

MHSCA March Newsletter: Building the Future Together



A Message from Executive Leadership

“**Charting the Future of the Association**” On March 8, 2026, the MHSCA convened a transformative gathering at the MHSAA Office centered on the theme, “**Charting the Future of the Association.**” With the gracious support of MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl and Assistant Director Kathy Vurggink Westdorp, we dedicated the day to critical discussions regarding legislative advocacy, health initiatives, and risk management. This event served as a catalyst for building a more resilient professional framework based on three essential pillars: **Making Our Community Safer, Leadership Development, and Unified Advocacy.** Together, these priorities ensure that every coach in Michigan is protected, prepared, and empowered for the future.

Making Our Community Safer: Ensuring our environments are protected and prepared.

Health & Safety: Coaches vs. Overdoses

PREVENTION

EDUCATION

AWARENESS

The MHSCA is proud to support the **Coaches vs. Overdoses** initiative. This program provides coaches, parents, and student-athletes with tools to tackle the youth opioid crisis and save lives through prevention and education. We urge all community members to get off the sidelines and help tackle fentanyl misuse.

[Coaches Vs Overdoses - Home](#)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mJBAM-hYx_-yjMGNn0BvweJeOBlin6k6/view?usp=sharing



- **Leadership Development:** Providing tools for a proactive workplace. Strengthening the bond between the MHSCA Board and the coaching community.



- Membership Benefit Visit www.loomislapann.com Participant/Accident coverage is required for all participants attending camps. GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL COACHES ASSOCIATION

- **Leadership Development:** Providing tools for a proactive workplace.
Mr. Rick Ringeisen is the Executive Director of the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association (MSHSCA). Defending the Coaching Profession
 - MSHSCA was honored to welcome **Mr. Rick Ringeisen**, Executive Director of the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association (MSHSCA), who shared a critical legislative perspective from Lakeville, Minnesota. Mr. Ringeisen addressed a growing concern facing our profession: the **unfair release of coaches** based on non-competitive, relational, or personal factors rather than professional performance
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Important Deadlines & Calendar of Events

- **MHSCA 2026/27 Associations & Insurance Payment:** Due July 1, 2026.
 - **MHSCA/NFHS/NHSACA Coach of the Year Nominations:** Due July 1, 2026.
 - **Fall Board Meeting & Hall of Fame Banquet:** September 27, 2026 (Mt. Pleasant, Comfort Inn).
 - **Winter Board Meeting & COTY Banquet:** November 8, 2026 (Midland, The Great Hall).
 - **MHSCA Hall of Fame Committee Meeting:** February 7, 2027 (East Lansing MHSAA & Virtual)
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Awards & Recognition Spotlight

Rich Tompkins Multi-Sport Athlete Award Nominations open **March 13** and close **April 15**.

- **Eligibility:** Each Michigan school may submit qualified female and male athletes.
- **Criteria:** Athletes must have participated in **three seasons** of MHSAA-sponsored sports in all **four years** of high school at any level (Frosh, JV, or Varsity).
- **Submission:** Must be submitted online by an Athletic Administrator or Principal.
- **State-Wide Winners:** Eight winners will receive a scholarship sponsored by the MSHSCA and Carol Tompkins.

**NOMINATION FORM
SCAN THIS CODE:**



Nomination form @ <https://forms.gle/cevGt1AcU989mB597> or scan code above. Nomination Form will be available starting 13 March and MUST be completed by 15 April Questions: LarryMerx@gmail.com

Member Exclusive Travel Discounts



Save Up to 35% with Avis & Budget Enjoy maximum savings with "Pay Now" or flexibility with "Pay Later".

- **Avis:** Use AWD #B1551051 | [Reserve with Avis](#).
- **Budget:** Use BCD #R5847051 | [Book with Budget](#).
- Book by April 30, 2026; Rent by June 15, 2026.

Engine: 26% Average Hotel Savings NHSACA members now have exclusive access to **Engine**, a streamlined booking platform for hotels, flights, and cars.

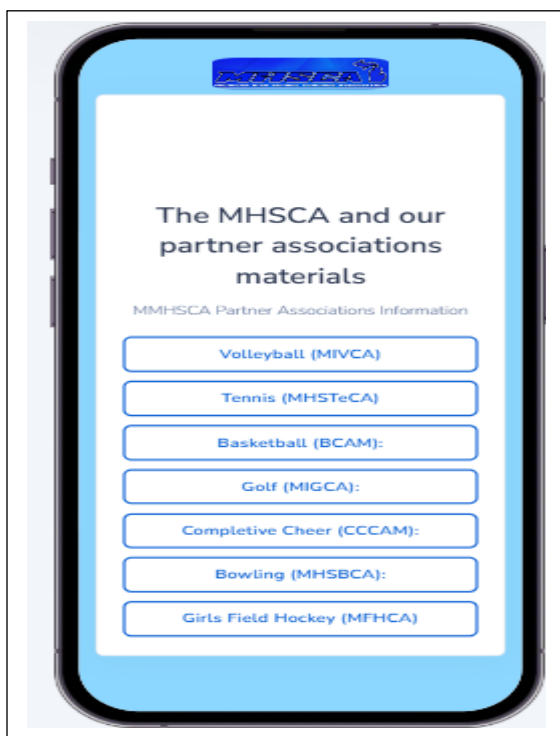
- No contracts or minimum spends.
 - Earn Engine Rewards plus loyalty points with brands like Marriott and Hilton.
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MIAAA Conference:

March 12–14 The MHSCA and our partner associations connected with over 650 Athletic Directors to share essential news and highlight the exclusive benefits available to their coaching staffs through membership in our state associations.

- **Volleyball (MIVCA):** Boys' Volleyball will be MHSAA-sponsored starting in 2026. Members are also eligible for AVCA discounts.
- **Golf (MIGCA):** Celebrating 50 years (1976–2026)! Membership includes access to liability insurance and scholarship opportunities for children of members.
- **Tennis (MHSTeCA):** Reminder to use *tennisreporting.com* for scores. First-year coaches are eligible for **free membership**.
- **Basketball (BCAM):** The Shot Clock Proposal is moving forward. A 35-second shot clock pilot is suggested for the 2026-27 season, aiming for full implementation in 2027-28 to ensure Michigan remains competitive nationally.
- **Bowling (MHSBCA):** Membership in the MHSBCA offers interscholastic bowling coaches a powerful voice in the sport's operation, with direct input relayed to the MHSAA. Members enjoy discounts on training programs, equipment, and MHSAA CAP classes. Additionally, when a coach joins, their student-athletes become eligible for scholarships, All-State honors, and prestigious awards like the Michigan "Dream Team" and Mr./Miss Bowling. The association also hosts an Annual General Meeting featuring coaching seminars and a signature coaches' tournament.
- **Competitive Cheer (CCCAM):** Is providing the education, leadership, and guidance every girl's competitive cheer coach deserves. We are truly dedicated to helping our sport grow and flourish right here in Michigan, and we're excited to walk that path alongside you.
- **Girls Field Hockey (MFHCA)** The Michigan Coaches Field Hockey association invites you to expanding access and opportunity within the sport of girls' field hockey. Fulfilling our mission to cultivate the growth of field hockey requires a dedicated investment of passion, time, and educational contributions for girls in Michigan.





NHSACA Conference Preview: Where Coaches Come to Grow

- As we continue to build momentum toward our upcoming NHSACA National Conference, I wanted to take a moment to provide a brief update and ensure we are all aligned as we move into the final stretch.
- [NHSACA Article:](#)
- This year's conference is shaping up to be one of our strongest yet. We have assembled an outstanding lineup of speakers, championship coaches, respected athletic leaders, & nationally recognized voices in leadership & program development. The focus of this year's conference remains consistent with our mission: to equip Athletic Directors and Coaches with practical tools they can take back to their schools to elevate culture, leadership, and the student-athlete experience.
- Conference Focus Areas
 - Leadership and decision-making for ADs and coaches
 - Building culture and alignment across entire athletic programs
 - Developing athletes into leaders
 - Establishing standards that sustain long-term success
 - Sport-specific and program-building insights



- Many of our featured speakers also carry a strong presence beyond the conference through podcasts, leadership content, and ongoing coach development platforms—extending the value of this event well beyond a few days together.
- Registration & Logistics
- As board members, your leadership in helping us promote and support attendance is critical.
- **Conference Registration:**
👉 <https://omella.com/5jbyb>
- **Hotel Reservations (Hyatt):**
👉 <https://www.hyatt.com/events/en-US/group-booking/IOWRC/G-NHS1>
- **Nearest Airport:** Cedar Rapids Airport

MHSCA Executive Board Mark Holdern, Executive Secretary, Jim Okler, Executive Director | Doug Haggart, President 2026-27

