



# Montana High School Association

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November 25, 2015

**TO: MHSА MEMBER SCHOOLS  
MEMBERS OF MONTANA'S NEWS MEDIA**

**FROM: MARK BECKMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**RE: NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION**

The Montana High School Association Executive Board conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on November 23, 2015. Following is a synopsis of the major items:

1. The Board reviewed reports regarding recently held state events in cross country, golf, football, soccer, volleyball and all-state band, orchestra and chorus. The Executive Board and MHSA staff appreciate the personnel and the venues that hosted and administered these extremely successful events.
2. The preliminary budget for 2016-2017 was reviewed and approved by the Board pending final approval by the membership in January.
3. The Board reviewed proposals that were submitted to be considered at the MHSA Annual Meeting in January by member schools.

In addition, the Board took the following action, for which schools are given two-week notice. Finalization of the following items will take place during the January meeting of the Executive Board after affected schools have the opportunity to submit final comments.

4. Effective in **2015-2016 (this year)**, the Executive Board approved [realignment for Class B-C Tennis](#) pending two-week notice.
5. Effective in **2015-2016 (this year)**, the Executive Board approved realigning Sweet Grass County High School from Division 3 to Division 2 for boys' and girls' golf pending two-week notice.
6. Effective in 2016-2017, the Executive Board approved the request from the Class C Western Division to [realign their districts for basketball and track and field as shown here](#) pending two-week notice.
7. Effective in 2016-2017, the Executive Board approved the request of the Class C Southern Division to reassign Custer/Hysham from District 4C to District 6C for basketball and track and field pending two-week notice.
8. Effective in 2016-2017, the Executive Board approved realigning Hays/Lodgepole High School from the Eastern Division to the Northern Division in eight-player football pending two-week notice.

9. Effective in 2016-2017, the Executive Board approved realigning Twin Bridges High School from the Southern Division to the Western Division in eight-player football pending two-week notice.
10. Effective in 2016-2017, the Executive Board reassigned the following six-player football teams to the eight-player league pending two-week notice:

Hobson/Moore/Judith Gap (Southern Division)  
Box Elder (Northern Division)  
Lone Peak (Southern Division)  
Stanford/Geyser/Denton (Southern Division)  
Westby/Grenora (Eastern Division)

View the proposed [Eight-Player Football Alignment shown here](#).

11. Effective in 2016-2017, the Executive Board reassigned the following teams to the six-player league pending two-week notice: Noxon (Western Division) and White Sulphur Springs (Northern Division).

View the proposed [Six-Player Football Alignment shown here](#).

12. The Executive Board approved the following recommendations from the MHSA Athletic Committee pending two week notice to schools and final action in January:

**Softball:** the following language will be added to the Softball Section of the MHSA Handbook: Game ending procedures, page 77, item (2) g: “**Varsity and** junior varsity games can be ended after three innings if either team is leading by fifteen runs with mutual consent.”

**Tennis:** the following language will be added to the Tennis Section MHSA Handbook, page 85, item (6): “Twelve (12) dates of competition ~~will~~ **shall** be the maximum ~~for schools~~ **number per individual tennis player** excluding Association sponsored tournaments. A two-day tournament counts as two days of competition towards the season limitations.

**Swimming:** the following amendments to the Swimming Section of the MHSA Handbook, page 88:

- (9) ***No individual may participate in an out-of-state invitation only meet unless approved by the MHSA Executive Director. Any out-of-state participation approved under these criteria will count towards the ten-meet limit for the particular student. Students will only be allowed to compete in out-of-state meets if the meet was sanctioned by NFHS and received permission from the MHSA Executive Director. The meet may be used as one of two (2) meets as described in the mandatory minimum participation. Swim meets that occur outside the official MHSA swim season are not subject to this rule.***
- (10) ***Mandatory Minimum Meet Requirement – For an athlete to be eligible to compete in the State Swim Meet he/she must compete in at least two (2) Association-sanctioned meets during the regular swimming season. Only a medical waiver from a certified physician stating that an athlete has sustained an injury preventing him/her from competing until that time will be accepted as a condition to be exempted from this rule. The high school for which the student will participate must file a request with the MHSA Executive Director for consideration of a waiver of this rule.***
- (11) ***Qualifying State Meet times – Swimmers who compete at the post season MHSA championships must have a reportable time in that event from an MHSA sanctioned meet that takes place during the current competitive season. Athletes may not use a time or event from a previous year’s competition or non-MHSA events.***

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13. Effective in 2016-2017, the Executive Board approved waiving the five-bout per day rule in wrestling for Class AA seeding tournaments and Class A Divisional Tournaments pending two-week notice.
14. Effective in **2015-2016 (this year)**, the Executive Board approved all Class AA relay teams (400 meter and 1600 meters) to advance to the state meet if they attain a provisional time at the divisional meet.
15. The Executive Board took final action on the following items from the September Board meeting::
  - a) Drone Policy
  - b) Reducing the minimum number of days for football practice from twelve days to ten days.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact the MHSA office.

MFB/jlh