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XC Coaches,

As you know, the MHSAA has decided to shorten the cross country season next year by one week; that is, the final meet will be run the last Saturday in October. This change has angered many coaches; MITCA does not support this change. Who supports this change are 70% of MHSAA member principals and athletic directors. It is this group of people who significantly influence decisions by the MHSAA. It was the vote of that group which outweighed this MITCA president's arguments against the change at last January's MHSAA Track and Field Rules Meeting and at this past summer's Representative Council Retreat where the vote for change was made.

Given the affront that this decision makes to the spirit and culture of cross country, it is clear that MITCA does not significantly influence decisions at the MHSAA.

As coaches, the principle way to influence MHSAA decisions is to let your administration know how your position on issues. Not many administrators take time to poll their staff regarding issues directly related to a sport. It is therefore up to us, the coaches, to get the ear of our administrators.

The annual MITCA cross country clinic will be held Friday and Saturday, November 10 and 11 at the Ypsilanti Marriott. A business meeting is scheduled as part of Friday's agenda. Nate Hampton has been invited to speak at that meeting. It is my hope that frustrations regarding this date change can be managed in a civilized way yet clearly communicated to Nate at that meeting. Furthermore, it is my hope that we all remember what Saturday, November 4th is all about - determining the best high school cross country runners in the state of Michigan. Let's keep Saturday, November 4th as a day for competition and Friday, November 10th as a day to express our opinions.

Good Luck to everyone at MS.

Respectfully,
Greg Miller
MITCA President

Gregory C. Miller