



Minnesota State High School Mathematics League

proudly challenging Minnesota students since 1980

NEWSLETTER 52

October 15, 2025

Executive Director Message

Greetings from your Interim Executive Director! I have been enjoying talking to many of you and meeting some new faces as I engage with and serve our Math League in a new way. It has been a long journey since competing as a student for Columbia Heights in 1990-1994.

Class and Section placements, as well as Division placements for schools new to the MSHSML, have been finalized and are available later in this newsletter. These placements apply to the current League season, 2025-26, as well as 2026-27.

We are very happy to welcome **Henning, Mayer Lutheran**, and **New Richmond (WI)** as new Math Teams, and to welcome back **Park Center** and **North Branch**! I continue to work to grow our number of participating teams and students - more to come on that later.

Best wishes in your practices and preparations for Meet 1 on November 3rd & 4th!

Mike Reiners
Interim Executive Director
mreiners@hof.net

Problem Writers' Corner

In contrast to last year's massive changes, this year's [meet topics](#) are unchanged from the 2024-25 season. Likewise, students will again get a printed copy of the [MSHSML formula sheet](#) to reference during meets. Both resources are available under the "Documents" menu of the [main MSHSML website](#).

New [sample meets](#) are also available to coaches (see the article below). Notably, **at least one problem per meet will be taken from the associated Coyote series sample meet** (modified just

enough to produce a different answer). So you'll want to make sure your students review [Coyote Series Meet 1](#) before they take Meet 1. See the article below for more details on the sample meets.

Thanks to all coaches and students who contributed to the feedback surveys sent last spring! Your responses were very thoughtful and were shared with the full board when they met to decide on any format changes for this season (ultimately deciding to continue with the same format).

With the retirement of Don Barry and Lee Trent as problem writers following the 2024-25 season (thank you both!), I'm thrilled to announce the addition of [Dr. Abra Brisbin](#) to our problem writing team (read more about her in [this newsletter article](#)), with [Matt Sanders](#) joining us as a proofreader. All of our problem writers are now MSHSML alumni! Our 2025-26 problem writing team is as follows:

Problem Writers:

Roy Zhao
Alexander Zhu
Abra Brisbin

Proofreaders:

Martha Knutson
Matt Sanders

As always, please feel free to pass along any feedback to me as the season progresses. Good luck coaches and teams!

Colin Gardner-Springer
MSHSML Head of the Problem Writing Team
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Notes on Sample Meets

Sample meets are available in the following Google Drive folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1S37pNGsLvTlrCifDKsW9pcdZUpPdyqwt>

New in 2025-26, we've changed the sample meet naming conventions. Each sample meet series now has a Minnesota-themed name, in alphabetical order by creation date. Sample meets are not season specific, so are no longer listed by year.

Specifically, the 2024-25 Sample Meet *.1 series has been renamed as the Agate series, and the 2024-25 Sample Meet *.2 series has been renamed as the Black Bear series. Both were based primarily on problems from past MSHSML competitions.

The Coyote and Dakota series are new for 2025-26 and are based primarily on problems from past AMC competitions (but aligned to the relevant MSHSML topics).

For the 2025-26 season, at least one problem per meet will be taken from the associated Coyote series sample meet.

The available sample meet are summarized in this table:

Year Created	Series Name	Original Name
2024-25	Agate Series	2024-25 Sample Meet *.1
2024-25	Black Bear Series	2024-25 Sample Meet *.2
2025-26	Coyote Series	New series
2025-26	Dakota Series	New series

Typos and other errors should be rare in the Agate and Black Bear series, since these have been updated based on feedback during the 2024-25 season. They are more likely in the Coyote and Dakota series.

If an issue is found, please email colin@gardner-springer.com with details and I'll update the meet file as soon as possible. Likewise, when using these with your team, please check whether a newer version is available before printing in case an update has been posted.

The Coyote and Dakota series meets include links to the original AMC competition problems when appropriate, which includes written solutions. This should make it easier to identify the intent when an error is found.

I hope these sample meets are helpful to you and your team!

Colin

Meet Dates for this League Year (2025-2026)

Meet 1	November 3-4, 2025
Meet 2	November 24-25, 2025
Meet 3	December 15-16, 2025
Meet 4	January 26-27, 2026
Meet 5	February 9-10, 2026

Final Class and Section Placements

Please review the following final class and section placements [here](#).

Upcoming Meets

We're excited to announce two optional Practice Meets (0A and 0B) taking place before the regular season begins. These meets do not count toward season totals, but we strongly encourage all teams to participate in at least one to help students get comfortable using the scoring website. You can access these practice meets just like a regular meet — go to the Meet Op page, select your team members, and activate the event.

Meet 0A

- Available now through October 21, 2025
- Shorter than regular meets and can typically be completed during a normal team practice

Meet 0B

- Held October 27–28, 2025
- Matches the length of a regular meet, providing a full meet experience

Regular Season Meet Reminders

- Time slot signups open at 9:00 AM on the Wednesday before each meet
- Sharin (parkshar@augsborg.edu) will email meet problems and solutions that same day
- Challenges to meet results are due by 12:00 PM on the Thursday after the meet

Board Updates

Please review our updated Math League Manual [here](#) for all important information.