

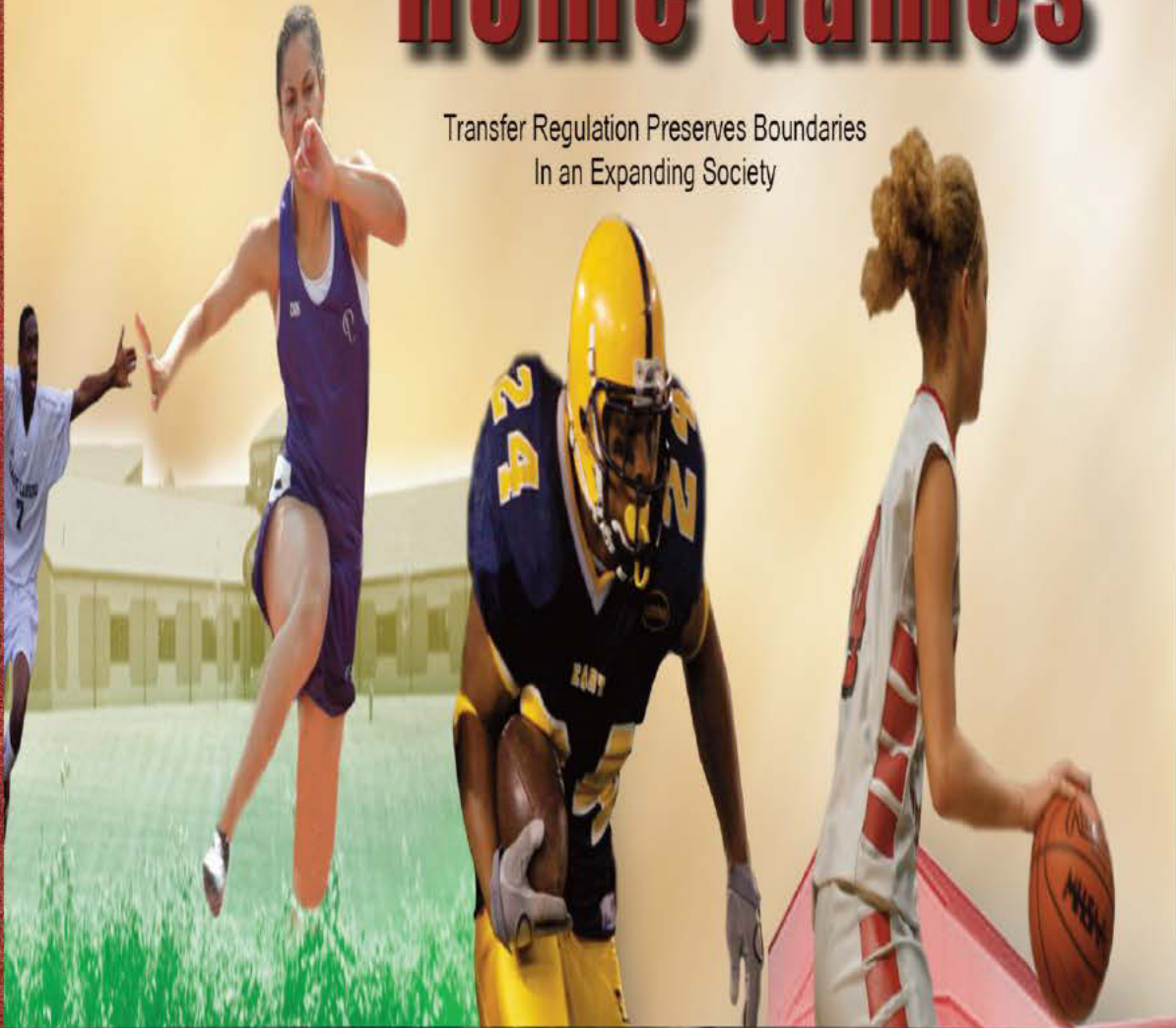
Fall 2015 Vol. 7 No. 1

# benchmarks

mhsaa

## Home Games

Transfer Regulation Preserves Boundaries  
In an Expanding Society



REGULATION 1 - SECTION 9

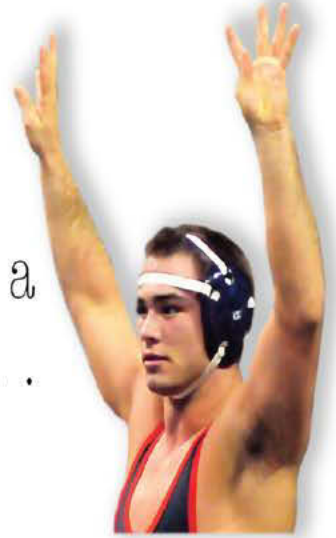




I have a  
story...



I have a  
story...



I have a  
story...

I have a  
story...



We tell their stories



by MHSAA



# Cover Story: Home Games



**4** Oft-changed, expanded, misinterpreted, and – at times – circumvented, the MHSAA Transfer Regulation attempts to identify and penalize athletically motivated enrollment decisions. The rule is further challenged as geographic boundaries dissolve and family relocation increases.

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## The Vault - 14

**Transfer Rule Has Deep Roots**  
Dating to 1924, the Transfer Regulation is one of the oldest in the books. Here's a publication that includes an historical look at the evolution of the rule.



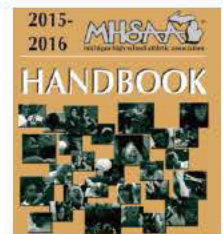
## Safer Than Ever - 16

**That's the state of high school football, and the MHSAA and the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association have teamed up to spread the word across the state.**



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**Preseason Checkup**  
It's a new school year! We're making a list which you can check twice regarding immediate eligibility of transfer students under Exception 1.



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wide angle: from the publisher

## A Driving Force that Needs to be Re-Routed

During the 2014-15 school year, over the course of 12 meetings, the MHSAA Executive Committee considered 467 requests of member schools to waive *Handbook* rules. Of those, 300 requests were to waive some aspect of the Transfer Regulation.

So an issue of *benchmarks* which examines the MHSAA transfer rule is well justified. Perhaps overdue.

Over the years, families have moved about and split apart with increasing frequency. Public policymakers have adopted laws that encourage students to move, and to keep moving, until they find a school more to their liking or they graduate, whichever occurs first.

Meanwhile, the profile of competitive sports has blossomed to the point of becoming overblown, the influence of non-school sports has spread and the delusion of college athletic scholarships has infected the brains of more students and parents. All of which increase the likelihood that students will move as much or more often for athletics as for academics and all other factors combined.

Add to this that the United States, and Michigan in particular, has become the favored landing zone for foreign exchange students, and the result is the need for a transfer rule that is like a great outside linebacker – tough, quick and nimble. We need a rule that is tough, acts fast and can keep changing to keep up with the times.



*John E Roberts*

The demise of family stability and allure of sport as a means to an end – among other factors – has led to increasingly nomadic lifestyles as people pursue unattainable rewards based on athletic accomplishment.

John E. “Jack” Roberts  
MHSAA Executive Director



# New Year, New Focus, New Opportunities

## What's Happening at the MHSAA? We'll Tell You

There's no better opportunity to stay in touch regarding new developments within the MHSAA and hone your administrative skills than to attend one of the annual AD In-Service/Update Meetings each autumn in a neighboring community. The gatherings also give members a chance to offer face-to-face feedback, and provide the MHSAA with valuable data through the annual Update Meeting Opinion Poll. It is expected that all athletic directors attend an In-Service and an Update Meeting each fall.

Beginning Sept. 23 in Kalamazoo and ending Oct. 30 in Marquette, the month-long tour literally spans the state to keep constituents informed and educated.

The cost per person is \$12 for the In-Service only; \$20 for the Update Meeting only; \$30 for combined sessions. Following are the dates and locations. In-Services begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Update Meetings at noon, except for the Oct. 30 session as noted below.



- Wednesday, Sept. 23 – Kalamazoo (Pine West)
- Monday, Sept. 28 – Warren (DeCarlo's Banquet/Convention)
- Thursday, Oct. 1 – Lansing (Causeway Bay)
- Monday, Oct. 5 – Comstock Park (English Hills Country Club)
- Wednesday, Oct. 7 – Frankenmuth (Zehnder's)
- Monday, Oct. 12 – Gaylord (Otsego Club & Resort) – Annual Business Meeting
- Friday, Oct. 30 – Marquette (Superior Dome, 10 a.m. – Update Meeting only; no fee or meal)



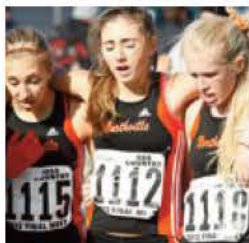
Registration forms can be accessed from the Administrators page of MHSAA.com, or downloaded to your mobile device by scanning the code above right.

## It Takes Heart

"Heart" is often mentioned metaphorically as a critical element in athletic success. Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, all varsity head coaches must have a valid current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification by the established deadline for completion of the rules meeting, for the first sport in which the coach is a head coach during the school year. Scan the code at right or visit the MHSAA.com Health & Safety page to learn more about the requirement.



The MHSAA does not dictate which organization or individual must provide CPR education and certification. However, the Michigan Department of Human Services lists the following organizations that are approved to provide CPR training:



- American CPR Training
- American Heart Association
- American Red Cross
- American Safety and Health Institute
- American Trauma Event Management
- Cardio Pulmonary Resource Center
- Emergency Care and Safety Institute
- Emergency First Response Corp.
- EMS Safety Services
- FreeCPR.Org
- Medic First Aid
- National Safety Council
- ProCPR, LLC

- americancpr.com
- americanheart.org
- redcross.org
- hsi.com/ashi/about
- atem.us
- 1-800-900-2772
- ecsintstitute.org
- emergencyfirstresponse.com
- emssafety.com
- freecpr.org
- medicfirstaid.com
- nsc.org
- procpr.org

# Home Games



**As boundaries defining school enrollments expand, the MHSAA Transfer Regulation stands in place to safeguard school sports.**

**T**he conversation, speculation and anticipation begin early each July, building to a crescendo on the last day of the month. It's the Major League Baseball trade deadline, which has come to overshadow the actual games, rendering numerous teams as quitters with more than a third of the season remaining.

Imagine a similar scene affecting not just one sport, but all sports, a month before each school year begins. Marquette is talking to Grand Haven about a left tackle. Port Huron needs a competitive cheer flyer. Detroit Pershing is looking for a point guard.

Why not? With an increasing number of school-of-choice districts statewide, those with the means to do so could change jerseys each year.

Thankfully, MHSAA member schools agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the Association, perhaps none more important to the pursuit of athletic equity than Regulation I, Section 9: the Transfer Regulation. Oft-changed, expanded, misinterpreted, and – at times – circumvented, the MHSAA Transfer Regulation attempts to identify and penalize athletically motivated enrollment decisions.

Origins of the rules involving transfers date to 1925, but the continual evolution has been necessitated by the erosion of geographic boundaries which once defined home turf in school sports.

One recent addition to this vital section of the *MHSAA Handbook* is commonly referred to as the “links” rule for athletic-related transfers, which went into effect prior to the 2014-15 school year.

“If I could summarize a global opinion from the phone calls I take from administrators around the state, it's this: ‘enough is enough,’” said MHSAA Associate Director Tom Rashid, explaining the impetus for the most recent codicil. He estimates that 75 percent of the multitude of phone and written correspondence he entertains involves transfer issues and waiver requests.

The most recent changes include links from nonschool and previous school teams; international student enrollment, and enhanced subvarsity participation. Those components, an overview of the Regulation and expansion to its current breadth and depth, and possible modifications for the future will serve to illustrate the rule's importance to high school sports in Michigan, keeping the games local and community based, allowing people to root for the home team.

## A Rule Transferring Through the Decades

From the first Constitution of the MHSAA in 1924 through the most recent modifications in the 2015-16 *Handbook* in which nine pages are dedicated to student transfer issues, a regulation has been in place to govern athletic participation for students changing schools. While exceptions and details have grown, the basic premise has largely stayed the same. In 1924, students changing schools were required to sit one semester prior to participating in athletics, even those returning home from military schools such as Culver Academy in Indiana. Over the years the rule was weakened by allowing the two school principals to make exceptions. As one might imagine, such authority proved too whimsical from situation to situation, and even-handed governance became problematic. Eventually, Michigan's association of principals asked the MHSAA for a more stringent rule which was adopted in the early 1980s, closely resembling its current form.

"The transfer/residency rule is a legally and historically tested but still imperfect tool to control athletic-motivated transfers and other abuses. It is a net which catches some students it should not, and

*"If I could summarize a global opinion from the phone calls I take from administrators around the state, it's this: 'enough is enough.'" — MHSAA Associate Director Tom Rashid*

misses some students that should not be eligible," said MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts. "This is why all state high school associations have procedures to review individual cases and grant exceptions."

As the old adage states, "There is an exception to every rule." Or, in the case of the MHSAA Transfer Regulation, 15 of them, in an attempt to not penalize students who change districts for legitimate circumstances unrelated to athletic participation (See the "Exceptions" inset below).

– continued next page

## Exceptions to the Rule

A student enrolled in grades 9 -12, who changes schools, is not immediately eligible in the new school **UNLESS** they meet one of the 15 Exceptions:

### 15 EXCEPTIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ELIGIBILITY

#### EIGHT RESIDENCY EXCEPTIONS

1. Student moves with the people he/she was living with previously (full & complete)
2. Not living with either parent moves back to them +
3. Ward of the Court, placed with foster parents
4. Students from an Approved International Student Program (AISP on F-1 or J-1 visa) placed with host family in district. Play 1 year, wait 1 year. Non-AISP may have subversity only for all years without waiver after sitting out (MLK or Aug 1)
5. Married student moves into school district
8. Student moves with or to divorced parent (ETF) +
12. An 18 year old moves without parents (ETF) +
13. A student resides in a boarding school (ETF) +

#### FIVE SCHOOL STATUS EXCEPTIONS

6. School ceases to operate, not merged (*Handbook* Int. 64 & 90)
7. School is reorganized or consolidated
9. School Board orders safety or enrollment shift transfer
11. Achieved highest grade available in former school
15. New school established; enrolled on first day

#### TWO STUDENT STATUS EXCEPTIONS

10. Incoming 9th-grader not here on an F-1 or J-1 visa
14. Expelled student returns under pre-existing criteria

**+Four Exceptions (2, 8, 12 & 13) are allowed once in grades 9-12. (ETF) = Educational Transfer Form is only used for these 3 exceptions (8, 12 & 13). The current MHSAA form must be completed by both school principals and returned signed by the MHSAA before the student participates in a game or scrimmage. There is an allowance for students whose parents never married to use this form. For a full summary of the Regulation, scan the code at right.**



Perhaps the most oft-used exception of the Transfer Regulation is that which involves full and complete residential changes, in which the “Rule of Four” is then applied. When a student meets the residency requirement, he or she has immediate eligibility at the school of the new residence or closest nonpublic, or charter school closest to the new home in driveable roadway miles. The fourth option is eligibility at the former school after the move.

“This ‘Rule of Four’ provides a geographic boundary for nonpublic and charter schools to even the playing field with the public school whose new student-athletes also must abide by a boundary,” Rashid said.

Other exceptions involve more extenuating circumstances, and even one which is not an exception at all in the case of first-time 9th-graders, who are eligible for the first day of activity in any sport at the school in which they enroll. The exceptions fall under three main categories: Residency, School Status and Student Status, as a way of simplifying the rule.

There are many common reasons for changing schools which are not exceptions to the “sit out” period. Among these non-exceptions are “school-of-choice” enrollment after starting the 9th grade, returning to the school of residence after attending as a school-of-choice student, guardianship, being unable to afford tuition, transferring because the former school does not offer a sport or sports, or cancels a sport team. These students are not eligible for approximately one-half the school year.

Rashid conducts in-service meetings around the state each fall, in addition to hosting multiple training sessions at the MHSAA building each year for new athletic directors. Regulation 1, Section 9 re-

ceives heavy emphasis, and if attendees have one take-away from each session, it should be this: “When in doubt, sit them out and find out.”

“The energy and efforts of this office to educate administrators on the transfer rule which has become more complicated have helped to insure eligibility for those who qualify,” Rashid said. “There’s no substitute for experience, and our veteran ADs statewide are quite familiar with the rules. We attempt to give the new ADs a basic understanding and encourage them to contact our office for clarification on any issue, at any time. Our darkest days are when ineligible athletes participate and schools are required to forfeit contests.”

When schools believe they have compelling cases, requests for waivers are submitted for review by the MHSAA Executive Committee on a monthly basis. The vast majority of these requests involve the Transfer Regulation, although numbers have been on the decline in recent years. The 2007-08 school year saw 372 waiver requests for the Transfer Regulation hit the MHSAA office, with 275 cases being approved. During 2014-15, 300 such requests were received, and 213 were approved.

The recent decline can be attributed to a number of factors.

“Our Executive Committee does a wonderful job of reviewing and deciding the multitude of waiver requests while maintaining this rule which has existed for some time,” Rashid said. “The minutes of each meeting are public, and schools will often check to see if similar cases have been approved before they go through with a request to MHSAA staff.

“I don’t think there’s been a decrease in students changing schools, but there’s better communication between MHSAA staff and schools

## GETTING SCHOOLED

2007-08:  
372 Requests  
275 Approved



pertaining to the rule, which might tend to decrease the number of requests for waiver.”

The apex of waiver requests might correlate with the number of students taking advantage of Michigan’s school-of-choice landscape as its popularity grew near the turn of the century, leading to a misunderstanding of enrollment vs. athletic eligibility.

In 1996, the state of Michigan made it easier for parents to choose their child’s school from among those in their own and neighboring public school districts. By 2001 according to the Michigan Department of Education, 283 out of 554 districts were participating in Michigan’s state schools-of-choice plan, and, without a doubt, it was the first time many were exposed to the MHSAA’s Transfer Regulation for athletic eligibility.

“Our transfer rule is sometimes difficult for the public to grasp due to school-of-choice laws,” Rashid said. “Often times, the public has school-of-choice mentality regarding enrollment. But there is a difference between *enrollment* and *athletic eligibility*. I feel badly for those who move and expect immediate eligibility at the new school without understanding the consequences. School-of-choice legislation both respects and permits MHSAA transfer rule ineligibility.”

In fact, the MHSAA transfer rule provided for choice in athletics well before it was available in Michigan education. Long before school of choice was popularized, the MHSAA transfer rule allowed first-time 9th-graders the choice of attending any school in Michigan which would allow them to enroll, and have immediate athletic eligibility. Subsequent changes in enrollment would result in at least one semester of ineligibility for interscholastic athletics unless the student’s circumstances complied

with one of the 15 stated exceptions.

“As school-of-choice options were expanded for students’ enrollment, it has had no effect on the rules governing athletic eligibility,” said Roberts. “Those introducing and passing the bills did not want the legislation to provide a free pass for more students to change schools for sports, and effectively undermine the intended positive educational purposes of expanded parental choice in public education.”

School of choice is here to stay, certainly. However, according to a recent article in *Bridge Magazine*, families aren’t always finding the grass greener in neighboring school yards.

According to the story: “In 2012-13 alone, 26,305 students transferred from their home districts to school-of-choice districts (in Michigan, grades K-12). That same school year, 16,138 transferred out of school-of-choice districts, most of whom likely returned to the schools they would attend by residency.”

All of the instability keeps MHSAA member school administrators and MHSAA staff on their collective toes. Societal change continues to keep one of the oldest MHSAA rules at the forefront, and also drives further evolution of the rule.

With school of choice, the instance of a student’s changing schools for athletic reasons has increased and become more difficult to pinpoint. Add the increasing dependence on nonfaculty coaches within schools and the related increased profile of non-school youth sports programs, and it’s the perfect storm for swelling athletic transfer issues.

Recent years have also thrown an additional curveball into the arsenal. Not only are students from neighboring communities roaming the hallways on the first day of school, but students from

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The steady decline in number of waiver requests and those granted regarding the Transfer Regulation in recent years is likely due to greater understanding of the rule fostered through educational efforts between MHSAA staff and school administrators.

**2014-15:  
300 Requests  
213 Approved**

foreign countries have posed increased eligibility concerns.

“During the most recent decade, increasing numbers of students from foreign countries have been enrolling in U.S. schools on F-1 visas, and without being placed by approved programs,” Roberts said. “And once again questions related to unscrupulous placements and competitive balance emerged.”

Both festering issues addressed in the preceding paragraphs have led to the recent and more stringent Transfer Regulation modifications.

### Mending the Fences With Stronger Links

As Roberts alluded to in discussing the origins of the Transfer Regulation, it is a dragnet which serves the membership well, yet can never catch all intended targets, while sometimes reeling in those with legitimate cases. Over time, the gate can be weakened or exposed in some areas, and it's time to reinforce the links.

On May 5, 2013, the MHSAA adopted a rule – known appropriately as the “links” rule – that advocates believe is more straightforward than the athletic motivated section of the Transfer Regulation and is a needed next step to address increasing mobility of students between schools. The rule took effect in August 2014 and links certain described activities to a longer period of ineligibility after a transfer. It intends to catch some of the most

overt and egregious of transfers for athletic reasons.

“This rule was born of frustrations expressed to the MHSAA staff by coaches associations in wrestling and basketball,” Rashid said. “Kids were consistently changing schools after nonschool, off-season contact with individuals from other districts. Under the old rule, they’d sit half the year, then play the second half, which includes the state tournament.

“It is also born from the most well publicized, ridiculous situations where students were transferring into the schools of a former coach or personal trainer who was newly hired,” Rashid said. “Except for an occasional instance when the rule hits home, ADs file this under ‘enough is enough’ and so many administrators have applauded the efforts.”

In general terms, this portion of the transfer rule Section 9(F), increases ineligibility for transfers not meeting a stated exception from 90 school days to 180 in situations as follows: If a student has played on a team at one high school and transfers to another where he or she is ineligible, the period of ineligibility is 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 (this

## U.S. Hosting Exchange Students State Ranking

2013-14 Rank	2014-15 Rank	State	2014-15 Year or Semester Inbound
2	+	California	2,798
1	+	Michigan	2,683
3	**	Texas	2,009
6	+	Pennsylvania	1,454
5	**	New York	1,438
7	+	Washington	1,294
4	+	Wisconsin	1,279
9	+	Ohio	1,170
8	+	Minnesota	1,157
16	+	Massachusetts	1,089
10	+	Indiana	1,018
11	+	Oregon	958
13	**	Florida	883
12	+	Illinois	871
20	+	Arizona	728
14	+	Virginia	684
15	+	Colorado	671
18	**	Arkansas	618
17	+	Kansas	612
19	+	Idaho	590
21	**	Missouri	580
23	+	North Carolina	518
26	+	New Jersey	506
22	+	Iowa	480
27	+	Utah	469
24	+	Georgia	445

2013-14 Rank	2014-15 Rank	State	2014-15 Year or Semester Inbound
28	+	Tennessee	444
31	+	Connecticut	420
25	+	Nebraska	387
32	+	Oklahoma	381
33	+	Louisiana	343
34	+	Alabama	342
29	+	Kentucky	340
30	+	South Carolina	326
35	**	Nevada	318
37	+	Maryland	281
38	+	Montana	265
36	+	Maine	248
39	**	South Dakota	182
40	**	Mississippi	180
41	**	New Mexico	170
45	+	Delaware	156
44	+	New Hampshire	147
43	+	Vermont	139
42	+	Alaska	131
46	**	West Virginia	126
47	**	Wyoming	105
48	**	Rhode Island	89
49	**	North Dakota	71
50	**	District of Columbia	40
51	**	Hawaii	30
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,663</b>

rule is sport-specific) for either gender. This includes 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 Section 9(E), this new Section 9(F) does not require one school to allege athletic motivation. If one of the four athletic related links exists, the student is ineligible for 180 scheduled school days.

After just one year in practice, the “links” component has shown strength.

“I think it’s had a few effects. I know from my phone conversations that it has certainly deterred some students from changing schools,” Rashid said. “It has clearly increased awareness of people who participate in nonschool programs and then change schools. It’s heightened awareness of recruiting, which is the basis of the rule, and school-shopping because of sport.

“The rules can serve best in advance of a transfer to discourage changing schools for sports. We encourage ADs to inform prospective transfer students and parents of the anti-recruiting rule and all parts of the transfer rule before they attempt to change schools.”

### Maxing Out the Visa

As difficult a task as it is to police meanderings from school district to school district throughout Michigan, the influx of enrollment from other countries adds an entirely new level of complexity.

Responding to the growing number of international exchange students taking classes in Michigan schools and the potential effect on equity in school sports, the MHSAA Representative Council adopted new rules for 2014-15 intended to treat J-1 and F-1 visa students similarly and to minimize the disparate impact of Federal Law on public schools in comparison to non-public schools.

“Until recently, foreign exchange students were primarily here on J-1 visas; they ‘journeyed’ here and ‘journeyed’ back after one year,” Rashid said. “We’ve seen a growing number of F-1 students who can have only one year in public school, but then have multiple years at nonpublic school. So our rule invoked two years ago said we are going to treat both types of exchange students the same. Play one year, then sit one year, no matter what kind of school.”

For those asking how many individuals this could possibly affect, consider this: the state of Michigan ranked second nationally in the number of exchange students hosted by its schools in 2014-15, and in years prior was No. 1 by a long shot. More than 2,500 students were here on F-1 or J-1 visas a year ago, a significant number indeed (*see table on preceding page*).



Michigan has become a magnet for international student enrollment recently, leading the nation in numbers during 2013-14, and ranking second only to California a year ago.

The tipping point for taking action was the 2013-14 school year when several high-profile situations occurred involving F-1 visa students, some of whom received the maximum penalty for a violation of undue influence (the anti-recruiting rule) – a calendar year of ineligibility.

The penalty has since increased to up to four years of ineligibility for a student or four years of suspension for a coach or disconnection of an adult associated with the school. The undue influence rule applies to all students, grades 7-12 including international students.

The Key changes (applicable to international students not enrolled [attending classes] in an MHSAA member school during the 2013-14 school year) include:

- The automatic exception which allows immediate eligibility for first-time-ever 9th-graders does not apply to international students.

- Only those international students (J-1 or F-1) enrolled under Transfer Rule Exception 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12 or 13, or placed through an MHSAA “Approved International Student Program,” can have varsity eligibility

- Those international students who are placed through an MHSAA Approved International Student Program are immediately eligible for one academic year and then ineligible for one academic year (“Play One, Wait One”).

- Other international students have no varsity eligibility. After the normal (approximately one semester) waiting period for transfer students, local schools may provide those students subvarsity eligibility, regardless of grade level and previous sports experience and without MHSAA Executive Committee approval.

A list of approved AISP organizations appears on MHSAA.com.

– continued next page

## Subvarsity Clause Encourages Participation

One of the unintended consequences of the subvarsity component for transfers was that it failed to account for smaller schools or individual sports in which no freshman or JV teams existed. The most recent iteration of the rule now provides eligibility for such students.

As a result of changes made for 2015-16, a transferring 9th- or 10th-grade student, who has never played in a high school scrimmage or game and is granted an Executive Committee waiver in advance of participation, may now be eligible in individual varsity heats, matches or races on a non-scoring basis. Previously, subvarsity eligibility was only for team sports with 9th-grade or JV teams. This expansion, with an approved waiver for a student who meets the above criteria, would permit some non-scoring involvement in cross country, golf, swimming & diving or track & field on a non-scoring basis where there is no separate JV team. This would not apply to relay teams in swim or track if they will be scored within the varsity race.

## Eyes Forward

The three modifications related to the Transfer Regulation put into action during the last two years illustrate just how volatile, mobile and unstable boundaries and communities have become. Another way to look at it is how expansive a rule has become to regulate a part of the world that has become so small.

With that in mind, while the recent actions purport to quell the most egregious transfer eligibility issues currently brought to light, state association leadership must keep heads up and eyes forward for potential concerns on the horizon.

“There may be a large percentage of the MHSAA’s constituents who do not believe the links rule goes far enough; that this should be applied to all transfer students, not merely those whose transfer does not fit one of the 15 stated exceptions which allows for immediate eligibility,” Roberts said. “That could become the MHSAA’s next step in fighting one of the most aggravating problems of school-based sports today.”

Rashid points out that some states require that their executive staffs to sign off on all transfers. For smaller states, that might be practical, but he fears that task would be unwieldy for the MHSAA, which has more than 700 member schools.

Like Roberts, Rashid also can see a push coming for one year of ineligibility for all transfers not meeting prescribed exceptions, but warns of possible complications.

“Would such a step lead to more litigation and would it also net some who simply want to be part of a team?” he asks. “Would it also invite ineligibility for those who change schools for socialization issues? It sometime feels like the tail wagging the dog. I’d like more hard data. How many transfers are there overall, and how many transfers are even involved in athletics and to what extent?”

## Transfers and Subvarsity Status

The Executive Committee has the authority to approve immediate eligibility at the subvarsity level for transferring 9th or 10th-grade students (after entering 9th grade, before completing 10th grade) who have not previously participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in any MHSAA sport at the high school level (whether MHSAA member schools or not) and who do not qualify for one of the 15 stated exceptions to the transfer regulation and have transferred for reasons having nothing to do with athletics, discipline or family finances and would not require Executive Committee evaluation or comparison of school demographics or curriculum.

**Note:** Subvarsity eligibility under this Section permits participation in the following scrimmages or contests (but not in MHSAA tournaments):

1. Non-varsity team sports: Teams consisting primarily of 9th- and/or 10th-graders and against other teams primarily of 9th-and/or 10th-graders.
2. Individual sports subvarsity level: Races or heats, designated as sub-varsity for all participants in that heat or race and not scoring within a varsity meet.
3. Individual sports without a subvarsity level: On a non-scoring basis in the same events and even in the same heats/foursomes/rotations of those events designated as varsity level competition. Participation in relays would not be permitted if it is intended that the relay score within a varsity contest.
4. In 1, 2 and 3 above:
  - a. This is not an opportunity for ineligible students to participate; it is only for those students who are eligible by rule or by MHSAA Executive Committee action.
  - b. This does not require schools to conduct non-scoring events or sub-varsity competition.
  - c. This does not create opportunities for ‘exhibitions’ in sports where such is not permitted.

Future discussion could involve a combination of thoughts, according to Rashid, including a rule which is sport-specific. That is, transfers may become eligible for any sport after half a year, except for sports which they played at the former school at the varsity level. In those sports, the period of ineligibility would be a full year. Some would like to tighten the new links rule by applying 180 days of ineligibility to a transfer who has a sports connection to the new school (link) even if the student meets an exception or changes residence.

Those are topics for another day, but ones which the MHSAA is sure to keep in the forefront as it discusses and monitors the most recent upgrades; just as its leadership has done since 1924.

— Rob Kaminski  
MHSAA benchmarks Editor

## Transfer Trends

One of the responsibilities that schools have asked organizations like the MHSAA to execute is the management of transfer student eligibility. Historically, many associations have linked eligibility to residence . . . thus, for some the regulation has been called the “Residency Rule” or “Transfer/Residency Rule,” not merely the “Transfer Rule.”

Over the years, as society became more mobile and families less stable, these rules became more and more complicated; and now, for most state high school associations, this is the regulation that consumes the most (or second) most pages of their handbooks. Over the years, this has also been the regulation most frequently challenged in court.

Over the years, some states have relaxed their transfer rule and others have refined their transfer rule. In either case, the transfer rule remains an imperfect rule, an imperfect net. Sometimes this net snags students who should not be made ineligible, and for those situations all associations have arranged some kind of waiver or appeal process.

And sometimes, and much less easily solved, the net fails to catch the situations it really should . . . the transfers that are not hardship related or the result of some very compelling educational need, but those that are obviously for athletic reasons. It is those that we have been most focused on in Michigan.

Our first effort to get at the most problematic transfers was the adoption for the 1997-98 school year of what we called the “Athletic-MOTIVATED Transfer Rule” . . . Regulation I, Section 9(E). Examples of an athletic-motivated transfer are included in the rule. The rule only applies to transfer students who do NOT meet any of the stated exceptions for immediate eligibility and are ineligible for one semester under our basic transfer rule. They become ineligible for 180 scheduled school days if there is a finding that the transfer was more for athletics than any other compelling reason.

This effort has not been successful enough because it requires a school that loses a student to another school to promptly allege to the MHSAA office, with supporting documentation, that the transfer was more for athletic reasons than any other compelling reason. The receiving school then must respond to those allegations. Then the executive director makes the decision. The unfortunate result of applying this rule is that it usually causes hard feelings between the schools, and hard feel-

ings toward the executive director by the school decided against. In 17 years, schools have invoked this rule only 45 times.

Our more recent effort to address the most egregious athletic transfers resulted from requests from the coaches associations for wrestling and basketball which were watching too many students change schools for athletic reasons, usually related to an out-of-season coaching relationship. The new rule – the “Athletic-RELATED Transfer Rule” – is Regulation I, Section 9(F). The difference between Section 9(E) and the newer Section 9(F) is that in 9(F) one school does not have to make and document allegations before staff can act. If MHSAA staff discover or are informed of any of the circumstances listed in 9(F), we can act. Again, the rule only applies to those transfer students whose circumstances do NOT meet one of the automatic exceptions. It applies only to students who are

ineligible for a semester under the basic transfer rule. If there is a finding that one of the athletic related “links” exists (usually an out-of-season coaching relationship), then this transfer student who would be ineligible for one semester is made ineligible for 180 scheduled school days.

So far, it appears that 9(F) may be a better deterrent than 9(E). It has been referenced when students are rumored to be transferring, and it has stopped many of those transfers before they occur. We expect 9(F) to be an even better deterrent in 2015-16 because the rule has been broadened to apply to administrators and parents (not just coaches) and to address directing and coordinating athletic activities (not just coaching).

We have said that if this latest effort does not succeed in slowing athletic transfers, then the next step is 180 days of ineligibility – at least in any sport the student played in high school previously – for all transfer students who do not qualify for an exception that permits immediate play. I fear that would catch far too many students who

should not be withheld so long from competition and could lead to a period like the early 1980s when the MHSAA, at the request of the state principals association, adopted the core of the transfer rule we have today and which resulted in a period of busiest litigation for the MHSAA when, at one time, the association had more than a dozen cases in court simultaneously on transfer matters. We’ve got to make the current rules work – with tweaks, perhaps; but not with radical revision.



Thus far, Section 9(F) is passing the eye test as a stronger deterrent to would-be transfers than 9(E). The hope is that the rate is slowed enough to make a potential 9(G) a moot point.

## Looks Like FHSAA Can Breathe Easy, For Now

The state House of Representatives packed their Wiffle balls and went home, calling a surprise "sine die" adjournment to its 2015 regular session in Tallahassee (late in April).

By all accounts, that's great news for the Florida High School Athletic Association and those who want its rulebook to have more than one page after the table of contents.

It means legislation aimed at the FHSAA should die again on the floor when the Senate closes shop, and we can turn our attention back to spring-sports playoffs (*this article was published April 29, 2015*).

The Senate can pass proposals to which both chambers came to agreement. But most of the bills that were not yet reconciled, word for word, with House versions — including those targeting the FHSAA — are headed for the graveyard.

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*“The reality in all of this is that no matter how this year's drama ends, it's not over. The power brokers who pushed these bills, some of whom had children or favorite teams that were restricted or ruled upon by the FHSAA, are going to be standing in line with their list of grievances a year from now.”*

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Legislators were expected to return to Tallahassee in May or June for a special session required to hammer out Florida's \$80 billion budget. But items unrelated to the budget were not expected to be on that to-do list.

Almost every athletic director I have talked to will be relieved if SB 948 is buried. Most abhor the idea of politics staining prep sports.

DeLand AD Paul Ryder said he hasn't agreed always with FHSAA regulations, “especially when it has affected us in a negative manner.” But he notes that his elected peers sit on the committees that set bylaws and hear eligibility appeals.

“Because our school is a member of the FHSAA, we have opportunities to voice our concerns and can use the structure already in place to eliminate or propose changes to rules that we disagree with,” Ryder said. “If a majority of coaches and/or athletic directors feel a change is necessary, changes to rules occur through this process.”

It always doesn't work as seamlessly as it could, but the FHSAA is democratic.



The reality in all of this is that no matter how this year's drama ends, it's not over. The power brokers who pushed these bills, some of whom had children or favorite teams that were restricted or ruled upon by the FHSAA, are going to be standing in line with their list of grievances a year from now.

This is the third time in four years that the House approved a bill to reduce further the FHSAA's power to apply and enforce rules limiting transfers by athletes. The past two proposals failed on the Senate side as time ran out on those sessions.

There is no question legislators who pushed HB 7137 and SB 948 want free agency. That's a dirty word in high-school athletics, but proponents do have justification in believing that more educational options for students and parents are a good thing.

The trick — and boy, is this tricky — is finding a way to create a smorgasbord of school choices without serving all sorts of loopholes that allow the travel-team mentality to take over high-school sports completely.

I know, I know. We already have transfers by the boatload, but does that make it right?

Language aimed at the FHSAA in SB 948 clearly would have made it easier than ever to assemble all-star teams.

For one, it would provide home-schoolers with carte blanche freedom to select the high school they want to play for within their district. Anybody who has been around sports for more than an hour or two knows that's an open invitation to sign up an AAU team for virtual school and take them to your school of choice, all while avoiding the FCAT.

Currently, home-schoolers can play for their zoned public school or any private school willing to give them a spot on the roster. Isn't that sufficient?

Given that academic choices aren't even in the equation if a home-school or virtual-school student isn't planning to step foot on campus (aside from the sports fields), why that need for free agency?

— Buddy Collings  
Orlando Sentinel

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## Partnership: One Word to Focus on in 2015-16

One word. Every year before the school year starts I choose one word to help me focus on what is important and shed all the other clutter in my life. I try to choose a word that will help me in my professional and personal life. The word I choose for the 2015-16 school year is partnership. After choosing my word I realized the word partnership can further enhance our already strong athletic program, too. Often roadblocks are put up in athletic programs that do not allow the program to reach its fullest potential. This creates a separation within a program where all the partners involved detach themselves from the goals/values set by the organization. We see this in every organization, but this article is going to specifically discuss the partnerships between parents, coaches, student-athletes and officials.

When I first started coaching basketball I encountered a situation where a parent was unhappy about what they thought was a reduced role for their student-athlete on the team. He was a starter his sophomore and junior year, but the dynamics of the team his senior year required that I move him because he was one of my best offensive players that could help the second unit. He would play about the same number of minutes, but his role would change. As a coaching staff, we believed this change helped the team and the student-athlete by allowing him to use his strengths as an offensive player. He would have more opportunities to score than he would have if he was a starter. We were trying to do what was best for the team and individual but the parents did not see it that way. Reasoning only made the situation worse as they felt he was entitled to start. They did not appreciate the fact that we were trying to give him more opportunities to reach his fullest potential. The parents went as far as starting a petition to remove me as head coach along with telling anyone who would listen how bad I was as a coach. This lack of partnership hurt our team. The student-athlete complained openly to other players on the team which created a negative atmosphere in the locker room and the parents created a negative atmosphere in the stands. Needless to say that was a tough season in which to build a cohesive group.

This story provides insight on how one isolated incident can have an impact on so many other partnerships. The parent/coach partnership was strained along with the player/coach partnership. This inhibited the growth of the team to become the best it could because of the negative culture cre-

ated. The parent/child partnership was also directly affected because the parents took on the role of an agent or defender and not one of a supporter or advisor. Just think if the parent talked to their child and said, "This is a great opportunity for you and your team. You could see a lot of benefit by supplying the scoring load off the bench. If this makes the team better you should embrace it." The outcome and season could have had an entirely different feel by handling the situation differently. During the season there is going to be some adversity and "why" moments, but having an open and positive communication line with the coach and your child is the key to forming positive partnerships. You don't have to always agree with the decisions, but how you handle the "why" moments will have a profound impact on your child and the team they play on.

The other type of partnership that is not described in my story, but is becoming more and more fractured every year is the parent/fan/official partnership. Last year I had a group of officials ask me to sit in the stands of an opposing team section because of how degrading they were towards the officials. On more than one occasion I had to talk to a group of fans and ask them to keep it positive. Most of the time they looked at me as if to say, "You can't tell me what I can and can't say." The one thing that people do not understand is that yelling

at an official has no bearing on the game. An official has never changed a call based on what a fan has to say. In the last two years there has been a steady decline of officials leaving the profession and very few officials entering the profession. Do you blame them? Who wants to work 2-3 days a week and get yelled at for two hours.

Let's be different this year. To improve this partnership let's give them an applause when we introduce who the officials are for each contest. After the game thank them for their time and efforts. I encourage anyone out there who has an interest in officiating to give it a try. You can have a powerful impact on student-athletes.

Partnership is a very important part of high school athletics. I encourage everyone to make my word for this year part of your experience with high school sports as well.

— Kevin Wolma  
Athletic Director  
Hudsonville High School



Partnership takes on many forms in the school sports setting, including that between officials and coaches.

## A Regulation with Roots

*The “MHSAA Vault” features stories from past publications and other correspondence in the MHSAA Library. This issue takes a look at the history of the Transfer Regulation, excerpted from Executive Director Jack Roberts’ “History, Rationale and Application of the Essential Regulations of High School Athletics in Michigan.”*

Throughout the years, schools of this and every other state have identified problems relating to school transfers. There is recruitment of athletes and undue influence. There is school shopping by families for athletic reasons. There is jumping by students from one school to another for athletic reasons because they couldn't get along with a coach or saw a greater opportunity to play at another school or to win a championship there. There is the bumping of students off a team or out of a starting lineup by incoming transfers, which often outrages local residents. There is the concentration of talent on one team by athletic-motivated transfers. There is friction between schools as one becomes the traditional choice for students who specialize in a particular sport. There is imbalance in competition as a result. And there is always the concern that the athletic-motivated transfer simply puts athletics above academics, which is inappropriate in educational athletics.

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*“That decision is also noteworthy for this statement which has halted or decided subsequent legal challenges: ‘This Court is not the proper forum for making or reviewing decisions concerning the eligibility of transferring students in interscholastic athletics.’”*

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All states have developed rules to address the problems related to school transfers. In some states it is called a transfer rule and in other states a residency rule, because linking school attendance to residence is one of the most effective tools for controlling eligibility of transfers. None of the state high school association rules is identical, but all have the intention of preventing recruiting, school shopping and jumping, student bumping, friction, imbalance and overemphasis, as well as the intention of promoting fairness in athletic competition and the perspective that students must go to school first for an education and only secondarily to participate in interscholastic athletics.

The transfer/residency rule is a legally and historically tested but still imperfect tool to control ath-

letic-motivated transfers and other abuses. It is a net which catches some students it should not, and misses some students that should not be eligible. This is why all state high school associations have procedures to review individual cases and grant exceptions; and why all state high school associations have procedures to investigate allegations and to penalize violations where they are confirmed.

Over the years, state high school associations have considered four options to handle transfers. The first two options are the easiest courses: either (1) let schools decide themselves about transfers, as Michigan once did, but this leads to inconsistent applications and few states now subscribe to such an approach; or (2) make no exceptions at all, rendering all transfer students ineligible for a period of time, but this becomes patently unfair for some students and no state high school association subscribes to that extreme, although it would be easy to administer.

The third option – the ideal approach perhaps – would be to investigate the motivation of every transfer and allow quicker eligibility or subvarsity eligibility to those which are not motivated by athletics, but this is very time consuming if not impossible to administer. No state high school association has sufficient staff and money to consider every detail of every transfer.

This is why a fourth option has been most popular with most state high school associations. This is a middle ground which stipulates a basic rule, some exceptions (15 exceptions in Michigan), and procedures to consider and grant waivers (a primary role of the MHSAA Executive Committee).

It is certain that the MHSAA transfer rule is imperfect. However, whatever few imperfections exist are remedied through a process by which member school administrators may make application to the MHSAA Executive Committee to waive the rule if, in the committee's opinion, the rule fails to serve any purpose for which it is intended or in its application creates an undue hardship on the student. In a typical year, the Executive Committee will receive approximately 250 requests to waive the transfer regulation, approving approximately 60 percent of those requests.

The committee brings to its considerations the following rationale, most recently reviewed and reaffirmed on Aug. 5, 2015:

1. The rule tends to insure equality of competition in that each school plays students who have been in that school and established their eligibility in that school.





Just as the MHSAA has expanded physically – the above building was the MHSAA’s home on Trowbridge Road in East Lansing from 1976 to 1996 – so, too, has the section in its *Hanbook* dealing with transfer rules and undue influence.

2. The rule tends to prevent students from “jumping” from one school to another.
3. The rule prevents the “bumping” of students who have previously gained eligibility in a school system by persons coming from outside the school system.
4. The rule tends to prevent interscholastic athletic recruiting.
5. The rule tends to prevent or discourage dominance of one sport at one school with a successful program, i.e., the concentration of excellent baseball players at one school to the detriment of surrounding schools through transfers and to the detriment of the natural school population and ability mix.
6. The rule tends to create and maintain stability in that age group, i.e., it promotes team stability and team work expectation fulfillment.
7. The rule is designed to discourage parents from “school-shopping” for athletic purposes.
8. The rule is consistent with educational philosophy of going to school for academics first and athletics second.
9. It eliminates family financial status from becoming a factor on eligibility, thus making a uniform rule for all students across the state of Michigan (i.e., tuition and millage considerations).
10. It tends to encourage competition between non-public and public schools, rather than discourage that competition.
11. It tends to reduce friction or threat of students changing schools because of problems they may have created or because of their misconduct, etc.

Following the adoption of a more standardized statewide transfer rule in 1982, there were multiple legal challenges. However, in 1986, the Michigan Court of Appeals determined that a rational basis exists for the transfer regulation and that the rule, with its exceptions, is not overbroad and is neither arbitrary nor capricious, noting that neither a fundamental right nor suspect classification is involved. *Berschback v. Grosse Pointe Schools* 154 Mich App 102 (1986). That decision is also noteworthy for this statement which has halted or decided subsequent legal challenges: “This Court is not the proper forum for making or reviewing decisions concerning the eligibility of transferring students in interscholastic athletics.”

There were two major changes in the MHSAA transfer during the 1980s. The first, the athletic-motivated transfer rule, led to the busiest period of litigation in the MHSAA’s history. The other major change, arguably of equal impact, was implemented without any controversy.

This second subtle but substantial change occurred in 1987 when language was adopted to limit eligibility after a transfer to the non-public school closest to the student’s residence, as opposed to any non-public school in whose service area the student lived. “Service area” did not have a consistent definition and created unnecessary concern that non-public schools had the advantage of huge, undefined attendance areas, compared to public school districts at that time.

Some high school associations prescribe geographic boundaries or mileage limitations for students transferring to non-public schools. Michigan simply says it’s only the non-public school closest to the student’s residence, where eligibility may be immediate.

## High School Football is “Safer Than Ever!”

*The MHSAA and the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association have teamed up to spread the word.*

The MHSAA and the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association have teamed up to devise a gameplan touting the game of football on the interscholastic level, which has been the target of some unfair hits in recent months.

Looking to educate the public on the reality of recent trends in the game, the two associations have launched the “High School Football: Safer Than Ever!” campaign.

“The school-sponsored game has never been safer to play,” said MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts. “The equipment has never been more protective, coaches have never had more safety training, the rules have never been more safety-oriented, and game officials have never had more encouragement to enforce those rules. The result is fewer injuries of all kinds – from nicks and bruises to ankles, knees and necks.”

Yet, in the wake of high-profile NFL cases, and even litigation in one of the MHSAA’s neighboring state associations, Roberts and staff believe it’s time to turn to offense rather than defense.

In July, the [saferthanever.org](http://saferthanever.org) website was launched, and posters (shown below) and brochures were sent to member schools and youth football organizations around the state.

“One of the myths we wanted to debunk was that an increasing number of parents – and mothers in particular – were withholding their children from youth and school football opportunities,” said MHSAA Communications Director John Johnson, who designed the online and print campaign. “In doing so, we also wanted to reveal positive trends involving the well-being of the game.”

High school rules started taking the head out of the game 40 years ago, and are constantly changing to keep safety at the forefront, like the MHSAA’s recent reduction of practice contact.

The brochure includes an inspiring testimonial entitled “Why Football Matters,” penned by the NFL’s John Harbaugh, head coach of the Baltimore Ravens (see article on next page).

The website includes video and audio resources for use during on radio and television broadcasts.

**High School Football**  
**SAFER THAN EVER!**

It Builds Character

The Rules, Coaching & Equipment Are Better

Serious Injuries Are At An All-Time Low... SERIOUSLY!

It Builds Strong Schools & Communities

It Creates Lifetime Memories & Friendships

It Develops Tomorrow's Leaders

**AND IT'S MOTHER APPROVED!**  
**LEARN A GREAT GAME!**

[SaferThanEver.org](http://SaferThanEver.org)

**MHSAA**

Injury Information Source: National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research

## Why Football Matters

by John Harbaugh

**T**he game of football is under attack. We see it every day in the headlines and on the news. The medical concerns are pressing. The game has taken its share of criticism. President Barack Obama said that if he had boys he wouldn't let them play football. Even LeBron James has publicly said no football in his house.

The question is asked over and over: Why would anyone want to play football? And why would anyone let their kids play?

Here's my answer: I believe there's practically no other place where a young man is held to a higher standard.

Football is hard. It's tough. It demands discipline. It teaches obedience. It builds character.

Football is a metaphor for life. This game asks a young man to push himself further than he ever thought he could go. It literally challenges his physical courage. It shows him what it means to sacrifice. It teaches him the importance of doing his job well. We learn to put others first, to be part of something bigger than ourselves. And we learn to lift our teammates – and ourselves – up together. These are rare lessons nowadays.

Football has faced challenges like this before. In 1905, there were 19 player deaths and at least 137 serious injuries. Many of these occurred at the high school and college levels. Major colleges said they were going to drop football because the game had become too violent.

That's when President Teddy Roosevelt stepped in to call a meeting with coaches and athletic advisers from Harvard, Princeton and Yale. He wanted to find a way to make the game safer. They made significant changes, introducing new rules like the forward pass and the wide receiver position. Those changes turned football more into the game we know it as today.

We made progress. Rules changed. Society evolved. The game advanced. We're at another turning point in our sport. The concussion issue is real and we have to face it.

We have to continue to get players in better helmets. We have to teach tackling the right way, and that starts at the NFL level. Change the rules. Take certain things out of the game. It's all the right thing to do.

But even with all of that, the importance of football hasn't changed. In some ways, it's more important than ever.

And I believe the most critical place for football is at the youth and high school levels. For 97 percent of football players, the pinnacle of their careers is the high school game. Few players ever go on to the college level. Even less make it to the pros.

For a lot of these kids, it's not until it's all said and done, and they look back on it several years later, that they realize the difference the sport made in their lives. They are proud of playing the game. Have you ever met anybody who accomplished playing four years of high school football, and at the end of that run said, 'Man, I wish I wouldn't have played'? It doesn't get said.

We know that football players aren't perfect. Nobody is. But millions of former players, one by one, can recount the life-altering principles they learned from football.

They know the value of football is the values in football.

That's why high school football – and particularly high school coaches – play such a vital role in our society. Our football coaches are on the front lines of the battle for the hearts and minds of the young men in our society. The culture war is on and we see it every day. These young men are more vulnerable than ever.

How many youth and high school coaches serve as a father figure to their players? How many mothers look to the coaches of their son's football team as the last best hope to show their son what it means to become a man – a real man? More than we'll ever know.

Coaches teach our young people the lessons of life that very often they learn from no one else. Coaches have the kind of influence in our schools, and with our young people, that is difficult to come by.

Billy Graham once said, "One coach will influence more people in one year than the average person will do in a lifetime." My dad also says all the time that it just takes one person to believe in a young man or young woman to change their lives. I couldn't agree more.

Our culture teaches us to judge an activity by how it's going to make us feel right now. But football doesn't work that way. The game challenges and pushes us. It's often uncomfortable. It requires us to be at our best.

Isn't that what we want in our society?

Football is a great sport. Football teams can be, and very often are, the catalyst for good in our schools and our communities. Millions of young men have learned lessons in football that they could only learn through playing this game. Football has saved lives.

That is why football matters.

— John Harbaugh is a graduate of Ann Arbor Pioneer High School and the head coach of the Baltimore Ravens of the National Football League. Reprinted with permission.

## Heading Off Soccer Concussions?

**H**eading takes the heat in youth soccer, but limiting rough play might be a better way to prevent concussions and other injuries, a nine-year study of U.S. high school games suggests.

More than 1 in 4 concussions studied occurred when players used their heads to hit the ball. But more than half of these heading-related concussions were caused by collisions with another player rather than with the ball. These collisions included head-to-head, elbow-to-head and shoulder-to-head contact, said Dawn Comstock, a University of Colorado public health researcher who led the study.



A recent study showed more than 25 percent of soccer concussions in the report occurred when players used their heads to hit the ball. More than half of such instances, however, were caused by collisions with another player.

There have been recent calls to ban or limit heading in youth soccer, particular among players younger than 14, because of concerns about long-term effects of concussions and repeated brain trauma. Women's soccer stars including 1999 World Cup star Brandi Chastain are among supporters of a ban in kids' soccer.

But Comstock says: "If the rules of soccer were simply enforced better, we would actually be more successful in reducing concussion rates."

Rough play has become more common at all levels of soccer, but it violates rules that prohibit most player-to-player contact on the field, she said.

Five things to know about the study, published in the journal *JAMA Pediatrics*:

**The scoop:** The researchers looked at 2005-14 nationwide sports-injury data from a nationally representative sample of 100 public and private high schools. The study included older teens and some middle-school aged kids younger than 14 who played at the high school level.

More than 1,000 concussions occurred in boys and girls during soccer games and practices in the study years. Concussions in girls were more common, with a rate of almost 5 per 10,000 games and practices, versus almost 3 per 10,000 for boys.

**The plays:** Heading was the most common activity during which concussions occurred, followed by defending, general play, goaltending and chasing loose balls. Player contact caused almost 70 percent of boys' concussions and just over half of those injuries among girls. Close to 30 percent of girls' concussions were caused by heading, versus almost 17 percent for boys.

**The trends:** Concussion rates increased during most study years among girls and boys. Rates of concussions resulting from heading increased among girls but not boys.

The researchers note that soccer has long been considered safer than other youth sports and has increased in popularity since 1969, when only boys played at the high school level.

**The reaction:** Bob Colgate, sports medicine director for the National Federation of State High School Associations, said the study highlights why soccer rules need to be enforced. He said caution against fighting and reckless play will be highlighted by the group's soccer rules committee for the upcoming season. "Players, coaches, game officials and spectators must work together to model and demonstrate sportsmanship and fair play, to minimize risk and maximize participation," Colgate said.

**The kicker:** Chris Nowinski, co-founder of the Sports Legacy Institute, noted that a degenerative brain disease linked with repeated head blows and more often associated with football has recently been found in autopsies of professional soccer players. The new study adds to concerns that have been raised about rough play, he said. The Boston-based institute is a nonprofit education and advocacy group that funds research on preventing and treating concussions and other brain trauma. It also advises the National Football League and groups involving other contact sports including rugby and lacrosse.

"It's important that we take a close look at how we can make the game of soccer safer," Nowinski said.

— *The Associate Press*  
July 2015

# Host of Healthy Resources a Click or Two Away

The revamped MHSAA.com Health & Safety page is easier to find and navigate than ever before. Find the resources you need by clicking “Health & Safety” from the main blue nav bar that stretches horizontally across the home page, and then select from a number of current health-related topics.

We hope you’ll be a frequent visitor to the page. Bookmark it on your laptop, or take it with you wherever you go by scanning the code at right to your portable device.



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*This page is the hub for information and resources dedicated to assisting MHSAA member schools in providing a healthy participation environment for student-athletes.*

**HEALTH HISTORY | HEADS | HEAT | HEARTS - THE MHSAA'S 4H FOCUS**

*Scroll down this page or click photo for resources pertaining to the MHSAA's major health and safety initiatives and more. Refer to this site frequently for the most recent information.*

- HEALTH HISTORY**  
MHSAA Physical Exam Resources
- HEADS**  
Concussion Resources
- HEAT**  
Heat, Hydration Resources
- HEARTS**  
Cardiovascular Resources

**8 COURSES MEETING MHSAA COACHING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2015-16**

These are the eight courses which will allow high school assistant and subvarsity coaches to fulfill the rules/risk management meeting requirement for the 2015-16 school year.

**2015-16 RULES MEETING DATES AND COACHES REQUIREMENTS**

- MHSAA Rules Meeting Concussion Information & Protocol Review
- NFHS "Concussion in Sports Course" -- Info | Online Course
- University of Michigan Health Systems High School Coach Concussion Training -- Online Course
- Heads Up to Clinicians: Addressing Concussion in Sports among Kids and Teens -- Online Course from the CDC
- NFHS "Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment" -- Info | Online Course
- NFHS Course - A Guide to Heat Acclimatization & Heat Illness Prevention
- NFHS Course - A Guide to Sports Nutrition
- NFHS Course - Sudden Cardiac Arrest

**NEW & NOTEWORTHY**

- [MHSAA Concussion Pilot Program](#)
- [Concussion Insurance Benefits Information and Forms](#)
- [Concussion Education Materials/Acknowledgement](#)
- [CPR FAQs for 2015-16 Head Coach Requirement](#)
- [NFHS Course - Sudden Cardiac Arrest](#)

**HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS**

*Below are links to helpful resources from related associations, organizations and partners dedicated to the health and well-being of school sports. We encourage you to visit these sites frequently.*

## Online Captains Course Goes National

The valuable lessons student leaders have received over the last decade during Captains Clinics presented statewide by Michigan High School Athletic Association staff are now available to students nationwide and beyond as part of an online Captains Course produced by the MHSAA and available from the National Federation of State High School Associations on its Learning Center website.

The Captains Course, created over two years with assistance from Michigan State University's Institute for the Study of Youth Sports (ISYS), is broken into 10 segments providing instruction on leadership styles and skills to how to handle situations faced by leaders of teams in any sport. A total of 20 past members of the MHSAA Student Advisory Council speak during the program, providing peer-to-peer guidance that has proven effective in student leadership campaigns.

The online Captains Course has been started more than 4,000 times since its release in July, including 802 times during the first 10 days of this month. The first MHSAA Captains Clinic was conducted in March 2005, and clinics are presented in person on a league-by-league basis to approximately 1,000 students each school year.

The online Captains Course is free and can be downloaded after an account is created on the NFHS Learning Center website at <http://www.nfhslearn.com>.

"Many student-athletes have characteristics that allow them to become leaders, but rarely do they receive lessons in how to be an effective team captain; this has been the goal of our Captains Clinics and is the aim of this Captains Course," said MHSAA Assistant Director Andy Frushour, who coordinates the association's student services programs and advises the Student Advisory Council. "Our in-person Captains Clinics are still a great way to deliver leadership lessons and to get students from rival schools to interact with each other in a



fun and worthwhile way. But we can only do so many in-person clinics per year.

"With the online version, we can deliver the same message, albeit through a different format. And we can do it 24 hours a day, at the user's convenience, using a medium that kids use like the rest of us use oxygen, and potentially delivering our captains message to exponentially more students than the in-person version; even to students outside of Michigan."

The online Captains Course is an introductory program, with plans for two more advanced leadership courses that will be facilitated online but with activities and discussions to take place offline in local communities. The goal for the "hands-on" portion of later training courses will be for leaders to conduct interviews with coaches and administrators, write short answers and interact with teammates for a more transformational learning experience.

The first course is made up of 10, 10-minute segments, and takes about two hours to complete – but is meant to be completed over multiple days. The short "bite-sized" segments make it easier for students to digest all of the information being given to them, and are based on research by the Institute for the Study of Youth Sports. Doctoral students working with the institute serve as instructors during Captains Clinics.

The Captains Course is hosted by recent high school graduates Caycee Turczyn of Lapeer High School and Connor Thomas of Marlette. Both were two-year members of the Student Advisory Council;

### SAC Class of '17 in Place

Eight student-athletes who will be juniors at their schools during the 2015-16 academic year have been selected to serve two-year terms on the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council.

The Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student's perspective, and also is involved in the operation of Association championship events and other programming. Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. Eight new members are selected annually to serve on the SAC, with nominations made by MHSAA member schools. The incoming juniors will join the group of eight seniors-to-be appointed a year ago.

Selected to begin serving on the Student Advisory Council in 2015-16 are: Alex Janosi, Dexter; Lindsay Duca, East Grand Rapids; Meghan Boyd, Kent City; Marissa Immel, Munising; Jordan Walker, Muskegon Mona Shores; Jack Donnelly, Ottawa Lake Whiteford; Van Nguyen, Plymouth; and Cade Smeznik, Yale.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2016 members who were selected a year ago: Tucker Gross, Beal City; Katie Hartzler, Bridgman; Benjamin Kowalske, Livonia Stevenson; Jordan Michalak, Birmingham Seaholm; Bekah Myler, Gaylord St. Mary; Jared Pittman, Muskegon; Trevor Triewiler, Portland; and Greta Wilker, Belding.

Turczyn has begun studies this fall at the University of Michigan, while Thomas has started classes at Oakland University.

“All of the lessons are based on research conducted by MSU’s Institute for the Study of Youth Sports,” Frushour said. “Dr. Dan Gould and his doctoral students are rock stars in the field of youth and leadership development, and we are lucky to have them as partners on this project.”

The Institute for the Study of Youth Sports was launched in 1978 to establish a world-class institute that would scientifically study the beneficial and detrimental effects of sports



Lapeer’s Caycee Turczyn and Marlette’s Connor Thomas host the online Captains Course, with this segment shot at DeWitt High School.

participation on children and youth and then work to maximize the beneficial effects. The mission of the Institute for the Study of Youth Sports is to provide leadership, scholarship and outreach that transforms the face of youth sports in ways that maximize the beneficial physical, psychological, and social effects of participation for children and youth while minimizing detrimental effects.

— Geoff Kimmerly  
MHSAA Second Half Editor

## WISL: Historic Event to Host 22nd Conference in 2016

The MHSAA is one of the pioneers in the business of prepping its youth for future leading roles, and that tradition will continue in the winter of 2016 when the Association hosts the 22nd Women In Sports Leadership Conference.

The conference, set for Feb. 7-8 in Lansing, has a long history of record-setting attendance and unparalleled speakers and clinicians.

In 1990, the MHSAA introduced the first event of its kind nationally, as the inaugural Women In Sports Leadership Conference aimed to spotlight the many available avenues for females in athletics beyond their playing days.

The 21st edition of the conference in 2014 drew a record crowd of more than 700, topping the previous high of 631 set in 2012. The event takes place in Lansing every other year, and in the alternating “off” years, the MHSAA provides interested parties with WISL mini-grants for those wishing to conduct local seminars and/or clinics.

“Young women and coaches of female athletes pack the Conference to hear from a wealth of expertise from authorities in the field of leadership and athletics,” said MHSAA Assistant Director Kathy Vrugink Westdorp, who coordinates the WISL efforts.



michigan high school athletic association

“I think the variety of workshops, along with the quality of speakers, are the chief draws to the Conference, and it seems to build momentum each year it is held. This year should be no exception.”

Registration information will be available later this fall on MHSAA.com. For additional information, contact Kathy Vrugink Westdorp at the MHSAA.

The MHSAA Women in Sports Leadership Conference includes sessions for both mind and body, and never fails to attract a crowd.

## SAC Leaders Represent at NFHS Summit

New members of the MHSAA Student Advisory Council quickly found themselves among new friends from different schools who are similarly motivated to provide valuable leadership to their classmates.

Four SAC seniors were among 100 students at the inaugural National Student Leadership Summit on July 20 in Indianapolis – and again found plenty of common ground with leaders from all over the country also driven to provide strong student voices in their schools and communities.

The event was hosted over three days by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Students were split into discussion groups tackling a variety of topics and also spent time working with Indiana Special Olympians.

Now home, the MHSAA's four representatives – Ben Kowalske of Livonia Stevenson, Bekah Myler of Gaylord St. Mary, Trevor Trierweiler of Portland and Greta Wilker of Belding – reflected briefly on the experience and what they'll take into this year to pass on both at their schools and to leaders all over Michigan.

**What was your first impression of being surrounded by student leaders from all over the country?**

**Trevor:** When I first arrived at the camp I didn't know what to expect; I did not know whether to be nervous, excited or happy. Then when I started being around other leaders with similar personalities, and mindsets, it was easy to be around them and interact with them.

**Bekah:** My first impression of being surrounded by leaders was that I felt comfortable and secure because I knew everyone around me had the same goal of becoming a better leader.

**Ben:** At first I was wondering how well all the leaders would mix in during the activities. My first impression was how nice and respectful everyone was.



Wilker

**Greta:** I thought it was really cool to see all the leaders from different states and know that we got to be a part of something pretty selective.

**What was the most fun part of the trip?**

**Trevor:** I had the most fun during activities with other student leaders, and in the leadership lounge. In the lounge all the student leaders spent time together playing games and enjoying fun activities.

**Bekah:** Walking to Steak 'n Shake after the dance with my new friends; also hanging out in my room

with my roommate who I became good friends with. All in all, I enjoyed meeting new people!

**Greta:** The most fun part was getting to make friends with kids from across the country and getting to hang out with them for the three days. The late night Steak 'n Shake runs were a lot of fun and just hanging out in the rooms afterwards, just getting to know everyone.

**What was the most eye-opening part?**

**Ben:** Not to sound stuck up, but the most eye-opening was how well the MHSAA SAC is doing. Most states don't even have a council, so seeing how much we do and that we have a council unlike most states was eye-opening



Kowalske

**Bekah:** The Special Olympics event opened my eyes. I was able to experience something that I never have before. When I play any given game whether it be checkers or basketball, I have a desire to win. But that day, it wasn't about winning or losing. It was about giving and sharing the joy of accomplishments that so many of us take for granted.



Ben Kowalske and Bekah Myler pose with a Special Olympian during their activities as part of the NFHS experience.

**Greta:** It was amazing how hard the athletes work and how skilled they are at the sports they play. I got to work with Nick and he was beating me badly in corn hole, but we did make a pretty good team in bocce ball.

**Trevor:** Seeing the smiles on the Olympians faces made me feel special and realize how lucky I am.



## 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

**What did you learn that will be most useful during your senior season, either on the field or off?**

**Trevor:** Two really important things the counselors preached was that everyone has different perspectives. That just because it's not your way does not mean it's wrong; it just means someone else may have seen it differently or solved it differently.

**Greta:** The most useful thing I learned was about relationships with one another and how you can create a positive environment through them – and also how to be a respected leader while still being able to confront others on your team to push them.



**Bekah:** To be a leader, you don't have to be liked by everyone, but you must gain respect from your teammates and give them a reason to respect you through your actions on and off the field.

**Myler**

Ben: Being a great leader doesn't always mean you have to be the boss or be in charge. You can lead by example by doing the little things, and people will follow you.

**Trevor:** Another thing that I want to bring back to my school, and teams, is that all players, and people, should be treated equally no matter what age or grade. For example, all players should be delegated (to carry) supplies, not just the freshman or underclassmen.



**Trierweiler**

What from the conference would be best to pass on to student leaders throughout the MHSAA?

**Greta:** I think the thing to pass on is that you can make an impact; you just have to have the confidence in yourself to do so. Leading is all about the influence you can have on people by setting a good example and believing in yourself.

**Ben:** Standing up for what is right and always doing the right thing, because you never know who is watching.

— Geoff Kimmerly  
MHSAA Second Half Editor



From left, Belding's Greta Wilker, Gaylord St. Mary's Bekah Myler, the MHSAA's Andy Frushour, Livonia Stevenson's Ben Kowalske and Portland's Trevor Trierweiler attended the first-ever National Student Leadership Summit in July.

## Leadership Opportunities Abound for 2015-16

### SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD APPLICATIONS

In 2015-16 we celebrate the 27th anniversary of the Farm Bureau Insurance sponsored MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award. This year, 32 \$1,000 scholarships will again be awarded from a pool of the best and brightest high school seniors. Eligibility requirements and applications can be found at [MHSAA.com](http://MHSAA.com) on the "Students" page. Applications are due to the MHSAA on Dec. 4.

### SPORTSMANSHIP SUMMITS

This fall, the series of MHSAA Sportsmanship Summits returns with four regional clinics across the state. These day-long summits cover sportsmanship topics from a variety of perspectives, including viewpoints of athletes, coaches, officials and administrators. Most importantly, though, the summits focus on sportsmanship in student cheering sections. School groups will review what makes great student sections tick, and then develop plans on how to make its own student section more loud, organized, positive and fun. This year's Summits will be held in Marquette, Nov. 9; Warren, Nov. 11; Kalamazoo, Nov. 16, and Lansing, Nov. 18. Contact Andy Frushour – [andy@mhsaa.com](mailto:andy@mhsaa.com).

### BATTLE OF THE FANS

The fifth annual MHSAA Battle of the Fans competition will take place again during the winter season. The contest, organized by the MHSAA Student Advisory Council, seeks to find the loudest, most organized, more fun and most positive student cheering section in the state. Students should begin filming their student sections this fall in preparation for the video deadline in early January. Dowagiac HS is the defending champion, while Beaverton HS won in 2013-14, Buchanan HS won in 2012-13 and Frankenmuth HS in 2011-12. Visit [mhsaa.com/BOTF](http://mhsaa.com/BOTF) for further details.



Battle of the Fans finalists were recognized at the Breslin Center in 2015.

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP GRANTS

The MHSAA has earmarked \$20,000 to help students become better leaders. This fund originated from a gift to the MHSAA from student leadership training leader, the former W.B.A. Ruster Foundation. Scholarships are available to students to attend existing student leadership camps, and schools can receive grant money to create student leadership programs in their communities. Funding is available NOW. There is no deadline – applications are accepted, and money is distributed, year-round. Visit the "Students" page at [MHSAA.com](http://MHSAA.com).

### CAPTAINS CLINICS

The purpose of the MHSAA Captains Clinic series is to give basic leadership training to both current and future team captains. The training session is only four-and-a-half hours long, so there's no way these students can learn everything they need to become effective team leaders. Instead, we use this time as an opportunity to give the students the basics of being a team captain – we answer the question, "I was named a team captain, now what am I supposed to do?" We walk through the role of a team captain, we discuss common team problems, and we finish the day by making a "To Do" guide for all of each school's team captains. Several clinics will take place in the coming year, and the MHSAA would love to come to your league. If you can get your entire league on board, guarantee 100-150 participants, and suggest a good location (preferably a school on a professional development day), the MHSAA will do the rest. The Association will coordinate the registration process, negotiate with facilities if necessary, provide the curriculum and supplies, work with the caterers and bring facilitators to the clinic. Contact Andy Frushour to learn more about the Captains clinic program – [andy@mhsaa.com](mailto:andy@mhsaa.com).

### ONLINE CAPTAINS COURSE

The MHSAA Captains Clinic program has proven to be a great in-person training method for future team leaders, but the program can only reach a finite number of students per year. With the new online version of the captains clinic, ALL of Michigan's student-athletes and even all students nationwide, can now receive the training anytime and anywhere. The course is housed on the NFHS Learning Center, and it is FREE to all participants. Go to [NFHSLearn.com](http://NFHSLearn.com) to take the course today.

## Scholar-Athlete Program Rolls Into 27th Year

The 2015 Scholar-Athlete Class



Scan the Code for Application Information



Thousands 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 \$1,000 scholarships to 32 top student-athletes and recognize over 2,000 other outstanding individuals in 2015-16.



Michigan's Insurance Company



Underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance, the Scholar-Athlete Award is now in its 27th 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 Jack Roberts, 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 2015-16 school year, carry a 3.5 grade-point average, and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport that the MHSAA sponsors postseason 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. Executive Vice President Jim Robinson notes the company's pleasure with the awards program.

"All of us at Farm Bureau Insurance are proud to reward special, well-rounded young people who have developed both physical and academic skills," Robinson said. "To accomplish both while giving themselves to their schools and their communities are outstanding traits that must be recognized and rewarded."

The 32 scholarship recipients will be recognized at the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing on March 26, 2016.

## Pilot Programs Launched to Monitor Concussion Events Through Sideline Testing, Online Tools

*Getting I.T. offers helpful hints and instructions pertaining to information technology as it relates to the MHSAA and school sports in general.*

The Michigan High School Athletic Association kicked off the 2015-16 school year in early August by hosting 70 member high schools for training in two pilot sideline concussion testing programs aimed at assisting in decision-making regarding the removal of athletes from activity after possible concussion events and record-keeping of those events beginning this fall.

Illinois-based King-Devick Test and Maryland-based XLNTbrain Sport each will be used to monitor approximately 10,000 Michigan high school student-athletes drawn from schools representing all four classes and a variety of regions statewide.



King-Devick's Mark Hane assists attendees with concussion recording and reporting methods.

The pilot programs are part of a three-pronged advance by the MHSAA in concussion care this fall. In addition to becoming the first state association to offer pilot sideline concussion testing, the MHSAA will be the first to mandate record-keeping by member schools of all possible concussion events from detection to an athlete's return to play. The requirement applies to both practices and events, all levels of all sports in grades 7 through 12.

The MHSAA also this fall is the first state association to provide all participants at every MHSAA member high school and junior high/middle school with insurance intended to pay accident medical expense benefits – covering deductibles and co-pays left unpaid by other policies – resulting from concussions sustained during MHSAA practices or competitions. There is no cost to either schools or families.

“These pilot programs are intended to not only improve what’s actually happening on the sidelines at practices and contests in these communities that

are part of the pilot programs, they’re intended to spread the word of the need for improved concussion detection across every community,” MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. “We hope these schools involved will become involved in their leagues and conferences and with their peers across the state as we expand the awareness of the need for better sideline detection and provide ways to get it done.”

Both pilots are off and running and data collection has begun. Between the two pilots already 4500 baselines have been determined.

The MHSAA asked schools at the end of last spring (2015) to volunteer for the pilot programs and then selected participants in order to guarantee a variety of schools based on enrollment and location. Schools are committed to involving at least two sports for each gender each season.

The King-Devick Test is a rapid eye movement screening evaluation that requires athletes to read single-digit numbers displayed on a tablet computer in order to detect impairments of eye movement, attention, language, concentration and other symptoms of abnormal brain function. The test has been validated in more than 50 recent peer reviewed articles published in elite medical journals and is associated with the Mayo Clinic.

The test is administered on the sidelines during evaluations for suspected head injuries, and the post-injury results are then compared to an athlete's preseason baseline. Any worsening of performance (increased time and/or errors) suggests a concussion has occurred and the athlete should be “removed from play” for further evaluation.

“The first and most critical step in managing concussion in the youth athlete is to recognize when one has occurred – not always a simple task,” said Dr. David Dodick, professor of neurology and director of sports concussion services at the Mayo Clinic. “The King-Devick test helps take the guesswork and subjectivity out of the sideline evaluation in a rapid, accurate, and objective way.”

XLNTbrain Sport includes balance and web-based neuro-cognitive tests also used before the start of a season to create a baseline measurement of reaction time, attention, inhibition, impulsivity, memory, information processing efficiency and executive function. The test also assesses mood, anxiety, stress and emotionality.

After a possible head injury, a sideline assessment is done using a smartphone or tablet with those results then compared with the athlete's baseline measurements. The program documents the severity of a concussion, provides a guide for on-the-field decision making regarding treatment



## KING-DEVICK TEST<sup>®</sup>

There's No Such Thing As A Tough Brain

Schools participating in the King-Devick pilot:

Bay City Western  
Benton Harbor  
Buchanan  
Calumet  
Caro  
Caseville  
Detroit Cody  
Detroit Martin Luther King  
Fenton  
Flint Kearsley  
Frankenmuth  
Fruitport  
Garden City  
Grand Ledge  
Grand Rapids Northview  
Lake Leelanau St. Mary  
Lake Linden-Hubbell  
Lincoln Alcona  
Midland Bullock Creek  
Montague  
Muskegon  
Niles  
Pontiac Notre Dame Prep  
Romeo  
Saginaw Heritage  
Scottville Mason County Central  
Shelby  
St. Charles  
St. Joseph  
Tawas  
Vicksburg  
Whitehall  
Yale



## XLNTbrain<sup>®</sup> SPORT

Sports Concussion Management

Schools participating in the XLNTbrain Sport pilot:

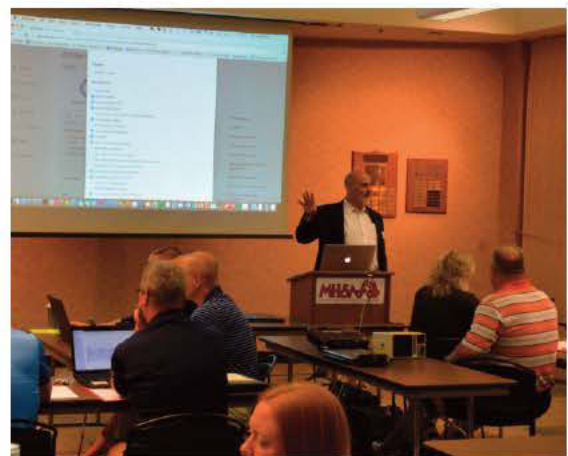
Adrian  
Adrian Madison  
Bay City Central  
Bear Lake  
Brethren  
Belding  
Birmingham Groves  
Chesaning  
Corunna  
Detroit Collegiate Prep  
East Kentwood  
Fennville  
Fowlerville  
Gibraltar Carlson  
Grand Rapids Christian  
Grandville  
Greenville  
Grosse Ile  
Hamilton  
Harrison Township L'Anse Creuse  
Hazel Park  
Kalamazoo Christian  
Lansing Christian  
Macomb L'Anse Creuse North  
Owosso  
Pewamo-Westphalia  
Portland  
Reese  
Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest  
St. Clair Shores Lakeview  
St. Johns  
Stanton Central Montcalm  
Sterling Heights Stevenson  
Vassar  
Vermontville Maple Valley  
West Bloomfield  
Wyoming Kelloggsville

and recovery time and can report results via email to parents, coaches, training staff and medical professionals.

Dr. Harry Kerasidis, who designed the XLNT-brain Sport software, presented at the Coalition for Concussion Treatment Summit at the United Nations building in 2014.

"We included an objective balance test that relies on smartphone accelerometer technology which is effective in the field during practice and game situations," Kerasidis said. "Should a concussion injury be suspected, the system automatically generates a notification to parents and medical professionals and creates a recovery protocol and post-injury tracking so the right people can monitor the athlete's progress. Then, the system assists medical professionals with the all-important return-to-learn and return-to-play clearance."

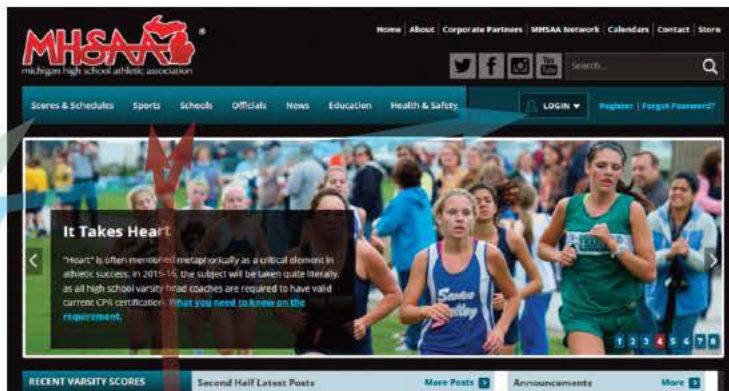
— Geoff Kimmerly  
MHSAA Second Half Editor



XLNTbrain Sport creator Dr. Harry Kerasidis provides insight on his program to those being trained at the MHSAA building.

## ADs Invited to Login and Get Connected

Stretched too far, “managing the message of educational athletics” often falls lower on the list of an AD’s tasks. Yet, we know promoting the correct philosophy of high school sports is valuable for a variety of reasons. MHSAA.com is one of the world’s most visited websites (among the top 10,000 viewed in the U.S.), but we think it might be underutilized by the very people it first was created to serve: ADs and coaches. Below are quick tips on areas you’ll likely visit most:



- 1. Log in:** Make sure to log in whenever you’re on the MHSAA.com website; many calls we receive come from athletic directors who are not logged in and therefore do not have access to tools available via the “My MHSAA” button at the upper right-hand corner of the home page.
- 2. Update your coaches:** It is a school’s responsibility to make sure its current coaches are in the MHSAA database – and all coaches need access to our site for mandatory rules meetings, officials ratings and other tasks. Click “My MHSAA,” then “School Administrator Services” and then “Update your coaches” to make sure we have correct names and contact information for your coaches at ALL LEVELS. This involves removing a coach and then adding another. This addition of a new coach is best done by searching for that new coach to see if he or she is already in our system. Searching first helps avoid creating duplicate accounts.
- 3. Rules meetings for high school coaches:** All varsity head coaches are required to take a rules meeting either in person or online; all assistant and subvarsity coaches are required to complete the same rules meeting or as an alternative, subvarsity and assistant coaches can complete one of the designated risk management courses on MHSAA.com. Athletic directors must attest or confirm on MHSAA.com that all coaching requirements have been met including that high school head varsity coaches have a valid CPR Certification. (New in 2015-16). Varsity head coaches who do not complete an online rules meeting or are not CPR certified are not allowed to coach in the MHSAA Tournament.
- 4. Rate your officials:** Head varsity coaches also are required to rate officials who work their contests and must do so at MHSAA.com – best practice is to file ratings throughout a season for all levels from middle school to high school, instead of filing all at once at the end. Athletic directors monitor that these are completed. Deadlines are Dec. 1 for fall sports, April 1 for winter and June 1 for spring.
- 5. Health & Safety:** Now a tab on the blue main menu bar at the top of the home page, ADs and coaches will find a gold mine of information on the top topic of the decade. While logged in under “My MHSAA,” athletic directors, coaches and eventually trainers will file mandatory reports on head injury events. Also available are tools to track Heat Index readings and record actions taken by coaches under the Model Policy on Heat and Humidity so as to make practice/competition safe during days when temperature rises above 80 degrees.
- 6. Sports vs. Schools:** The blue menu bar at the top of MHSAA.com includes tabs for “Sports” and “Schools” – THE major “fork in the road” on MHSAA.com. Click Sports to find pages specific to each tournament sport, MHSAA.tv streaming on the NFHS Network, current tournament assignments and results, lists of past champions, and information for participants and managers such as ticket prices and draw procedures. Click Schools to search for any MHSAA member school, its coaches, sponsored sports, scores & schedules, or anything else related to a specific school. Some great web points for ADs, coaches, students and parents can be found under the left navigation bar at Downloads. Under Schools see “Regulations Summarized” on the right in the blue box.
- 7. Post your schedules:** MHSAA.com is set up for you to post your game schedules for all sports, at all levels, using either the MHSAA.com interface or ArbiterGame, both free of charge (middle schools pay a small fee for ArbiterGame). The ArbiterGame system is the only program that integrates Arbiter assigning and ArbiterPay services and developed with MHSAA input. ArbiterGame is fully integrated with MHSAA.com and provides the opportunity for one-time entry for all information.
- 8. Submit your scores:** Help fans follow your teams by posting scores to all events scheduled on your team pages at MHSAA.com. It’s just two clicks – one to submit and the next to save. Submitting football scores is mandatory. Delegate this task to your scorekeeper, stat person or manager in every sport.

## Four Leaders Honored with 2015 Bush Awards

**F**our athletic directors with a combined 103 years of service to high school athletes – Kalamazoo Hackett’s Michael Garvey, Livonia Churchill’s Marc Hage, Pewamo-Westphalia’s Barry Hobrla and Saginaw Heritage’s Peter Ryan – have been named recipients of the Michigan High School Athletic Association’s Allen W. Bush Award for 2015.

Al Bush served as executive director of the MHSAA for 10 years. The award honors individuals for past and continuing service to prep athletics as a coach, administrator, official, trainer, doctor or member of the media. The award was developed to bring recognition to men and women who are giving and serving without a lot of attention. This is the 24th year of the award, with selections made by the MHSAA’s Representative Council.

“All four of this year’s honorees have been leaders in Michigan’s educational athletic community for more than two decades, making impacts both easily visible and behind the scenes with their guidance and expertise,” said Jack Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. “We are grateful to all four for their service and pleased to honor them with the Bush Award.”



**Mike Garvey**

Garvey, in his 21st school year as an athletic director, made some of his earliest educational impacts on the wrestling mat and was named the Michigan Wrestling Association’s Coach of the Year in 1990 after leading Lawton to the Lower Peninsula Class D championship. He began his educational career at Marian Central Catholic in Woodstock, Ill., in 1981, then came to Lawton in 1985 and served there as athletic director from 1994-99. He then served as athletic director at Delton Kellogg from 1999-2006 and at Otsego from 2006-2010. He is finishing his fifth school year as Hackett’s athletic director.

“Mike Garvey is able to draw from his experiences as a successful coach and teach others to lead and achieve,” Roberts said. “His contributions to the MHSAA have been ample as a tournament host and knowledgeable voice on the Wrestling Committee, as he’s able to bring a valuable perspective of someone who has worked on the mat and in the athletic director’s role as well.”



**Marc Hage**

Hage previously worked as an advertising account executive before making a decision to instead teach and coach. A graduate of Livonia Churchill, he returned in 1990 after also teaching at Holt and Berkley. He became Churchill’s athletic director in 1996. Hage has been a member of the MIAAA and

NIAAA since becoming an administrator, and twice was named the MIAAA’s Athletic Director of the Year for his region. He also has received the Lovich State Award of Merit.

“Marc Hage continues to be a valuable advocate for high school athletics, not only in his community but on a statewide level,” Roberts said. “His contributions to school sports at various levels have been numerous and influential, especially during his tenures as president of multiple leagues and as a presenter to his colleagues.”

Hobrla has served as an athletic director for 29 years at Algonac, Lake Central, Ind., at Lowell from 1994-2013, and currently at Pewamo-Westphalia. He’s also served as a registered official for basketball, cross country and track & field. Lowell added teams for girls soccer, ice hockey, boys and girls bowling, and boys and girls lacrosse while under Hobrla’s leadership. He also served as a host for MHSAA Finals in boys soccer from 1995-2006, track & field for three seasons and cross country for two.

“Barry Hobrla has worked to expand opportunities for student-athletes, and always keeps their interests in mind,” Roberts said. “As an instructor for the Coaches Advancement Program, and through his various leadership positions with the MIAAA, he continues to pass on this proper perspective for school sports to his colleagues in the field.”

Ryan is in his 17th year with Saginaw Township Community Schools and 24th total as an athletic director. He previously served for Alma from January 1992-March 1993 and Portland from April 1993 through August 1997 before moving on to Saginaw Heritage.

A member of the MHSAA Representative Council, Ryan was named Athletic Director of the year in 2008 by the MIAAA, which also named Heritage an Exemplary Athletic Program in 2003. Ryan was an Athletic Director of the Year finalist in 2009 for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association, and was named Midwest Athletic Director of the Year in 2010 by the National Association of Sport & Physical Education.

“Pete Ryan’s leadership and influence in educational athletics have been commendable, and his expertise in a wide range of topics has made him someone we can turn to on a variety of subjects,” Roberts said. “I watched as he served effectively during the early years of his career, and have been thankful for his contributions as he’s continued on and served with our Representative Council.”



**Barry Hobrla**



**Pete Ryan**

# CAP Setting Records and Gearing for Requirements



One of the nation's most comprehensive and popular education programs for coaches continues to grow and attract enthusiastic athletic leaders around Michigan.

More coaches than ever before are taking advantage the MHSAA's Coaches Advancement Program opportunity as the 2015-16 school year kicks off.

Since this training year began July 10 at Spring Lake, 389 current or aspiring coaches have completed CAP sessions – 100-plus more than last year, and that was a mark that set records.

"This truly is the busiest start in CAP history and it continues to be action-packed!" said MHSAA Assistant Director Kathy Vrugink Westdorp, who joined the MHSAA staff in 2004, developed CAP for the 2004-05 school year and continues to oversee the program.

The month of August represents over a third of the 985 total CAP units completed at high schools during the 2014-15 school year.

As of Aug. 25, seven CAP 1 and seven CAP 2 programs had attracted a combined 277 attendees, while 15 more took part in a CAP 3 session. A summer course spanning CAP 1-5 also drew 79 individuals.

"I think the big thing continues to be word of mouth that this is a quality program," said Hamilton Athletic Director Jerry Haggerty, a CAP instructor for 10 years. "It's good for all coaches of all experience levels."

## MEETING AND EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

Speaking of experience, an upcoming requirement for the 2016-17 school year will call for veteran CAP instructors to deliver with the typical enthusiasm to a host of personnel just entering the coaching avocation.

All persons hired as a high school varsity head coach for the first time at an MHSAA member school after July 31, 2016, will be required to have completed the MHSAA's Coaches Advance-

ment Program Level 1 or Level 2.

Westdorp believes the CAP crew is more than ready for the task of teaching, given that this group has already met the demands of increased audiences each year.

"The non-college CAP sessions are taught by 26 instructors who pride themselves on being available anywhere there is interest," Westdorp said. "CAP already was presented this year at 15 Lower Peninsula schools during the month preceding the start of school, with Upper Peninsula sessions planned for this fall."

Since the program's inception, more than 19,000 have gone through a CAP course, an impressive figure that continues to climb.

The CAP program is broken into seven levels, each addressing a set of topics as shown in the overview on the next page.

"Coaches who move through the various levels of the Coaches Advancement Program have a better understanding of their role and responsibility as a coach, the techniques of effectively communicating, their supervisory responsibilities and confident leadership. They also have a better understanding of their philosophy and the meaning and application of MHSAA rules", said Westdorp, a former principal, athletic director, teacher and coach in the Grand Rapids area who was named 2013 Coach Educator of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) for her work with the program.

As former NFL pro Joe Ehrmann states: "Coaches need to teach the Xs and Os, but also the Ys of life." Westdorp agrees, "Participants in the Coaches Advancement Program learn that sports can be a life-changing experience if coaches understand why they are coaching."

Flexibility also is an option, as non-school coaches often complete courses over two days instead of one so as to not interrupt their full-time jobs. For coaches working in schools, CAP units can qualify as continuing education credits with the



State Department of Education.

Colleges and universities in Michigan are licensed to present up to five levels through their undergraduate or graduate studies, and the list of those completing courses is filled with recognizable names on MHSAA courts and fields.

Certification in the program occurs after completion of CAP 1 and 2, and then after each subsequent unit, with those completing CAP 7 earning Masters+ Certification.

## REQUIRED PREPARATION

With the MHSAA requirement for incoming coaches less than a year away, Westdorp and MHSAA staff have their own requirements to meet: namely planning – to assure that attendees will be properly credited and verified.

“We have four different dashboards being developed to assist in providing a more seamless means for collecting and maintaining pertinent data,” Westdorp said.

One such dashboard would be utilized by MHSAA staff to track attendance reports and levels of CAP completed. Additionally, that platform will serve as a reporting system for schools who are not in compliance with the deadline established for each season of coaching. Similar to the MHSAA Rules Meeting requirement, the school would receive notification of the prohibition of coaching in the MHSAA tournament.

Other dashboards would be tailored to the host athletic director of CAP sessions; to school ADs so they may track attendance by their coaches; and to the coaches themselves for self-monitoring.

A school AD dashboard will also be completed in which CAP attendees will be tied into the MHSAA system with their CAP history via Contact ID.

Certainly, some of the recent record-setting CAP attendance comes as a result of the upcoming MHSAA requirement. But that is only part of

the success story. Many are learning that a little bit of knowledge can reduce a whole lot of stress.

Many coaches take the coursework on their own; others are required to do so by their school system. Mike Roy, who is beginning his 14th year as Vicksburg’s athletic director indicates that after hosting several CAP classes over the years, he decided to begin the program himself. “The need for knowledgeable and experienced coaches is greater than ever. I thought that if I was going to make it mandatory for my coaches to become CAP certified, that I needed to get CAP certified and lead by example,” Roy said. “The heart of any athletic team or program is its coaching staff. CAP is the surest way for coaches to access everything they need to know to be a good coach. The program is second to none.”

Haggerty has spoken with athletic directors who have completed the program and then recognize when their coaches employ strategies learned in CAP sessions. An increasing pool of coaching candidates are heading into interviews with CAP certification in hand, and Westdorp has seen coaches bring their CAP binders to practices to have the lessons available for quick reference. She has also watched many CAP graduates using their skills at the highest level – the MHSAA Finals.

As stated by Ehrmann, “Perhaps second only to parents, coaches can impact young people as no one else can. Too many coaches focus solely on winning. Some coaches, however, help young people grow into responsible adults; they leave a lasting legacy. These coaches change lives, and they also change society by helping to develop healthy men and women.”

Individuals who attend the Coaches Advancement Program are those Ehrmann describes as “transformational” coaches. And, after these coaches complete their first CAP clinic; they are already looking forward to their next.

## CAP COURSE OVERVIEW

### CAP 1

- Coaches Make the Difference: MHSAA Philosophy and Regulations
- Effective Instruction: The Coach as Teacher
- Sports Medicine and First Aid

### CAP 2

- Effective Communication: Characteristics of Coaches who are Great Communicators
- Legal Issues in School Sports: A Game Plan to Meet Legal Needs
- Psychology of Coaching

### CAP 3

- Additional Coaching Responsibilities: Becoming Aware of your Many Resources
- Effectively Working with Parents
- The Coach as Performer: Managing Your Time and Energy Level

### CAP 4

- Understanding Athlete Development
- Preparing for Success
- Strength and Conditioning: Designing Your Program

### CAP 5

- Peak Health and Performance
- Controlling Emotions in Pressure Situations
- Resolving Conflicts in Athletics

### CAP 6

- Hot Topics In Educational Athletics

### CAP 7

- Hot Topics In Educational Athletics

COACHES: Login to MHSAA.com and register for 2015-16 CAP Courses



## All in the Details

In my experience as both an official and coach, my partners or officials assigned to work my match are judged the moment we meet and make contact. That is human nature. What is important is to make that first impression a positive one. At first contact, when greeting an administrator, coach or fellow official, look the person in the eye when shaking hands and be sincere in your greeting. When the person speaks, look them in the eye and listen. Sounds simple, yet I've seen many fail at this task and thus set themselves up for a difficult match.

The next moment of impact is the conversations that take place. It is totally acceptable to have a laugh and a joke, but be sure the environment and timing is right. You may ask, "Who is to judge when the time is correct?" It is all a feeling – a sort of sixth sense. I have witnessed on numerous occasions during the pregame check-in where officials "dig their own grave" by telling the players how they are going to call the game. Then they continue with how they will only talk to the captain. That is nonsense! In the business of managing people, it is imperative to deal with everyone involved in the game.

Once the match begins, the next task to strive for is not looking at the ball the entire time. From the first class I took on officiating, I was told the ball never commits a foul. In my 25 years, this is still true. Look ahead, scan the field, watch the players battling for position prior to the ball arriving. If one of the backs has the ball at his feet and is under zero pressure, there is no need to watch him pass the ball. Look instead at the forward checking back who is tightly marked by an opposing defender.

The game continues to evolve with faster, smarter, and more creative players. The coaches are implementing tactics to create every advantage possible. As you go about the game as the center official, don't just judge fouls/non-foul moments, but expand your knowledge. What are the tenden-

cies of certain players on the field? Are teams looking to build up or they are a more direct style of play? This will help with your positioning and anticipating movement.

Almost every match has at least one defining moment that you as the referee must have the courage to deal with. It is often referred to as the "moment of truth." It could mean you rule it is not

a foul and don't even have to blow the whistle, but you must deal with dissent. Or it could mean a stern talking to the player, issuing a caution, or showing the red card. Reflecting on the mentors I have had over the years and those I still look up to today, I think about a consistent theme heard from all: Make sure you get something out of each caution or send-off.

Be brave. Make the tough decisions. Remember, the players are the ones who commit fouls forcing us to make certain decisions.

Many of you watch professional games on television and I think we can all learn from them. In particular, I think the EPL referees do an excellent job of isolating the guilty player, explaining the decision, and then showing the card. All while looking the player square in the eyes.

Your mindset to a match should be one of teamwork and one that fosters harmony with the players on the pitch. Not an "us vs. them" mentality.

Finally, be willing to admit a mistake. You are not perfect! You are a human being. It is OK to admit an error, but be genuine about it. Be sympathetic when appropriate. Be firm yet fair.

Most importantly, enjoy.

— Brent Sorg

*Sorg is a former National Referee and current NISOA Referee (ACC, Big Ten, Big East, Horizon, Conference USA, MAC); he also is a high school boys head coach entering 11th season. He may be contacted at [brentsorg@gmail.com](mailto:brentsorg@gmail.com)*



Isolate the player, explain the decision and look the player in the eyes.

Listen to "Be The Referee" on [MHSAA.com](http://MHSAA.com)



*Be The*  
**Referee**

Now in its second year, *Be The Referee*, is a 1-minute audio segment designed to educate the general public on rules nuances and help it gain a more positive understanding of the role officials play in interscholastic sports. MHSAA.com includes a *Be The Referee* page where weekly messages are archived, both in audio and text format. Scan the code for access to the *Be The Referee*.

## A Night to Remember as Ref Kicks Off Final Season

**F**orgive the Hendrickson family if they let down their officiating guard for just a moment Friday (Aug. 28).

Three football officiating brothers – a remarkable achievement in its own right – joined their father’s crew in what may be the best call of the season. They worked together for the Wyoming Lee-Grand Rapids Union game at Houseman Field as their father, Jerry, began his 53rd and final season as a referee.

The game may be a tie as far as mutual admiration within the family, but the reluctant star unquestionably was Jerry Hendrickson, a fixture around Grand Rapids football games for decades.

“It doesn’t matter where we go for a game, everyone knows him and he knows them all, and they’re happy to see him,” said middle son Steve Hendrickson. “To see that, and see the effect he has on people, that makes you pretty proud as a son.”

The occasion doesn’t get any better for a dad, either, no matter the age of his kids.

### LAST CHANCE TO WORK TOGETHER

It wasn’t the first time the four have worked together, but it will probably be the last. Jon Hendrickson officiates Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference games on Saturdays and is often out of town.

They don’t recall how many times they have worked together, though it’s not more than a handful. More often it has been one or two of them together. Dan, his youngest son at 43, does high school games. He has joined him many times the past 15 years, including freshman and junior varsity on Thursdays before varsity games on Friday. He’s on his father’s regular crew along with Steve.

This last hurrah was set up by other members of his crew in longtime friends Gene Debbaudt, Lynn Benedict and Jim Stone.

“To me, and to a lot of people, he’s a mentor,” said Debbaudt, an official for 24 years who joined Hendrickson’s crew when his sons joined 15 years ago. “He’s very low key. If you mess up, he’ll let you know about it, but he lets you learn from your mistakes. He does it in a way that’s not aggressive or offensive. He’s a teacher.”

### NOT THE ORIGINAL CALL

Jerry Hendrickson didn’t plan it this way. Long ago, after playing football at Union and Hope College, he wanted to be a coach. Instead, he worked as a probation officer and continued to attend games. That prompted a suggestion from his wife, Karen.

“She was the one who got me into it, really,” he said of his wife of 55 years. “She said, ‘Well, as long as you’re going to all these games, you might as well go and get paid.’”

That was 1963.



Jerry Hendrickson poses with his officiating sons, from left, Jon, Steve and Dan.

“I do remember, when we did a doubleheader we got \$5 for a freshman game and \$7 for a JV game and I went home with \$12, which I thought was wonderful,” Hendrickson said with a chuckle. “I got to do something I liked and got paid for it.”

He did varsity high school basketball and football before he joined Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association football games in 1972, then onto 16 years as a Big Ten Conference referee. He left in 1995, in part so he could do high school games with his sons.

Yep, his sons, who all went to Wyoming Rogers, also grew up to be officials.

### A LIFETIME OF OFFICIATING

“He has been at it my entire life so it has always been a part of my life,” said Jon, 49, and the first of the sons to become a ref. “But none of us got into it until after college. It wasn’t pushed on us, but I know for me, I just kind of got the bug and it went from there.”

Over the years, Hendrickson, who later spent nearly 47 years as an educator at Davenport University and Grand Rapids Community College, has kept intact a crew with his sons Dan and Steve along with Debbaudt, Benedict and Stone, who will step aside Friday so Jon can work with family members.

The Wyoming Lee-Grand Rapids Union game pitted two teams on long losing streaks of 20-plus games. But that may be the beauty of it. According to Steve Hendrickson, the game will be a reminder of a lesson learned from his father long ago.

“He said, ‘It might not be the biggest game of the night, but remember that it is the biggest game of the week to the kids on that field,’” he said.

— Peter J. Wallner  
pwallner@mlive.com

## Rules of the Games

Sharpen your skills with the following rules questions/case plays for volleyball, soccer and football. Answers appear in red at the bottom of the next page.

### Football

- Third and 10 at the 50-yard line. A17's legal forward pass ricochets off A65's helmet before touching any other player or an official. Eligible receiver A27 then catches the ball and is driven out of bounds at the B-38. The game clock shows 1:35 in the second quarter.
  - Legal play. First and 10 at the B-38. Clock starts on the snap.
  - Foul by A65, illegal touching. 5-yard penalty, previous spot.
  - Foul by A65, illegal touching. 5-yard penalty, previous spot plus loss of down.
  - Legal play. First and 10 at the B-38. Clock starts on the ready.
- Second and eight at the A-45. Thinking that quarterback A12 is going to throw a screen pass, tackle A73 goes downfield to the B-49. He then remembers that the pass is to be thrown deep, so he hustles back to the scrimmage line before the pass is thrown. A12 is at the A-40 when he completes a forward pass to eligible A80 who catches the ball and steps out of bounds at the B-40.
  - 5-yard penalty at the previous spot. Second and 13 at the A-40.
  - 5-yard penalty at the previous spot plus loss of down. Third and 13 at the A-40.
  - Legal play. First and 10 at the B-40.
  - 5-yard penalty at the spot of the foul.
- Second and 10 at the A-40 late in the fourth quarter and Team A is out of timeouts. Team A rushes to the line with the clock running and quarterback A17 is in the shotgun formation about 5 yards deep from the center. The quarterback takes the snap and immediately spikes the ball into ground to stop the clock. What is the correct call?
  - Legal play.
  - Foul for intentional grounding. The QB may only spike the ball to conserve time when he is under center and takes a hand-to-hand snap. 5-yard penalty, loss of down and Team B may elect to have :10 run off the game clock.
  - Foul for intentional grounding. The QB may only spike the ball to conserve time when he is under center and takes a hand-to-hand snap. 5-yard penalty and loss of down.
  - Legal play only if the QB spiked the ball immediately without any pause or delay.



### Soccer

- Which of the following is not true concerning when either team may substitute an unlimited number of players from the bench?
  - When a goal is scored.
  - When a player is injured and removed from the field.
  - When a caution has been issued to a field player.
  - Between periods.
- During a goal kick:
  - The ball may be moved to the opposite side after it has been placed by the kicker.
  - The goalkeeper may pick up the ball and kick it.
  - All players must be outside the penalty area except the goalkeeper.
  - None of the above.
- During the course of a game, the field markings become obscured, the referee should:
  - assume the markings to be present.
  - render decisions to the best of his/her ability.
  - judge the original positions of the markings.
  - all of the above.



## Volleyball

- An unnecessary delay is charged to the offending team when:
  - A substitute is delayed.
  - A substitute is denied by the second referee after the request has been recognized because the sub is illegal.
  - A team repeatedly uses an improper substitution.
  - All of the above.
- The penalty for discovery of a player wearing an illegal uniform/equipment during a set is as follows:
  - Requires an unnecessary delay assessed the team. If the player(s) illegal uniform/equipment cannot be made legal immediately, the coach may substitute the player and/or use a remaining time-out to correct the illegal uniform.
  - Subsequent violations by the same team, in the same set, necessitate loss of rally/point awarded to the opponent.
  - When a player wearing illegal equipment attempts to enter the set, unnecessary delay shall be assessed the team. The player may not enter the set until the illegal equipment is made legal.
  - All of the above.
- It is legal for a front row player:
  - To step completely over the center line.
  - To step on the centerline with one or both feet.
  - To touch the net with any body part while playing the ball.
  - To touch the floor completely across the centerline with her hand.
- S4 (the wrong server) has served 2 points; coach calls time out. When the teams return to the court after the time out, S 10 (the correct server) goes to the service position and serves for a point. The scorer discovers that S 4 was the wrong server. What is the correct action?
  - The 2 points by S 4 are cancelled and the point by S 10 is good and she continues to serve.
  - Points by S 4 are cancelled, point by S 10 remains but the opponent is awarded a point and will serve next.
  - No points are cancelled and S 10 continues serving.
  - All points are cancelled and the opponent is awarded a point and will serve next.



## Officials Associations Benefit from NASO Membership

The MHSAA is proud to continue to provide the Platinum program of the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) “Association Advantage” for all MHSAA Local Approved Associations (previously known as NASO-ON). The MHSAA is providing this Platinum program membership to all local Approved Associations in assisting these groups with association meeting preparation, association governance and effective, time-tested techniques on how to make good associations great.



“Approved Associations are the lifeblood of high school and middle school officiating,” said Mark Uyl, MHSAA Assistant Director. “So many critical elements of our officiating program that includes recruiting new officials, retaining current officials and training all officials happens at the local Approved Association level. Our overall program gets stronger when each Approved Association has all the tools possible to be an effective educational hub for all officials in those local areas. We are pleased to provide this service to all Michigan Approved Associations with our trusted and valued partner, NASO.”

All Platinum Association Advantage member associations will receive the all-new monthly electronic newsletter *Click*, the revamped monthly printed newsletter *Advisor*, access to the Association Advantage website, a subscription to *Referee* magazine and a discount on supplies purchased from Cliff Keen. Groups may upgrade their membership with additional options and levels to include additional insurance, member benefits and training options. Contact the MHSAA office or NASO (262-632-5448).

Football Answers: 1. a. (7-5-13); 2. a. (7-5-12); 3. c. (7-5-2e Note)  
 Volleyball Answers: 1. d. (9-9-1); 2. d. (9-9-1, PEN 1 and 2); 3. b. (9-5-7); 4. d. (8-2-5d, PEN 1)  
 Soccer Answers: 1. c. (3-3); 2. d. (16-1); 3. d. (1-2-11)

## Fair Game: Monroe Association Goes on Offense

The Monroe County Officials Association hosted an information and recruitment booth at the Monroe County Fair this summer in hopes of generating officiating awareness and building membership in the association.

The group in Southeast Michigan schedules and trains high school officials in four sports: baseball, softball, basketball and football.

MCOA President Mike Knabusch described the simple purpose of the presence at the fair.

“There’s a shortage of officials,” said Knabusch, who has officiated basketball and baseball for 34 years. “We’re trying to get more people. Every year in our meetings we’ve been talking about how we can get more people involved.”

The early results were positive and beyond what the group had envisioned, with 47 people expressing interest in the first three days. Following the event, an MCOA committee planned to review candidates and invite them to an orientation session.

“That will probably weed several out, but for those who do show up, we will have a good indication of the interest. I thought if we have 15 to 20 people to call, we would be happy,” Knabusch said. “This has exceeded all my expectations.”

Former longtime Monroe Jefferson baseball coach Dave Sontag is another MCOA member who volunteered time at the booth. Sontag has been an official for 36 years.

The Monroe County Officials Association has about 90 active members, down from a number that once surpassed 100 officials. It’s a trend shared around the state.

“You have to be thick-skinned to be able to do this,” Sontag explained. “Some people, their skin isn’t thick enough. The other reason (for the decline) is young kids become impatient and they want to work their way up too quickly.”

Knabusch and his peers tempted visitors with the lure of potentially earning \$200 a week officiating games, but that’s just one hook.

“I don’t do this for the money, but I wouldn’t do it for free,” he said. “It’s a good way to give back to the sport and stay involved. Our goal is to identify people who really have an interest in it. We have good trainers to work with them, a good education program.”



### Officials for Kids Going Strong

Officials For Kids began in early 2003 as a small group of mid-Michigan officials dedicated to the future of children’s healthcare & the Children’s Miracle Network. The ultimate hope for the program is that officials’ personal & association pledges, along with participation in fundraising events & initiatives, will make Officials for Kids a name synonymous with the continued improvement of children’s healthcare across the state.

The Officials For Kids Program takes on a local focus at each Children’s Miracle Network Hospital in the state, including Sparrow Hospital in Lansing; Beaumont Hospital in Detroit; Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital in Grand Rapids, and Hurley Medical Center in Flint. One popular way for officials to donate is through the “Give-A-Game” program, offering a game check to one of the hospitals.

Since the MHSAA began to route funds for Officials for Kids (August 2006), the average annual contribution to each CMN facility over the past 10 years is just over \$2,100. Many approved officials associations send donations from Give-A-Game events to our office for routing to CMN facilities, while some choose to donate directly to their local hospital. The Capital Area Officials Association once accumulated \$9,000 from its Give-A-Game venture.

Visit the Officials for Kids page of [MHSAA.com](http://MHSAA.com) for more information.



## Making a List for You to Check Twice

The following is intended to provide schools with a guideline for determining immediate eligibility of transfer students under Exception 1.

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Exception 1 – Full and Complete Residential Change Checklist  
See 2015-16 *Handbook* Transfer Rule Exception 1 on Page 38  
and Int. 65 & 77 on Pages 42, 43

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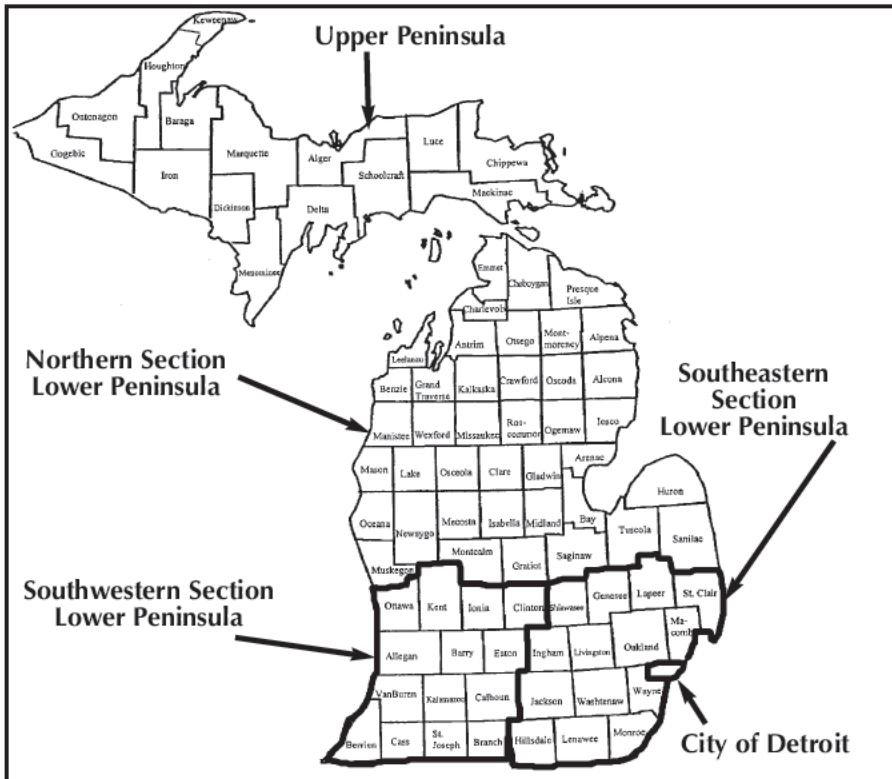
### Before Being Deemed Eligible....

- The move was from one public school district or attendance area into another public school district or attendance area.
- The new residence is located in our school attendance area or we are the closest non-public or charter school (drivable highway miles) to the new residence.
- The move was with all the persons the student lived with in the last academic term (at least 30 days during the last term).
- This always includes parents or step-parents and all siblings or step-siblings who lived at the former address who are under 18 and not financially self-supporting. Depending on the circumstances it may be that adults other than parents make up the family unit (i.e. student lives with grandmother). Consult MHSAA staff for a written interpretation.
- The **Previous Residence** is vacant of people and possessions: “Vacant, sold or rented to non-family.” In some cases some furniture may be left for real estate sale staging. Proof of rental or completed sale, foreclosure papers may be necessary.
- Proof of sale of **New Residence** or lease (one year preferred) for the new residence.
- Driver’s licenses have been changed to the new address and mail is received at the new address (generally a utility bill).
- The family is actually residing there** and personal belongings are moved into the new residence.
- In some situations it may be necessary for administrators to personally visit the previous and new residence at an unannounced time and record their observations. Consult MHSAA Staff for a written interpretation.

**Note:** A school district may have different residency requirements. These are MHSAA *eligibility* minimums and must be followed regardless of the school’s internal *enrollment* policies

## Representative Council and Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee Elections

Map of Representative Council Sections



Ballots for Representative Council elections were mailed to principals of member schools from the MHSAA office Sept. 4, 2015. The ballots will be due back in the MHSAA office Sept. 25, 2015.

Six positions for membership on the Representative Council will be up for election this fall. Vacancies for two-year terms beginning December 2015 will occur as follows: Class C-D Southwestern Section L.P. and Southeastern Section L.P.; Class A-B Upper Peninsula; Statewide At-Large; Junior High/Middle School, elected on a statewide basis; and Detroit Public High Schools.

In addition to the above named Representative Council positions, there are three Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee positions to be voted on in September. A representative of the Class A-B, Class C and Class D schools will be elected by Upper Peninsula schools.

Look for the ballots and return them in time to be counted by the Board of Canvassers. Be sure you mark your ballot correctly and signatures are affixed in the proper places. Ballots must have two (2) signatures to be considered valid.

Details of the Representative Council composition may be found near the beginning of the *MHSAA Handbook*.

Following the due date of Sept. 25, 2015, the Board of Canvassers as provided in Article IV of the Constitution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, will meet and declare the winners for the various vacancies.

In accordance with the approved nomination and election procedures, listed candidates have submitted their desire to run for a position by March 15, 2015. They have included an approval to serve from their respective superintendent or principal and have certified their qualifications to run for the office which they seek. No write-ins will be possible because each candidate must be approved by March 15 in order to run for a position on the Representative Council.

Following are the declared candidates and the vacancies which will occur in December 2015:

### REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL CANDIDATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2015 ELECTION

#### Southwestern Section, Lower Peninsula -- Class C and D Schools

- Chris Miller, Athletic Director/Dean of Students, Gobles High School

#### Southeastern Section, Lower Peninsula -- Class C and D Schools

- Kristen M. Isom, Athletic Director, Adrian-Madison High School

#### Upper Peninsula -- Class A and B Schools

- Al Unger, Athletic Director, Kingsford High School



### Statewide At-Large

- Karen S. Leinaar, CAA, Athletic Director, Bear Lake Schools
- Don McKenzie, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Lincoln Park High School

### Junior High/Middle Schools

- Don Gustafson, Superintendent, St. Ignace Area Schools
- Robert Masters, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Lincoln Park Middle School
- Steve Muenzer, Teacher/Football & Basketball Coach, Fenton-Lake Fenton Middle School
- Kevin O'Rourke, Athletic Director, Rockford-North and East Middle Schools

### Detroit Public Schools

- Alvin Ward, Executive Director of Athletics, Detroit Public Schools

### UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

### Class D Schools

- Gary S. Brayak, Athletic Director, Rock-Mid Peninsula High School

### Class C Schools

- Chris Hartman, Athletic Director, Iron Mountain Public Schools

### Class A and B Schools

- Matthew C. Houle, Athletic Director, Gladstone High School

## MHSAA Representative Council

### Dave Derocher\*\*

Athletic Director  
Reese High School  
Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula

### Scott Grimes\*\*, President

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

### Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio)

Director, Coordinated School Health & Safety  
Programs Unit, Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing  
Designee

### Kris Isom\*

Athletic Director  
Adrian Madison High School  
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

### Sean Jacques\*\*

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

### Maureen Klocke\*

Athletic Director  
Yale Public Schools  
Appointee

### Karen Leinaar\*

Athletic Director  
Bear Lake High School  
Statewide At-Large

### Orlando Medina\*\*

Athletic Director  
L'Anse Creuse High School  
Appointee

### Cheri Meier\*

Principal  
Ionia Middle School  
Appointee

### Jason Mellema\*

Superintendent  
Ionia County ISD  
Junior High/Middle Schools

### 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

### Steve Newkirk\*\*

Principal  
Clare Middle School  
Junior High/Middle Schools

### Peter C. Ryan\*\*

Athletic Director  
Saginaw Township Community Schools  
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

### Fred Smith\*\*, Vice President

Athletic Director  
Benton Harbor High School  
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

### John Thompson\*\*

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

### Al Unger\*

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

### Alvin Ward\*

Administrator of Athletics  
Detroit Public Schools  
Detroit Public Schools Position

### Pat Watson\*\*

Principal  
West Bloomfield High School  
Appointee

\*Term Expires December 2015

\*\*Term Expires December 2016

## A Good Time for MHSAA Membership

On July 29, the MHSAA sent checks to 220 MHSAA member schools as part of the revenue-sharing concept built into its agreements with Spirit Shop, EA Graphics and the Licensing Resource Group (LRG). The total being distributed in this the 11th installment of payments was just under \$59,000. The grand total since 2009 is now nearly a half-million dollars.

Earlier in July, the MHSAA cut a check for \$300,000 to pay for the concussion care “gap” insurance approved by the Representative Council last May for all member school student athletes in grades 7 through 12.

## Failure to Rate Officials

Member schools of the Michigan High School Athletic Association have agreed through Regulation II, Section 7(B) to rate officials in several of the sports for which the MHSAA conducts a postseason tournament and to be subject to penalties when a school fails to rate any officials in a sport that requires it.

Recent surveys indicate schools value the opportunity to rate officials and do not want that opportunity eliminated.

Most officials would prefer an evaluation process over ratings by participating schools; but

under our current system, officials need schools to rate them so they can amass the number of ratings necessary to be considered for advancement and tournament assignments.

On March 23, 2001, the MHSAA Representative Council adopted the policy of publishing the names of schools which fail to rate any officials in a sport and to do so as soon as possible following the season.

Following are schools failing to rate officials for the 2014-15 school year.

### Failure to Rate Officials - Fall 2014

**Football**  
Brimley  
Engadine  
Litchfield

Muskegon-Catholic Central  
Rock-Mid Peninsula  
St. Helen-Charlton Heston Academy

**Boys Soccer**

Dearborn-Henry Ford Academy  
Dearborn-Riverside Academy West  
Fremont  
Kalkaska  
New Haven  
Romulus  
Warren-Lincoln

**Girls Volleyball**

Auburn Hills-Avondale  
Canton-Plymouth  
Detroit-Communication Media Arts  
Detroit-Southeastern  
Detroit-University YES Academy  
Dundee  
Grand Rapids-Northview  
Highland-Milford  
Leroy-Pine River  
Wayne Memorial

### Failure to Rate Officials - Winter 2015

**Boys Basketball**

Corunna  
Dearborn-Riverside Academy West  
Detroit-University YES Academy  
Frankfort  
Hillsdale-Will Carleton Academy  
Kalamazoo-Lakeside  
Kalamazoo-Phoenix  
Lansing-Sexton  
Swartz Creek-Valley School  
Westland-John Glenn

**Girls Basketball**

Armada  
Bridgeport  
Canton-Salem  
Detroit-Consortium College Prep  
Detroit-University YES Academy  
Gibraltar-Carlson  
Kalamazoo-Lakeside  
Livonia-Churchill  
New Haven  
Rudyard

**Competitive Cheer**

Detroit-University YES Academy  
Grosse Pointe North  
Mt. Pleasant

**Ice Hockey**

Essexville-Garber  
Sterling Heights-Utica Stevenson

**Wrestling**

Dearborn-Riverside Academy West  
Detroit-Loyola

### Failure to Rate Officials - Spring 2015

**Baseball**

Burt Lake-Northern Mich Christian  
Dearborn-Henry Ford Academy  
Detroit-Collegiate Prep  
Detroit-Consortium  
Detroit-Mumford  
Jackson-Vandercook Lake  
Marine City-Cardinal Mooney  
Monroe  
River Rouge  
Stockbridge  
Taylor Preparatory  
Ypsilanti-Calvary Christian

**Boys Lacrosse**

Grand Rapids-Northview  
Lowell  
Midland-Dow

**Girls Lacrosse**

Grand Rapids-Northview  
Lowell  
Midland-Dow

**Girls Soccer**

Dearborn-Henry Ford Academy  
Flint Southwestern Classical Acad.  
Flushing  
Grosse Pointe North

**Monroe**

Oscoda  
Taylor-Baptist Park  
Walled Lake Central  
Wayne Memorial

**Girls Softball**

Canton-Plymouth  
Charlevoix  
Dexter  
Edwardsburg  
Mesick  
Quincy  
Rapid River  
Wolverine

### 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 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. Please follow this efficient path of communication.

# 2014-15 Officials Reports Listing

(High Schools that received 3 or more negative Reports)

In accordance with the May 1996 Representative Council adoption of the "Comprehensive Sportsmanship Package" the names of schools that received three or more "concern" or "ejection" Officials Reports in the school year are listed in this report.

Saginaw Heritage	16	St Johns	5	Dexter	3
Detroit University Prep	14	Taylor Kennedy	5	East Detroit	3
Allen Park	10	Temperance Bedford	5	Elk Rapids	3
Harrison Twp L'Anse Creuse	10	Utica	5	Farmington	3
Hazel Park	10	Walled Lake Western	5	Flint Beecher	3
Big Rapids	9	Warren Woods Tower	5	Flint Carman-Ainsworth	3
Lincoln Park	9	Waterford Kettering	5	Flint Powers Catholic	3
Northville	9	Wyoming	5	Flushing	3
Plymouth	9	Allegan	4	Frankfort	3
Taylor Truman	9	Berkley	4	Gibraltar Carlson	3
Utica Eisenhower	9	Birmingham Groves	4	Gladwin	3
Flint Kearsley	8	Dearborn Edsel Ford	4	Grand Ledge	3
Grosse Pointe South	8	Dearborn Heights Robichaud	4	Grand Rapids Catholic Central	3
Lansing Sexton	8	Detroit Plymouth Ed Center	4	Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills	3
Monroe	8	Eaton Rapids	4	Grand Rapids Union	3
Novi	8	Farmington Hills Harrison	4	Greenville	3
Royal Oak	8	Fenton	4	Harper Woods Chandler Park	3
St Clair Shores Lakeview	8	Gaylord	4	Holly	3
Ann Arbor Huron	7	Grand Haven	4	Jackson Lumen Christi	3
Auburn Hills Avondale	7	Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central	4	Johannesburg-Lewiston	3
Carleton Airport	7	Grand Rapids West Catholic	4	Kalamazoo Central	3
East Kentwood	7	Harper Woods	4	L'Anse	3
Fraser	7	Hartland	4	Lansing Everett	3
Grand Rapids Christian	7	Haslett	4	Lansing Waverly	3
Howell	7	Holland West Ottawa	4	Leland	3
Macomb Dakota	7	Jackson	4	Macomb L'Anse Creuse North	3
Madison Heights Madison	7	Laingsburg	4	Madison Heights Bishop Foley	3
Mattawan	7	Livonia Stevenson	4	Marquette	3
Richland Gull Lake	7	Lowell	4	Marshall	3
Rochester Adams	7	Muskegon	4	Memphis	3
Warren Mott	7	Muskegon Mona Shores	4	Middleville Thornapple-Kellogg	3
Battle Creek Lakeview	6	New Boston Huron	4	Milan	3
Battle Creek Pennfield	6	Perry	4	Millington	3
Belleville	6	Portage Central	4	Monroe Jefferson	3
Brownstown Woodhaven	6	South Haven	4	Muskegon Oakridge	3
Clarkston	6	Southgate Anderson	4	Muskegon Orchard View	3
Dearborn Fordson	6	Sterling Heights	4	Muskegon Reeths-Puffer	3
Grand Blanc	6	Trenton	4	Negaunee	3
Grosse Pointe North	6	Vicksburg	4	Niles	3
Lansing Eastern	6	Waterford Mott	4	Niles Brandywine	3
Oxford	6	White Lake Lakeland	4	North Branch	3
Portland	6	Williamston	4	Ogemaw Heights	3
Romeo	6	Wyoming Lee	4	Orchard Lake St Mary's	3
Roseville	6	Ypsilanti Community HS	4	Otisville Lakeville	3
South Lyon	6	Allendale	3	Paw Paw	3
Wyandotte Roosevelt	6	Ann Arbor Skyline	3	Pinconning	3
Alma	5	Battle Creek Central	3	Plainwell	3
Baldwin	5	Bay City Central	3	Port Huron	3
Dearborn Heights Crestwood	5	Bay City Western	3	Portage Northern	3
Detroit Catholic Central	5	Birmingham Seaholm	3	Pottersville	3
Detroit Country Day	5	Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-		Ravenna	3
Essexville Garber	5	Kingswood	3	Redford Union	3
Hart	5	Bridgeport	3	River Rouge	3
Jenison	5	Brighton	3	Riverview	3
Lake Orion	5	Brooklyn Columbia Central	3	Salem	3
Livonia Churchill	5	Cadillac	3	Saline	3
Livonia Clarenceville	5	Caro	3	Southfield	3
Mason	5	Cassopolis	3	Spring Lake	3
Merrill	5	Center Line	3	St Clair Shores South Lake	3
Midland Dow	5	Charlevoix	3	Standish-Sterling Central	3
Milford	5	Chelsea	3	Sterling Heights Stevenson	3
New Baltimore Anchor Bay	5	Concord	3	Sturgis	3
Okemos	5	Dansville	3	Vermontville Maple Valley	3
Pontiac	5	Dearborn	3		
Rochester	5	Dearborn Heights Annapolis	3		
Rockford	5	Dearborn Hts Star International	3		
St Clair Shores Lake Shore	5	Dearborn Riverside Acad-West	3		

## 2014-15 Officials Reports Summary

Sport	Level	Concern	Praise	Player Ejections	Coach Ejections	Other Ejections	Sportsmanship
Boys Baseball	Freshman	11	2	7	2	0	2
Boys Baseball	Junior Varsity	36	6	21	12	1	2
Boys Baseball	Varsity	98	18	57	30	1	10
Boys Basketball	7th and 8th Grade	1	0	0	1	0	0
Boys Basketball	7th Grade	4	1	0	4	0	0
Boys Basketball	8th Grade	7	1	2	2	0	3
Boys Basketball	Freshman	5	1	1	3	0	1
Boys Basketball	Junior Varsity	30	4	14	11	0	5
Boys Basketball	Varsity	99	35	50	23	8	18
Boys Boys Lacrosse	Freshman	1	0	1	0	0	0
Boys Boys Lacrosse	Junior Varsity	11	0	11	0	0	0
Boys Boys Lacrosse	Varsity	32	2	24	5	0	3
Boys Football	7th and 8th Grade	1	0	1	0	0	0
Boys Football	7th Grade	2	0	2	0	0	0
Boys Football	8th Grade	3	0	2	1	0	0
Boys Football	Freshman	13	8	9	3	0	1
Boys Football	Junior Varsity	63	18	52	5	1	4
Boys Football	Varsity	153	31	136	4	0	13
Boys Football (8)	Varsity	6	2	4	0	1	1
Boys Ice Hockey	Junior Varsity	7	0	7	0	0	0
Boys Ice Hockey	Varsity	143	1	127	7	1	8
Boys Soccer	8th Grade	1	0	1	0	0	0
Boys Soccer	Freshman	3	1	3	0	0	0
Boys Soccer	Junior Varsity	1	0	1	0	0	0
Boys Soccer	Junior Varsity	37	0	33	3	0	1
Boys Soccer	Varsity	280	14	223	24	5	28
Boys Swim and Diving	Varsity	3	0	1	0	0	2
Boys Track and Field	Varsity	1	0	0	0	0	1
Boys Wrestling	7th and 8th Grade	7	0	3	2	1	1
Boys Wrestling	Junior Varsity	6	0	4	1	0	1
Boys Wrestling	Varsity	57	6	40	9	1	7
Girls Basketball	7th and 8th Grade	1	0	0	1	0	0
Girls Basketball	7th Grade	1	0	1	0	0	0
Girls Basketball	8th Grade	3	0	1	0	0	2
Girls Basketball	Freshman	4	0	3	0	0	1
Girls Basketball	Junior Varsity	11	3	7	1	0	3
Girls Basketball	Varsity	43	40	18	13	1	11
Girls Comp Cheer	7th and 8th Grade	1	0	0	0	0	1
Girls Comp Cheer	Varsity	3	0	0	0	0	3
Girls Girls Lacrosse	Varsity	7	0	6	0	0	1
Girls Soccer	Freshman	2	0	2	0	0	0
Girls Soccer	Junior Varsity	10	0	6	2	1	1
Girls Soccer	Varsity	81	2	57	8	0	16
Girls Softball	Junior Varsity	8	1	1	4	2	1
Girls Softball	Varsity	21	0	5	13	2	1
Girls Volleyball	7th and 8th Grade	1	0	0	0	0	1
Girls Volleyball	7th Grade	1	0	0	1	0	0
Girls Volleyball	Junior Varsity	1	0	0	0	0	1
Girls Volleyball	Varsity	3	2	0	1	0	2

No. of Schools	Distribution of Reports		No. of Schools	Reports of Praise
	Reports of Concern			
202	1		104	1
113	2		24	2
85	3		5	3
36	4		3	4
29	5		2	5
15	6		2	6
13	7			
7	8			
6	9			
3	10			
1	14			
1	16			

## Teams Practicing Out-of-State Required to Submit Out-of-State Travel Form

The tradition of taking a team on a “spring trip” for practice only is a separate issue from sanctioning a competition. 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. This does not allow schools to compete in a scrimmage, practice or competition with a team from another school.

The following interpretation was adopted at the May 2004 Representative Council meeting and became effective for the 2004-05 school year:

“When a school-sponsored team, or group of students which resembles the school team, intends to conduct practice sessions out of state at a site

more than 600 highway miles round-trip from that school, the Travel Form for Out-of-State Practice is required. For the purpose of this Section, it shall be considered a practice for a school team if a school coach in that sport is present with any number of players from that school's team, other than his/her family members.”

MHSAA catastrophic insurance does not cover such events.

The form can be found on the MHSAA Website. Pursuant to action of the Representative Council in May 2003, all schools which complete this form will be listed in *benchmarks* at the end of the school year.

A list of schools which completed the form in 2014-15 appears below.

### Schools Submitting Out-of-State Travel Forms for 2014-15

None	<b>FALL</b>	Hamilton	Chelsea
		Holland West Ottawa	Coleman
		Holt	East Kentwood
	<b>WINTER</b>	Hudsonville	Eaton Rapids
<i>Boys Ice Hockey</i>		Jenison	Flint Kearsley
Grand Rapids Christian		Lawrence	GPW University Liggett
		Lowell	Grand Ledge
	<b>SPRING</b>	Mason	Hamilton
<i>Baseball</i>		Midland Bullock Creek	Holland West Ottawa
Adrian		North Muskegon	Holt
Benzie Central		Northville	Hudsonville
BH Cranbrook Kingswood		Petersburg-Summerfield	Jenison
Charlevoix		Portland	Lowell
Chelsea		Richland Gull Lake	Petoskey
Coldwater		Saginaw Swan Valley	Portland
Concord		St. Johns	Saginaw Swan Valley
Coopersville		Sterling Heights Stevenson	Saline
DeWitt		Vermontville Maple Valley	Troy Athens
East Kentwood		Wyoming	
Essexville Garber		Yale	<i>Boys Golf</i>
Fowlerville		Zeeland East	Hamilton
Gibraltar Carlson		Zeeland West	Mason
Grand Ledge	<i>Softball</i>		<i>Girls Soccer</i>
Grand Rapids Northview	Bay City Central		DeWitt
	Belding		Saline

### Stay Current, Quickly



“This Week in High School Sports” broadcasts on school sports topics and Mark Uyl’s weekly “Be the Referee” discussions of sports rules.

Athletic directors enjoy little free time on an average day. But with those few moments, enjoy the growing variety of content on Geoff Kimmerly’s Second Half site at [second-half.mhsaa.com](http://second-half.mhsaa.com). The site is home to the best stories of Michigan high school sports behind the scores, and new for 2015-16 the coverage is split into eight regions with correspondents reporting twice each month from each area. MHSAA.com features twice-weekly blogs by Executive Director Jack Roberts, weekly highlights from MHSAA.tv broadcasts, John Johnson’s

## Taking Our Half in the Middle

When there is a rule that is as frequently criticized for being too weak as for being too harsh, it's likely the rule is just about right.

For every administrator and coach who complains that the transfer rule misses a situation where there is no question the student transferred for sports participation, there are as many administrators and coaches – and many times more parents – who plead for leniency under the transfer rule.

For every congested community in Michigan that offers students multiple school options, and some of those who participate in interscholastic athletics shop for the situation that best fits their needs or desires, there are many more communities in Michigan where few options exist, and transfers by student-athletes are both low in number and logical in nature.

For every call for a mandatory year-long, no-exceptions period of ineligibility to penalize athletic-motivated transfers, there are dozens of transfers by low-level, low-profile student athletes who do not deserve such draconian consequences.

For every statewide high school association in the US that has a tougher transfer rule than Michigan, there are as many that have a weaker transfer rule; or, they have no rule at all because the state's legislature intervened, usurped the association's authority and overturned its over-reaching regulation.

The MHSAA transfer rule is not perfect and likely never will be, which is why it is among the two most reviewed and revised rules of the *MHSAA Handbook*. But the MHSAA transfer rule is on the right path. A dramatic detour will serve school sports badly.

What most negatively affects the administration of the existing transfer rule is the reluctance of administrators and coaches to report directly the violations they observe personally. If these people won't do their part, they have no right to critique the rule or to criticize the rule makers.

—John E. “Jack” Roberts  
MHSAA Executive Director

## the buzzer



Hailey Deyo



# INTRODUCING

## UNDER ARMOUR® HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK ON THE NFHS NETWORK

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- Use the "Clip and Share" feature on the NFHS Network site
- Tag videos with #UAHighlights on social networks
- Email a link to the video to [UAHighlights@nfhsnetwork.com](mailto:UAHighlights@nfhsnetwork.com)



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