

EXECUTIVE CORNER

Once again, I am pleased to report that MHSA fall championships went extremely well. It was a bit cold with some snow for our football state championships, but 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. Our receptionist, Amanda Hazlett, has resigned to take a job in Townsend where she resides. We will miss Amanda but I know she won't miss the daily commute.

The MHSA Executive Board just completed their November meeting where they took action on numerous items of importance to the membership. The complete synopsis of those actions is posted on mhsa.org and was emailed recently to member schools, including specific items that were tentatively passed pending two-week notice for comments from affected schools. Please review those items for comment and contact me with any remarks, concerns or questions. As you are aware, MHSA By-Laws require the reclassification of schools be considered every two years, and this was the off year for that process. Schools will be recommended for reclassification next year at the November 2012 Executive Board meeting and those schools will be reclassified for the 2013-2014 school year. 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.

For the MHSA Annual Meeting, four proposals have been submitted by member schools and one was submitted by the Executive Board for a total of five proposals for consideration. Three 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 proactively addressing and resolving issues. Also, included is the MHSA budget for 2012-2013 with 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 administrators to distribute the MHSA Fundamentals of Activity Participation document to coaches, activity sponsors, booster clubs, etc. (which can be found on mhsa.org) and to encourage anyone with questions to call the MHSA office to prevent violations before they occur.
- For 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 use any opportunity to show appreciation to our corporate sponsors – Northwestern Energy, U.S. Bank, Farmer's Union Insurance, Montana 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 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).
- 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 available to be used positively to promote communication and information access and not to be used in questionable ways by our students, coaches or officials.
- For very extra special gifts for the great MHSA staff (Joanne, Scott, Brian, Janie, Theresa, and 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 2011-2012 Directory of Schools.

MHSA OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This is a reminder to the MHSA member schools that the Association office will be closed December 22 through January 1. The office will resume regular hours beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 2, 2012.

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.

ANNUAL MEETING PLANS

The following schools won sport/athletic championships in the fall of 2011:

Girls' Golf

AA Bozeman
A Polson

Boys' Golf

AA Billings West
A Hamilton

Girls' Cross Country

AA Bozeman
A Corvallis
B Glasgow
C Belt/Centerville

Boys' Cross Country

AA Bozeman
A Corvallis
B Manhattan
C Culbertson

Girls' Soccer

AA Billings Senior
A Billings Central

Boys' Soccer

AA Missoula Hellgate
A Whitefish

Football

AA Helena Capital
A Beaverhead Co. (Dillon)

B Fairfield
C (8) Twin Bridges
C (6) Denton

Volleyball

AA Helena High
A Fergus

B Huntley Project
C Manhattan Christian

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 6th and all returning basketball ballots must be post marked no later than January 18th. If preferable, you may fax the ballot to 406-442-8250. The ballots will also be available for download at www.mhsa.org.

SPORTS EJECTIONS/SPORTSMANSHIP

To date, we have experienced forty-eight (48) ejections, compared to forty-four (44) at this same time last year. The number of ejections in girls' soccer decreased, but the number of ejections in boys' soccer 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 U.S. Bank is once again sponsoring the MHSa/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program. The MHSa/U.S. 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/U.S. 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.

CHECKLIST FOR 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

The MHSa Annual Meeting will be held at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center on January 16, 2012.

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

• **Reservations:** Call the Billings Hotel at 800-537-7286 and mention group code "MHSa 12" to get appropriate room rates.

• **Registration:** A meeting registration form for each designated school contact is included with this publication. Please return this form to the MHSa as soon as is convenient.

• **Proposals:** The proposals for consideration at this year's meeting are enclosed and are also posted at www.mhsa.org.

• **Budget:** The proposed budget for the next fiscal year is included with this publication.

• **Agenda/Schedule of Activities:** A detailed agenda and a complete schedule will be e-mailed 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 MHSa 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

Dave Perius of Gardiner, current MHSa Executive Board President, will complete his term of service in the spring of 2012. Dave was elected as the Class C Representative to the Executive Board in 2007.

The MHSa membership, Executive Board, and staff members appreciate the contributions Dave has made while serving his four-year term. Dave is both thoughtful and enthusiastic in his efforts to improve high school activities, and he continually sustains a positive approach to students, to activities and to Association business.

The election of a new Class C Representative will be conducted during the 2012 MHSa Annual Meeting in Billings. The following highly qualified candidates have indicated that they are interested in filling the Class C vacancy:

Mike Cutler, Superintendent, Granite/Philipsburg Schools

Mike's resume includes years of experience as a coach, athletic director, principal and superintendent in Montana schools. He has managed numerous post-season MHSa events in basketball and volleyball, as well as serving as the Western C Football President and chairing the Class C Football Reorganization Committee.

Matt Schriver, Superintendent, Fairview Schools

Coaching various sports, judging speech and drama meets, and serving as an administrator are some of the experiences that Matt brings to the table. He has served as 2C District President, President

of the North East Association of School Superintendents, and Vice President of the local special education cooperative.

Tim Tharp, Superintendent, Sunburst Public Schools

Tim's list of education experience is varied, including K-12 principal and superintendent tenure combined with coaching and membership in various professional organizations. His leadership positions include MIAAA (currently the President), as well as leadership of North Central ADs, Northern C, and multiple northern districts. He has managed numerous MHSA events as well as serving on MHSA committees, including chairing the Eligibility Rules Review Committee.

WRESTLING

HEADGEAR CLARIFICATION

Towards the end of the 2011-12 MHSA Wrestling Rules Clinic, there was an interpretation on a slide from the NFHS that stated that if athletic tape was used on a wrestler's headgear, then that piece of equipment would be considered illegal because it was not being worn as the manufacturer intended. The MHSA has evaluated the NFHS rule reminder and offers this clarification of the National Federation interpretation:

- If athletic tape is used on a wrestler's headgear to improve the actual fit of the equipment, then it would be considered legal equipment.
- If athletic tape is used on a wrestler's headgear as an adornment (i.e. - colored tape or is used as designs over the ear guards, etc.) then the taped headgear would be considered an illegal piece of equipment.

If you have questions about the rationale for this rule, please contact Brian at the MHSA office.

DEADLINE FOR WRESTLING WR#2 FORMS

Wrestling Form WR#2 that the MHSA office keeps on file is due on December 21, 2011, 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), (8) page 213, of the current MHSA Handbook.

BASKETBALL

AVAILABILITY OF ELIGIBLE OFFICIALS FOR POST SEASON ASSIGNMENT

For the 2011-12 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 13-18, February 20-25, March 1-3 and March 8-10).

THROW-IN PROVISIONS

NFHS Basketball Rule 9-2-10 Penalty 4 was clarified and indicates that when an opponent contacts the thrower-in, an intentional foul shall be charged to the offender. Any type of contact on a thrower is an intentional foul. The defender does not actually have to break the boundary plane. No warning for delay is required.

- If the defense contacts the person throwing the ball in and also breaks the boundary plane it is an intentional foul and also a boundary plane warning should be reported to the scorebook.
- If the defender breaks the plane and contacts the ball in the hands of the thrower, it is a technical foul and a throw in plane warning.
- If the defense contacts the person throwing the ball in and does not break the boundary plane it is an intentional foul, but no boundary plane warning is recorded

HEADBANDS VS. HAIR CONTROL DEVICES

We continue to have challenges with players wearing the correct style and color when it comes to headbands. Headbands go around the entire head and include items such as: elastic strips, elastic bands, pre-wrap, moisture-absorbing terry cloth, other similar items. Headbands must be worn on the forehead/crown, be nonabrasive, unadorned, and a maximum of 2 inches. The colors permitted for headbands and wristbands are white, black, beige, or a school color. Only one headband may be worn by each player. If more than one player is wearing a headband or wristband they all must be wearing the same color, although they may be a different style. Example player #10 maybe wearing pre-wrap and player #12 an elastic band, as long as they are the same color and meet the size and logo restrictions they are permitted. Only one school or manufacturer logo is permitted. Head decorations (like ribbons) are prohibited.

Ponytail holders are considered hair control devices and do not come under the restrictions of color, maximum size, logo restrictions and team uniformity. Hair control devices just go around hair – not the head.

This is primarily the responsibility of the coach to handle before the game starts. However, in pre-game officials who notice players do not match or have something illegal they must have it removed before the game or not allow the player to participate. If discovered while in the contest, the game will be stopped and the player will need to leave the game to correct the illegal equipment.

AIM HIGHER

AIM HIGHER WORKSHOPS

The AIM Higher staff conducted a workshop on November 9, 2011 in Butte. The workshop was facilitated by Randy Shipman from Dillon, Brian Michelotti from the MHSA and facilitator-in-training Lee LaBreche, teacher/coach from Butte Central. Students from Broadwater (Townsend), Butte High, Butte Central, Beaverhead County (Dillon), and Powell County (Deer Lodge) attended the workshop at Butte High School. During the day, proper sportsmanship, hazing awareness and leadership by student athletes were among many of the topics discussed.

We invite schools 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. 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 25, 2012. Please register as soon as possible for this workshop if you are interested in attending.

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 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 NOTES

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 15, at 3:00 p.m. at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center 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 16 in Billings at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center.

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 406-268-6082 or Scott McDonald at 406-442-6010.

ENCLOSURES

Proposals for the 2012 Annual Meeting
Annual Meeting Registration Form
AIM Higher Registration
2012-2013 Proposed Budget (mailed hard copy only)
Sample MHS Pass Chart (mailed hard copy only)
January Calendar

Happy Holidays to You and Your Families from the MHS



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
Amanda Hazlett, Receptionist and Information Clerk

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Perius, Assistant Activities Coordinator, Gardiner High School
(President)
Dennis Holmes, Principal, Billings Senior High School
(Vice President)
Karen Underwood, Principal, Laurel High School
Pat Lynch, Activities Director, Manhattan High School
Malia Kipp-Camel, Governor's Appointee, Ronan
Lance Voegelé, MtSBA Representative, Belgrade
Lee Stiffarm, State Superintendent's Appointee, Billings