

Checklist for School Activities Administrators:

✓ Submit a Record of Transfer Form

The pink form that must be submitted to our office for any student who transfers to your school (except first time ninth graders) and desires to participate in athletics at any level. **These forms must be filed before the student is eligible to participate in an Association Contest on any high school athletic team at any level of competition (freshman, sophomore, junior varsity or varsity).** *Forms can be emailed (if signed) or faxed and hard copies do not also need to be sent.*

✓ Check Foreign Exchange Programs

Make sure your foreign exchange student's program is approved by CSIET **and by MHSА rules Foreign Exchange students must possess a J-1 Visa. CSIET now approves programs where foreign students possess an F-1 Visa and the MHSА membership added the F-1 visa in addition to the J-1 visa currently noted in the rules and those students (F-1 now included) are eligible for two consecutive semesters if the student is listed on an approved CSIET program and meet all the other MHSА eligibility requirements.** An approved list is attached with this Executive Director's Update, or contact the office for a copy. The list is also on the web at www.csiet.org. Keep in mind that students in these programs must also meet all other eligibility requirements, i.e., age, number of semesters, academic grades, and they cannot have graduated from their high school (some foreign high schools graduate students after three years of school). Also the foreign exchange student must live in the attendance area of the school requesting eligibility for that student.

✓ Waiver of Transfer Rule Petition "Hardship Petition"

Waivers must be filed by the school after the student is enrolled at your school. A waiver of the transfer rule is considered if the circumstances are beyond the control of the student applying for the waiver. If the behaviors that caused the extenuating circumstances are "self inflicted" by the student, the petition is usually not considered. The information provided for the waiver is confidential, but please include as much information as possible so a well-informed decision can be made. The student can participate only at the sub varsity level until the petition is approved if they are eligible in every other way. If the petition is approved the student is eligible for varsity competition, but if the petition is not approved he/she can play sub varsity but is ineligible for varsity competition for 90 P.I. days (or its equivalent in districts with extended school days/four day weeks). All other eligibility requirements must be met such as age, number of semesters, academic grades etc. Any student who is transfer ineligible becomes eligible on the 90th P.I. day (or its equivalent in districts with extended school days/four day weeks) the end of the day.

✓ Age Rule

A student who turns 19 after midnight August 31st is age eligible. Any 19 year old (who turns 19 on or before midnight August 31st) can file a waiver of the age rule if the following is proved by the student – 1) student does not create a safety risk, 2) student does not skew the overall competitiveness of the activity, 3) participation will not exclude others, and 4) the student meets all necessary criteria to participate in MHSА activities.

✓ Graduate Students

Any student who meets any of the following criteria shall be ineligible to participate in any Association Activity:

- a. The student is a graduate of a regular four-year high school.
- b. The student is a graduate of a secondary school which has the same requirements for graduation as a regular four-year high school.
- c. The student has earned enough credits to entitle him/her to be graduated from the high school and has completed eight semesters of high school.
- d. The student has received a high school equivalency diploma (GED or **HISET**)

Interpretations

1. A student who graduates the first semester is ineligible the second semester.
2. A student who has earned enough credits to graduate the first semester but remains enrolled and graduates on the regular date remains eligible to participate.
3. Senior students who are currently eligible in their eighth semester (4th spring) will continue to be eligible for all interscholastic activities even though graduation exercises precede the completion of interscholastic activities for that specific year. If a student has earned a GED or *HISET* he/she is considered a high school graduate and is not eligible to compete in any MHSAA sanctioned activity.

✓ **Academically Ineligible Students**

Students who are ineligible because of grades cannot participate in any Association contest (varsity or sub varsity) for a period of one semester. They can practice if the school allows but they cannot suit up or participate in any games at any level of competition. They become eligible to compete on the Monday morning following the week in which the semester ends. A student who becomes academically ineligible also becomes ineligible on the Monday morning following the week in which the semester ends. A student must have received a passing grade in at least twenty periods of prepared class work in the last previous semester at the school where the student participates or during the last preceding semester in which he/she was in attendance to be eligible. If a student was enrolled 20 days or more or played in an Association contest he/she has attended a semester and must have received credit and passed 20 periods. If he/she withdrew and didn't receive credit (or even W's) he/she did not receive credit and is ineligible. If a student had not been enrolled in school at all for the semester (less than 20 days and did not participate in a contest) then the grades from the last previous semester enrolled are used.

✓ **Physical Exams**

Physical exams are required for students participating in MHSAA sanctioned sports. The exam is valid for one school year and the MHSAA form must be used. This examination must be certified by *a licensed medical professional acting within the scope and limitations of his/her practice*. Physicals performed before May 1st are not valid for the next school year.

✓ **Semester Rule**

Students are eligible for eight consecutive semesters and the semesters start to accrue after entering the ninth grade.

✓ **Initial Required Number of Practices Rule (new this year)**

The initial required amount of practices (twelve (12) for football, ten (10) for basketball, tennis, soccer, cross country, track and field, softball, wrestling, and swimming and three (3) for golf) for each individual must be completed as a comprehensive, regularly scheduled team practice with the full coaching staff present.

Below are a Listing of Changes to the By-Laws and Rules and Regulations Effective This Year:

MHSAA Annual Meeting Actions

The following proposal was adopted at the 2015 Annual Meeting:

1. Effective July 1, 2015, the current Awards Rule will be amended to increase the maximum award value from \$50 to \$100, and recognition events such as "pink weeks" will be included as defined events for the purpose of this rule.

This adopted proposal is available on the MHSAA website – www.mhsaa.org

MHSA Executive Board Actions

Reclassification

- Approved reclassifying the following school commencing in the 2015-16 school year:
Plains High School from Class B to Class C.
- Previously Anaconda and Libby were reclassified from Class A to Class B.

Realignment

- Approved Class A to realign from four divisions to two divisions (Eastern and Western) and approved their request to allow the Northwestern A and Southwestern A conferences and the Eastern A and Central A conferences to combine to conduct divisional tournaments in volleyball, basketball, wrestling, track and field and speech and drama.
- Approved reassigning Stevensville High School from the Southwestern A conference to the Northwestern A conference for boys' and girls' tennis.
- Approved Rosebud High School to be reassigned from the Eastern Division to the Southern Division of six-player football.
- Approved the realignment of Class B-C Wrestling.

Other General Rules and Regulations Items

- Approved allowing schools to live stream their won contests during the post season if they are members of the School Broadcast Program and receive approval from the Executive Director.
- Approved removing from the MHSA Handbook the section entitled, Other Contests and Activities.
- Approved the following interpretation for the MHSA Awards Rule:
Schools may provide training apparel for practice and/or workouts that will be fully depreciated and have no intrinsic value at the end of the season. These items may be provided by the school and/or its boosters, including general or team fundraisers, provided that the items are school-approved and are supplied on a gender-equitable basis. Allowable items are limited to one of each of the following: practice shirt, practice shorts, spandex, tights and a pair of socks.
- The following amendment will be added to each sport specific section of the MHSA Handbook – ***The initial required amount of practices (twelve (12) for football, ten (10) for basketball, tennis, soccer, cross country, track and field, softball, wrestling, and swimming and three (3) for golf) for each individual must be completed as a comprehensive, regularly scheduled team practice with the full coaching staff present*** (pending two-week notice with final action in June).
- Approved the following amendment to the Awards Section of the MHSA Handbook – XI. Wrestling, B. State – 1. Team – A trophy will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams in each of the four classifications, AA, A, B and C ***as per General Rule for Awards, (6). In order to be considered a team, a school or cooperative sponsorship must be represented by at least four wrestlers.*** (pending two-week notice with final action in June).

MOA Items

- Approved the recommendation from the MOA Board to require three-person crews at the district tournament level.
- Approved the following increases for three-person crews for post season basketball tournaments – ***District - \$60.00 per official, Divisional - \$66.00 per official and State - \$72.00 per official.*** These increases align three-person crews post season fees with the regular season fees that were implemented this past year (pending two-week notice with final action in June).

Football

- Approved the following changes in regard to regard to football participation limits and practice contact limits: **Participation Limits:** (7) No football player shall be allowed to participate in more than ~~Ten (10)~~ ***Eight (8)*** quarters per week (Sunday to Sunday) nor in more than two (2) games

within a 48 hour period. **Contact Limitations:** (8) During the regular season and post season, football practice per team shall not exceed more than ninety (90) minutes of contact practice per week. During the initial twelve practices (the first two weeks of practice only) one intra-squad scrimmage is exempt from the ninety (90) minutes of contact. (See the football page on the MHSA website for definition of levels of contact and other info).

- Approved an editorial change regarding MHSA Football Jamborees. The limit on when jamborees can occur was amended from 28 days to **30** days from the date of the first allowable contest in each classification.

Softball

Approved the following game ending procedures:

- 1) Games suspended before 4-1/2 or 5 innings because of weather (resume from the point of interruption).
- 2) Games suspended before 4-1/2 or 5 innings that are tied (resume from the point of interruption).
- 3) Games suspended before 4-1/2 or 5 innings because of darkness (resume from the point of interruption).

Tennis

- Approved **Disqualification** - Added additional language to the MHSA Handbook after the second unsportsmanlike conduct foul, which states - All tennis players in MHSA sanctioned tournaments shall be penalized one team point (on the first infraction) and removed from further play (on second infraction) for any unsportsmanlike conduct on site after a match or before the next match or at the end the tournament. *Any contestant disqualified in an individual tournament competition is not entitled to any points earned in the tournament. All advancement points and, placement points are negated. All vacancies created in the tournament pairing shall be scored as forfeits.*
- **Substitution** - Because of injury, illness or other emergency situations, one boy or one girl, who was named as an alternate before the start of competition, may be used as a substitute before or during the state meet for doubles play only. This substitute can only be placed at the beginning of a match. This substitute can be the alternate that was listed for doubles at the divisional tournament or a team member that participated in the divisional tournament **as a singles or a doubles team player** that did not qualify for state.

Track and Field

- Approved that an athlete will only be allowed to compete in one top 10/8 Track and Field Meet.

Volleyball

- Approved effective in 2015-2016, the use of a colored volleyball (red, white and blue only) for regular season and post season play. The Baden Lexum Comp VX450C-210 red, white and blue ball will be mandated for use during post season contests. A colored ball (red, white and blue only) may be used during regular season and it must meet NFHS standards. Any other sold white ball that meets NFHS standards may be used during regular season contests.

Music Items

- Several amendments were made to the music rules and regulations, including amending the registration fee for All-State participants from \$40 to \$45 effective in 2015. To receive a complete copy of the changes, please email jpaustin@mhsa.org.

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.