

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 provide a list of schools which do not submit ballots for tournaments officials. Below are the schools that did not return ballots or returned them after the deadline for selection of volleyball tournament officials:

Bainville	Loyola Sacred Heart
Belgrade	Medicine Lake / Froid
Charlo	Northern Cheyenne
Chester-Joplin-Inverness	Plenty Coups
Fairview	Powder River County
Great Falls Central / MSDB	Shields Valley
Harrison / Willow Creek	Troy
Hays-Lodgepole	Two Eagle River
Lame Deer	Victor

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.

TROPHIES AND AWARDS REMINDER

The following is information and guidelines provided in the MHSA handbook related to awards, specifically conference trophies.

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 their 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 2017 Annual Meeting proposals were initially sent to schools in December, along with other materials.

A current copy of the proposals is available on the MHSA website at www.mhsa.org and [linked here](#). 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 15, 2017, at the Best Western Plus Heritage Inn in Great Falls. The meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

BASKETBALL

REGULAR SEASON BASKETBALL WARM-UP

Regular season basketball contests (at any level of competition) will have at least a 15-minute pre-game warm-up period and when one regular season game (at any level of competition) immediately follows another on the same night and the same officials or any of the same officials work consecutive games there will be at least a 20-minute intermission between games.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT RULE (NFHS BASKETBALL RULE 3-5-2C)

Knee and ankle braces which are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production are permitted and do not require any additional padding/covering. The intent of the rule is to allow knee and ankle braces to be worn if these braces are not altered and worn as intended by the manufacturer. The NFHS believes the risk of injury to other players is negligible and the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee was also concerned that padding braces to comply with the previous rule carried a risk of interfering with the braces' function. The head coach will verify that all players are wearing legal equipment and that equipment is worn properly prior to each contest.

A knee or ankle brace may be considered illegal unless padded/covered if, in the judgment of the official, the item:

- Has been altered from the manufacturer's original design/production, or
- Is an older model brace that could cut or cause another player to have an abrasion

AWARENESS EVENTS

The MHSA office will permit a school to modify the basketball uniform/apparel from the NFHS Basketball Rules for one (1) week during the regular basketball season to be designated for charitable awareness events, such as Breast Cancer Awareness week. This interpretation will be applied to all sports. **The school must request permission from the MHSA to conduct these events.**



DISTRICT/DIVISIONAL BASKETBALL CHALLENGE GAMES

The MHSAA recommends that district or divisional basketball tournament managers who have the possibility of a challenge game should have the district or division determine, before the tournament begins, the possible sites for the challenge game. For further information on challenge games, please refer to the MHSAA Handbook, page 52 XIV, pages 55, #4 and #6, for Class B schools and page 57, #5 & #6, for Class C schools. Regular tournament officials must be used to officiate the challenge game and the tournament manager should have the officials' checks ready to distribute to the officials when they arrive to work the challenge game. NOTE: Because basketball districts/divisions are now scheduling play-in games (to pare the tournament down to an eight team bracket or because of a challenge game) on Monday or Tuesday, the MOA/MHSAA has approved that if one of the tournament officials has a work related conflict and is unable to officiate the play-in or challenge game to which he/she was assigned, the MOA/MHSAA office or the tournament manager can assign one of the other tournament officials to work this game(s).

Please contact Kip Ryan at the MHSAA if you have questions about the above information.

WRESTLING

WRESTLING COACH REGISTRATION FOR FLOOR ACCESS AT STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS

For the past few years the MHSAA has implemented a different procedure for issuing coaches' passes for the MHSAA State Wrestling Tournament. Again this year, schools are required to submit a list of their certified coaches (coaches who are recognized by the school, have completed the annual rules clinic and have completed the Coaches' Education Program) 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 MHSAA 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 MHSAA website at www.mhsaa.org.

Also, again for the 2016-17 season we will be enforcing NFHS rules and will allow schools to have maximum of **two** individuals in the corner (on chairs at the edge of the mat). NFHS Rule 2-2-2 states:

During tournament competition, a maximum of two team personnel (coaches and/or non-participating contestants) will be permitted on chairs at the edge of the mat. It is permissible to allow coaches on the corner of the mat in a restricted.

WRESTLING REMINDER

Remember the growth allowance that has been added to the MHSAA Handbook. 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 MHSAA office.

STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

The State All Class Wrestling Tournament will be held at MetraPark in Billings on February 10-11, 2017.

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 MetraPark will be open for practice from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on that day. Scales will be available for weight checks.

The schedule has been revised and is posted on the wrestling page of the MHSAA website and will be sent to coaches and principals prior to the state tournament.

SPIRIT

All provisions of the National Federation Spirit Rule Book, as well as regulations listed in the MHSAA Handbook's Spirit Section, shall be in effect for all spirit team activities including practices, games, performances and competitions. Violations of these regulations are subject to penalties as outlined in Article VIII, Section (2) of the MHSAA By-Laws. An individual school district may be *more* restrictive than the National Federation and MHSAA Spirit rules, but they cannot be less restrictive.

As stated in the past, ***MHSAA rules do not prohibit your high school spirit teams from participating in cheer/dance competitions*** as long as they are following spirit rules found in the NFHS Spirit Rules Book as well as the Spirit Section of the MHSAA Handbook.

SPEECH AND DRAMA

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 – Bozeman High School
Adam Thane/Jerry Reisig, Tournament Managers

Class A – Laurel High School
Liz Schwartz/Lucas Larson, Tournament Managers

Class B-C –MSU-Northern – Hosted by Chinook High School
Bonnie Ortner/Paula Molyneaux, Tournament Managers

Dates for state tournaments are January 27-28. If you need additional information about these events, please feel free to contact the MHSAA office at 406-442-6010, visit www.mhsaa.org, or contact the specific tournament managers.