



2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT





3

FACTS ABOUT THE LEAGUE

5

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

7

FOUNDATION OF THE LEAGUE

8

GRASSROOTS GOVERNANCE

13

LEAGUE FINANCES

16

ACTIVITY PROGRAMS & PARTICIPATION

19

AN INSIDE LOOK AT JOHN'S JOURNAL

23

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

24

2016-17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

25

2016-17 REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

29

2016-17 TEAM CHAMPIONS

31

2017-18 CALENDAR OF STATE EVENTS



FACTS ABOUT THE LEAGUE

101 YEARS OLD



The League was founded in 1916 by a group of local superintendents. Its mission is to provide educational opportunities through interscholastic athletics and fine arts programs for students and leadership and support for member schools.

525 MEMBER SCHOOLS



The League is a non-profit, voluntary organization of public and private schools. Individual school boards decide every year to join the League.

317,871 STUDENT PARTICIPATION



Every year approximately 300,000 boys and girls participate in League sponsored athletic and fine arts activity programs. Minnesota ranks 10th in the nation in student participation.

23,283 COACHES & DIRECTORS



Coaches and directors of speech, debate, drama and music spend countless hours teaching students life skills through education-based activities.

10,460 OFFICIALS & JUDGES



Sport officials and judges of speech, debate and One Act Play work daily to ensure a fair and equitable game or contest.

500,000 TOURNAMENT FANS



More than a half-million fans annually attend League state tournament events.

38 STATE TOURNAMENTS



The League annually sponsors 38 state tournament events for its member schools. 90,000 students participate in these events. Television coverage of five tournaments and 55 games—football, girls' and boys' hockey, girls' and boys' basketball—reaches 2.2 million households.

80 TEAM CHAMPIONS



The League annually crowns 80 team champions and numerous individual champions in tennis, swimming, wrestling and track and field.

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The League is governed by a 20-member Board of Directors. The organization does not receive any state funding. Most revenue comes from state tournament ticket sales, broadcast fees, publication and apparel sales and corporate sponsorships.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It was my honor and privilege to have served as president of the Minnesota State High School League Board of Directors during the 2016-2017 school year.

Tournament related proposals, as well as expanded activities, are continually addressed by the Board of Directors. Like each school community, the MSHSL faces continual programmatic and economic challenges in an effort to provide the best possible education-based athletic and fine arts activities to meet the interest of student participants in grades 7-12 who compete at the varsity, junior varsity, sophomore/"B" squad level.

Education requirements for head coaches, assistant coaches, and activity directors were reviewed and modified; new training modules were developed; the state-mandated concussion education legislation continues to be monitored, and educational initiatives through on-line rules meetings were both expanded and enhanced.

The WHY WE PLAY (WWP) initiative continues to train coaches and activity directors throughout the state as they identify their specific leadership goal and purpose. The National Football League, in conjunction with the Coach for American initiative, continued their partnership with the MSHSL to ensure that the difference between transformational and transactional coaching is being addressed, nationwide.

Additionally, the Board of Directors approved the following:

- Specific goals were developed and implemented during the 2016-2017 school year.
- Input continued to be received from advisory committees relative to (1) Tournament Classification and Format (2) Cooperative Sponsorships (3) Student Eligibility.
- MSHSL Board and staff affirmatively responded to the Office of Legislative Auditor's review regarding students who transfer from one school to another and request an eligibility hearing.
- Implemented consolation games in both Boys' and Girls' Basketball for a two-year trial period.
- Supported the Heads-Up Football Program
- Implemented a Baseball Pitch Count Policy
- Continued to review the District Football concept and placement of schools for regular-season play.

- Celebrated our initial Soccer and Football State Championships in the U.S. Bank Stadium.
- Addressed policies and penalties for the Use of Non-Registered Officials, Contact with an Official, and similar safety and training initiatives.

For the past 24 years, League staff have conducted fall and spring area meetings throughout the state to share with and gather information from activity directors who represent their member school. Coaches associations, MSBA, MASA, MASSP and others involved in education-based athletic and activity programs also provide input which becomes the foundation upon which future Board goals are based.

My four years as a member of the MSHSL Board of Directors have flown by. I especially want to thank Regions 1AA and 2AA and my Board colleagues for the confidence they placed in me to represent all stakeholders in Minnesota. I've seen the members of the Board and League staff listen to the input provided by all interested parties well in advance of any final decision-making, and personal agendas have never been the norm. Rather, a thoughtful discussion has always preceded action on any agenda item.

As with all successful organizations, the strength of the League lies in the collective willingness to openly discuss different topics to reach the best possible decision.

Thank you.

Tom Graupmann
MSHSL Board of Directors, President
2016-2017



MEMBER SCHOOLS AND THEIR STUDENTS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THE LEAGUE

The Minnesota State High School League is a service organization providing its membership with post-season tournaments, rules interpretation meetings, recognition programs, educational and training opportunities, publications, and many other services that assist in the administration of interscholastic activities.

The League serves students first and foremost, providing educational experiences through participation in 35 athletic and 5 fine arts activities. Interscholastic competitions, which are played under a uniform set of rules, leads to state tournament competitions which are conducted by the League—38 tournaments in all. Students also are acknowledged through several recognition programs for academic achievement, community service, and leadership.

The League serves its 525 member schools by providing competitive environments with rules that support fair play and equitable competition. School personnel, from elected local school board members to superintendents, from principals to athletic/activity directors, are invited twice annually to area meetings throughout the state to share concerns and discuss issues. The League also conducts workshops and webinars for athletic directors—updating them on League rules and policies, discussing program management and sharing best practices.

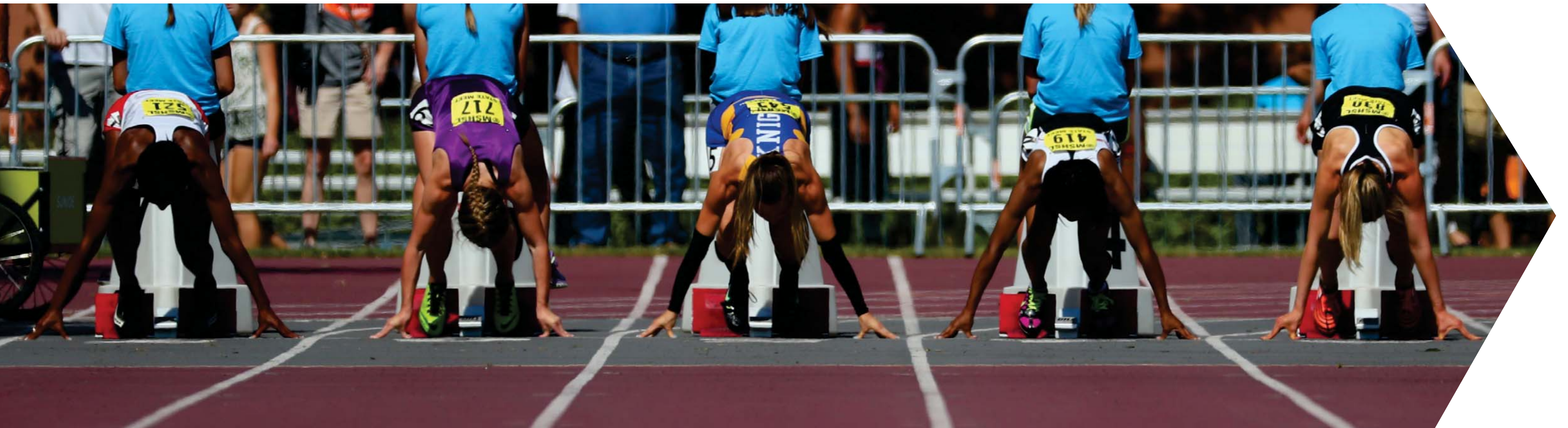
The League serves coaches by providing educational opportunities. Through the Continuing Education Requirement, coaches of all levels can learn about concussion management, emergency response planning, and the rules that govern student eligibility. The WHY WE PLAY Conference, which is held annually in mid-June, offers professional development for both coaches and athletic directors. Coaches can also receive their head coaches' certification at the Conference.

The League serves contest officials by annually providing online meetings to review competition rules and opportunities for further training in the mechanics of officiating. The League annually registers more than 10,000 contest officials and judges of speech, debate, One Act Play, and music.

The League serves as a national role model for other athletic/activity associations. Many of the League's programs and services are, and have been, duplicated around the country.

The League leads the way with these first-in-nation programs:

- **Adapted Athletic programs with championship level tournaments for students with physical and mental disabilities.** Programs include adapted floor hockey, soccer, bowling, and softball.
- **Girls' Ice Hockey**
In 1994, the League became the first state association in the country to sanction girls' hockey. Close to 4,000 girls annually participate in hockey from late-December to mid-February.
- **Anyone Can Save A Life**
An emergency response program for after school practices and events was duplicated and distributed to 50 state associations and their member schools.
- **Robotics**
Sponsored by the League since 2012, Minnesota is the only state association to host a state tournament for students in Robotics.



GRASSROOTS GOVERNANCE

As a non-profit, voluntary association of public and private schools, the League is structured to listen to and respond to its members. Individual school boards decide every year to join the League. Each member school and its composite constituencies—students, parents, coaches, administrators, and school board members—have a voice at the grassroots level known as an administrative region.

Region Committees

A region committee comprised of representatives from League member schools manages the activities and events associated with each administrative region. Each of these 16 committees make decisions about how subsection and section competition is conducted; elect or appoint three people to serve on the Representative Assembly which acts on bylaws that govern eligibility and the administration of League activities; and they review proposed changes to League bylaws before consideration by the Representative

Assembly. The committees also report to the 20-member Board of Directors, which oversees the administration of all League activities and events.

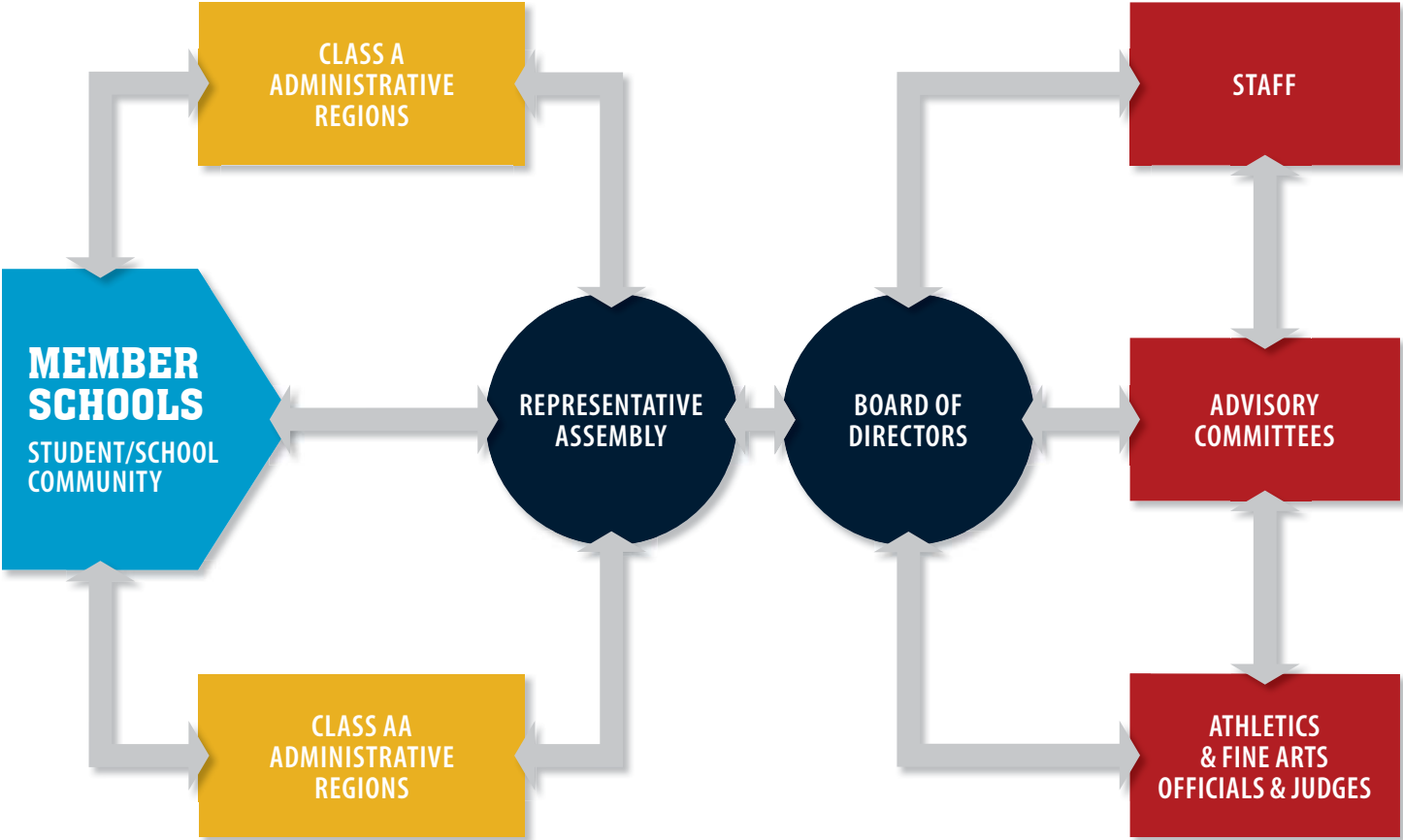
Representative Assembly

Forty-eight people, representing the League's membership, comprise the Representative Assembly, the League's legislative body. The Assembly meets annually to consider all bylaw proposals that come from League member schools, region committees, the Board of Directors, and state athletics and fine arts associations. League bylaws govern the addition of new activities, season lengths, number of contests, eligibility standards, and amateurism requirements of student athletes and fine arts participants. Bylaws also set requirements for conduct, enrollment, and they give direction to scholarship, student transfers, and many other areas important to the sound administration of high school athletic and fine arts programs.

Activity Advisory Committees

Activity Advisory committees provide direct information to the Board of Directors about activity programs. These committees—there's one for each activity the League sponsors—meet once a year with League staff to review and recommend changes to athletic and fine arts programs. Activity associations appoint people to serve on the advisory committees. Committee members generally serve two-year terms.

The intent is to involve everyone from students and their parents and coaches to school administrators and their elected school board members, in the League's decision-making process.





DID YOU KNOW?

Students who participate in high school activities tend to have higher grade point averages and better attendance records than other students.



LEAGUE FINANCES

The Minnesota State High School League is a non-profit organization. The League operates on an annual budget of about \$8.9 million and receives no funding from the state legislature.

Revenues generated from tournament ticket sales, broadcast rights fees, and other tournament related-income make up the majority of the League's operating budget. The remaining portion of the budget comes from corporate sponsorships, publication sales, registration fees and investment income.

At the end of each fiscal year, revenue remaining after all expenses are paid, is distributed to member schools fortunate enough to have competed at the state level. Those shares of revenue during the past 10 years have averaged \$631,000 each year, an average of \$1,600 per school.

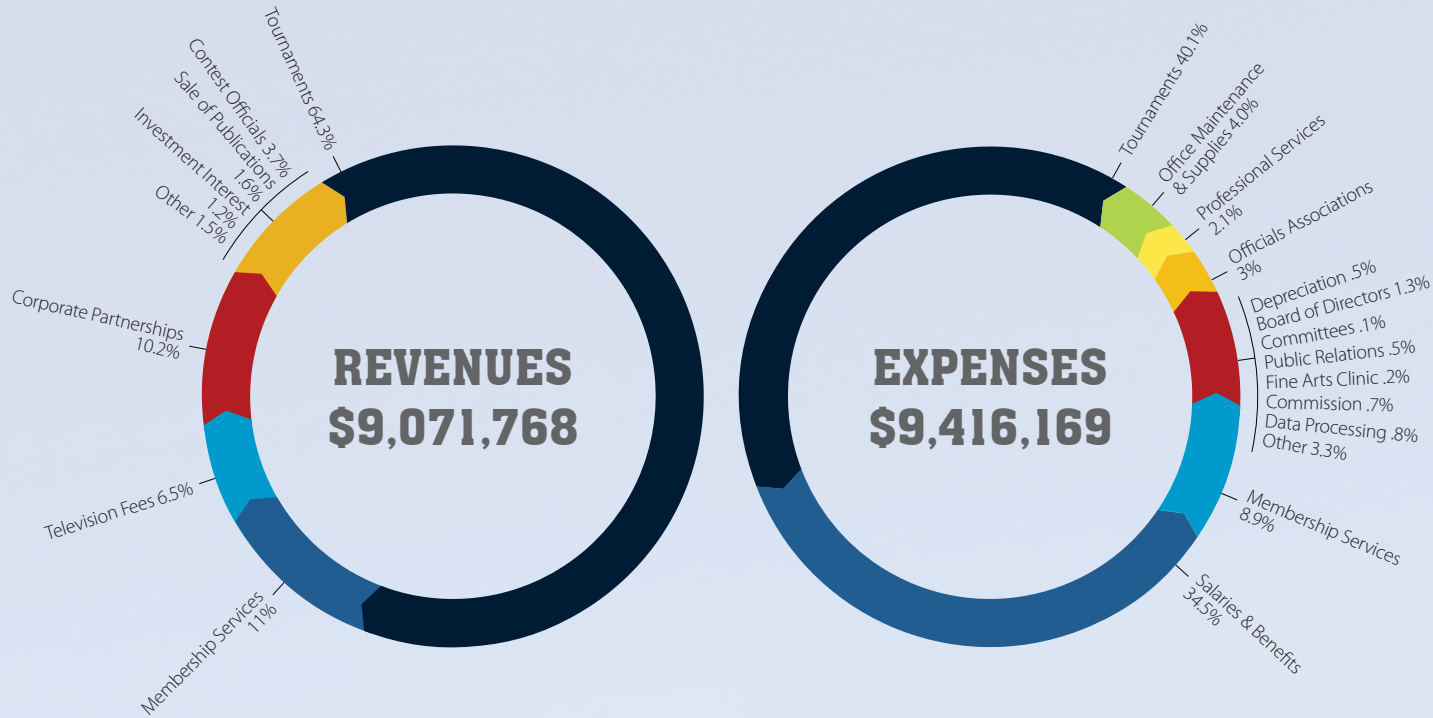
The Office of the State Auditor for Minnesota audits all financial records of the League. The audit report is mailed to League member schools.

A 10-YEAR COMPARISON OF SCHOOL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS FOR TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION & ACTIVITY REGISTRATION REFUNDS**

	NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS	TOTAL AMOUNT RETURNED	AVERAGE PER SCHOOL
2007-08	365	\$870,259	\$2,384
2008-09***	487	\$1,084,736	\$2,227
2009-10***	489	\$822,524	\$1,682
2010-11	359	\$625,388	\$1,742
2011-12	369	\$693,679	\$1,880
2012-13	373	\$712,450	\$1,910
2013-14	377	\$244,964	\$650
2014-15	380	\$0	\$0
2015-16	375	\$566,822	\$1,512
2016-17	375	\$597,904	\$1,594

COMPARATIVE SCHEDULE OF
TOURNAMENT REVENUES & DIRECT EXPENSES

for the Years Ended July 31, 2017 and 2016



Tournaments \$5,833,404

Television Fees \$588,902

Membership Services \$998,960

Sale of Publication \$143,720

Contest Officials Registration \$332,281

Investment Partnerships \$105,052

Corporate Partnerships \$929,983

Other \$139,466

Tournaments & School Reimbursements \$3,773,900

Salaries & Benefits \$3,249,736

Professional Services \$199,478

Membership Services \$837,255

Office Maintenance & Supplies \$379,655

Other \$308,564

Board of Directors \$119,799

Committees \$22,783

Officials Associations \$283,216

Depreciation \$46,620

Fine Arts Programs \$14,666

Public Relations \$46,754

Corporate Partnership Commission \$61,736

Data Processing/Building/Equipment \$72,007

2017**

2016*

TOURNAMENT	REVENUES	DIRECT EXPENSES	EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER DIRECT EXPENSES	REVENUES	DIRECT EXPENSES	EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER DIRECT EXPENSES
Baseball	110,748	107,581	3,167	117,328	87,977	29,351
Boys' Basketball	622,080	302,566	319,514	565,885	264,223	301,662
Girls' Basketball	329,909	306,887	23,022	312,720	262,908	49,811
Cross Country Running	19,394	45,091	(25,697)	18,150	37,614	(19,464)
Football	1,319,267	267,263	1,052,004	652,171	320,317	331,853
Golf	11,310	53,754	(42,444)	11,086	56,654	(45,568)
Girls' Gymnastics	48,063	78,664	(30,601)	48,595	75,574	(26,979)
Boys' Hockey	1,525,456	417,426	1,108,030	1,566,269	404,573	1,161,696
Nordic Ski Racing	4,177	26,627	(22,450)	4,703	26,485	(21,782)
Alpine Skiing	3,952	21,329	(17,377)	4,365	25,099	(20,734)
Soccer	247,603	89,970	157,633	129,991	103,267	26,724
Girls' Softball	82,044	67,851	14,193	80,187	62,105	18,082
Boys' Swimming & Diving	51,768	56,893	(5,125)	50,563	51,915	(1,352)
Girls' Swimming & Diving	48,349	56,411	(8,092)	47,304	47,816	(512)
Boys' Tennis	3,747	32,104	(28,357)	4,672	36,791	(32,119)
Girls' Tennis	6,901	38,417	(31,516)	7,274	40,766	(33,492)
Track and field	140,726	159,392	(18,666)	138,224	133,189	5,035
Girls' Volleyball	219,373	174,056	45,317	235,552	164,704	70,848
Wrestling	494,201	248,460	245,741	508,789	241,797	266,992
Synchronized Swimming	-	378	(378)	0	454	(454)
Adapted Soccer	5,218	19,341	(14,123)	6,567	18,906	(12,339)
Adapted Floor Hockey	11,385	22,898	(11,513)	10,248	20,819	(10,570)
Adapted Softball	6,334	19,362	(13,028)	6,705	17,582	(10,878)
Adapted Bowling	1,053	16,661	(15,608)	4,441	16,462	(12,021)
Debate	-	22,406	(22,406)	0	23,327	(23,327)
Speech	8,928	55,629	(46,701)	7,976	50,802	(42,826)
One Act Play	18,161	26,944	(8,783)	16,550	26,405	(9,855)
Girls' Hockey	235,460	246,383	(10,923)	301,192	240,582	60,610
Cheerleading	-	1,373	(1,373)	0	827	(827)
Girls' Dance Team	206,036	99,132	106,904	209,989	99,482	110,507
Lacrosse	43,757	45,431	(1,674)	43,266	45,211	(1,945)
Badminton	-	-	-	0	0	0
Visual Arts	-	2,449	(2,449)	0	739	(739)
Robotics	3,612	49,723	(46,111)	3,422	46,786	(43,365)
Clay Target	4,392	19,425	(15,033)	3,398	16,583	(13,185)
TOTAL	5,833,404	3,198,307	2,635,097	5,117,581	3,068,743	2,048,841

The tournament direct expenses shown above include only those expenses that are directly associated with conducting the tournaments (i.e. personnel and site and program costs). School expense reimbursement and indirect costs such as membership services, salaries and benefits, postage, and other general administrative costs of the MSHSL have not been allocated to any specific tournaments and therefore, are not included in the schedule shown above.

* From State Auditor's Report

** End of year balance on League financial statements

ACTIVITY PROGRAMS & PARTICIPATION

The Minnesota State High School League sponsors one of the most comprehensive programs of interscholastic activities in the United States—activities that involve 525 member schools, 317,871 students, 23,283 coaches, and 10,460 contest officials and judges. According to a national survey of 51 state high school athletic/activity associations, Minnesota ranks 10th in the nation in the total number of student athletes. Here's a look at the 43 activity programs offered by League member schools during the 2016-17 school year and the scores of students involved in them.

ADAPTED BOWLING (CO-ED)

- 48 participating schools (CI)
- 317 participants
- 38 participating schools (PI)
- 109 participants
- 18 participating schools (ASD)
- 89 participants
- 3 Championships
- Nationally:** 178 participating schools
2,456 participants

ADAPTED FLOOR HOCKEY (CO-ED)

- 62 participating schools (CI)
- 262 participants
- 57 participating schools (PI)
- 155 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 62 participating schools
417 participants

ADAPTED SOCCER (CO-ED)

- 66 participating schools (CI)
- 213 participants
- 47 participating schools (PI)
- 113 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 153 participating schools
1,630 participants

ADAPTED SOFTBALL (CO-ED)

- 66 participating schools (CI)
- 268 participants
- 51 participating schools (PI)
- 161 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 112 participating schools
968 participants

FYI Minnesota was the first of 12 state high school activity associations to sponsor adapted athletic programs for students with disabilities.

GIRLS' BADMINTON

- 27 participating schools
- 603 participants
- Nationally:** 821 participating schools
(boys and girls combined)
17,184 participants
(boys and girls combined)

BASEBALL

- 445 participating schools
- 13,778 participants
(includes girls)
- 4 Championships
- Nationally:** 16,248 participating schools
(includes girls)
492,935 participants
(includes girls)

FYI Baseball is currently the fourth most popular sport for boys nationwide. It ranks third for students in Minnesota.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

- 478 participating schools
- 13,725 participants
- 4 Championships
- Nationally:** 18,214 participating schools
550,305 participants

FYI Basketball is currently the fourth most popular sport for boys in Minnesota. It ranks third for boys nationwide.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

- 468 participating schools
- 12,088 participants
- 4 Championships
- Nationally:** 17,934 participating schools
430,368 participants

FYI Nationwide, basketball is the third most popular sport for girls. It's currently the fourth most popular sport for girls in Minnesota.

BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

- 397 participating schools
- 7,404 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 15,087 participating schools
266,271 participants

GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

- 396 participating schools
- 9,130 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 14,880 participating schools
226,039 participants

FYI Nationwide, cross country running is the sixth most popular sport for both girls and boys.

GIRLS' DANCE TEAM (COMPETITIVE)

- 187 participating schools (Jazz)
- 4,968 participants
- 187 participating schools (High Kick)
- 4,986 participants
- 6 Championships

FYI Mississippi and Vermont are the only other state associations that sponsor girls' dance team.

FOOTBALL

- 424 participating schools
- 25,010 participants
- 7 Championships
- Nationally:** 15,457 participating schools
1,088,863 participants
(includes girls)

FYI Nationwide, football is the most popular sport for boys. It's also the activity involving the most student-athletes in Minnesota.

BOYS' GOLF

- 372 participating schools
- 5,499 participants
- 3 Championships
- Nationally:** 13,223 participating schools
141,466 participants

FYI Nationally, golf is the tenth most popular sport for boys.

GIRLS' GOLF

- 364 participating schools
- 4,247 participants
- 3 Championships
- Nationally:** 10,076 participating schools
75,605 participants

GIRLS' GYMNASTICS

- 201 participating schools
- 2,627 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 1,562 participating schools
17,915 participants

FYI Minnesota has the highest participation rate in the country.

BOYS' ICE HOCKEY

- 281 participating schools
- 5,733 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 1,610 participating schools
35,210 participants

FYI Minnesota has the second highest participation rate in the country.

GIRLS' ICE HOCKEY

- 241 participating schools
- 3,731 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 622 participating schools
9,599 participants

FYI Minnesota has the greatest number of hockey playing schools and participants in the nation.

BOYS' LACROSSE

- 120 participating schools
- 3,608 participants
- 1 Championship
- Nationally:** 2,900 participating schools
111,842 participants

GIRLS' LACROSSE

- 111 participating schools
- 3,855 participants
- 1 Championship
- Nationally:** 2,717 participating schools
93,473 participants

BOYS' ALPINE SKI

- 125 participating schools
- 1,051 participants
- 1 Championship
- Nationally:** 559 participating schools
5,451 participants

GIRLS' ALPINE SKI

- 129 participating schools
- 847 participants
- 1 Championship
- Nationally:** 541 participating schools
4,605 participants

BOYS' NORDIC SKI RACING

- 121 participating schools
- 2,017 participants
- 1 Championship
- Nationally:** 363 participating schools
4,440 participants

GIRLS' NORDIC SKI RACING

- 121 participating schools
- 2,484 participants
- 1 Championship
- Nationally:** 356 schools
4,670 participants

FYI Minnesota leads the nation in the number of participants.

BOYS' SOCCER

- 266 participating schools
- 9,419 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 12,188 participating schools
450,234 participants

GIRLS' SOCCER

- 248 participating schools
- 8,313 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 11,823 participating schools
388,339 participants

FYI Nationwide, soccer is the fifth most popular sport for boys and fourth for girls.

GIRLS' FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL

- 419 participating schools
- 13,240 participants
- 4 Championships
- Nationally:** 15,440 participating schools
367,405 participants

FYI Fast-pitch softball is the fifth most popular sport across the country for girls.

A national survey involving 51 state high school associations shows that participation increased for the 28th consecutive year in 2016-17 with a record total of 7.9 million. The survey also reports that boys' participation increased to an all-time high of 4,563,238, while girls' participation reached an all-time record of 3,400,297.

BOYS' SWIMMING & DIVING

- 156 participating schools
- 3,781 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 7,342 participating schools
138,364 participant

GIRLS' SWIMMING & DIVING

- 202 participating schools
- 5,799 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 7,721 participating schools
170,797 participants

GIRLS' SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING

- 19 participating schools
- 424 participants
- Nationally:** 30 participating schools
597 participants
- FYI** Minnesota, Michigan and Ohio are the only states that sponsor synchronized swimming.

BOYS' TENNIS

- 187 participating schools
- 5,039 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 9,725 participating schools
158,171 participants

GIRLS' TENNIS

- 227 participating schools
- 6,582 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 10,121 participating schools
187,519 participants

BOYS' TRACK & FIELD

- 470 participating schools
- 17,050 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 19,906 participating schools
(indoor and outdoor)
682,308 participants
(indoor and outdoor)

FYI Track & field is the second most popular sport for boys nationwide and in Minnesota.

GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD

- 468 participating schools
- 16,039 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 19,844 participating schools
(indoor and outdoor)
566,899 participants
(indoor and outdoor)

FYI Track & field is currently the second most popular sport for girls in Minnesota.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

- 470 participating schools
- 16,379 participants
- 3 Championships
- Nationally:** 15,992 participating schools
444,779 participants

FYI Volleyball is the most popular sport for girls in Minnesota. It ranks second for girls' nationwide.

WRESTLING

- 346 participating schools
- 8,197 participants
- 3 Championships
- Nationally:** 10,629 participating schools
(only boys)
244,804 participants
(only boys)

CHEERLEADING

- 199 participating schools
- 3,288 participants

CLAY TARGET

- 200 participating schools
- 10,000 participants

ROBOTICS

- 208 participating teams
- 4,784 participants
- 1 Championship

5 MOST POPULAR SPORTS IN MINNESOTA

- | | BOYS |
|------------------|--------|
| 1. Football | 25,010 |
| 2. Track & Field | 17,050 |
| 3. Baseball | 13,778 |
| 4. Basketball | 13,725 |
| 5. Soccer | 9,419 |
-
- | GIRLS | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1. Volleyball | 16,379 |
| 2. Track & Field | 16,039 |
| 3. Fast-Pitch Softball | 13,240 |
| 4. Basketball | 12,088 |
| 5. Cross Country | 9,130 |

FINE ARTS

There were 89,706 students involved in fine arts activities—debate, speech, drama, music, and visual arts during the 2016–2017 school year.

DEBATE

- 83 participating schools
- 702 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 26 state high school associations
sponsor debate

ONE ACT PLAY

- 310 participating schools
- 3,408 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 23 state high school associations
sponsor drama

SPEECH

- 314 participating schools
- 5,278 participants
- 2 Championships
- Nationally:** 25 state high school associations
sponsor speech events

VISUAL ARTS

- 227 participating schools
- 3,657 participants
- Nationally:** Minnesota and Alaska are the only states that sponsor visual arts

BAND

- 415 participating schools
- 31,158 participants

ORCHESTRA

- 214 participating schools
- 3,868 participants

VOCAL

- 419 participating schools
- 32,247 participants
- Nationally:** 22 state high school associations
sponsor music



AN INSIDE LOOK AT JOHN'S JOURNAL

Before John Millea joined the Minnesota State High School League staff in the new role of media specialist in early 2010, he had been a newspaper sports reporter, columnist and editor for several decades. That background in fact-finding and storytelling has continued to guide his role with the MSHSL.

The Iowa native is a graduate of the Drake University School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and his first newspaper jobs were in the Iowa towns of Des Moines, Ottumwa and Cedar Rapids. He then worked at the Arizona Republic in Phoenix (where he attended graduate school at Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications), followed by nearly 20 years on the sports staff at the Minneapolis Star Tribune. John covered everything from youth sports to pro sports at the Star Tribune, but he found his favorite beat to be high school activities.

Joining the MSHSL staff was an easy decision for a couple of reasons. The main reason was his appreciation of high school activities and the stories that can be told about students, teams, schools and communities. The other reason was that he was accepting a role that no one in the nation was doing at the time. That's right, John was the first person to work in a journalism/social media role with a high school governing body. Other states have since hired people in similar jobs.

John's job is centered on telling the stories of high school activities all over Minnesota. Sponsored by Toyota, he drives his Toyota Camry far and wide to find great stories and share them with people around the state and beyond. The stories are told in varying ways, with the main spot being "John's Journal" on the MSHSL website.

"John's Journal" is the space where John writes detailed stories about what he finds during his travels. Whether he's at a large Twin Cities suburban high school or a tiny K-12 school in greater Minnesota, he works hard to find and share stories that shine a positive spotlight on MSHSL activities. The topics can range widely, from a big game between top teams to stories of athletes who overcome great adversity to community efforts to raise funds for a special cause.

In conjunction with "John's Journal" are several social media sites that offer valuable complementary coverage. The MSHSL Facebook page is often the home of photo galleries from events that John attends (among his tools is a digital camera), while also offering links to stories on "John's Journal." In addition, Facebook allows followers to comment and converse on items posted on the page, often creating a valuable discussion space for people from around Minnesota. The MSHSL Facebook page has more than 28,000 followers, a number that continually grows.

On Twitter, John uses his account (@MSHSLjohn) to share short messages, photos, videos and links. He often refers to his Twitter account as the spot where followers can see "faces and places" from his travels. Whether John is at the gymnasium in Roseau, the football field in Winona or the softball diamond in Zumbrota, he likes to post photos of the scene in order to give followers a real sense of "being there." John has more than 17,000 Twitter followers.

Another social media platform used by John is Instagram. The site, which is very popular with teens, is well-suited to posting photos and videos from his travels. The MSHSL1 Instagram account has nearly 3,000 followers.

While using all these sites and tools, John takes special delight in making and renewing friendships with people in all corners of Minnesota. People are excited to see his Camry rolling into their towns and their schools, and he is equally excited to be there, telling and sharing the stories of high school activities.

DID YOU KNOW?

Students who participate in athletics are three times more likely to graduate from high school and go to college.





A PROFILE OF LEAGUE RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

The Minnesota State High School League has long helped young people celebrate the greatest moments of their lives by staging championship tournaments in as many as 38 different athletic and fine arts activities. These tournaments represent only one part of the League's total program.

For more than two decades the League and its member schools have sponsored programs to recognize service, reward performance, and celebrate achievements. Here's a look at the recognition programs the League annually sponsors.



ExCEL Award This program recognizes students for community service, academic achievement, and leadership. Eligibility requirements: 1) a junior in high school; 2) making satisfactory progress toward graduation requirements; 3) participation in a League-sponsored fine arts or athletic activity; and 4) hold a leadership position in school and work voluntarily in their community. Schools can nominate one boy and one girl for this award program. Nominations are accepted through the third week in December each year. Award recipients are selected through a multi-level process that involves League member schools and an independent panel of judges from schools throughout Minnesota. The ExCEL Award winners are announced in February.



Academics, Arts, and Athletics Award Commonly known as the Triple "A" Award, this program honors high school seniors throughout the state who have a 3.0 or higher grade point average and who participate in a League-sponsored athletic and fine arts activity. Triple "A" Award winners (4 total) receive a four-year \$1,000 scholarship. Scholarship winners are announced during the Boys' State Basketball Tournament in March. Schools can nominate one boy and one girl for the Triple "A" Award. Award recipients are selected through a multi-level process that involves the League's Administrative Regions and a special committee of educators, business leaders, and members from the fine arts and athletic communities.



Hall of Fame Program Established in 1991 and housed at the League office, members of the Hall of Fame are selected through a multi-level process that includes the League's member schools and a committee of athletic, fine arts, and educational leaders. Nominations are solicited in nine categories: athlete, coach, official, administrator, fine arts participant/director/adjudicator, activity/athletic director, and contributor (someone who has made outstanding contributions to high school activities in some capacity other than those previously mentioned including such areas as sports medicine and sports media). All candidates for the Hall of Fame must be at least 35-years of age. They may be retired from their field or still active. Nominations are accepted year-round. The Hall of Fame induction ceremony is held in odd-numbered years in October.



Spotlight on Scholarship This year-round recognition program honors students for outstanding academic performance in two distinct ways: individually and collectively. Through the Spotlight on Scholarship certificate program, the League provides certificates to every athlete and fine arts participant in the state who has a "B" or better grade average. In addition to honoring students for their individual efforts, the Spotlight on Scholarship program also recognizes and rewards fine arts and athletic teams that collectively achieve a 3.0 or higher grade average. The League awards Spotlight on Scholarship banners to qualifying schools.



Heart of the Arts Award The National High School Heart of the Arts Award was created by the NFHS to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive heart of the arts that represent the core mission of education-based activities.

Spirit of Sport Award The NFHS National High School Spirit of Sport Award seeks to recognize individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics.

MEET THE 2016-17 MSHSL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Tom Graupmann
Northfield
President



Troy Urdahl
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Bonnie Spohn Schmaltz
Esko



Chad Stoskopf
Esko



Dave Swanberg
Le Sueur-Henderson

2016-2017 REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

The rulesmaking body of the Minnesota State High School League

CLASS A REGIONS

REGION 1A

1. Scott Flattum, Activities Director, Plainview-Elgin-Millville
2. Cathy Snyder, Music Representative, Cotter Schools
3. Lonnie Morken, Activities Director, Mabel-Canton

REGION 2A

4. John Landkamer, Activities/Athletic Director, Mankato Loyola
5. Steve Wolff, Activities/Athletic Director, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart
6. Steve Alger, Activities Director, St. Peter

REGION 3A

7. Tim Knapper, Activities Director, Yellow Medicine East, Granite Falls
8. Leo Theisen, Activities Director, Westbrook-Walnut Grove
9. Bruce Olson, Superintendent, Red Rock Central

REGION 4A

10. Chris Laird, Athletic Director, Heritage Christian Academy
11. Rich Dippel, Activities Director/Coach, St. Crix Preparatory Academy
12. Dave Mergens, Athletic Director, St. Paul Humboldt

REGION 5A

13. Mark Messman, Superintendent, Eden Valley-Watkins
14. George Weber, Superintendent, Pierz
15. Jonathan Ruoff, Athletic Director, Melrose

REGION 6A

16. Bryan Strand, Principal, Barnesville
17. Mark Ekren, Athletic Director, Morris Area
18. John Kleinwolterink, Music Representative, Morris Area

REGION 7A

19. Mitch Door, Coach, Cook County, Grand Marais
20. James Lah, Fine Arts, Ely
21. Dave Foster, Athletic Director, Cromwell

REGION 8A

22. Gary Gauldin, School Board, Park Rapids
23. Tom Jerome, Superintendent, Greenbush-Middle River/Badger
24. Brian Loer, Principal, East Grand Forks

CLASS AA REGIONS

REGION 1AA

25. Brad Skogerboe, Athletic Director, New Prague
26. Mark Kuisle, Athletic Director, Rochester Century
27. Ryan Swanson, Athletic Director, Owatonna

REGION 2AA

28. Todd Waterbury, Activities Director, Mankato East
29. Jeff Peterson, Activities Director, Mound-Westonka
30. Dick Ungar, Activities Director, Chanhassen

REGION 3AA

31. Phil Kuemmel, Activities Director, Park, Cottage Grove
32. Mike Manning, Activities Director, Rosemount
33. Russ Reetz, Activities Director, Prior Lake

REGION 4AA

34. Joel Olson, Activities Director, East Ridge, Woodbury
35. John Brodrick, School Board member, St. Paul Schools
36. Erin Herman, Assistant Principal, Hill-Murray, Maplewood

REGION 5AA

37. Dan Ohlgren, Activities Director, Rogers
38. Mike Smith, Activities Director, Totino-Grace, Fridley
39. Matt St. Martin, Activities Director, Spring Lake Park

REGION 6AA

40. Guillaume Paek, Activities Director, Minneapolis Patrick Henry
41. Jaime Sherwood, Activities Director, Wayzata
42. Ryan Lamberty, Activities Director, Minneapolis Southwest

REGION 7AA

43. Steve Battaglia, Assistant Principal/Coach, Cloquet
44. Tom Lenarz, Activities Director, Cloquet
45. Mike Cunningham, Activities Director, Elk River

REGION 8AA

46. Troy Hendricks, Activities Director, Bemidji
47. John Ross, Activities Director, Sartell
48. Ryan Blahosky, Activities Director, Willmar

MSHSL ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Executive Director.....David Stead
Executive Assistant.....Lynne Johnson
Associate Director.....Lisa Lissimore
Administrative Assistant.....Sheila Robinson
Associate Director.....Kevin Merkle
Administrative Assistant.....Amanda Johnson
Administrative Assistant: Officials.....Mary Heiss
Associate Director.....Jody Redman
Administrative Assistant.....Amie Ince

Associate Director.....Craig Perry
Administrative Assistant.....Susi Hollenbeck
Assistant Director.....Richard Matter
Accounting Assistant.....Jackie Grausum
Ticketing Assistant.....Nancy Myers
Assistant Director.....Chris Franson
Graphic Designer.....Tracie Bressler
Coordinator of Officials.....Jason Nickleby

Communications Coordinator.....Tim Leighton
Media Credentialing Assistant.....Yvonne Walsh
Media Specialist.....John Millea
Program Specialist.....Amy Doherty
Information Specialist.....Ellen Rajkowski
Office Manager.....Kristi Vesall
Administrative Assistant.....Yvonne Walsh
Receptionist.....Melody Michelson



DID YOU KNOW?

Students who participate in high school activities tend to have lower dropout rates and fewer discipline problems than other students.



2016-17 STATE TEAM CHAMPIONS

BOYS' ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

SPORT	CLASS	SCHOOL
Alpine Skiing		Minnetonka
Baseball	AAAA	Eden Prairie
	AAA	Waconia
	AA	Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis
	A	Parkers Prairie
Basketball	AAAA	Apple Valley
	AAA	DeLaSalle, Minneapolis
	AA	Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis
	A	Minneapolis North Community
Cross Country Running	AA	Wayzata
	A	Mora
Football	AAAAAA	Totino-Grace
	AAAAA	Elk River
	AAAA	Benilde-St. Margaret's, St. Louis Park
	AAA	Rochester Lourdes
	AA	Caledonia
	A	Minneapolis North Community
	9-Man	Grand Meadow
Golf	AAA	Wayzata
	AA	The Blake School, Minneapolis
	A	Mahnomen/Waubun
Hockey	AA	Grand Rapids
	A	Hermantown
Lacrosse		Eagan
Nordic Ski Racing		Minneapolis Southwest
Soccer	AA	Stillwater Area
	A	St. Thomas Academy
Swimming & Diving	AA	Minnetonka
	A	*Breck/Blake
Tennis	AA	Minnetonka
	A	The Blake School, Minneapolis
Track & Field	AA	East Ridge
	A	Plainview-Elgin-Millville
Wrestling	AAA	Apple Valley
	AA	Kasson-Mantorville
	A	Zumbrota-Mazeppa

FINE ARTS

ACTIVITY	CLASS	SCHOOL
Lincoln-Douglas Debate		Apple Valley
Policy Debate		Edina
Public Forum Debate		St. Paul Academy & Summit School
One Act Play (Starred Rating)	AA	Park, Cottage Grove
		Alexandria Area
		Buffalo
	A	Minnetonka
		Park Rapids Area
		East Central
		St. Paul Academy & Summit School
		Mankato Loyola

ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY	ALLIANCE/SCHOOL
Robotics	East Ridge-Warroad-Duluth East
Clay Target	St. Michael-Albertville

GIRLS' ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

SPORT	CLASS	SCHOOL
Alpine Skiing		*Chisago Lakes/St. Croix Falls
Basketball	AAAA	Elk River
	AAA	Orono
	AA	Roseau
	A	Goodhue
Cross Country Running	AA	Edina
	A	Fairmont
Golf	AAA	Edina
	AA	Detroit Lakes
	A	BOLD
Gymnastics	AA	Lakeville North
	A	*Detroit Lakes
Hockey	AA	Edina
	A	The Blake School, Minneapolis
Lacrosse		Eden Prairie
Nordic Ski Racing		Ely
Soccer	AA	Centennial
	A	Benilde-St. Margaret's, St. Louis Park
Softball (Fast-Pitch)	AAAA	Farmington
	AAA	Winona
	AA	Zumbrota-Mazeppa
	A	New York Mills
Swimming & Diving	AA	Edina
	A	Visitation, Mendota Heights
Tennis	AA	Mahtomedi
	A	The Blake School, Minneapolis
Track & Field	AA	St. Michael-Albertville
	A	Minneapolis Edison
Volleyball	AAA	Eagan
	AA	Maple Lake
	A	Mayer Lutheran

GIRLS' COMPETITIVE ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY	CLASS	SCHOOL
Dance Team	AAA Jazz	Eastview, Apple Valley
	AAA High Kick	Eastview, Apple Valley
	AA Jazz	Benilde-St. Margaret's, St. Louis Park
	AA High Kick	Sartell-St. Stephen
	A Jazz	Aitkin
	A High Kick	Aitkin

ADAPTED ATHLETICS

SPORT	CLASS	SCHOOL/TEAM
Adapted Bowling	ASD	*Wayzata/Minnetonka
	CI	*Mankato West
	PI	*Minneapolis South
Adapted Floor Hockey	CI	*North Suburban
	PI	*Brainerd/Pillager
Adapted Soccer	CI	*Park Center
	PI	*Anoka-Hennepin
Adapted Softball	CI	*St. Cloud Area
	PI	*Robbinsdale/Hopkins/ Mound Westonka



2017-18 CALENDAR OF STATE EVENTS

January 12-13	State Debate Tournament	U of M, Minneapolis
February 8-9	State One Act Play Festival	O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, St. Catherine University, St. Paul
February 14	State Alpine Ski Meet	Giants Ridge, Biwabik
February 15	State Nordic Ski Racing Meet	Giants Ridge, Biwabik
February 16-17	State Girls' Dance Team Tournament	Target Center, Minneapolis
February 21-24	State Girls' Hockey Tournament	Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul
February 23-24	State Girls' Gymnastics Meet	Maturi Pavilion, U of M, Minneapolis
March 1-3	State Wrestling Tournament	Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul
March 1-3	State Boys' Swimming & Diving Meet	Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center, U of M, Minneapolis
March 7-10	State Boys' Hockey Tournament	Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul
March 14-17	State Girls' Basketball Tournament	Target Center, Minneapolis Williams Arena, U of M, Minneapolis
March 16-17	State Adapted Floor Hockey Tournament	Bloomington Jefferson Senior High School
March 21-24	State Boys' Basketball Tournament	Target Center, Minneapolis Williams Arena, U of M, Minneapolis
TBD	Visual Arts	TBD by each Region
TBD	Section/State Music Contests/Festivals	Various MN Sites
April 20-21	State Speech Tournament	Apple Valley High School
May 18	State Adapted Bowling Tournament	Bowlero, Brooklyn Park
May 19	State Robotics Tournament	Williams Arena & Maturi Pavilion, U of M, Minneapolis
May 19	Final date of Girls' Badminton season	
June 1-2	State Adapted Softball Tournament	Coon Rapids High School
June 5-8	State Boys' Tennis Tournament	Baseline Tennis Center, U of M; Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center, Minneapolis
June 7-8	State Girls' Softball Tournament	Caswell Park, North Mankato
June 8-9	State Track & Field Meet	Hamline University, St. Paul
June 9	Final date of Girls' Synchronized Swim season	
June 12-13	State Golf Tournament	AAA - Bunker Hills Golf Course, Coon Rapids AA - Ridges at Sand Creek, Jordan A - Pebble Creek Golf Club, Becker
June 13, 15, 17	Girls' Lacrosse Tournament	Minnetonka & Chanhassen High Schools
June 13, 15, 17	Boys' Lacrosse Tournament	Minnetonka & Chanhassen High Schools
June 14-16	State Baseball Tournament	AAAA - CHS Field, St. Paul AAA - Dick Siebert Field, U of M, Minneapolis AA - Dick Putz Stadium & Joe Faber Field, St. Cloud A - Athletic Park, Chaska & Mini Met, Jordan Prep Championship Series - Target Field, Minneapolis
June 22	State Clay Target Tournament	Minneapolis Gun Club, Prior Lake

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