



Quick Bits

A Montana High School Association Publication
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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Belgrade | Big Sandy |
| Bigfork | Box Elder |
| Bozeman | Bridger |
| Browning | Conrad |
| Culbertson | Custer |
| Flathead (Kalispell) | Havre |
| Heart Butte | Highwood |
| Lame Deer | Lodge Grass |
| Lone Peak (Big Sky) | Loyola Sacred Heart |
| Nashua | Noxon |
| Plentywood | Power |
| St. Labre (Ashland) | St. Regis |
| Seeley-Swan (Seeley Lake) | Shepherd |
| Shields Valley (Cyde Park) | Stanford |
| Valley Christian (Missoula) | Victor |
| West Yellowstone | Westby |
| Wolf Point | |

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.

SPOTLIGHT TEAM OF THE WEEK

The MHSa and Montana Ford Stores are excited to announce a new program as part of our partnership. 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).

The Montana High School Association is pleased to announce that the inaugural recipient of the MHSa / Montana Ford Stores Spotlight Team of the Week was the 2010 Huntley Project High School Football Team.

The Huntley Project team's community service projects included:

- A fundraiser for a Glasgow High School football player diagnosed with cancer.
- A fundraiser for an injured Absarokee High School football player.
- During the season after practice, the team divided up by class and walked through town wearing their jerseys to pick up garbage in the community.
- Players mentored elementary students in their town by spending time reading to them.
- Other various examples of community outreach helping people who needed assistance or support.

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 Huntley Project High School football team, through their shining example of community service and philanthropy, was a very deserving recipient of this recognition.

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 its 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.

ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED

The 2011 Annual Meeting proposals were initially sent to schools in December, along with other materials.

A copy of the complete 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 16, 2011, at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana in Billings. The meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. in the Poolside Room.

SPORTSMANSHIP CLINIC IS ONLINE

Please be aware that the mandatory MHSA Sportsmanship Clinic is available online. The information WILL NOT be presented at the MHSA Annual Meeting as it has been in previous years.

If you don't know if your school is in compliance with this requirement, please contact Jo Austin at 442-6010 or jpaustin@mhsa.org.

BASKETBALL

HALFTIME INTERMISSION CLARIFICATION

The same players will start the third quarter that ended the second quarter, unless a proper substitution is made – prior to the intermission warning horn, which is 15 seconds before the end of the 10:00 minute intermission and made by the substitute or a team representative. Before the game starts, officials should remind the timer to sound a warning signal 15 seconds before the expiration of the half time intermission. The timer shall also signal when the time has expired for the half time intermission. **3.3.1 SITUATION D:** Intermission has concluded and play is about to resume in the third quarter when the scorer notifies the officials that no Team A substitutes reported prior to the warning horn. **RULING:** The third quarter begins with the same five Team A players that concluded the second quarter. (3-3-1a Note)

CLARIFICATION ON NON-VARSITY GAME QUARTERS

After receiving quite a few calls from around the state regarding teams that are struggling to fill non-varsity basketball rosters, the MHSA has made the following clarification to address the quarters used for non-varsity basketball team contests:

1. Contests can be four quarters of eight (8) minutes in length. This would count as 1 game towards your maximum game limit.
2. Contests can be three quarters of eight (8) minutes in length. This would count as 1 game towards your maximum game limit.
3. Contests can be two quarters of eight (8) minutes in length. This would count as ½ a game towards your maximum game limit.
4. Contests can be four quarters of four (4) minutes in length. This would count as ½ a game towards maximum your game limit.

In all non-varsity team contest formats, the officials are to be paid a full game fee and the format must be by the mutual agreement of opposing coaches prior to the game.

COMPRESSION SLEEVE

The MHSA Office continues to get questions about basketball athletes wearing compression sleeves on their arms (elbows). According to NFHS Basketball Rule 3-5-2d, compression sleeves worn on the arms are permitted only for medical reasons. To clarify the interpretation of this rule, for the 2010-2011 basketball season, in order for any basketball athlete to wear compression sleeves on their arms (elbows), the athlete shall present a note from an MD, DO, PAC or NP stating that the athlete must wear the compression sleeve. The note must be presented to the officials at the pre-game conference. If a medical note is not presented, the athlete must remove the compression sleeve before participating in the contest.

PRE-GAME WARM-UPS

National Federation rules state that in pre-game warm-ups teams are not to run through or disrupt the opponent's pre-game warm-up. Teams may only run or jog on their half of the floor and they cannot run

under the basket of the opposing team when entering the floor or any time during warm-ups. If a team goes to their locker room during the pre-game warm-up or is late coming onto the floor at half time, the other team may not use that team's half of the floor to warm up. The game officials will penalize any violation of this regulation as an unsporting act administering a technical foul to the offending team member(s) or to the offending team.

NOISEMAKERS

By MHSA rules, noisemakers are prohibited at indoor events (*MHSA Handbook*, page 53, J). Also, basketball rule 1-18 prohibits noisemakers at any basketball contest and also prohibits music or sound effects to be played during a live ball. Cooperation between officials and game administration is essential to address these situations. Thundersticks are considered artificial noisemakers and are prohibited at indoor MHSA contests.

Clarification: megaphones being used by cheerleaders, as intended, are not considered artificial noisemakers.

If you have questions about the above, call Scott McDonald at 442-6010.

The MHSA encourages basketball coaches to review the Points of Emphasis information, which is found on pages 66-68 of the NFHS Basketball Rules Book.

WRESTLING

WRESTLING COACH REGISTRATION FOR FLOOR ACCESS AT STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS

Last year the MHSA implemented a different procedure for issuing coaches' passes for the 2010 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

The State Wrestling Tournaments will be held in three separate locations this year and are set for February 11-12, 2011. The Class AA State Wrestling Tournament will be held at CMR High School in Great Falls, Class A will be held at the Butte Civic Center in Butte and Class BC will be held at Hamilton High School in Hamilton.

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 each location will be open for practice from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on that day. Scales will be available for weight checks. Please note that this time has been adjusted for this year's tournaments.

The schedule has been posted on the wrestling page of the MHSA web site 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. Below, please find two rules which are being highlighted this month.

Stunts must not be performed during a basketball or volleyball game when the ball is in play, including free throws in basketball and just prior to the serve in volleyball. (NFHS Spirit Rules 2-2-8).

Spirit participants must not stand behind the free throw line extended during a basketball game (NFHS Spirit Rules 2-2-13).

Noisemaker Clarification: Cheerleaders are allowed to use megaphones if using them to magnify the words of a cheer or chant. They may not be pounded on the floor or passed up into the crowd.

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 – Great Falls Public Schools
Alex Rosenleaf, Tournament Manager

Class A – Laurel High School
Trudi Downer, Tournament Manager

Class B-C – Broadwater High School (Townsend)
Jim Holland/Kim Leslie, Tournament Managers

All state tournaments will be held on January 28-29, 2011. 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.

ATTACHMENTS

[February Calendar](#)