

## EXECUTIVE CORNER

Each and every day in Montana, thousands of high school students are practicing and competing in various high school activities. This fall we have students practicing/participating in football, volleyball, cross country, golf, speech and debate, music (band, orchestra and chorus) soccer and cheerleading (spirit). We all realize the value of participating in these activities, but it wouldn't hurt to share the many specific positive reasons for participation with parents, school board members, community members, the media etc. During these difficult economic times we are experiencing, and with some comments that we are spending too much on high school sports/activities, it is more important than ever to share the value of these activities for our students. In Montana, high school activities expenditures, on average, amount to about 2% of a high school budget – *yes, just 2%*. To reemphasize the value of high school activities, in the next week I will be sending out a DVD of four PSA announcements to every radio station in Montana produced by the MHSA and MIAAA (Montana Interscholastic Activity Administrators Association) on the value of high school sports and activities. The production of these PSA's was coordinated through the National Federation and the NIAAA. I did play a few clips of those PSA's for you at the Annual Meeting in Billings this past January. Please contact your local radio station manager and encourage him/her to air those PSA's as much as possible.

In the meantime I am including the following excerpts from "The Case for High School Activities" published by the National Federation of State High School Associations on the value of high school activities:

- **COST** - At a cost of only one to three percent (or less in many cases) of an overall school's budget, high school activity programs are one of the best bargains around. In Montana the cost is about 2%.
- **ACTIVITIES SUPPORT THE ACADEMIC MISSION OF SCHOOLS.** They are not a diversion, but rather an extension of a good educational program. Students who participate in activity programs tend to have higher grade-point averages, better attendance records, lower dropout rates and fewer discipline problems than students generally.
- **ACTIVITIES ARE INHERENTLY EDUCATIONAL.** Activity programs provide valuable lessons for many practical situations. Through participation in activity programs, students learn teamwork, sportsmanship, winning and losing, the rewards of hard work, self-discipline, build self-confidence, and develop skills to handle competitive situations. These are qualities the public expects schools to produce in students so they become responsible adults and productive citizens.
- **ACTIVITIES FOSTER SUCCESS IN LATER LIFE.** Participation in high school activities is often a predictor of later success - in college, a career, and becoming a contributing member of society. A 1989, nationwide study by the Women's Sport Foundation indicated that athletes do better in the classroom, are more involved in school activity programs, and stay involved in the community after graduation. The study, based on an analysis of data collected by the U.S. Department of Education's High School and Beyond Study, indicated that girls receive as many benefits from sports as boys. Sports involvement was significantly related to a lower dropout rate in some school settings and minority athletes are more socially involved than non-athletes. Research conducted by Skip Dane of Hardiness Research, Casper, Wyoming in 1991 revealed the following about participation in

high school sports: (1) By a 2-to-1 ratio, boys who participate in sports do better in school, do not drop out and have a better chance to get through college. (2) The ratio for girls who participate in sports and do well in school is 3-to-1. (3) About 92 percent of sports participants do not use drugs. (4) School athletes are more self-assured. (5) Sports participants take average and above average classes. (6) Sports participants receive above average grades and do above average on skills tests. (7) Student-athletes appear to have more parental involvement than other students.

There are numerous studies to support the above data and many of those studies are listed in the National Federation's Case for High School Activities. Please see the complete publication (enclosed).

The decision made by the MHSA Executive Board two years ago to start fall golf practices earlier with the state tournaments adjusted accordingly worked well once again, with the State AA and State A golf meets experiencing excellent weather for their recently concluded events. Thousands of participants, their coaches, their parents and their supporters are preparing for post season play in football, volleyball and soccer along with the State Cross Country Meet and All-State Band, Chorus and Orchestra Festival. I know our tournament managers and playoff/festival hosts will work very hard to assure great experiences for all those involved. We hope the weather will continue to cooperate for our fall events, and with any luck, we will experience nice fall weather for the remainder of our post season events.

A few things I would like to mention before winter activities begin:

- The first date for wrestling and swimming practice this year is November 15<sup>th</sup>. The first date for practice in basketball is November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The MHSA rules clinics for basketball, wrestling, and spirit will once again be presented online. It is required that all head coaches and **all assistant coaches** in basketball, wrestling, swimming and spirit (winter season coaches who have not previously viewed the clinic) view the clinic for their specific sport/activity. The clinics will be available on November 1<sup>st</sup> and the clinics need to be viewed by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Further information is included with this Activity News regarding the MHSA online clinics.
- U.S. Bank once again is the title sponsorship for the successful sportsmanship program that has been provided for our member schools and their communities. This is the sixth year of this very popular initiative and the MHSA is very fortunate to have U.S. Bank as a partner providing the valuable components of this program. The MHSA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program will continue to provide many resources for member schools to use in promoting and rewarding good sporting behaviors by players, coaches and spectators at interscholastic activities. Information regarding all the components of this program will be mailed to school contacts in the next few weeks. Please consider using the local recognition program (medal program) during the final portion of your fall sports season. Please contact Brian Michelotti ([bmichelotti@mhsa.org](mailto:bmichelotti@mhsa.org)) to participate in the program or for more information.
- Recruiting MOA officials is a high priority of the MHSA Executive Board and MOA Regional Director Board. Included with this Activity News are posters sponsored by U.S. Bank encouraging individuals to "Become a Sports Official" and to "Get Back in the Game". Please display these posters in areas such as entrances

to your gymnasiums, fields of play etc. Officials are an integral part of competition administering fair play and good sporting behaviors.

- Also included is information on how officials are selected for playoffs, district and divisional and state tournaments and championships. Please share this information with your head coaches.

**Live Video Streaming of Regular Season Contests** – I continue to receive calls concerning the live video streaming of regular season events by schools without acquiring the necessary permission from the MHS Executive Director. The relevant policy from the MHS Handbook is listed below:

- C. *Commercial Broadcast, Telecast, Cybercast and Video Display:*
1. *All commercial broadcast, telecast, cybercast or video display of any regular or post-season event must be approved by the MHS Executive Director. Rights and conditions (including fees) of live commercial broadcasts, telecasts, and/or cybercasts of regular and post season events will be specified through written consent of the MHS.*
  2. *When granted authority for commercial broadcast, telecast, cybercast or video display of MHS events, the commercial entity must comply with the conditions set forth by MHS, including any safety, contractual, fiscal, or other concerns that apply. The MHS will consider the promotion of both male and female activities when granting authority.*

With the technologies available video streaming seems like a wonderful way to provide access to those homebound or out of state fans. With the local school understanding that live video streams can have a negative effect on gate receipts especially for outdoor contests played during poor weather conditions, the reason for approval by the Executive Director is to assure that the promotion of both male and female activities is occurring and schools are not violating gender equity standards. For example, video streaming only football games would violate gender equity standards (Ridgeway and Title IX concerns). Also, besides the possible loss in revenue from gate receipts, the school may have to deal with concerns from parents of other programs questioning why their activity isn't being included (program equity not gender equity).

Video streaming of post season events must also be approved by the Executive Director. I review any proposal carefully examining gender equity, program equity and possible loss of revenues to schools before considering entering into the agreement. A few years ago Wyoming's High School Association reported a large loss of gate receipts for its boys' and girls' state basketball tournaments after video streaming live all games of those tournaments. Video streaming may seem like that wonderful idea but there are many factors that have to be considered and rules and regulations that must be followed before permission can be granted. If you have any questions regarding video streaming or any other MHS media policy provision please contact me.

And, as we wrap up the fall activity season and begin to prepare for winter activities please contact the MHS office with any questions or comments you may have.

Mark Beckman  
Executive Director

## **NEW SEASON OF ONLINE CLINICS**

### **ONLINE CLINICS**

The MHS/MOA rules clinics for all activities are presented exclusively online. The basketball, wrestling, spirit and swimming clinics will be posted on our main website at [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org). Enclosed please find an instruction sheet that details the procedure for accessing the clinics. **November 1** is the planned launch date for the basketball, wrestling, and swimming clinics. Coaches must view the clinics prior to **November 30, 2012**, to receive credit. Also, cheer coaches who have not previously viewed the spirit rules clinic because they coach only squads who cheer for basketball will also need to complete their online clinic.

**All coaches, including the head coach and all assistant coaches and all school-approved volunteer coaches, are required to view the clinic.** An information sheet explaining the procedure on accessing these clinics is enclosed with this newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact the MHS office.

## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PASSES FOR ADMISSION TO MHS EVENTS**

Enclosed is the MHS Pass Chart. The passes illustrated on the chart are those distributed by the Montana High School Association Executive Board. The individuals receiving the passes are admitted to all MHS regular season and post season events free of charge. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. If you need more copies of the chart for your school please contact the MHS office.

### **DIRECTORY UPDATES**

Make sure you check the "News and Announcements" section of the MHS homepage ([www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org)) for important directory updates. Please notify the MHS with any changes to your school's directory contact information.

### **TOURNAMENT MANAGERS' WORKSHOP**

The MHS Executive Board has approved a requirement that all MHS tournament managers view an online Tournament Manager's workshop before their event. The workshop includes valuable information on managing the sport specific tournament, including:

- MHS guidelines for post season events
- Information on completing financial reports
- MOA Officials information
- Media policies
- Tournament Manager resources

The Board believes these online workshops will provide a plethora of helpful information for use by each Tournament Manager and the electronic format provides flexibility for delivering this important information. Workshops are sport specific and need to be viewed once every five years for that sport specific post season event.

Post season Tournament Managers can access their sport-specific clinic by going to [mhsa.org](http://mhsa.org) and clicking on the 'Tournament Manager' link on the home page. Currently, the Volleyball Tournament Managers' clinic is available for viewing.

The MHS would like to thank all Tournament Managers for agreeing to manage a MHS post season event. If you have any questions regarding the information provided in the Tournament Manager workshop, please contact Scott McDonald at the MHS office.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD ITEMS**

### **NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the MHS Executive Board will be held in Helena beginning on Monday, November 19, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in the MHS office. The board meeting will continue Tuesday, November 20 if business has not been completed.

Major Agenda Items for Executive Board Meeting:

1. Adoption of proposed 2013-2014 budget.
2. Plans for Annual Meeting (Missoula).
3. Meritorious Service, Service Citation and Mildred Adams Awards.
4. Act on rules and regulations proposals from member schools.
5. \*\*Reclassification/Redistricting/Realignment.

\*\*Reclassification is a two-year process and the Board, at this meeting, will determine what schools will be reclassified beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. Those schools will be notified prior to the meeting as soon as the fall enrollment counts are received from OPI.

Anyone wishing to be on the agenda must contact the MHS office at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

### **MHS AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED**

As in the past, the MHS will honor deserving individuals at the Annual Meeting to be held in Missoula in January. The MHS Executive

Board, during their meeting on November 19-20, will consider the nominees for the following awards:

1. **James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award:** Presented for "Outstanding Contributions to the MHSA Activities." This is the highest award given by the MHSA;
2. **Service Citation Award:** Presented for "Significant Contribution to the MHSA", and;
3. **Mildred Adams Award:** Presented to school support staff personnel who work with activities.

#### **SUBMIT ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSALS**

Remember that the deadlines are approaching for presenting proposed amendments to the MHSA By-Laws and/or Rules and Regulations.

1. Proposed changes by member schools for any of the Rules and Regulations of the MHSA Handbook, must first be presented to the MHSA Executive Board at its November 19-20 meeting.
2. Schools may submit proposed changes in the By-Laws (pages 11 - 38) to the Executive Director by December 1. By-Law changes do not need to be presented to the Executive Board for approval.

No proposal can be presented from the floor that has not been received by the Executive Director by the December 1 deadline. Proposals must carry a fiscal note if there are financial implications to the Association and proposals will be separated by the Resolution Committee to be considered by affected classifications.

#### **2013 ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR MISSOULA**

The next MHSA 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-STAYHGI, or via [www.missoula.hgi.com](http://www.missoula.hgi.com). Please reference Montana High School Association Annual Meeting when making reservations.

## **BASKETBALL**

#### **BASKETBALL RULE REVISIONS ENCLOSED**

Enclosed are the basketball rules revisions for the 2012-2013 season. Please give these to your basketball staff for their review.

#### **BASKETBALL TO START**

Monday, November 19, 2012, is the first date for basketball practice. Friday, November 30, 2012, is the first date a basketball game is permitted under the MHSA rules. Basketball Rules and Regulations, Item (4), page 99 of the current MHSA Handbook provides that: No individual shall play in any Association basketball contest until that individual has a minimum of ten (10) days of practice of at least one practice session per day on 10 different days (no practice permitted on Sunday), prior to the date of the first allowable game.

This rule applies to games that are scheduled to be played with independent teams, alumni teams, or any other teams.

Also, please note the interpretation under Article II, Section (1) of the By-Laws, Association Contest, page 18, of the current MHSA Handbook concerning game limits.

#### **OTHER BASKETBALL RELATED ITEMS**

The MHSA Board and/or the MOA Regional Directors have approved the following for the 2012-2013 basketball season:

- **Officials' Payment:** The MHSA recognizes that officials are independent contractors; therefore, methods of paying established fees/expenses will be determined by agreement between the school which has contracted for the official services and the local officials' pool, or approved non-pool affiliated official. However, the MHSA **requires that one of the two following methods be utilized:**
  - All assigned officials **must** be paid before the contest with a check issued by the member school. MOA officials should not accept checks written to other member officials. A member school **seven (7) business** days from the date of

- the contest to reissue appropriate checks to the official(s) who actually worked the contest, **OR**
  - If a member school and the local officials' pool (or an approved non-pool affiliated official) agree to other methods of payment for established fees/expenses, **and the method of payment is approved by the Regional Director**, the official will be paid within **seven (7) business** days of the contest. Officials' pools cannot receive payments from the schools to distribute to individual members as this practice would make the officials' pool the employer, nullifying the independent contract status and subjecting the pool to unemployment and workers' compensation requirements. Any changes in the payment process must be approved by the MOA Commissioner.

## **VOLLEYBALL**

#### **2012 STATE ALL-CLASS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT**

The 2012 State All-Class Volleyball Tournament will be held at MSU-Bozeman's Brick Breeden Fieldhouse on November 8-10, 2012. The MHSA staff will be managing this tournament. The schedule for the tournament is as follows:

#### **Thursday and Friday, November 8-9**

All classes match times:

10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm and 8 pm

#### **Saturday, November 10**

Classes AA & C match times:

11 am, 1 pm – Championships (3 pm if necessary)

Classes A & B match times:

11 am, 3 pm – Championships (5 pm if necessary)

Doors will open for ticket sales Thursday and Friday at 9 am and on Saturday at 10 am.

Montana State University will also be hosting a home football game on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> against Portland State. To address parking concerns of teams, cheerleaders, administrators, bands and fans who will be attending the tournament on Saturday, MSU has developed parking guidelines that can be viewed by going to [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org), clicking on volleyball, and looking under the State All-Class Volleyball Tournament information.

Also, enclosed is information regarding bands for this tournament. If you have any questions or concerns about the tournament, please contact Scott McDonald at the MHSA office.

## **FOOTBALL**

#### **VARIOUS FOOTBALL ISSUES ADDRESSED**

As we work our way to the post season, there are numerous football issues that need clarification or emphasis. Please refer to the enclosed Football News Summary for information on starting the game on time, wearing pink, halftime length, player introductions and footballs furnished by Rawlings. Feel free to copy and distribute this information to all your personnel involved in football.

## **SOCCER**

#### **SOCCER SEASON CONCLUDES IN NOVEMBER**

This year's state soccer tournaments for Class AA and the playoff structure for Class A will be held this month. Specific information is listed by classification below:

#### **Class AA Tournament**

- October 25 - 27, 2012
- 8 boys' teams and 8 girls' teams (four from each division).
- First place teams in each conference will have a bye during playoff week and will be the 1<sup>st</sup> seed at state.
- Tournament Location: Kalispell – KidSport Complex

#### **Class A Playoff Structure**

- October 8 - 13 - First Round
- October 15 - 20 - Semi-Final Round
- October 25 - 27 - Championship Games
- Higher seeded teams will host

## WRESTLING

### WRESTLING SEASON TO BEGIN

Rule I, Section (5), under the Wrestling Rules and Regulations as found on page 213 of the current *MHSA Handbook* provides that "prior to the first interscholastic meet or match, **each contestant**, must participate in ten (10) days of practice sessions on ten different days, excluding Sundays." The first date for wrestling practice this year will be November 15<sup>th</sup> and the first date for competition is November 30<sup>th</sup>. A wrestling match or meet will be permitted on this day only if the contestants participated in the required number of practice sessions.

The materials for the 2012-2013 wrestling season will be mailed under separate cover to each wrestling coach.

Remember that the MHSA will continue to use and comply with NFHS Wrestling Rule 4-5 regarding weigh-in procedures.

**Check your scales:** if you are concerned about your scales weighing true for your wrestling program, you can get them checked and certified by calling the State Bureau of Weights and Measures in Helena at 443-8065.

Although the bureau has people stationed throughout the state, they would still appreciate a two week notice prior to the date you need the scale certified.

## SPIRIT

### DID YOU KNOW?

...Your spirit coach should have participant medical release forms with them at all times including practices, games, competitions, and any other school sponsored events where the coach is responsible for the students' welfare.

...Your spirit coach must be in attendance and attentive at all practices, functions, games, and competitions.

...If your spirit team performs ANY stunt (any tumbling skill, toss, partner stunt or pyramid), your coach must be certified in AACCA Safety Certification.

...Mascots are a part of the spirit team; therefore, they are under the supervision and direction of the spirit coach and must follow rules found in the National Federation Spirit Rules Book and MHSA Handbook.

## MUSIC

### MUSIC REMINDERS

The following requirements can be found on page 229 of the 2012-13 *MHSA Handbook*.

Each school shall send a representative to the district rules and procedures meeting. The festival chair shall call a meeting following the annual MMEA festival chairs clinic held in conjunction with the MMEA conference.

The festival chair or a district representative shall attend the Festival Rules Clinic held in conjunction with the MMEA conference each fall. The Festival Chairs' Meeting will be held on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm in Room 209C at Great Falls High School. Erik Engebretson,

MHSA Music Committee Chair and Band Director from Malta High School, will conduct the meeting.

## AIM HIGHER

### AIM HIGHER CONTINUES

Last year, the MHSA lost our corporate sponsor Coca-Cola/PowerAde for the AIM Higher program due to the national reorganization of the company. We will continue the program this year but will be scaling back on the number of workshops offered during the 2012-13 school year. We have had several companies express interest in sponsoring this program in the future. Until sponsorship is secured, workshops have been scheduled in four central areas. If we are able to add a corporate sponsor during this school year, we will add additional workshops during the spring.

The AIM Higher Program will continue to include sessions on leadership, mentoring, team captain training, hazing awareness, drug prevention and sportsmanship. The 2012-13 AIM Higher schedule was included with September's Quick Bits. The remaining workshops will be in Butte in November, Great Falls in December, and Billings in January. Please consider registering your school for one of the scheduled dates as soon as possible for this worthwhile opportunity for your students.

## ACADEMIC ALL TEAM

### MHSA/MONTANA ARMY NAT'L GUARD ACADEMIC ALL TEAM

The Montana High School Association is again proud to be partnered with the Montana Army National Guard to provide the MHSA/Montana Army National Guard Academic All Team Program to our 179 member schools. Information about participating in this program will be sent to you in the near future, please contact Scott McDonald at the MHSA office, 442-6010 or smcdonald@mhsa.org to find out more about the program. **There is no cost to participate in this program.** After the five teams with the highest grade point averages are identified at each level of competition and for each classification, the Montana Army National Guard will contact your school to offer assistance in presenting the certificate to the winning teams in the format each school would prefer, such as at games, assemblies, banquets, etc.

## ENCLOSURES

1. James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award, Service Citation Award and Mildred Adams Award Form
2. Annual Meeting Proposal Form
3. NFHS: The Case for High School Activities
4. October 2012 Football News Summary
5. Online Clinic Information – Winter
6. 2012-13 NFHS Basketball Rule Changes
7. 2012-13 Basketball Hand Signals
8. 2012-13 Basketball Timer & Scorer Instructions
9. Basketball Rule Books (2)
10. 2012-13 Wrestling Rule Changes
11. MHSA Pocket Calendar
12. Post Season Officials Selection Procedure
13. "Become a Sports Official" poster
14. November Calendar
15. Sample Admission Pass Chart

### 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