

OFFICE COMMENTS

For the past several years I have taken this opportunity to complain about Montana's spring weather and I believe, as do many others, that we are experiencing our worst spring weather ever. I have decided, instead of whining about the weather, to be positive. We are very fortunate to live in Montana, working in schools that have low levels of violence, working with students who love participating in activities and working hand-in-hand to ensure a good standard of life for our families. We share, as residents of Big Sky Country, a level of cooperation and understanding that is second to none. This level of cooperation and understanding was quite evident at this year's Annual Meeting where compromise was achieved among the classifications to pass a couple major By-Law changes. Our membership's willingness to update and revise our rules and regulations is a credit to our school administrators and their belief that activities are an integral part of their students' high school experience. It is a credit to their vision to review these activity offerings on a continuing basis to provide a rules code that is up to date, efficient and well organized for the benefit of all the thousands of participants in MHSA activities.

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 2011 Annual Meeting:

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

2.1 A student must be enrolled **in twenty hours per week** and in regular attendance **twenty ten** hours per week at the school where the student participates. **Regular attendance is defined as actual physical presence in the building (bricks and mortar).** A home school student is not eligible to participate for an MHSA member school.

Corresponding changes throughout the section were also included, as was a clarification that students with GEDs are not eligible for competition.

2. The membership approved amendments to the eighth grade participation language to expand opportunities for sub-varsity participation.

3. The membership approved the following changes to the By-Laws governing transfers:

A student who has attended high school and resides in a district other than where the student's parent(s) resides, and who subsequently returns to live with the student's parents becomes immediately transfer eligible for varsity competition in the parent's district. This can be applied only one time during the student's career.

Swimming was also added to the transfer provision allowing varsity and sub-varsity team members to compete concurrently but be scored separately.

4. For Classes A, B and C, the football clock stoppage rule was amended to delete requiring the clock to run for a score. Now if the point differential reaches 35 points or more, the clock will still be stopped for a score.

5. For wrestling, the following provision was added:

(7) When three or more schools take part in a double dual meet wrestling competition held in two separate schools/towns that are located less than thirty (30) miles apart and held on the same day, the following provisions apply:

a. One weigh-in will be used for multiple competitions that day.

b. Each dual meet wrestled will be counted as one contested event toward the season limitations.

c. A school not participating in the first dual will be required to follow NFHS rules and weigh-in one hour prior to their dual.

MHSA Executive Board Actions:

Reclassification/Realignment

- Approved the reclassification of seven schools.
- Approved the realignment of two schools to different districts or conferences for a specific sport.
- Approved the Class B conference realignment.
- Approved the Class A conference realignment.
- Approved three schools for competition in six-player football.
- Approved the Class C six-player football realignment.

Other General Rules and Regulations Items

- Approved requiring Cultural Diversity Training for all MHSA member school coaches and administrators and for all MOA officials. The format for the training, including locations etc. will be announced in the near future.
- Approved a mandate that assistant and school approved volunteer coaches must also view the MHSA mandatory on-line rules clinic for their respective sports. The requirement for head coaches to view the clinic was previously established.
- Approved that tournament managers for MHSA post-season events must complete the tournament manager online workshop for that sport once every five years. The requirement is sport specific.
- Approved the following additions to the Crowd Control Section of the MHSA Handbook:
 - a) Special attention must be given to the supervision of student cheering sections **including having an administrator present near the vicinity of the student cheering section for home and post season contests to assist with crowd control** (pending two-week notice).
 - b) At outdoor contests **the use of electronic and air amplified devices by spectators is prohibited. At all outdoor contests bands will not be allowed to play during "live ball."**
- Approved the policy regarding lighting for player introductions and other related matters (pending two-week notice). [A copy of this policy is available by contacting the MHSA office.]
- Approved amending the language for state tournament tickets prices in having the Executive Board establish those prices. In addition the Board will establish all post season playoffs and state championship football games ticket prices. (There was no change to established ticket prices).
- Approved providing wrist bands to be worn by qualifying schools' band members for admission to state tournament events.

Basketball

Approved a combined boys' and girls' basketball state tournament format for Class B. This format will be utilized beginning in 2012-2013.

Softball

Approved the following addition for ending games at invitational tournaments: The game can be called if there is five minutes or less before the maximum time limit **or officials should not start a new inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes of play, except if a tie exists where NFHS Softball Rules for tiebreaking would be followed.**

Golf

- Approved language to clarify the maximum dates of competition allowed for each individual golfer.
- Approved clarifying that qualifying scores for the State C Meets **must be recorded on a regulation golf course (9 hole course – minimum of a par 35; 18 hole course – minimum of a par 70)** (pending two-week notice).
- Approved clarifying that at the Class AA State Golf Tournament, no practice round will be allowed on the tournament course the day before the state tournament begins or at any time during the seven day period preceding the opening of the tournament including all other provisions

per General Rules for Post Season Golf Meets, # 12. (per existing Class AA policy and pending two-week notice).

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spirit

Approved miscellaneous additions and revisions to the Spirit Section of the MHSAA Handbook (pending two-week notice for comment). [A list of these specific changes is available by contacting the MHSAA office.]

Soccer

Approved the Class A Soccer Play Off Bracket format and revisions to the Class AA State Soccer Tournament brackets.

Speech and Drama Items

As recommended by the MFEA, various amendments to speech, debate and drama rules were approved, including specific changes to topics, sources, original material, entries and the progress of individual events. There were significant amendments to eligibility rules for forensic participants that were precipitated by the recently amended eligibility By-Laws for athletics. [A list of these specific changes is available by contacting the MHSAA office.]

Music Items

Several amendments were made to the music rules and regulations, including a change in the All-State audition fee that will facilitate online auditions. As with speech and drama, additional amendments include significant changes to eligibility rules for music participants that were precipitated by the recently amended eligibility By-Laws for athletics. [A list of these specific changes is available by contacting the MHSAA office.]

Track and Field and Cross Country

- Approved the following provision regarding the state cross country meet: ***“Each MHSAA school will be required to share proportionally the cost of the state cross country meet by a paying a fee per qualifying participant. This fee will be set by the MHSAA Executive Board prior to the event, in relation to the projected expenses bid by the successful site when the state sites are determined.”***
- Approved requiring that athletes meet a qualifying time in at least one regular season cross country meet prior to participation in the State Cross Country Meet.
- Approved implementing qualifying standards for the 2011-2012 Class A State Track and Field Meet (pending two-week notice). The standards and procedures will be similar to Class AA, except the Board approved Class A to use hand-held adjusted times and seeding methods appropriate for Class A. [A list of these specific changes is available by contacting the MHSAA office.]
- Approved allowing multiple track and field divisions competing at the same meet site to begin at 12:00 p.m. on the first day of the meet.
- Approved specific requirements for throwing events warm-ups.

Wrestling

The Board approved, for Class B-C Wrestling, to award two additional team trophies for Class C schools. Class B-C wrestlers will continue to compete together for individual medalist honors. Trophies are presently awarded to the top three teams in Class B-C and also to the Class C team with the most points. With this change first, second and third place trophies will be awarded to Class B schools and first, second and third place trophies will be awarded to Class C schools.

As you can tell by the above summary, 2010-11 was an extremely busy year. The MHSAA member schools, the MHSAA Board and the MHSAA staff are continuing to work diligently to review and to revise how we operate our great Association. Confucius once said, “Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure.” There is no doubt in my mind that the Association has been well prepared leading to the successes we have been experiencing collectively.

Once again, on behalf of the MHSAA Executive Board and MHSAA Staff I want to thank you for your support and for your willingness to provide your comments and suggestions during this year. The MHSAA 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 (hopefully with warmer and drier weather) and I hope you have a very relaxing summer.

Mark Beckman
Executive Director

ANNUAL MEETING IN BILLINGS

The next MHSAA Annual Meeting will again be held in Billings on January 16, 2012. The Billings Hotel and Convention Center is the host facility. They will begin taking reservations in February. Call 1-800-537-7286 and ask for group code “MHSAA12.”

MHSAA SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Beginning Tuesday, May 31, 2011, 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 12, 2011, 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 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 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 Friday, June 17. The forms can be found on our website at www.mhsaa.org.

MAKE ADEQUATE RESERVATIONS FOR 2011-2012

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 Friday, May 13, 2011.

COACHES' EDUCATION REPORT DUE

The April Quick Bits included a reporting form for 2010-2011 Coaches' Education Program compliance. If you have not already done so, please return your form by May 13. 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 3-5, 2011. 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:

- Volleyball Rules Clinic (meets MHSAA clinic requirement)
- Spirit Rules Clinic (meets MHSAA clinic requirement)

- Equity/Eligibility Rules Clinic (meets MHSA 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 MHSA office.

EXECUTIVE BOARD ITEMS

EXECUTIVE BOARD REORGANIZATION

During their April meeting, the MHSA Executive Board conducted the election of officers for 2011-2012. Dave Perius, Activities Coordinator at Gardiner High School, will serve as president. Billings Senior principal Dennis Holmes will serve as vice president.

Leaving the Executive Board are Duane Walker, Hardin Activities Director, who represented Class A, and Dr. Doug Reisig, Superintendent of Hellgate Elementary, who served as the State Superintendent's Representative.

New members were also seated in April. Karen Underwood, Laurel High School Principal, is the newly elected Class A Representative. Lee Stiffarm is the newly appointed State Superintendent's Representative. Welcome, Karen and Lee!

MEETING DATES SET FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD

The MHSA Executive Board has established dates for their regular meetings for the 2011-2012 school year. While the Board is required by MHSA 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.

2011-12 Board Meeting Dates

September 26-27, 2011
November 21-22, 2011
January 14 & 16, 2012
April 23-24, 2012

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 6, 2011 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 27, 2011.

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.

2011-2012 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 a record 619 students participated in eight workshops throughout the state marking the 22nd year of this successful program. In fact in the past six years, 44 workshops have been conducted with 3,072 participants taking part in the leadership activities.

We particularly owe a debt of gratitude to Butte High School, Malta High School, Manhattan High School, St Labre High School and Sidney High School who allowed us to use their facilities and resources for workshops in 2010-11. 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 in 2010-11. 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.

As always, we want to express our appreciation to Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Montana for their support and for the financial assistance they provide the program.

SPIRIT

ELIGIBILITY FOR SPIRIT

Each year the MHSA office receives several questions asking whether cheerleaders and/or dance team members are required to follow MHSA Eligibility rules such as age rule, transfer rule, specialized camp rule, fundraising rule etc.

Spirit groups are exempt from MHSA eligibility rules because the groups are not considered an MHSA sanctioned sport. The groups are, however, required to follow the rules as set forth by the National Federation as well as rules found in the Spirit Section of the MHSA Handbook.

Note: Please be advised that local school districts have the authority to apply eligibility standards to spirit groups if they so choose.

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. You should be receiving information relative to the 2011 MCA Clinic held in Great Falls this summer by the end of May.

TRACK & FIELD

STATE TRACK & FIELD MEETS

If you would like to volunteer and help at the State A/C Track Meet, please contact Jim Baldwin at Alberton High School.

Please remind your track and field coaches to read the State Meet Policies and Procedures found on pages 7-10 of the 2010-11 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 seem 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 pages 46-47 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.

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.

MHSA 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
Sheila Lindquist, AIM Higher Coordinator
Amanda Hazlett, Receptionist and Information Clerk

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 Allen Slater, Kalispell
- District 2 John Combs, Missoula
- District 4 Shawn Hansen & Kim Lorengo, Anaconda
- District 5 Rob Loveridge, Helena/Renee Westlake, Bozeman
- District 6 Ed Varner, Great Falls
- District 7 Patrick Ryan, Havre
- District 8 Brandon O'Halloran, Lewistown
- District 9 Rob Wells, Billings
- District 10 Rohn Ratliff, Miles City
- District 11 Mary Senvold, Glendive
- District 12 Erik Engebretson & Larry Swingen, Malta
- District 13 Matt Goettle, Scobey

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

- Eastern Rob Wells, Billings
- Western Kevin Griggs/Scott McKenzie, Missoula

VOLLEYBALL

2011 VOLLEYBALL RULE REVISIONS

The 2011 NFHS Volleyball Rule Revisions are enclosed and have been posted on the MHSA website. To review the 2011 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 2011 VOLLEYBALL SEASON

As approved by the MHSA Executive Board for the 2011 MHSA Volleyball regular season play, a solid white volleyball which shall include the NFHS authenticating mark shall be used for all levels of play. During MHSA 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
2011-2012 Three Season Calendar and State Event Calendar
2012-2013 Three Season Calendar and State Event Calendar
Athletic Pre-Participation Physical Exam Form
MHSA's Official Ball Contracts
2011 Football Rules Changes
2011 Volleyball Rule Revisions
2011-2012 Wrestling Rule Changes Press Release
2011-2012 MOA Fees
2011-2012 AIM Higher Registration Form
June Calendar

MHSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Perius, 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, Billing