

# ATOM



Association of Track Officials of Michigan

Vol. 35; Issue 1: Spring/Summer 2023

## 2023 MHSAA Track and Field Finals



### 2024 ATOM Clinic

It's not too early to mark your calendars for the ATOM Clinic

February 2-3, 2024,  
Doherty Hotel,  
Clare, MI.

We look forward to seeing you there!



## MHSAA Finals Reports: Upper Peninsula

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No Upper Peninsula Report

NOTE: We are seeking an official to write the Upper Peninsula cross country report. Please contact Dave McPhail at [dmcphail83@hotmail.com](mailto:dmcphail83@hotmail.com).

## MHSAA Finals Reports: Lower Peninsula

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### LP Division 4 (Richard Lee)

The Division 4 Finals were once again hosted by Hudsonville for the 7<sup>th</sup> time in the past 9 contested seasons. The sunny 89-degree day with a steady breeze facilitated some great performances in the Sprints and Field Event competitions, but created less than ideal conditions for the distance runners. The facility is top notch, and the Hudsonville staff was competent, experienced, and well prepared. It's been mentioned before, but worth repeating, that the Hudsonville staff and student athletes are to be commended for putting on an exceptional event for Division 4, while some of their athletes are simultaneously competing at the D1 Finals.

One of the best features of the facility is the double venues for Long Jump, Pole Vault, and High Jump. This allows both girls' and boys' events to take place simultaneously, which provides for a much smoother meet, especially in D4, where many Field Event competitors are also involved in running events.

The hurdle crew worked effectively and efficiently. The starting block crew was on top of things and did a great job overall, but toward the end of the meet it seemed that their numbers had dwindled.

The long jump venue had top-notch runways, landing pits, and take off boards, but upon our arrival on Friday the boards were not secure in the metal boxes. Shims and tools were needed to keep the boards in place. Fortunately, Jon Flott and others were well prepared and able to make the event meet-ready on Friday evening.

One issue that should be addressed for State Finals going forward was the lack of water available to runners in the 3200. The Referees made the decision to allow coaches on the back straightaway to provide water and ice towels to their athletes on the back straightway during the race and on the infield near the finish line at the end of the race. We all know that the weather in southern Michigan on the first weekend in June can vary, but the majority of the time in recent years the weather has been significantly warmer than what the runners have experienced during the prior weeks of the season. Water availability should be a top priority for all Finals sites. To not do so seems negligent in my humble opinion.

We could use a more formally scheduled meeting on site with the Referees, Field Event Workers, other officials, meet manager, games committee, and jury of appeals. I was not aware who the games committee and jury of appeals were. It's not necessary a bad thing to not need the services of the jury, but having this clearly spelled out beforehand would be a good idea in the future.

Some of the pre-meet packet information was incorrect, listing the wrong event order for Field Events, and alley start info for the distance races. It's easy to see how this can happen, but it would also be easy to correct if officials were able to preview the info before it was disseminated. We should have ATOM members available for proofreading prior to the publication of this information.

Another issue involved the High Jump raises. The Referees decided that the first raise in both Girls' and Boy's High Jump would be 3 inches, so that the first raise equaled the additional qualifier mark. This did not match the published information, so we need to clarify the raises for future Finals.

During the meet, coaches were in coaches' boxes at non-event times. The wristband system didn't seem to work effectively in limiting access to the coaching boxes.

I received a few complaints that students were doing the marking in the Shot Put. This issue was addressed after the start of the event by switching duties to place the adult helpers in this position. It would seem to make sense to have student-athletes performing only functions that have no direct impact on the results, such as retrieving implements, raising standards, raking long jump pits, etc. Even though most of the student-athletes are highly qualified, it's not ideal to put them in positions of possible controversy. Having adults, especially ATOM officials, perform the more official duties adds to the professionalism of the meet and confidence of the athletes, parents, and coaches.

The starters were Jon Flott, Richard Lee, Curt McDowell, and Dave Melendorf. This was the first year that a system of four starters was implemented for the State Finals. This gave the starters better opportunity to properly view all lanes during the starting process, especially in the widely staggered events. According to Jon Flott, it also gave the opportunity for line clerking, so that the assistant starters could set up athletes at their starting marks and answer any questions they had immediately prior to their start.

The Referees were Steve Start, Charles Parker, and Dave McPhail. A fourth Referee (*Hugh Matson-not sure if we should include his name here*) was unable to attend due to illness. Clerks were Tony Pankowski and Christine Lee. Field Event Officials were Chris King (Girls' Pole Vault), Ken Sidenwand (Discus), Dennis Keeny (Shot Put), Dennis Vogel (Boys' Long Jump), Russ Tein (Girls' Long Jump), Matt O'Meara (Boys' HJ), and Joe Baker (Girls' HJ). Our Boys' Pole Vault official was not available. After some initial scrambling, the Hudsonville staff was able to provide a knowledgeable substitute to fill in as the lead worker for the Boys' Pole Vault. It would be nice to have three ATOM officials assigned to the Pole Vault for future Finals, two to act as lead officials and one alternate, as it is challenging to find qualified help for that event on short notice.

Some of the top performances on the track were turned in by two multiple winners. On the girls' side, Junior Aiden Harrand from Buckley won the 1600 (4:56.54), 800 (2:17.08), and 3200 (11:14.90). In the boys' competition, Flint Beecher senior Jaylin Townsend won the 100 (10.67) and 200 (22.00), and helped his relay teams earn 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 4x200 (1:31.15) and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 4x100 (44.44).

The Field Events saw some outstanding performances as well. Fruitport Cavalry Christian sophomore Bradley Richards soared to 6 feet 10 inches to win the High Jump, just off the D4 record of 6'10 ½, and narrowly missing 7'0. His effort was easily the best High Jump of the day among all divisions. In the Long Jump, Alex Affer, senior from Peck, jumped 23'4", which was also the best jump of the day among all divisions. Natalie Wantrie, senior from Indian River Inland Lakes, won the Shot Put with a personal record toss of 39'8, and she also bested the field in the discuss with a near PR of 128'11.

There were very few areas of controversy on the track. There were six disqualifications in the relays for various infractions, and just a handful of false starts.

The team scores were close in both competitions. On the girls' side, Buckley outscored Portland St. Patrick 52-49, followed by Indian River Inland Lakes (38), Fowler (36), and Hillsdale Academy (30). The boys' scoring saw Kalamazoo Hackett winning with 53 points, followed by Reading (47), Wyoming Potter's House (42), Flint Beecher (37), and Fowler (37).

### **Division 3 (Rudy Godefroidt and Kathy Hutfilz)**

Kent City has an excellent track and field facility. They have a nine lane track along with excellent field event venues. It is an ideal site for the division III state finals competition. There are numerous individuals to thank and give appreciation to for this meet. Athletic director Jason Vogle was our meet manager and along with their current track coaches everything was in order to host a successful meet. As always MHSAA Assistant Director /Cody Inglis

was present at all sites to offer advice, encouragement and help out as needed. Cody has always been a very active and involved director during his tenure with the MHSAA and ATOM appreciates him a great deal.

This year we had very little concerns for weather threats and the meet was completed without any delays. It was very warm for parts of the day as well as some wind surges. Towards the end of the day many wet towels were used and water was being consumed as it should be.

ATOM registered officials were on the site but I must admit, not as many as normal. We were lacking in a few areas but found a way to make it work so hopefully the athletes got the meet that they certainly deserved. In the final analysis the meet was run efficiently and the athletes were given the best chance to succeed in their events. Starters for the meet were Linda Bishop, Geri Jackson and Barry Hrobla. Head referees were Kathy Hutfilz and Rudy Godefroidt who were in charge of overseeing the entire meet. They touched base with all officials regularly and did a nice job as head referees. One other referee was George Babcock who moved around the field events to keep them in check and answer questions that might arise. This is one area where we certainly could have used a few more bodies but circumstances didn't allow for it.

The many volunteers from Kent City were assigned to field events and were a real blessing to have. They bailed us out of what could have been a few critical areas not covered. One area that we must work on is umpires. We need them to cover exchange zones, hurdle races and watch lane races for possible infractions. The concept to get officials that were working field events become umpires after they complete their event, just doesn't seem to work. They are done with their events way too late to help out on the track events.



The officials that I can identify and I sincerely apologize for anyone I might miss were, Pete Moss, Gary Maike and Tony McHattie at the long jump, Kurt Ballien who helped check in poles on Saturday morning and then ran one of the high jumps. David Putz who did an excellent job at the shot put. Eldon Dean who oversaw the discus and I once again have to thank all the Kent City folks who jumped in to cover areas that the officials couldn't. The clerk was Jill Sandro who worked out of the clerking tent with her son CJ. The clerking area was moved to the other end of the complex and it was more convenient last year but Jill put in many miles and made it work. CJ is a young man that will make a great official some day and we love his dedication and willingness to help out when needed. Clerking is very important to keep a track meet flowing and Jill and CJ were able to do that. They did an excellent job keeping the meet moving efficiently. Making sure the awards were taken care of was an efficient crew from Kent City. Another job that helped the meet move along well was done by Jason Vogle as the lead announcer. Jason was able to help the starters and referees in keeping the events rolling along and providing information for athletes, coaches and spectators.

I would be remiss if I didn't compliment and thank our timing crew from Michiana Timing. The ladies did a nice job in keeping us on track, making adjustments where necessary and having a running score available all day. They are very good at what they do and are a huge asset to a successful track meet.

The meet started on time, 9:00 a.m. and the afternoon final session promptly at 1:00 p.m. All four division sites started the day with field events and the 3200 meter relay but their time schedules varied. At the conclusion the first round of heats were held in the 100 meter dash, 100/110 hurdles, and the 200 meter dash. Qualifying this year again for the finals were the heat winners and the rest of the final heats of nine were filled on a time basis. For example if there were three heats, the three heat winners advanced along with the next six fastest times. With fully automatic timing in place it created a fair situation for all athletes in the competition. There was approximately a

one hour and thirty minute break before starting the finals at 1:00 p.m. The champions were announced and awarded their trophies by 5:10 p.m. and the recorded finish time of the meet was 5:03 p.m.

With two finish lynx cameras and two computers working in the finish tent, the times and results were accurate and released efficiently and posted on the web for those that wanted to see them immediately. Girls' team champions were Hart (64) and Runner-ups were Olivet (56.5). Boys team champions was Benzie Central (51) and the Runner-ups were Pewam-Westphalia (44). Phenomenal performances were on display all day, make sure and look at complete results to appreciate them, look at [www.MHSAA.com](http://www.MHSAA.com), go to sports, then track and field and follow the appropriate links. You may also look at athletic.net. Here are the highlights of the D – 3 meet as well as the pending MHSAA records:



Division III state records pending MHSAA approval:

Men's 100 meters, Jailin Spikes, Warren Michigan Collegiate, 10.71

Summarizing remaining performances:

100 meters and 200 meters women had a double winner:

Devin Johnson, Almont, (12.14, 24.98)

200 Meters and 400 meters for men had a double winner

Jerry Wieggers, North Muskegon, (22.11, 49.49)

400 meters and 800 meters had a double winner

Emmry Ross, Onsted, (56.48, 2:11.25)

800, 1600 and 3200 meters for men had a triple winner.

Hunter Jones, Benzie Central, (1:57.60, 4:17.48, 9:10.19)

Note: Do not have the exact split but Hunter also ran a fantastic anchor leg on the runner-up 3200 meter relay.

1600 meters for women

Madison Osterberg, Lumen Christi, 4:55.02

3200 meters for women

Jessica Jazwinski, Hart, 10:57.99

110 HH and 100 HH

Holden Van Poppel from Napoleon, 14.48

Destiny McDaniels from Bath, 15.28

300 IH and 300 LH

Torren Mapes from Delton-Kellogg, 40.01

Emily Peters from Olivet, 46.09

400 Meter Relay

Sanford Meridian, 43.47

Olivet, 50.30

800 Meter Relay

Burton Atherton, 1:30.51

GR West Catholic, 1:46.36

1600 Meter Relay

Ottawa Lake-Whiteford, 3:27.28

Olivet, 4:06.68

3200 Relay

Hart, 8:04.54  
Lansing Catholic, 9:23.82

Shot Put:

Gavin Nurenberg from Pewamo-Westphalia, 57' 9.5"  
Payton Otto from Olivet, 39' 4.5"

Discus

Kellen Kimes, Hart, 174'3"  
Sophia Snellenberger, Quincy, 141' 5"

High Jump

Sawyer Moloy, Sanford-Meridian, 6' 4"  
Addison Hovery, Hart, 5' 4"

Long Jump:

Mitchell Harrington, Grayling, 22' 1.75"  
Alyssa Budd, Napoleon, 17' 11.5"

Pole Vault:

Tryce Tokas, Ovid-Elsie, 15' 0"  
Ally Olszewski, GR West Catholic, 11' 3"

NOTE: There were so many other great performances for second – eighth places and especially by underclassmen so please look up the results, MHSAA.com and see for yourself.

NOTE: I also believe that if it wasn't for the excessive heat in the later part of the day that we would have had even faster, longer and higher performances.

NOTE: I would like to give special recognition to Hunter Jones from Benzie Central who over his four year high school career has numerous state championships.

### Division 2 (Dave McPhail)

The Division 2 State Final Meet was hosted by Forest Hills Eastern High School. The very warm, breezy weather, while less than ideal for the distance runners, made for some good conditions for sprints and field events.

Some of the best performances of the day in the girls' competition included sprinting efforts by Keyanna O'Tey, Sturgis sophomore, winning the 100 in 11.84, which was the best 100-meter time of the day among all divisions, and the 200 in 24.61, which was just off the Division 1 mark of 24.10.

Elizabeth Anderson, senior from New Boston Huron, won the 400 in 55.38, also the best time among all divisions.

The East Grand Rapids relay teams captured the 4 X 800 (9:28.17) and 4 x 400 (3:58.18), beating their school record and besting 2<sup>nd</sup> place Shepherd (4:08.48) by more than 10 seconds in that event. Both relays featured senior Camryn Bodine, who also won the open 800 (2:11.53) and junior Drew Muller, who finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the same event (2:16.95), and also won the 1600 (4:56.01). Those scoring efforts helped propel EGR to the overall team total with 50 points, outscoring second place Sturgis with 34 points.



Among the notable field event performances, 3 of the 5 girls who cleared 12 feet in the pole vault among all divisions were in Division 2. Ortonville Brandon junior Allison Shelton took 1<sup>st</sup> place, Wayland Union freshman Evie Mathis 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Owosso senior Claire Agnew 3<sup>rd</sup>, all with vaults of 12'0".

On the boys' side, Junior Jake Machiniak from Berrien Springs sprinted to a first-place finish in the 100 meters in a time of 10.54, best among all divisions. In arguably the most exciting competition of the meet, the top seven 1600-meter runners all ran personal bests to finish under 4 minutes and 19 seconds, with Linden senior Kyle Eberhard

racing to victory in 4:14.79, barely edging out Dearborn Divine Child senior Mike Hegarty (4:14.82) and Monroe Jefferson senior Carter McCalister (4:15.10).

The Corunna boys sprinters raced their way to a win in the 4x100 (42.63) and second place in the 4x200 (1:28.33). Both featured twin brothers Wyatt and Tarick Bowers, who also placed first and third in the long jump, with marks of 22'8.5 and 21'10 respectively. Those scoring efforts helped Corunna to the overall team title with 41 points, edging Forest Hills Eastern and Mason, who each totaled 35 points.

Officials who were scheduled to work the meet included starters Jill Baker Cooley, Erika Raffin, Dave Britton, and David Grod. Scheduled Referees were Brian Macomber, Dennis Hodges, Colon Thomas, and Dan Millhisler.

### **Division 1 (Doug Kelly)**

Meet Officials – Referees – Jim Cleverly, Eric Zemper, and Doug Kelly, Starters – Bertha Smiley, Johnny Robinson, and Keith Millhisler, Clerks -Gordie Richardson and Tom Eshman, and Field Event Judges and Umpires – Don Yuvan, Mark Haney, John Greathouse, Jonathan Bush, Bill Reed, Lee Mitchell, and Ron Buchanan

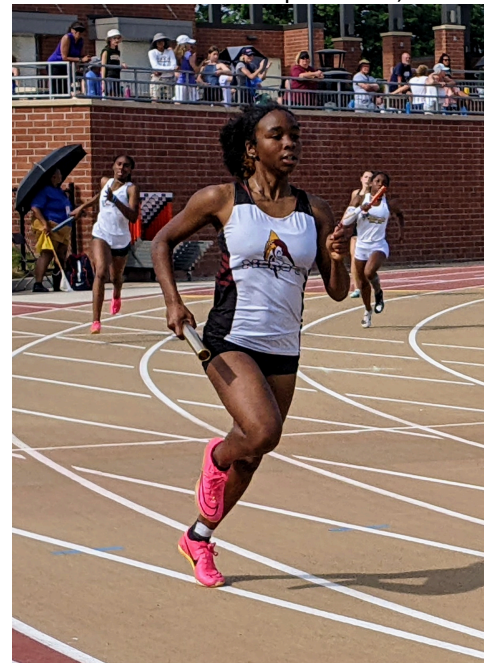
Results – Women's– Oak Park – 80, Detroit Renaissance - 58, Ann Arbor Pioneer – 56 and Mens – St. Joseph – 40.75, Clinton Twp Chippewa – 38, and Rockford – 36

For the second consecutive year, Rockford High School hosted the Division 1 Lower Peninsula Track and Field Championships. With a year under the belts, the host school increased their game and provided a wonderful venue for the athletes. The weather of the day was high levels of sun, low levels of clouds, thereby creating a very warm day (can you remember those dark, cold, and wet meets in March and April and wondering if spring would ever come?!). The hosts were well prepared with multiple water stations for the athletes, coaches, and officials as well as ice baths for those who needed to bring their core temperature down quickly.

Also, for the second year, Oxford High School provided a complete electronic starting device (ESD) that was utilized instead of a starter's pistol. Oxford has learned a lot over the last year of using the device and has incorporated multiple modifications (different speaker systems, etc.). Another year of experience with the device as well as athletes seeing the device more frequently throughout the year continued to improve the integration of the system into the state finals. Only a couple of recalls were required all day and the athletes responded well to the recall requests. As a matter of fact, the recalls resulted in unfair start rulings and no disqualifications.

As previously mentioned, the meet went very smoothly overall; however, we need to be honest in our overall assessment of the day and admit that we as meet organizers, officials, and workers we need to continue to strive to get better in a few areas. There were multiple inconsistencies between the various information online and in print. Some examples of this included various start times of events and procedures for long jump finals. We need to ensure consistency amongst the information and that it agrees with games committee decisions. We also need more officials to serve in key areas such as umpires for the entire meet as well as ensuring that, when possible, the head field event judges are certified officials. Both of these challenges caused a bumpy start to the day and delays in certain situations. However, once we got these areas ironed out the officiating crew onsite stepped up to provide a safe and fair competition area.

There were several outstanding individual performances by both the men and women during the day. Jeff Hollobaugh did a wonderful job of keeping the spectator informed of the various athlete's accomplishments and giving color commentary during the races. The meet moved well throughout the afternoon with only a few minor



issues to address related to a crossbar sliding down during the competition (and not being noticed for several competitors) and exchange zone infractions. After arriving at the facility at 7:45 that morning, I was able to leave Rockford after packing up by 6:15 that evening. Thanks to all the officials, workers, meet management, spectators, and most importantly the athletes for making the day another one to remember!! If you are interested in the best seat in the house, make sure to sign up early for the 2024 edition.

## Official ATOM & MHSAA Gear



**ITEM #AM - MJ3**    **ITEM #AM - LJ3 (Ladies)**  
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Our versatile, fully seam-sealed jacket offers outstanding waterproof protection to keep you dry whether you're on the job or on the trail. Folds into a convenient carry pouch for easy, compact storage.

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- 100% polyester mesh-lined body and hood
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- 100% M-Tek™ nylon shell
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- Vest has anti-pill finish, Vislon zipper and open hem
- The MHSAA Logo is also embroidered on the vest.



**AM-UJ1**  
 Sizes: XS - 4XL



**ITEM #AM - PT4**    **ITEM #AM - LPT4 (Ladies)**  
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100% Polyester wicking knit polo.  
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 Three matching buttons with cross stitch.

**AM-MP5**  
 Sizes: SM - 4XL



**AM-LP5**  
 Sizes: XS - 3XL

Authorized ATOM/MHSAA officiating gear is now available at

**Hangin' By A Thread**  
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 Call 989-644-5738  
 (ask for Deanna Wheeler)



# Association of Track Officials of Michigan (ATOM)

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The map shows Michigan divided into 8 zones, each containing several counties. Zone 1 (South Shore) includes Leelanau, Charlevoix, Mackinac Island, and Presque Isle. Zone 2 (Border Shores Open) includes Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Charlevoix, Mackinac Island, and Emmet. Zone 3 (Metro) includes Ingham, Eaton, and Saginaw. Zone 4 (Mid-Thumb) includes Shiawassee, Genesee, and Lapeer. Zone 5 (Capital) includes Ingham, Eaton, and Saginaw. Zone 6 (Windmill) includes Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Charlevoix, Mackinac Island, and Emmet. Zone 7 (Woodland) includes Ingham, Eaton, and Saginaw. Zone 8 (Porcupine) includes Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Charlevoix, Mackinac Island, and Emmet.

**ATOM Zones**

**Zone 1: South Shore**  
 Charles Parker ([judocp@hotmail.com](mailto:judocp@hotmail.com))

**Zone 2: Border Shores Open**

**Zone 3: Metro**  
 Geri Jackson ([g420red@aol.com](mailto:g420red@aol.com))  
 Chris Brewer ([chris.brewer2009@gmail.com](mailto:chris.brewer2009@gmail.com))  
 Darlene Barber ([bossydarlene@yahoo.com](mailto:bossydarlene@yahoo.com))

**Zone 4: Mid-Thumb**  
 Dan Johnson ([dm4johnson@hotmail.com](mailto:dm4johnson@hotmail.com))

**Zone 5: Capital**  
 Lyle Berry ([atomberry@yahoo.com](mailto:atomberry@yahoo.com))

**Zone 6: Windmill**  
 Brian Macomber ([union215@aol.com](mailto:union215@aol.com))

**Zone 7: Woodland**  
 Gordie Richardson ([coachgordie@charter.net](mailto:coachgordie@charter.net))  
 Kathy Hutfilz ([khutfilz@edzone.net](mailto:khutfilz@edzone.net))

**Zone 8: Porcupine**  
 John Meyer ([johnmeyer97@charter.net](mailto:johnmeyer97@charter.net))



**2024 ATOM CLINIC REGISTRATION**

**February 2-3 2024 Doherty Hotel**  
 For rooms call (877)236-4378 or (989)386-3441  
 <Register before January 1<sup>st</sup> for discounted fees>

Christine Lee, Treasurer  
 7140 Lincoln St, Brown City, MI 48416  
 810-346-2492  
 christinejlee10@yahoo.com

Check one please:

New Member  Current Member

Name	ATOM Zone #
Preferred Email	MHSAA ID #

Description	FEE: Before Jan 1	Post Marked After Jan 1	Amount Submitted
2024 Clinic	\$ 55.00	\$60.00	\$

Total from  
Membership  
Form  
Amount Due



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 PD \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_

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Christine Lee, Treasurer  
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Check one please:

New Member  Current Member  Former Member

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Name	ATOM Zone #	
Address	MHSAA ID #	
City	State	Zip
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Preferred Email		

The Association of Track Officials of Michigan offers an annual clinic, a newsletter, online resources, and an opportunity to get involved in a professional organization whose goal is to improve the quality of officiating in the sports of cross country and track & field and improve communication between the track officials in our state and the MHSAA.

Description	FEE:	Post Marked After Jan. 1, 2024	Amount Submitted
2024 Membership	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$
ATOM Patch	\$2.50	\$2.50	
Amount Due			

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