



PORTAGE ATHLETIC FOUNDATION



Portage Northern
Huskies

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PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SIGNS GUIDELINES FOR INCLUSION February 2006

The Portage Athletic Foundation (PAF) has developed the following guidelines after discussions with District staff and administration. These guidelines will be used to determine which Portage Central and Portage Northern High School Varsity teams are eligible for citation on the State Championship signs.

While PAF applauds the accomplishments of Portage Public Schools students at all levels of Athletics, Debate, Forensics, and other extracurricular activities, these guidelines are necessary to ensure that the teams honored on the signage have all achieved the highest level in Varsity state competition sanctioned by their respective Associations. To be cited on the sign, a team must meet all the following criteria:

- ❖ it must be a high school-sponsored Varsity team
- ❖ it must have successfully progressed through a multi-level elimination process
- ❖ it must have won the state final tournament conducted by the governing Association

Athletic Team Guidelines

State tournaments for MHSAA recognized sports are organized and conducted by the MHSAA through a multi-level elimination process: district/regional, quarter-final/semi-final (depending on the sport) proceeding to the final competitions. For inclusion on the sign, the state championship team must be a high school-sponsored Varsity team in a MHSAA recognized sport.

Forensics and Debate Team Guidelines

MIFA holds the state level tournaments for both Forensics and Debate. Varsity Forensics teams compete in a tri-level elimination series, which includes a district, regional and state final tournament in each event. In Debate, the state championship tournament, currently held each February, determines a Varsity level state champion for three high school divisions. Therefore, for Forensics and Debate, PAF recommends that only high school-sponsored Varsity teams participating in MIFA sponsored state championship tournaments be eligible for inclusion on the signs.

Recognition of Other Championship Teams

It is PAF's expectation that the District will continue the current practice of acknowledging state honors earned by teams that would not qualify for the signs per these guidelines (e.g., Community High, JV, Novice, middle school teams, athletic teams not recognized by MHSAA, other extracurricular teams) in other meaningful ways such as mention on the District page in the *Portage Gazette*, articles in school newsletters and in the District Bulletin.