



michigan high school athletic association

Mark Uyl, Executive Director

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TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Mark Uyl, Executive Director

DATE: May, 2023

SUBJECT: 2023-24 Membership – **Take Action Now!**

Unlike classroom courses in our schools, the interscholastic athletic program requires opponents; and to help promote a level playing field for competition, the interscholastic athletic program requires some organization to provide a forum to assist in developing competitive standards and to help assure they are maintained. For many years, many schools have worked through the Michigan High School Athletic Association to establish a common set of rules for the orderly administration of an interscholastic athletic program, which promotes academic integrity and competitive equity.

According to Michigan Attorney General Opinion #4795 of 1977, any local board of education, which desires to do so, may voluntarily join the MHSAA by adopting the association's rules and agreeing to enforce those rules with respect to its schools. Institutional control remains the key to this organization.

Enclosed is the MHSAA Membership Resolution from August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024. Please complete and return the original to the MHSAA and retain a copy for your files. Two brochures may be downloaded from the Administrators page at MHSAA.com (A Summary of Handbook Regulations and MHSAA Eligibility Brochure). Both summarize essential eligibility requirements.

Each school district that wishes one or more schools to participate in MHSAA tournaments and benefit from MHSAA services must schedule the adoption of the Membership Resolution on its board of education agenda. The Resolution should be signed in sufficient time to prevent a membership lapse (before August 1). A Membership lapse, even though for only a week, can create unnecessary problems should there be claims under the \$1,000,000 accident medical insurance plan or the concussion care gap insurance or if eligibility rulings are to be made during that period.

While it is not a prerequisite to conducting an interscholastic athletic program, MHSAA membership is required for all school districts wishing their high schools to participate in MHSAA post-season tournaments. If the Membership Resolution is not signed and returned by the fourth Friday after Labor Day (Sept. 29), your district's schools may not enter MHSAA post-season tournaments during 2023-24.

If the Membership Resolution is being returned from a multi-school district or diocese, please list ALL junior and senior high schools for which membership is requested. We strongly urge that all junior high/middle schools become MHSAA members, subject to MHSAA rules specially designed for students of that age and educational programs of that level. To ensure compatible philosophies, equitable opportunities, and competition, you are urged to invite all the junior high/middle schools against which yours compete or which feed into your high schools to become MHSAA member schools if they are not already.

(over)

The Membership Resolution obligates the listed schools of your district to follow the standardized rules if your schools wish to qualify for and participate in MHSAA post-season tournaments. It obligates your administration and the board of education to enforce those rules.

**Complete the Membership Resolution only if your district intends to fulfill these obligations without exception.**

Also enclosed is a copy of the MHSAA Representative Council meeting minutes held May 7 & 8, 2023. Regulation CHANGES, as indicated in the minutes, will be published in the 2023-24 *MHSAA Handbook*, which we anticipate receiving from the printer before June 15. Copies will be sent to each superintendent and each member school immediately after delivery to our office. Minutes, and a summary of Representative Council Action, can be found on the Administrators page at MHSAA.com.

Thank you for cooperating with these first procedures for the 2023-24 school year of inter-scholastic athletics, which we will work diligently to make the best experience possible.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association is a voluntary, nonprofit corporation comprised of public, private and parochial junior high/ middle and senior high schools whose Boards of Education/Governing Bodies have voluntarily applied for and received membership for and on behalf of their secondary schools. The association sponsors statewide tournaments and makes eligibility rules with respect to participation in such Michigan High School Athletic Association sponsored tournaments in the various sports. Each Board of Education/Governing Body that wishes to host or participate in such meets and tournaments must join the MHSAA and agree to abide by and enforce the MHSAA rules, regulations and qualifications concerning eligibility, game rules and tournament policies, procedures and schedules. **It is a condition for participation in any MHSAA postseason tournaments that high schools adhere to at least the minimum standards of Regulation I and the maximum limitations of Regulation II in ALL MHSAA Tournament sports.**

Michigan High School Athletic Association tournaments are the collective property of the MHSAA and not of any individual member school. The MHSAA reserves the right to promote and advance the membership's interests with publication information; exclusive arrangements to create recognition and exposure for school-sponsored activities; restrictive policies prohibiting exploitation and commercialization of MHSAA-sponsored tournaments; appropriate proprietary interests, and the use of images or transmissions identifying contest officials, spectators and member schools' students, personnel and marks.

To obtain membership, it is necessary for the Board of Education/Governing Body to adopt the following resolution for its junior high/middle and senior high schools. This resolution must be formally ratified by your Board of Education/Governing Body and properly signed. Please return one signed copy for our files and retain one copy for your files. Resolutions that are modified in any way or are supplemented with letters placing additional conditions on MHSAA membership or tournament participation shall be rejected.

## MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION

For the year August 1, 2023 — through July 31, 2024

### LIST ON BACK

\_\_\_\_\_ the School(s) which are under the direction of this Board of Education/Governing Body.

***(Junior high/middle and senior high schools of your school system which are to be listed as MHSAA members and receive MHSAA mailings during 2023-24 must be listed on the back of this form)***

\_\_\_\_\_ City/Township of \_\_\_\_\_

County of \_\_\_\_\_, of State of Michigan, are hereby:

- (A) enrolled as members of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., a nonprofit association, and
- (B) are further enrolled to participate in the approved interschool athletic activities sponsored by said association.

The Board of Education/Governing Body hereby delegates to the Superintendent or his/her designee(s) the responsibility for the supervision and control of said activities, and hereby accepts the Constitution and By-Laws of said association and adopts as its own the rules, regulations and interpretations (as minimum standards), as published in the current *HANDBOOK* as the governing code under which the said school(s) shall conduct its program of interscholastic athletics and agrees to primary enforcement of said rules, regulations, interpretations and qualifications. In addition, it is hereby agreed that schools which host or participate in the association's meets and tournaments shall follow and enforce all tournament policies, procedures and schedules.

This authorization shall be effective from August 1, 2023 and shall remain effective until July 31, 2024, during which the authorization may not be revoked.

### RECORD OF ADOPTION

*The above resolution was adopted by the Board of Education/Governing Body of the*

\_\_\_\_\_ School(s), on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023,  
*and is so recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the said Board/Governing Body.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Governing Body Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City & Zip Code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Contact E-mail)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary Signature  
or Designee

☐ Check if Designee

# Schools Which Are To Be MHSAA Members During 2023-24

**NOTE:** Pursuant to the MHSAA Constitution, all high schools, junior high/middle schools, or other schools of Michigan doing a grade of work corresponding to such schools, may become members of this organization provided (a) the school building has enrollment and onsite attendance of at least 15 students, whether for grades 6 through 8 or 9, grades 7 through 8 or 9, or grades 9 or 10 through 12; and (b) if a nonpublic school, the school qualifies for federal income tax exemption as a not-for-profit organization. To reach the 15-student minimum for middle school membership, schools may join the MHSAA at the 6th-grade level whether or not 6th-grade students participate in athletics.

- A. This Section does not require school districts to become member schools at the junior high/middle school level and does not require school districts to sponsor any interscholastic athletics for 6th-grade students.
- B. If a school district's MHSAA Membership Resolution lists a junior high/middle school as an MHSAA member school, and if the school sponsors a 6th-grade team in any sport or permits a 6th-grade student to participate with 7th- and/or 8th-grade students in any sport, then all of Regulations III and IV apply to all 6th-graders in all sports involving 6th-graders on teams sponsored by that school. If the school does not allow any 6th-graders to participate in a sport, MHSAA rules do not apply in that sport.

## Name the Member High School(s)

List separately from JH/MS even if all grades are housed in the same building.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_

If necessary, list additional schools for either column on a separate sheet.

## Name the Member Junior High /Middle School(s)

(member 6th, 7th and 8th-grade buildings)

List separately from HS even if all grades are housed in the same building.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Member School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Configuration of grades in building (e.g. K-6, 6-8, 7-8, 7-9): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Provide anticipated 2023-24 7th and 8th-grade enrollment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Provide anticipated 2023-24 6th-grade enrollment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade levels for membership: 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐  
 1. **Yes or No (circle one)** 6th-graders will be participating in at least one sport with 7th and 8th graders. If yes, and not housed in the same building, add the name of the building that houses 6th-graders on the line below.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Member School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Configuration of grades in building (e.g. K-6, 6-8, 7-8, 7-9): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Provide anticipated 2023-24 7th and 8th-grade enrollment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Provide anticipated 2023-24 6th-grade enrollment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade levels for membership: 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐  
 1. **Yes or No (circle one)** 6th-graders will be participating in at least one sport with 7th and 8th graders. If yes, and not housed in the same building, add the name of the building that houses 6th-graders on the line below.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Member School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Configuration of grades in building (e.g. K-6, 6-8, 7-8, 7-9): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Provide anticipated 2023-24 7th and 8th-grade enrollment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Provide anticipated 2023-24 6th-grade enrollment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade levels for membership: 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐  
 1. **Yes or No (circle one)** 6th-graders will be participating in at least one sport with 7th and 8th graders. If yes, and not housed in the same building, add the name of the building that houses 6th-graders on the line below.  
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