

Submitted on Fri, 10/28/2022 - 2:15 PM

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Indicate the category of the proposed recommendation

Regular Season and Section Tournament Format Recommendations

Authors of the Proposal

Authors:

Mark Kuisle - Rochester Century, Matt Pervical - Eastview, Larry Tate - Robbinsdale
Armstrong, Jed Helwig - St. Paul North High School, David Wicker - Minneapolis Public
Schools, Shannon Gerrety - Blaine

Activity/Activities (Check all that apply)

Adapted Floor Hockey, CI, Adapted Floor Hockey, PI, Adapted Softball, CI, Adapted Softball,
PI, Adapted Soccer, CI, Adapted Soccer, PI, Adapted Bowling, CI, Adapted Bowling, PI,
Adapted Bowling, ASD

Current Rule/Policy

State the rule/policy as it appears in the current MSHSL Handbook or Activity/Sport Specific Rules and Policies.

Bylaws - 506.00/511.00/514.00/515.00. Sorry you cannot cut and paste the MSHSL handbook from the website or from a downloaded document. It will not transfer.

Proposed Recommendation

Submit your proposed change to the above-stated rule/policy.

Bylaw 506.00/511.00/514.00/515.00 ADAPTED – CO-EDUCATIONAL

Link - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JSHHFVt4ugngm-7a52dzt4PCIHz7K01Q/edit?usp=sharing&oid=115666623131950341587&rtpof=true&sd=true>

SEASON BEGINS

Seventeenth Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

Soccer Season 11 weeks

Hockey Season 15 weeks

Softball Season 10 weeks

Bowling Season 11 weeks

PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST

Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first game.

CONTESTS

Maximum number of game allowed soccer – 15

Maximum number of game allowed hockey – 15

Maximum number of game allowed softball – 15

Maximum number of game allowed bowling – 16

Bowling - Two games would constitute a match. Sixteen (16) matches (2 matches per week) will comprise a season. The maximum number of matches played per season shall not exceed 16 matches exclusive of League tournament play. All games shall be bowled in an official bowling alley.

Non-League Tournaments

Conference or division champion may schedule one additional game to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be listed on the school schedule. Tournaments not a part of League play: Each game played in the tournament will count as one game toward the maximum number of games allowed for the season.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS

Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)

EQUIPMENT ISSUED

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

ADAPTED ATHLETICS – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The League has three competitive interscholastic divisions: Physically Impaired (PI), Cognitively Impaired (CI) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for bowling.

Participation in the interscholastic program of a high school is limited to students in grades 7 through 12. Students in an ungraded setting are first eligible when their age peers are in the 7th grade. Students will be eligible for 12 consecutive semesters (6 years), beginning with their or their peers initial entrance into the 7th grade.

The League requires a sports qualifying exam every three (3) years for participants in competitive athletics. The League acknowledges that some students with disabilities, like some students without disabilities, will be unable to participate in adapted athletics due to the competitive nature of the programs and for reasons unrelated to their disability. Like other students who do not "make the team", these students should be directed to alternative programs which are less competitive and more recreational in nature.

Students may not participate in both PI and CI divisions. If a student participates in both divisions the penalty for the use of an ineligible player will be enforced and result in an automatic forfeiture of the game.

PI Division – The League Adapted Athletics PI Division program is specifically intended for students with physical impairments who have medical clearance to compete in competitive athletics. A student is eligible to compete in the PI Division with one of the following criteria. The student must have a diagnosed and documented impairment specified from one of the two sections below: (Must be diagnosed and documented by a Physician and or Physicians Assistant):

Neuromuscular, postural/skeletal, traumatic, growth, or neurological impairment that affects motor function, modifies gait patterns, or requires the use of a prosthesis or a mobility device including but not limited to, canes, crutches, or wheelchairs.

Cardio/respiratory impairment that is deemed safe for competitive athletics but limits the intensity and duration of physical exertion such that sustained activity for over five minutes at 60% of maximum heart rate for age results in physical distress in spite of appropriate management of the health condition.

Note: A condition that can be appropriately managed with appropriate medications, which eliminate physical or health endurance limitations, will NOT be considered to be eligible for adapted athletics.

Specific exclusions to PI competition:

The following health conditions without coexisting physical impairments as outlined above do not qualify the student to participate in the PI Division even though some of the conditions below may be considered Health Impairments by an individual's physician, student's school, or a government agency. This list is not all-inclusive and the conditions are examples of non-qualifying health conditions; other health impairments that are not listed below may also be non-qualifying for participation in the PI Division.

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)

Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)

Emotional Behavioral Disorder (EBD)

Autism Spectrum Disorders (including Asperger's Syndrome)

Tourette's Syndrome
Neurofibromatosis
Asthma
Reactive Airway Disease (RAD)
Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD)
Blindness
Deafness
Obesity
Depression
Generalized Anxiety Disorder
Seizure Disorder
Other Similar Disorders

CI Division – The MSHSL Adapted Athletics CI Division program is specifically intended for students with cognitive impairments who have medical clearance to compete in competitive athletics. A student is eligible to compete in the CI Division by meeting criteria 1 or 2 below:

Minnesota Rule: 3525.1333 DEVELOPMENTAL COGNITIVE DISABILITY

Subpart 1. Definition: "Developmental Cognitive Disability (DCD)" means a condition resulting in significantly below average intellectual functioning and concurrent deficits in adaptive behavior that adversely affects educational performance and requires special education and related services. DCD does not include conditions primarily due to a sensory or physical impairment, traumatic brain injury, autism spectrum disorders, severe multiple impairments, cultural influences, or inconsistent educational programming.

Subpart 2. Criteria: The team shall determine that a pupil is eligible as having a DCD and is in need of special education instruction and related services if the pupil meets the criteria in items A and B.

The pupil demonstrates below average adaptive behavior in school and home, and, if appropriate, community environments. For the purposes of this item, "below average" means:

a composite score at or below the 15th percentile on a nationally normed, technically adequate measure of adaptive behavior; and
documentation of needs and the level of support required in at least four of the seven adaptive behavior domains across multiple environments. Systematic observation and parent input must be included as sources to document need and level of support. All of the following adaptive behavior domains must be considered:

daily living and independent living skills;

social and interpersonal skills;

communication skills;

academic skills;

recreation and leisure skills;
community participation skills; and
work and work-related skills.

Other sources of documentation may include checklists; classroom or work samples; interviews; criterion-referenced measures; educational history; medical history; or pupil self-report.

The pupil demonstrates significantly below average general intellectual functioning that is measured by an individually administered, nationally normed test of intellectual ability. For the purposes of this subitem, "significantly below average general intellectual functioning" means:

mild-moderate range: two standard deviations below the mean, plus or minus one standard error of measurement; and

severe-profound range: three standard deviations below the mean, plus or minus one standard error of measurement.

Significantly below average general intellectual functioning must be verified through a written summary of results from at least two systematic observations with consideration for culturally relevant information, medical and educational histories, and one or more of the following: supplemental tests of specific abilities, criterion-referenced tests, alternative methods of intellectual assessment, clinical interviews with parents, including family members, if appropriate, or observation and analysis of behavior across multiple environments.

Students will also be eligible for the CI Division if they meet the following criteria:

The student must have a diagnosed and documented cognitive impairment. Cognitively impaired refers to students with sub-average intellectual function defined by a Full Scale intelligence quotient of 70 or below, using a standardized, nationally-normed, technically adequate, and individually administered intelligence test.

Specific exclusions from CI competition:

A student becomes ineligible to participate in Adapted Athletics when they have attained a level of cognitive performance that exceeds the eligibility requirements. A student who has reached a level of cognitive performance that exceeds the eligibility requirements after the start of a season will be permitted to complete that sports season.

Challenges to a student's eligibility to participate in PI and CI adapted athletics:

A school may file a written challenge regarding a student's eligibility to participate in Adapted Athletics based on the qualifications stated above. Challenges must be submitted within 24 hours of the end of a game in which an ineligible player participated. A challenge submitted after the deadline will not be honored. The student shall remain eligible during

the review process. The committee's findings will be final and follow the student through the remaining years of eligibility unless there is a change in physical or cognitive status. Upon receipt of a written challenge the League will activate the following review process: request a brief statement from the school/coach supporting the eligibility of the athlete; and review the school's/coach's submission and the school's supporting data (testing, medical history, school documentation) by one reviewer who will submit a brief written statement regarding the eligibility status.

Appeal Process:

If the initial review denies eligibility an appeal can be requested. A panel of three (3) reviewers will be convened. Two (2) of these reviewers must be from different disciplines (MD, Adapted PE teacher, PT, etc). The school/coach will be asked to submit a video of the player during a game or during PE class that will best demonstrate the disability. The video will be at the schools expense.

LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM

To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

Membership Defined: A student must:
be practicing with the high school team;
be on the school's master eligibility list; and
be under the bylaws of the League.

Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post- season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician);
or
students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and have not participated in the same sport:
on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
in a camp or clinic; or
received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the regular season only (not postseason) if they

have participated in the same sport:
on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
in a camp or clinic; or
received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

Include any other policies that are impacted by this proposal.

This recommendation will remove all adapted programs from the able-body programs. This will create their own bylaw which will allow better flexibility for changes specifically for adapted athletics.

Rationale

What is the history of the proposal?

Based on feedback from the Minnesota Adapted Athletics Association Leadership and their member membership (coaches), we are recommending the following change. This change will remove the adapted program(s) out of the able-bodied bylaws and create a specific bylaw for our adapted programs. This allows for a change in the length of season, number of contests and other language which is specific to our adapted programs.

How does your proposal benefit education-based opportunities and MSHSL Mission and Beliefs for all Minnesota students?

This will help promote multi-sport adapted student-athletes. We also believe this change may help with the recruiting and retention of coaches and officials. This change will foster the importance of the social, emotional and educational values of our programs for our student-athletes, parent/guardians, officials and coaches. Currently with the overlap in season our participation numbers are decreasing and we need to do something to foster participation. The current length of season is very taxing on the students and their parent/guardians.

What other policies are significant in this proposal?

None

Provide evidence of support for the proposal from other groups

Marcus Osmun, the Secretary for the Minnesota Adapted Athletics Association will provide addition documentation from the coaches association. The authors of this bylaw change all currently administer the adapted athletics for their district.

Impact

How does your proposal affect this activity, including its impact on all classes, areas of the state, and variety of schools

None

Administration

How does your proposal impact section and state tournaments?

There now will be a natural gap between season and the MSHSL staff will have to confirm and secure state tournament locations based on a new calendar.

Length of Tournament

How does your proposal impact the needed competition time for section and state tournaments?

None

Participants

How does your proposal impact the number of participants/teams?

We believe this change will foster multi-sport adapted student-athletes and increase participation.

How does your proposal impact the percentage of participants/teams that would qualify for the state tournament?

No

Facilities

How does your proposal impact the facilities needed to accommodate your recommendation at both the section and state level?

There now will be a natural gap between season and the MSHSL staff will have to confirm and secure state tournament locations based on a new calendar.

Awards

How does your proposal impact the number of awards at both section and state?

No

Other

Provide any other pertinent information not included in this proposal

None at this time

Primary Author and Contact for Proposal

Proposal submitted by

Mark Kuisle

Position

Activities Director

Phone number

[5073285114](tel:5073285114)

Email

makuisle@rochesterschools.org



MINNESOTA
ADAPTED
ATHLETICS
ASSOCIATION

MNADAPTEDATHLETICS.COM
BOARD@MNADAPTEDATHLETICS.COM
5900 Main Avenue, Box 31
Albertville, MN 55301

October 24, 2022

MSHSL Board of Directors,

This letter is being sent on behalf of the Minnesota Adapted Athletics Association and their Board of Directors. Over the course of the last year, many of our members have had an ongoing discussion regarding the possibility of drafting a proposal calling for the development of a new set of MSHSL Bylaws related to adapted athletics. This change was seen as a good one, as it was the desire of our member coaches and administrators to have our programs covered by a set of bylaws that were drafted to specifically meet the needs of our programs and athletes instead of having our programs lumped in with the corresponding non-adapted sports that the current MSHSL Bylaws cover. This possibility would also allow for the adjustment of season lengths, maximum number of contests and the possible adjustment of state tournament dates, all of which the vast majority of our members have been seeking for quite some time. The authors of this proposal even went so far as to develop a calendar that covers the first 3 years that would potentially help guide the MSHSL in setting season timelines for each of the adapted athletic programs included in the change. Currently, the proposal does not call for any meaningful change to the adapted bowling season, so the calendar that was created only addresses potential season timelines for soccer, floor hockey and softball.

This proposal was sent to our member coaches and activities directors for review and approval as the 2022-2023 school year began. The MAAA currently has 53 individuals coaching adapted soccer, hockey and softball, and we received 51 responses to our request for approval. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of the proposal, with 50 coaches voting in support of the proposal, and just 1 opposing it. In addition to the 5 activities directors that authored the proposal, we received responses from 22 others, with all supporting this proposal.

Our Board of Directors met on October 4, 2022 to review the information collected, discuss the details of the proposal and vote for approval. Our board felt this was a significant, positive step in the right direction for all of our adapted athletic programs and approved the proposal with a unanimous vote of 7-0. The entire Minnesota Adapted Athletics Association asks for your support of this proposal in the form of a final approval by your board of directors.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the proposal's authors if you have any questions or would like to discuss this proposal in greater detail.

Sincerely,

Marcus Onsum
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Adapted Athletics Association
secretary@mnadaptedathletics.com
763-443-3037

New MAAA Season Timelines (Proposed)

2023-2024 Seasons

Soccer

- 8/28/23 - Season Opens
- 09/18/23 - Regular Season Games Begin
- 10/24/23 - Regular Season Games End
- 10/30-11/2 - Playoffs
- 11/10-11/11 - State Tournament

Hockey

- 11/20/23 - Season Opens
- 12/06/23 - Regular Season Games Begin
- 2/8/23 - Regular Season Games End
- 2/14-2/22 - Playoffs
- 3/1-3/2 - State Tournament

Softball

- 3/11/24 - Season Opens
- 3/27/24 - Regular Season Games Begin
- 5/2/24 - Regular Season Games End
- 5/6-5/9 - Playoffs
- 5/17-5/18 - State Tournament

New MAAA Season Timelines (Proposed)

2024-2025 Seasons

Soccer

- 8/26/24 - Season Opens
- 09/16/24 - Regular Season Games Begin
- 10/24/24 - Regular Season Games End
- 10/28-10/31 - Playoffs
- 11/8-11/9 - State Tournament

Hockey

- 11/18/24 - Season Opens
- 12/09/24 - Regular Season Games Begin
- 2/6/25 - Regular Season Games End
- 2/12-2/20 - Playoffs
- 2/28-3/1 - State Tournament

Softball

- 3/10/25 - Season Opens
- 3/24/25 - Regular Season Games Begin
- 5/1/25 - Regular Season Games End
- 5/5-5/8 - Playoffs
- 5/16-5/17 - State Tournament

New MAAA Season Timelines (Proposed)

2025-2026 Seasons

Soccer

- 9/1/25 - Season Opens
- 09/22/25 - Regular Season Games Begin
- 10/23/25 - Regular Season Games End
- 10/27-10/30 - Playoffs
- 11/7-11/8 - State Tournament

Hockey

- 11/17/25 - Season Opens
- 12/08/25 - Regular Season Games Begin
- 2/10/26 - Regular Season Games End
- 2/17-2/26 - Playoffs
- 3/6-3/7 - State Tournament

Softball

- 3/9/26 - Season Opens
- 3/23/26 - Regular Season Games Begin
- 4/30/26 - Regular Season Games End
- 5/4-5/7 - Playoffs
- 5/15-5/16 - State Tournament