

MSHSL Governance

for consideration of the amendment to MSHSL Bylaws
to define eligibility for MSHSL sex-separated sports teams by biological sex at birth



What is an MSHSL Member School? *MSHSL Constitution §204.00*

The MSHSL is a group of 509 Minnesota public and private high schools (Member Schools) that voluntarily associate to form a joint competitive league for boys and girls high school sports and activities. Independent school boards authorize two Designated School Representatives (a staff person and a school board member) for each school district Member Schools who then exercise their delegated authority to vote on MSHSL matters on behalf of their Member School.

What is an MSHSL Local Advisory Committee? *MSHSL Constitution §208.03*

The MSHSL Constitution section on local control urges Member Schools to form an advisory committee.

What is an MSHSL Region Committee? *MSHSL Constitution §209.00*

Each Member School is assigned to one of 16 Regions created by the MSHSL Constitution. The Regions have an elected board and meet monthly, or at their discretion. The Regions each designate and send three people to an annual legislative meeting of the MSHSL Member Schools called the Representative Assembly.

What is the MSHSL Representative Assembly? *MSHSL Constitution §210.00*

Its regular meeting occurs each May, though special meetings can be called at the request of five MSHSL Board members or 15 Representative Assembly delegates. The Representative Assembly may amend the Bylaws of the MSHSL by a 2/3 favorable vote (assuming a quorum).

What is the MSHSL Bylaw Amendment Process? *MSHSL Constitution §215.00*

The MSHSL Constitution establishes a threshold of five Member Schools to propose an MSHSL Bylaw amendment for consideration by all Member Schools. The standard process takes a year and is outlined in MSHSL Constitution 215.00. It requires submission to the MSHSL Executive Director by October 15, distribution of proposals by November 1, collection of Regional votes by February 15 and—if 9 of 16 Regions vote in favor— then consideration and voting at the Representative Assembly annual meeting in May. Alternative expedited processes include special meetings called by the Region Committees or the Representative Assembly and an Emergency Amendment Procedure.

What is the MSHSL Board? *MSHSL Constitution §211.00*

The MSHSL Board consists of 22 people—4 appointed by the Governor, 2 by the trade group for school administrators, 2 by the trade group for school principals, 2 by the school board association and 12 elected by Member Schools. In 2014 and 2016, the MSHSL Board created a controversial policy that forced Member Schools to permit biological boys to compete on girls' sports teams. The Board's policy declares that the League allows sports participation consistent with a student's gender identity, presumes that Member Schools follow this eligibility rule and creates a special procedure to appeal to the League in Bylaws 300 called Transgender Eligibility Appeal Procedure through which an athlete may contest an eligibility determination based on gender or sex at a Member School. In 2023, the Board also adopted a DEI policy premised on "gender fairness". These changes were not proposed through the Member Schools' Bylaw amendment process. Policy that has only been adopted by the Board and not by the Member Schools themselves are published in MSHSL Bylaws in italics rather than in standard font.

MSHSL Governance Links

[MSHSL Articles of Incorporation](#) contains purpose of MSHSL

[MSHSL Constitution](#) establishes governance processes for Member Schools, Region Committees and the Representative Assembly

[MSHSL Bylaws: 100 Series](#) establishes initial student eligibility requirements

[MSHSL Bylaws: 200 Series](#) contains 209.00 Racial and Religious Harassment, Violence and/or Hazing Policy

[MSHSL Bylaws: 300 Series](#) contains 306.00 Responsibility for Student Eligibility and Board-passed procedures for Eligibility Appeal Procedure for a Transgender Student; Fair Hearing Procedure

[MSHSL Bylaws: 400 Series](#) contains 408.00 Reporting Violations of League Bylaws

[MSHSL Bylaws: 500 Series](#)

[MSHSL Bylaws: Appendix](#) contains Board-passed policies on Affirmative Action; Sexual, Racial and Religious Harassment, Violence and/or Hazing; Code of Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Belonging

[MSHSL 2025-26 Handbook](#) contains board members, region committee leaders, assignment of schools to regions, flowcharts of governance processes

[Eligibility Information Brochure for MSHSL Programs 2026-27](#) documents the attestations required of each athlete and athlete's parent/guardian each year

2025-2026 MSHSL OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

