

Quick Bits

A Montana High School Association Publication
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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

WRESTLING - HIRING OF OFFICIALS

We have had several questions from coaches and officials this year about the hiring of wrestling officials for regular season invitational tournaments. In some cases, schools and officials are not following the correct MOA assignment policies and this could eventually lead to violations by schools and possible misconduct charges against an official.

The MOA Handbook, page 319, XXVI. ASSIGNMENT, A. General Policy, # 1 states: *Participating schools will select and assign officials for all regular season interscholastic athletic contests. Schools are to go through the local officials' pool(s) when hiring unless the official is a non-pool affiliated official and not a member of a pool. Participating schools will also select all officials for regular season basketball, wrestling, softball and volleyball tournaments.*

Tournament managers must work with their local MOA pool leader to assign officials for their tournaments. Wrestling is unique because many times officials are hired from various areas of the state to work a tournament. Here is the step-by-step process for tournament managers to use for the hiring of regular season officials for tournaments:

1. Tournament managers should meet with local coaches and pool leaders to determine the officiating needs for the tournament. In this meeting, the number of officials to be hired and also which officials they would like to potentially hire for the tournament would be determined.
2. Then, the local pool leader will check the availability of officials in their own pool (assuming their local matches and meets are filled first) and when specific officials are going to be hired from outside of the local pool, the local pool leader will contact other pool leaders around the state to see if either a specific official is available for that weekend or if any other officials may be available.
3. All assignments must be done through the pool leaders. If not, as stated on page 311 of the current MOA Handbook, officials may be charged with misconduct: *8) Working as a member of more than one pool per sport, using more than one residence, or individually contracting contest assignments while being a member of a pool.*

As mentioned above, it is important to note that schools select and assign the officials for all regular season contests, but they must go through the pools to accomplish this, which ensures local schools will have their contests covered.

The MHSA will provide all MOA pool leaders a detailed list of wrestling officials and to which pool they belong in the future. If anyone has questions, please contact Brian in the MHSA Office.

NON-VOTING SCHOOLS LISTED

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

Alberton	Missoula Big Sky
Baker/Plevna	Noxon
Brockton	Powder Rive Co. (Broadus)
Browning	Powell Co. (Deer Lodge)
Cascade	Red Lodge
Circle	Roberts
Great Falls Central/MSDB	Saint Ignatius
Great Falls High	Stanford/Geysers/Denton
Hays-Lodgepole	Stevensville
Helena High	Superior
Lodge Grass	Victor
Lustre Christian	White Sulphur Springs

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/YOUR LOCAL FORD STORES SPOTLIGHT TEAM OF THE WEEK

The MHSA / Your Local 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 Your Local 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.



BASKETBALL

REGULAR SEASON BASKETBALL WARM-UP

Regular season basketball contests (at any level of competition) will have at least a 15-minute pre-game warm-up period and when one regular season game (at any level of competition) immediately follows another on the same night and the same officials or any of the same officials work consecutive games there will be at least a 20-minute intermission between games.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT RULE (NFHS BASKETBALL RULE 3-5-2C)

Knee and ankle braces which are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production are permitted and do not require any additional padding/covering. The intent of the rule is to allow knee and ankle braces to be worn if these braces are not altered and worn as intended by the manufacturer (including manufacturer sleeves). The NFHS believes the risk of injury to other players is negligible and the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee was also concerned that padding braces to comply with the previous rule carried a risk of interfering with the braces' function. The head coach will verify that all players are wearing legal equipment and that equipment is worn properly prior to each contest.

A knee or ankle brace may be considered illegal unless padded/covered if, in the judgment of the official, the item:

- Has been altered from the manufacturer's original design/production, or
- Is an older model brace that could cut or cause another player to have an abrasion

AWARENESS EVENTS

The MHSOA Office will permit a school to modify the basketball uniform/apparel from the NFHS Basketball Rules for one (1) week during the regular basketball season to be designated for charitable awareness events, such as Breast Cancer Awareness week. This interpretation will be applied to all sports. **The school must request permission from the MHSOA to conduct these events.**

DISTRICT/DIVISIONAL BASKETBALL CHALLENGE GAMES

The MHSOA recommends that district or divisional basketball tournament managers who have the possibility of a challenge game should have the district or division determine, before the tournament begins, the possible sites for the challenge game. For further information on challenge games, please refer to the MHSOA Handbook, page 111, #5, for Class A schools, pages 113-114, #4 and #6, for Class B schools and pages 116-117, #5 & #6, for Class C schools. Regular tournament officials must be used to officiate the challenge game and the tournament manager should have the officials' checks ready to distribute to the officials when they arrive to work the challenge game. NOTE: Because basketball districts/divisions are now scheduling play-in games (to pare the tournament down to an eight team bracket or because of a challenge game) on Monday or Tuesday, the MOA/MHSOA has approved that if one of the tournament officials has a work related conflict and is unable to officiate the play-in or challenge game to which he/she was assigned, the MOA/MHSOA office or the tournament manager can assign one of the other tournament officials to work this game(s).

Please contact Scott McDonald at the MHSOA if you have questions about the above information.

WRESTLING

WRESTLING COACH REGISTRATION FOR FLOOR ACCESS AT STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS

For the past few years the MHSOA has implemented a different procedure for issuing coaches' passes for the MHSOA State Wrestling Tournament. Again this year, schools are required to submit a list of

their certified coaches (coaches who are recognized by the school, have completed the annual rules clinic and have completed the Coaches' Education Program) 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 MHSOA 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 MHSOA website at www.mhsa.org.

WRESTLING REMINDER

Remember the growth allowance that has been added to the MHSOA Handbook. 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 MHSOA office.

STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

The State All Class Wrestling Tournament will be held at MetraPark in Billings on February 14-15, 2014.

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 MHSOA website and will be sent to coaches and principals prior to the state tournament.

SPIRIT

EMPHASIS ON SPIRIT SAFETY

The MHSOA believes it is extremely important to reduce the risk of injury due to cheerleading participation by increasing safety awareness. I would like to remind you that all provisions of the National Federation Spirit Rules Book, as well as all regulations listed in the Spirit Section of the MHSOA 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 MHSOA By-Laws. Listed below are some rules I'd like to highlight just as a reminder to you all.

- 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.
- Spirit participants must not stand behind the free throw lane extended during live ball action at a basketball game.
- If stunting during player introductions (starting line-ups), spirit teams should always be at a safe and appropriate distance from the players.
- All members of a spirit team shall wear their hair away from face and off the shoulders (whether or not the team is stunting). This includes cheering during wrestling matches.
- Wearing any hard or soft jewelry is prohibited.
- 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.

FORENSICS

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 – Glacier High School (Kalispell)
Greg Adkins/Mark Dennehy, Tournament Managers

Class A – Hamilton High School
Dee Hallock/Darryl Holland, Tournament Managers

Class B-C – Glasgow High School
Sharon & John Labonty/Willie Thibault, Tournament Managers

All state tournaments will be held on January 31 - February 1. If you need additional information about these events, please feel free to contact the MHSa office at 406-442-6010, visit www.mhsa.org, or contact the specific tournament managers.

SAT/ACT

eKNOWLEDGE

eKnowledge, a leading provider of educational material, is continuing its program of distributing discounted SAT and ACT test prep programs to schools and students in NFHS member state associations.

The SAT and ACT Power Prep™ program, which contains over eleven hours of video instruction, animation, graphics, sample questions and practice tests, has a retail price of \$250. However, this package is offered for \$20 by eKnowledge with support from various entities. There is a nominal charge for shipping and handling for each program. With the help of SAT or ACT Power Prep™ program, students can prepare for the spring and summer ACT and SAT test dates. Orders can be placed online at www.eknowledge.com/MHSA or by phone at 951-256-4076.

The MHSa and NFHS are pleased to help make this valuable resource available to the high school students we serve. If you have any questions regarding this program, please feel free to contact Lori Caputo, eKnowledge, via e-mail at loricaputo@eknowledge.com.

ATTACHMENTS

[SAT and ACT PowerPrep Information](#)