

ACTIVITY NEWS

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

December 2010

EXECUTIVE CORNER

Once again, I am pleased to report that MHSA fall championships went extremely well. Except for the snowy, windy and extremely cold weather we experienced for football state championship weekend, the weather mostly cooperated for those late fall culminating events. 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 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 and contact me with any comments, concerns or questions.

As you are aware, MHSA By-Laws require the reclassification of schools be considered every two years, and this was the meeting where schools were recommended to change classification or petitioned to change classification. Seven schools were reclassified, with four schools meeting the enrollment levels designated by rule and with three schools petitioning the Executive Board to be reclassified because of declining enrollment numbers and enrollment projections for the next several years. The Board determined, after closely reviewing the submitted data, those schools should be afforded early reclassification because their enrollment numbers, beginning next year, would not only be below the 10% range for Class C (131) but would be below the actual Class C number of 119. The Board believed it would be unfair for those schools to wait for another two years to be reclassified. With the reclassification of multiple schools it is always necessary to realign districts and divisions because of movement between classes.

This year Class A and Class B were the most affected by realignment issues, and the Board and Staff appreciate the efforts by administrators in those classes who formulated plans of realignment by the required November meeting. 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. Also, the Board will not review any reclassification recommendations until November of 2012 and schools will not be reclassified again until the 2013-2014 school year.

The Executive Board also reviewed the reports from the committees put in place by the membership at last year's Annual Meeting. The committee to study the possibility of adding another female sport and the committee to explore the possibility of adding competitive cheerleading reported to the Board and the Board will present a recommendation to the membership regarding these two committees' findings at the Annual Meeting in January. Also, the Board reviewed the recommendations from the eligibility rules review committee and will present two proposals regarding revisions to the eligibility rules for the membership's consideration. And, the Board

also reviewed the recommendation from the committee appointed to explore adding a fifth classification and directed the staff to survey the affected schools to gauge the level of support to decide on whether to continue studying this issue.

I would be remiss not to mention, on behalf of the MHSA Executive Board, MHSA staff and membership our appreciation to the twenty-four committee members who willingly gave of their time and talent to address all the issues I have mentioned above. We are grateful to each committee member for their service and appreciate their schools for allowing them to serve.

For the MHSA Annual meeting, four proposals have been submitted by member schools and three were submitted by the Executive Board for a total of seven proposals for consideration. Four proposals is 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.

Ho, Ho, Ho! It is hard to believe that the Holiday Season is here once again. Here is what is on my list for Santa this year (with many repeats from the last few years!):

- For everyone involved with MHSA activities to promote and 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 all students to work as hard in the classroom as they tend to do in the activities in which they participate.
- For good sportsmanship to be a priority for all the players, coaches, officials and fans who participate and attend MHSA events.
- For administrators always to feel comfortable in calling the MHSA office with any questions comments or concerns.
- For increased efforts by coaches, officials and administrators to help in recruiting new MOA members and retaining current MOA members.
- For increased efforts by both coaches and officials to promote positive communication during Association Contests.
- For the technology tools we have now 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 MHSAs staff (Joanne, Scott, Brian, Janie, Theresa, Sheila and Amanda) 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

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please be sure to check mhsa.org for updates to the 2010-2011 Directory of Schools.

MHSA OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This is a reminder to the MHSAs member schools that the Association office will be closed December 22 through January 2. The office will resume regular hours beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 3, 2011.

FALL SPORTS SEASON CHAMPIONS

The MHSAs 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 the fall of 2010:

Girls' Golf

AA Great Falls CMR
A Billings Central

Boys' Golf

AA Billings Senior
A Hamilton

Girls' Cross Country

AA Bozeman
A Whitefish
B Glasgow
C Belt/Centerville

Boys' Cross Country

AA Bozeman
A Corvallis
B Loyola Sacred Heart
C Joliet

Girls' Soccer

AA Billings West
A Billings Central

Boys' Soccer

AA Helena High
A Libby

Football

AA Bozeman
A Custer County

B Bigfork
C (8) Chinook
C (6) Denton

Volleyball

AA Helena High
A Fergus

B Huntley Project
C Terry

OFFICIALS' BALLOTS FOR TOURNAMENTS

Please remember that both basketball and wrestling ballots will be sent to school contacts via e-mail. Ballots for the selection of wrestling officials will be sent on Friday, December 17, 2010 and must be postmarked no later than January 5, 2011 and must be postmarked no later than January 15, 2011 to be included in the tabulation process. Ballots can also be faxed to 406-442-8250. The ballots can also be downloaded from the MHSAs web site, www.mhsa.org.

SPORTS EJECTION LIST

Enclosed with this publication is the ejection list for fall sports. This year we experienced forty-four (44) ejections, compared to forty-six (46) at this same time last year. The number of ejections in boys' soccer decreased, but the number of ejections in football increased.

Sportsmanship has to be a top priority in every school. We need every member school to continue 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 teach 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 all winter sports.

To assist in promoting and recognizing sportsmanship in your school, the MHSAs is pleased to announce that U.S. Bank has renewed their sponsorship of the MHSAs/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program. The MHSAs/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program provides recognition for good sporting behaviors at regular season games, a banner program for the entire school, along with schools being able to recognize long time fans for their positive support of high school activities as an MHSAs/U.S. Bank Super Fan. Please contact the MHSAs office to participate in these worthwhile programs.

REMINDER FOR MHSA SANCTIONED PASSES

Enclosed with this publication are two copies of the MHSAs 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 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

The MHSAs Annual Meeting will be held at the Billings Holiday Inn Grand Montana on January 17, 2011.

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

- **Reservations:** Call the Holiday Inn at 406-248-7701 and mention group code "HAS" 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 MHSAs 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 sent to member schools over the Christmas break.
- **MIAAA Meeting:** The MIAAA will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Sunday in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.
- **Other Meetings:** If there are groups that plan to meet in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and a representative has not notified the MHSAs of those meetings, please contact our office immediately to reserve a meeting room.

- **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.]

PENDING CHANGES TO THE MHSA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Two members of the MHSA Executive Board will complete their terms in the spring of 2011. Duane Walker, Activities Director of Hardin High School and Class A Representative, and Doug Reising, Superintendent of Hellgate Elementary in Missoula and OPI Representative, will each have served four years on the Executive Board. This year, Duane and Doug are serving as officers of this Association as President and Vice President respectively.

Having guided the MHSA during some unique issues, both gentlemen have given thoughtful deliberation to immediate decisions as well as helping institute long-term procedures for future growth in high school activities.

The two vacated positions will be filled as follows:

Class A Representative (elected position) – Karen Underwood, Principal of Laurel High School, is the nominee for this elected position. Karen is an experienced administrator who has served the MHSA Athletic Committee as a member and as committee chair. An election will be conducted during the Annual Meeting.

OPI Representative (appointed position) – State Superintendent Denise Juneau, will appoint a new representative to begin a new four-year term during the spring of 2011.

WRESTLING

DEADLINE FOR WRESTLING WR#2 FORMS

Wrestling Form WR#2 that the MHSA office keeps on file is due on December 22, 2010, 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. See Section II, (5), (6), (7), pages 204 and 205, of the current *MHSA Handbook*.

BASKETBALL

AVAILABILITY OF ELIGIBLE OFFICIALS FOR POST SEASON ASSIGNMENT

For the 2010-11 Basketball Season, Basketball Official Pools and Non-Pool Affiliated Basketball Officials may provide information regarding availability of eligible officials for post season assignment to a district or division representative for distribution to schools in those districts or divisions, when requested in writing. Individual officials shall not provide such information. **The MOA Regional Directors are allowing pools and non-pool affiliated officials to provide a list of officials and the dates those officials are available for post season assignment to a district or divisional representative to distribute to the schools in their respective districts or divisions allowing coaches to vote for officials who are available on each weekend of post season competition.** Basketball Pools and Non-Pool Affiliated Basketball Officials should prepare a means by which to relate information of officials' availability (days and dates) to requesting district or division representatives for all weeks of basketball post season play (the dates being February 7-12, February 14-19, February 21-26, March 3-5 and March 10-12).

CONCEPT 1 SHOE

The following is information from Mary Struckhoff, NFHS Assistant Director and Basketball Rules Editor and National Interpreter, concerning the use of the Concept 1 shoe during MHSA Basketball games: I have gotten several inquiries about a new product on the market called a Concept 1 Shoe made by Athletic Propulsion Labs. I've included a product link below and the marketing claims made by the company. **Based on this information, The Concept 1 shoe is prohibited for MHSA Basketball competition based on NFHS Basketball Rule 3-5-4.**

In testing situations, athletes have experienced increases of several inches on their vertical leap wearing Athletic Propulsion Labs™ basketball shoes with the Load 'N Launch™ technology. In some cases, athletes who were the proverbial “inches away” from being able to dunk a basketball on the regulation 10-foot basket were able to dunk the ball when wearing Athletic Propulsion Labs™ shoes. These are not training shoes. Athletic Propulsion Labs™ has created actual playing shoes designed to make players jump higher during a game – increasing the benefits to a player's jump shot, rebounding, dunking and shot blocking ability.

Please relate this information to your Basketball Coaches and athletes.

DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENT MEDALS

DIVISIONAL MEDALS

For all 2011 Divisional Track and Field and Tennis Meets, the MHSA Awards Program will provide individual medals to the top two place winners and ribbons to the third through sixth place winners in each event in Class AA, A, B and C Divisional Track and Field Meets and ribbons to the 3rd and 4th place winners in Class AA, A, & B-C Divisional Tennis Meets. If divisions would like to award medals to their place winners who received ribbons, the division must purchase those additional medals by calling Scott McDonald, at the MHSA office 442-6010, by January 10 to ensure the medals will be available for your Divisional Track and Field Meet and Divisional Tennis Meet. Additional medals cost \$4.40 each.

AIM HIGHER

AIM HIGHER WORKSHOPS

The Aim Higher staff conducted a workshop on November 10, 2010 in Butte. The workshop was facilitated by Randy Shipman from Dillon and Brian Michelotti from the MHSA. Students from Broadwater (Townsend), Butte High, Butte Central, Darby, Lincoln, Powell County (Deer Lodge) and Whitehall attended the workshop at Butte High School. We had record attendance for the Butte workshop, so thanks to all the schools for attending. During the day, proper sportsmanship, hazing awareness and leadership by student athletes were among many of the topics discussed.

We invite all schools in the future to come enjoy the fun and interactive day with our Aim Higher Program. In the morning, we focus on leadership, mentoring, a team captain training session, hazing awareness, drug prevention and then the entire afternoon centers on sportsmanship. For lunch, participants are treated with pizza and PowerAde. We continue to add new activities each year and if you have not been to a workshop in a few years, please consider attending 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 26, 2011. Please register as soon as possible for this workshop if you are interested in attending.

MOA

MUSIC NOTES

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 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 website.

SPIRIT

JEWELRY CLARIFICATION

Reports continue to come in to the office and MHS staff has observed at recently held post season events that some cheerleaders are continuing to wear jewelry.

National Federation Spirit Rules Book states in Rule 2, Section 2, Article 1 the following: ***Jewelry of any kind is prohibited. A religious medal without a chain must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical-alert medal must be taped and may be visible.***

This means that no jewelry of any kind (except for the exception for religious and medical medals) can be worn. Cheerleaders CANNOT wear studs in their noses, tongue rings etc.

In addition, there is a Situation shown in the Spirit Rules Book that specifically states that hair ties and woven friendship bracelets are also prohibited.

In preparing for basketball season, please share this with your cheer coach.

MUSIC COMMITTEE TO MEET

The MHS Music Committee will meet in January in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. The Music Committee will convene on Sunday, January 16, at 3:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana in Billings and continue their meeting into Monday. For a complete copy of the agenda, contact the MHS office.

MHS COMMITTEES

MASTER BASKETBALL SCHEDULING COMMITTEE MEETING

There will be an important meeting to discuss schedules and changes in the master basketball schedule on Monday, January 17 in Billings at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana.

All Master Scheduling Committee members are encouraged to attend this meeting immediately following the MHS Annual Meeting. Schools may request changes in their master basketball schedules at this time.

If you have questions or concerns please contact Gary DeGooyer, committee chair, at 406-268-6084 or Scott McDonald at 442-6010.

ENCLOSURES

Proposals for the 2011 Annual Meeting
Annual Meeting Registration Form
2010-2011 Sports Ejection list (e-mailed)
AIM Higher Registration
2011-2012 Proposed Budget (mailed hard copy only)
Sample MHS Pass Chart (mailed hard copy only)
January Calendar

MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



STAFF MEMBERS

Mark Beckman, Executive Director
Joanne Austin, Associate Director
Scott McDonald, Assistant Director
Brian Michelotti, Assistant Director
Janie Holmes, Business Manager
Theresa Stanisich, MOA Coordinator
Sheila Lindquist, AIM High Coordinator
Amanda Hazlett, Receptionist and Information Clerk

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Duane Walker, Activities Director, Hardin High School
(President)
Doug Reisig, State Superintendent's Appointee, Missoula
(Vice-President)
Dennis Holmes, Principal, Billings Senior High School
Pat Lynch, Activities Director, Manhattan High School
David Perius, Activities Director, Gardiner High School
Malia Kipp-Camel, Governor's Appointee, Ronan
Lance Voegelé, MtsBA Representative, Belgrade