



2026-2027 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Welcome to the Minnesota State High School League's Media Policy Manual for the 2026-2027 school year.

The League, in consultation with its Member Schools and Media Advisory Committee, develops policies and guidelines for media coverage of League events that are presented annually for consideration and approval by the League's Board of Directors.

The granting of a news media credential is a two-way contract between the League and media who serve the Member Schools and their communities. Approved media agree to represent themselves and their organizations with high standards and integrity, and the League agrees to provide coverage access to its events.

It is a privilege, not a right, to receive an onsite credential to cover a League-sanctioned activity.

The League's foundational aspects guide all that is done in providing positive experiences through education-based activities. Through the approval process, these questions are considered:

- What is the goal of the media organization in the request for onsite access?
- Are the goals and intended use of the content in alignment with the League's Media Policy Manual?
- Does the media organization provide positive, comprehensive coverage of students, the Member Schools and their supportive communities?
- Has the media organization demonstrated a history of fair and balanced coverage of the Member Schools and League Activities?

The League and its Member Schools greatly value and appreciate the media coverage of these student experiences through education-based activities.

Best wishes for a great school year of coverage.

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Summary of Modifications for 2026-2027

Video Restrictions

- For non-45 TV-contracted contests, news organizations may post videos totaling up to 2 minutes per contest to their social media platforms and websites. Live streaming of any length is not permitted. (Page 7)

Students and Approved News Organizations

- Member School students are not permitted to be credentialed through any Approved News Organizations. (Page 7)

Organization Administrator

- Only the organization's authorized administrator may make credential requests on behalf of attendees. All other applications from that same organization will not be considered. (Page 10)

Broadcast TV

- Broadcast TV organizations may record and use up to two minutes of highlights per news broadcast for section events and non-45TV televised events. (Page 11)

Minnesota Community Media Systems

- Section and State Tournament Events: Unlimited playbacks of delayed broadcast to platforms for 30 days after the completion of the event. The contest may then be placed in the archives of the organization's site. Viewing must begin and end with, "This material is property of the Minnesota State High School League. No downloading, saving or archiving of this production is permitted." (Page 14)

Radio Partner Requirement

- All radio entities seeking approval for credentialed access to broadcast postseason events must be a member of the Minnesota Broadcasters Association and a registered MSHSL Radio Partner with the League. (Page 15)

Streaming

- Violation of streaming guidelines will result in a game-fee fine.
- All commercial streamers seeking to stream section-level contests are required to register with the League and pay an annual school-year Professional Streaming Fee of \$200. This registration fee is separate from any rights fees assessed at the section level. (Page 16)

MSHSL Media Coverage Groups

KSTC/45TV	• Hubbard-owned KSTC/45TV is the exclusive television broadcast partner of the Minnesota State High School League. • By contract, 45TV personnel have enhanced access at state tournament events.
NSPN.tv	• League's state tournament streaming partner. • NSPN streams and hosts all recorded state -level events except those streamed by www.prep45.com
Broadcast TV	• Over-the-air television coverage of news and sports. • Over-the-air television stations are affiliated with major networks, ie: ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC.
Emerging Media	• New and innovative forms of digital technologies that are developing and becoming integrated into the communications infrastructure.
Minnesota Community Media Systems	• The League recognizes representatives of the Minnesota Community Media Systems as official educational television personnel for a Member School, per an annual Designation Letter. • Provides coverage via local cable access and delayed broadcasts to website platforms.
Online News Organizations	• A digital news outlet defined as print, digital or hybrid publication that primarily serves Minnesota communities, features content derived from primary sources relating to current events.
Print	• Credentialed reporters and photographers must represent bona fide news-gathering organizations with a history of League coverage. • The approved organization must have editorial oversight.
Radio Partners	• Audio-driven coverage of League Activities delivered to constituents over radio frequencies or website platforms. • Must be a member of the Minnesota Broadcasters Association.
Streaming	• Professionals streamers have the opportunity to stream section-level events with Region Committee and League approval.
Student and Schools Media Coverage	• This coverage option permits a Member School onsite access for up to two students and a Faculty Advisor if the school qualifies for a bracketed team state tournament events. • Coverage of individual-based state tournaments is not available to Member Schools because of the significant number of participants involved.

Statement of Rights to Events

All Minnesota State High School League Section and State Tournaments are presented under the authority of the Minnesota State High School League. The Minnesota State High School League reserves all rights to these events and their presentation. The for-profit sale, distribution or use of any audio, video or photography of Minnesota State High School League section and state tournaments by any means is strictly prohibited unless approved in advance, in writing, by the Minnesota State High School League's Executive Director or a League Staff designee. The Minnesota State High School League reserves the right to seek legal recourse against all violators.

A media organization that is granted coverage rights to a League event may not:

- Transfer its rights to another organization,
- Share the content in formats or platforms not communicated to and approved by the League.

General Policies and Guidelines

Expectations of Media

- Each organization's authorized primary administrator is responsible for ensuring attendees have reviewed policies and guidelines prior to coverage of a postseason event.
- An organization and its attendees are responsible for knowing and following guidelines and policies. These can be found in this manual, on the League's website, in communications from the League and from the onsite Media Steward.
- Media must ask for clarifications if expectations are not clear.
- Violation of policies will result in instant forfeiture and potential suspension of credentials or other appropriate actions.

Professional Expectations

These guidelines are for all media approved to cover League events:

- Be respectful to those around you, including fans, officials, coaches, student-participants, support staff, administrators and other members of the media.
- Do not distract those around you, including fans, officials, coaches, student-participants, support staff, administrators and other members of the media.
- Cheering is not permitted while attending an event as a member of a media organization.
- Criticism of an official, coach, team, participant or school during a broadcast or written game summary is not permitted and could be grounds for forfeiture of a media credential.
- Do not block the view of fans.
- Be mindful of your workspace. Make sure to collect any trash or belongings in your work area when you leave.
- Do not bring uncredentialed guests to the event with the expectation that they will receive free admission or privileges accorded to the media. Children are not permitted in press areas.
- Photographers should refer to the League's Media Policy Manual for guidelines on

- shooting policies.
- Media members are not allowed in tournament locker rooms at any time.

Onsite Guidelines

Media members must:

- A Media Member's organization must be on the Annual Approved Media List and the Media Member must also be on the specific state tournament credential list.
- Present a photo ID at the pass gate for access.
- Fill out the credential string tag at the pass gate if that event is utilizing that form of identification.
- Ensure League-issued credentials are visible and always worn.
- Remain in areas designated for media during the tournament.

High school students are not permitted to be credentialed through any Approved News Organizations.

Video Posting to Social Media and Websites

- For non-45 TV-contracted contests, news organizations may post videos totaling up to 2 minutes per contest to their social media platforms and websites. Live streaming of any length is not permitted.

Interview Information

- Interviews must take place in designated Media Zones. Review Media Guidance or contact an onsite administrator upon arrival for further details.
- Interviews are not allowed on the field, ice, court or any playing surface following state tournament events.
- Media members must honor a "cooling off" period of at least five minutes before interviewing participants or representatives of participating teams.

Media Locations

- Locker room areas at League events at the postseason tournament levels are closed to the media.
- Each venue is unique. As such, press box or press row accommodations may not be available for every media member. Review provided guidance and work with onsite administration to determine accommodation.
- Venues and the League determine the time at which press areas must be vacated. See specific tournament guidance for details.

Removal of Credentials

- A media organization or a designated attendee committing any violation can be removed at any time for failure to follow the League's Media Policies and Guidelines. Unprofessional conduct, as determined by League Staff or its representatives, is not tolerated and will result in instant forfeiture of credentials from the event and potential suspension of credentials or other appropriate actions.

Coverage Levels

Regular Season Events

Media coverage is under the jurisdiction of the host Member School. The following recommendations are provided for consistency and to protect student participants.

- Media are only considered for onsite access if team(s) in their coverage area is/are competing in the contest.
- Member Schools are encouraged to use the Approved Media Organization List as a guide when permitting media access.
- Locker rooms are closed to the media.
- Media must honor a "cooling off" period of at least five minutes before interviewing participants and representatives of participating teams.
- It is recommended that local administrators create Photo Zones and Interview Zones.
- Streaming:
 - For the consideration process of a Member School, frequently used platforms that are acceptable in section tournaments include NSPN.tv, Hudl, a school-authorized YouTube channel and the NFHS Network.
 - Instant, live streaming mechanisms like GameChanger and social media-based platforms such as Facebook Live, X, Instagram, TikTok or others as determined by the League, are not recommended for use.
 - News Organizations may post videos totaling up to two minutes per contest to their social media platforms and websites.

Section Events

Region Secretaries and Region Committees, in consultation with the Minnesota State High School League, make determinations regarding access requests from Professional and Student and School Media.

Requirements for Section Events

- All media organizations that have access to section events must be approved by the administering region and the Minnesota State High School League.
- Photo ID must be presented at the gate for access.

- Locker rooms are closed to the media.
- Media must honor a “cooling off” period of at least five minutes before interviewing participants or representatives of participating teams.
- Streaming:
 - Frequently used platforms that are acceptable in section tournaments, with Region Committee and League approval, include NSPN.tv, Hudl, a school-authorized YouTube channel and the NFHS Network.
 - Instant, live streaming mechanisms like GameChanger and social media-based platforms such as Facebook Live, X, Instagram, TikTok or others as determined by the League, are not permitted.

Recommendations for Section Events

Region Secretaries and Region Committees should use the Approved Annual Media List to make determinations on granting onsite access requests. The Approved Annual Media List is available here: <http://www.mshsl.org/media>

- It is recommended that section administrators create Photo Zones and Interview Zones.
- News Organizations may post videos totaling up to two minutes per contest to their social media platforms and websites.

Contact information for Region Secretaries can be found at: <https://www.mshsl.org/contact/mshsl-region-secretaries>.

Region Secretary Section Tournament assignments can be found at: <https://www.mshsl.org/MSHSL-media>.

State Tournament Events

- State Tournament events are managed by the Minnesota State High School League using policies and guidelines outlined in this manual.
- At the state tournament level, media organizations must apply and be approved through the League for credentials for each attendee at each state tournament. A separate credential application and approval must be made for each state tournament.

Media Organization Approval Criteria

The following guidelines are used to approve media organizations for inclusion on the Approved Annual Media Organization List.

Media organizations:

- Must have an established and consistent record of League coverage.
- Must have credibility as a news-gathering organization.
- Must have editorial oversight.
- Must create original content which can only be generated by being granted onsite access at an activity.

- Must have coverage that goes beyond the distribution of in-game scoring and the creation of all-tournament teams.
- Must agree to monitor any user comments and remove comments that include personal attacks on participants involved in competitions.
- Must be a member of a professional association or organization, i.e.: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Minnesota Broadcasters Association, etc.

The following media organizations will not be approved:

- Organizations that are exclusively social media based.
- Organizations that are scouting, rankings, recruiting services, college coaches, private clubs or specialty websites that are promotional services for an activity.
- Organizations whose demographic audiences are fan-based and focused primarily on one school or a select number of schools, one individual or a limited number of individuals. They do not qualify as a live-coverage organization.
- Organizations that support the interests of the organization and not the coverage of League events.
- Organizations that exclusively create and post videos.
- Organizations that are photo-only.

The League reserves the right to determine media approval requests on a case-by-case basis.

State Tournament Credential Application

Step 1: Approved Annual Media Organization List

Media Organizations must apply annually and be approved for inclusion on the League's Approved Annual Media Organization List. The organization's authorized administrator applies on behalf of the media organization. This must be done **before** applying for specific state tournament events. The Approved Annual Media Organization List is used in approving media for attendance at events. Media must be on the League's Approved Annual Media Organization List to cover any postseason event.

Note: Only the organization's authorized administrator may make credential requests on behalf of attendees. All other applications from that same organization will not be considered.

Step 2: State Tournament Credential Application

All media organizations requesting to cover League State Tournaments must apply for credentials for all media personnel who will attend each state tournament.

Prior to applying for State Tournament Credentials, the organization must be on the League's Annual Approved Media Organization List before applying for individual state tournament credentials.

To apply for media credentials to cover League State Tournament events media members should access the information found at: www.mshsl.org/media.

1. Complete application prior to application deadlines. Deadlines for credential applications are firm. Media applying after the deadline should not expect to be credentialed.
2. Review specific state tournament guidance and information.
3. Confirm placement on the approved media credentials list for each state tournament prior to attending the event.

State Tournament Access for Approved Media Organizations

Number of Media Personnel Permitted Tournament Access

- **Radio Partner:** Up to two media personnel.
Exception: A third credential request may be considered when the event is held at Grand Casino Arena or U.S. Bank Stadium.
- **Print:**
 - **Community Newspapers:** Up to two media personnel are permitted per community-based newspaper for all state tournament events.
Exception: For the wrestling state tournament, an approved community-based newspaper is granted one credential. A second credential request may be considered if the community-based newspaper's administrator can provide evidence that both applicants are bona fide media members and are needed to be onsite to provide coverage.
 - **Regional Newspapers:** Up to three media personnel
 - **Statewide Newspapers:** Up to four media personnel
- **Broadcast:** Up to two media personnel
- **Online News Organizations:** Up to two media personnel

League Broadcast and Streaming Partners

KSTC/45TV

Hubbard Broadcasting and 45TV are the longtime broadcast TV partners of the League. 45TV has enhanced access to all League State Tournaments, and by contract, has linear television and streaming rights.

Enhanced Access

45TV has enhanced access to State Tournament venues.

- 45TV has exclusive rights to all game action on the playing field, rink, court or other playing surfaces.
- 45TV has the first interview with coaches and/or players of their choice, at an intermission or following the completion of any televised game.
- Games broadcast by 45TV may not be videotaped in any manner, e.g. mobile device or camera by anyone in the arena or on the playing field. Video is permitted to be shot by an approved

media organization at the venue before and after game sessions once 45TV is off the air. Game sessions are defined as when 45TV goes on the air to when it goes off the air.

- Live game action may not be recorded, streamed, broadcast or otherwise shared. The use of video of game action on over-the-air television, cable television or any other media, e.g. internet, podcasts. is within the exclusive rights granted to 45TV.
- Any live shot or recorded stand-up **MUST NOT** show the playing field, rink, court or other playing surfaces while 45TV is on the air.
- Media using any televised game action video must adhere to the following guidelines:
 - Video highlights used by any media must be recorded from 45TV's off-air signal only, and use must not exceed two minutes in duration per day.
 - Live simulcasting is prohibited.
 - All media organizations that use video highlights of 45TV's off-air game action must give on-screen synchronous credit to 45TV for a minimum of five seconds as the video airs.
 - Highlights recorded from off-air broadcasts may be used while the game(s) is/are still on the air.
 - Video restrictions include the medal and trophy presentations.
- All other credentialed media must wait until 45TV has completed its interviews and the 5-minute "cooling off" period has expired, before commencing its interviews in designated Media Zones.

Exclusivity

1. 45TV is the exclusive television broadcast partner of the Minnesota State High School League.
 - a. The League's contract with 45TV supersedes all policies and guidelines in this Media Policy Manual.
 - b. Other than 45TV, or an identified partner of 45TV and the League, no livestreaming or live over-the-air broadcast shall be permitted at any state tournament quarterfinal, semifinal or championship game/match/event at these events:
 - c. 45TV is the television broadcast partner with exclusive rights to televise and stream:
 - i. 2026 Prep Bowl—Seven football championship games
 - ii. 2027 Girls Hockey State Tournament—Semifinals, championships
 - iii. 2027 Boys Hockey State Tournament—Quarterfinals, semifinals, championships
 - iv. 2027 Girls Basketball State Tournament—Semifinals, championships
 - v. 2027 Boys Basketball State Tournament—Semifinals, championships
 - vi. The rights granted include marketing and distribution of tournament games statewide by 45TV via broadcast stations, low-power TV stations, cable systems and internet streaming.
2. The League's broadcast rights grant 45TV the right of first refusal to broadcast and/or stream championship-round games of any other League-sponsored activity not specified previously.
3. 45TV is also granted the right of first refusal to match any offer made by any other broadcast television entity or streaming entity to broadcast and/or stream championship-round games of any other League-sponsored activity not specified previously.
4. Such offers from other broadcast television entities or streaming entities must be presented to the League a minimum of 14 days prior to the event for which rights are sought.

5. Additionally, this identical right of first refusal is extended to 45TV, for broadcast and/or stream coverage of section playoffs.

At the conclusion of all games, 45TV has access to the playing field, rink or court. All other photographers and reporters are prohibited from entering the playing field, rink, court or other playing surfaces at the conclusion of all games.

NSPN.tv

- NSPN.tv is the League's State Tournament streaming partner.
- NSPN.tv streams and hosts all recorded state-level events except these contests, which are streamed on www.prep45.com:
 - Prep Bowl Football Championship Games
 - Girls Hockey Semifinals and Championship Games
 - Boys Hockey Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Championship Games
 - Girls Basketball Semifinals and Championship Games
 - Boys Basketball Semifinals and Championship Games
 - Streaming at the State Tournament level is not permitted by any commercial streamer other than NSPN.tv

Media Organization Types

Broadcast TV

Section Events

- Broadcast TV organizations may record and use up to two minutes of highlights per broadcast.
- Organizations must not host any League postseason events online for on-demand viewing without the League's approval.

State Tournament, non-45TV televised events

- Broadcast TV organizations may record and use up to two minutes of highlights per broadcast.
- Organizations must not host any League postseason events online for on-demand viewing without the League's approval.
- Live action is not permitted in the background of standup shots.
- Access to postgame News Conference Center, or other Designated Interview Zones, is permitted.

State Tournament, 45TV televised events

- Highlights or game footage must come from 45TV's off-air signal and 45TV must be given synchronous credit for a minimum of five seconds.
- 45TV's telecast must be off the air before any standup shot that shows the playing surface in the background.
- Access permitted to postgame News Conference Center or Designated Interview Zone.

Emerging Media

Emerging Media is defined as new and innovative forms of digital technologies that are developing and becoming integrated into the communications infrastructure. The League will review applications for coverage by media organizations that fall into this category and consider approval on a case-by-case basis.

Minnesota Community Media Systems

The League recognizes representatives of the Minnesota Community Media Systems and others as official educational television personnel for a Member School, provided such an assignment of responsibility from that school district's superintendent is submitted annually in writing in a Designation Letter and is on file in the League Office. Designation Letters should be submitted to media@mshsl.org.

Minnesota Community Media Systems may pay an annual fee of \$200 to waive all rights fees to carry live audio-only on their systems at the section and state-level events. The rights fee is required to cover League Section and State Tournaments.

Note: There is no rights fee assessed if a Minnesota Community Media System is covering an event for highlights and news reporting. Minnesota Community Media Systems must adhere to guidelines that limit highlights to two minutes.

Section Events

1. **Option 1 Audio Only:** Systems may produce live audio-only for placement on their platforms.
2. **Option 2 Delayed Broadcast:** Systems may produce delayed video/audio to their platforms. Rights fees are determined by and payable to the Region. Unlimited playbacks of delayed broadcast to the organization's channel are permitted for 30 days after the completion of the event. The contest may then be available to stream on the organization's site. Viewing must begin and end with, "This material is property of the Minnesota State High School League. No downloading, saving or archiving of this production is permitted."
3. **Option 3 Live Broadcast:** Systems may produce live video/audio to their platforms. Rights fees are determined by and payable to the Region.

State Events Not Broadcast by 45TV

1. **Option 1 Audio Only:** Systems may produce live audio-only for placement on their platforms.
2. **Option 2 Delayed Broadcast:** Systems may produce delayed video/audio to their platforms for a \$500 rights fee per game payable to the League. Unlimited playbacks of delayed broadcast to the organization's channel are permitted for 30 days after the completion of the event. The contest may then be available to stream on the organization's site. Viewing must begin and

end with, “This material is property of the Minnesota State High School League. No downloading, saving or archiving of this production is permitted.”

3. **Option 3 Live Broadcast:** Live video/audio to MCMS platforms may be negotiated in unique situations dependent upon agreement with the League.

Photographers/Videographers

- Photography and videotaping are not permitted at any State Tournament events unless properly credentialed and authorized to do so.
- Only credentialed media are permitted to use professional photography and video equipment at League postseason events.
- Credentialed photographers are required to take photos from the approved media areas and are not permitted to shoot from the stands while seated or standing with fans.
- The use of flash equipment is not permitted.
- Freelance and commercial photographers and/or videographers will not be approved for the League’s Approved Annual Media List.
- A freelance photographer or freelance videographer contracted by an approved media organization must have an administrator from the approved organization submit credential requests on their behalf.
- The League reserves the right to request evidence that the contracted photographer or contracted videographer is a bona fide media member. The League reserves the right to review these requests on a case-by-case basis.
- In the case of policy violations and/or unprofessional actions, the approved media organization is responsible for that individual and must work with the League to determine future credentialing of that representative.
- Designated Team Photographers and/or Videographers (a different role from Team Video Operator) will not be approved for credentials to cover postseason events.
- Approved photographers and organizations may use photographs for approved publication only. Selling or distributing photos free of charge is not permitted.
- League-contracted photographers have enhanced access.
- Per Board of Directors policy, the League shall have the right to purchase prints of any photographs taken by the Bearer and published in a newspaper and news or sporting periodical.

Print and Online News Media

- Media Members from Print and Online News Media Organizations are permitted access to cover game action via reporting and photography in League-approved areas of the venue.
- High school students are not permitted to be credentialed through any Approved News Organizations.

Radio Partners

Radio stations must-register as Radio Partners annually.

- School-year Radio Partner registration fee, per market:
 - Single station, \$250
 - Two stations with a single owner, \$450
 - Group of stations with a single owner (three or more), \$550
 - Radio stations that become a Radio Partner do not pay audio rights fees for postseason coverage.

Section and State Events

- Radio Partners agree to air or read at least two League-themed Public Service Announcements during the live broadcast of a Section Tournament and State Tournament event.
- A Radio Partner shall not feed its broadcasts to any other station or stations without permission from the League.
- The League reserves the right to revoke the broadcast rights of any radio station if any portion of its broadcasts are considered to have been in poor taste or incompatible with the educational dignity and propriety of the tournament or the host institution from which the broadcasts originated.

Streaming

- Streamers may not host any League postseason events online (i.e. YouTube) for on-demand viewing.
- Live streaming rights of League events and any posting of “real-time” description of events belong solely to the League and its designated personnel and partners.
- A streaming provider granted streaming rights shall not feed or link its stream to any other media outlet or website without permission from the League.
- Any streaming provider must receive League streaming rights approval before accepting a feed or link from any other website and must abide by all regulations in this Media Policy Manual, including payment of appropriate rights fees.
- Unauthorized streamers are subject to monetary fines issued by the League and/or the Section.
- The League reserves the right to individually consider applications from streaming producers outside the State of Minnesota.
- Violation of streaming guidelines will result in a game-fee fine.

Applying for Section Tournament Streaming Approval

1. All commercial streamers seeking to stream section-level contests are required to register with the League and pay a one-time annual Professional Streaming Fee of \$200. This registration fee is separate from any rights fees assessed at the section level.
2. Streaming at the Section Tournament level must be approved by the League and the Region Committee
3. An application must be made at least 48 hours prior to the contest to the League and the Region Secretary. Contact the League at media@mshsl.org.
4. The application must include:
 - a. team(s) being covered,

- b. the dates, times and sites at which they wish to stream,
 - c. and whether the stream will be live or delayed.
5. Upon approval from the League and the Region Secretary, the applicant will be notified.

Section Streaming Fees

- Each Administrative Region sets the rights fees charged to each streaming provider for the coverage of any Subsection and Section games.
- A streaming provider may be permitted to charge a fee to any viewer for any Region game, per approval of the Region Secretary, with approval of the Region Committee.

Section Streaming Rights

Class A

- **Region 1A** --- Contracts with NSPN.tv.
- **Region 2A** --- Contracts with NSPN.tv.
- **Region 3A** --- Contracts with Christensen Broadcasting (Pipestone).
- **Region 4A** --- Contracts with NSPN.tv.
- **Region 5A** --- Contracts primarily with NSPN.tv and R & J Broadcasting.
- **Region 6A** --- Contracts primarily with MidMN Sports
- **Region 7A** --- Contracts with NSPN.tv and WDIO.
- **Region 8A** --- Contracts primarily with KROX (Crookston), R & J Broadcasting (Ada) and Garden Valley Technologies.

Class AA

- **Region 1AA** --- Contracts with various streamers.
- **Region 2AA** --- Contracts primarily with LiveBarn.
- **Region 3AA** --- Contracts with NSPN.tv.
- **Region 4AA** --- Contracts with NSPN.tv.
- **Region 5AA** --- Contracts with NSPN.tv.
- **Region 6AA** --- Contracts with StarTribune.com.
- **Region 7AA** --- Contracts primarily with LiveBarn.
- **Region 8AA** --- Contracts with various streamers.

Member School Streaming

- **Section Tournaments**
 - Region Secretaries and the League approve streaming requests for Section contests.
 - Member Schools may be permitted to stream to a school-authorized YouTube account or other League-approved platforms. The school's Activities Director is the only individual who can make this request to the Region Secretary and the League.
- **League State Tournaments**--Member School streaming is not permitted at the State Tournament level.

Notes:

- School-based streaming that is not student-operated is treated like a commercial streamer. Rights fees will apply for video and/or audio streaming during section events and for audio-only during state tournament events.

Student and School Media Coverage Option

- The Student and School Media Coverage Option is the League's experiential learning access that permits up to two students and a Faculty Advisor to cover a team-bracketed state tournament event.
- Information gathered through this experiential learning option may only be used for the Member School's yearbook, newspaper or school/district communications and marketing materials.
- Student Media and their Faculty Advisor are not permitted to sell or distribute photographs that were obtained while a credentialed media member. Violation of this policy will result in instant forfeiture of credential and possible suspension of future Student and School Media Coverage option opportunities of the Member School.
- Eligible Student Media must be a student currently enrolled at the participating Member School.
- Student and School Media attendees must have a valid school-based email account.
- A Member School must have a school district supervisor onsite when Student Media are present. The supervisor must exclusively supervise the Student Media; the supervisor may not have other team and/or school duties during the tournament.
- Approved Student and School Media have the same access as professional media.
- A credentialed Student Member may report, write and do still photography at postseason events.
- Student and School Media must be properly credentialed through the League. Member School Activities Directors, or their administrative designee, must apply on behalf of their Student and School Media.
- If a Member School does not have students involved in a school-based media program, the Member School's Activities Director may apply on behalf of a School District Employee to assist in postseason coverage.
- Consult an onsite site media administrator for additional information and guidance.

Student and School Media, defined events:

The League's bracketed team state tournament events are included for the purpose of Student and School Media Coverage. This experiential learning option includes:

- Girls and Boys Team Tennis
- Girls and Boys Soccer
- Girls and Boys Volleyball
- Adapted Soccer, Adapted Hockey, Adapted Softball
- Football
- Dance Team

- Team Gymnastics
- Team Wrestling
- Girls and Boys Hockey
- Girls and Boys Basketball
- Robotics
- Softball
- Girls and Boys Lacrosse
- Baseball

Because of the significant number of participants involved, events not included in Student and School Media:

- Girls and Boys Individual Tennis
- Girls and Boys Cross Country Running
- Girls and Boys Swimming and Diving
- Girls and Boys Alpine Skiing
- Girls and Boys Nordic Skiing
- Individual Gymnastics
- Individual Wrestling
- Girls and Boys Swimming and Diving
- Adapted Bowling
- Speech, Debate, One-Act Play
- Music
- Visual Arts
- Badminton
- Girls and Boys Golf
- Girls and Boys Track and Field
- Clay Target

Team Video Operator

- Some athletic activities will permit a Team Video Operator to record a contest for instructional coaching and review. Each sport or activity will have further requirements and guidelines.
- This role is designated strictly for educational purposes and may not include player or coach interviews, videotaping in the locker room or distribution to social media platforms.
- The video may be posted on Hudl or other approved educational platforms.
- The Team Video Operator must follow all Media Rules and Policies.
- Live or delayed streaming of the video is prohibited.
- Film, videotape, DVD or digital files continue to be the school's property and may only be used for educational or school archival purposes.
- Commercial sponsorship of any kind is prohibited.
- Schools must not share films, videotapes, DVDs or digital files produced by the school with any other entity unless approved by the League.

Note --- Member Schools not competing in a postseason event may not videotape or film that event.

Violation of League policies will result in instant forfeiture of the media credential and potential suspension from future coverage or other appropriate actions.

Additional Guidelines and Information

Spectator Photography

- The League's spectator photography policies align with policies at venues.
- For most tournaments, spectators may bring cameras, including cell phones, that are basic point-and-shoot, consumer-grade cameras without detachable lenses. The lens may be no longer than two inches. Accessories such as monopods, selfie sticks, tripods, GoPro mounts and other attachments are not generally allowed. Spectators seeking to take photos should consult information in the Spectator Guide found on the League website for each tournament.
- Spectator photography locations are limited to the spectator seating area. Spectators must be respectful of other spectators and not impede them while photographing the event.
- Photos taken by spectators at postseason contests are for personal use and may not be sold.
- Only credentialed media are permitted to use professional-grade photography equipment at League postseason events.
- The use of flash equipment is not permitted.
- League-contracted photographers have enhanced access.

Video Footage Request Information

1. The licensing of League-owned archived footage may be available upon request.
2. To submit a request, include the following:
 - a. Contact information for requesting individual
 - b. Activity, year and specific game or match
 - c. Information about the intended use of the footage, including length and purpose
3. Send a request to the League at media@mshsl.org.

Non-media credentialed onsite access

- **Sponsorship Provision** -- Organizations that are contracted with the League may have onsite access for an event as part of their agreement.
- **Director's Provision** --- A provision granted by the League's Executive Director or Tournament Director for an approved group or organization.

Note: *These are not Approved Media Organizations and each group has limited access according to their provision.*

Advertising

1. Television, radio, print, streaming and/or other media may not use, or allow to be used, during the live presentation of the activity, rebroadcast thereof, or any printed accounts of the activity, any commercial nor may any of the broadcasters or writers refer to or use the words that imply a sponsorship of any tournament under the jurisdiction and control of the Minnesota State High School League, without the expressed written consent of the League.
2. Media may not allow advertisers to claim that they are sponsors of League State Tournament events.
3. Approved media must be able to produce, upon request of the League, advertisements used during a broadcast.
4. The League reserves the right to approve or reject advertisements for any product or service.
5. For any part of the broadcast which originates from the site of the activity, advertising of any mood-altering chemicals, such as alcohol, tobacco, vaping, CBD products or drugs of any kind is strictly prohibited.
 - a. Businesses whose primary purpose is selling alcoholic beverages, such as bars, taverns, liquor stores and those whose primary purpose is selling CBD products, etc., are prohibited from advertising on radio broadcasts during any League-sponsored events.
 - b. Combination businesses, such as restaurants or hotels, which dispense alcoholic beverages in a capacity secondary to its primary purpose, may advertise on radio broadcasts during League-sponsored events. However, no part of the advertising message may refer to the sale of alcoholic beverages, or to a bar, pub, tavern or other facility dispensing alcoholic beverages.
6. Any business or organization which is either directly or indirectly related to the gambling industry may advertise on radio broadcasts during League-sponsored events. However, no part of the advertising message may refer to the availability of gambling opportunities or promote gambling.
7. The League shall immediately exercise its right and responsibility to cancel all broadcast rights for an ongoing event and subsequent events of any media outlet station found to have violated the provisions of this advertising policy.

Drones

The MSHSL prohibits the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), or "drones," at interscholastic contests, events or scrimmages, whether such vehicles are operated by school representatives, parents, participants, spectators, or media representatives. The operation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at interscholastic activities, events, games or scrimmages may create an increased risk of injury to participants and spectators and may create unwarranted distractions that affect the management and enjoyment of those activities or events. A Member School may choose to use, or permit the use of, a pilotless, remote-controlled vehicle at school practices. That determination is left to the discretion of responsible administrators of the Member School. The MSHSL recommends that a Member School consult with the school's insurer and legal counsel and refer to FAA and local community regulations before using or permitting the use of such vehicles during school practices.

Approved by the League's Board of Directors on June 4, 2024

Information Requests

Request for information from the League must be submitted in writing to media@mshsl.org.

Downloadable Video Copies of State Tournament Events

Available for purchase through NSPN.tv at www.nspn.tv.

Glossary of Terms Used in this Document

Audio-Only Broadcast: An audio feed that may include a camera focused on the scoreboard.

Application: Organizations on the Approved Annual Media List may make applications for credentials for their media staff to cover League State Tournaments onsite.

- An application must be made for each state tournament event.
- An application consists of the names of media personnel applying to cover the tournament.

Approved Annual Media List: This list is comprised of media organizations that have registered for and been approved by the League for regular season and postseason events.

- Member School administrators and Region Secretaries use this list as guidance for permitting media to cover regular season and Section events.
- Organizations on the Approved Annual Media List may apply for State Tournament credentials for their media staff.

Broadcast: Video sent to a local-access or television broadcast channel.

Credentialed: Credentials are issued to media personnel whose organizations are on the Approved Annual Media List and have applied for credentials for their media staff to cover League State Tournaments onsite and been approved by the League.

Delayed Streaming: Placement on a website or other online hosting site of recorded audio and/or video after a contest has concluded.

Designation Letter: A Designation Letter is required annually from each school district that the Minnesota Community Media System serves. The League recognizes MCMS representatives as official educational television personnel for a Member School, providing such an assignment of responsibility from that school district's superintendent is submitted annually in writing and on file at the League Office.

Live Streaming: Placement on a website or other online hosting site of live audio and/or video directly from a venue while a contest is in progress.

Media Organization: An entity with a history of League coverage that produces news content which can only be obtained by the granting of a news media credential.

Media Personnel: An individual employed by or hired by a media organization.

Postseason: Includes all section and state contests, events, tournaments and meets.

Region Secretary: The official representative and contact person for all section events. Region Secretaries work in conjunction with the Region Committee to make determinations on section event policies and procedures.

Registration: An annual process for media organizations to register, be vetted and be placed on the Approved Media List.

- This approved list:
 - Is used by Member Schools and Regions to make determinations on media organization admittance for regular season and section tournaments.
 - Is a pre-requisite to applying for a media credential for League State Tournaments.

Regular Season Contests: Regular season contests in League activities are under the management of the host Member School. Using guidance from the League, the Member Schools make decisions on media attendance and coverage.

Section Contests: Postseason section contests in League activities are under the management of the Administrative Region managing the event. Using guidance from the League, the Administrative Region makes decisions on media attendance and coverage.

State Tournaments: State Tournament contests in League activities are under the management of the League. The League makes decisions on media attendance and coverage based on Board of Directors-approved policy.