

# Coronavirus Updates

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## MHSAA Coronavirus Updates

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**March 12, 10 am:** Postseason events sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and scheduled for March 12-14 will be conducted as scheduled. However, attendance will be restricted at all events through this weekend, with updates to be announced Monday, March 16, for the remainder of the girls and boys basketball tournaments.

The MHSAA Ice Hockey Semifinals and Finals will be played March 12-14 at USA Hockey Arena, with Lower Peninsula Boys Swimming & Diving Finals beginning Friday, March 13 and concluding March 14 at Oakland University and Holland Aquatic Center. Girls Gymnastics at Rockford High School also will be competed Friday and Saturday this weekend. Girls Basketball Regionals Finals are scheduled for tonight, March 12, across the state, as are Boys District Finals on Friday, March 13.

Based on recommendations from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer suggesting attendance limitations, no spectators will be allowed for the three Swimming & Diving Finals, both days, or Saturday's Girls Gymnastics Individual Finals. These events have the highest number of participants of this weekend's events.

However, for Hockey Semifinals and Finals and Gymnastics Team Finals – events with far fewer participants – a limited number of spectators will be allowed, as determined by participating schools, to include only parents, legal guardians and essential administrators. Basketball games during the next two days also will allow only limited spectators, as determined by participating schools and following these same restrictions. Each competing school will provide the entry list of parents, legal guardians and essential administrators to the host site prior to each contest.

**To recap, here is a breakdown of sport-by-sport attendance and broadcast stipulations.**

### Boys Swimming & Diving Finals

Rounds: Preliminaries on March 13, Finals on March 14

Attendance: No onsite spectators allowed.

Broadcast: Live streaming of prelims and Finals on MHSAA.tv.

### Girls Gymnastics Finals

Rounds: Team Finals on March 13, Individual Finals on March 14

Attendance: Limited to parents, legal guardians and essential administrators on March 13. No onsite

spectators allowed March 14.

Broadcast: Live streaming of Team and Individual Finals on MHSAA.tv.

### **Boys Ice Hockey Semifinals and Finals**

Rounds: Semifinals on March 13-14, Finals on March 15

Attendance: Limited to parents, legal guardians and essential administrators.

Broadcast: Live streaming of all 12 games on MHSAA.tv.

### **Girls Basketball Regional Finals**

Rounds: All scheduled for March 12.

Attendance: Limited to parents, legal guardians and essential administrators.

Broadcast: Live streaming of some games, with subscription, on MHSAA.tv.

### **Boys Basketball District Finals**

Rounds: All scheduled for March 13.

Attendance: Limited to parents, legal guardians and essential administrators.

Broadcast: Live streaming of some games, with subscription, on MHSAA.tv.

Bands, cheerleaders and gatherings in parking lots or elsewhere on-site will not be allowed. Restrictions on noisemakers, etc., will continue to be upheld for those fans who will attend.

For those allowed to be present, there will be no attendance charged at any of these five events. Online ticket sales have been stopped, and all tickets that have been purchased are voided and will be fully refunded.

Fans not allowed to attend will have the opportunity to watch coverage of all three of this weekend's Finals live on [MHSAA.tv](https://www.mhsaa.tv). Complete streaming of all 12 Hockey Semifinals and Finals games is scheduled, as is streaming of both the Team and Individual Gymnastics Finals and both preliminaries and Finals for swimming & diving. MHSAA.tv also will carry a number of girls and boys basketball games this weekend as part of its usual subscription coverage by members of the School Broadcast Program.

The streaming of all three divisions of the MHSAA Swimming & Diving Finals and both Team and Individual Gymnastics Finals will be provided FREE OF CHARGE. More details about access to these free feeds will be provided in the next update this afternoon.

This remains a fluid situation, and another update will be released here today, March 12, at 2 p.m.

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**March 11, 6:30 pm:** The Michigan High School Athletic Association is planning to conduct all remaining winter postseason tournaments as scheduled. However, based on the recommendations from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer this afternoon, the MHSAA is finalizing plans that will either prohibit or allow limited spectators through this Saturday's events.

This weekend's Boys Swimming & Diving Finals will be held as scheduled at Oakland University and the Holland Aquatic Center, but will be conducted with no on-site spectators. All events at both Swim Final

locations will be streamed live at [MHSAA.tv](https://mhsaa.tv).

Specific plans and policies for spectators at this weekend's Ice Hockey Semifinals & Finals, Girls Gymnastic Finals, Girls Regional Basketball and Boys District Basketball games will be provided by 10 a.m. Thursday, March 12. Spectator plans for the final two weeks of the Girls and Boys Basketball Tournaments will be provided by Monday, March 16.

Executive Director Mark Uyl:

"While this is unfortunate for many reasons, we intend to do everything possible to allow our students who have earned the opportunities to compete at these highest levels to do so. However, we also take seriously our responsibility to help slow the spread of this disease. We will continue to follow guidance from the Governor's office, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, county health departments and our member schools, maintaining the flexibility necessary to allow us to finish this winter season and provide opportunities for lifetime memories to be made while keeping all involved in our events as safe as possible."

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**March 11, 12:00 pm:** The MHSAA is working with state and local health authorities to monitor the developing COVID-19 situation in Michigan. At this time, all MHSAA postseason tournament events will be played as scheduled. We encourage people to follow the CDC guidance regarding hand-washing, personal hygiene and staying home when sick.

We are continually monitoring this situation. If it becomes necessary to make adjustments to MHSAA tournament events, decisions will be made to ensure a healthy and safe environment for everyone involved.

**More Information at [Michigan Coronavirus Resource Page](#)**

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## **Boys District Basketball Host Sites and Competing Teams:**

Here is the guidance for the District Basketball Final games on March 13.

Host managers need to communicate with competing schools in determining facility arrival & entry protocols, pregame warm-up time and efficient postgame & departure plans.

Each competing school will be allowed an ENTRY LIST of no more than fifty (50) individuals that will only include parents/legal guardians and essential administrators. This list will be generated and coordinated by each competing school's athletic director. No admission will be charged for this list of 50 individuals. The host manager will determine whether competing schools will provide the list and have those names "checked off" upon entry or simply provide those individuals on each school's list a ticket that will allow entry. In either case, the entry list must be provided to the host manager prior to doors opening. Doors will open to spectators no earlier than 30 minutes prior to game time, and the facility needs to be cleared of these spectators immediately following the end of the game and presentation of awards. Encourage social distancing among those spectators.

Note that this entry list of no more than 50 individuals does NOT include bench personnel that consists of players, coaches and other bench staff (e.g. athletic trainer) within the published limits in the MHSAA Basketball PSTI & Tournament Managers Materials. Each team may also provide one person at the scorer's table to handle the team's scorebook.

Host sites should only have essential game personnel onsite which includes the announcer, official scorer, timer/scoreboard operator and other essential staff/security that will coordinate the teams, officials and the limited numbers of spectators.

Only credentialed MHSAA media members should be allowed admittance to your game. We are allowing credentialed media to document and tell the story of what occurs when so many individuals are not able to attend.

Also know that there will be no pregame or postgame handshakes between teams/officials.

There will be no cheerleaders or pep bands at any tournament site. As always, no artificial noisemakers are allowed at any indoor tournament site. Concession stands are optional and are not essential. The decision to have these available is made by the host manager.

We understand that these are unprecedented times in our athletic event history. We thank everyone in advance for your cooperation and positive spirit in making this the very best experience possible for the kids involved during these incredibly challenging circumstances.

Please contact the MHSAA if you have any questions. This is a fluid situation and we will provide updates as necessary.

Thank you.

Nate Hampton, MHSAA Assistant Director