

Missouri State High School Activities Association

Officials Advisory Meeting

April 8, 2026

MSHSAA Office
10:00 AM

HISTORY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The MSHSAA Board of Directors in the late 1950's was concerned with comments from coaches, music and speech directors indicating they had little voice in the administration and regulations of the respective activities they directed in their schools. To address this issue, the Board was to appoint advisory committees for music and speech to assist the executive director and Board of Directors in planning and administering the various activities.

The MSHSAA Constitution, after a vote of the member schools, included provisions for music and speech advisory committees. However, specific procedures for implementing the committee recommendations were not addressed. In 1959 the Music Advisory Committee was the first to become active and met with the executive director to review the regulations applied to music festivals and to make recommendations to the Board via the executive director for improvements in the program.

Shortly after the Music Advisory Committee became active the Speech Advisory Committee followed suit. The first significant recommendation was to include all speech activities, rather than debate only, under the jurisdiction of the MSHSAA.

The hard work and promising recommendations made by these two advisory committees prompted the Board of Directors to establish similar advisory committees in each activity under the MSHSAA jurisdiction. As new activities have been added or expanded, advisory committees have continued to be developed to meet this growth.

PURPOSE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The advisory committees serve to provide increased communication from the "grass roots" level between the MSHSAA member schools and the MSHSAA Board of Directors. The committees shall act in an advisory capacity with the MSHSAA Board of Directors reserving the right to accept, reject or amend committee recommendations.

Officials Advisory Committee Meeting
April 8, 2026 – 10:00am
Agenda

I. Introduction:

- a. Welcome – Introductions
- b. New Members: Ben Jackson (Central), Pat Burns (STL), Marian House (At Large SW), and Chris Sander (At Large NE)
- c. Financial and Contact Information
- d. Role of Advisory Committees
- e. Approval of minutes for April 2, 2025 Meeting
- f. Amend the Agenda
- g. Officials Manual and MSHSAA Procedures – Hill
 - i. Consistency in Language Regarding Official Registration (Burns)
 - ii. Time Issuance of Rules Books for Training and Part 2 Rules Exams (Burns)

II. New Business:

- a. **Swimming and Diving** – Changing color of swimming and diving official uniform (Hatfield)
- b. **Track and Field** – Changing the Official Uniform Utilizing a Red Official Shirt for the Starter (Burns and Montgomery)
- c. **Track & Field** – No motorized vehicles are to be permitted on the track during competition, except for emergency purposes or for broadcast purposes under the direction of the MSHSAA Communications Department (Turner/Hill)
- d. **Basketball** – Adding a stand-by official for all sectional and quarterfinal games (Wood)
- e. **Basketball** – MSHSAA designates the referee/crew chief on all sectional and quarterfinal basketball games (Wood)
- f. **Basketball** – Use of replay to review a last second shot at the end of quarters at state final four games (Montgomery)
- g. **All Officials** – Require schools to provide adequate private changing areas for all outdoor sports (Burns)
- h. **All Officials** – Require administrator on duty to meet outdoor game officials and provide an escort to the game site (Burns)

III. General

IV. Closing

- a. Outgoing Members: John Hatfield (KC) and Mike Wood (SC)
- b. 2026-27 Meeting: Wednesday, April 7, 2027

"Anyone attending a meeting of the Missouri State High School Activities Association who requires auxiliary aids or services should request such services by contacting the Executive Director of the MSHSAA, telephone 573/875-4880, no later than 48 hours before the meeting. Thank you."

Appendix A

Advisory Committee Agenda Item Submitted by: John Hatfield

Agenda Item: (one item per sheet)

Changing color of swimming and diving official uniform

By-Law, or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

MSHSAA Officials Manual – Uniform Requirements

Rationale for Change/Addition:

Swimming and Diving official from the KC area:

1. No other MSHSAA sports have all white uniforms. Only one other sport has a white top and none have white bottoms. 2. Officiating swim/dive often involves being splashed with water. Wearing white clothing is not ideal for this, for men or women. When white gets wet it becomes transparent. 3. As more women, particularly younger women, officiate swim/dive, wearing white bottoms while menstruating is not ideal

Appendix B

Advisory Committee Agenda Item Submitted by: Pat Burns and Carter Montgomery

Agenda Item: (one item per sheet)

Consider A Change to the Official Uniform Utilizing a Red Official Shirt for the Starter.

By-Law, or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

MSHSAA Officials Manual Section 4.7

Rationale for Change/Addition (Burns):

I am proposing we as Track and Field officials when functioning as a starter, be granted a uniform exception for 2026 and then a permanent change beyond. As T&F officials, more often than not, we are working as a Starter during the season. As a Certified Master level Starter for NCAA and USATF, I am consistently uniformed in a red shirt and hat. These are provided either by the conference or USATF. The premise is that any meet official, coach, or athlete can immediately look across the track and recognize the Starter who also is most always the head Track official. It is also for consistency in uniforming. We have not had a consistent hat in MSHSAA for several years, although the recent grey hat seems to be the most prevalent. However, it's not very visible. I am enclosing a few examples for review. We have several types of shirts, some are embroidered, and others may have a patch, but for USATF they have the Certified logo. NCAA does not have a separate shirt, although they are headed that way as we now have to take separate certification tests. At the recent DII outdoor meet, we were given NCAA logoed shirts that were red. In my past attendance at post season MSHSAA meets, I noticed that almost everyone buys their own white shirt and puts a patch on it.

Like most officials, I do the same with Football, Basketball, and Track. For T&F officials this allows us to purchase a golf or dri fit shirt that is more comfortable than the standard cotton shirt with logo. I would also propose that any future MSHSAA logo be of the larger size similar to the patch size. As well we have various windbreakers, rain jackets etc available to us all red so we are easy to find. I have observed all colors of jackets at MSHSAA meets. Again, it would be nice for consistency if we had red. So, I propose we be allowed a solid red shirt with the MSHSAA Official's patch affixed as prescribed by the MSHSAA Officials manual. And as well a hat in either bucket /cap style also with the MSHSAA Officials patch affixed. I would also propose that any future MSHSAA logo be of the larger size similar to the patch size. I know there are several registered MSHSAA T&F officials who are also USATF certified. Since the USATF organization and NFHS maintain a collaborative relationship, I would also propose that we be allowed to wear USATF certified logoed apparel. This would allow those of us who are USATF officials to utilize our current red apparel. We could, if necessary, temporarily affix a MSHSAA patch. I appreciate your time and consideration for this proposal. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email or at 816-309-8691.

Appendix C

Advisory Committee Agenda Item Submitted by: Stephanie Turner/Toni Hill

Agenda Item: (one item per sheet)

No motorized vehicles are to be permitted on the track during competition, except for emergency purposes or for broadcast purposes under the direction of the MSHSAA Communications Department (Turner/Hill)

By-Law, or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Safety Section of Officials Manual

Rationale for Change/Addition:

Over the past two years, track and field officials have encountered situations involving a private company operating a utility vehicle (Gator) at high speeds around the track to capture video footage during races. As evidenced in the provided communication and video, this vehicle has traveled in close proximity to athletes, coaches, spectators, and officials, including through active exchange zones. This practice creates significant safety concerns by introducing unnecessary hazards in already congested and high-focus competition areas. Instances have also been observed where equipment, such as starting blocks, has been struck due to inattention. In addition to the direct risk of injury, this activity places an undue burden on officials and participants, who must divert attention from competition to avoid the vehicle. 3/25/25 After receiving a phone call yesterday from a concerned official about an ATV being used on the track during competition. The ATV/Gator is in front of the athletes with someone on the back filming. The official pointed out specific concerns of situation that occurred because of this in the meet. The video of this meet has been posted on YouTube. See links below: Kansas City, MO Meet: <https://youtu.be/k92rIOEFL0w?si=MzIOrjzoXoJJTGsa> 32:45-ATV ran

over starting blocks 35:09 - Athlete close by in the starting blocks 44:58 - ATV Drives through exchange zone near athletes at a high speed 45:55 - Official stops the ATV prior to the exchange zone when he sees it is about to happen again. ATV proceeds to only video the last leg of both 4x800 races Kansas Meet:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/16CcnMiMB6/?mibextid=wwXlfr> YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@spectrumsportskansascity8987/videos> Here was recent communication on 3/30/26: From official: Situation #1: Spectrum Sports in the KC area has been bringing a Gator onto the track to film/live-stream races. I was working at the Ron Ives meet at Liberty HS. I was the recall for the girls 1600m race when I noticed the gator near the 80m mark on the track as I followed/watched the runners toward the break line. The gator started down the track when runners got within 10 meters. As it came around to the start/finish line, I halted them and told them they could not be on the track. Their response was, " We got approval from the school." I said back to them, " This was not brought to my attention (I was head starter) and I am not going to allow you on the track for safety reasons among others. They challenged me once more and I said sorry, but NO. They left without further disturbance. This same situation also took place at a Blue Springs Meet. I was told by another official that they were on the track filming during relays even!! I feel confident I made the correct decision/ruling but want an official declaration from MSHSAA about this. A mass email to schools may be necessary. Response from Director of Track & Field: There are no rules preventing a cart on the track at regular season meets. Officials need to be communicating with the meet hosts if they feel there are safety concerns. The thing to keep in mind is: It is the primary role of the official is to ensure a competitive environment that does not heighten the risk of injury. If you believe this instance provides a heightened risk of injury, you need to make the necessary call to eliminate that risk.3/25/25 After receiving a phone call yesterday from a concerned official about an ATV being used on the track during competition. The ATV/Gator is in front of the athletes with someone on the back filming. The official pointed out specific concerns of situation that occurred because of this in the meet. The video of this meet has been posted on YouTube. See links below: Kansas City, MO Meet: <https://youtu.be/k92rIOEFL0w?si=MzIOrjzoXoJJTGsa> 32:45-ATV ran over starting blocks 35:09 - Athlete close by in the starting blocks 44:58 - ATV Drives through exchange zone near athletes at a high speed

Appendix D

Advisory Committee Agenda Item Submitted by: Mike Wood

Agenda Item: (one item per sheet)

Adding a stand-by official for all sectional and quarterfinal games (Wood)

By-Law, or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

None

Rationale for Change/Addition:

By using a stand-by official and giving this official a standardized form to use would help officials when issues/disputes arise dealing with score, team fouls, and alternate possession.

Appendix E

Advisory Committee Agenda Item Submitted by: Mike Wood

Agenda Item: (one item per sheet)

MSHSAA designates the referee/crew chief on all sectional and quarterfinal basketball games (Wood)

By-Law, or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

None

Rationale for Change/Addition (Burns):

This will help the crew know who is in charge and can help with effective communication with other officials and the host site. This can also help MSHSAA know who to communicate with if an issue arises during the game.

Rationale for Change/Addition (Montgomery):

This will make it easier to identify the official or starter on the track. It has come to my attention after talking to numerous officials involved with track that this would be a good change. A simple red hat and a red polo to look professional has also been brought to my attention.

Appendix F

Advisory Committee Agenda Item Submitted by: Carter Montgomery

Agenda Item: (one item per sheet)

Use of replay to review a last second shot at the end of quarters at state final four games

By-Law, or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Use of Replay

Rationale for Change/Addition:

With the technology available at Mizzou Arena, we should utilize replay to assist in making sure last second shots are good and worth 3 or 2. Nebraska had great success with this at state in the finals this year. We usually have plenty of time between games, so I don't believe it will cause an issue to make games run behind.

Appendix G

Advisory Committee Agenda Item Submitted by: Pat Burns

Agenda Item: (one item per sheet)

Require schools to provide adequate private changing areas for all outdoor sports

By-Law, or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

None

Rationale for Change/Addition:

Outdoor sports, mostly baseball and softball, require added safety equipment which having a private area to change would help tremendously.

Appendix H

Advisory Committee Agenda Item Submitted by: Pat Burns

Agenda Item: (one item per sheet)

Require administrator on duty to meet outdoor game officials and provide an escort to the game site

By-Law, or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

None

Rationale for Change/Addition:

Safety and security of game officials
