



## EXECUTIVE CORNER

Once again, I am pleased to report that MHSA fall championships went extremely well. Even with Brutus showing up on state volleyball and semi-final football playoff weekend we “weathered” the storm and made it through. 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.

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](http://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. As you are aware, MHSA By-Laws require the reclassification of schools be considered every two years, and this was the year for that process. Seven schools met the enrollment criteria for two consecutive years and were recommended to be reclassified. Five of those schools petitioned to remain in their present classification and Powder River County High School was reclassified from Class B to Class C and St. Labre High School was reclassified from Class C to Class B. Also, please be aware that according to MHSA By-Laws the Board can only realign and reclassify schools at the November meeting of the Board. Any requests to realign must be sent to me ten days before the November meeting. The Executive Board will be submitting a proposal to amend the By-Law which establishes the timeline for deciding reclassification of schools. The current By-Law specifies the November Executive Board Meeting as the time for reclassification, but the proposal would modify that date to the previous April Executive Board Meeting. There will still be four enrollment counts over two consecutive years used to reclassify schools but identifying those schools in April would allow more time for districts and divisions to formulate realignment plans to present to the Executive Board at their November meeting.

For the MHSA Annual Meeting, three proposals have been submitted by member schools and three were submitted by the Executive Board for a total of six proposals for consideration. Three ties the lowest number of proposals ever submitted by member schools. 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 2013-2014 with a 1% increase. The current year's budget was a 0% increase. 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. **Christmas is a time when everybody wants his/her past forgotten and his/her “present” remembered.** Here is what is on my list for Santa this year (with many repeats from the last few years!):

- For good sportsmanship to be a priority for all the players, coaches, officials and fans who participate 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. The MHSA/MOA will be launching a Respect Officials Campaign in the near future hopefully helping with these efforts.
- 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 sponsors, booster clubs, etc. (which can be found on [mhsa.org](http://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, US Bank, Farmer's Union Insurance, Your Local Ford Stores, Montana Army National Guard, Northern Sports Network and our ball sponsors, Mikasa, 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, and Theresa) for their hard work and extra efforts throughout the year.

But 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 1. The office will resume regular hours beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 2, 2013.

### 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 2012:

#### **Girls' Golf**

AA Bozeman  
A Polson

#### **Boys' Golf**

AA Billings West  
A Hamilton

#### **Girls' Cross Country**

AA Bozeman  
A Corvallis  
B Glasgow  
C Twin Bridges

#### **Boys' Cross Country**

AA Bozeman  
A Whitefish  
B Red Lodge  
C Culbertson/Bainville

#### **Girls' Soccer**

AA Bozeman  
A Billings Central

#### **Boys' Soccer**

AA Bozeman  
A Whitefish

#### **Football**

AA Butte  
A Billings Central

B Loyola Sacred Heart  
C (8) Superior  
C (6) Hot Springs

#### **Volleyball**

AA Billings Senior  
A Laurel

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 returning wrestling ballots must be post marked no later than January 4<sup>th</sup> and all returning basketball ballots must be post marked no later than January 16<sup>th</sup>. If preferable, you may fax the ballot to 406-442-8250. The ballots will also be available for download at [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org).

### SPORTS EJECTIONS/SPORTSMANSHIP

To date, we have experienced fifty-three (53) ejections, compared to forty-eight (48) at this same time last year. The number of ejections in boys' soccer decreased, but the number of ejections in girls' soccer and football increased.

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 to announce 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 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

The MHSA Annual Meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula on January 21, 2013.

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

- **Reservations:** Call the Hilton Garden Inn at 406-532-5300 or 1-877-STAYHGI and mention Montana High School Association 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](http://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.
- **LTC 502:** The LTC 502 course will be offered from 9 am – 1 pm on Sunday. Contact Gary DeGooyer at Great Falls Public Schools for registration and fee information (406-268-6084).
- **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 21. 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

Dennis Holmes, Billings Senior High School Principal and current MHSA Executive Board President, will complete his term of service in the spring of 2013. Dennis was elected as the Class AA Representative to the Executive Board in 2008.

Dennis is a valued member of the Executive Board, and his efforts are appreciated by the MHSA membership and staff. His enthusiasm for high school activities lends itself to his steadfast service as your Association president.

The election of a new Class AA Representative will be conducted during the 2013 MHSA Annual Meeting. In addition, a ballot will be conducted for the Class A position, which is currently an interim post. The Class A position previously held by Karen Underwood was vacated when Karen accepted a job outside her Class A district of Laurel. In compliance with MHSA By-Laws, Duane Walker of Hardin was appointed by the Executive Board to serve as interim director

until the next election opportunity, which will be in January at the Annual Meeting.

## WRESTLING

### WRESTLING CHANGES FOR 2012-13 SEASON

At the November Executive Board meeting, the MHSAA Executive Board implemented several changes for this wrestling season. The first change was to the weight control program in the MHSAA Handbook. The following changes (**in bold**) were made to clarify the modifications that were made for the 2012-13 school year:

#### II - WEIGHT CONTROL PROGRAM

- (2) Each wrestler must certify his/her weight within **thirty-four (34)** calendar days (**December 19, 2012**) of his/her first wrestling practice. To be certified, a wrestler must have on file with the school principal or his/her designee a completed WR#1 form. This form will bear the wrestler's name, his/her school, and the dated signatures of the examining physician, the wrestler, his/her parent or guardian, and the coach. On this card, the examining physician will record the lowest weight he/she feels the wrestler may safely attain during that wrestling season. The other parties must sign the form after the examining physician has recorded his/her lowest weight, and by so doing, they indicate agreement with the physician's assessment.
- (5) Upon completion of WR#1, form WR#2 also must be completed and sent to the MHSAA office **by December 19, 2012, which is thirty-four (34) calendar days from the MHSAA's published date for the start of wrestling practice**. Form WR#2 has appropriate spaces for the name of the school, the completion date, the signature of the school principal or his/her designee, and the name and lowest weight for each wrestler as taken from the WR#1 forms.
- (6) **A student who joins the team after the deadline for certification must have his WR#1 Form completed immediately and an additional WR#2 Form must be sent to the MHSAA office prior to the post season.**

The other change that was made was to the scoring procedure at the Class AA State Wrestling Tournament. The following change will be in effect for the 2013 State AA Wrestling Tournament:

**When two wrestlers from the same school meet in a match at the state tournament, the maximum points possible will be awarded to the winner. Maximum points are defined as advancement points (two points for the championship bracket or one point for the consolation bracket) and two match points. Any applicable place points will also be awarded.**

If you have any questions, please contact Brian in the MHSAA office.

### DEADLINE FOR WRESTLING WR#2 FORMS

Wrestling Form WR#2 that the MHSAA office keeps on file is due on December 19, 2012, 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 MHSAA 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 MHSAA 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 MHSAA 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 MHSAA rule is not violated. Because this is a MHSAA rule, MOA Basketball Officials will follow NFHS rules requiring a varsity team to start with 5 players even if some of players have played in a sub-varsity contest.

**MHSAA Practice and Quarter Rules:** The quarter rule (found on page 100, item #7 of the MHSAA Handbook) and the practice rule (found on page 99, item #4 of the MHSAA Handbook) are MHSAA 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 MHSAA practice and quarter rules.

**Clarification of a Non-Varsity Basketball Game Quarters Limits:** The MHSAA Executive Board approved the following for the 2012-13 basketball season:

#### 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 MHSAA Rules, only students who meet all MHSAA 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.

## AIM HIGHER

### AIM HIGHER WORKSHOPS

The Aim Higher staff conducted two workshops at the beginning of the school year. On October 10th, 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 Arlee, Darby, Hamilton, Loyola Sacred Heart, Missoula Big Sky,

Missoula Hellgate and Missoula Sentinel attended the workshop at the Grant Creek Inn. During the day, proper sportsmanship, hazing awareness and leadership from student athletes were among many of the topics where we have great discussions. Students did an outstanding job during the leadership activities and the sportsmanship skits at this workshop.

The next workshop was held on November 7th in Butte. The workshop was facilitated by Randy Shipman from Dillon and Brian Michelotti from the MHSA. Students from Belgrade, Broadwater (Townsend), Butte High, Butte Central, Powell County (Deer Lodge) and Twin Bridges were able to attend the workshop at Butte High School. We had a record attendance for the Butte workshop, and we appreciate the support of the participating schools. During the day, proper sportsmanship, hazing awareness and leadership from student athletes were among many of the topics that stimulated great discussions.

We invite all schools to come enjoy the fun and interaction which are offered during the Aim Higher workshops. In the morning, we focus on leadership, mentoring, a team captain training session, hazing awareness, and drug prevention. The entire afternoon is focused towards sportsmanship. For lunch, participants are treated to pizza and drinks. We continue to add new activities 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.

A workshop will be held at the Hampton Inn in Billings on January 30, 2013. 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 2012 Fall Academic All-Team Award Reporting Form deadline is January 4, 2013. 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](http://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 insured. 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 a formula for disaster.

Remember, per MHSA/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 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.

A correction to the 2012-13 NFHS Spirit Rules Book - Situation 2.7.2 on page 23 should read as follows: \*2.7.2 SITUATION: While performing on a rubberized track, cheerleaders execute: (a) a basket toss; (b) a **braced** tick tock; (c) a helicopter. RULING: All are legal. (Rule 2-7-7 stipulates that at least one bracer is required for a tick tock, however 2.7.2 SITUATION did not include this stipulation which caused some confusion.

## MUSIC NOTES

### MUSIC COMMITTEE TO MEET

The MHSA Music Committee will meet in January in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. The Music Committee will convene on Sunday, January 20, at 3:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn and continue their meeting into Monday. For a complete copy of the agenda, contact the MHSA office.

## ENCLOSURES

1. Proposals for the 2013 Annual Meeting
2. Annual Meeting Registration Form
3. AIM Higher Registration
4. 2013-2014 Proposed Budget (mailed hard copy only)
5. Sample MHSA Pass Chart (mailed hard copy only)
6. January Calendar

***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



#### Executive Board Members

Dennis Holmes, Principal, Billings Senior High School  
(President)  
Pat Lynch, Activities Director, Manhattan High School  
(Vice President)  
Mike Cutler, Superintendent, Granite Public Schools  
Malia Kipp-Camel, Governor's Appointee, Ronan  
Lee Stiffarm, State Superintendent's Appointee, Billings  
Duane Walker, Activities Director, Hardin High School  
Lance Voegelé, MTSBA Appointee, Belgrade

---