



Montana High School Association

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August 21, 2013

IMPACT OF AIR QUALITY ON HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Because of the concerns about smoke problems as related to high school athletic practices/contests for the fall season in Montana, the following interpretations are provided:

- The number of required practices for each of the fall sports (golf, volleyball, cross country, football and soccer) **cannot be waived**. The legal ramifications of a waiver, which would occur because of the safety/health purposes of the practice rules, would be prohibitive.
- Any postponements, rescheduling or cancellations of contests must be arranged by the schools involved within the established dates for the season. There is no rule that would prohibit two football games in a week.
- The seasons cannot be lengthened because of the overlapping problems with the winter sports if fall sports were extended in any manner.
- Some districts and/or divisions might have to revisit their seeding formulas for post season play because of schools not playing the same number of games as a result of the fire/smoke situations throughout the state. Realizing that many areas have different policies about practices because of poor air quality, each school district has the autonomy to determine what is safe for the students involved in any particular sports' preparation.

Resources:

- Attached are guidelines for your use in making recommendations for outdoor events during wildfire season.
- For more information, visit Montana's website for the Department of Environmental Quality at www.deq.mt.gov or <http://todaysair.mt.gov>.
- Also, please contact your local health department for further information/guidance regarding air quality in your specific area.

If there are questions concerning decisions that must be made, schools can contact the MHSA office by phone (442-6010) or e-mail (mbeckman@mhsa.org).

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Attached