



EXECUTIVE CORNER

Once again, I am pleased to report that MHSA fall championships went extremely well. On behalf of the MHSA Staff and MHSA Executive Board, I would like to thank each and every school and community that hosted our fall post season events. These events could not take place without the school personnel and community members who volunteer and work so hard to ensure their success. This was the first year of the NFHS Network and the MHSA partnership to live webcast most fall state championship events. For the most part this initial endeavor of the Network went well; however there were a few problems. Technical difficulties resulted in not being able to webcast the Class A state championship football game. The call line for the Network promptly refunded the purchase price for those who experienced any difficulties, and we are working with the Network production staff to ensure future broadcasts won't experience some of the problems that occurred. The Class AA football championship was the third highest viewed event in the nation that weekend. The Network will webcast winter championship events including state swimming, state wrestling and state basketball. The schedule of broadcasts will be listed on the home page of the MHSA website and all games broadcast can be accessed through that site – www.mhsa.org.

The Staff has been busy wrapping up the fall events and, of course, continues working extremely hard preparing for the winter events.

The MHSA Executive Board just completed their November meeting where they took action on numerous items of importance to the membership. The complete synopsis of those actions is posted on mhsa.org and was emailed recently to member schools, including specific items that were tentatively passed pending two-week notice for comments from affected schools. Please review those items for comment and contact me with any remarks, concerns or questions. The membership passed a proposal at last year's Annual Meeting to change the reclassification of schools from the November Executive Board Meeting to the previous April Executive Board Meeting. Four enrollment counts over two consecutive years will still be used to determine the final enrollment count to reclassify schools, but identifying those schools this April (2014) will allow more time for districts and divisions to formulate realignment plans to present to the Executive Board at their November (2014) meeting and identified schools would be reclassified beginning the 2015-16.

For the MHSA Annual Meeting, five proposals have been submitted by member schools and three were submitted by the Executive Board for a total of eight proposals for consideration. I must state once again that the limited number of proposals submitted is a credit to the member schools, to the Executive Board and to the MHSA staff for being proactive in addressing and resolving issues. Also, included is the MHSA budget for 2014-15 with a 1.85% increase. This year's budget was a 1% increase and the budget the year before had a 0% increase. We are able to increase the budget because of the money we are receiving from the NFHS Network and PlayOn Sports. If the Network is successful, using this money will delay any dues increase to the membership for a sustainable time barring any unforeseen needs. The last dues increase was in 2005 and most of that increase went to establish the legal and technology reserves. Using this Network money for the general fund is a better

source for supplemental revenue than having to impose a dues increase on member schools. If you have any questions regarding the budget please feel free to contact me.

It is hard to believe that the Holiday Season is here once again. I usually share my Santa's wish list and a holiday quote at this time. The quote this year is from Burton Hillis, "The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other." I would also like to express my holiday wish that the great MHSA Staff (Joanne, Scott, Brian, Janie, Theresa and Jessica) receive extra special gifts for their hard work and extra effort throughout the year. However, in lieu of the remainder of my Santa's wish list, I would like to share a letter that was sent to the editor regarding the Ennis vs. Charlo football playoff game. It spotlights the outstanding experiences that happen throughout our state during every activity season and highlights the variety of ancillary benefits education-based high school sports and activities provide for our students, coaches and communities

Editor,

I want to express my deepest admiration to the school, community and football team of Charlo. The semifinal football game between the Vikings and the Mustangs presented me with more than a game-day experience. As the defensive coordinator for Ennis' football team I was blown away at the class, generosity and kindness of the people of Charlo.

I have coached Ennis teams for 10 years. In the past two football seasons, these two teams have met deep in the playoffs. Ennis managed to come up with a victory on both occasions, but Charlo, in both circumstances, pulled out the more impressive win.

It is so easy for someone to be a good sport and conduct oneself with class when he is the victor. The difficulty comes in possessing the constitution to be a good sport and to exemplify "class" when one is the vanquished.

On Nov. 16, 2013 in Charlo, the semifinal game was a hard-hitting and fast paced display of athleticism from both teams. Despite being down 20 points in the first quarter, and 30 at the half, the fans and coaches never gave up on their boys, and the players never gave up on each other. No one was ever negative. Everyone displayed class. What a huge win for Charlo.

This is not something that happens by accident. Head Coach Mike Krahn fosters this behavior in his kids. The teachers, administration and community of Charlo foster this behavior. It is easy to see this from the opposite sideline.

Charlo deserved to win that game at least as much as Ennis did. But Charlo still won perhaps the greatest prize.

You have the deepest respect and admiration for an opponent. Your actions, including the delicious meal, the welcome, and the send off — all despite having lost a chance to host the State Championship game — sets Charlo apart from other schools.

Your community makes me so proud to be a coach. Thank you for fostering all the right ideals in your students/athletes and for modeling them so consistently — even when the chips are down. You have won the right to be considered a most feared, revered, and respected opponent.

Kurtis Koenig of Ennis

My most important holiday wish is for you and all your family to have

a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. And, as always, if you have any questions, concerns, comments or suggestions please contact us at anytime.

Mark Beckman
Executive Director

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MHSA OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This is a reminder to the MHSA member schools that the Association office will be closed December 23 through January 1. The office will resume regular hours beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 2, 2014.

FALL SPORTS SEASON CHAMPIONS

The MHSA Staff and Executive Board would like to thank those schools that were such gracious hosts for staff and board members who attended or managed state events.

The following schools won sport/athletic championships in Fall 2013:

Girls' Golf

AA Billings West
A Polson

Boys' Golf

AA Billings West
A Sidney

Girls' Cross Country

AA Bozeman
A Corvallis
B Glasgow/Opheim
C Twin Bridges

Boys' Cross Country

AA Bozeman
A Hamilton/Victor
B Red Lodge
C Plenty Coups

Girls' Soccer

AA Billings Senior
A Billings Central

Boys' Soccer

AA Bozeman
A Park (Livingston)

Football

AA Bozeman
A Beaverhead Co. (Dillon)

B Loyola Sacred Heart
C (8) Ennis
C (6) Geraldine/Highwood

Volleyball

AA Billings Senior
A Corvallis

B Huntley Project
C Gardiner

OFFICIALS' BALLOTS FOR TOURNAMENTS

Please remember that both the wrestling officials' ballot and the basketball officials' ballot will be e-mailed to school contacts from the Association office before the Christmas break. In order to be included in the tabulation process all wrestling ballots must be post marked no later than January 8th and all basketball ballots must be post marked no later than January 21st. If preferable, you may fax the ballot to 406-442-8250 or scan and email to tstanisich@mhsa.org. The ballots will also be available for download at www.mhsa.org.

SPORTS EJECTIONS/SPORTSMANSHIP

To date, we have experienced fifty-two (52) ejections, compared to fifty-five (55) at this same time last year. The number of ejections in football decreased, and the number of ejections in boys' and girls' soccer remained the same.

Sportsmanship has to be a top priority in every school. We encourage every member school to reinforce all of the sportsmanship rules and regulations that have been adopted and continue to teach proper sporting behavior at all levels. As your students continue to view poor examples of sportsmanship which are seen on national television, please share with them how proper sporting behavior can be achieved in Montana high school activities. By working together, we will continue to reduce these ejection numbers for winter sports.

To assist in promoting and recognizing sportsmanship in your school, the MHSA is pleased that US Bank is once again sponsoring the MHSA/US Bank Sportsmanship Program. The MHSA/US Bank Sportsmanship Program provides recognition for good sporting behaviors at regular season games through the medal program for

players along with schools being able to recognize long time fans for their positive support of high school activities as an MHSA/US Bank Super Fan. Please contact the MHSA office to participate in these worthwhile programs.

REMINDER FOR MHSA SANCTIONED PASSES

Enclosed with this publication are two copies of the MHSA Sample Pass Chart. Please ensure that your ticket sellers/takers have a copy of this information for all events hosted by your school.

ANNUAL MEETING PLANS

CHECKLIST FOR 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

The MHSA Annual Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls on January 20, 2014.

Here is a checklist of all relevant details to help your school prepare for that event:

- ✓ **Reservations:** Call the Holiday Inn at 406-727-7200 and mention group code "HSA" to get appropriate room rates.
- ✓ **Registration:** A meeting registration form for each designated school contact is included with this publication. Please return this form to the MHSA as soon as is convenient.
- ✓ **Proposals:** The proposals for consideration at this year's meeting are enclosed and are also posted at www.mhsa.org.
- ✓ **Budget:** The proposed budget for the next fiscal year is included with this publication.
- ✓ **Agenda/Schedule of Activities:** A detailed agenda and a complete schedule will be emailed to member schools over the Christmas break.
- ✓ **MIAAA Meeting:** The MIAAA will hold its regular meeting at 7 pm on Sunday in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.
- ✓ **Eligibility/Equity Workshop:** The MHSA Staff will conduct an Eligibility/Equity Workshop on Sunday before the Annual Meeting. Attendance at this workshop satisfies the MHSA requirement for having an administrator complete this in-service at least once every five (5) years. [Reminder: the Sportsmanship Clinic is presented online and is not available at the Annual Meeting.]
- ✓ **Master Basketball Scheduling Committee:** The Master Basketball Scheduling Committee will meet after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting on Monday, January 20. Schools may request changes in their master schedules at that time. For more information contact Scott McDonald at 442-6010.
- ✓ **Other Meetings:** If there are groups that plan to meet in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and a representative has not notified the MHSA of those meetings, please contact our office immediately to reserve a meeting room.

PENDING CHANGES TO THE MHSA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Pat Lynch of Manhattan, current MHSA Executive Board President, will complete his term of service in the spring of 2014. Pat was elected as the Class B Representative to the Executive Board in 2010.

The MHSA membership, Executive Board, and staff members appreciate the contributions Pat has made while serving his four-year term. He is both thoughtful and enthusiastic in his efforts to improve high school activities, and he continually sustains a positive approach to students, to activities and to Association business.

The election of a new Class B Representative will be conducted during the 2014 MHSA Annual Meeting. The following highly qualified candidates have indicated that they are interested in filling the Class B vacancy:

Mark Ator, Vice Principal-Activities Director, Colstrip High School

Mark's twenty-four year career in Montana's education system has been busy, including experience as a coach of various sports, an administrator and a tournament manager. He holds the current leadership positions of Class B Football Scheduling Committee Chair and MIAAA President.

Jim Baldwin, Superintendent, Choteau Public Schools

Jim's list of education experience has varied throughout his thirty-seven year career, including tenure as an administrator in a variety of schools combined with numerous coaching positions. He has managed many MHSAs events as well as serving on MHSAs committees and other professional organizations.

WRESTLING

QUESTIONS REGARDING WEIGH-INS BEFORE A TWO-DAY TOURNAMENT

The MHSAs Executive Board approved a change in regard to weigh-ins effective for the 2013-14 season. The MHSAs will continue to follow NFHS Rule 4-5 on weigh-in procedures for all regular season matches/tournaments and post-season competition. There is one exception this year for regular season, two-day events. The new language states:

For regular season tournaments that are held on two consecutive days, schools can weigh-in participants the night before the opening of the tournament at their home site with school administration present to verify those weigh-ins. The team participants will still be required to follow NFHS weigh-in Rule 4-5 and must weigh-in on site the second day at the tournament site.

The rationale for the MHSAs Executive Board approving this new rule included the following:

- To save schools money (no meals, lodging, etc.) because they would not have to leave a day early due to early morning weigh-ins on the first day of a two-day tournament.
- To allow teams' safer travel because they could travel later in the morning on the first day of a tournament because they would not have to arrive at the tournament site for an early morning weigh-in.

We have received many questions about the implementation of this new rule, so we wanted to share the questions and answers with all MHSAs wrestling schools administrators and head coaches. The memo with the questions and answers is included in the enclosures of this Activity News.

DEADLINE FOR WRESTLING WR#2 FORMS

Wrestling Form WR#2 that the MHSAs office keeps on file is due on December 24, 2013, for the current season. These forms are sent to tournament managers for weight classifications. Please file the WR#2 form as soon as Form WR#1 cards are completed. Do not send the WR#1 cards to the MHSAs office.

BASKETBALL

BASKETBALL REMINDERS FOR GAMES AND PRACTICE

Player Starting a Game: NFHS Basketball rules state: Each team consists of five players, one of whom is the captain. A team must begin the game with five players (unless the MHSAs has given only a sub-varsity team permission to start a game with 4 players), but if it has no substitutes to replace disqualified or injured players, it must continue with fewer than five. When there is only one player participating for a team, the team shall forfeit the game, unless the referee believes that team has an opportunity to win the game. Coaches remember that by MHSAs rules, the Association prohibits students of member schools from playing in a preliminary contest and starting in the varsity contest on the same day. Coaches must ensure that this MHSAs rule is not violated.

MHSAs Practice and Quarter Rules: The quarter rule (found on page 100, item #7 of the MHSAs Handbook) and the practice rule (found on page 99, item #4 of the MHSAs Handbook) are MHSAs rules that a basketball official should not regulate or administer. If a player has fouled out, and all but one of the bench personnel have also fouled out and this one player has used up all of their quarters, the official shall follow NFHS rules in this case which states: if the team has a substitute available (on the bench and in uniform) the coach is required to sub in a player so the team has 5 players on the floor.

Schools and coaches are responsible for monitoring the MHSAs practice and quarter rules.

Clarification of a Non-Varsity Basketball Game Quarters Limits:

Allowable Non-Varsity Basketball Contest Formats

1. Contest is four (4) quarters of eight (8) minutes in length:
Game limit – Contest counts as one (1) game toward the game limitation for that squad.
Quarter limit – Each eight-minute quarter in which a student-athlete participates counts as one quarter toward the quarter rule limit.
2. Contest is three (3) quarters of eight (8) minutes in length:
Game limit – Contest counts as one (1) game toward the game limitation for that squad.
Quarter limit – Each eight-minute quarter in which a student-athlete participates counts as one quarter toward the quarter rule limit.
3. Contest is two (2) quarters of eight (8) minutes in length:
Game limit – Contest counts as one-half (1/2) game toward the game limitation for that squad.
Quarter limit – Each eight-minute quarter in which a student-athlete participates counts as one quarter toward the quarter rule limit.
4. Contest is four (4) quarters of four (4) minutes in length:
Game limit – Contest counts as one-half (1/2) game toward the game limitation for that squad.
Quarter limit – Participation in any part of one or two four-minute quarters counts as one quarter toward the quarter rule limit. Participation in any part of three or four four-minute quarters counts as two quarters toward the quarter rule limit.
5. Contest is two (2) quarters of eight (8) minutes in length and two (2) quarters of four (4) minutes in length:
Game limit – Contest counts as one (1) game toward the game limitation for that squad.
Quarter limit – Each eight-minute quarter in which a student-athlete participates counts as one quarter toward the quarter rule limit. Participation in any part of one or two four-minute quarters counts as one quarter toward the quarter rule limit.

Who Can Practice: By MHSAs Rules, only students who meet all MHSAs eligibility requirements (enrollment, age, semesters, academics, physical examinations etc.) are eligible to practice with and participate on member school teams. Exception: students who are eligible in every way except academics may participate in practice if the school allows.

ANNOUNCER INFORMATION

Please share the below information with basketball coaches and appropriate personnel.

In the 2013-2014 Basketball Rules Clinic – Major Editorial Changes Section, the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee came out with following editorial change:

Music/Sound Effects: Rule 1-18 is the Music/Sound Effect rule that prohibits the playing of music and sound effects and the use of artificial noisemakers during live ball play. Likewise, this rule enforces the need to prohibit the announcer from interrupting the game through the use of the microphone. The announcers must be trained to work the game and not make announcements during the game such as "two minutes to go". This is inappropriate.

The NFHS Basketball Rules Committee has now clarified this editorial change in the below situation:

SITUATION: The announcer announces (a) who scores during live ball play (b) who fouls (c) time left in the quarter. **RULING:** Legal in (a) and (b); illegal in (c), in (a) and (b), the announcer is allowed to give basic information during the course of the game, such as who the foul is on, who is shooting free throws, which team is taking a time-out and the length of the time-out. In (c), announcing the amount of time left in the quarter is not information that should be given since there is a visible clock for all to see. There is no penalty. The announcer should be handled in the same manner as a scorekeeper or timer who is not in compliance with the spirit of the

game. Appropriate training by school personnel and proper pregame instructions by the referee are necessary.

AIM HIGHER

AIM HIGHER WORKSHOPS

All schools are invited to come enjoy the fun and interaction which are offered during the AIM Higher workshops. In the morning, leadership, mentoring, a team captain training session, hazing awareness, and drug prevention are the focus, while the entire afternoon is dedicated to sportsmanship. For lunch, participants are treated to pizza and drinks. New activities are added each year and if you have not been to a workshop in a few years, please consider participating because we know your school, students and faculty will find the day rewarding.

The Aim Higher staff conducted two workshops at the beginning of the school year. On October 23rd, a workshop was held in Missoula. The Missoula workshop was facilitated by Jill Flynn from Broadwater High School and Brian Michelotti from the MHSAA. Participants from Alberton, Darby, Flathead, Granite, Missoula Hellgate, Thompson Falls, Troy and Victor attended the workshop at the Grant Creek Inn.

The next workshop was held on November 13th in Butte. The workshop was facilitated again by Jill Flynn from Broadwater High School and Brian Michelotti from the MHSAA. Students from Broadwater (Townsend), Butte High, Butte Central, Jefferson (Boulder), Powell County (Deer Lodge) and Twin Bridges were able to attend the workshop at Butte High School. We had record attendance for the Butte workshop, and we appreciate the support of the participating schools.

During each workshop, proper sportsmanship, hazing awareness and leadership by student athletes were among many of the topics that stimulated great discussions. Students did an outstanding job with the leadership activities and with sportsmanship.

A workshop will be held at the Hampton Inn in Billings on January 29, 2014. Please submit your registration as soon as possible for this workshop if you are interested in attending.

ACADEMIC ALL-TEAM

FALL MTARNG AWARDS REPORTING FORM

The MHSAA/Montana Army National Guard 2013 Fall Academic All-Team Award Reporting Form deadline is January 6, 2014. To fax this form to the MHSAA office, please use the fax number 442-8250. The form can be found on the MHSAA website under Special Programs (www.mhsaa.org).

MOA

REMINDERS

As we start the winter sports of both girls' and boys' basketball and

wrestling, please keep in mind the need to house all your officials in secure places where their safety is ensured. Please escort them off the court to their room and be aware of their need for security as they leave your building. We have had some reports of placing officials with teams in team locker rooms or in classrooms which can be an undesirable practice.

Remember, per MHSAA/MOA rules, that schools must go through the local officials' pool when hiring officials unless the official(s) is an approved non-pool affiliated official. Also, all varsity contests require MOA registered officials.

Ballots for the selection of post season officials will be e-mailed soon and they will also be available for downloading from the MHSAA website.

SPIRIT

SPIRIT RULES RESOURCE

A web site has been developed to provide interpretations on NFHS Spirit Rules. The site is <http://cheerrules.com>. There are several interpretations listed there currently and others will be added as appropriate. The items posted include video and comments in addition to the interpretations which are posted by Jim Lord in consultation with the NFHS. Coaches are welcome and encouraged to visit the site for rules clarifications.

Rule 2.5.2 SITUATION A is incorrect in the National Federation Spirit Rules Book. The corrected situation and rule follows: Page 18, 2.5.2 Situation A: A top person: (a) in a prep performs a back arch to the floor and ends in a handstand. Both bases maintain contact with her upper body; (b) in a cradle performs a back walkover to the floor. Both bases maintain contact with her upper body. **Ruling:** (a) illegal; (b) legal. Comment: (a) is illegal because the top person begins at prep level and ends on the performing surface.

MUSIC NOTES

MUSIC COMMITTEE TO MEET

The MHSAA Music Committee will meet in January in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. The Music Committee will convene on Sunday, January 19, at 3:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn and continue their meeting into Monday. For a complete copy of the agenda, contact the MHSAA office.

ENCLOSURES

1. [Proposals for the 2014 Annual Meeting](#)
2. [Annual Meeting Registration Form](#)
3. [AIM Higher Registration](#)
4. Questions Regarding Weigh-ins Before a Two-Day Tournament
5. 2014-2015 Proposed Budget (mailed hard copy only)
6. Sample MHSAA Pass Chart (mailed hard copy only)

Enjoy a happy and safe holiday season!

Staff Members

Mark Beckman, Executive Director
Joanne Austin, Associate Director
Scott McDonald, Assistant Director
Brian Michelotti, Assistant Director
Janie Holmes, Business Office Manager
Theresa Stanisich, MOA Coordinator
Jessica Silvonon, Receptionist/Information Clerk



Executive Board Members

Pat Lynch, Activities Director, Manhattan High School
(President)
Duane Walker, Activities Director, Hardin High School
(Vice President)
Mike Cutler, Superintendent, Granite Public Schools
Peter Fusaro, Principal, Flathead High School (Kalispell)
Malia Kipp-Camel, Governor's Appointee, Ronan
Lance Voegele, MTSBA Appointee, Belgrade