**Rationale**: May tend to discourage non-school sport involvement out of season. This can easily mesh with athletes playing another fall or winter sport. It may help to promote participation as coaches can instruct newer players.

1. In soccer, we support seeding the top two teams at the District level only based upon the MHSAA MPR computer formula and place them on opposite sides of the bracket. Seeded teams are not guaranteed byes or home games. A random draw will be conducted and published by the MHSAA on the Sunday ten days prior to the start of the District tournament (and include all results through that Saturday).

**Rationale**: Prevent the best two teams in a District from playing each other early. Seeding the District level only does not increase travel. MHSAA generated random draw of other teams eliminates the need for a draw meeting.

1. 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.

**Rationale:** Good exposure for college bound players. Many camps are held in the spring and girls are unable to attend as they conflict with their season.

1. The Michigan High School Athletic Administrators will expect interscholastic Golf Coaches and volunteers to teach golf skills, golf rules, scoring and golf etiquette while emphasizing honor and integrity to all student athletes and then hold them to abide by the rules of the game, including holding all to the highest ethical standard of the game.
2. We support adding to Regulation V, Section 3 D that an offense by a coach or student-athlete that occurs after a contest has ended but before an official leaves the facility or grounds may result in a post-contest ejection and next date of competition disqualification.

New Regulation V, Section 3 (D) 3: When a student or coach commits an offense worthy of ejection and disqualification against an official following the conclusion of the contest, but before the officials have left the facility and/or grounds, an official may disqualify the student or coach as though it had occurred during the contest. A coach or student who receives a post-contest disqualification shall be withheld from competition according to the policies of Section 3 (D 1-2)

**Rationale:** This change would create a more consistent official’s jurisdiction in all sports and attempts to decrease acts of poor sportsmanship towards officials after contests have ended.