

# ACTIVITY NEWS

Montana High School Association • 1 South Dakota Ave • Helena, Montana 59601 • 406-442-6010 • [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org)

May 2014

## OFFICE COMMENTS

This is my usual article where I complain about spring weather, and I really have had reason to complain the past several years. However, this spring the weather hasn't been as bad as we have experienced the past few years, but not as good as we would like. I haven't heard of many postponements, cancellations or of absolutely horrid participation conditions during this spring sports season. I might even be able to state we have experienced average weather for a Montana spring. Maybe, during the spring, I need to embrace this quote I found credited to Kim Hubbard, "Don't knock the weather. If it didn't change once in a while, nine out of ten people couldn't start a conversation."

It is hard to believe we have less than one month remaining in the school year and only a few weeks left in the spring season.

Our member schools, MHSA Executive Board and MHSA Staff are not satisfied with "average," demonstrated by their willingness to update and revise our rules and regulations, guiding the Association in a very positive direction. The Association, through action by the Executive Board and by the Membership, has brought forth By-Law revisions and rules and regulation changes/additions for the benefit of those who participate in MHSA activities. A summary of those actions includes:

### MHSA Annual Meeting Actions

The following proposals were adopted at the 2014 Annual Meeting:

1. The due date for annual membership dues was amended from August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. The transfer rule language governing foreign exchange students was amended to include F1 visas as well as the current J-1 visas.

### MHSA Executive Board Actions

#### Reclassification

- Approved reclassifying the following schools commencing in the 2015-16 school year:  
Plentywood High School from Class B to Class C  
Anaconda High School from Class A to Class B  
Libby High School from Class A to Class B

#### Realignment

- Approved three teams to be reassigned to six-player football and two teams to remain in six-player football.
- Approved Class C Eastern Division volleyball realignment.
- Approved Class C Northern Division realignment for basketball and track and field.

#### Other General Rules and Regulations Items

- Approved adding vuvuzelas to the items prohibited at outdoor MHSA events
- The Board approved adding that sticks of all kinds are prohibited at MHSA contests (no signs on sticks, pompoms on sticks etc.)
- Open Gym Provision additional clarification: "The open gym is open to any high school youth (Grades 9-12) from your high school who is interested in attending".
- Sportscaster requirements from the joint MHSA/Montana Broadcasters Radio Policy were added to all video display broadcast sections of the MHSA Media Policy.

#### Calendar

- The first practice date for basketball will now align with the first practice date for swimming and wrestling. For 2014, the date is Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### MOA Items

- Approved increasing the fee for basketball three-person crews to match the fee for two-person crews. The fee will increase from \$51 to \$60 per official for varsity crews
- Approved the following provision: Officials are also prohibited from working post season games in the gender-specific classification where they have an immediate relative who is participating as an athlete or head coach
- Approved the following revisions for postponed contests: Contest(s) cancelled due to weather or act of God will be rescheduled using the same officials (if possible) and those officials will receive only travel and per diem allowances for the cancelled contest(s). If different officials are used, officials will be paid the travel/per diem allowance and game fee. In regard to cancellations/postponements after the contest begins, officials that work one quarter (or its equivalent) or more will receive a full game fee and if the officials work one quarter or less, they will receive a half of a game fee (lightning cancellations, power outages etc.)

#### Wrestling

- Approved releasing Class B-C Wrestling pairings after divisional meets are completed

#### Football

- Approved Six-Player Football practices can begin in 2014-15 on August 15<sup>th</sup>, aligning all divisions of MHSA football to the same practice and competition start dates.

#### Softball

- Approved the following for Class B-C Softball - If the divisional tournament cannot be played, the four teams that will be seeded at the state tournament will be seeded based on their seeding entering the divisional. If the tournament cannot be completed then the four highest seeded teams remaining will advance to the state tournament and be seeded accordingly.

#### Soccer

- The Board approved increasing the game limit for Class AA soccer from twelve games to fourteen games per season.

#### Cross Country

- The Board approved a standard \$7.00 fee per participant for all state cross country meets.

#### Track and Field

- Approved that 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 toward the ten-meet limit for the particular student.

#### Golf

- Approved golf coaches using golf carts if the course allows.
- Approved the use of USGA-approved electronic distance measuring devices for golf.

- Approved qualifying scores for the State Class AA Golf Tournaments – 100 on an 18 hole/Par 70 course for boys and 120 on an 18 hole/Par 70 course for girls.

#### **Music Items**

- Several amendments were made to the music rules and regulations, including a revision of the definition of major performing groups and re-codification of the music handbook. To receive a complete copy of the changes, please email [jpaustin@mhsa.org](mailto:jpaustin@mhsa.org).

#### **Speech and Drama Items**

- As recommended by the MFEA, various amendments to speech, debate and drama rules were approved, including an amendment to state participant fees for Classes A and B-C. To receive a complete copy of the changes, please email [jpaustin@mhsa.org](mailto:jpaustin@mhsa.org).

#### **Spirit Items**

- Approved various changes to the spirit section of the MHSAs Handbook. To receive a complete copy of the changes, please email [jholmes@mhsa.org](mailto:jholmes@mhsa.org).

As you can tell by the above summary, 2013-2014 was a busy year. The MHSAs member schools, the MHSAs Board and the MHSAs Staff are continuing to work diligently to review and to revise how we operate our great Association. As Will Rogers once said, "Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there." I believe we are not just "sitting there" but we are continuing to work consciously to address relevant issues for those who will benefit from the activities provided by MHSAs member schools and also by the services provided by the Montana High School Association.

Once again, on behalf of the MHSAs Executive Board and MHSAs Staff I want to thank you for your support and for your willingness to provide your comments and suggestions during this year. The MHSAs Staff is here to serve and if you have any questions, comments or concerns please let us know.

Have a great remainder of your school year and I hope you have a very relaxing summer.

*Mark Beckman, Executive Director*

## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **CONCUSSION LEGISLATION**

Previously, all schools were emailed information regarding the concussion legislation that was adopted last year during the 2013 legislative session. That information detailed the role of the MHSAs and high schools, as well as school districts, in adhering to the new law. The enclosed concussion-related materials serve as a reminder that concussion legislation is still in effect. Feel free to contact the MHSAs office if you have questions.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING IN KALISPELL**

The next MHSAs Annual Meeting will be held in Kalispell on January 19, 2015. The Hilton Garden Inn is the host facility. Reservations may be made by calling 406-756-4500 and asking for group code MHSAs.

#### **MHSAs SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

Beginning Monday, June 2, 2014, the MHSAs office hours will be 7 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The office will *not* be open on Fridays. These hours will be in effect through Friday, August 15, 2014, after which they will revert to regular office hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### **ATHLETIC PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL FORM**

The MHSAs physical form that schools are required to use for their student athletes is included in this mailing. The form is also available on the MHSAs website: [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org). Physicals are valid for one school year. An exam conducted before May 1 is not valid for the following year. Please contact Brian at the MHSAs office if you have any questions and please direct any questions from medical providers to the MHSAs office as well.

#### **THREE SEASON CALENDARS/STATE SITES**

Enclosed with this Activity News are the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 three-season calendars and lists of the state events and sites. Please review the calendars for updates since the last publication date.

#### **MHSAs/MONTANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ACADEMIC ALL TEAM AWARD**

Just a reminder that if you want to recognize your school's team for their academic achievements for the spring season of the MHSAs/Army National Guard Academic All Team Award you must submit the spring season activity teams reporting form to the MHSAs by Monday, June 16. The forms can be found on our website at [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org).

#### **REMINDER – NFHS PARTICIPATION SURVEYS**

In a separate email, school contacts received instructions for establishing a user profile for your school district to complete the annual National Federation Survey for Athletic and Non-Athletic Student Participation via the MHSAs website. This data is now also required by the Office of Public Instruction.

The MHSAs will use the data reporting NFHS participation figures. The Office of Public Instruction will use the data to report the total number of students that participate in extracurricular activities as required by 20-7-104, MCA.

Schools that have not submitted the data will continue to receive reminders until the surveys are complete. Responses for the MHSAs participation figures are due by May 15, 2014.

#### **MHSAs'S OFFICIAL BALL CONTRACTS**

Enclosed with this *Activity News* is a list of the balls that are used for MHSAs post-season competitions. Balls used during the regular season are at every school's discretion. Please make sure this list is distributed to the appropriate personnel at your school.

#### **MONTANA COACHES ASSOCIATION CLINIC**

The Montana Coaches Association will conduct their annual clinic July 30 - August 1, 2014. Great Falls High School in Great Falls will be the host site. The MCA continues to assemble a variety of knowledgeable speakers and presenters that will benefit all those who participate. Schools' athletic and spirit staff members should be encouraged to attend.

MHSAs will offer the following presentations at the MCA clinic this year:

- Equity/Eligibility Rules Clinic (meets MHSAs clinic requirement)
- AACCA Safety Certification for Cheer Coaches (separate fee applies)

If you have questions about any of the segments listed above, please feel free to contact the MHSAs office.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD ITEMS**

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD REORGANIZATION**

During their April meeting, the MHSAs Executive Board conducted the election of officers for 2014-2015. Duane Walker, Activities Director of Hardin High School, will serve as president, and Mike Cutler, Superintendent of Philipsburg Public Schools will serve as vice president.

Leaving the Executive Board is Pat Lynch, Activities Director of Manhattan High School, who completed his four-year term as the Class B representative. Pat was a valued member of the Board who advocated sportsmanship and continuing education for athletic administrators, while providing unwavering support for his fellow board members and MHSAs Staff.

Malia Kipp-Camel, Governor's Representative on the Board, also concluded her four-year term. Malia contributed an essential perspective to the Board as a staunch activities enthusiast. Her thoughtful demeanor and her willingness to represent the Board at state events are just two of her many attributes that will be missed.

Lee Stiffarm, State Superintendent's Representative, resigned her position in November because of scheduling conflicts. Though Lee's term was shorter than expected, she was a valued member of the Board who embraced the ideals of participation.

Don Wetzel, Jr. of Billings was selected by the State Superintendent to complete the unexpired term vacated by Lee Stiffarm. Don's first meeting of the Board was in April, and his term will continue until 2015. Mark Ator, Vice Principal and Activities Director of Colstrip High School, is the newly elected Class B Representative. The new Governor's Representative is Drew Blewett of Great Falls. Both of their terms began in April and will continue until 2018. Welcome Don, Mark and Drew!

#### **MEETING DATES SET FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The MHSAA Executive Board has established dates for their regular meetings for the 2014-2015 school year. While the Board is required by MHSAA By-Laws to hold a minimum of four (4) meetings, they can also hold special meetings in person, or the Board can conduct business by conference phone calls.

#### **2014-15 Board Meeting Dates**

September 22-23, 2014  
November 24-25, 2014  
January 17 & 19, 2015  
April 13-14, 2015

## **FOOTBALL**

#### **INSPECTING FOOTBALL HELMETS**

Carefully inspect your helmets and look for reconditioning needs, cracked shells etc. Most of you have probably already completed this task but it is always wise to check again. Make sure you destroy helmets that are obsolete or damaged beyond repair. Any helmet dated 2005 or older will not be reconditioned.

#### **FOOTBALL SUMMER CAMPS AND WORKOUTS**

Coaches conducting summer workouts and camps (in accordance with MHSAA rules) at their schools or at colleges must be vigilant in regard to athletes' health, level of conditioning and exposure to risk. It is imperative that you address the health and injury risks with your high school's students and that you conduct your workouts with safety being your primary concern.

## **MOA**

#### **MOA REGIONAL DIRECTORS TO MEET IN JUNE**

The eleven MOA Regional Directors will be meeting in Helena on June 8-9, 2014 to discuss the Montana Officials' Association's policies and guidelines. If you have any concerns, comments or questions regarding the MOA, please share those with us and they will be placed on the agenda. We must receive your information by May 28, 2014.

#### **RESPECT OFFICIALS CAMPAIGN:**

#### **WITHOUT OFFICIALS, IT'S JUST RECESS!**

In the near future schools will be receiving a second poster in our "Respect Officials" campaign. This campaign consists of several phases, all of which are designed to improve the culture of sport and to foster involvement in activities through officiating. The information will be sent to schools under separate cover.

#### **2014-2015 MOA FEES**

Enclosed with this newsletter is a list of fees in all sports for next year. Please note the change in the mileage amount for next year.

## **AIM HIGHER**

#### **AIM HIGHER PROGRAM**

Another year of AIM Higher has been completed and once again we had a very successful year. The AIM Higher Program continues to include sessions on leadership, mentoring, team captain training, hazing awareness, drug prevention and sportsmanship. We also were able to incorporate more activities into the workshop this year, which makes the day more enjoyable for everyone involved. We feel many students were empowered to return to their schools and promote positive changes. This year 313 students participated in four workshops throughout the state marking the 25th year of this successful program. In the past nine years, 59 workshops have been conducted with 4,211 participants taking part in the leadership activities.

We particularly owe a debt of gratitude to Butte High School, who allowed us to use their facility and resources for a workshop in 2013-14. Also, we are very grateful to schools who so generously allowed members of their staff to serve as facilitators. Those schools are Broadwater (Townsend) and Dawson County (Glendive). In addition, we want to express our appreciation to individuals from these schools who committed their time to be AIM Higher facilitators. Jill Flynn and Richy Powell helped facilitate workshops during the school year. These individuals volunteered their time, talent and expertise during the workshops and we truly appreciate their commitment to the MHSAA and to the AIM Higher Program.

## **SPIRIT**

#### **MCA SPIRIT INFORMATION**

Membership in the Montana Coaches Association is offered to high school spirit coaches. Just a few of the important benefits that could be realized as a member of the MCA include: reduced admission to the annual MCA Clinic in Great Falls, free admission to all regular season high school and college games in Montana, enrollment in a million dollar coaches liability policy which covers classroom teaching as well as camp coaching, and receipt of four newsletters which relate to coaching. Please have your cheer coach consider becoming a member of this beneficial organization. Information relative to this year's MCA Clinic was emailed to cheer coaches in May.

## **TRACK & FIELD**

#### **STATE TRACK & FIELD MEETS**

Please remind your track and field coaches to read the State Meet Policies and Procedures found on pages 10-13 of the 2013-2014 State Track and Field Procedures Manual, so they can continue to be familiar with policies and procedures at this year's State Track and Field Meets.

**Javelin Certification:** There continue to be questions about javelin certification for track and field meets. Ron Johnson, a javelin expert, suggests performing the following tests to certify javelins for track and field meets. Please share this information with your head track and field coaches and other appropriate personnel.

1. Test the weight of the javelin.
2. Test the overall length of the javelin.
3. Check the balance point of the javelin.
4. Test the diameter of the tail portion of the javelin. To test the diameter of the tail section you must use calipers that have English or metric measurements and do the following:
  - a) Find the **balance point** of the javelin.
  - b) With the calipers measure the diameter of the shaft at the thickest point, front of grip;
  - c) Calculate 90% of that measurement;
  - d) With a tape measure, measure from the **balance point** to the end of the tail of the javelin;
  - e) Go to a point  $\frac{1}{2}$  the total distance from the **balance point** to the tail;
  - f) Using the caliper measure the diameter at that point – it must be no less than 90% of the diameter measurement of front of grip.

On page 47 of the NFHS Track and Field Rule Book you can find the IAAF javelin specifications.

**Montana's "5 Alive" Method Explained:** There continue to be questions concerning the procedure for conducting the high jump and pole vault in order to keep the events moving and maintain interest. Rule 7-2-9 allows for the use of "continuing flights" when there are large fields. The purpose of these continuing flights is to keep the competition moving and the competitors warmed up for their second or third jumps at a height, instead of having them wait until everyone has completed their first jump. **As a competitor clears a bar, passes their attempts at a height or is eliminated, the next competitor in order will be moved up so that the number of competitors in the continuing flight remains constant at five.** The basic premise of the "5 Alive" method is to have five jumpers remain in the continuing flight until they make the jump, have three misses at the height or pass their remaining attempt(s). When this happens, the next jumper is added to the flight. The "5-Alive" method places the new jumper at the end of the jumping order. **This process continues until you have eight or fewer total competitors remaining. At that point, all competitors will be in a single continuing flight and the**

competitors are called in the order they appear on the event card (sheet). (Reminder--In the "5 alive" method: if a jumper has jumped and missed their attempt, no more than 4 jumpers may jump before that jumper makes their next attempt.)

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Scott McDonald at the MHSa office.

## CROSS COUNTRY

### STATE CROSS COUNTRY QUALIFYING TIMES

For the 2014 State Cross Country Meet athletes must meet a qualifying time in at least one regular season cross country meet prior to participation in the State Cross Country Meet. The qualifying times are as follows:

Boys – 30.00 minutes or faster

Girls – 35.00 minutes or faster

Athletes who do not meet the required performance time at least once during regular season competition will not qualify for participation at the State Cross Country Meet and cannot be entered as a team member or alternate.

Coaches will be required to turn in a form stating the qualifying time of each athlete entered in the meet when they pick up their 2014 State Cross Country Meet Coach's Packet in Helena.

### STATE CROSS COUNTRY PARTICIPATION FEE

The MHSa Executive Board has approved that each school participating in the 2014 State Cross Country Meet will share proportionally the cost of running the meet by paying a \$7.00 fee for each athlete that actually participates in the State Cross Country Meet (alternates are not considered participants). The fee will include chip timing. Coaches will be required to pay the total fee at the time they pick up their State Cross Country Meet Coach's Packet.

Please share this information with your cross country coach(es) and other appropriate personnel. Should you have any questions or concerns about the above, please do not hesitate to contact Scott McDonald at the MHSa office.

## VOLLEYBALL

### 2014 VOLLEYBALL RULE REVISIONS

The 2014 NFHS Volleyball Rule Revisions are enclosed and have been posted on the MHSa website. To review the NFHS Volleyball Rule Changes on our website, go to [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org); click on volleyball, then click on the appropriate link.

### SOLID WHITE VOLLEYBALLS TO BE USED FOR THE COMING SEASON

As approved by the MHSa Executive Board for 2014 volleyball regular season play, a solid white volleyball which shall include the NFHS authenticating mark shall be used for all levels of play. During MHSa post season play, the Baden Lexum Comp VX450 solid white volleyball shall be used.

Please share this information with your volleyball coach(es) and other appropriate personnel. Should you have any questions or concerns about the above, please do not hesitate to contact Scott McDonald at the MHSa office.

## FORENSICS

### SPEECH & DRAMA NEWS

Administrators and coaches are encouraged to review the information on the MHSa website concerning speech, debate and drama. Recent Board determinations are available at [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org).

Please consult the Speech and Drama page for current topics and other information that will assist your programs. Coaches are encouraged to register for electronic mailings. Our site will continue to post links and other pertinent items in cooperation with the MFEA.

## MUSIC

### SPRING MEANS MUSIC IN MONTANA

Music events are a "rite of spring" and many thanks are extended to all who hosted District Music Festivals this year. The efforts of the following individuals made this year's festivals possible:

District 1	David Barr, Glacier (Kalispell)
District 2	John Combs, Missoula
District 4	Chris Kloker, Dillon
District 5	Renee Westlake, Bozeman/Rob Loveridge, Helena
District 6	Dusty Molyneaux, Great Falls
District 7	David Johnke, Havre
District 8	Karl Ortman, Lewistown
District 9	Scott Corey, Billings
District 10	Lindsey Wilkerson, Miles City
District 11	Mary Senvold, Glendive
District 12	Jonathan Brooks, Poplar
District 13	Matt Goettle, Scobey

We also extend our thanks to the hosts of the Western and Eastern State Solo & Ensemble Festivals:

Eastern	Scott Corey, Billings
Western	Rob Loveridge, Helena

## ENCLOSURES

[2014-2015 Three Season Calendar and State Event Calendar](#)  
[2015-2016 Three Season Calendar and State Event Calendar](#)  
[Athletic Pre-Participation Physical Exam Form](#)  
[MHSa's Official Ball Contracts](#)  
[2014 Football Rules Changes](#)  
[2014 Volleyball Rule Revisions](#)  
[2013-2014 Wrestling Rule Changes](#)  
[Concussion Information](#)

# HAVE A SAFE AND RELAXING SUMMER!

#### 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



#### 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 Voegelé, MTSBA Appointee, Belgrade  
Don Wetzel, Jr., State Superintendent's Appointee, Billings