

## Track & Field Advisory Committee Recommendations

Spring 2026

1. **Recommend** revising Section 2.L (Para-Athletes) to reflect participation procedures for para-athletes during the regular season and add the following language: Schools entering a para-athlete into a regular season competition should contact the host school no later than one (1) week prior to the competition date.
2. **Recommend** revising the Track & Field Manual adding language outlining the postseason participation process, including notification deadlines for district and sectional meets.

### Track & Field Manual 3.A.3

#### 1. Para-Athletes: Para-athletes may participate in exhibition events during postseason competition.

a. District/Sectionals: If a school would like for a para-athlete to participate in an exhibition event at a district or sectional meet, they must make that request directly to the host school. The host school will evaluate whether their meet setup, including time constraints, allows for additional events.

i. Schools seeking participation in exhibition para-athlete events must contact the district or sectional host school no later than one week prior to the meet date. If approved by the host school, the host will make the necessary entry and schedule adjustments.

ii. Para-athlete exhibition events do not automatically advance to the next level of postseason competition. Schools are responsible for contacting the host school at each postseason level to request participation.

b. State Meet: MSHSAA sponsors a para-division at the State Track and Field Championships for chair-bound athletes in the following exhibition events:

i. Track: 100m, 200m, 400, 800m

ii. Field: shot put, discus, javelin

c. Participation in districts/sectionals is not required for entry into the State Championships.

d. Schools must complete all entries for chair-bound para-athletes through the MSHSAA website by the posted entry deadline (Section 4).

### Track & Field Manual 4.A.1 (Districts)

#### 1. Para-Athlete Entries: Head Coach must contact Host School

a. Classes 1-3: 12:00 PM, Friday of Week #43

b. Classes 4 & 5: 12:00 PM, Friday of Week #44

### Track & Field Manual 4.B.1 (Sectionals)

#### 2. Para-Athlete Entries: Head Coach must contact Host School

a. Classes 1-3: 12:00 PM, Friday of Week #44

b. Classes 4 & 5: 12:00 PM, Friday of Week #45

- \* 3. **Recommend** allowing a one-mile (1-mile) performance to count as a 1600-meter qualifying time for additional qualifiers when the one-mile time, or an official 1600-meter en route time, meets the established qualifying standard and is published on the official entry platform.
4. **Recommend** adding to Section 5, District Meet: E.11.c: In races that have hurdle judges or curve judges assigned by the meet host, the starter should not start the race until he/she verifies that the assigned judges are in place.
5. **Recommend** adding Section 5, State Meet: C.10.d Tape and chalk shall not be permitted as materials to use as check markers.
- \* 6. **Recommend** revising the postseason advancement process to retain the current advancement of the top four (4) finishers per gender in each event and add the next eight (8) best performances as additional qualifiers at each level of the State Series.

### STATE SERIES ADVANCEMENT:

#### 1. District to Sectionals:

a. Top 4 individual finishers + next 8 best times/marks per sectional (16) in each event per gender

b. Top 4 relay teams + next 8 best times/marks per sectional (16) in each event per gender

#### 2. Sectionals to State:

a. Top 4 individual finishers + next 8 best times/marks statewide (24) in each event per gender

b. Top 4 relay team + next 8 best times/marks statewide (24) in each event per gender

### BOARD ACTION

|      |                          |
|------|--------------------------|
| *    | DENIED                   |
| **   | TABLED FOR FURTHER STUDY |
| ***  | APPROVED AS AMENDED      |
| **** | NO ACTION                |

ALL OTHERS APPROVED