



## 2010-2011 MHSAA Online Fall Golf Clinic Handouts

**Coaches:** All of these slides are presented as part of your clinic.

**Slide 1** Welcome to the MOA/MHSA online clinic presentations. I am Mark Beckman, Executive Director of the MHSAA and Commissioner of the MOA. The MHSAA/MOA is again presenting the rules clinics in this electronic format for coaches and officials throughout the state. This format saves travel time and costs for schools and officials, and by eliminating travel to clinic sites, this online format provides a safer more flexible means of delivering this necessary information.

Everyone will view the same clinic, providing consistency for coaches and officials. The clinic will be accessible during the season so you can go back and review a particular section. The software has been upgraded and all clinic production is done in house. You will find the audio clearer and the presentation slides larger and easier to read. If you have any questions or comments regarding this format please contact Brian Michelotti at the MHSAA office; his email address is [bmichelotti@mhsaa.org](mailto:bmichelotti@mhsaa.org).

This is the fifth year of utilizing online clinics as a means of delivering the essential rules information for each activity. In June of 2008, an electronic survey regarding the clinic process was sent via email to all head coaches, administrators and officials. Responses to the survey were overwhelmingly positive in regard to providing rules clinics online. Your input on the survey was extremely valuable and we appreciate your time in completing the survey.

All head coaches must view the clinic for their activity in order to meet the clinic requirement. However, all other members of the coaching staff, as well as activities directors, are encouraged to view the clinics.

Please follow the directions at the end of the presentation to sign in and receive credit for completing the clinic requirement. We encourage you to print two copies of the verification page confirming that you have viewed the clinic. Keep one copy for your records, and if you are a coach, provide a copy to your administrator as proof of your completion of this clinic.

Again, please feel free to the MHSAA office with any questions or comments concerning the online presentations of the MHSAA/MOA rules clinics.

**Slide 2** You are about to view the mandatory clinic for MHSAA Fall Golf. This clinic is for Class AA and A Golf coaches. Class B and C Golf coaches must wait until the spring clinic is release to meet their requirement. You must view the entire presentation in order to receive credit. Complete the information on the last page to ensure that your attendance has been submitted. Properly recording your attendance after the viewing is complete will fulfill the MHSAA and/or MOA clinic requirements. Head coaches are required to view the clinic, but all assistant coaches and other personnel are strongly encouraged to view the presentation.

**Slide 3** I would like to welcome all coaches and administrators to the Montana High School Association Golf Clinic.

My name is Brian Michelotti, and I am an Assistant Director for the Montana High School Association.

We are here at the MHSAA to assist you and we can be reached by phone at 442-6010, our fax number is 442-8250.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns in regard to high school Golf please give me a call or you can send me an email at the address listed here.

Also, please make sure you visit the MHSAA website. We have made many changes to the site and we will be updating information on a regular basis directly from the MHSAA office. This can be a great source for you to keep informed with the latest information occurring in Golf and all MHSAA activities.

**Slide 4** First, there was a major change to the starting dates, practice requirements and post season tournament dates for MHSAA Golf

Beginning this year, Thursday August 12, 2010 will be the First Date for Fall Practice in Class AA and Class A Golf

The required number of pre-season practiced changed from 5 to 3. No individual shall play in any association golf contest until he/she has a minimum of three (3) days of practice of at least one practice session per day on three (3) different days prior to the date of the first allowable match. No practice is permitted on Sunday.

The First Date to compete in golf in the fall is Monday August 16, 2010. This is only if the golfer has the required number of practices

- Slide 5** In Montana, USGA playing rules will be used for all competition.
- Twelve (12) meets shall be the maximum number for member schools excluding association sponsored tournaments.
- Also, There is no stroke limit per hole in all MHSAs tournaments.
- No Spectators, fans or coaches are allowed on the course, except for certain locations as designated by the meet manager and club professional. Once competition begins, coaches are not allowed to instruct or to consult with players. During competition, coaches are only allowed in designated spectator areas when observing players.
- No Caddies may be used. Automotive transportation can only be used if the golfer is approved by the MHSAs Executive Director by meeting the criteria of the MHSAs Cart Policy. Pull carts are legal.
- MHSAs Jewelry Policy -No jewelry, which includes visible body piercing objects, shall be worn in any sport. Any piece of jewelry that is visible at the start of or during a contest is in violation of the MHSAs Jewelry Policy. Religious medals must be taped to the body and under the uniform. Medical medals must be taped to the body so they are visible.
- Slide 6** Every sport has new NFHS Rules regarding concussions. The MHSAs has expanded the scope to include possible concussions and other serious injuries. The new rule and the MHSAs Return to Play Rule procedures are as follows:
- MHSAs Rules and Regulations item (4) states:
- A participant in any MHSAs sanctioned sport who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) or other serious injury shall be immediately removed from the game, evaluated by the coaching staff in regard to the nature of the injury, and if it is determined to be a possible concussion or other serious injury, the player shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional (MD, DO, PAC or NP).*
- The MHSAs has implemented specific procedures for managing possible injury situations during Association activities.
- Slide 7** To help in recognizing possible concussions, the most common symptoms are listed in NFHS Rules Books. Symptoms include:
- headache, fogginess, difficulty concentrating, easily confused, slowed thought processes, difficulty with memory, nausea, lack of energy, tiredness, dizziness, poor balance, blurred vision, sensitivity to light and sounds, or mood changes - meaning the athlete is irritable, anxious or tearful.
- Slide 8** This flow chart summarizes the MHSAs procedures as presented in this clinic. Feel free to pause the clinic to review these steps.
- Slide 9** This presentation and additional resources are available on the MHSAs website. Visit [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org) and proceed to the Sports Medicine page by using the link on the home page.
- Slide 10** All athletic coaches (paid or volunteer) at all levels (fresh, jr, varsity) must take and pass the MHSAs Coaches Education program.
- The website is listed, and there is a new registration page on which a coach MUST sign in each time she/he enters the curriculum. The coach will either select or be assigned his/her own password that must be remembered. The testing curriculum will also be changed with each login. See the coaches' education website for more details.
- The coaches education certification is good for three years and the MHSAs strongly recommends that this certification be completed by all coaches before the start of the season.
- If coaches haven't completed the program – the school and coach can be liable – since the program is mandatory. If an injury occurs at practice or during a meet and a lawyer is contacted – the attorney will usually contact our office and ask two things – did the coach complete the annual rules clinic? And did the coach complete the mandatory coaches education program?
- Schools are required to complete and send the Coaches Education Certification form, which lists all coaches and whether they have completed the program, to the MHSAs or be subject to penalties if not submitted.
- Slide 11** Last year, a new fee structure was added to the state tournament. The MHSAs Executive Board approved removing the requirement for golf courses bidding on state events for Classes A, B and C to provide range balls to participants as a part of the fee per golfer Here is the rule:
- Each Class "A" school choosing to participate in their State Golf Meet will be required to share proportionately the cost of the tournament at a maximum rate of \$40/participant which includes range balls, practice round and club fees and this rate would guarantee the tournament to be played on a Friday/Saturday with a practice round on Thursday. A maximum rate of \$30/participant which includes range balls, practice round and club fees would be used if the state tournament would be played on a Monday –Friday.
- Range balls costs, if any, will be included on the bid form and will be one component used to evaluate the bids for selection of events by the Executive Board.

**Slide 12** Next, the MHSA Executive Board has approved a new Uniform Rule for Golf, which will be in effect for the 2010-11 MHSA Golf Season

Here is the new rule:

Participants will wear school-approved appropriate golf attire (uniform to include top and bottom garments): shirts will be full-length with finished edges with collars, traditional crewneck, v-neck or mock-turtle neck design. Sleeveless shirts must extend from the base of the neck to the top of the shoulder on each side. Halter tops, spaghetti straps and tank tops will not be permitted. Long pants, shorts and skirts must be worn at the waist and be appropriately sized for the individual. Shorts and skirts must have a minimum five-inch inseam. All skorts (a pair of compression shorts having a flap or panel across the front and back to resemble a skirt) are legal bottom garments. The skort must be appropriately sized for the individual, worn as the manufacturer intended and the flap or panel must be long enough to cover the compression shorts.

**Slide 13** Adornments on clothing or headwear will not advertise drugs or alcohol or contain offensive material as deemed inappropriate by the meet director or tournament manager. Participants must be appropriately attired during play or they will be disqualified.

The meet director has the right to waive the uniform rule due to inclement weather, however each participant must be dressed appropriately during all competition.

**Slide 14** Also, the Executive Board added language for Golf and Tennis in regard to hair devices. The following language will be added to the Golf sections of the MHSA Handbook:

Hair devices made of soft material or unadorned hair devices, such as bobby pins, barrettes, or hair clips, no longer than 2 inches, may be worn to control a player's hair. Hair adornments made of soft material and no more than two inches wide may be worn.

**Slide 15** **MHSA Rules and Regulations, Section (14) NO ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATION ON SUNDAY**

The Association prohibits member schools or students of a member school from participating in any interschool contest or activity, or practice including chalk talks or meetings for such contests or activities, including cheerleading, on Sunday.

**Slide 16** In the past, we had some challenges in regard to travel to post season tournaments. – Here are the interpretations regarding this issue: Golfers must travel to post season tournament with the team on school approved transportation. For example, Students are not allowed to travel to the tournament site on Sunday on their own for a practice round, and then meet up with the rest of the team. This will be considered a direct circumvention of the Sunday practice rule and will cause the school and participant(s) to be penalized accordingly.

The only exception to this travel requirement is if a golfer obtains approval from his/her school administration stating the reason for not traveling with the team. MHSA catastrophic insurance will only cover students traveling on school approved transportation. If approval is given by school administration, the individual can not golf at the post season site until the scheduled practice round or the tournament begins.

**Slide 17** Another Challenge we have had in the past is with the MHSA Squad rule. Definition of "squad" — By MHSA rule, an athletic squad is determined by union of "act and intent" by grouping together a number of students to play as a unit to represent the school, under the direction of a designated coach or coaches.

For instance, the varsity team would be one squad, the junior varsity team would be another squad and the freshman team could be a third squad for a school. Players can change squads during the season because of their ability. Schools can not designate the same group of individuals as different squads because of the lack of numbers to gain more contests during the season (Example – 5 individuals participate in a varsity tournament one day and the same 5 individuals participate in a sub-varsity tournament the next day). This would be a violation of the squad rule and possibly the match limitation for golf.

The match limitation for MHSA golf per squad is the following:

Twelve (12) meets shall be the maximum number for schools excluding association sponsored tournaments.

Schools can "swing" players from one squad to another as long as the majority of the team stays the same (example – A school has eight golfers; 5 players are on the varsity team; the school can send 2 of the varsity golfers with the 3 remaining sub-varsity golfers to a sub varsity golf tournament).

It is very important that schools understand this rule and not create unfair opportunities for their golfers by circumventing the squad rule.

**Slide 18** Some golf programs in the Montana High School Association have both varsity and sub varsity teams and in order to maximize efficiencies these schools are bringing both of their teams to tournaments. In the past, schools have entered multiple teams from the same school into the same varsity tournament. Tournaments must be designated as separate varsity and sub varsity events and scored accordingly. It is acceptable to bring both of these teams to the same site on the same day, but tournament managers and golf coaches must separate the varsity and sub varsity golfers.

All varsity golfers should be placed in the first groups of pairings, and after all varsity golfers have teed off, then the sub varsity golfers may begin or the format could be reversed. Sub varsity golfers may not be in the same group as varsity golfers, regardless of the tournament format or pairings. This is the case, even if it causes a sub varsity golfer to golf on his/her own.

In other MHSAA sports, schools can only have one varsity team that can compete. Schools are never allowed in basketball or football to enter multiple varsity teams into a tournament or to schedule for multiple varsity teams. The same squad rules apply for all MHSAA Sports.

Schools have several options to format their tournaments to maximize participation for their programs (including individual medalist tournament formats where team scores are not kept) and also minimize travel expenses. Contact me in the MHSAA office for these options.

**Slide 19** **NFHS GUIDELINES ON HANDLING CONTESTS DURING LIGHTNING DISTURBANCES**

The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) has recommended Lightning Safety as a point of emphasis this year for three reasons.

1. There is a new lightning policy that has been adopted by many sports medicine groups and governing bodies, including the NFHS SMAC. The major change is that if ANY thunder is heard OR a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, play should be suspended, stands should be cleared, and all should seek shelter. Previously, the recommendation suggested that if there was at least a count of 30 seconds between the thunder and the lightning then the storm is far enough away to not be of concern. This is no longer considered appropriate or accurate. The consensus is there is no thunder without lightning and vice versa, so if one or the other is noted, both are there.

2. Lightning kills or seriously injures hundreds of individuals each year. Although these are more likely to occur in spring and summer, it is worth reminding coaches, players, spectators, administrators, and officials about this possible event and the potential seriousness.

3. It is always good to remind coaches, players, spectators, administrators and officials about the importance of having an Emergency Action Plan. A formal written emergency plan should exist for every organized practice and competition. Phone numbers, chain of command, guidelines for first responders, etc., should all be part of this plan. (See 2008 NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook for more specifics). This would apply to lightning as well as other possible emergencies.

**Slide 20** Rule Reminder – this rule was put in place for MHSAA Golf in regard to practice rounds at that state tournament course in all classifications

The rule states

The state tournament golf course shall not be made available for practice purposes for any tournament team member during the days when the tournament is in progress (other than the practice round and the use of practice facilities) or at any time during the 7-day period immediately preceding the opening of the tournament, except when the site is a team's home course. Regular season tournaments scheduled during the 7-day period preceding the state tournament on the site are allowed.

**Slide 21** Last year, there was a change to the MHSAA Award Rule. The MHSAA Award rule changed from \$20 to \$50.00. The award rule for all MHSAA Activities in the MHSAA Handbook is listed on this slide. If you have any questions, contact the MHSAA office

No award exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00) in value shall be given per event in any MHSAA sanctioned sport or in any MHSAA sanctioned interscholastic activity by a member school, by any person or by an organization to a student in recognition of that student's achievement or participation in any interscholastic activity. An event is defined as a sports camp, an invitational tournament/meet, a post season recognition function (i.e. sports banquet), or a fund raiser or similar function. Cash can not be awarded.

Here are a few examples of prizes that are illegal if the value is over \$50.00: gift certificates for merchandise in a club house, merchandise won in a long drive or longest putt contest, and any other prize given that has a value of over \$50. It is a violation if any amount of cash is received. This applies in all golf tournaments, including best ball, stroke play and match play tournaments. Also, a high school golfer is not permitted to accept a prize or have a family member accept the prize on his/her behalf after the season for competition that actually occurred during the season. In other words, postponing the acceptance of the illegal award would still constitute a violation.

If a player accepts any award for a golf tournament, any time during the year, the penalty would be that the golfer could be declared ineligible. The MHSAA Handbook, Section 16 item F reads: Violation of the award rule will render the student ineligible in the MHSAA sponsored sport or activity for which the student received the award.

**Slide 22** Finally, the state tournament locations for the fall. The State Tournaments have been moved up one week this year.

The Class AA State Golf Tournament will be held Oct. 1-2 2010 in Kalispell at Buffalo Hills Golf Club on Friday and Big Mountain Golf Club on Saturday.

The Class A State Golf Tournament will be held Oct. 1-2, 2010 in Laurel at the Laurel Golf Course.

**Slide 23** This concludes the 2010 MHSА Fall Golf Clinic. After viewing this presentation, if you have questions or suggestions please email: [bmichelotti@mhsa.org](mailto:bmichelotti@mhsa.org)

Find the Golf section of the MHSА Handbook on the MHSА website at <http://www.mhsa.org> then proceed to the golf page

Please continue to the next screen to verify your completion of this clinic requirement.

**Slide 24** It is vital that your clinic attendance be recorded. You must verify that you have viewed this entire presentation in order to meet your clinic requirement for this activity.

Your registration page will appear or please use the "Click Here" link to access the registration page.

If you are not directed to the registration page after you click the above link, try again by simultaneously holding the control key and clicking the above link.

Do not close this presentation until you have verified that your attendance has been recorded using the appropriate link.