



Quick Bits

A Montana High School Association Publication
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www.mhsa.org
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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD PROGRAM

Along with this *Quick Bits* you will find NorthWestern Energy's Academic Excellence Award reporting form.

Please review the material and make plans to enter your school's students in the 2011-2012 competition. The award is very prestigious, and the interest in the award continues to grow. The deadline for returning the form is **July 1**.

MHSA DUES AND CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE

Each member school contact has been sent, via email, applications for both MHSA membership dues and catastrophic insurance. Annual dues and catastrophic insurance premiums are payable and due on **August 1** of each year. Any school failing to pay its annual dues and catastrophic insurance premiums on or before that date shall be ineligible from **August 1** until such fees are paid and shall be required to pay a penalty of \$50 in addition to the regular dues before reinstatement can occur. (See Article 1, Section (2) of the MHSA By-laws). Please make certain that the dues form has the appropriate signatures and that the original form is submitted to the MHSA office. You may also access these forms by going to the MHSA website (mhsa.org) and going to "Top Forms".

MANDATORY COACHES' EDUCATION REPORT DUE

Attached to this publication you will find a Coaches' Education Program Certification Report form. Please complete it per the directions and return it to the MHSA office on or before **May 15, 2012**. **This report is mandatory**. Please contact Jo Austin at the MHSA office if you need assistance with the certification report.

2012-2013 MATERIALS ORDER FORM

Enclosed with this *Quick Bits* is the materials order form for the 2012-2013 school year. This form is provided for each school to order miscellaneous supplies such as extra rules books, score books, etc. from the MHSA.

NFHS PARTICIPATION SURVEYS

In a separate electronic mailing, you will soon receive the annual National Federation Survey for Athletic and Non-Athletic Student Participation. In the past, your response has been excellent and it is important that all of you once again take the time to fill out the forms, being as accurate as possible. Please return the surveys to the MHSA office no later than Friday, May 15, 2012.

AWARD RULE - REMINDER

With all of the invitational tournaments and sports camps that occur during the spring and summer months, please review with your schools' coaches the award rule found on page 26 of the 2011-2012 *MHSA Handbook*. Item 15.1 of this rule states that no award exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00) in value shall be given per event in any MHSA sanctioned sport or any MHSA sanctioned interscholastic activity by a member school, by any person or by an organization to a student in recognition of that student's achievement or participation in any interscholastic activity. An

event is defined as a sports camp, an invitational tournament/meet, a post season recognition function (i.e. sports banquet) or a fundraiser or similar function. Cash cannot be awarded. If you have any questions about the awards rule, contact Scott McDonald by calling the MHSA office or e-mailing him at smcdonald@mhsa.org.

OUT-OF-SEASON CONTESTS – COACHING REMINDER

For team sports, the coaching rule is in effect for out of season contests that are not held from June 1 - July 31 (the team- coaching rule does not apply during this period of time). The head coach or any member of the coaching staff of one gender's team cannot coach any of the players who have competed in their overall program unless the player is a senior and the sport season has concluded. Coaches of record (including assistant and volunteer coaches who actually coached during the season) cannot coach their own players during the off-season (except for the June 1 - July 31 period) even if the coach does not have a contract for the next season. If a coach resigns at the end of a season, he/she would be the coach of record and could not coach his or her players in the off-season. Coaches who coach one gender only can coach the other gender in that sport without penalty.

Also, for team sports, coaches can coach high school students on their teams from June 1 - July 31 in practice (cannot be required) or in invitational tournaments that are not sponsored by a school. Out of season contests cannot be sponsored in any way by schools or school groups (booster clubs) and rent must be paid according to school district policy. Also, anytime during the out-of-season (including June 1 - July 31) teams cannot scrimmage against each other without paying rental fee for the facility and must follow all other out-of-season regulations. Participants are not affiliated with your school for these events. The school is not (and cannot) be responsible for any aspect of out-of-season events (which include scrimmages) including funding, equity principles, etc. Participants are not covered by school insurance or MHSA catastrophic insurance during out-of-season events.

Note: this clarification does not apply to cheer and dance.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The MHSA is pleased to announce that the Les Irish Memorial Scholarship is available again this spring.

Kevin Irish of Northwest Scholastic Insurers has funded this scholarship through the Montana High School Association in honor of his father, Les Irish, who was a member of the MHSA executive staff for many years. Mr. Irish has expressed his desire to honor his father's memory by supporting young people whose future endeavors include educational careers.

The Les Irish Memorial Scholarship application can be printed for students who will be pursuing a career in education. If you have questions please feel free to contact the MHSA office.

FINE ARTS

FESTIVAL REMINDERS

All music festival forms are now available online. At this time virtually all directors have visited mhsa.org to obtain the form templates for district music festivals. In addition, the State Solo & Ensemble forms are also available on the sites.



Also, music adjudicators now prepare for the festivals by viewing the [online](#) adjudication clinic. Adjudicators view the online clinic prior to arriving at the festival site.

Festival Managers and music directors who have suggestions for future improvements to any festival procedure are welcome to send them to the MHSA Music Committee in care of the MHSA office.

MFEA NEWS

The Montana Forensics Educators Association held their annual convention on March 15-17, 2012, in Bozeman. From that meeting, a summary of recommended rules changes will be presented to the MHSA Executive Board in April for their consideration.

A copy of the minutes of that meeting will be posted on the MHSA website as soon as they are available.

TRACK AND FIELD

STATE FIELD EVENTS COMPETITORS TO BE PLACED IN FLIGHTS OF 10

The Games Committee for the 2012 State Track and Field Meets has adopted that all throwing and horizontal event competitors will be placed in two flights of ten (not four flights of five). This change was recommended by the Athletic Committee and was approved by the MHSA Executive Board for Classes B and C. Flights for Class AA and A will be determined by the meet manager after the number of competitors has been established.

STATE TRACK AND FIELD GAMES COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Two (2) Turn Stagger Events: For all 2012 post season track and field meets, a 2 (two) curve stagger will be used in the 800 meter run, 1600 meter run and 3200 meter run. The 4 x 400 relay event will use a 3 curve stagger.

Video or Other Recorded Images: Other than the official recording and electronic device(s) approved for timing the meet by the Games Committee, digital images, video replay, television monitoring equipment, camera phone recordings and other recorded media shall not be used to make decisions related to the meet.

Throwing Event Warm-Ups for all Classes/Genders: For all 2012 MHSA post season track and field meets - during warm-ups for throwing events, each athlete will be allowed only one implement/attempt at a time. To bring multiple implements into the throwing areas is unfair to the other athletes who wait in line with only one implement.

Hair Devices: Jewelry is prohibited from being worn in competition and this includes various items worn in the hair. Items such as rubber bands, headbands or scrunchies used to control the hair are not considered jewelry and are legal to be used to control the hair. It is the responsibility of the coach and athlete to be sure the hair control device, if worn, is legal. If the hair device is questionable, the contestant should check with the meet referee prior to competition.

For the 2012 State Track and Field Meets, the Games Committee defines a headband as any item that goes around the head (including elastic strips/bands, pre-wrap, moisture-absorbing terry cloth, etc). If worn, only one headband is permitted. Headbands may be a maximum of 2 inches wide and must be a single, solid color and be moisture-absorbing, non-abrasive and unadorned except for a manufacturer's logo and/or a school logo.

Relay Exchanges: Only tape will be allowed in the relay exchange zones. No chalk will be allowed.

POLE VAULT COMPETITORS VERIFICATION FORM

Track and Field Rule 7-5-3 on page 56 of the 2012 NFHS Track and Field Rulebook requires that **prior to competition** the coach must verify that each of their school's pole vault competitor's weight shall be at or below the manufacturer's pole rating. Available on our website is a Pole Vault Competitors' Event Verification Form that is recommended for use in meeting this rule prior to competition and thereby reduces coaches' liability. The form can also be found on the MHSA website under Track and Field.

Should you have any questions about the above, please do not hesitate to contact Scott McDonald at the MHSA office.

SPOTLIGHT TEAM OF THE WEEK

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The MHSA/Montana Ford Stores "Spotlight Team of the Week" Program continues to recognize teams from member high schools that exemplify the values of participating in high school activities. Teams are recognized who go above and beyond what is expected of them during practices, games and performances, modeling behaviors in other areas including community service, championing local and national causes/initiatives, and/or exhibiting courageous or visionary acts. The goal is to recognize teams that go well above and beyond what is expected of them during practices and contests.

Information regarding the Montana Ford Stores "Spotlight Team of the Week" Program can be found on the MHSA website (www.mhsa.org) including the form to use to nominate a team(s).

The Montana High School Association is excited to announce the next recipient of the MHSA / Montana Ford Stores Spotlight Team of the Week: the Havre High School Blue Pony Pep Band.

The Havre High School Blue Pony Pep Band's school support goes above and beyond in the following ways:

- The quality of music that this group provides for spectators during pregame, intermissions and time-outs is outstanding.
- The director, Mr. David Johnke, uses athletic events as an opportunity for his pep band students to display their skills to an audience that may not attend any of their concerts.
- The pep band takes every opportunity to play and they do not take time off before, during, or after the contest. The members of the pep band are quite often the last people to leave the gym as they play until most of the spectators are gone.
- When they are not playing, they cheer proudly for the Havre Blue Ponies. These cheers are often the "old-time" cheers that many students haven't heard before, but are exposed to due to Mr. Johnke's guidance.
- The pep band's support of the athletic teams at Havre High School has always been positive, productive and appreciated by everyone. An event doesn't go by where the pep band plays that the administration doesn't receive a compliment about this group, usually from patrons from other communities.
- The Blue Pony Pep Band, under Mr. Johnke, is an example for all support groups to emulate.

High school sports and activities have the greatest number of participants of any types of outside school activities in the nation. Lessons learned by participating in high school activities go beyond developing sport/activity specific skills to include team work, dedication, service to others etc. The Havre High School pep band, through their shining example of school spirit and community support, was a very deserving recipient of this recognition.

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL HELMET RECONDITIONING

Effective September 1, 2011, the National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association members will not recondition/recertify any football helmet 10 years of age or older.

National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association, NAERA, announced the new 10 year policy adopted in their winter meeting. The 10 years shall be determined by the manufacturer's date as required by NOCSAE document 001. For example at the end of the upcoming 2012 football season, any helmet dated 2003 or older will not be reconditioned / recertified.

For more information, please visit the football page of the MHSAs website at www.mhsa.org.

SPIRIT

MCA CLINIC

As in the past several years the **Montana Coaches Association** offers courses for spirit coaches during the MCA clinic held in Great Falls each August. Registration sheets for the MCA clinic are not sent from the MHSAs office but will come from MCA. In addition, AACCA certification will be offered for spirit coaches during the MCA clinics. Please have your spirit coaches watch for information from MCA.

VOLLEYBALL

VOLLEYBALL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS TO CHANGE IN 2016

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Volleyball Rules Committee, at its January 9-11 meeting in Indianapolis, approved new uniform requirements that will take effect in 2016. The revised rule will require the libero to wear a uniform top that is immediately recognized from all angles as being in clear contrast to and

distinct from the other members of the team. The libero and/or his/her teammates shall wear a solid-colored uniform top. The solid-colored uniform top shall clearly contrast from the predominant primary color(s) of the teammates' uniform top, with the predominant color(s) being the color(s) appearing on approximately half of the uniform.

Other requirements of the solid-colored top are 1) the sleeves shall be the same color as the body of the uniform top; 2) piping/trim no wider than 1 inch in total at its widest point may be placed along the seams and may be a different color(s) than the uniform top; 3) lettering and collars may be different color(s) than the uniform top; and 4) numbers shall be a contrasting color to the uniform top and meet all other specifications in Rule 2-2-4.

Some uniforms were affecting the officials' ability to identify the libero and determine legal playing action," said Becky Oakes, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the Volleyball Rules Committee. "The tradition is that volleyball is a sport with colorful uniforms. Because there has been increasing difficulty identifying the libero because of uniform design, the rules needed to make sure the libero was easily identified."

The rule will take effect July 1, 2016, which should give uniform manufacturers time to make the necessary changes and allow high schools to make uniform changes in their normal budgeting process and not incur additional expense, according to Oakes.

On the MHSAs website (mhsa.org), under the Volleyball Section, please find the power point presentation "[Volleyball Solid Color Jersey Change—Effective July 1, 2016](#)" that will explain and give examples of this new volleyball uniform requirement. If you have any questions about this issue, please call Scott McDonald at the MHSAs Office.

ATTACHMENTS

[PV #2-Pole Vault Event Verification Form](#)
[2012-2013 Coaches' Education Verification Form](#)
[2011-2012 Academic Excellence Award Program](#)
[2012-2013 Materials Order Form](#)
[2012-2013 MOA Fees Schedule](#)
[Les Irish Scholarship Application](#)
[May Calendar](#)