

SWIMMING

STATE MEET DATES

All Schools February 9-10

I - GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- (1) The Montana High School Association recognizes swimming as an interscholastic sport for both boys and girls.
- (2) Twenty-eight (28) schools comprising twenty-four (24) teams participate in swimming. These standard abbreviations are to be used for scoring purposes at meets.

Belgrade [BLG]	Great Falls CMR [CMR]
Bigfork [BFH]	Hardin [HAR]
Billings Central [BCH]	*Havre/Chinook [HAV]
Billings Senior [BSR]	Helena [HHS]
Billings Skyview [BSV]	Helena Capital [CHS]
Billings West [BWH]	*Missoula Big Sky/Loyola
Bozeman [BOZ]	Sacred
Butte [BHS]	Heart/Frenchtown
Columbia Falls [CFH]	[MBS]
East Helena [EHH]	Missoula Hellgate [MHG]
Flathead (Kalispell) [FHS]	Missoula Sentinel [MSN]
Gallatin (Bozeman) [GAL]	Polson [PLS]
Glacier (Kalispell) [GHS]	Whitefish [WHS]
*Great Falls/MSDB [GFH]	

*Cooperative Sponsorship

- (3) All high school students participating in swimming meets or tournaments must meet all MHSAA eligibility requirements, including the award and amateur rules.
- (4) The determination of sites, meet managers and arrangements for all MHSAA state meets will be made by the Executive Board. This determination will be made at a meeting of the Board after interested member schools or communities have been given an opportunity to submit written invitations to host an Association meet.
- (5) The date for the State Swim Meet shall be set by the MHSAA Executive Board.
- (6) The MHSAA Executive Board shall establish the starting date for practice and the first allowable date when any contests may be played. No individual shall compete in any Association swimming contest until he/she has a minimum of **eight (8)** days of swimming practice of at least one practice session per day on **eight (8)** different days (no practice permitted on Sunday) prior to the date of the first allowable meet. The initial **eight (8)** practices for each individual must be completed as a comprehensive, regularly scheduled team practice with the full coaching staff.

When determining what constitutes a MHSAA practice that satisfies the language above in (6), the following criteria must be applied:

1. Practice must be at least one (1) hour long.
2. At least one full squad (varsity team/J.V. team) and their coaching staff must be present.
3. The athlete must participate in the entire practice.
4. Practice should include the majority of drills and conditioning that are the norm for that team or squad.
5. A practice the day of a meet does not count (unless an athlete is practicing with another squad that does not have a meet that day, i.e. a varsity team member who stays home and practices with the JV team that does not have a meet that day).
6. Warm-ups or walk-throughs with the team prior to a game does not constitute a practice.

If a student begins his/her initial **eight (8)** days of required practices and that period of days is interrupted by sickness, injury, academic ineligibility or any other reason for a period of two weeks, then the student shall be required to practice an additional **four (4)** days and in cases of sickness or injury to produce a doctor's release.

Athletes participating on teams competing in MHSAA post season play, which overlaps the beginning of the next MHSAA sanctioned activity starting practice date, may be credited for practices during the overlap period toward meeting the minimum practice requirement of the overlapped activity season.

If a student transfers to a new school after completing the required days of preseason practices for their sport or activity, the student must complete an additional number of practices (equal to half the # of required practices for that sport or activity) at their new school.

- (7) The swimming season for both boys and girls officially closes with the end of the state tournament for the classification of the school concerned.
- (8) Ten (10) meets shall be the maximum number for schools excluding Association sponsored tournaments.
- (9) No individual may participate in an out-of-state invitation only meet unless approved by the MHSAA Executive Director. Any out-of-state participation approved under these criteria will count towards the ten-meet limit for the particular student. Students will only be allowed to compete in out-of-state meets if the meet was sanctioned by NFHS and received permission from the MHSAA Executive Director. The meet may be used as one of two (2) meets as described in the mandatory minimum participation. Swim meets that occur outside the official MHSAA swim season are not subject to this rule.
- (10) For an athlete to be eligible to compete in the State Swim Meet he/she must compete in at least two (2) Association-sanctioned meets during the regular swimming season. Only a medical waiver from a certified physician stating that an athlete has sustained an injury preventing him/her from competing until that time will be accepted as a condition to be exempted from this rule. The high school for which the student will participate must file a request with the MHSAA Executive Director for consideration of a waiver of this rule.
- (11) Swimmers who compete in the State Swim Meet must have a reportable time in that event from an MHSAA sanctioned meet that takes place during the current competitive season. Athletes may not use a time or event from a previous year's competition or from non-MHSAA events.
- (12) The National Federation Swimming Rules shall be the official rules for all interscholastic swimming, unless modified by the MHSAA rules.
- (13) Diving will not be a swimming event in any MHSAA swimming meet.
- (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. Class A-B Relay teams will only score the top three teams for team points.

AA and A-B schools will be scored separately. A maximum of six (6) trophies shall be awarded, three in each class. General Rules for Awards (6) shall be followed for the number of trophies presented.

- (15) State Meet Entries – A maximum of sixteen (16) swimmers will be entered in each event for the class A State Swim Meet. A maximum of thirty-two (32) swimmers will be entered in each event for the class AA State Swim Meet.
- (16) It is recommended for the regular season and required for the state meet that all swimmers on a team shall wear suits and caps of identical coloring and pattern and decent appearance. **The piping or stitching color will not be considered as part of the suit color or pattern.** Boys shall wear trunks which completely cover the buttocks and provide that the waist and leg-lines are approximately parallel when viewed from the side. Girls shall wear one-piece suits which completely cover the buttocks and breasts.
- (17) If an athlete fails to report to his/her respective heat, whether trial or final, the starter shall call the swimmer's name and school. He/she shall be called a maximum of two (2) times before the referee can impose the penalty for failure to report.
- (18) Voice commands will be used for starts in swimming meets.
- (19) A jury of appeals consisting of two coaches and the meet manager will be selected by the participating teams prior to the preliminaries and will be impaneled for the duration of the state meet. All protests, disputes and appeals having to do with the state meet will be resolved by the committee of three. Should the protest, dispute or appeal involve one of the coaches on the jury of appeals, the meet manager shall have the authority to appoint another coach to replace him/her for a decision on that particular case.
- (20) The state meet manager shall provide a written report of the State Swim Meet results and a financial statement of the meet to the MHSA office immediately following the state meet. Any income in excess of the bid amount will be sent to the MHSA.
- (21) No school is required to take part in any contests or athletic events, but once entered, teams are obligated to participate in a contest or athletic event to its normal conclusion unless the contest is terminated by mutual consent of the school officials involved due to unusual weather or game conditions, or situations which could be hazardous to participants or spectators. Any coach is prohibited from unilaterally refusing to play.
- If a school fails to complete contests or athletic events that they have entered, the violating school would be subject to penalties as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Executive Director.
- No school is required to take part in any meet or tournament, but when once entered under the plan outlined, schools shall carry out their part of the program in fairness to all other schools represented. Any team taking part in season play is automatically entered into the first tournament held in that district or in that division. Teams shall not be allowed to withdraw from participating in such a tournament without the specific approval of the MHSA Executive Director. The penalty for violation shall be as outlined under Penalties, Article VIII, Section (2).
- (22) No all-state teams or players shall be picked or announced at the tournament site by either the Executive Board or tournament officials.
- (23) The MHSA prohibits any use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol or other mood-altering drugs during competition. Violation will cause the coach or participant to be disqualified from further participation in that event.

II – SWIM MEET FINANCES

(1) Established Ticket Prices for State Meet

The following ticket prices as established by the MHSA Executive Board will be used for all state meets.

	Adult	Student
Single Session	\$ 10.00	\$ 8.00
All-Session	\$15.00	\$ 12.00

- (2) Payment of Team Expenses and Division of Profits: After all allowable meet expenses are paid, the balance remaining shall be designated as team expenses and shall be paid as follows: Each participant from any one school shall be paid a per diem based on the amount of remaining profits, divided by the total number of participants minus participants in the host city schools. State meet managers may submit the funds to MHSA for distribution.
- (3) After each state meet the meet manager shall remit to the Executive Director of the Montana High School Association a complete financial report of the meet within fifteen (15) days following the conclusion of the event.
- The meet manager for each state meet shall furnish the complete financial report to each of the competing schools and to the Executive Director of the MHSA.
- (4) Related items:
- A. The concession rights for any state meet held in nonmember school facilities shall be awarded by the MHSA Executive Board.
- B. The meet program rights for the state tournament will be the responsibility of the MHSA Executive Board.

III – STATE SWIM MEET GUIDELINES

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

- (1) **Have a spectator rotation to ensure that seating unlimited 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.**