

SWIMMING

STATE MEET DATES

All SchoolsFebruary 13-14

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- (1) The Montana High School Association recognizes swimming as an interscholastic sport for both boys and girls.
- (2) **Twenty-two (22)** schools comprising **twenty (20)** teams participate in swimming. These standard abbreviations are to be used for scoring purposes at meets.

Bigfork [BFH] Billings Central [BCH] Billings Senior [BSR] Billings Skyview [BSV] Billings West [BWH] Bozeman [BOZ] Butte [BHS] Columbia Falls [CFH] Flathead (Kalispell) [FHS] Glacier (Kalispell) [GHS] Great Falls [GFH]	Great Falls CMR [CMR] Hardin [HAR] **Havre/Chinook [HAV] Helena [HHS] Helena Capital [CHS] **Missoula Big Sky/Loyola Sacred Heart [MBS] Missoula Hellgate [MHG] Missoula Sentinel [MSN] Whitefish [WHS]
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** Cooperative sponsorship

- (3) All high school students participating in swimming meets or tournaments must meet all MHSAA eligibility requirements, including the award and amateur rules.
- (4) The determination of sites, meet managers and arrangements for all MHSAA state meets will be made by the Executive Board. This determination will be made at a meeting of the Board after interested member schools or communities have been given an opportunity to submit written invitations to host an Association meet.
- (5) The date for the State Swim Meet shall be set by the MHSAA Executive Board.
- (6) The MHSAA Executive Board shall establish the starting date for practice and the first allowable date when any contests may be played. No individual shall compete in any Association swimming contest until he/she has a minimum of ten (10) days of swimming practice of at least one practice session per day on ten (10) different days (no practice permitted on Sunday) prior to the date of the first allowable meet.

If a student begins his/her ten days of required practices and that period of days is interrupted by sickness, injury, academic ineligibility or any other reason for a period of two weeks, the student shall be required to practice an additional five (5) days and in cases of sickness or injury to produce a doctor's release.

Athletes participating on teams competing in MHSAA post season play, which overlaps the beginning of the next MHSAA sanctioned activity starting practice date, may be credited for practices during the overlap period toward meeting the minimum practice requirement of the overlapped activity season.

- (7) The swimming season for both boys and girls officially closes with the end of the state tournament for the classification of the school concerned.
- (8) Ten meets shall be the maximum number for schools excluding Association sponsored tournaments.
- (9) The National Federation Swimming Rules shall be the official rules for all interscholastic swimming, unless modified by the MHSAA rules.

- (10) Diving will not be a swimming event in any MHSAA swimming meet.
- (11) Twelve places shall be awarded in state meet competition. AA and A-B schools shall compete together; AA and A-B schools will be scored separately. A maximum of six (6) trophies shall be awarded, three in each class. General Rules for Awards (5) shall be followed for the number of trophies presented.
- (12) It is recommended for the regular season and required for the state meet that all swimmers on a team shall wear suits and caps of identical coloring and pattern and decent appearance. Boys shall wear trunks which completely cover the buttocks and provide that the waist and leg-lines are approximately parallel when viewed from the side. Girls shall wear one-piece suits which completely cover the buttocks and breasts.
- (13) If an athlete fails to report to his/her respective heat, whether trial or final, the starter shall call the swimmer's name and school. He/she shall be called a maximum of two (2) times before the referee can impose the penalty for failure to report.
- (14) Voice commands will be used for starts in swimming meets.
- (15) A jury of appeals consisting of two coaches and the meet manager will be selected by the participating teams prior to the preliminaries and will be impaneled for the duration of the state meet. All protests, disputes and appeals having to do with the state meet will be resolved by the committee of three. Should the protest, dispute or appeal involve one of the coaches on the jury of appeals, the meet manager shall have the authority to appoint another coach to replace him/her for a decision on that particular case.
- (16) The state meet manager shall provide a written report of the State Swim Meet results and a financial statement of the meet to the MHSAA office immediately following the state meet. Any income in excess of the bid amount will be sent to the MHSAA.
- (17) No school is required to take part in any contests or athletic events, but once entered, teams are obligated to participate in a contest or athletic event to its normal conclusion unless the contest is terminated by mutual consent of the school officials involved due to unusual weather or game conditions, or situations which could be hazardous to participants or spectators. Any coach is prohibited from unilaterally refusing to play.

If a school fails to complete contests or athletic events that they have entered, the violating school would be subject to penalties as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Executive Director.

No school is required to take part in any meet or tournament, but when once entered under the plan outlined, schools shall carry out their part of the program in fairness to all other schools represented. Any team taking part in season play is automatically entered into the first tournament held in that district or in that division. Teams shall not be allowed to withdraw from participating in such a tournament without the specific approval of the MHSAA Executive Director. The penalty for violation shall be as outlined under Penalties, Article VIII, Section (2).

- (18) No all-state teams or players shall be picked or announced at the tournament site by either the Executive Board or tournament officials.
- (19) The MHSAA prohibits any use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol or other mood altering drugs during competition.

Violation will cause the coach or participant to be disqualified from further participation in that event.

Established Ticket Prices for State Tournament

The following ticket prices as established by the MHSA Executive Board will be used for all state meets.

	Adult	Student
Single Session	\$ 8.00	\$ 6.00
All-Session	\$14.00	\$ 9.00