

OFFICE COMMENTS

This is my usual article where I complain about spring weather. After last spring's horrendous weather I am glad to report I don't have many weather complaints about this year's spring weather (I hope I haven't jinxed it for post season events!). It is hard to believe we have less than one month remaining in the school year and only a couple of weeks left in the spring season. Is it really true the older we get the faster time flies? It is, at least from my perspective, but I have to believe in the old adage, "The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot." Our member schools, MHSA Executive Board and MHSA Staff have been good "pilots" with their willingness to update and revise our rules and regulations, steering the Association in a very positive direction.

The Association, through action by the Executive Board and by the Membership, has brought forth By-Law revisions and rules and regulation changes/additions for the benefit of those who participate in MHSA activities. A summary of those actions includes:

MHSA Annual Meeting Actions

The following proposals were adopted at the 2012 Annual Meeting:

1. The membership approved the following changes to the By-Laws governing student music eligibility:

All major performing group members must be enrolled in twenty hours per week and in attendance for ten hours per week in order to be eligible to participate in district music festivals.

MHSA Executive Board Actions**Realignment**

- Approved the realignment of one school to a different district for a specific sport.
- Approved one school for competition in six-player football.

Other General Rules and Regulations Items

- The Board clarified that open gyms/fields are for high school students only (grades 9-12).

Basketball

- Approved a listing of acceptable formats for shortened sub varsity basketball games. [These formats are available by contacting the MHSA office.]

Football

- The Board approved changing the due date for six-player football cooperative sponsorship applications from February 1st of a given year to November 15th.

Golf

- The Board approved allowing coaching during MHSA golf meets from green to tee, effective for the 2012-2013 school year.
- The Board approved reducing the number of teams that qualify for the Class A State Golf Tournament from three (3) teams to two (2) teams in each division, effective for the 2012-2013 state tournament.
- The Board approved changing the Class B divisional golf tournaments from the allowable dates of May 6-11 (Monday to

Saturday) to **May 11-18 (Saturday to Saturday, excluding Sunday)**. [There is no divisional golf competition in Class C.]

- The Board approved changing Classes B and C state golf tournaments from allowable dates of May 13-18 (Monday to Saturday) to **May 20-25 (Monday to Saturday, with typical competition dates on Tuesday and Wednesday)**.

Music Items

- Several amendments were made to the music rules and regulations, including a clarification about recorded accompaniments and other editorial changes.

Speech and Drama Items

- As recommended by the MFEA, various amendments to speech, debate and drama rules were approved. To receive a complete copy of the changes, please email jpaustin@mhsa.org. The MFEA spring meeting minutes are also posted on the MHSA website at www.mhsa.org.

Tennis Items

- The Board approved a scoring change for the State Class A Tennis Tournament from the current scoring of 10-7-5-4-1 to 10-7-5-3-1.

Track and Field and Cross Country

- The Board approved the request from the Southern C Division to reduce the number of qualifiers that advance from the district track and field meets to the divisional meet from six in each event to five in each event.

Wrestling

- The Board approved modifying language governing the completion of WR#1 and WR#2 forms as follows:

WR#1 – Individual wrestler's certification must now be completed within 34 calendar days (previously 30 calendar days) of the wrestler's first practice).

WR#2 – Summary of each school's wrestlers, which must be submitted to the MHSA office, must now be completed within 34 calendar days (previously 35 calendar days) of the first allowable practice.

- Approved the following - For an athlete to be eligible to compete in post season competition he/she must weigh-in and wrestle in at least one contested event during the regular wrestling season.

As you can tell by the above summary, 2011-2012 was a busy year. The MHSA member schools, the MHSA Board and the MHSA staff are continuing to work diligently to review and to revise how we operate our great Association. It has been said that "Today's preparation determines tomorrow's achievements." There is no doubt in my mind that the Association has been willing to "prepare today" which has led to the achievements we have experienced over the past several years.

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

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

Mark Beckman
Executive Director

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING IN MISSOULA

The next MHSAA Annual Meeting will be held in Missoula on January 21, 2013. The Hilton Garden Inn is the host facility. Reservations may be made by calling 406-532-5300, 1-877-STAY HGI, or via www.missoula.hgi.com. Please reference Montana High School Association Annual Meeting when making reservations.

MHSAA SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Beginning Tuesday, May 29, 2012, the MHSAA office hours will be 7 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The office will not be open on Fridays. These hours will be in effect through Friday, August 10, 2012, after which they will revert to regular office hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

ATHLETIC PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL FORM

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

THREE SEASON CALENDARS/STATE SITES

Enclosed with this Activity News are the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 three-season calendars and lists of the state events and sites. Please review the calendars for updates since the last publication date.

MHSAA/MONTANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ACADEMIC ALL TEAM AWARD

Just a reminder that if you want to recognize your school's team for their academic achievements for the spring season of the MHSAA/Army National Guard Academic All Team Award you must submit the spring season activity teams reporting form to the MHSAA by Monday, June 18. The forms can be found on our website at www.mhsaa.org.

MAKE ADEQUATE RESERVATIONS FOR 2012-2013

It is highly recommended that district-division officers reserve adequate housing for conference representatives at any state tournament. These reservations should include teams, cheerleaders, band members and any other support groups. Following your divisional tournament simply advise the facility as to the teams and numbers it can be expecting. This will ensure the tournament representatives from your division, whoever they are, of having a place to stay.

REMINDER – NFHS PARTICIPATION SURVEYS

The annual National Federation Survey for Athletic and Non-Athletic Student Participation was e-mailed to school contacts in April. It is important that you, once again, take the time to complete the surveys as accurately as possible. Please return the data to the MHSAA office no later than Tuesday, May 15, 2012.

COACHES' EDUCATION REPORT DUE

The April Quick Bits included a reporting form for 2011-2012 Coaches' Education Program compliance. If you have not already done so, please return your form by May 15. The form is also available at www.mhsaa.org.

MHSAA'S OFFICIAL BALL CONTRACTS

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

MONTANA COACHES ASSOCIATION CLINIC

The Montana Coaches Association will conduct their annual clinic August 1-3, 2012. Great Falls High School in Great Falls will be the host site for this year. As in previous years, Ralph Halverson is continuing to assemble a variety of knowledgeable speakers and presenters that will benefit all those who participate. Schools' athletic and spirit staff members should be encouraged to attend.

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

- Equity/Eligibility Rules Clinic (meets MHSAA clinic requirement)

- AACCA Safety Certification for Cheer Coaches (separate fee applies)

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD ITEMS

EXECUTIVE BOARD REORGANIZATION

During their April meeting, the MHSAA Executive Board conducted the election of officers for 2012-2013. Billings Senior Principal Dennis Holmes will serve as president, and Pat Lynch, Activities Director of Manhattan High School, will serve as vice president.

Leaving the Executive Board is Dave Perius of Gardiner High School who completed his four-year term as the Class C representative.

Mike Cutler, Granite Schools Superintendent, is the newly elected Class C Representative. His board term began in April and will continue until 2016. Welcome, Mike!

MEETING DATES SET FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD

The MHSAA Executive Board has established dates for their regular meetings for the 2012-2013 school year. While the Board is required by MHSAA By-Laws to hold a minimum of four (4) meetings, they can also hold special meetings in person, or the Board can conduct business by conference phone calls.

2012-13 Board Meeting Dates

September 24-25, 2012
November 19-20, 2012
January 19 & 20, 2013
April 15-16, 2013

FOOTBALL

INSPECTING FOOTBALL HELMETS

Carefully inspect your helmets and look for reconditioning needs, cracked shells etc. Most of you have probably already completed this task but it is always wise to check again. Make sure you destroy helmets that are obsolete or damaged beyond repair. Any helmet dated 2002 or older will not be reconditioned.

FOOTBALL SUMMER CAMPS AND WORKOUTS

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

MOA

MOA REGIONAL DIRECTORS TO MEET IN JUNE

The eleven MOA Regional Directors will be meeting in Helena on June 4, 2012 to discuss the Montana Officials' Association's policies and guidelines. If you have any concerns, comments or questions regarding the MOA, please share those with us and they will be placed on the agenda. We must receive your information by May 28, 2012.

SCHOOLS NEED TO HELP RECRUIT MOA OFFICIALS

It is very important that coaches, athletic directors and school administrators make a solid effort to recruit new members for the Montana Officials' Association.

A good start would be to recruit former student-athletes in your communities that will graduate this year and who might be staying in the community to attend school or to work. Sometimes the smallest bit of encouragement may spark an interest in this avocation. Please let us know if we can contact anyone you may have in mind because sometimes an encouraging letter from the MOA office with a personal touch might help.

2012-2013 MOA FEES

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

AIM HIGHER

AIM HIGHER PROGRAM

Another year of AIM Higher has been completed and once again we had a very successful year. The AIM Higher Program continues to include sessions on leadership, mentoring, team captain training, hazing awareness, drug prevention and sportsmanship. We also were able to incorporate more activities into the workshop this year, which makes the day more enjoyable for everyone involved. We feel many students were able to return to their schools and create positive change. This year 473 students participated in seven workshops throughout the state marking the 23rd year of this successful program. In fact in the past seven years, 51 workshops have been conducted with 3,545 participants taking part in the leadership activities.

We particularly owe a debt of gratitude to Butte High School, Culbertson High School, and Custer County High School who allowed us to use their facilities and resources for workshops in 2011-12. Also, we are very grateful to schools who so generously allowed members of their staff to serve as facilitators. Those schools include: Broadwater (Townsend), Beaverhead (Dillon), Choteau, Dawson County (Glendive), Missoula Sentinel, and Scobey. In addition, we want to express our appreciation to individuals from these schools who committed their time to be AIM Higher facilitators. Jill Flynn, Randy Gramm, Richy Powell, Randy Shipman, Scott Whaley and Connie Wittak helped facilitate workshops during the school year. All of these individuals volunteered their time, talent and expertise during the workshops and we truly appreciate their commitment to the MHSA and to the AIM Higher Program.

SPIRIT

MCA SPIRIT INFORMATION

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

TRACK & FIELD

STATE TRACK & FIELD MEETS

Please remind your track and field coaches to read the State Meet Policies and Procedures found on pages 8-11 of the 2011-2012 State Track and Field Procedures Manual, so they can continue to be familiar with policies and procedures at this year's State Track and Field Meets.

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

1. Test the weight of the javelin.
2. Test the overall length of the javelin.
3. Check the balance point of the javelin.
4. Look to see if the javelin has an IAAF certification sticker.
5. Test the diameter of the tail portion of the javelin. To test the diameter of the tail section you must use calipers that have English or metric measurements and do the following:
 - a) Find the **balance point** of the javelin.
 - b) With the calipers measure the diameter of the shaft at the thickest point, front of grip;
 - c) Calculate 90% of that measurement;
 - d) With a tape measure, measure from the **balance point** to the end of the tail of the javelin;

- e) Go to a point $\frac{1}{2}$ the total distance from the **balance point** to the tail;
- f) Using the caliper measure the diameter at that point – it must be no less than 90% of the diameter measurement of front of grip.

On page 48 of the NFHS Track and Field Rule Book you can find the IAAF javelin specifications.

Thank you for your help in this matter and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Scott McDonald at the MHSA office.

CROSS COUNTRY

STATE CROSS COUNTRY QUALIFYING TIMES

As recommended by the MHSA Athletic Committee and approved by the MHSA Executive Board, for the 2012 State Cross Country Meet: Athletes must meet a qualifying time in at least one regular season cross country meet prior to participation in the 2012 State Cross Country Meet. The qualifying times are as follows:

Boys – 30.00 minutes or faster

Girls – 35.00 minutes or faster

Athletes who do not meet the required performance time at least once during regular season competition will not qualify for participation at the 2012 State Cross Country Meet and cannot be entered as a team member or alternate.

Coaches will be required to turn in a form stating the qualifying time of each athlete entered in the 2012 State Cross Country Meet when they pick up their 2012 State Cross Country Meet Coach's Packet in Helena.

STATE CROSS COUNTRY PARTICIPATION FEE

The MHSA Executive Board has passed a guideline that will require each school participating in the 2012 State Cross Country Meet to share proportionally the cost of running the 2012 State Cross Country Meet by paying a \$5.00 fee for each athlete that actually participates in the State Cross Country Meet (alternates are not considered participants). Coaches will be required to pay the total fee at the time they pick up their 2012 State Cross Country Meet Coach's Packet.

RULE CHANGE

Rule Change–Cross Country Course Measurement: The cross country course shall be three (3) miles in length. **The measurement of the course shall be along the shortest possible route a runner may take.** This method of measurement is a more accurate distance of the running route taken by competitors. This rule change updates the rule to the more current, acceptable trends of the sport for measuring the course. If cross country meets are using the exact course as previously used, with the new method of measurement, the starting line or finish line should not be in the same place as previously located using the old course measurement method.

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

FORENSICS

SPEECH & DRAMA NEWS

Administrators and coaches are encouraged to review the information on the MHSA website concerning speech, debate and drama. Recent Board determinations, as well as the MFEA minutes, are available at www.mhsa.org.

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

MUSIC

SPRING MEANS MUSIC IN MONTANA

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

District 1 David Barr and Sandee Saver, Glacier
District 2 John Combs, Missoula
District 4 Ted Farabee, Butte
District 5 Rob Loveridge, Helena/Renee Westlake, Bozeman
District 6 Ed Varner, Great Falls
District 7 David Johnke, Havre
District 8 Brandon O'Halloran, Lewistown
District 9 Scott Corey, Billings
District 10 Rohn Ratliff, Miles City
District 11 Mary Svenvold, Glendive
District 12 Brad Persinger, Glasgow
District 13 Andrew Alley, Plentywood

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

Eastern Scott Corey, Billings
Western Rob Loveridge, Helena

VOLLEYBALL

2012 VOLLEYBALL RULE REVISIONS

The 2012 NFHS Volleyball Rule Revisions are enclosed and have been posted on the MSHA website. To review the 2012 NFHS Volleyball Rule Changes on our website, go to www.mhsa.org; click on volleyball, then click on the appropriate link.

SOLID WHITE VOLLEYBALLS TO BE USED FOR THE 2012 VOLLEYBALL SEASON

As approved by the MSHA Executive Board for the 2012 MSHA Volleyball regular season play, a solid white volleyball which shall include the NFHS authenticating mark shall be used for all levels of play. During MSHA post season play, the Mikasa VQ2000 volleyball shall be used.

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

ENCLOSURES

Basketball Financial Summary
[2012-2013 Three Season Calendar and State Event Calendar](#)
[2013-2014 Three Season Calendar and State Event Calendar](#)
[Athletic Pre-Participation Physical Exam Form](#)
[MSHA's Official Ball Contracts](#)
[2012 Football Rules Changes](#)
[2012 Volleyball Rule Revisions](#)
[2012-2013 Wrestling Rule Changes Press Release](#)
[2012-2013 MOA Fees](#)
[June Calendar](#)

HAVE A SAFE AND RELAXING SUMMER!

Staff Members

Mark Beckman, Executive Director
Joanne Austin, Associate Director
Scott McDonald, Assistant Director
Brian Michelotti, Assistant Director
Janie Holmes, Business Office Manager
Theresa Stanisich, MOA Coordinator
Kaelynn Olsen, Receptionist/Information Clerk



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
Karen Underwood, Principal, Laurel High School
Lance Voegelé, MTSBA Appointee, Belgrade
