

Executive Director's Update August 2021



Info from Mark Beckman

Greetings from the MHSA office. I hope this information is helpful with the start of fall activities this week.

COVID-19

Currently, there are no specific sport COVID requirements for the fall. The MHSA encourages schools to review the CDC and state and local health recommendations regarding COVID-19 and proceed in a manner that is in the best interest for their school and local community (including MHSA activity participation). The MHSA will continue to monitor the current trends with COVID-19.

Dragonfly – School Online Platform

The MHSA has partnered with Dragonfly to provide a variety of online services that will benefit member schools and the MHSA office. The MHSA / Dragonfly online platform has been a focus for the MHSA and our member schools during the spring and summer. Brian Michelotti recently sent additional information regarding the platform to member schools.

The Dragonfly platform will streamline many functions for you in your school. MHSA will require this year, schools to update the MHSA Directory of Schools information including your administration, coaches, personnel and school contact information, rules clinics for your coaches and for each school to submit your school's teams and schedules. If you have any questions, please contact Brian in the MHSA office.

Concussion Law and MHSA Rules Requirements

I want to remind you of the requirements of the concussion law and of the corresponding MHSA rules for coaches, parents, student athletes, officials and schools. Please visit the MHSA Sports Medicine Page at <https://www.mhsa.org/sportsmed> for this information. It is important to note the requirements for all participants including coaches, officials, trainers, parents and student athletes.

If you have any questions regarding MHSA's requirements to continue to implement this state law, please contact the MHSA office.

Concussion Insurance

The MHSA is continuing to provide concussion insurance for every high school student-athlete and cheerleader while participating in practice or competition in sports sanctioned by the MHSA during the 2021-2022 school year. This is our seventh year

of coverage. If a high school athlete or cheerleader is treated for a concussion that occurred during practice or a game, please click here for instructions on how to [file a claim](#). If you have any questions, please contact me or Brian Michelotti.

NFHS Coaches Education

All MHSA coaches (paid and volunteer, head and assistants) are required to complete the NFHS Coaches Education Program. OPI renewal units are available if approved locally and if your district is an approved renewal unit provider. MHSA does not certify renewal units. If you have any questions regarding the Coaches Education Program, please contact Scott Wilson at the MHSA office.

Initial Required Number of Practices Rule

Also, a reminder that the initial required number of practices (ten (10) for football, basketball, tennis, soccer, cross country, track and field, softball, wrestling, and swimming and two (2) for golf) for each participant must be completed as a comprehensive, regularly scheduled team practice with entire team and the full coaching staff present.

Student Eligibility

It is extremely important that the eligibility of all student activity participants is checked thoroughly before the students participate in any Association Contest. Some of the areas that must be reviewed include academics, age, semesters, physical examination before practice, foreign exchange approved program, etc. Attached is the "[Fundamentals of MHSA Athletic Regulations](#)" which combines many of our handouts pertaining to rules and regulations (athletic eligibility "Quick Check", open gym/field, fundraising, out-of-season contests, etc.) into one document. Also attached is an Activity Eligibility (speech, music and cheerleading) "Quick Check" and more detailed information on each area to assist a school activities administrator in ensuring all students are eligible for competition. Please contact me with any questions you may have regarding students' eligibility.

Home School and Nonpublic School Participation

- Nonpublic or home school students who meet the requirement of MCA 20-5-209 can participate in MHSA member school extra-curricular activities.
- The same standards for participation must be met as those required of full-time students

enrolled in the school – except they are not required to be enrolled or attend.

- All MHSA rules must be met – academic, age, semester, non-graduate etc., except enrollment and attendance. Please review the following resources for more specific information.
 - [Handbook By-Law Revisions](#)
 - [Eligibility Checklist](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\)](#)

Foreign Exchange Students – The [2021-2022 approved list of Foreign Exchange Programs from CSIET is linked here](#). Also, the membership approved adding F-1 Visa's with J-1 Visa's for foreign students; however, those students must be on an approved CSIET program whether the student possesses a J-1 or F-1 Visa. As per Article II, Section (10), these are the only approved programs that waive the MHSA Transfer Rule for participation. However, please keep in mind that while students under these programs are varsity eligible under the transfer rule for two semesters, they still must meet all other eligibility requirements, i.e., age, academics, number of semesters, live in the school's attendance area, etc., and they cannot have graduated from their high school.

MHSA/MOA Required Rules Clinics

The MHSA/MOA rules clinics once again will be provided in an online format for coaches and officials. ***All coaches including the head coach and all assistant coaches and all school-approved volunteer coaches*** are required to view the clinic. The MHSA still encourages all activity administrators to view the clinics. [Click Here](#) for information regarding the information to access the rules clinics. Please share this information with your coaches of fall sports and with your cheerleading coach.

MHSA Required New Administrators Online Clinic

The Board approved requiring all principals and activities directors to view the New Administrators Workshop. Superintendents are strongly encouraged to complete the workshop. Each principal and activities director are required to view the workshop once during their high school tenure. The clinic is being revised and will be available on the MHSA website (mhsa.org) August 23rd under the Clinics Tab.

MHSA Required Sportsmanship Online Clinic

The Board approved reinstating the required Sportsmanship Clinic. Member schools are required to have an onsite administrator and/or activities director who have viewed and completed and in-service on sportsmanship. Onsite personnel are required to complete a renewal every five years. The clinic is being revised and will be available on the MHSA website (mhsa.org) August 23rd under the Clinics Tab.

MHSA Required Music Copyright Course (New)

All music teachers, festival managers and administrators who oversee their school's music program are required to complete the Understanding Copyright and Compliance online course available at [nfhslern.com](#). Each individual would be required to complete the course once during their high school tenure. For current teachers, festival managers and administrators, the course will need to be completed before the start of the 2022-2023 school year. We have extended this deadline by a year because of COVID. Contact Scott Wilson for more information.

MOA Items

All regular season invitational tournament fees and post season fees are listed in the MOA Handbook. You can access regular season MOA fees [using this link](#). Also the mileage fee has **decreased** from .575 to .56 (this is the IRS mileage rate).

MHSA Handbooks and Directories

The 2022-2022 MHSA Handbooks and Directories will be mailed to schools after Labor Day. The Directories will not be published until every member school has submitted the appropriate information.

The MHSA Handbooks are in the process of being printed, but in the interim, the individual chapters of the Handbook will be available in PDF format at [www.mhsa.org](#) under HANDBOOK.

Other Items of Interest ...

I will send additional information regarding changes that were made last year by the Executive Board and by the membership, including information regarding changes to the By-Laws, Rule and Regulations and sport and activity specific rule changes in a separate email.

MHSA office staff is here to serve you!

Please contact the office with any questions, concerns, comments or suggestions.

Have a great fall season!

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