



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 second year that the MHSA, in partnership with the NFHS Network, broadcast most fall state championship events. The Network will broadcast 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.

For the MHSA Annual Meeting, one proposal has been submitted by a member school and three were submitted by the Executive Board for a total of four 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 addressing and resolving issues. Also, included is the MHSA budget for 2015-2016 with a 1.9% increase. Last year's budget was a 1.85% increase. We are able to increase the budget slightly the past two years because of the money we are receiving from the NFHS Network and PlayOn Sports. If the Network continues to be successful, using this money will delay any dues increase to the membership a sustainable time barring any unforeseen needs. The last dues increase was 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 an unknown author, "**One of the nice things about Christmas is that you can make people forget the past with a present.**" And now my wish list:

- For good sportsmanship to be a priority for all the players, coaches, officials and fans who participate in and attend MHSA events (and for schools to utilize the components of the MHSA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program to recognize and reward those good sporting behaviors). It is imperative that fans be held to high expectations and understand there will be consequences for poor behavior.

- For increased efforts by coaches, officials and administrators to help in recruiting new MOA members and retaining current MOA members and to continue to support our Respect Officials Campaign.
- For increased efforts by both coaches and officials to promote positive communication during Association Contests.
- For everyone involved with MHSA activities to promote and to encourage the positive benefits of student participation in multiple activities (diversification) and to strongly discourage specialization by our student activity participants.
- For coaches to appreciate the benefits of multiple sport participation for all athletes and not to pressure students to specialize but to encourage cross participation.
- For all administrators to be extremely diligent in reviewing the eligibility of each and every activity participant.
- For administrators to distribute the MHSA Fundamentals of MHSA Athletic Regulations document to coaches, activity directors, booster clubs, etc. (which can be found on mhsa.org) and to encourage anyone with questions to call the MHSA office to prevent violations before they occur.
- For administrators to use any opportunity to show appreciation to our corporate sponsors – Northwestern Energy, U.S. Bank, Farmer's Union Insurance, Your Local Ford Stores, Montana Army National Guard, Northern Sports Network and our ball sponsors, Baden, Rawlings, Dudley and Wilson.
- For all students to work as hard in the classroom as they tend to do in the activities in which they participate.
- For administrators always to feel comfortable in calling the MHSA office with any questions, comments or concerns.
- For the technology tools we have available to be used positively to promote communication and information access and not to be used in questionable ways by our students, coaches or officials.
- For very extra special gifts for the great MHSA staff (Joanne, Scott, Brian, Janie, Theresa and Karen) for their hard work and extra efforts throughout the year.

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 24 through January 2. The office will resume regular hours beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 5, 2015.

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 2014:

Girls' Golf

- AA Billings West
- A Whitefish

Boys' Golf

- AA Billings West
- A Hamilton

Girls' Cross Country

- AA Bozeman
- A Corvallis
- B Manhattan
- C West Yellowstone

Boys' Cross Country

- AA Bozeman
- A Hamilton
- B Red Lodge
- C Culbertson

Girls' Soccer

- AA Great Falls CMR
- A Laurel

Boys' Soccer

- AA Bozeman
- A Corvallis

Football

- AA Glacier
- A Beaverhead Co. (Dillon)

- B Broadwater
- C (8) Wibaux Co
- C (6) Geraldine/Highwood

Volleyball

- AA Billings Senior
- A Belgrade

- B Forsyth
- 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 7th and all basketball ballots must be post marked no later than January 20st. 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-five (55) ejections, compared to fifty-two (52) at this same time last year. The number of ejections in football increased, and the number of ejections in boys' and girls' soccer decreased.

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 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

The MHSa Annual Meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Kalispell on January 19, 2015.

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

- ✓ **Reservations:** Call the Hilton Garden Inn at 406-756-4500 and mention group code "MHSa" 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 19. 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.

MHSa EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

Duane Walker of Hardin, current MHSa Executive Board President, will complete his term of service in the spring of 2015. Duane was appointed as the Class A Representative to the Executive Board in 2012 to complete the unexpired term vacated by Karen Underwood of Laurel. This term represents Duane's second stint as a member of the Executive Board and as MHSa President. Previously, he completed a four-year term from 2007-2011.

The election of a new Class A Representative will be conducted during the 2015 MHSa Annual Meeting. One individual has announced his candidacy for the open Class A seat. Dennis Murphy, longtime Activities Director at Havre High School, has been a recognizable leader of Class A, serving as president of the classification and promoting continuing education and professional development through MIAAA. Dennis has managed countless regular and post season events in various classifications.

The election will be held in January, and Duane Walker will complete his term on the Board in April.

WRESTLING

DEADLINE FOR WRESTLING WR#2 FORMS

Wrestling Form WR#2 that the MHSa office keeps on file is due on December 24, 2014, 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 MHSa 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 MHSa 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 MHSa 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 MHSa rule is not violated.

MHSA Practice and Quarter Rules: The quarter rule (found on page 48, item #7 of the MHSA Handbook) and the practice rule (found on page 48, item #4 of the MHSA Handbook) are MHSA 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 five (5) players on the floor. Schools and coaches are responsible for monitoring the MHSA 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 (1) or two (4) four-minute quarters counts as one (1) 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 (1) 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 MHSA Rules, only students who meet all MHSA 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.

The NFHS Basketball Rules Committee has now clarified the announcer's responsibilities as stated below:

- ❖ Announcer Responsibilities
 - May be announced:**
 - Player who scored
 - Player charged with foul, number of fouls on player and number of team fouls
 - Player attempting free throw
 - Team granted a time out
 - Length of time out: 30 seconds or 60 seconds
 - Player entering game
 - Team Rosters

Should not be announced:

- Number of points player scored
- Number of team time outs or number remaining
- Time remaining in the quarter/game
- Type of foul or violation
- Emphatic 2 or 3 point goal

Situation: The announcer announces (A) who scores while the clock is running (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. The announcer should be handled in the same manner as a scorekeeper or timer who are not in the 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 session, leadership, mentoring, a team captain training session, hazing awareness, and drug and alcohol 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 several workshops at the beginning of the school year. On October 8th, a workshop was held in Missoula. The Missoula workshop was facilitated by Jill Flynn from Broadwater High School and Brian Michelotti from the MHSA. Participants from Alberton, Darby, Frenchtown, Loyola Sacred Heart, Missoula Hellgate, Missoula Sentinel, and Victor attended the workshop at the Grant Creek Inn.

The next workshop was held on November 12nd in Butte at Butte High School. The workshop was facilitated by Randy Shipman from Dillon and Brian Michelotti from the MHSA. Students from Broadwater (Townsend), Butte High, Butte Central, Jefferson (Boulder), Lima and Powell County (Deer Lodge) were able to attend the workshop at Butte High School. We had another 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 participating in the leadership activities and also discussing sportsmanship issues.

A workshop will be held at the Hampton Inn in Billings on January 28, 2015. 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 MHSA/Montana Army National Guard 2014 Fall Academic All-Team Award Reporting Form deadline is January 12, 2015. To fax this form to the MHSA office, please use the fax number 442-8250. The form can be found on the MHSA website under Special Programs (www.mhsa.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 MHS/ 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 MHS/ MOA website.

- Is the coach trained in proper skill development and safety procedures?
- Are there written, oral and posted warnings concerning the risk involved?
- Is there an "emergency plan" in place?
- If competitions are attended, are mats and professional spotters provided?

Important Notice for Schools with Spirit Team Attending Competitions

If your spirit team(s) are considering participation in any cheer/dance competitions (in- or out-of-state), please be aware of the following:

- MHS/ MOA does not prohibit participation in competitions provided that all minimum MHS/ MOA safety requirements and other applicable rules are enforced.
- Permission to attend in- or out-of-state competitions is within the authority of each local school district.

SPIRIT

ADMINISTRATOR'S CHECKLIST OF CHEERLEADING PROGRAMS

With the proper procedures, safety rules, supervision and equipment in place, cheerleading can be a very rewarding, relatively safe activity for young people. The following checklist is provided for administrators to help them provide a safe environment of the cheerleading program. It is recommended that the administrator and the cheer coach met periodically to discuss needs, objectives and goals of the program.

- Is there supervision at all official events (practices, games, etc.)?
- Is adequate matting provided?
- Does the squad follow a conditioning and flexibility program?

MUSIC NOTES

MUSIC COMMITTEE TO MEET

The MHS/ MOA Music Committee will meet in January in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. The Music Committee will convene on Sunday, January 18, at 3:00 p.m. and continue their meeting into Monday. For a complete copy of the agenda, contact the MHS/ MOA office.

ENCLOSURES

1. Proposals for the 2015 Annual Meeting
2. Annual Meeting Registration Form
3. AIM Higher Registration
4. Questions Regarding Weigh-ins Before a Two-Day Tournament
5. 2015-2016 Proposed Budget (mailed hard copy only)
6. Sample MHS/ MOA 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
Karen English, Receptionist/Information Clerk



Executive Board Members

Duane Walker, Activities Director, Hardin High School
(President)
Mike Cutler, Superintendent, Philipsburg Public Schools
(Vice President)
Mark Ator, Activities Director, Colstrip High School
Drew Blewett, Governor's Appointee, Great Falls
Peter Fusaro, Principal, Flathead High School (Kalispell)
Lance Voegele, MTSBA Appointee, Belgrade
Don Wetzel, Jr., State Superintendent's Appointee, Helena