

Executive Director's Update August 2007



Info from Mark Beckman

Greetings from the MHSAA office. We hope your fall activity seasons are off to a great start.

MHSAA/MOA Required Rules Clinics

The MHSAA/MOA rules clinics once again will be provided in an online format for coaches and officials. All head coaches are required to view the clinic. However the MHSAA still encourages all members of the coaching staff and activity administrators to view the clinics. There is a pink information sheet enclosed explaining the procedure on accessing these clinics. Please share this information with your coaches of fall sports and with your cheerleading coach.

Checklist for school activities administrators

Enclosed is information to assist a school activities administrator in getting the school activity season off to a good start and to ensure all students are eligible for competition.

DVD's Enclosed For Your Use

I have enclosed three DVD's that I hope you will find useful. The first is "Making the Right Choice, Steroid PSA's. There are two thirty second PSA's included on the DVD addressing the problem of steroid use in high school athletics. One is directed at coaches, teachers and parents and the other is specifically directed at the student athlete. The second DVD is the Game Plan for Life from the National Federation which includes an excellent clip on the value of activity participation, a PSA on sportsmanship and a PSA on lessons learned from participating in sports. Both the Making the Right Choice and Game Plan for Life DVD's can be used at parent meetings, at pep assemblies, at team practices, at Booster meetings, or in other setting you deem appropriate. Also, please share the enclosed "Heads Up" DVD with your football coaches so they can present this valuable information to their teams. This DVD is provided by the National Athletic Trainers' Association and Riddell and contains information on reducing the risk of head and neck injuries in football.

MHSAA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program

I am excited to announce that U.S. Bank has signed on as the title sponsor for a new sportsmanship program. Dubbed the MHSAA/U.S. Bank Sportsman-

ship Program, it will provide many resources for member schools to use in promoting good sporting behaviors by players, coaches and spectators at interscholastic activities.

The MHSAA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program will include recognition of players who exhibit good sporting behaviors during regular season games, and it also marks the beginning of U.S. Bank Super Fan Program, which lets schools recognize long-time fans for their positive support of high school activities. In addition, the program will include a mandatory sportsmanship clinic for member schools' administrators, a banner program for schools that participate and meet the minimum sportsmanship criteria and a variety of resources for member schools to promote good sporting behaviors by high school players, coaches and fans. A separate mailing with more information on this exciting new program will be coming to member schools in the near future.

Check your Coaches' Status for the Coaches' Education Program

All coaches (9-12), whether paid or volunteer, and coaching at any level must complete this program. The coaches' education certification is good for three years and the MHSAA ***strongly recommends*** that coaches complete the program before their season actually begins. Spirit (cheerleading) coaches are no longer required to complete the program. Each coach must sign in each time she/he enters the curriculum. The coach will select his/her own password that must be remembered. The testing curriculum will also change with each login. See the coaches' education website for more details: www.coacheducation.org. All schools must submit the certification report listing whether coaches have completed the program or not. Schools will be subject to penalties for failure to submit this report. OPI renewal units are available if approved locally and if your district is an approved renewal unit provider. MHSAA does not certify renewal units.

MOA Items

Game fees are the same as last year but mileage is going up to .485 per mile. Per Diem stays at .08 per mile. Some new additions to the MOA Handbook approved by the MOA Regional Directors' Board and the MHSAA Executive Board are:

(continued)

- 1) Conviction Status and Background Check – registering officials are subject to a public criminal records background search.
- 2) For football – 12 minute halftimes and 3 minute warm-ups as a maximum, with existing exceptions by rule.
- 3) When separate officiating crews are requested or used for different contests which occur on the same date, schools must pay the driver official for each crew the required travel allowance, when it isn't feasible for the officials to travel together. This applies even when the officials are from the same city or pool site.

ACT/SAT Prep CD Offer

The Victory Sports Group, which represents several dozen NFL, AFL, CFL and NFL Europe football players has decided to extend its financial commitment by providing 300,000 SAT/ACT Power Preparatory CD-ROMS free of charge to NFHS member state associations and their high schools. These programs created by eKnowledge normally sell for \$199.95, but through this generous gift, students can receive a complimentary copy for only shipping and handling costs (\$9.99). The total cost donated by the Victory Sports Group to better prepare our young people nationally exceeds \$30 million. Please forward the ordering information to your guidance department and to any other interested parties at your school.

- 1) Go to www.sat.eknowledge.com and click "SAT/ACT Power Prep" in the left hand bar.
- 2) Click "Order" in the left hand navigation bar.
- 3) Enter the NFHS Sponsorship number (31b8607802) to redeem the \$199.95 program.
- 4) Enter your order information and pay the shipping and handling cost of \$9.99.

MHSA Reference Manuals

Reference manuals were distributed to member schools in binder form at the Annual Meeting a few years ago. If you still have the binder you can download the updated forms for replacement in your binder or you can download the forms as you need them from the site assuring your school has the most current versions of the MHSA forms. The manual on the website is in the same easy to use format as the binder. We will not be mailing out the updated materials but if you have difficulty accessing or downloading any of the material please contact Theresa in our office for assistance.

MHSA Handbooks and Directories

The 2007-08 MHSA Handbooks and Directories will be mailed to schools after Labor Day. The Directories will not be published until every member school has submitted the appropriate information. The MHSA Handbooks are in the process of being printed, but in the interim, the individual chapters of the Handbook are available in PDF format at www.mhsa.org under HANDBOOK.

Other Items of Interest ...

I have enclosed a handout regarding MHSA Present and Future issues from my presentation at the MCA Clinic. Included is information regarding MHSA staff, MHSA Handbook changes, activity specific rule changes and possible future issues of the MHSA.

Did you know that June 2007 marked the 35th anniversary of the enactment of Title IX? The landmark legislation has had a tremendous effect on athletic opportunities for girls. More in-depth information on the impact of Title IX will be presented in this year's monthly MHSA publications.

The MHSA office staff is here to serve you!

Please contact the office with any questions, concerns, comments or suggestions.

Have a great fall season!

Montana High School Association, 1 South Dakota Avenue, Helena, MT 59601

Phone: 406-442-6010 Fax: 406-442-8250

Website: www.mhsa.org Email: mbeckman@mhsa.org