

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 MHSAs Executive Board, MHSAs and MOA publications will provide a list of schools which do not submit ballots for tournaments officials. Below are the schools that did not return ballots or returned them after the deadline for selection of volleyball tournament officials:

Bainville	Lodge Grass
Box Elder	Missoula Big Sky
Brockton	Missoula Hellgate
Charlo	Nashua / Opheim
Fairview	Northern Cheyenne
Great Falls CMR	Troy
Hamilton	Victor
Hays-Lodgepole	West Yellowstone
Hobson / Moore / Judith Gap	Winifred / Roy
Lima	

WANTED - SUPER FANS IN YOUR AREA

The MHSAs/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 MHSAs 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 MHSAs 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 MHSAs office and must be paid for by the conference. The MHSAs office staff does not automatically order conference trophies because some conferences don't choose to award them.
3. Trophies that are awarded by MHSAs rule will be awarded to both schools if the activity is cooperatively sponsored, but the MHSAs 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 MHSAs and pay for both.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

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



ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED

The 2018 Annual Meeting proposals were initially sent to schools in December, along with other materials.

A current copy of the proposals is available on the MHSAs website at www.mhsa.org and [linked here](#). Administrators are reminded to bring their copies of the proposals to the Annual Meeting. If you have questions or if you need additional information, please feel free to contact the MHSAs office.

ELIGIBILITY/EQUITY IN-SERVICE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

MHSAs staff members will again present the mandatory Eligibility/Equity Workshop in conjunction with the coming Annual Meeting. The workshop is scheduled for Sunday, January 14, 2018, at the Best Western Plus GranTree Inn in Bozeman. The meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon at 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 MHSAs 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 MHSAs to conduct these events.**

DISTRICT/DIVISIONAL BASKETBALL CHALLENGE GAMES

The MHSAs 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 MHSAs 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 MHSAs has implemented a different procedure for issuing coaches' passes for the MHSAs 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 MHSAs 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 MHSAs 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 MHSAs website at www.mhsa.org.

Also, again for the 2017-18 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 MHSAs office.

STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

The State All Class Wrestling Tournament will be held at MetraPark in Billings on February 9-10, 2018.

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 MHSAs website and will be sent to coaches and principals prior to the state tournament.

SPIRIT

Did you know that spirit coaches and school administrators have a legal duty and/or responsibility to insure 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.
- A basic criterion for determining facility adequate centers upon insuring sufficient space to conduct cheerleading activities safely.
- Ceiling clearance (including light fixtures, air ducts, pipes, etc.) should be sufficiently high so as to preclude any possibility of physical contact during participation.

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 – Great Falls CMR High School
Steve Hurnin/Nate Achenbach, Tournament Managers

Class A – Corvallis High School
Doug McConnaha/Tyson Tucker, Tournament Managers

Class B-C – Huntley Project High School
Rebecca Nay/Guy Croy, Tournament Managers

Dates for state tournaments are January 26-27. If you need additional information about these events, please feel free to contact the MHSAs office at 406-442-6010, visit www.mhsa.org, or contact the specific tournament managers.