



MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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April 22, 2021

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

The Montana High School Association Executive Board conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on April 19-20, 2021, and the following actions were taken:

1. The Board reviewed reports regarding recently held state tournaments in Speech and Drama (virtual), Wrestling, Boys' and Girls' Basketball and Swimming. The Executive Board and MHSA staff appreciate the managers and the venue personnel that administered and hosted those extremely successful events.
2. The Board re-elected Dinny Bennett, Superintendent of Forsyth Public Schools and the Class B representative to the Board as Board President, and Jim Hawbaker, Assistant Principal at Billings Central Catholic High School and the Class A representative, is the newly elected Vice President.
3. The Board approved the possibility of offering Girls' Flag Football as a regulated activity (similar to cheerleading) this fall as a pilot program. We are partnering with the Atlanta Falcons and Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation to fund the program for the first two years. A separate mailing with information on the pilot program and to gauge interest will be sent soon.
4. The Board approved adding one day to the All Class Wrestling Tournament (Boys' and Girls') in Billings at MetraPark if necessary. The girls' bracket will begin on Thursday in that case.
5. The Board approved the final draft of the 2019-2020 Audit.
6. The Board heard reports from staff regarding the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Board Priorities approved previously.
7. The Board approved adding the following questions to the MHSA Physical Exam Form:
 - 1) Have you ever been diagnosed with or suspected you had COVID-19? If yes, did you have 4 or more days of fever (greater than 100.4°F), and/or 1 or more week of myalgia, chills, or lethargy?
 - 2) Have you ever been hospitalized due to COVID-19 or diagnosed with MIS-C?

The revised form must be used, and physical exams can be conducted after May 1 for 2021-2022.

8. The Board directive that a survey be sent to member schools regarding a variety of topics. The survey will be sent electronically to the principal early next week. Please discuss these items with your administrative team and submit your school's response.

The following information is being sent to member schools for a two-week notice period. All changes are effective 2021-2022:

- The Board approved a revised playoff brackets for Eight-Player Football - [Link](#)
- The Board approved waiving the co-op deadline and the enrollment requirement to allow a co-op in football for Denton/Stanford/Geyser and Grass Range/Winnett. The Denton/Stanford/Geyser/Grass Range/Winnett co-op will compete the six-player football division and will play the Denton/Stanford/Geyser schedule. This co-op is for one year and will be reviewed after the 2021 football season.
- The Board approved waiving the co-op deadline and the enrollment requirement to allow a co-op in football for Custer/Hysham and Melstone. The Custer/Hysham/Melstone co-op will compete in the six-player division.
- The Board approved a co-op enrollment waiver for girls' and boys' basketball for Superior/Alberton.

Final action was taken on the following items from previous meetings:

- a) MOA) – Approved a graduated fee increase for **regular season varsity** contests. Sub varsity fees will remain the same. Regular season varsity game fees will go from \$60 to \$65 in 21-22, to \$70 in 22-23 and to \$75 in 23-24. Post season fees will remain the same in 21-22 and will be adjusted accordingly in 22-23, 23-24 and 24-25
- b) The Executive Board approved the Class B realignment request for football.
- c) The Executive Board approved assigning Lockwood to the Eastern A for soccer.
- d) The Executive Board approved placing Simms High School's boys' and girls' tennis teams in the same division (Northwest B-C) effective this year.
- e) The Executive Board approved the following amendment for a first violation to the penalty for violating the MHSA mask requirement for coaches and substitutes: After a report of a violation by a team is verified, ***the school will be fined and reprimanded. For any other verified subsequent violation***, the offending program will be suspended until a corrective action plan is submitted to the Executive Director by administration on how the school will ensure future compliance with all MHSA COVID-19 requirements. The program can resume participation after the plan is approved by the Executive Director.

Other items for your information:

- The MHSA Executive Board placed **the state events for 2022-2023** and for the remaining **state events for 2021-2022**. Click on this link to access [the CALENDAR page](#) of the MHSA website.
- The 2022 MHSA Annual Meeting will be held in Butte at the Copper King Inn.