

Quick Bits

A Montana High School Association Publication
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www.mhsa.org
November 2015

FUNDAMENTALS

TIME TO REVIEW FUNDAMENTALS

As we close one sports' season and begin another, the time is right to review the basics of MHSAA rules. [Fundamentals of MHSAA Athletic Regulations](#), a comprehensive review of rules, guidelines and interpretations, is linked to this publication. After reading the attached, please feel free to contact Mark Beckman at mbeckman@mhsa.org or 442-6010 with any questions you may have.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Executive Board will be November 23-24, 2015, in Helena at the MHSAA office. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, November 23, and will continue Tuesday if business has not been completed the previous day.

Major Agenda Items for Executive Board Meeting:

1. Adoption of proposed 2016-2017 budget.
2. Review of any proposals to be submitted to the membership at the Annual Meeting.
3. Plans for the MHSAA Annual Meeting.
4. James C. Haugen Meritorious Service, Service Citation and Mildred Adams Awards.
5. Act on Rules and Regulations proposals from member schools.
6. Act on appeals/waivers.
7. Redistricting/ Realignment.

Reclassification is a two-year process, and the Board will determine what schools will be reclassified beginning in the 2017-2018 school year at the 2016 April Board Meeting, which allows for realignment proposals to be submitted during the November 2016 meeting.

If anyone wishes to be on the agenda, they must contact the MHSAA office at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MASTER BASKETBALL SCHEDULING

The open dates on the Master Basketball Schedule for girls and boys during the 2015-2016 school year are Dec. 4 - 5 and Dec. 7 - 12.

Master basketball scheduled games will be held during the following weeks: Dec. 14 - 19, Dec. 21 - Jan. 2, Jan. 4 - 9, Jan. 11 - 16, Jan. 18 - 23, Jan. 25 - 30, Feb 1 - 6, and Feb. 8 - 13.

Requests for changes to the 2016-2017 schedule can be made to any committee member, Kip Ryan at the MHSAA office, or they can be made when the committee as a whole meets immediately following the MHSAA Annual Meeting in Billings in January.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Remember to check www.mhsa.org under "News and Announcements" for directory updates. Also, please call or e-mail Janie Holmes (jholmes@mhsa.org) with any updates or changes to your school's directory information.

ANNUAL MEETING IN BILLINGS

The MHSAA Annual Meeting will be held in Billings on January 18, 2016. The Billings Hotel and Convention Center is the host

facility. Reservations may be made by calling 800-537-7286 and asking for group code "MHSAA-16."

A registration form for your school's representatives will be included in the December *Activity News*.

If there are groups that plan to meet in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and a representative has not notified the MHSAA of those meetings, please contact Jo Austin at jpaustrin@mhsa.org to reserve a meeting room.

MHSAA AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED

As in the past, the MHSAA will honor deserving individuals at the Annual Meeting to be held in January. The MHSAA Executive Board during their meeting on November 23-24 will consider the nominees for the following awards:

1. James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award: Presented for "Outstanding Contributions to the MHSAA Activities." This is the highest award given by the MHSAA;
2. Service Citation Award: Presented for "Significant Contribution to the MHSAA"; and
3. Mildred Adams Award: Presented to school support staff personnel who work with activities.

SUBMIT ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSALS

If you plan to submit proposals for the coming Annual Meeting, please be advised of the following important dates:

1. Proposed changes by member schools for any of the [Rules and Regulations](#) of the [MHSAA Handbook](#) (pages 20-29 and 36-108), must first be presented to the MHSAA Executive Board at its **November 23-24 meeting**.
2. Schools may submit proposed changes in the By-Laws (pages 7-19) to the Executive Director by **December 1**. By-Law changes do not need to be presented first to the Executive Board, but it is best if all proposals are received before the Board Meeting.

No proposal can be presented from the floor that has not been received by the Executive Director by the deadline. Remember proposals must carry a fiscal note if there are financial implications to the Association, and proposals will be separated by the Resolution Committee to be considered by affected classifications.

We request that when writing proposals for the MHSAA Annual Meeting you refer to the [MHSAA Handbook](#), Article IX, page 18. Please submit your proposal by using the proposal form posted at www.mhsa.org.

TOURNAMENTS

TOURNAMENT MANAGERS

It is the responsibility of tournament managers to make sure that they report to the Montana High School Association office in Helena any incident or injury involving spectators and/or participants. Also, any property damage should be reported. Please submit a facility or school district report of these occurrences immediately following your tournament by faxing the report to the MHSAA office (442-8250) or by emailing Mark Beckman (mbeckman@mhsa.org) in the event that any type of litigation occurs following the incident.

Because there is a claims made coverage deadline from the date of the occurrence in which it has to be reported, all tournament managers should send this report as soon as possible following your event. Your cooperation is appreciated.



MUSIC

MUSIC NOTES

If your school is hosting a district music festival in the spring and you are planning to move the dates of that event, please be advised that you must first contact the MHSA office. Only schools that have paid music dues are eligible for participation, and schools with paid music programs must ensure district music festival participation.

MUSIC FESTIVAL DATES FOR 2016

April 5	District 9 – large groups
April 7-8	District 6
April 8-9*	Districts 1, 5, 10, 11
April 11	District 9 – solos & ensembles
April 15-16*	Districts 2, 4, 7, 8, 12 & 13
May 6-7	Eastern State Festival – Billings Western State Festival – Helena

*Some districts begin on Thursday Evening.

WRESTLING

UPDATED MHSA SKIN LESION FORM

The NFHS Medical Advisory Committee has updated the skin lesion form for the 2015-16 Wrestling Season. Please disregard the forms used in previous years. Attached you will find a copy of the updated form which can also be found on the wrestling page of the MHSA web site at www.mhsa.org.

WR#1 & WR#2 FORM DEADLINES

The MHSA has clarified the deadlines for both the WR#1 form and the WR#2 form. Schools must complete the WR#1 certification form for each wrestler and submit the summary WR#2 form to the MHSA office within 34 days from the first allowable practice, which this year is **December 23, 2015**.

The rationale for the change is to eliminate confusion about the completion deadline for WR#1 and the submission deadline to the MHSA office for WR#2. By putting both of these dates at 34 days, the third Wednesday in December will be the critical date and will remove any confusion concerning this timeline.

Coaches have been sent one copy of the WR#1 and WR#2 forms. We will no longer distribute WR#1 cards, and each school will need to make copies of this form to certify all of their wrestlers. The WR#1 form, along with the WR#2 summary form, are available in electronic format on the wrestling page of the MHSA website for your convenience so you can print these forms or enter information electronically.

Scale Recertification Changes

The State of Montana Bureau of Weights and Measures has notified the MHSA that they no longer have the resources to certify scales. Enclosed with this mailing is a list of scale service agencies registered with the State of Montana. Please contact one of these agencies to if you need to certify your scales. A link to these agencies will also be on the wrestling page at www.mhsa.org.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Brian Michelotti at MHSA office.

BASKETBALL

BASKETBALL INFORMATION INCLUDED

Attached to this publication is information concerning selection of basketball scorers and timers, the MHSA basketball mercy rule and the 2015-16 Basketball Rules Interpretations that should be provided to and reviewed with basketball coaches and personnel that will be your scorer and timer at basketball games.

CLARIFICATION OF TEN DAYS OF BASKETBALL PRACTICE RULE

The Montana High School Association Executive Board shall establish the starting date for practices and the first allowable date when any

contest can be played. No individual shall play in any Association basketball contest until he/she has a minimum of ten (10) days of basketball practice with at least one practice session per day on ten (10) different days (no practice permitted on Sundays) prior to the date of the first allowable game. **Warm-ups before a game cannot be used as a day of practice to meet the minimum of ten (10) days of basketball practice rule.**

POLICY REGARDING LIGHTING FOR PLAYER INTRODUCTIONS

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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. The use of spotlights is allowed provided they are used appropriately and do not delay the start of the game.
4. Home and visiting teams must be introduced in the same manner, and gender equity standards must be met in showcasing introductions in this manner.
5. 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.

If you have questions or concerns about these clarifications, please contact Kip Ryan at the MHSA Office.

SPOTLIGHT TEAM OF THE WEEK

ANNOUNCING THE MHSA & YOUR LOCAL FORD STORES SPOTLIGHT TEAM OF THE WEEK AWARD

MHSA and Your Local Ford Stores are excited to continue a very successful program as part of our partnership. The MHSA and Your Local Ford Stores have developed the MHSA / Your Local Ford Stores Spotlight Team of the Week, which will recognize Montana High School Association member school teams that have excelled by exhibiting any of the following characteristics:

- ❖ Outstanding community service.
- ❖ Championing local and/or national causes/initiatives.
- ❖ Courageous or visionary acts.
- ❖ Any other notable actions performed as a team outside the competitive arena.

Our goal is to recognize teams that go well above and beyond what is expected of them during practices and contests.

Teams can be nominated by completing the form which is included with this edition of Quick Bits. The form can also be found on the MHSA website at www.mhsa.org, and then proceed to the forms page. After the selection process, teams chosen will be sent an award the following week that can be presented in whatever manner they choose. Also a congratulatory letter from the MHSA office will be sent to each recipient. Your Local Ford Stores personnel may be in attendance to present this prestigious award. We encourage all MHSA schools to nominate any deserving teams from your school.

SPIRIT

REMINDER

If your school did not have cheerleaders for the fall season but will be fielding a spirit team for the winter season, make certain your coach completes the online spirit rules clinic by December 4, 2015.

ATTACHMENTS

[James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award, Service Citation Award and Mildred Adams Award Form](#)
[Selection of Basketball Scorer and Timer](#)
[MHSB Basketball Mercy Rule](#)
[2015-2016 Basketball Rules Interpretations](#)
[Wrestling Skin Lesion Form](#)
[MHSB/Your Local Ford Stores Team of the Week Nomination Form](#)
[Fundamentals of MHSB Athletic Regulations](#)
[Wrestling Scale Service Agencies](#)

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