

# ACTIVITY NEWS

Montana High School Association • 1 South Dakota Ave • Helena, Montana 59601 • 406-442-6010 • www.mhsa.org

October 2013

## EXECUTIVE CORNER

In my October article I like to take the opportunity to emphasize the value of participating in extracurricular activities and how relatively inexpensive it is for schools to provide these invaluable programs. Each and every day in Montana, thousands of high school students are practicing and competing in various high school activities. This fall we have students practicing/participating in football, volleyball, cross country, golf, speech and debate, music (band, orchestra and chorus) soccer and cheerleading (spirit). We all realize the value of participating in these activities but it wouldn't hurt to share the many specific positive reasons for participation with parents, school board members, community members, the media, etc. During these difficult economic times we are experiencing and with some comments that we are spending too much on high school sports/activities it is more important than ever to share the value of these activities for our students. In Montana, high school activities expenditures, on average, amount to about 2% of a high school budget – yes just 2%.

In the meantime I am including the following excerpts from "The Case for High School Activities" published by the National Federation of State High School Associations on the value of high school activities:

- **COST** - At a cost of only 1 to 3% (or less in many cases) of an overall school's budget, high school activity programs are one of the best bargains around. In Montana the cost is about 2%.
- **ACTIVITIES SUPPORT THE ACADEMIC MISSION OF SCHOOLS.** They are not a diversion, but rather an extension of a good educational program. Students who participate in activity programs tend to have higher grade-point averages, better attendance records, lower dropout rates and fewer discipline problems than students generally.
- **ACTIVITIES ARE INHERENTLY EDUCATIONAL.** Activity programs provide valuable lessons for many practical situations. Through participation in activity programs, students learn teamwork, sportsmanship, winning and losing, the rewards of hard work, self-discipline, build self-confidence, and develop skills to handle competitive situations. These are qualities the public expects schools to produce in students so they become responsible adults and productive citizens.

There are numerous studies to support the above data and many of those studies are listed in the National Federation's Case for High School Activities, which is enclosed.

As this season progresses and as we begin to prepare for winter activities, it is important that schools and local officials' pools work together when scheduling officials for contests now and throughout the year. As most of you have come to realize, there is a shortage of officials in some areas and for some sports. If schools and officials pools cooperate in scheduling game times and even possibly adjusting game days, contests can be covered adequately. I have received numerous calls from both school administrators and from officials expressing their appreciation for the cooperation exhibited in the scheduling, and sometimes the rescheduling of contests to accommodate the availability of officials. The MHSA appreciates these cooperative efforts between administrators and officials. But, if there are any major problems or conflicts with the scheduling of contests that cannot be solved between schools and official pools, please contact the MHSA office and hopefully we can help facilitate a solution to the problem.

Post season play began with the State AA and State A golf meets experiencing good weather for their recently concluded events. Thousands of participants, their coaches, their parents and their supporters are preparing for post season play in football, volleyball and soccer along with the State Cross Country Meet and All-State Band, Chorus and Orchestra Festival. I know our tournament managers and playoff/festival hosts will work very hard to assure great experiences for all those involved. Also, we hope the weather will continue to cooperate for our fall events and, with any luck, we will experience nice fall weather for the remainder of our post season events.

A few things I would like to mention before winter activities begin:

- The first date for wrestling and swimming practice this year is November 21<sup>st</sup>. The first date for practice in basketball is November 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The MHSA rules clinics for basketball, wrestling, and spirit will once again be presented online. It is required that all head coaches and all assistant coaches in basketball, wrestling, swimming and spirit view the clinic for their specific sport/activity. The clinics will be available on November 1<sup>st</sup> and the clinics need to be viewed by December 6<sup>th</sup>. Further information is included with this Activity News regarding the MHSA online clinics.
- U.S. Bank once again is the title sponsorship for the successful sportsmanship program that has been provided for our member schools and their communities. This is the seventh year of this very popular initiative and the MHSA is very fortunate to have U.S. Bank as a partner providing the valuable components of this program. The MHSA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program will continue to provide many resources for member schools to use in promoting and rewarding good sporting behaviors by players, coaches and spectators at interscholastic activities. Information regarding all the components of this program will be mailed to school contacts in the next few weeks. Please consider using the local recognition program (medal program) during the final portion of your fall sports season. Please contact Brian Michelotti ([bmichelotti@mhsa.org](mailto:bmichelotti@mhsa.org)) to participate in the program or for more information.
- Also included is information on how officials are selected for playoffs, district and divisional and state tournaments and championships. Please share this information with your head coaches.

### **MHSA JOINS THE NFHS NETWORK!**

As I reported in an earlier Press Release sent via email, the Montana High School Association has signed an agreement with the NFHS Network to webcast live state championship games/meets in numerous sports throughout the entire year. Thirty-three states are participating in the Network. PlayOn Sports will be the company producing each event. The first event to be produced was the Class A State Golf Tournament in Polson and that will be followed by the state cross country meet in Missoula and the Class AA State Soccer Tournament in Helena later in October. The events will be available by subscription pay and can be accessed at [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org).

The NFHS Network deals specifically with post season events. However, I continue to receive calls concerning the live video streaming of regular season events by schools without acquiring the

necessary permission from the MHS Executive Director. The relevant policy from the MHS Handbook is listed below:

C. *Commercial Broadcast, Telecast, Cybercast and Video Display:*

1. *All commercial broadcast, telecast, cybercast or video display of any regular or post-season event must be approved by the MHS Executive Director. Rights and conditions (including fees) of live commercial broadcasts, telecasts, and/or cybercasts of regular and post season events will be specified through written consent of the MHS.*
2. *When granted authority for commercial broadcast, telecast, cybercast or video display of MHS events, the commercial entity must comply with the conditions set forth by MHS, including any safety, contractual, fiscal, or other concerns that apply. The MHS will consider the promotion of both male and female activities when granting authority.*

The reason for approval by the Executive Director is to assure that the promotion of both male and female activities is occurring and schools are not violating gender equity standards. For example, webcasting only football games would violate gender equity standards (Ridgeway and Title IX concerns). Also, besides the possible loss in revenue from gate receipts, the school may have to deal with concerns from parents of other programs questioning why their activity isn't being included (program equity not gender equity).

Webcasting of post season events is now controlled by the NFHS Network. If the Network won't be webcasting a certain event, an outside entity can submit a proposal to me for consideration. I would review any proposal carefully examining gender equity, program equity and possible loss of revenues to schools before considering entering into the agreement. Webcasting may seem like that wonderful idea but there are many factors that have to be considered and rules and regulations that must be followed before permission can be granted. If you have any questions regarding webcasting or any other MHS media policy provision please contact me.

And, as we wrap up the fall activity season and begin to prepare for winter activities please contact the MHS office with any questions or comments you may have.

Mark Beckman  
Executive Director

## NEW SEASON OF ONLINE CLINICS

### ONLINE CLINICS

The MHS/MOA rules clinics for all activities are presented exclusively online. The basketball, wrestling, spirit and swimming clinics will be posted on our main website at [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org). Enclosed please find an instruction sheet that details the procedure for accessing the clinics. **November 1** is the planned launch date for the basketball, wrestling, and swimming clinics. Coaches must view the clinics prior to **December 6, 2013**, to receive credit. Also, cheer coaches who have not previously viewed the spirit rules clinic because they coach only squads who cheer for basketball will also need to complete their online clinic.

**All coaches, including the head coach and all assistant coaches and all school-approved volunteer coaches, are required to view the clinic.** An information sheet explaining the procedure on accessing these clinics is enclosed with this newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact the MHS office.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASSES FOR ADMISSION TO MHS EVENTS

Enclosed is the MHS Pass Chart. The passes illustrated on the chart are those distributed by the Montana High School Association Executive Board. The individuals receiving the passes are admitted to all MHS regular season and post season events free of charge. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. If you need more copies of the chart for your school please contact the MHS office.

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Make sure you check the "News and Announcements" section of the MHS homepage ([www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org)) for important directory updates. Please notify the MHS with any changes to your school's directory contact information.

### TOURNAMENT MANAGERS' WORKSHOP

The MHS Executive Board has approved a requirement that all MHS tournament managers view an online Tournament Manager's workshop before their event. The workshop includes valuable information on managing the sport specific tournament, including:

- MHS guidelines for post season events
- Information on completing financial reports
- MOA Officials information
- Media policies
- Tournament Manager resources

The Board believes these online workshops will provide a plethora of helpful information for use by each Tournament Manager and the electronic format provides flexibility for delivering this important information. Workshops are sport specific and need to be viewed once every five years for that sport specific post season event.

Post season Tournament Managers can access their sport-specific clinic by going to [mhsa.org](http://mhsa.org) and clicking on the 'Tournament Manager' link on the home page. Currently, the Volleyball Tournament Managers' clinic is available for viewing.

The MHS would like to thank all Tournament Managers for agreeing to manage a MHS post season event. If you have any questions regarding the information provided in the Tournament Manager workshop, please contact Scott McDonald at the MHS office.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD ITEMS

### NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The next regular meeting of the MHS Executive Board will be held in Helena beginning on Monday, November 25, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in the MHS office. The board meeting will continue Tuesday, November 26 if business has not been completed.

Major Agenda Items for Executive Board Meeting:

1. Adoption of proposed 2014-2015 budget.
2. Plans for Annual Meeting (Great Falls).
3. Meritorious Service, Service Citation and Mildred Adams Awards.
4. Act on rules and regulations proposals from member schools.
5. Review any Realignment Proposals.

\*\*Reclassification is a two-year process and the Board will determine what schools will be reclassified beginning in the 2015-2016 school year at their April 2014 meeting, allowing for realignment proposals to be submitted at the November 2014 meeting. Those schools will be notified prior to the April meeting as soon as the appropriate fall and spring enrollment counts are tabulated.

Anyone wishing to be on the agenda must contact the MHS office at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

### MHS AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED

As in the past, the MHS will honor deserving individuals at the Annual Meeting to be held in Great Falls in January. The MHS Executive Board, during their meeting on November 25-26, will consider the nominees for the following awards:

1. **James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award:** Presented for "Outstanding Contributions to the MHS Activities." This is the highest award given by the MHS;
2. **Service Citation Award:** Presented for "Significant Contribution to the MHS", and;
3. **Mildred Adams Award:** Presented to school support staff personnel who work with activities.

### SUBMIT ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSALS

Remember that the deadlines are approaching for presenting proposed amendments to the MHS By-Laws and/or Rules and Regulations.

- Proposed changes by member schools for any of the Rules and Regulations of the MHSA Handbook, must first be presented to the MHSA Executive Board at its November 25-26 meeting.
- Schools may submit proposed changes in the By-Laws (pages 11 - 38) to the Executive Director by December 1. By-Law changes do not need to be presented to the Executive Board for approval.

No proposal can be presented from the floor that has not been received by the Executive Director by the December 1 deadline. Proposals must carry a fiscal note if there are financial implications to the Association and proposals will be separated by the Resolution Committee to be considered by affected classifications.

### **ANNUAL MEETING IN GREAT FALLS**

The next MHSA Annual Meeting will be held in Great Falls on January 20, 2014. The Holiday Inn is the host facility. Reservations may be made by calling 406-727-7200 or via the website at [www.holidayinngreatfalls.com](http://www.holidayinngreatfalls.com). The group code is "HSA".

## **BASKETBALL**

### **BASKETBALL RULE REVISIONS ENCLOSED**

Enclosed are the basketball rules revisions for the 2013-2014 season. Please give these to your basketball staff for their review.

### **BASKETBALL TO START**

Monday, November 25, 2013, is the first date for basketball practice. Friday, December 6, 2013, is the first date a basketball game is permitted under the MHSA rules. Basketball Rules and Regulations, Item (4), page 99 of the current MHSA Handbook provides that: No individual shall play in any Association basketball contest until that individual has a minimum of ten (10) days of practice of at least one practice session per day on 10 different days (no practice permitted on Sunday), prior to the date of the first allowable game.

This rule applies to games that are scheduled to be played with independent teams, alumni teams, or any other teams.

Also, please note the interpretation under Article II, Section (1) of the By-Laws, Association Contest, page 18, of the current MHSA Handbook concerning game limits.

### **LEG AND ARM COMPRESSION SLEEVES**

More leg compression sleeves are being worn by players as a means of personal expression. The Basketball Rules Committee felt there was a need to add the same restrictions for leg compression sleeves that are in place for arm compression sleeves. Leg compression sleeves must be white, black, beige, or a single solid school color. The sleeve must be the same color for each team member and have only a single manufacturer's logo that does not exceed 2 ¼ square inches. The sleeve must be worn for medical reasons only. Any leg compression sleeves that are worn on the lower leg, upper leg, lower leg and knee and upper leg and knee are included in this rule.

To clarify the interpretation of this rule, for the 2013-2014 basketball season, in order for any athlete to wear compression sleeves on their arms (elbows) or leg compression sleeves, the athlete shall present a note from an licensed health care professional stating that the athlete must wear the compression sleeve. The note must be presented to the officials at the pre-game conference. If a medical note is not presented, the athlete must remove the compression sleeve before participating in the contest.

## **VOLLEYBALL**

### **2013 STATE ALL-CLASS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT**

The 2013 State All-Class Volleyball Tournament will be held at MSU-Bozeman's Brick Breeden Fieldhouse on November 14-16, 2013. The MHSA staff will be managing this tournament. The schedule for the tournament is as follows:

### **Thursday and Friday, November 14-15**

All classes match times:

10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm and 8 pm

### **Saturday, November 16**

Classes A & B match times:

11 am, 1 pm – Championships (3 pm if necessary)

Classes AA & C match times:

11 am, 3 pm – Championships (5 pm if necessary)

Doors will open for ticket sales Thursday and Friday at 9 am and on Saturday at 10 am.

Montana State University will also be hosting a home football game on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> against Southern Utah. To address parking concerns of teams, cheerleaders, administrators, bands and fans who will be attending the tournament on Saturday, MSU has developed parking guidelines that can be viewed by going to [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org), clicking on volleyball, and looking under the State All-Class Volleyball Tournament information.

Also, enclosed is information regarding bands for this tournament. If you have any questions or concerns about the tournament, please contact Scott McDonald at the MHSA office.

## **FOOTBALL**

### **VARIOUS FOOTBALL ISSUES ADDRESSED**

As we work our way to the post season, there are numerous football issues that need clarification or emphasis. Please refer to the enclosed Football News Summary for information on starting the game on time, wearing pink, halftime length, player introductions and footballs furnished by Rawlings. Feel free to copy and distribute this information to all your personnel involved in football.

## **SOCCER**

### **SOCCER SEASON CONCLUDES IN NOVEMBER**

This year's state soccer tournaments for Class AA and the playoff structure for Class A will be held this month. Specific information is listed by classification below:

#### **Class AA Tournament**

- October 31 - November 2, 2013
- 8 boys' teams and 8 girls' teams (four from each division).
- First place teams in each conference will have a bye during playoff week and will be the 1<sup>st</sup> seed at state.
- Tournament Location: Helena – Siebel Fields

#### **Class A Playoff Structure**

- October 14-19 - First Round
- October 21-26 - Semi-Final Round
- October 31 - November 2 - Championship Games
- Higher seeded teams will host

## **WRESTLING**

### **2013-14 MHSA WRESTLING SEASON**

The first date for wrestling practice this year will be November 21<sup>st</sup> and the first date for competition is December 6<sup>th</sup>. A wrestling match or meet will be permitted on this day only if the contestants participated in the required number of practice sessions

In Montana, a major change will occur for the 2013-14 wrestling season in regard to weight classes. At the 2013 MHSA Annual Meeting, the MHSA Member Schools adopted the NFHS weight classes along with the addition of the 98 pound weight class. We will still have fifteen weight classes in Montana but they will be significantly different than the weight classes used in the past. Here are the new weight classes that will be in effect for the 2013-14 MHSA wrestling season:

98 lbs.	132 lbs.	170 lbs.
106 lbs.	138 lbs.	182 lbs.
113 lbs.	145 lbs.	195 lbs.
120 lbs.	152 lbs.	220 lbs.
126 lbs.	160 lbs.	HWT (max. 285)

Also, there will no longer be a minimum weight for the lowest weight classes in Montana.

The MHSA has another change in regard to weigh-ins that will be in effect for the 2013-14 season. The MHSA will continue to follow NFHS rule 4-5 on weigh-in procedures for all regular season matches/tournaments and post-season competition. We will have one exception this year. 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.**

Finally, we will be implementing a change for the 2014 MHSA State All-Class Wrestling Tournament. In the past, we have allowed two coaches and a statistician in each corner at state. We continue to have congestion challenges in the floor area at the state tournament, so this year, we are limiting schools to the maximum of **two** individuals in the corner (on chairs at the edge of the mat). NFHS Rule 2-2-2 states:

**During tournament competition, a maximum of two team personnel (coaches and/or non-participating contestants) will be permitted on chairs at the edge of the mat.**

## **SPIRIT**

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

...All provisions of the National Federation Spirit Rule Book as well as regulations listed in the MHSA Handbook shall be in effect for all spirit team activities including practices, games, performances and competitions (dance/drill included). Violations of these regulations are subject to penalties as outlined in Article VIII, Section (2) of the MHSA By-Laws. An individual school district may place further restrictions on their spirit squads than what is placed by the National Federation and the MHSA.

...Your spirit coach should have participant medical release forms with them at all times including practices, games, competitions, and any other school sponsored events where the coach is responsible for the students' welfare.

...Your spirit coach must be in attendance and attentive at all practices, functions, games, and competitions.

...If your spirit team performs ANY stunt (any tumbling skill, toss, partner stunt or pyramid), your coach must be certified in AACCA Safety Certification.

...Mascots are a part of the spirit team; therefore, they are under the supervision and direction of the spirit coach and must follow rules found in the National Federation Spirit Rules Book and MHSA Handbook.

## **MUSIC**

### **MUSIC REMINDERS**

The following requirements can be found on page 233 of the 2013-14 *MHSA Handbook*.

Each school shall send a representative to the district rules and procedures meeting. The festival chair shall call a meeting following the annual MMEA festival chairs clinic held in conjunction with the MMEA conference.

The festival chair or a district representative shall attend the Festival Rules Clinic held in conjunction with the MMEA conference each fall. The Festival Chairs' Meeting will be held on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at the MMEA Convention. Erik Engebretson, MHSA Music Committee Chair and Band Director from Malta High School, will conduct the meeting.

## **AIM HIGHER**

### **AIM HIGHER CONTINUES**

Four workshops will be conducted during this school year. The AIM Higher Program will continue to include sessions on leadership, mentoring, team captain training, hazing awareness, drug prevention and sportsmanship. The 2013-14 AIM Higher schedule was included with September's Quick Bits and may also be viewed at [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org). The remaining workshops will be in Butte in November, Great Falls in December, and Billings in January. Please consider registering your school for one of the scheduled dates as soon as possible for this worthwhile opportunity for your students.

## **ACADEMIC ALL TEAM**

### **MHSA/MONTANA ARMY NAT'L GUARD ACADEMIC ALL TEAM**

The Montana High School Association is again proud to be partnered with the Montana Army National Guard to provide the MHSA/Montana Army National Guard Academic All Team Program to our 179 member schools. Information about participating in this program will be sent to you in the near future, please contact Scott McDonald at the MHSA office, 442-6010 or [smcdonald@mhsa.org](mailto:smcdonald@mhsa.org) to find out more about the program. **There is no cost to participate in this program.** After the three teams with the highest grade point averages are identified at each level of competition and for each classification, the Montana Army National Guard will contact your school to offer assistance in presenting the certificate to the winning teams in the format each school would prefer, such as at games, assemblies, banquets, etc.

## **ENCLOSURES**

1. [James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award, Service Citation Award and Mildred Adams Award Form](#)
2. Annual Meeting Proposal Form
3. [NFHS: The Case for High School Activities](#)
4. October 2013 Football News Summary
5. [Online Clinic Information – Winter](#)
6. [2013-14 NFHS Basketball Rule Changes](#)
7. [2013-14 Basketball Officials' Signals](#)
8. 2013-14 NFHS Basketball Poster
9. [2013-14 Basketball Timer & Scorer Instructions](#)
10. Basketball Rule Books (2)
11. MHSA Pocket Calendar
12. [Post Season Officials Selection Procedure](#)
13. Sample Admission Pass Chart

---

### 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  
Lee Stiffarm, State Superintendent's Appointee, Billings  
Lance Voegelé, MTSBA Appointee, Belgrade

---