

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 tournament officials. Below are the schools that did not return ballots or returned them after the deadline for selection for post season volleyball tournament officials:

Big Sandy	Lame Deer
Big Fork	Laurel
Centerville	Lima
Charlo	Lodge Grass
Chester-Joplin-Inverness	Melstone
Darby	Missoula Big Sky
Fairview	Missoula Hellgate
Geraldine/Highwood	Troy
Granite	Victor
Heart Butte	West Yellowstone
Highwood	

WANTED - SUPER FANS IN YOUR AREA

The MHSA/Stockman 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.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please select the SCHOOLS tab on the MHSA homepage (www.mhsa.org) for important directory updates. Please notify the MHSA with any changes to your information.

ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED

The 2020 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](#). 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 19, 2020, at the Billings Hotel & Convention Center in Billings. This workshop will be held on Sunday afternoon from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

BASKETBALL

REGULAR SEASON BASKETBALL WARM-UP

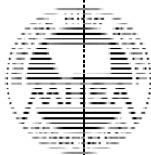
Regular season basketball contests (at any level of competition) will have at least a 15-minute pre-game warm-up period and when one regular season game (at any level of competition) immediately follows another on the same night and the same officials or any of the same officials work consecutive games 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 MHSA 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 MHSA Handbook, page 53 XIV, page 56, #4 and #6, for Class B schools and pages 57 & 58, #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/MHSA 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/MHSA office or the tournament manager can assign one of the other tournament officials to work this game(s).

Please contact Kip Ryan at the MHSA 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 MHSA has implemented a different procedure for issuing coaches' passes for the MHSA 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 MHSA annual rules clinic, the NFHS Concussion Course and the NFHS Fundamentals of Coach 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 MHSA 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 MHSA website at www.mhsa.org.

Also, again for the 2019-20 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 zone. In tournaments where coaches are permitted on the corner of the mat, the restricted zone shall be defined by either a contrasting line marked on the mat with paint or tape or a contrasting colored surface under the chairs."

WRESTLING REMINDER

Remember the growth allowance that has been added to the MHSA 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 MHSA office.

STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

The State All Class Wrestling Tournament will be held at MetraPark in Billings on February 14-15, 2020.

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 will be posted on the wrestling page of the MHSA website and will be sent to coaches and principals prior to the state tournament.

SWIMMING

The State Swimming Meet will be held at Great Falls High School on February 14-15, 2020.

The schedule will be posted on the swimming page of the MHSA website and appropriate state meet information will be sent to schools prior to the state event.

SPIRIT

Did you know that spirit coaches and school administrators have a legal duty and/or responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of their cheerleaders?

- Be sure that the selected environment for practice and spirit activities is appropriate to the number of participants, the type and/or level of anticipated activities and the required supervisory demands.
- Areas for cheerleading participation should be separated from other concurrent activities and should be an appropriate space to conduct cheerleading skills safely.
- Ceiling clearance (including light fixtures, air ducts, pipes, etc.) should be sufficiently high to preclude any possibility of physical contact during participation.
- Consideration of practice/performance surfaces are a vital component of risk minimization. The NFHS Spirit Rules book lists specific surface area requirements for tumbling and stunts. Keep in consideration also that stunts and tumbling must be modified to be appropriate for the surface and/or area and in relation to other participants.

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/Mark Ator, Tournament Managers

Class A – Whitefish High School
Sara Mueller/Aric Harris, Tournament Managers

Class B-C – Bigfork High School
Charlie Appleby/Matt Porrovecchio, Tournament Managers

Dates for state tournaments are January 31-February 1. If you need additional information about these events, please feel free to contact the MHSA office at 406-442-6010, visit www.mhsa.org, or contact the specific tournament managers.