

EAST MISSOURI CONFERENCE

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Revised June 3, 2008

Member Schools

Bowling Green R-I High School
Bowling Green, MO

Community R-VI High School
Ladsonia, MO

Montgomery County R-II High School
Montgomery City, MO

Silex R-I High School
Silex, MO

Wellsville-Middletown R-I High School
Wellsville, MO

Wright City R-II High School
Wright City, MO

Malvern B. Clopton High School
Clarksville, MO

Elsberry R-II High School
Elsberry, MO

Orchard Farm High School
St. Charles, MO

Van-Far R-I High School
Vandalia, MO

Winfield R-IV High School
Winfield, MO

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ARTICLE I - CONFERENCE NAME

This association shall be known as the East Missouri Conference.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote and encourage such interscholastic activities as will be of greatest benefit to the students of the member schools.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

The membership of this conference shall consist of secondary schools which are members of and adhere to the guidelines and rules established by the MSHSAA.

Section 2

The annual membership dues will be established at the September meeting and shall consist of an amount necessary to finance the activities of the conference for that year. In the event a deficit occurs, a special assessment may be levied by a majority vote and prorated equally among conference members. Annual dues are payable on or before November 1, of each calendar year. A statement will be mailed to each school prior to this date. Dues are set at \$550.00 annually.

- A. A record of expenditures for the current year and a request for funds for the coming year shall be submitted to the executive committee at the spring meeting.
- B. All requests for funds shall be submitted on the EMO Conference Planning/Budget Form.
- C. Budget requests shall be discussed and acted upon at the summer meeting of the executive committee.

Section 3

Schools may be admitted to Probationary Membership Status in the conference by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the member schools.

Section 4

Schools admitted to the conference shall be placed on probationary status for a period not to exceed three years. Membership status is gained by a three-fourths vote of the member schools at any time during the probationary period. Member schools shall declare the conditions of probation at the time of probationary admission.

Section 5

A school may be expelled from the conference by a three-fourths vote of the remaining schools after charges in writing have been filed with the secretary by a member school.

Section 6

Any school which desires to drop out of the Conference must officially notify the Conference President at least two years in advance. A school may drop out at any time by a three-fourths vote of the remaining schools in the Conference.

ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee shall consist of the High School principal or any person designated by the superintendent of schools. The executive committee will report to the superintendents of the EMO Conference schools.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

The officers of this conference shall be the president and vice-president and will be rotated alphabetically by school name. Officers will be appointed at the spring meeting, held the third Wednesday in March. The vice-president will assume the duties of president the following year. New officers will assume their duties at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Section 1

Conference President - The president shall call and preside at all meetings. He shall have the power to appoint all committees. He shall provide each school district with an agenda seven school days prior to each executive committee meeting.

Section 2

Vice-President - The vice-president shall also serve as the conference secretary and in the absence of the president shall have the full power of the president. If for any cause the office of president becomes vacant, he shall keep a record of all meetings and a record of all other activities as shall be decided by the executive committee. The secretary shall make reports to the schools that are necessary to keep the schools informed as to the activities and business of the conference. Two copies of the minutes will be sent to each school within one (1) week following the meeting.

Section 3

Treasurer - The treasurer shall maintain a checking account for the EMO Conference. This is to include making deposits and the paying of bills as approved by the executive committee. This office shall be assigned to a school for an indefinite period of time of not less than three (3) years. If the designated school, at the end of the three year period, does not desire to continue as treasurer, this request shall be submitted to the executive committee and a new school shall be chosen to serve as treasurer for a minimum three year period.

The treasurer of the conference shall be the Montgomery County principal or his designee from that school. He/she will be responsible for the purchase of conference trophies and awards. The treasurer of the conference will be compensated \$250.00 for his/her work.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

Section 1

The EMO Conference regularly scheduled meetings are set for the third Wednesday in September and the third Wednesday in March. In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings, the executive committee shall meet on the third Wednesday in November and January and during the first week of June. Each school shall send at least one representative to the executive committee meetings. This representative shall be the principal or his designee.

Section 2

The president shall have the power to call a special meeting at any time and must call a meeting at the request of any member of the executive committee. The meeting must be held within fifteen (15) days of the notification.

ARTICLE VII - STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing committees may be established by the executive committee in all areas recognized by the conference. Representatives shall be one person from each school participating in the various activities. Each committee shall elect officers from its membership. The committees shall present recommendations to the executive committee for approval.

ARTICLE VIII - QUORUM

A quorum shall be considered to be no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the member schools.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

The constitution may be amended by a favorable vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the member schools after a proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the vice-president/secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting at which it is to be acted upon. All voting relative to amending the constitution and the membership of the conference shall be by ballot.

ARTICLE X - RATIFICATION

This constitution shall become effective by approval of three-fourths (3/4) of the member schools.

ARTICLE XI - TROPHIES, MEDALS, AWARDS

Section 1

Specific awards given for athletic achievement will be defined in each sport. Awards given in extra-curricular activities will be comparable to the athletic awards.

Section 2

Any changes, additions or deletions to the awards schedule MUST have PRIOR approval from the executive committee.

Section 3

Certificates of recognition will be awarded to students that earn conference honors. No awards will be given in any competition below varsity level.

Section 4

EMO Conference Certificates will be awarded to All-Conference Choir and Band selections.

Section 5

The presentation of conference championship plaques in the team sports of Football, Softball, and Volleyball will occur at the November Directors' meeting. The presentation of championship plaques in Basketball will be made at the March dinner meeting. The presentation in Baseball will be made at the June Directors' meeting. The presentation for Cross Country, Academic Bowl, Track and Golf will be made at the conclusion of the event.

GENERAL BYLAWS

1. All teachers who are employees of conference schools shall be admitted to any conference contest upon presentation of their membership receipt to their official teachers' organization or by establishing proof that they are a teacher in a conference school.
2. Cheerleaders of participating schools, in uniform, shall be admitted to athletic contests in which their school is participating.
3. Each school shall receive yearly, thirty (30) conference passes. The conference president will be responsible for the printing and issuing of passes to each school prior to August 15, annually. (These are intended for spouses, scouts, drivers, etc.) The color of the passes will change annually.
4. All varsity athletic contests must be scheduled by the conference scheduling committee, and approved by the conference. Changes may be made by mutual consent, but must be reported to the conference secretary.
5. All conference contests must be under contract and include a \$100 guarantee for each contest. Conference contests and tournaments take precedence over all non-conference contests.
6. The decision to postpone scheduled games because of inclement weather or necessary closings due to unforeseen or uncontrolled reasons, is left to the discretion of the officials of the schools involved. Likewise it shall be their responsibility to re-schedule the game or games involved. Should it occur that officials of schools having postponed games cannot agree on a re-scheduled date, the following procedure shall be used:
 - A. All games affecting first or second place standings in the conference must be played.
 - B. Any school, including those involved, may request the conference president to take action concerning re-scheduling games affecting first or second place conference standings.
 - C. The president shall appoint a board of arbitration consisting of five administrators, no more than one from a school, to meet within five days. Schools involved in the arbitration shall be represented.
 - D. The schools shall submit all available dates, including Saturdays, to the board.
 - E. The board shall then make a decision as to when the game shall be scheduled.
 - F. In the event either school does not play the re-scheduled game, it shall be considered a breach of contract.

- G. Justifiably forfeited games shall be counted in the standings. A board of arbitration shall determine justification in case of a protest.
7. Conference schools shall host conference meetings in alphabetical order, schools will be permitted to exchange responsibility provided that sufficient notice is given to the conference secretary in order to allow all schools to be notified.
 8. The athletic director of each school is to attend the fall, winter and spring athletic directors meeting. They will meet the Wednesday prior to the fall and spring conference meetings and the Wednesday prior to the November meeting of the Executive committee. It shall be the responsibility of the AD from the Conference Presidents' school to provide a copy of the minutes from this meeting to the Conference President. These minutes will then become an agenda item for the Executive Committee at their next meeting.
 9. The following groups will be represented at the two conference dinner meetings:
 - A. Superintendents
 - B. Administrators
 - C. Athletic directors
 - D. Vocal music department
 - E. Instrumental music department
 - F. Academic Bowl sponsors
 - G. Speech department
 - H. Other groups may participate by invitation.
 10. The East Missouri Conference activities pertain to students in grades 9 through 12.
 11. Competition on the junior varsity level among conference schools will be limited to freshmen and sophomores. If, however, a school is unable to field a team due to lack of players, that school's principal should contact the opposing school's principal to determine if other arrangements can be made so that the contest can be played.
 12. The EMO Conference schools have a wide disparity of enrollment, programs and traditions. It is recognized that each community has special or traditional interests, needs and restrictions. However, to establish a reasonable amount of continuity in the activities we offer the youth of our communities as a member of the conference, the following guidelines will apply to all schools.
 - A. EMO Conference schools will participate in athletics, vocal and instrumental music, speech, and academic bowl.
 - B. EMO Conference schools will participate in at least one of the conference recognized sports for both boys and girls in each of the seasons; fall, winter and spring. Schools do

not have to participate in each season where a conference champion is crowned; however, they must participate in at least one of the recognized sports. The recognized sports, in season, are:

<u>Season</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
Fall	Cross Country	Football Softball Volleyball
Winter	Basketball	Basketball
Spring	Track	Track Baseball Golf

- C. Any sports that have at least five (5) schools participating in that sport will be considered a sport in which a conference champion will be crowned and All-Conference honors will be acknowledged. The conference president or his AD will notify the AD of all schools stating the time, place, and date of All Conference Selections. The schools must participate in the sport in the season in which MSHSAA designates the state championship will be decided.
- D. Bowling Green will be designated as the host site for the volleyball and football all-conference selection meetings. Silex will be designated as the host site for the softball, basketball, and baseball all-conference selection meetings.
- E. All-Conference nominees will be mailed or faxed to the host school within 3 days of the selection meeting date. The host school will notify any school failing to send nominations prior to the selection meeting date. Any school that does not have representation at the selection meeting will be contacted by phone and given the opportunity to attend. A school that does not have representation at the selection meeting will lose voting privileges and their nominees will be removed from all-conference selection consideration.

(Emergency Clause) - In case of an emergency in route to the meeting resulting in the coach being unable to arrive or unable to contact the meeting in session, the school may petition the EMO Board of Directors (Conference Principals) to consider athletes for an add-on to the original selection list after the fact. These athletes may be considered for addition, but not replacement of those voted on at the coaches meeting. A majority of the Board of Directors must vote to include the athlete. If an emergency occurs NOT in route, the coach will be expected to send an emergency replacement.
- F. The conference champion in a sport will receive a trophy (at present it is an appropriate plaque purchased from Merkels). This award is to be presented to the head coach of that sport by the superintendent of the school serving as president of the conference at either the fall or spring dinner meeting. The winning coaches will receive an invitation to attend the appropriate dinner to be recognized.

- G. Failure to comply with conference regulations in any of the recognized sports or activities will result in the following:
1. First year the school will be placed on one (1) year probation for not participating.
 2. Second consecutive year for the same infraction the school will be ineligible for ANY conference championship.
 3. Third consecutive year for the same infraction the school may be expelled from the conference by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the member schools.
 4. In the event a conference school is unable to participate in a designated conference activity for more than one year due to budgetary constraints, the board of directors may, with three-fourths vote, waive this provision.
13. Athletic Directors are requested to forward copies of their teams schedules to other EMO Conference member schools prior to the beginning of each sports season.

CROSS-COUNTRY

1. The conference will sponsor a cross-country meet for both boys and girls.
 - A. The meet will be run according to MSHSAA rules.
 - B. Medals will be awarded to the first fifteen (15) places.
 - C. The first five (5) runners from each school to finish shall be counted in determining team score.
 - D. Schools which enter less than five (5) runners, or schools which have fewer than five (5) runners finish, will not be eligible for a team place; however, individuals from such schools may earn individual places and awards.
 - E. Boys teams and individuals will run in the boys race.
 - F. Girls teams and individuals will run in the girls race.
 - G. All runners will wear uniforms while participating.
2. The conference meet shall be under the direction of the host school.
3. The meet director shall be responsible for obtaining judges, timers, starter and other services as necessary for conducting the meet.
4. The cross-country schedules shall be drawn up at the spring athletic directors meeting. The date of the conference meet shall also be set at this time. The start of the meet will be 4:30 p.m.
5. There will be a conference cross-country team selected at the end of the season. The top seven (7) finishers in the boys division and the girls division at the conference meet will be designated as the All-Conference Cross-Country team.
6. The distance run in all meets will be the same distance run in the District and State level of competition.

SOFTBALL

1. The softball scheduling committee shall consist of the athletic directors representing each school of the conference that participates in softball.
2. The conference schedule will be a double round robin as long as there are not more than five (5) schools participating. If more than five (5) schools participate, the scheduling committee will decide to either switch to a single round robin or continue with the double round robin format.
3. The starting time for all conference varsity games shall be 5:00 P.M. An alternate starting time may be used if mutually agreed to by both schools.
4. If a junior varsity game is played on the same night, it will follow the varsity game and consist of five (5) innings and/or a maximum of one and one-half hours whichever comes first. If the one and one-half hour time period ends in the middle of an inning the teams will finish that inning. There will be a maximum of 15 minutes allowed between games for a “warm up” (7 1/2 minutes per team). The 15 minute warm up time is not included in the one and one-half hour game time.
5. The home team shall employ two (2) officials for each game; both of which must be a registered MSHSAA official.
6. All conference games affecting first or second place must be played. Any school involved re-scheduling games must give priority to conference games over non-conference games. If a school has to re-schedule more than one (1) conference game, priority will be given to games which have a direct impact on the first or second place conference standings.

SOFTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTION

1. The All-Conference team will be selected at a meeting of the conference coaches on the Thursday, following the District tournament, at Silex High School. The time of the meeting will be at 7:00 P.M.
2. The meeting will be presided over by the representative of the conference champion school.
3. Each coach will submit, in advance, his/her list of nominations. When all nominations have been received, the athletic director of the host school will compile a list of all nominations.
4. Each coach will give information pertaining to their nominated players at the meeting.
5. First team all-conference will consist of the first nine players while the second team will consist of the second nine players. Any student receiving a vote for the first or second team will become an automatic recipient of an honorable mention award.
6. Coaches may not vote for their own players.
7. The results of the balloting will be given to the principal, or their designee, of the host school for certification. Upon certification of the selection results, the principal of the host school will notify the principals of the schools involved, along with a release date for the all-conference selection. **THIS INFORMATION SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL FINAL APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN.**

FOOTBALL

1. A single round robin schedule will be played.
2. A minimum of (4) registered officials shall be employed for all varsity contests, a minimum of three (3) officials must be used for junior varsity and freshman contests.
3. Conference varsity contests are to be played on Friday night of the week scheduled, commencing at 7:00 PM..
4. The football scheduling committee shall consist of athletic directors representing each participating football school of the conference.
5. The order of finish in the conference standings will be determined by the won/lost records of each school based on conference games.
6. If a junior varsity and/or freshman game cannot be played, the school must make every effort to notify the opposing school as soon as possible.
7. The exchange of game films should be limited to helping other conference schools and not aiding a non-conference school playing within our conference.

FOOTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTION

1. The all-conference team will be selected on the first Monday following the tenth playing date of the regular season. The meeting will be conducted by the conference champion's representative and will be held at Bowling Green High School.
2. All-conference selections will include first team (offense and defense), a second team (offense and defense), a placekicker and a punter. Any student receiving a vote for the first or second team will become an automatic recipient of an honorable mention award.
3. Each coach will nominate by position and no coach will be allowed to vote for their own players.
4. Guidelines for nominations and selection are as follows:

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Positions</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Positions</u>
Wingback/Flanker	1		
End	2	End	2
Tackle	2	Linemen	3
Center	1	Linebackers	3
Guard	2	Cornerbacks	2
Quarterback	1	Strong Safety	1
Running back	3	Free Safety	1
Punter	1	Place Kicker	1

5. The results of the balloting will be given to the principal, or their designee, of the host school for certification. Upon certification of the selection results, the principal of the host school will notify the principals of the schools involved, along with a release date for the all-conference selection. THIS INFORMATION SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL FINAL APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN.

VOLLEYBALL

1. A double round robin schedule will be played beginning with the 2009-2010 school year.
2. Two registered officials must be employed for all varsity contests.
3. Starting times for varsity and junior varsity contests shall be 6:00 P.M. .
4. If a junior varsity and/or freshman contest cannot be played, the school must make every effort to notify the opposing school as soon as possible.
5. A match will be the best two out of three games played - extra games are NOT to be played.
6. The order of finish in the conference standings will be determined by the won/lost records of each school based on conference games.
7. The exchange of game films should be limited to helping other conference schools and not aiding a non-conference school playing within our conference.
8. The all-conference team will be selected on the Saturday preceding district play. The meeting will be conducted by the conference champion's representative and will be held at Bowling Green High School.
9. All-conference selections will include six (6) first team selections and six (6) second team selections only.
10. The results of the balloting will be given to the principal, or their designee, of the host school for certification. Upon certification of the selection results, the principal of the host school will notify the principals of the schools involved, along with a release date for the all-conference selection. **THIS INFORMATION SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL FINAL APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN.**

BASKETBALL

1. The basketball scheduling committee shall consist of athletic directors representing each school of the conference.
2. The committee shall prepare a basketball schedule for both boys and girls to be presented to the conference for approval. All official EMO Conference games will be played on a varsity/junior varsity format unless by mutual consent, both schools should desire to play a varsity girls/varsity boys format.
3. Beginning with the 2008-09 basketball season, basketball will be played in two divisions with the six largest conference schools in the larger division. Each division will play a double round robin (home/away) within their division. Each division will be required to play at least one school in the other division each year. All non-division conference schools will be played at least once within a five year period. Conference division championships will be determined by play within each division. Non-division play will not be a factor in awarding conference championships.
4. Junior varsity games will precede the varsity contests with the first contest starting at 6:00 P.M.
5. The home school shall provide six (6) practice balls for use by the visiting team.
6. In all conference contests, the home uniform shall be of a light color and the visiting team shall wear a contrasting color.
7. All conference games affecting first or second place must be played (see Article VI, sections a through g). All other conference contests shall be rescheduled at the discretion of the participating schools. Any school involved in rescheduling conference games must give priority to games which have a direct impact on the first or second place conference standings.
8. If a junior varsity contest cannot be played, the opposing school must be notified as far in advance as possible. Special arrangements may be made for the contest to be played.

BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTION

1. The meeting shall be held at Silex High School before all 1A-4A district selections are made. The meeting will be conducted by the representative of the conference champion's school.
2. The time of the meeting will be 9:30 A.M. unless otherwise arranged. All schools will be notified if a time change is made.
3. The athletic director from the conference champion's school will conduct the meeting and be responsible for all procedures and voting to be done in compliance with conference policy. It is recommended that the girls and boys coaches be informed of the rules in one group meeting before breaking into two groups.
4. Each coach will be given the opportunity to nominate his/her own players for consideration. Each coach is responsible for providing individual statistics for players that are nominated. No coach shall vote for his/her own players.
5. Ten (10) players may be selected from each division; no more than five for first team, five for the second team.
6. The procedure for breaking ties will be decided by the coaches at the meeting.
7. The results will be given to the athletic director conducting the meeting. He/she will be responsible for contacting the principal of the president's school for approval. The results shall be available for release the following Monday. A written copy of the results shall be forwarded to the president's school.
8. It shall be the responsibility of the athletic director of the host school to solicit information from the coaches as to the media to be contacted.
9. The results of the balloting will be given to the principal, or their designee, of the host school for certification. Upon certification of the selection results, the principal of the host school will notify the principals of the schools involved, along with a release date for the all-conference selection. **THIS INFORMATION SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL FINAL APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN.**

TRACK

1. The conference will sponsor a high school track meet each year for both boys and girls with the date being set at the September athletic directors meeting.
2. Each school will be limited to two (2) participants in each event except relays, which will be limited to one team.
3. The meet will be run under the same rules that regulate the MSHSAA outdoor meet (the 300m hurdles will be run at the lower standard).
4. Six (6) places will be scored in each event.
5. Medals will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th place in all events including relays.
6. The meet director (host school) shall be responsible for obtaining judges, timers, official starter, and other services necessary for conducting the meet.

TRACK ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTION

1. The results of the conference track meet will determine the selection of the all-conference team for both boys and girls. The winner of each event will be designated as recipient of the first team all-conference honors. An outstanding sprinter, outstanding long distance runner, and outstanding field events person will be selected for both boys and girls.
2. If a tie occurs for first place, those tied competitors will all receive conference honors. In relay races, the four competitors actually running on the winning team will receive honors.
3. Second place finishers will be recognized as 2nd Team All Conference.
4. Six Specialty Awards (hurdler, sprinter, middle distance, distance, thrower, jumper) will be selected by the conference coaches at the meet.
5. The final results will be given to the principal, or their designee, of the host school for certification. Upon certification of the selection results, the principal of the host school will notify the principals of the schools involved, along with a release date for the all-conference selection. **THIS INFORMATION SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL FINAL APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN.**

GOLF

1. Teams will be comprised of five (5) players with the low four rounds being counted during the match.
2. The conference will sponsor a golf meet provided that at least five (5) conference schools participate.
3. The date of this meet will be set at the September athletic director' s meeting.
4. Medals shall be awarded to the top eight (8) individual scores and a plaque to the first place team.

BASEBALL

1. The conference schedule will be a double round robin as long as there are not more than five (5) schools participating. If more than five (5) schools participate, the scheduling committee will decide to either switch to a single round robin or continue with the double round robin format.
2. A plaque will be awarded to the regular season champion.
3. The home team will employ at least two (2) officials, both of which must be a registered official.
4. The order of finish in the conference standings will be determined by the won/lost record of each school based on conference games only.
5. When varsity and junior varsity contests are scheduled on the same date, the varsity contest shall be played first.
6. The starting time for all conference varsity games shall be 5:00 P.M. An alternate starting time may be used if mutually agreed to by both schools.
7. If a junior varsity game is played on the same night, it will follow the varsity game and consist of five (5) innings and/or a maximum of one and one-half hours whichever comes first. If the one and one-half hour time period ends in the middle of an inning the teams will finish that inning. There will be a maximum of 15 minutes (not included in the one and one-half hour playing time) allowed between games for a “warm up” (7 1/2 minutes per team).
8. During the 2009 Spring season, the conference will pilot a non-metal bat format. All conference games will be played using wood or wood composite bats.

BASEBALL ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTION

1. The All-Conference team will be selected at a meeting of the conference coaches on a date mutually agreed upon by the baseball coaches. The meeting will be held at Silex High School.
2. The meeting will be presided over by the athletic director or coach of the conference champion's school.
3. Each coach will submit, by secret ballot, his/her list of nominations. When all nominations have been received, the presiding coach will compile a list of all nominations.
4. Each coach will then give information pertaining to their nominated players.
5. First team all-conference will consist of the first nine players while the second team will consist of the second nine players. Any student receiving a vote for the first or second team will become an automatic recipient of an honorable mention award.
6. Coaches may not vote for their own players.
7. The results of the balloting will be given to the principal, or their designee, of the host school for certification. Upon certification of the selection results, the principal of the host school will notify the principals of the schools involved, along with a release date for the all-conference selection. **THIS INFORMATION SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL FINAL APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN.**

SPEECH

Purpose

The purpose of interscholastic speech and debate is to supplement educational experiences that contribute to the enrichment of the secondary language arts program. The conference currently sponsors two activities; a speech workshop and a speech tournament.

Conference Speech Workshop

The purpose of the workshop is to demonstrate various forensic events to high school students. The workshop will be held near the end of September or early October. The host school will be determined on a rotating basis. Host school responsibilities are as follows:

1. Present workshop demonstrations.
2. Notify conference schools of time, date and location.
3. Provide space for workshop.
4. Provide refreshments.

EMO CONFERENCE SPEECH TOURNAMENT

The conference tournament will be open to all conference schools. The tournament is to be held the second Saturday in February, at the site of the school that hosted the fall workshop.

Areas of Competition

1. Creative Original
 - a. The material must have been written by the student in the year in which he is competing.
 - b. Time - up to 8 minutes, including introduction.
 - c. Script must be used.
 - d. Feet remain stationary - focuses may be used but are not necessary.
 - e. Gestures may be used, but not to excess.
 - f. Introduction must be given and memorized.

2. Dramatic Interpretation
 - a. Cutting must come from published play, novel or short story.
 - b. Must be memorized.
 - c. Introduction must be given.
 - d. No costumes or props used.
 - e. Time - no more than 10 minutes including introduction.
 - f. Contestants shall be required to stand in place except for minor stance changes.
 - g. Focuses must be used.
 - h. Contents of the cutting must be of a serious nature.

3. Duet Acting
 - a. Two students presenting a memorized scene from a play, short story or novel.
 - b. No make-up, costumes or props of any kind. Stage furniture is limited to one table and two chairs.
 - c. Time - not more than 10 minutes including introduction.

4. Duet Improvisational Acting
 - a. Two students will draw three topics, put two of them back and will have 15 minutes to prepare a scene complete with definite beginning, middle and end.
 - b. No make-up, costumes or props of any kind. Stage furniture is limited to one table and two chairs.
 - c. Time - 4 to 6 minutes, including introduction.

5. Humorous Interpretation
 - a. Cutting must come from a published play, novel or short story.
 - b. Must be memorized.
 - c. Introduction shall be given.
 - d. No costumes or props are to be used.
 - e. Time - no more than 10 minutes including introduction.
 - f. Focuses must be used.
 - g. Contents of the cutting must be of a humorous nature.

6. Poetry Reading
 - a. Must read published poems.
 - b. Must be read from script, although material should be well in mind.
 - c. Time - no more than 8 minutes including introduction.

7. Prosed Reading
 - a. Must read published literature.
 - b. Must be read from script, although material should be well in mind.
 - c. Time - no more than 8 minutes including introduction.
 - d. The material shall be selected from any printed or published source other than plays and shall include less than 50% dialogue.

8. Story Telling
 - a. Time - no more than 8 minutes including introduction.
 - b. Narrated in the contestant's own words without notes.
 - c. The story shall be told from a seated position on a chair or stool.

9. Radio Speaking
 - a. Radio copy must not be over 24 hours old.
 - b. No commercials.
 - c. Time - five minutes.

10. Extemporaneous Speaking
 - a. Time - five to seven minutes.
 - b. Topic will be from current news magazines and newspapers.
 - c. Students are responsible for bringing their own research materials.
 - d. Students will draw 3 topics thirty minutes prior to the assigned speaking time. He/she shall select one and immediately return the other two topics.
 - e. Round 1 of the preliminary competition shall be devoted exclusively to foreign matters. Round 2 of the preliminary competition shall be devoted exclusively to domestic matters. Final Round shall be equally divided between foreign and domestic matters.
 - f. No consultations are to occur during the preparation time.

11. Original Oratory
 - a. Student shall deliver a persuasive speech of his/her own composition with no more than 100 words of quoted material.
 - b. Speech must be delivered without notes.
 - c. Time - 10 minutes.
 - d. A typed copy of the speech shall be presented to the tournament manager at the time of registration the day of the tournament.

12. Pantomime
 - a. Student will draw three topics, put two of them back and will have 15 minutes to prepare a scene complete with definite beginning, middle and end.
 - b. Stage furniture is limited to one chair and one table.
 - c. No costumes, no props and no vocalization.
 - d. Time - 2 to 4 minutes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Not more than eight (8) people per section in each round (if possible).
2. Coaches should not judge their own students except in emergencies.
3. All material used must not have been used the previous year by the same student in the same Category.
4. If a student is double entered, it is his/her responsibility to make the judges aware of the fact - if he/she doesn't; the judge is not required to wait.
5. One judge per section for preliminary rounds and a minimum of two judges per section for final rounds.
6. Failure to comply with rules will result in disqualification.
7. A timekeeper with time cards will be present in all sections of each round (if possible).
8. Judges are required to rate and rank each performance. No two students are to receive the same ranking.
9. No conferring of judges during any round.
10. No oral critiques are to be given to the student. Adhere to the time schedule.
11. Judges will return the marked ballots to the tabulation room following the completion of each round.
12. All contest managers are to provide each school with a record of the tabulation sheets.
13. Contest managers will advance contestants to the final round on the basis of ranking. Only in case of a tie will the rating be used.

Name	1st 2nd	2nd round	Total
Sara	1/30	2/25	3/55
Joan	2/26	1/30	3/56
Susie	3/20	3/20	6/40

In the example above, Joan would advance over Sara because of a higher rating total.

14. All students are to be known by a code. The school code lists should not be made available to anyone but those running the tabulation room.
15. All participants should have available a copy of the original work of the selection in case the material is challenged.
16. There shall be a limit of two entries per school per category.
17. There will be a limit of two entries per student.
18. In case of a tie in the final round rankings and final round points, preliminary round points will be used to determine the winner.
19. Students may enter only one draw event.

Selection of Judges

1. The host school will be responsible for providing judges.

Awards

1. Medals will be awarded for first, second and third place in each event. Each school shall receive All-Conference Certificates for speech.
2. Costs for the awards will be assumed through the conference budget.

ACADEMIC BOWL

Academic Bowl (Scholar Quiz)

The Academic Bowl for a given year is hosted by the next school on the rotation following the chairperson's school. The date is agreed upon by the participating EMO schools and usually falls on the first or second Tuesday in April.

The Academic Bowl team will consist of no more than 8 students. Schools should be prepared to provide two students to assist with scoring or timekeeping.

Summary of Rules

1. A match will consist of 4 quarters. The first and third consist of 15 toss-up questions worth 10 points each. The second and fourth quarters consist of 10 toss-ups with bonus questions. The team successfully answering the toss-up will have first opportunity to answer the bonus questions. The opposing team will have the opportunity to respond to any unanswered bonus question. Each bonus is worth 5 points (20 points possible).
2. There will be a 5-minute break at half-time.
3. Substitutes may be made during the half. Also, each coach can call two time-outs per half, one of 60 and one of 30 seconds. Either coach can substitute during these time-outs. Coaches can confer with their teams during the 60 second time-outs. Only substitutions are allowed during the 30 second time-outs.
4. Team members can collaborate on bonus question responses. Only the captain may respond.
5. Following completion of a question, a response must be made within 10 seconds. If a player buzzes in and is recognized, he/she must initiate a meaningful response within 3 seconds. The response must be completed within 10 seconds of question completion. An exception—for math and spelling response, 15 seconds are allowed for cogitation following completion of the question.
6. If a question is interrupted by a responder who provides an incorrect response, the question will be continued for the other team. If both give an incorrect response, the correct response will be given by the reader.
7. "Blitzing" refers to giving a 2-part response to a question. If both parts are relevant and one part provides the correct response, the answer will be accepted.
8. Only toss-up questions count toward the recognition of EMO conference individual awards. Awards will be based on average points per match.

FOR A COMPLETE EXPLANATION, SEE THE CURRENT MSHSAA ACADEMIC RULES BOOK.

Awards

A first place plaque shall be given to the winning school. Medals will be awarded to the top eight (8) scorers and they will be designated as the All-Conference Academic Bowl Team, with the top four designated as the first team and the bottom four designated as the second team.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Purpose

The EMO Conference Band shall provide an opportunity to recognize outstanding instrumental music students and to allow students of similar tastes and interests to participate in a cooperative effort to perform fine musical literature. Conference students and their teachers will have an opportunity to observe and work with a master musician as he/she prepares the literature to be performed. The conference band activity will stress cooperation and teamwork among conference schools, bands, directors and students.

Description

The EMO Conference shall sponsor a Conference High School Band. The Conference Band shall be composed of outstanding instrumental music students representing each of the conference schools.

An area college/university music specialist or an outstanding school music director shall act as the guest clinician to direct the band in rehearsal and in concert performance. The EMO Conference Band shall perform concerts for the general public.

Eligibility

The EMO Conference Band shall be composed of students in grades 9 through 12. Conference band members must be currently enrolled in the instrumental music program in their member schools. Eligible students must meet the minimum academic requirements of MSHSAA and the member school.

Selection

Each school is guaranteed six selections with up to 25% of each school's band selected. Students will participate in two days of conference band activities which include auditions, rehearsals, and a final concert. The chairperson shall use the names of alternates to balance and supplement the instrumentation of the conference band. The band director of each member school should keep in mind the necessity for balanced instrumentation when students are selected for conference band membership.

Funding

The chairperson of the EMO Conference band directors shall request, on an annual basis, funds from the EMO Conference executive committee to provide for the conference band activity. The funds shall pay for the fees and expenses of the guest clinician. All other expenses (phone calls, postage, music, etc.) shall be borne by the individual member schools.

Scheduling

The EMO Conference Band activity shall occur annually on the first Saturday after the first Monday of February and on the Thursday immediately following the previously noted Saturday.

The Saturday program shall begin at 9:00 A.M. with auditions for chairs and placement of students in bands. The band shall rehearse until 3:00 P.M.

The Thursday agenda shall begin with rehearsals at 10:00 A.M. and will conclude at 5:00 P.M. A concert, open to the public, will be performed on Thursday night at 7:00 P.M. No admission will be charged.

Chairperson

The chairperson shall act as a liaison between the guest clinician and conference band directors in regard to such matters as the auditions, music, rehearsals, equipment and facilities. The chairperson is ultimately responsible for organizing the EMO Conference Band activity. The chairperson may assign tasks to be performed by other member band directors to facilitate the organization and planning of the conference band activity.

Hosting School

The responsibility for hosting the EMO Conference Band activities shall rotate annually following an alphabetical listing of member schools. The same school shall host the rehearsal and the evening concert. Should a member school not be able to host the activity in the year designated, that school shall be responsible for arranging an alternate host and accepting financial responsibility for any expense incurred.

VOCAL MUSIC

Purpose

The EMO Conference Choir shall provide an opportunity to recognize outstanding vocal music students and to allow students of similar tastes and interests to participate in a cooperative effort to perform fine musical literature. Conference students and their teachers will have an opportunity to observe and work with a master musician as he/she prepares the literature to be performed. The conference choir activity will stress cooperation and teamwork among conference schools, choirs, directors and students.

Description

The EMO Conference shall sponsor a Conference High School Choir. The Conference Choir shall be composed of outstanding vocal music students representing each of the conference schools.

An area college/university music specialist or an outstanding school music director shall act as the guest clinician to direct the choir in rehearsal and in concert performance. The EMO Conference Choir shall perform concerts for the general public.

Eligibility

The EMO Conference Choir shall be composed of students in grades 9 through 12. Conference choir members must be currently enrolled in the vocal music program in their member schools. Eligible students must meet the minimum academic requirements of MSHSAA and the member school.

Selection

The vocal director of each member school shall submit a list of four, six, eight, twelve, with a maximum of sixteen names to the chairperson. Students should form a balanced group of the four standard vocal parts (soprano, alto, tenor and bass). In the event a balanced group cannot be acquired, the director of that school should immediately notify the host school director to arrange for alternates to be provided by other conference schools. Every effort should be made to form a balanced group from each participating school.

Funding

The chairperson of the EMO Conference choir directors shall request, on an annual basis, fund from the EMO Conference executive committee to provide for the conference choir activity. The funds shall pay for the fees and expenses of the guest clinician. All other expenses (phone calls, postage, music, etc.) shall be borne by the individual member schools.

Scheduling

The program shall begin with rehearsals starting at 10:00 A.M. and concluding at 5:00 P.M. A concert will be performed that night for the general public, beginning at 7:00 P.M. No admission will be charged. Member schools, who desire to do so, may perform at the concert. Performances shall be in alphabetical order by school, and no more than three selections may be performed by any one school. The conference choir shall perform last at the concert.

Chairperson

The chairperson shall act as a liaison between the guest clinician and conference choir directors in regard to such matters as the auditions, music, rehearsals, equipment and facilities. The chairperson is ultimately responsible for organizing the EMO Conference Choir activity. The chairperson may assign tasks to be performed by other member choir directors to facilitate the organization and planning of the conference choir activity.

Hosting School

The responsibility for hosting the EMO Conference choir activities shall rotate annually following an accepting financial responsibility for any expense incurred.

ACADEMIC ALL CONFERENCE

1. Each sport that is recognized as a conference sport will name an Academic All Conference Team.
2. Students must meet the following criteria to qualify for the Academic all Conference Team:
 - a. Earned a varsity letter in a conference sport.
 - B. Have at least a 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) cumulative Grade Point Average. Freshmen will use the most recently completed grading cycle.
3. At the conclusion of the fall, winter, and spring seasons, the Athletic Director from each conference school will submit a list of qualified athletes by sport to the conference president.
4. Each school will present EMO All Conference certificates to the qualified athletes.