



Quick Bits

A Montana High School Association Publication
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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

CULTURAL DIVERSITY MANDATORY WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

Effective in 2011-12, the MHSA Executive Board approved requiring Cultural Diversity Training for the following MHSA/MOA personnel:

- An onsite administrator and/or athletic/activities director from each member school
- All MHSA sanctioned sports head coaches
- All MOA officials

It is important to note that at least one school administrator and/or athletic/activities director from each school must attend and also that each head coach of the eleven sanctioned MHSA sports must also be in attendance at one of the scheduled presentations.

The purpose of the training is to help administrators, coaches and officials enhance their knowledge and self-awareness of diversity issues in MHSA-sanctioned athletics and activities to prevent cultural miscommunications, disconnects or conflicts.

The schedule, which provides twenty-seven (27) opportunities to attend, has been posted. A schedule of workshop locations, sites and times is attached.

NON-VOTING SCHOOLS LISTED

As requested by the MOA Regional Directors and approved by the MHSA Executive Board, MHSA and MOA publications will publish a list of schools which do not submit ballots for tournaments officials. Below are the schools that did not return ballots, returned them unsigned, or returned them after the deadline for selection of volleyball tournament officials:

Augusta	Lodge Grass
Big Sandy	Lone Peak (Big Sky)
Box Elder	Medicine Lake
Brockton	Missoula Hellgate
Browning	Northern Cheyenne (Busby)
Carter Co. (Ekalaka)	Noxon
Cascade	Plentywood
Cut Bank	Powell Co. (Deer Lodge)
Fairview	Rosebud
Frazer	Roy
Helena Capital	Valier
Joliet	Victor
Lame Deer	West Yellowstone
Lincoln Co. (Eureka)	Westby

WANTED - SUPER FANS IN YOUR AREA

The MHSA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship program is on the lookout for fans who have been long time supporters of your activity programs by positively supporting activity participants at your school.

These fans proudly represent their community at extracurricular activities. Each Super Fan will receive an attractive certificate and congratulatory letter to be presented by the school. If you would like to recommend a Super Fan from your area, please contact Brian at the MHSA office for a nomination form. Don't miss this chance to recognize your communities' Super Fans.



MHSA/MONTANA FORD STORES SPOTLIGHT TEAM OF THE WEEK

The MHSA/Montana Ford Stores "Spotlight Team of the Week" Program recognizes teams from member high schools who exemplify the values of participating in high school activities. This award recognizes teams that go above and beyond what is expected of them during practices and games, modeling behaviors in other areas including community service, championing local and national causes/initiatives, and/or exhibiting courageous or visionary acts. Our 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).

TROPHIES AND AWARDS REMINDER

In response to questions received in the MHSA office concerning conference trophies, the following information from the MHSA Handbook is offered:

1. Conference trophies are given in football only (they are considered district or divisional trophies).
2. In other sports, if a conference would like to award a trophy (first place only) for their conference champion it must be ordered through the MHSA office and must be paid for by the conference. The MHSA office staff does not automatically order conference trophies because some conferences don't choose to award them.
3. Trophies that are awarded by MHSA rule will be awarded to both schools if the activity is cooperatively sponsored, but the MHSA office will need to know which school was presented the trophy at the tournament. Also, if there is a co-op conference champion or if a conference has co-champions the conference still needs to order those trophies through MHSA and pay for both.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Libby High School has changed the extension on their email addresses. Previously, their addresses were "...@libby.k12.mt.us." The updated email addresses are "...@libbyschools.org." Please note these updates in your MHSA Directory.

ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED

The 2012 Annual Meeting proposals were initially sent to schools in December, along with other materials.

A copy of the proposals is available on the MHSA website at www.mhsa.org.

Administrators are reminded to bring their copies of the proposals to the Annual Meeting. If you have questions or if you need additional information please feel free to contact the MHSA office.

ELIGIBILITY/EQUITY IN-SERVICE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

MHSA staff members will again present the mandatory Eligibility/Equity Workshop in conjunction with the coming Annual Meeting. The workshop is scheduled for Sunday, January 15, 2012, at the Billings Hotel & Convention Center. The meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. in the Stillwater Room.

BASKETBALL

PLAYERS STARTING A GAME

NFHS Basketball rules state: Each team consists of five players, one of whom is the captain. A team must begin the game with **five** players (unless the MHSA has given **only** a sub-varsity team permission to start a game with four players), but if it has no substitutes to replace disqualified or injured players, it must continue with fewer than five. When there is only one player participating for a team, the team shall forfeit the game, unless the referee believes that team has an opportunity to win the game. **Coaches: remember that by MHSA rules, the Association prohibits students of member schools from playing in a preliminary contest and starting in the varsity contest on the same day. Coaches must ensure that this MHSA rule is not violated. Because this is a MHSA rule, MOA Basketball officials will follow NFHS rules requiring a varsity team to start with five players even if the some of the players have played in a sub-varsity contest.**

WHO CAN PRACTICE?

By MHSA Rules, only students who meet all MHSA eligibility requirements (enrollment, age, semesters, academics, physical examinations etc.) are eligible to practice with and participate on member school teams. Exceptions: 1) students who are eligible in every way except academics may participate in practice if the school allows, and 2) students approved by the Executive Director to participate as an eighth grader.

PREGAME WARM-UPS

Teams entering the gymnasium prior to the contest should not run through the area occupied by the opposing team or under the basket where the opponents are warming up. Teams should only enter, jog, or warm-up on their own half of the court. If during pre-game or halftime warm-ups one team leaves the floor, the other team is NOT to use the entire floor. Teams are to warm-up on their half of the court only. **Gatherings intended to motivate a team after the warm-up period, during, or following introductions and post-game celebrations should be performed in the area directly in front of the team bench.** The center court area of the court should not be used for those gatherings. Once again, teams must stay on their side of the court. Coaches - you are in complete control of helping eliminate these things from happening. When planning your warm-up, be sure you and your team are abiding by this point of emphasis.

DIMMED LIGHTING DURING CONTEST INTRODUCTIONS

The MHSA Board approved the policy regarding lighting for player introductions and other related matters. MHSA Allowable Procedures for varied and/or dimmed lighting during contest introductions:

Regular Season

- For any indoor MHSA athletic contest, facility lights may be dimmed or partially extinguished only during introductions and only within the following guidelines:
- If lights are dimmed or modified during introductions, enough light must remain to ensure the safety of all occupants in the facility, specifically for the purposes of maintaining crowd control and guaranteeing that aisles, stairways and exits are visible.
- If partial lighting sections above the area of competition are fully extinguished, the lighting sections above the fan areas must remain on, and aisles, stairways and exits must remain visible.
- The use of spotlights is allowed provided they are used appropriately and do not delay the start of the game.
- Home and visiting teams must be introduced in the same manner, and gender equity standards must be met in showcasing introductions in this manner.
- All local fire and public safety codes must be followed.

Post Season

For all indoor post season events (playoffs and tournaments), full facility lighting will remain on throughout introductions and between contests if applicable.

WRESTLING

WRESTLING COACH REGISTRATION FOR FLOOR ACCESS AT STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS

For the past few years the MHSA has implemented a different procedure for issuing coaches' passes for the MHSA State Wrestling Tournament. Again this year, schools are required to submit a list of their certified coaches that will represent their school at the state wrestling tournament. In an effort to make the wrestling area less congested and to afford a better environment for those participating, the MHSA will print wrist bands with the coaches' names and schools, which will allow these individuals access to the floor. The electronic registration page for schools to register coaches can be found on the wrestling page of the MHSA website at www.mhsa.org.

WRESTLING REMINDER

Remember the growth allowance that was added to the *MHSA Handbook* two years ago. A one-pound growth allowance will be added to each weight class on January 1 and an additional one-pound growth allowance will be added to each weight class on February 1. If you have any questions on the application of this rule change, please contact the MHSA office.

STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Last year, the state wrestling tournaments were assigned to separate locations due to the reconstruction of MetraPark in Billings. The Class AA State Tournament was held at CM Russell High School (Great Falls), the Class A State Tournament was held at Butte Civic Center and Class B-C State Tournament was held at Hamilton High School. All three facilities did an outstanding job hosting the events. Thanks to those communities and volunteers for hosting and making those events a memorable experience for everyone involved.

This year, we are back to the All-Class format and the State All Class Wrestling Tournament will be held at MetraPark in Billings on February 10-11, 2012. We look forward to seeing everybody under the same roof for another All-Class Tournament.

Wrestling coaches and administrators of wrestling programs are reminded that student athletes will weigh-in the first day of the State Wrestling Tournament. There will be no weigh-ins on Thursday before the tournament, but MetraPark will be open for practice from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on that day. Scales will be available for weight checks.

The schedule has been posted on the wrestling page of the MHSA website and will be sent to coaches and principals prior to the state tournament.

SPIRIT

SPIRIT RULES REMINDERS

The MHSA believes it is extremely important to reduce the risk of injury due to cheerleading participation by increasing safety awareness.

All provisions of the National Federation Spirit Rules Book as well as regulations listed in the Spirit Section of the MHSA Handbook shall be in effect for all spirit team activities including practices, games, performances and competitions. Violations of these regulations are subject to penalties as outlined in Article VIII, Section (2) of the MHSA By-Laws. Listed below are four rules which are being highlighted this month.

- The Association prohibits spirit teams from participating in any spirit related activity (practices, games, performances and/or competitions) on a Sunday.
- Spirit participants must remain outside the playing area during a 30-second or less time-out in a basketball game.
- A participant in a full head and/or body costume (mascot) must not spot, stunt or tumble, except for a legal forward roll or cartwheel.
- Spirit participants must wear athletic shoes at all times.

SPEECH

SPEECH AND DRAMA SEASON COMING TO A CLOSE

Schools participating in speech and drama will finalize their seasons in January. The sites for state tournaments are as follows:

Class AA – Helena Public Schools
Jim Opitz, Tournament Manager

Class A – Polson High School
Scott Wilson, Tournament Manager

Class B-C – MSU Billings (hosted by Shepherd High School)
Jon Moore, Tournament Manager

All state tournaments will be held on January 27-28, 2012. If you need additional information about these events, please feel free to contact the MHSAs office at 406-442-6010, visit www.mhsa.org, or contact the specific tournament managers.

ATTACHMENTS

[January Calendar](#)

[February Calendar](#)

[Cultural Diversity Training Workshop Schedule](#)