



Montana High School Association

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September 16, 2015

TO: MHSА MEMBER SCHOOLS
FROM: MARK BECKMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RE EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION

The Montana High School Association Executive Board conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on September 14, 2015. Following is a synopsis of the major items:

1. The Board reviewed reports regarding state championships held in the spring including track and field, softball, tennis, golf and state solo and ensemble festivals. The Executive Board and MHSA staff appreciates the managers and the venue personnel that administered and hosted these extremely successful events.
2. The Board reviewed the financial reports from State Solo and Ensemble Festivals.
3. The Board approved the Auditor's Report for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The Board took the following action, for which schools are given two weeks' notice. Finalization of the following items will take place during the November meeting of the Executive Board after affected schools have the opportunity to submit final comments.

4. The Board approved the following addition to the MHSA Handbook regarding Drones:

Drone (Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Policy

The use of drones (UAS), for any purpose, is strictly prohibited at all MHSA events (regular season or post season). This prohibition applies to all fields of play, courts, arenas, mast, gym floors or pools, and includes a ban on the entire facility being used as a part of the MHSA event, including the spectator stands and parking areas.

Rationale – the use of Drones throughout the country is increasing. The safety of participants at MHSA events is paramount and until further information is available on the use of Drones this policy is necessary.

5. The Board approved an addition to Football Section of the MHSA Handbook in regard to changing the minimum number of days of practice required before competing in a contest from twelve (12) days to ten (10) days:

(4) The Montana High School Association Executive Board shall establish the starting date for practice and the first allowable date when any contests may be played. No individual shall play in any association contest until he/she has a minimum of ~~twelve (12)~~ ten **(10)** days of football

practice and at least one practice session per day on ~~twelve (12)~~ **ten (10)** different days (no practice permitted on Sunday), prior to the date of the first allowable game. The initial ~~twelve (12)~~ **ten (10)** practices for each individual must be completed as a comprehensive, regularly scheduled team practice with the full coaching staff.

If a student begins his/her ~~twelve~~ **ten** days of required practices and that period of days is interrupted by sickness, injury, academic ineligibility or for any other reason for a period of two weeks, then the student shall be required to practice an additional five (5) days and in cases of sickness or injury to produce a doctor's release.

Rationale: 1) Other surrounding states have similar requirements – South Dakota and Idaho (10 days), Oregon and Wyoming (9 days). 2) Ten days would align with our focus to decrease contact opportunities to reduce the possibility of injuries (three days of non-contact will still be required). 3) Most players participate in more workouts/camps/etc. during June and July with instruction and conditioning. 4) Other sports, except golf, require ten days of practice. 5) Trusted medical professionals have reviewed and endorsed the change.

6. The Board approved the following for a two week notice with final action to be taken at their January meeting after the Class C Caucus reviews the standards for finalization:

Approved Class C to use qualifying standards to qualify athletes for the state track and field meets.

In addition to conducting a divisional meet, Classes AA, A, B **and C** will use Qualifying Standards as an approved method to qualify athletes for the state track and field meets.

In addition, the Board took the following action:

7. Approved a revised schedule for the State Class A Boys' Basketball Tournament at U of M on March 3-5, 2015. Thursday's game times will be 12:00, 1:30, 3:00 and 4:30. The U of M men's team will play that evening at 8:30 p.m. Friday's and Saturday's game times will remain the same.

Other items for your information:

MHSA will participate in MCEL again this year. The MHSA segment will provide a synopsis of recent By-Law amendments and current hot topics involving high school athletics/activities.

The presentation is scheduled for Friday, October 16th in Billings at the Holiday Inn Grand, Gallatin Room from 9:40 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Mark Beckman, Executive Director, will be the presenter.

If you have any questions about any of these items, please feel free to contact the MHSA office.

MB/jlh