

**MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
1 SOUTH DAKOTA AVENUE  
HELENA, MT  
442-6010**

**OUT OF SEASON CONTEST GUIDELINES**

**THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO ALL PLAYERS TO ENSURE ELIGIBILITY:**

- The schools can in no way sponsor the event(s) and are not considered sponsors of the event(s). *MHSA Handbook – p. 41 G, Interpretation #1*
- Coaching staffs from the schools may not be involved (unless the competition is between June 1 and July 31). *MHSA Handbook – p. 40, G # 1 and # 2*
- No athlete should be in receipt of awards in excess of \$50.00 and athletes cannot receive any amount of cash as an award. *MHSA Handbook – p. 26, Section (15)*
- No proceeds may be used to help pay for camps. *MHSA Handbook – p. 41-42, Section (8), B and C*
- Monies earmarked for use by athletes for participation in invitational tournaments (not camps) may only be used for expenses relating to transportation, motel and meal costs incurred for that particular tournament. Records should be kept by the sponsoring group and individuals. *MHSA Handbook – p. 27, Section (16), 16.1 d.*
- Equity among male and female opportunities must be maintained and documented. If a school accepts funds generated from an outside resource, the school must meet all gender equity standards when applying those funds to its athletic programs. *MHSA Handbook, Settlement Agreement, pp. 59-70*

**OTHER ITEMS:**

- If a school district's gym is used for the contest(s), the normal rental fee for a group must be paid according to district policy.
- MHSA insurance does not cover any of the participants in these events.
- It is strongly recommended that the group organizing the event(s) draft a disclaimer reviewing these points, distribute it to the athletes, secure parental permission to participate, and disavow any sponsorship by any participating players schools.

## **Specialized Camp Reminders** (Supplement to Out-of-Season Contest Guidelines)

Before embarking on any fundraising ventures, schools are advised that all personnel should be familiar with the regulations for Specialized Camps.

MHSA Rules and Regulations Section (9) Specialized Camp Rule specifies the following:

***“The fee (tuition) and expenses must be provided by the student or the student’s parents/legal guardian.”***

*The following options are in compliance with the camp rule:*

- ◆ A student’s parents pay the camp fee and the expenses for the student’s travel and room at the camp.
- ◆ A student babysits, mows lawns or holds some other job to earn his/her own money to pay for the camp fee and expenses.
- ◆ A student works at a school fundraising opportunity (such as a concession stand) and is paid by the hour, earning his/her own money to pay for the camp fee and expenses. Records which detail the student’s earnings should be kept.

*The following are **violations** of the camp rule:*

- ◆ A booster club pays the camp fee or other expenses for a student or students.
- ◆ A local business or individual donates money to pay the camp fee or other expenses for a student or students.
- ◆ A group of parents conduct a fundraiser to offset expenses for students to attend a camp.
- ◆ A school supplements the expenses for a camp by providing transportation such as buses or bus drivers, and the expenses for the bus/bus drivers are not reimbursed by assessing a fee to the individual students.
- ◆ A school helps sponsor a camp by waiving the rental fees for school facilities or by failing to adhere to district policies regarding use of facilities, equipment etc. (if there are any).