



# Minnesota State High School Mathematics League

*proudly challenging Minnesota students since 1980*

## NEWSLETTER 57

February 1, 2026

### Executive Director Message

Welcome to the home stretch!

Meet 4 is complete, and the storylines that stand out to me are:

- Eagle Ridge Academy and Fairmont being a mere 1 point apart for 3rd place in Class A;
- Holy Angels and Minnehaha Academy are 1 point apart for the lead in Section 4AA;
- Will Sam Kretchmar of Spring Lake Park complete a perfect individual regular season (75/75)? Michael Luo and Jefferson Zhao are close behind...

See [below](#) for additional Meet 4 comments and areas of interest from our Head Problem Writer, Colin.

Regarding Meet 5, coming up soon on February 9th & 10th: we made special emphasis at our Coaches Conference this summer, and again in registration and preseason mailings, of the rule that Meet 5 must be held in-person. However, we understand that many schools, particularly Twin Cities urban and suburban schools, are experiencing unprecedented times and have temporary policies in place regarding student safety, transportation, and school in general that may prohibit in-person participation on those dates. If this is the case for you and your team, please reach out to both your Division Coordinator and Sharin Park, MSHSML Associate Director so that we can work with you to ensure your students are not denied participation in Meet 5. The goal of the Meet 5 rule is to maintain the original charter and goal of this League, but when that becomes impossible by circumstances out of our control, we'll make it work.

Hey - we made it through COVID together; we'll make it through this.

Best wishes to you, your students, and your teams for Meet 5!

Mike Reiners

Interim Executive Director

[mreiners@chof.net](mailto:mreiners@chof.net)



---

## Problem Writers' Corner

With Meet 4 in the books and the regular season coming to a close, two storylines stand out to me:

1. The Wayzata / Minnetonka rivalry is historically tight: if Meet 5 is a repeat of Meet 4, Minnetonka would win the Southwest Suburban division, while Wayzata would take the statewide title.
2. Several schools have “leveled up” in a big way this year - congratulations! Schools with the greatest improvement in YTD overall ranking compared to last season are:
  - Class A: Fairmont High School (up 68 places, from 113th last year to 45th now!),
  - Class AA: Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, and
  - Class AAA: Chanhassen / Chaska High School.

A challenge was received for problem B3, interpreting the 20-foot reach as being sprayed from a hose that only swiveled at the shed's corner. This was deemed to be an invalid interpretation of the behavior of a flexible hose, and the challenge was denied.

The turnaround time for Meet 5 is extremely tight this year. The good news is that many Meet 5 topics lend themselves to general problem solving skills rather than specific knowledge (although specific preparation always helps!). For the more technical topics, students should know where to look on the Formula Sheet - the following sections are relevant for Meet 5:

- Sums of powers of integers
- Some 3D Geometry
- Complex Numbers (specifically De Moivre's Theorem)
- Analytic Geometry of Conic Section

Please continue to share resources such as sample meets and past problems with your students. As usual, at least one problem from Coyote Meet 5 is featured.

Thank you for participating in MSHSML, and best of luck with Meet 5!

Colin Gardner-Springer / Head of the Problem Writing Team / [colin@gardner-springer.com](mailto:colin@gardner-springer.com)

---

## Video Contest

The MSHSML is hosting our annual **Math Team Video Contest** inviting teams to submit a **90-second video** explaining why they enjoy being involved in Math League.

Videos may feature student interviews, teacher endorsements, sample problems, or footage from practices or meets.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three entries:

- 1st place – \$200
- 2nd place – \$150
- 3rd place – \$100

Videos must be submitted and approved by the school's math team coach and emailed to [parkshar@augsborg.edu](mailto:parkshar@augsborg.edu) by March 10th. Winning schools will be notified by March 13 and the winning video will be shown at the State Tournament on March 16 and posted on the Math League website.

## Coaches Conference

As requested at our annual Board Meeting, we have identified several different possible dates for the 2026 Coaches Conference. They are at various times of the summer and fall; we're tossing some out-of-the-box ideas your way in the hopes of allowing more coaches the opportunity to attend.

Please fill out this [survey](#) to indicate your interest and preferences.

## Meet 5 Details

Meet 5, scheduled for February 9–10, is required to be held in person. Schools unable to attend due to temporary restrictions should contact their Division Coordinator and Sharin Park ([parkshar@augsborg.edu](mailto:parkshar@augsborg.edu)) so that student participation is not denied. Flexibility will be considered when circumstances beyond a school's control prevent in-person attendance.

The Math League Office will contact Division Coordinators directly with Meet 5 enclosures and award shipping information.

For the pizza party reimbursement, please submit your request by February 18, 2026 using the provided [form](#). Reimbursements submitted after this deadline cannot be mailed by March 6.

---

## State Tournament Update (repeated from Newsletter 56 for convenience)

The State Tournament will return to South St. Paul High School on March 16, 2026, bringing together teams from across the state for an afternoon of competition. **Please note that the tournament is being held during a different week and at a different time of day than in recent years;** this scheduling change was made to better support League operations. To ensure a smooth and timely start, teams with Invitational students will be asked to arrive by 10:00 AM, and all remaining teams should plan to arrive by 12:30 PM. Additional details regarding the State Tournament will be shared with invited teams closer to the event date.

In conjunction with the 2026 State Tournament, the MN State High School Math League again invites students to participate in our annual T-shirt Design Contest! Please see the details below:

- Students are invited to submit a one-color design for the front of the official State Tournament T-shirt.
- Designs must include the text: *MN State HS Math League State Tournament March 16, 2026.*
- The selected designer will receive a \$50 VISA gift card and a free T-shirt.
- Entries should be emailed as a PDF by January 30 to [parkshar@augsborg.edu](mailto:parkshar@augsborg.edu) and must include the student's name, grade, and school. The winner will be notified via email by February 9.

## MSHSML Executive Director Posting

The Minnesota State High School Math League is grateful for the leadership of our Interim Executive Director, Mike Reiners who will be with us through August 31, 2026. We are pleased to announce that we are now opening the search for our permanent Executive Director. Interested candidates are encouraged to view the full job description [here](#) for additional details regarding responsibilities, qualifications, and the application process.