



Quick Bits

A Montana High School Association Publication
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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 2010-2011 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 will be 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 mail it to the MHSA office on or before **May 13, 2011. This report is mandatory.** Please contact Jo Austin at the MHSA office if you need assistance with the certification report.

2011-2012 MATERIALS ORDER FORM

Enclosed with this *Quick Bits* is the materials order form for the 2011-2012 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 13, 2011.

AWARD RULE - REMINDER

With all 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 2010-2011 *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 or e-mail 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. **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. There has been positive feedback about this change from both festival managers and adjudicators.

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

MFEA NEWS

The Montana Forensics Educators Association held their annual convention on March 17-19, 2011, in Bozeman. From that meeting, a summary of recommended rules changes will be presented to the MHSА Executive Board in April for their consideration.

A copy of the minutes of that meeting will be posted on the MHSА 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 2011 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 MHSА Executive Board for Classes A, B and C. Flights for Class AA will be determined by the meet manager after the number of competitors has been established.

STATE TRACK AND FIELD GAMES COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Video or Other Recorded Images: Other than the official recording/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 2011 MHSА 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 area 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 hair. A change to rule 4-3-3d now allows unadorned devices, such as bobby pins, barrettes and hair clips, no longer than 2 inches, to be worn to control the competitor's hair. These devices are legal and are not considered jewelry. 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 2011 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 pages 54-55 of the 2011 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. Enclosed is a pole vault competitors' event verification form that is recommended for use in meeting this rule prior to competition and thereby reduce coaches' liability.

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

SPOTLIGHT TEAM OF THE WEEK

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The MHSА/Montana Ford Stores "Spotlight Team of the Week" Program continues to recognize teams from member high schools who exemplify the values of participating in high school activities. Teams are recognized for model behavior in 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 MHSА 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 MHSА / Montana Ford Stores Spotlight Team of the Week. On March 1st, the award was given to the Custer County High School "Matadors" Team.

The Custer County High School "Matadors" Team's community service projects included:

- Providing service (including scoring, timing, taping, bracket updating etc.) for over 30 years for the Cowboy Invitational Wrestling Tournament

- Providing assistance with various tasks for the All Class State Wrestling Tournament in Billings for many years including their expertise in running bout cards
- Traveling to Butte this year to assist as the bout card runners at the 2011 State Class A Wrestling Tournament
- Assisting with all wrestling tournaments held in Miles City
- Leading and assisting with school and community food bank drives
- Starting a school-wide soda pop can drive many years ago to assist the school's various activity programs
- Numerous other examples.

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. This team, through their shining example of community service and philanthropy, is 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. This policy will become effective at the start of the reconditioning season September 1, 2011 for the 2012 football season. The 10 years shall be determined by the manufacturer's date as required by NOCSAE document 001. For example at the end of this upcoming 2011 football season, any helmet dated 2002 or older will not be reconditioned/recertified.

For more information, please visit the football page of the MHSAs website at www.mhsa.org and also see the press release enclosed with this issue of the MHSAs Quick Bits.

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. A rules clinic will also be held during the conference. Please have your spirit coaches watch for information from MCA.

ATTACHMENTS

Pole Vault Event Verification Form
 2010-11 Coaches' Education Mandatory Report Form
 2010-11 Academic Excellence Award Program
 2010-11 Wrestling Financial Summary
 2011-12 Materials Order Form
 2011-12 MOA Fees Schedule
 Football Helmet Reconditioner's Press Release
 Les Irish Scholarship Application
 May Calendar