

MHSLA Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/14/2026
Time: 6:30 PM
Facilitator: Todd Thesing, President

Microsoft Teams

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Phone conference ID: 722 434 441#

Members Present: Present Members Highlighted in Yellow

Entity	Designated Representative	Other Representative	Other Representative
MHSLA President	Todd Thesing		
MHSLA Vice President	Pat Marron		
MHSLA Treasurer	Eric Sutherland		
MHSLA Secretary	Brad Koon		
Sheridan	Jeff Shideman		
Billings Beartooth	Desarae Detling	Mark Kary	
Billings Rimrock	Howard Ruzick		
Bozeman	Rob Leder		
Cody	Kevin Winters		
Jackson	Tori Hederman		
Last Chance	Nathan Nachtsheim		
Butte	Dan Carroll		
Great Falls	Jeremy Comstock		
Missoula Wild	Greg Howard		
Missoula Zoo-town	Elena Furrow		
Northwest Avalanche	Chris McLaughlin		
Cheyenne	Colton Rasmussen		

1. President's Report:

Todd went over the highlights from the MLOA letter contained below: no tobacco, mouth guards, swearing, etc.

2. Vice President's Report:

None

3. Treasurer Report:

- a. Current Stockman Bank Balance = \$43,830.74
- b. MLOA's first invoice covering the 1st two weekends of the season yielded a cost per team per game of \$163.00 so close to the budgeted \$170 per team per game.

Invoices for officiating went out this afternoon.

We need to reconcile the funds put into Sports Engine by each team, so please:

- 1. Provide a roster of players for each team to Eric
- 2. Deduct \$50 per player who has registered on Sports Engine from the total amount on the invoice.
- 3. Please pay 1st installment or entire invoiced amount at your earliest convenience.

I will get a spreadsheet of registered players off of Sports engine and reconcile it against the rosters provided for each team.

4. Secretary Report:

- a. Any comments on March 10, 2026 Minutes? (Posted on the Website):
- b. I don't always keep up with emails. If I'm not getting back to you, please call me anytime at (406)461-0692.
- c. John Noble is doing a great job keeping things organized and moving smoothly in Sports Engine.
 - i. There are some players that registered in SE and aren't playing, or registered twice. Requesting direction on what to do with SE payments.
 - 1. Registered players who decided not to play.
 - a. Do nothing?
 - 2. Players registered twice.
 - a. Refund one of the registrations?

Questions:

Tori - Jackson: There were some ½ games played by girls teams. Be sure those officials are paid.

Elena - Zoo-town: Some JV girls games only have 1 official, is there different pricing for those games? Also, there are some games played with a team comprised of players from 3 clubs, can we bill accordingly?

Jeremy - Great Falls: Regarding Sports Engine registration fees, some players have quit, do they get a refund from SE for the \$50 paid? It was discussed by the Board and determined

most clubs have a no refund policy and that should be extended to the SE registration fees. No refunds will be given once collected by SE.

5. Schedule Updates:

STATE TOURNAMENT UPDATE: Rob Lederman - Bozeman

May 15, 16, 18 @ Dobbie Lambert Fields, MSU campus, Bozeman

Hotel Blocks sent out

Games will be played on Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

All State Awards:

- It was discussed that this is always difficult to get done. The distribution of awards is scheduled for Saturday afternoon. It will be outside, weather permitting, but moved to inside the field house if required by poor weather.
- Voting by Head Coaches to occur on Friday, JV in the afternoon and Varsity to be after the last games of the day.
 - Pat Marron will help coordinate the Boys voting & Rob Lederman will help coordinate the Girls Voting.

Trophies and Awards:

- Todd Thesing to coordinate with Holly to ensure printing of the awards is organized and completed prior to Saturday Afternoon
- Desarae - Beartooth will organize and order trophies for State Champion Teams.

Bracket and Play:

- Chris Mac - NWA will create a proposed State Tournament Bracket and post to SLACK. Please review and forward any feedback thru SLACK.
- There will be games to determine 3rd place in the tournament.
 - Some JV Boys teams will be playing 8's.
- Rosters: Rule states 2 weeks prior to State Tournaments, teams must submit final rosters. Tori and Elena et al, discussed girls small JV teams and the possibility of players continuing to swing JV/V. Discussion to be continued offline.

State Games 2027:

- Howard - Rimrock asked where the next State will take place and if there is a deadline for bid packages. All agreed the sooner it gets started the better. Todd T advised lets finish the 2026 Spring Season and then begin planning 2027.

6. Email from MLOA:

Todd,

Hope all is well and the games for you guys have been going well! After running a few games this week and getting into the season, there are a couple items I want to address right off the bat.

1. Mouthguards. Could you please send out a reminder to all coaches that while "clear mouthguards" are now allowed this season, this does not change the fact that the players must use an actual mouthguard of adequate thickness (per NFHS Rules) and designed for
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impact protection. In the three games I have done so far this year I have seen multiple kids using invisalign or other plastic type coverings. This is non-negotiable. I am stressing this now as a coach from Helena asked to see my degree in dentistry to confirm that I could tell him what a legal mouthguard is. We cannot have the coaches questioning officials or talking back like that. We need a standard to be upheld, no questions asked.

2. Talking back. I had several times where both coaches and players have been talking back to the officials. This is something that is a big part of why we cannot retain new officials and I am trying to keep it to a minimum. Just a friendly reminder to coaches which they can pass along would be great. This also goes hand in hand with the taunting, foul language, etc. These can and will result in non releasable unsportsmanlike conduct fouls.

3. Tobacco use. Per NFHS Rules, any tobacco use on the field by players, coaches, or anyone officially connected to a team is not allowed. It is a zero tolerance policy. Any player caught using tobacco will receive a penalty and a 3 minute non releasable penalty, plus ejection. (this has not come up and I doubt it will, just leaving it there as a reminder.). What has come up is coaches using tobacco on the sidelines. If any coach is found to be using tobacco on the field the penalty is a 1 minute non releasable foul on the team and the coach is ejected from the game.

Thank you for everything, look forward to seeing you out there soon.

Best.

Mike

7. Derogatory Remarks Situation:

There was feedback from both the MHSLA and GWLL regarding profanity, talking back to officials by players and parents, and derogatory comments made to players by parents. We need to do better. Bozeman players and parents were observed to be out of line in this regard. Nathan - Last Chance - did compliment the Bozeman Varsity Coaches for being present with the boys and handling them well without excusing the behavior.

8. Other

Officiating:

Jeremy - Great Falls: stated the officials are in a tough spot and much appreciation is due them for their efforts. Jeremy received feedback from parents that the game vs E Helena got out of hand and the officials failed to control the players. One official was a parent of a player and failed to blow his whistle, call fouls and protect the players.

Further discussion regarding inconsistency with officials and the need for officials to call it right, and protect the players. Colton shared in recent games, non called fouls, and hits to the head, lead to players not finishing the days play and reiterated the need to protect players.

The need for officials is ever growing and each club needs to provide officials in order to be able to continue to have games and keep the travel costs for officials from getting too expensive.

9. Next Meeting: May 12, 2026 @ 6:30

10. Adjourn Time 7:26 pm

