

**MTHSSA Fall Meeting Minutes**  
**August 19, 2023, 10:00 AM**  
**Harpeth Hall**

**I. Greeting from Josh Tinley**

**II. Officer reports:**

**Josh Tinley:** Look for an email w/ a Google Form for a directory to contact other coaches (without posting it on the website). Please complete that so we can keep contacts updated.

**Pat Killian:** Division assignments (for HS only) are posted on the MTHSSA site. IN order to be eligible for division awards, you need to compete against everyone in your division at least once using the dual meet format (6-4-3-2-1; 8-4-2, 3 scoring individuals + 2 scoring relays per event).

**Justin Karpinos, secretary:** no report

**Drew Brewer (MS):** concerning championship meet, some things to talk about later on...

**III. Elections:**

*We're trying to get back on cycle with elections. Next year, we'll do President, Secretary, Rules & Regulations rep in odd years; VP, Treasurer, MS rep will be in even years.*

Nominations for president. Josh Tinley, second.

Nominations for VP. Pat Killian. Second.

Nominations for MS Rep. Drew Brewer. Second.

**Nominations are confirmed.**

**IV. Treasurer's Report, Polly Linden.**

Our current balance is \$20,600. We took in \$5,115 this past year but didn't quite break even on the banquet (about a \$300 loss). We spent \$2800 on awards. Only bills we have outstanding are paying for our website (<\$200). If you didn't verify your swimmers @ regions who didn't meet the Q times you need to pay the fee in order to be eligible for the 2024 Region meet. No shows, DQ's are also included in this list of \$\$\$ swims. There is currently no penalty for MS, but please do not enter MS kids who have not made the Region qualifying times!

**V. New state law: FYI**

Please be aware of HB0457, which concerns safety training for coaches in the state of Tennessee. This should be taken care of at the district/Athletic Department level. If not, please make sure that you have access to these materials, especially for non-faculty coaches.

**Pat:** A few notes from TISCA:

-Please join the TISCA mailing list. If you haven't been receiving the TISCA emails, please do so – April Parker has a form on the TISCA webpage that is simpler than the full registration process. Go ahead and register for TISCA now, so that swimmers are eligible to participate at State as scoring swimmers. Registration will open on September 1.

-Our Full TISCA meeting is September 19 at 7:00 PM central on Zoom, to discuss our last board meeting and changes to State qualifying times.

**VI. General Business for both HS and MS:**

- i. **Pat:** We have submitted an amendment related to homeschool participation. Goal of the amendment is clarifying that the MTHSSA rules are identical to TISCA rules, so that we're aligned with the state level.

-Homeschool rule at the state (TISCA) level: "Homeschool" in TISCA is identical to how TSSAA defines it.

- independent home school
- church-related umbrella school (Category IV)
- accredited online school (Category III)

Note: *Virtual public schools are NOT homeschool students for the purposes of this rule.*

Currently, TISCA bylaws allow you to participate in swimming as:

- a) a team of one ("unattached" individual members);
- b) as a member of your zones public school team with the permission of the Athletic Director and the public school team;
- c) be on a team composed of homeschool students. **HOMESCHOOL ATHLETES CANNOT JOIN A PRIVATE SCHOOL TEAM.**

**For Option c there are some governing rules:**

- teams must be comprised only of members residing in the same TICA home-schooled district (TISCA bylaws, Article VIII.3)
- Athletes must join the team by November 1 (submit roster to TISCA)
- Athletes must participate in at least two dual/tri/invitational in season meets to be eligible for State in addition to achieving State qualifying standards. You can't *just* qualify from a USA meet; you have to have competed twice for your school.

**Note re: TISCA transfer rules:**

- all transfer (athlete moving from one team to another) must be reported to TISCA.
- If the Review Committee finds that a transfer was made for 'athletic' reasons, the student will be ineligible for 12 months since the last competition.

If you have questions about whether a homeschool athlete is eligible to compete for your public school team, please contact a member of the TISCA board.

*Q: if you have a homeschooler who moved from Memphis to Nashville, could they change status?*

*A: Yes – if that would be a non-athletic reason.*

**Proposal for Amendment to Article XX.2:** “Home School students are allowed to participate as provided for in Article VIII of the TISCA bylaws, both at the middle-school and high-school levels.”

1. Delete Article XXI
2. Re-number subsequent articles as needed

We are proposing a change to delete XXI, so that participation as a homeschooler in MTHSSA is identical to how the State (Department of Education, TSSAA, TISCA) defines it

**Call to a vote.**

**In favor: most (nearly unanimous).**

**Motion passes.**

- ii. **Diving:** Tim Jones, head of Middle TN diving program, leading AG diving program in the region. In 2023, less than 16 boy divers at Regions. Trying to strengthen the Middle TN region in diving. People are diving from everywhere from Tullahoma to Clarksville. We work with new divers, transfers from gymnastics, parkour, wrestling, other sports.

**VII. Middle School Business:**

- MS Region meet athlete fee going up to \$40 from \$35, to reflect rising facility costs and to be in line with other hosted NAC meets. We (the board) don't see a lot of alternatives to accepting this change.

**MS Region Championship Participation over the past 6 years**

2023: 243 boys, 296 girls = 539 athletes total (not including divers)

2022: 257 girls, 208 boys = 465 athletes total

2021: no MS Region meet

2020: 433 girls, 307 boys = 740 athletes total

2019: 461 girls, 327 boys = 788 athletes total

2018: 675 athletes total (*no girls/boys breakdown available*)

2017: 711 athletes total (*no girls/boys breakdown available*)

**LaVergne:** will have 4 or 5 MS meets. Dates are forthcoming. Please contact Telly Coleman – MTHSSA Board will pass this information on.

**Father Ryan:** trying to have a MS-only meet on November 11 at Sportsplex.

Father Ryan Relay Invitational (for MS and HS) is Saturday, November 4 (at sportsplex?)

MTSC Middle School Invite in Lebanon is October 28 (Saturday).

Ensworth Middle School meet dates: TBA.

MS championship is last Saturday in January (the day following the HS Region meet): January 27.

*(5-minute break for MS scheduling)*

**VIII. High School Business:**

- i. With fewer athletes able to make to State, we want to give Regions more of a championship meet feel (650-750 athletes) → \$4.10 per athlete.

Motion to approve up to \$3500 to approve bag tags for athletes/coaches.

Second. **Vote passes.**

ii. **Clarifying relay-only rule.**

Currently, rule requires one Region qualifier only, so relay only can be on A or B relay. Conceivably you could enter up to 18 non-qualifying swimmers by spreading out individual qualifiers.

We're proposing to limit 4 relay-only swimmers per gender at HS Regions. That's the identical cap at State, but at Regions we'll let you swim a relay-only kid on a B relay, so Regions is more permissive.

**Motion. Second. No opposition – motion passes. We'll communicate this to Excel hosts after we add it to the Master Policies document.**

iii. **Divisions:** Divisions for 23-24 are final. We'll rely on the Division Reps to communicate proposed changes for 2024-2025 divisions at the conclusion of the season.

iv. **Clarifying rule for breaking three-way ties:**

Currently, our rule speaks only to two-way ties: winner of head-to-head meet is the winner of a tiebreaker. We had several three-way ties and want to avoid that in the future.

Our proposal for tiebreaking the divisional awards:

**First tiebreaker:** in a three-way tie, we will compare the records of the teams in meets *against each other*. If Team A beats Teams B and Team C, they are the champion.

**Second tiebreaker:** look at the meets between A, B, C and add up the total points between them.

- a. Total points in meets *involving those teams*.
- b. If one team beats the other two teams, that team automatically places first.

**Second. Motion passes.**

It's important that division reps keep track of not only Wins-Losses but actual dual meet scores, and that dual meets are scored properly in our format. Master Policies Document lays out the scoring format.

v. **Bylaw Amendment for Diving:**

**Our proposal is to delete Article XXII, regarding Championship meets.** This rule is not correct – the TISCA rule indicates three meets and one of them needs to be an 11-dive meet, , so we need to delete it and defer to the TISCA rule. (There is no qualifying rule for the diving at the MTHSSA Region meet, but remember – we have had less than 16 boys and 16 girls in the past two years so we don't really need to limit it. If a diver fails two dives they are DQ'ed anyway).

Proposal to delete the incorrect language from the MTHSSA constitution. **Second. Motion passes.**

**vi. High School Invitational meets to know about:**

-Sewanee Snowball Invite: Saturday, December 2. This includes Diving and 50's of strokes (but no 400 free relay or 500 freestyle).

-MTSC HS Invite: Saturday, November 4. Standard event order except no 400 free relay.

-Father Ryan Relays: Saturday, November 4. Non-traditional events, fun relays/

-Ensworth HS Invite: Saturday, October 28.

Motion to adjourn. Second. Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,  
Justin Karpinos