

MTHSSA Fall Meeting 2024
Saturday, August 24, 2024, 10:00 AM
Montgomery Bell Academy

I. Greeting: Josh Tinley.

II. Roll call: Agathos Classical School, Battleground Academy, Blackman HS, Blackman Middle School, Blackman MS, Brentwood Academy HS, Brentwood Academy MS, Brentwood HS, Brentwood MS, Centennial HS, Christ Presbyterian Academy HS, Christ Presbyterian MS, Coffee County HS, Coffee County MS, Columbia Central, Cornersville, Croft MS, Ensworth HS, Ensworth MS, Father Ryan HS, Fayetteville City Schools, Forrest HS, Franklin County Schools, Franklin High School, Franklin Road Academy HS, Franklin Road Academy MS, Freedom MS, Grace Christian Academy, Harding Academy, Harpeth Hall, Hillsboro HS, Hume Fogg Academic Magnet HS, Immaculate Conception, Independence HS, JT Moore, Linden Waldorf, Isaac Litton Middle School, Marshall County, Meigs, Middle TN Christian School, Mill Creek Middle, Mount Juliet High School, MTHEA Makos, Nashville Christian School, Nashville School for the Arts, Nolensville HS, Oakland HS, Oakland MS, Page HS, Pope John Paul II, Providence Christian Academy, Ravenwood HS, Riverdale HS, Rockvale MS, Siegel HS, St. Andrews Sewanee, Sumner County Public Schools, Summit HS, Sunset MS, USN, Valor Academy, Watertown, West End, West Wilson MS, Westwood MS, Wilson Central, Zion Christian Academy

III. Reports of officers:

a. Josh Tinley, President.

More to come from Josh later in the agenda.

b. Polly Linden, Treasurer (delivered by Josh Tinley).

We took in \$5,600 last year and have just shy of \$20K in the bank account. Please don't be late with registrations this year -- we had 33 late registrations in 23-24. Last year, our expenses were part of the banquet, region banners, division trophies, bag tags.

We have a handful of teams who haven't either proven times OR paid fines for unproven times for HS Regions. We will send this list out after the meeting.

c. Justin Karpinos, Secretary

No report beyond the minutes from the spring meeting.

d. Pat Killian, Vice President

Divisional assignments are on the agenda for later in the meeting.

- e. Drew Brewer, Middle School Rep

MS championship meet numbers stayed steady in 23-24. We went up only 21 swimmers from 2023-2024. Fewer girls but significantly more boys in the MS region meet.

- f. Shannon Philbin, Rules and Regulations

No report.

IV. Elections:

- a. Vice President (currently Pat Killian, MBA)
 - i. Nominations from the floor – none.
 - ii. Vote. **Pat Killian is confirmed as VP.**
- b. Treasurer (currently Polly Linden, Harpeth Hall).

Polly has asked to not continue in this role now that she is retired from coaching. The treasurer is primarily responsible for managing registrations, rosters, and some additional responsibilities in paying for banners, bag tags, banquet, etc.

One possibility is for Pat to take on this role for one year to help us manage registrations and get them underway and then hold a special election next year.

Nominations from the floor. April Parker has offered to do this beginning year. Second.

- i. Vote. **April Parker is confirmed as Treasurer.**
- c. Middle School Rep (currently Drew Brewer, Oakland)
 - i. Nominations from the floor. Drew is willing to continue this. No other nominations. Second.
 - ii. Vote. **Drew Brewer is confirmed as Middle School Rep.**

V. General business

- a. **Presentation and approval of annual budget.**

Expenses for this year include Region banner(s), bag tags, division trophies. Maintaining same budget (expenses) for next year. Second. **Budget is approved.**

- b. **Proposal: Remove from MTHSSA bylaws eligibility rules that are already included in the TISCA by-laws (Pat Killian).**

The purpose here is to rewrite MTHSSA bylaws so that they mirror TISCA's *with a few additions*, so that we don't have to update ours every time that TISCA changes its bylaws. Essentially, our Region bylaws would change immediately with TISCA bylaws as TISCA bylaws are updated.

Friendly amendment is to delete "TSSAA and" from the first line of this proposal (John Mooney). **The amendment is seconded, approved.**

Do we need specific language for middle school? What if a student repeats 8th grade, or do we just follow TSSAA on this?

Clarification that schools with 5/6 and 7/8 in separate buildings with separate principals MAY compete together if they do so in other sports, subject to review annually by the board.

Motion to vote on entire proposal. Second. **Proposal is approved.**

c. **Proposal: Remove from MTHSSA bylaws references to a "Review Committee" that does not exist.**

This was a mirroring of TISCA bylaws language. TISCA does have a Review Committee, but MTHSSA does not. For us, issues of athlete eligibility fall under the Board. We don't really struggle with eligibility questions, so there's no need for us to have it. We can cement our procedures if we need to, but we've followed TISCA.

Motion. Second. Vote. **This proposal is approved.**

VI. New business for Middle School.

a. **Proposal: Suspend rule that says a swimmer who misses a single event is disqualified from the Middle School Championship meet.**

Rationale: This rule is a point of contention every year, and it is very difficult for the host club to enforce.

Clarification that middle school is not bound by NFHS rules. Our MS region invitation says "we will follow NFHS rules," so suspending it at the coaches' meeting right before the meet is inappropriate. We'll clarify at the coaches' meeting that we don't expect host clubs to work in kids who miss their races, and that we want to encourage coaches to declare false starts if they know a swimmer will miss a race. We want to be mindful of the work that our host clubs are doing, and it's difficult for the hosts to enforce this rule in the moment.

Second on original proposal. Vote. **Proposal is approved.**

- b. Proposal: Swim the 500 freestyle heats in the prelim session of the Middle School Championship when they would fall in the normal event order, instead of at the end of the meet. (Rationale: When making entries, coaches don't know whether a swimmer will swim the 500 at the end of the meet or be one of the top 8 seeds and swim it in the middle; this makes it hard to determine a swimmer's other event(s).

Clarification that typically we only see 1-2 heats of prelims 500's per gender. There is support for this from an officials' standpoint and from the perspective of kids who swim the 100 free, then the 200 free relay, as it breaks up the sprint freestyling in the meet.

Second. Vote. **Proposal is approved.**

c. **Information about hosted meets**

LaVergne will host five middle school invitational meets, free of registration fees (spectator gate fees). We will post the dates when LaVergne makes them available to us.

MTSC hosts an invitational for MS on Saturday, October 26 in the morning at the Jimmy Floyd Center. We will post meet invite to this list.

Father Ryan Irish Relays will be held on November 9 (includes MS AND HS) at Ensworth.

Ensworth will host MS Invitational on Saturday, December 14 in the afternoon.

d. **Other business.** *None.*

VII. New business, high school

a. Discussion and review of high school divisions

Clarification -- no more promoting divisions from B to A or relegating from A to B, so divisions are renamed. We need divisional reps, who are responsible for collecting and reporting W-L records of every team in the divisions AND scores from meets. Remember, we score as double duals – head to head scores, not invitational style scoring.

Jeff Borne will be Division 2, Marshall County.

Division 1: Nan Long (SAS)

Division 3B: Tony Trumphour from Smyrna (?)

Division 4: Debbie from Merrol Hyde

Division 6: April Parker

Division 7: Kate Sperk from Summit (*check spelling*)

Clarifications for Coaches:

- To be eligible for division awards, you must swim a meet against every team in your division. Please plan accordingly.
- To count toward division standings, meets should be scored as dual meets (the head-to-head match-up of two teams).
- You are NOT required to participate in any division. Especially if you represent a team of very few swimmers, you may not have an assignment now, and you may not need one.
- The divisions are for high school only, not middle school.

b. **Proposal: Limit number of relay-only swimmers at the High School Region meet to two per gender per team.**

Rationale: The host club, Excel, requested this change because the meet has gotten so big. This would bring us in line with the MS region meet rule.

Currently we allow 4 men + 4 women. This would reduce it to 2 men + 2 women. They can swim on any A or B relay and do NOT have to swim (they could be srelay only alternates, which is DIFFERENT than the state meet rules).

Second. Vote. **This proposal is approved.**

c. **Proposal: Change the format of the High School Region meet to include both a preliminary and a finals session.** from Shannon Philbin and Drew Brewer.

Rationale: Because the State Championship meet is becoming more exclusive, there is a desire to make our regional championship a bigger, more celebratory event. We want more opportunities to celebrate kids, so we want to move Regions (HS) to a prelim-final format. We'd want all events to be prelims finals EXCEPT the 500, top 16 500 freestylers would swim at night.

Discussion.

Would we have to make Region Q times faster? Concerns about running finals session late with all events and two heats of each event.

Jaqui Wright: as an official, this sounds like a nightmare. There's no way we can make finals a certified meet. We can barely fill this in one session.

Pat Killian: We would need to talk to the meet host about this idea and haven't done this. It creates a higher burden on volunteers, and the way we have approached Excel about this meet is as a timed final meet. Other concerns about getting this meet from NAC on the calendar; NAC will probably not give up the pool time on Friday evening and we might have to move HS and MS Region meets to Saturday-Sunday. We did this HS prelim-final one time in 2013 and did not do it again. This will NOT give opportunities to make state cuts, since the 16th place finish is already faster than the State Q time.

Josh Tinley: acknowledges that Top 16 RELAY swimmers could get a second swim and not have Q times.

Shannon: we're aware of the facility limitations.

Jim Chapman: understands from Excel that they will not host a meet on Friday if we move this to prelims-finals.

Josh: Our task right now as MTHSSA is to *explore* if this is something we want to pursue, then we can take the next steps.

Christian Bahr: Floriday runs the entire State meet in one day and runs through 3 sessions. Even with only 3 heats of boys/girls it's hard. Doesn't think the "juice is worth the squeeze" here. Likes the current format of the Region meet.

The spirit of bringing some pageantry to the Region meet is a good one. Could we bring back the podium presentations for Top 8?

Could we have a "consolation" meet that runs parallel to the State meet for non-qualifiers?

Proposal to communicate with meet hosts about this possibility.

Shannon would like to table this and talk with meet hosts about this possibility.

Second. Vote. **Motion is tabled for now.**

Other ideas for bringing excitement and pageantry to the Region meet:

- a Region meet DJ?

- medal presentations?

- breaks in the meet for awards presentations (after 50 free, after 500 free, after 400 free relay)

- podium + "medals are available" announcement WITHOUT stopping the meet.

- *Request the meet host to prepare medals and put stickers on them in real time. Situate this in a place that is visible to parents.**

- What can we do to improve the experience for the kids who are just stretching to qualify for the Region meet at all?

- Part of the responsibility to make the meet experience feel special is on the coaches and not the meet host or MTHSSA.

- *Move the banner to the lobby or to an accessible place.**

These items in RED are the MTHSSA punch list to communicate to meet hosts.

d. **Information about hosted meets:**

- Saturday, November 2, Ensworth hosts HS Invitational in the early afternoon.
- Saturday, November 9 is Irish Relay meet @ Ensworth.
- Saturday, November 16 MTSC HS Invitational in the morning
- Saturday, December 7, Snowball Invitational at Sewanee. Includes diving.

e. **Other business:** None.

VIII. Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
Justin Karpinos
MTHSSA Secretary