



MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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November 23, 2021

TO: MHSА MEMBER SCHOOLS
FROM: MARK BECKMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RE: NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION

The Montana High School Association Executive Board conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on November 22, 2021. Following is a synopsis of the major items:

1. The Board reviewed reports regarding recently held state events in cross country, golf, football, soccer, volleyball and all-state band, orchestra and chorus. The Executive Board and MHSA staff appreciate the personnel and the venues that hosted and administered these extremely successful events.
2. The preliminary budget for 2022-2023 was reviewed and approved by the Board pending final approval by the membership in January.
3. The Board reviewed proposals that were submitted to be considered at the MHSA Annual Meeting in January by member schools.
4. The Board approved the 2023-2024 Calendar.
5. The Board, after reviewing the MHSA Boys' Baseball Ad-Hoc Committees recommendation, approved submitting an Annual Meeting proposal for member schools to vote on whether to add boys' baseball as an MHSA sanctioned sport.
6. The Board approved establishing a MHSA Cross Country Committee.
7. The Board approved the following changes to the criteria the Board uses in reclassifying schools:
 - 1) Enrollment ranges be changed according to the figures below
 - 2) Removing the 10% range with an addition of criteria for schools to petition to remain below their current classification
 - 3) Amending the section for schools opting to stay up
 - 4) Defining attendance areas for private schools.

These changes are reflected in red below:

2.1 The following enrollment figures shall be used as a basic guideline and adhered to unless geographic locations or district or divisional alignment make the same impractical: Class AA = ~~779+~~; **(801+)** Class A = ~~307-778~~; **(301-800)** Class B = ~~408-306~~; **(101-300)** Class C = ~~4-407~~ **(1-100)**. Moving schools to a higher classification or to a lower classification will be based on two consecutive

years of count; and schools will be allowed to appeal to the Executive Director/Executive Board on any decision made (refer to 2.4).

~~2.4 Any school that exceeds the maximum enrollment levels by no more than ten percent (10%) may remain at the lower classification for two years: Class A (856); Class B (337); Class C (118).~~

2.4 Any school that exceeds the enrollment range for that classification may petition to play at the level below their current placement. The Executive Board will apply the following criteria when evaluating the request:

- a) Current enrollment and future enrollment projections – including using percentage changes and those trends
- b) Roster sizes for each sponsored sport
- c) Success factor in the current placement for each sponsored sport,
- d) Success factor (including win/loss record and other relevant information) in the current placement for each sponsored sport over the last five years.

2.5 Schools ~~are permitted to opt up to~~ can petition to remain in a higher classification for a minimum of two years ~~if they can demonstrate competitiveness at the varsity level in the higher classification.~~

[Defined attendance areas for private schools – LINK](#)

8. The Board approved, effectively immediately, the following amendment to the eighth-grade criteria:

- 4) The student(s) meet the following criteria necessary for participation in MHSA activities: age, residency, ~~(or has been attending the district's middle school at the beginning of seventh grade and all other siblings are attending school in that district)~~ and regular enrollment in the school they are attending.

The Executive Board took the following actions regarding realignment (pending two-week notice to affected schools for comment):

9. The Board approved the following schools to participate in Class C Six-Player Football:

Absarokee – Southern Division
Twin Bridges – Western Division
Great Falls Central – Northern Division

[View Class C Six-Player Football Alignment - Realignment Link](#)

10. The Board approved the following schools to participate in Eight-Player Football:

Valley Christian – Western Division
Powell County – Southcentral Division
Denton/Stanford/Geyser/Winnett/Grass Range – Northern Division

[View the New Eight-Player Football Alignment – Realignment Link](#)

11. The Board approved the following school to participate in the Class B Football Division:

Thompson Falls – Western Division
[View Class B Football Alignment - Realignment Link](#)

12. The Board approved the proposed realignment and revised qualifiers for the State Tournament for Class B-C Tennis. This is effective for the 2021-22 Season:

[View the Class B-C Tennis realignment](#)

13. The Board approved the proposed realignment for Eight-Player Football:

[View the Eight-Player Football realignment](#)

14. The Board approved the proposed realignment for basketball and track and field for the Class C Southern Division:

[View the approved Class C Southern Division realignment for basketball and track and field](#)

In addition, the Board took the following action, for which schools are given two-week notice. Finalization of the following items will take place during the January meeting of the Executive Board after affected schools have the opportunity to submit final comments.

15. The Executive Board approved the following recommendations from the MHSA Athletic Committee:

Swimming – effective 2021-2022 with final approval

The following 5 items will be used as guidelines for the state swim meet:

1. Have a spectator rotation to ensure that seating limited to individual event spectators to watch a single event is provided. The spectators will rotate in and out before and after the event. The other seats will be available for spectators that want to watch all events during the meet.
2. All event awards will be presented at the end of the finals competition on Saturday in a separate area outside the competitive pool.
3. The host for the MHSA State Swim Championship Meet will make available a pre-meet warm-up in the pool available on the Thursday prior to the start of the meet.
4. All events will be marshalled to the pool through a ready room for both preliminaries and finals of the state meet.
5. Entries for the MHSA State Swim Championship Meet are required to arrive to the host team register by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday (nine days prior to the meet start date) and a final psych sheet will be sent and posted the following Friday by 5:00 p.m. after which no changes to the meet entries will be allowed. Meet scratches can be made but no changes to events or added swimmers will be allowed.

MHSA Handbook – Swimming Section

#14) AA and A-B Schools shall compete together during the preliminary races with the top 12 swimmers in AA competing for 12 places in the finals and the top six swimmers in Class A-B competing for six places in the finals. Class A-B swimmers will compete separately in the finals for all events. For Class A-B Relay Teams ~~will only swim in the finals and~~ only the top 3 teams will be scored for team points.

Golf – effective 2021-2022

- Each school will designate 2 markers for post-season tournaments. Marker can be a relative, administrator or spectator as designated by the school.
- Spectators must be 6 years old and above at MHSA post season tournaments.

Track and Field – effective 2021-2022 – with final approval

- Set/adjust the starting heights lower on Monday following divisional track meets. The height is to be set based upon approximately the top 12 qualifying heights advancing to state.

- If a change from the original relay card is made, the coach must obtain an alternate relay card from the meet referee and turn it into the marshal by final call of the event.

Wrestling – effective 2022-2023

- All weigh-ins for regular season tournaments will take place the night prior to competition. For example, a tournament that takes place on a Friday and Saturday will have weigh-ins at the home school on Thursday night and at the tournament site on Friday night. Weigh-ins for the state tournament: weigh-ins would take place Thursday & Friday nights on-site.
- Use the Set A Bracket and eliminate the Set B Bracket for the state tournament

Volleyball - effective 2022-2023

- Warmups - Warm-up period reduced to fifteen minutes for sub-varsity matches. Varsity match warm-up periods to remain at 20 minutes
- Three minutes between sets to remain the same, however if both teams are on the court and ready to go the new set can start before three minutes expires.
- Bench rotation – the benches will not rotate during the match. Teams will stay on one side.

The MHSA Annual Meeting will be held in Butte, January 17, 2022, at the Butte Copper King Inn. The Executive Board will meet on January 15th and again following the conclusion of the Annual Meeting on January 17th.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact the MHSA office.

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