

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

DATE: June 26, 2025
TOPIC: 7.2-Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Membership
PRESENTER: Kristine Schaefer, Assistant Superintendent
REFERENCE TO POLICY/STATUTE: Policy 701

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

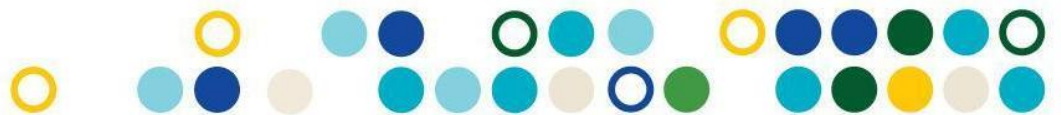
- a. The Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) requires school boards to authorize membership in the MSHSL yearly.
- b. The resolution affirms the school board delegates:
 - i. the control, supervision and regulation of League sponsored athletic and fine arts activities to the MSHSL
 - ii. the school board adopts the MSHSL Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations
 - iii. the administration and responsibility for supervising registered activities is assigned to your official school representative.

B. RECOMMENDATION

- a. Approval

C. CONNECTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITY

- a. Student Experience
- c. Student Pathways and Systemic Supports
- e. Engagement and Partnerships





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2100 Freeway Boulevard, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota 55430-1735 | (763) 560-2262, FAX (763) 569-0499 | www.mshsl.org

Summer 2025

Dear Head of School and Board Members,

This is an exciting time of year, as the League and our Member Schools are engaged in the work that is required to properly prepare for the 2025-2026 school year. This coming year will be a significant year in the Minnesota State High School League as, for the first time since the League's inception in 1916, the League will govern all programs and students in 9th grade in its approved activities. This monumental change may be rather unnoticed for many, as 9th grade students have long been eligible to participate in grades 10 – 12 programs, yet for some it will be very impactful. The League will expand its mission to provide educational opportunities through fine arts and athletics to all students in grades 9 - 12 as well as some in grades 7 and 8.

In preparation for approval and completion of your Resolution for Membership, please take a few minutes to review the League's founding purposes, its mission and beliefs that bind all Member Schools together. Please see the attached document that has been a standard in the League for many years. These important pillars are more than just words on a page; they drive the actions of all members of the League and provide the foundation for the decisions and the leadership choices the League makes every year.

The Minnesota State High School League is focused on support and leadership for our Member Schools. Beyond our state tournaments and fine arts festivals and competitions, this past year the League provided education to over 25,000 coaches and fine arts directors and certified eligibility for over 7500 officials and fine arts judges. Throughout this time, the League continues to provide leadership in establishing Member School driven bylaws, policies and rules. Together, our membership remains strong and is a supportive network to all Member Schools. The appetite in our communities for these activities continues to be incredible with the ultimate goal of providing opportunities for as many students as possible.

This has been a great year with understandable excitement in all League programs. The first year of sanctioned boys volleyball has been thrilling with the first state tournament at the University of St. Thomas. This year we had 79 teams and well over 100 schools registered in the inaugural year of boys volleyball. Similarly, there is outstanding growth in the number of girls wrestlers across the state of Minnesota. Each of the past three years we have nearly doubled the number of participants in this incredible sport. With plans to expand our state tournament to more girl qualifiers this coming year, we are also establishing a timeline for the full sanction of girls dual wrestling.

As we prepare for the coming year, it's important to know that the League has established a strong foundational financial base and is in a positive financial position in leading our schools.

Last year the League was able to credit membership dues and reduce them to a level that is the lowest in over 30 years. While attendance and excitement for our tournaments and events continue to be great, the increasing cost of venues and operations are having an impact. While we expect a significant membership credit, it is projected to be less than last year's record-setting amount. At the same time, we see the majority of our administrative regions providing financial support back to schools at year end, which is also helpful to member schools.

The League also recognizes the changing landscape in education, evidenced by the growing number of educational models for students across the state. We continue to study and establish governance for these schools, regardless of the model. The League is engaged with an ad hoc committee, of member school representatives, that is studying the various models that are part of the Minnesota educational landscape and will make recommendations as to the rules of eligibility for our Board of Directors.

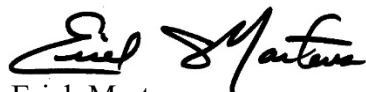
The leadership that the League provides also extends to our students as we look forward to our fourth year of statewide leadership and character events titled "Together We Make a Difference." Thanks to the committed partnership of our state associations; MSBA, MASA, MASSP, MNIAAAA, MSHSCA and AMSD, we have provided behavioral expectations for students and schools and energized student and staff leaders in making these a reality in our events. These highly engaging, student-energized conferences are designed to bring students together and establish safe, respectful and inclusive contests and events for all participants. In addition, these current and future leaders have the opportunity to engage with one another and commit to leading others in their school and community.

We truly appreciate all of our Member Schools and recognize that, even as some schools are consolidating or encountering challenges, our membership now exceeds 600 Member Schools on an annual basis. This signals the strength of our League and the quality of the experiences that our students have. We appreciate our longtime members and our newest members equally and welcome all to the Minnesota State High School League, a statewide community that shares the same beliefs, responsibilities and opportunities.

As you prepare to declare your commitment to membership and provide access to over 50 available fine arts and sports through the Minnesota State High School League, we ask each Member School and board to more clearly understand the depth of the League and recognize your role in leading within your school, your community, your conference and your section as we prepare for an outstanding 2025–2026 school year. Should you have any questions related to participation in the Minnesota State High School League, please reach out to our League Office or to me personally and we will do our best to serve our members. Thank you for all you have done to make the 2024-2025 school year a great one and the League is looking forward to beginning our new school year with the first day of practice on August 11.

Have an outstanding year!

Sincerely,



Erich Martens
Executive Director



FOUNDING PURPOSES

The Minnesota State High School League is organized for the following educational purposes:

1. To provide, promote, extend, manage and administer a program of activities for youth of the schools of the state on subsection, section and state levels in the fields of athletics, speech, music and dramatics on a competitive basis, as well as such other curricular and extracurricular activities as may from time to time be sponsored by the schools of Minnesota.
2. To establish uniform and equitable rules for youth in inter-school activities.
3. To elevate standards of sportsmanship and to encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools and their personnel.
4. To protect youth, member schools and their personnel from exploitation by special interest groups.
5. To provide mutual benefit and relief plans for the assistance of school students injured in athletic events or supervised school activities in meeting medical and hospital expenses incurred by reason of such injuries.
6. To serve the best interests of member schools and their students by providing a medium of cooperation and coordination in educational fields of endeavor and a series of related activities on a state-wide basis, which they individually could not achieve or accomplish for their students and which aid and assist the schools in maintaining a constantly improved program.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Minnesota State High School League provides educational opportunities for students through interscholastic athletic and fine arts programs and provides leadership and support for member schools.

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BELIEFS

We believe that...

- Participation in school activity programs is a privilege and not a right.
- Sportsmanship needs to have a constant presence in all school-based activity programs.
- Students should have an equal opportunity to participate in all activities offered by their school.
- Ethical behavior, dignity and respect are non-negotiable.
- Student participants who choose to be chemically free must be supported.
- Collaborative relationships with parents enhance a school's opportunity to positively impact student success.
- Academic priorities must come before participation in athletic or fine arts activities.
- Positive role models and an active involvement in a student's life by parents and others are critical to student success.
- High school activity programs are designed for student participants, and adults must serve in a supportive role.
- The success of the team is more important than individual honors.
- Compliance with school, community and League rules is essential for all activity participants.
- Participation in school-sponsored activities must be inclusive, not exclusive.
- Ethical behavior, fairness, and embracing diversity best serve students and school communities.



2025-2026 RESOLUTION FOR MEMBERSHIP
IN THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
Membership Renewal Form

This form must be completed once for each school in the district.

Must be completed and submitted to MSHSL NOT LATER THAN JULY 31, 2025. Retain one copy for the school files.

RESOLVED, that the Governing Board or Entity of Park High School (Name of School) located in the State of Minnesota delegates the control, supervision and regulation of interscholastic activities and athletics (referred to in MN Statutes, Section 128C.01) to the Minnesota State High School League, and so hereby certifies to the State Commissioner of Education as provided for by Minnesota Statutes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the school listed is authorized by this, the Governing Board of said school district or school to renew its membership in the Minnesota State High School League; and to participate in the approved interscholastic activities and athletics sponsored by said League and its various subdivisions.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Governing Board or Entity hereby adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, Rules and Regulations of said League and all amendments thereto as the same as are published in the latest edition of the League's *Official Handbook*, on file at the office of the school district or school, or as appears on the League's website, as the minimum standards governing participation in said League-sponsored activities and athletics. Further, the administration and responsibility for determining student eligibility and for the supervision of such activities and athletics are assigned to the official representatives identified by this Governing Board or Entity.

Signing this Resolution for Membership affirms that this Governing Board has reviewed all required membership materials provided by the League which defines the purpose and value of education-based activity and athletic and programs and defines each member school's responsibilities.

Member schools must develop and publicize administrative procedures to address eligibility suspensions related to Student Code of Responsibilities (Bylaw 206.2) violations for students participating in activity and athletic programs by member schools.

The above Resolution was adopted by the Governing Board or Entity of this school or district and is recorded in the official minutes of said Board and hereby is certified to the State Commissioner of Education as provided for by law.

The following is taken from the MSHSL Constitution:

208.00 LOCAL CONTROL

208.01 Designated School Representatives

At the beginning of the League's fiscal year, the governing board of each member school shall designate two (2) representatives who are authorized to vote for the member school at all district, region and section meetings and on mail ballots where member schools are called upon to vote.

One of the designated representatives shall be a member of the school's governing board and the other shall be an administrator or full-time faculty member of the member school.

In school districts with multiple schools, the designated representative from the school district's governing body may represent more than one school and is entitled to one vote for each school they represent.

208.02 Designated Activity Representatives

At the beginning of the League's fiscal year, the governing board of each member school shall select individuals to represent its school in the following areas: (a) boys sports; (b) girls sports; (c) speech; and (d) music.

208.03 Local Advisory Committee

Each school is urged to form an advisory committee for League activities. Committee membership is not limited to but shall include a school board member, a student, a parent, and a faculty member, to advise the designated school representatives on all matters relating to the school's membership in the MSHSL.

Park High School

Name of School (Please Print)

208.01 VOTE ON BEHALF OF THE HIGH SCHOOL

Kate Schwartz

(Designated School Board Member – please print)

Phil Kummel

(Designated School Representative – please print)

KSchwartz@swasheo.org
Email Address

PKummel@swasheo.org
Email Address

208.02 ACTIVITY REPRESENTATIVES

Phil Kummel

(Boys Sports – please print)

Phil Kummel

(Girls Sports – please print)

Phil Kummel

(Speech – please print)

Phil Kummel

(Music – please print)

208.03 LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(Board Member—please print)

(Student—please print)

(Parent—please print)

(Faculty Member—please print)

Phil Kummel

(Mailing Representative—please print)

The Mailing Representative is the person to whom mailings go. This is usually the Activity Director.

Print Name: Melinda Doss
(Clerk/Secretary - Local Governing Board)

Print Name: Julie Nissen
(Superintendent or Head of School)

Signed: Signature required
(Clerk/Secretary - Local Governing Board)
electronically through DocuSign
Date:

Signed: Signature required
(Superintendent or Head of School)
electronically through DocuSign
Date:



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RESOLVED, that the Governing Board or Entity of Woodbury High School (Name of School) located in the State of Minnesota delegates the control, supervision and regulation of interscholastic activities and athletics (referred to in MN Statutes, Section 128C.01) to the Minnesota State High School League, and so hereby certifies to the State Commissioner of Education as provided for by Minnesota Statutes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the school listed is authorized by this, the Governing Board of said school district or school to renew its membership in the Minnesota State High School League; and to participate in the approved interscholastic activities and athletics sponsored by said League and its various subdivisions.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Governing Board or Entity hereby adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, Rules and Regulations of said League and all amendments thereto as the same as are published in the latest edition of the League's *Official Handbook*, on file at the office of the school district or school, or as appears on the League's website, as the minimum standards governing participation in said League-sponsored activities and athletics. Further, the administration and responsibility for determining student eligibility and for the supervision of such activities and athletics are assigned to the official representatives identified by this Governing Board or Entity.

Signing this Resolution for Membership affirms that this Governing Board has reviewed all required membership materials provided by the League which defines the purpose and value of education-based activity and athletic and programs and defines each member school's responsibilities.

Member schools must develop and publicize administrative procedures to address eligibility suspensions related to Student Code of Responsibilities (Bylaw 206.2) violations for students participating in activity and athletic programs by member schools.

The above Resolution was adopted by the Governing Board or Entity of this school or district and is recorded in the official minutes of said Board and hereby is certified to the State Commissioner of Education as provided for by law.

The following is taken from the MSHSL Constitution:

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At the beginning of the League's fiscal year, the governing board of each member school shall designate two (2) representatives who are authorized to vote for the member school at all district, region and section meetings and on mail ballots where member schools are called upon to vote.

One of the designated representatives shall be a member of the school's governing board and the other shall be an administrator or full-time faculty member of the member school.

In school districts with multiple schools, the designated representative from the school district's governing body may represent more than one school and is entitled to one vote for each school they represent.

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208.03 Local Advisory Committee

Each school is urged to form an advisory committee for League activities. Committee membership is not limited to but shall include a school board member, a student, a parent, and a faculty member, to advise the designated school representatives on all matters relating to the school's membership in the MSHSL.

Woodbury High School

Name of School (Please Print)

208.01 VOTE ON BEHALF OF THE HIGH SCHOOL

Kate Schwartz
(Designated School Board Member - please print)

Jodi Loeblien Lecker
(Designated School Representative - please print)

kschwartz5@sowashaw.org
Email Address

jloebli@sovashawco.org
Email Address

208.02 ACTIVITY REPRESENTATIVES

Jodi Loeblien-Lecker
(Boys Sports - please print)

Jodi Loeblien-Lecker
(Girls Sports - please print)

(Speech - please print)

(Music - please print)

208.03 LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(Board Member - please print)

(Student - please print)

(Parent - please print)

(Faculty Member - please print)

Jodi Loeblien-Lecker
(Mailing Representative - please print)

The Mailing Representative is the person to whom mailings go. This is usually the Activity Director.

Print Name: Melinda Doss
(Clerk/Secretary - Local Governing Board)

Print Name: Julie Nielsen
(Superintendent or Head of School)

Signed: Signature required
(Clerk/Secretary - Local Governing Board)
electronically through DocuSign
Date:

Signed: Signature required
(Superintendent or Head of School)
electronically through DocuSign
Date:



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RESOLVED, that the Governing Board or Entity of East Ridge High School (Name of School) located in the State of Minnesota delegates the control, supervision and regulation of interscholastic activities and athletics (referred to in MN Statutes, Section 128C.01) to the Minnesota State High School League, and so hereby certifies to the State Commissioner of Education as provided for by Minnesota Statutes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the school listed is authorized by this, the Governing Board of said school district or school to renew its membership in the Minnesota State High School League; and to participate in the approved interscholastic activities and athletics sponsored by said League and its various subdivisions.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Governing Board or Entity hereby adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, Rules and Regulations of said League and all amendments thereto as the same as are published in the latest edition of the League's *Official Handbook*, on file at the office of the school district or school, or as appears on the League's website, as the minimum standards governing participation in said League-sponsored activities and athletics. Further, the administration and responsibility for determining student eligibility and for the supervision of such activities and athletics are assigned to the official representatives identified by this Governing Board or Entity.

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Member schools must develop and publicize administrative procedures to address eligibility suspensions related to Student Code of Responsibilities (Bylaw 206.2) violations for students participating in activity and athletic programs by member schools.

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208.03 Local Advisory Committee

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East Ridge

Name of School (Please Print)

208.01 VOTE ON BEHALF OF THE HIGH SCHOOL

Kate Schwartz

(Designated School Board Member – please print)

Sara Palodichuk

(Designated School Representative – please print)

Kschwartz@sowashco.org

Email Address

spalodic@sowashco.org

Email Address

208.02 ACTIVITY REPRESENTATIVES

Sara Palodichuk

(Boys Sports – please print)

Sara Palodichuk

(Girls Sports – please print)

Meghan Roese

(Speech – please print)

Brant Coneman

(Music – please print)

208.03 LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kate Schwartz

(Board Member – please print)

Brandon Paine

(Student – please print)

John Soma

(Parent – please print)

Bret Brookins

(Faculty Member – please print)

Sara Palodichuk

(Mailing Representative – please print)

The Mailing Representative is the person to whom mailings go. This is usually the Activity Director.

Print Name:

Melinda Dols

(Clerk/Secretary - Local Governing Board)

Print Name:

Julie Nielsen

(Superintendent or Head of School)

Signed:

Signature required

(Clerk/Secretary - Local Governing Board)

electronically through DocuSign

Date:

Signed:

Signature required

(Superintendent or Head of School)

electronically through DocuSign

Date: