

BASKETBALL

TOURNAMENT DATES

District Tournaments

Girls' & Boys' Classes B and C February 13-18

Divisional Tournaments

Boys' Classes B and C February 22-25

Girls' Class C - Northern & Western and Class B - Western February 22-25

Girls' & Boys' Class A February 22-25

Girls' Classes B and C (except Northern & Western C and Western B) March 1-3

State Tournaments

Classes A, B & C - Boys March 1-3

Classes A, B & C - Girls March 8-10

Class AA - Girls & Boys March 8-10

I - GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- (1) The Montana High School Association will promote, provide for and control all interschool basketball activities among the member schools for both boys and girls.
- (2) Schools will be divided into four classes for boys' and girls' basketball - Class AA, Class A, Class B and Class C.
- (3) The playing rules as authorized and published by the National Federation of State High School Associations for the current year shall be followed for all games with the following exception: for all levels of play (varsity, j.v., sophomore and frosh) in the second half only once a team has a forty (40) point lead or better against their opponent, a running clock will ensue until the end of the game even if the difference in score drops below the forty point margin. The only time the clock will be stopped will be between quarters, time outs and replacing an injured or disqualified player.
- (4) The Montana High School Association Executive Board shall establish the starting date for practices and the first allowable date when any contests can be played. No individual shall play in any Association basketball contest until he/she has a minimum of ten (10) days of basketball practice with at least one practice session per day on ten (10) different days (no practice permitted on Sunday) prior to the date of the first allowable game.

If a student begins his/her ten days of required practices and that period of days is interrupted by sickness, injury, academic ineligibility or for any other reason for a period of two weeks, then the student shall be required to practice an additional five (5) days and in cases of sickness or injury to produce a doctor's release.

Athletes participating on teams competing in MHSA post season play, which overlaps the beginning of the next MHSA 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.

- (5) Eighteen basketball games will be the maximum limit for schools in Classes A, B and C and twenty basketball games will be the maximum limit for schools in Class AA when no divisional tournaments are held. These limits include invitational tournaments but are exclusive of Association-sponsored tournaments. These game limits apply for each squad - varsity, junior varsity, sophomore, frosh etc. Each contest played using four (4) minute periods will count as one-half (1/2) of a game when determining a squad's total number of games.

INTERPRETATIONS

1. Any basketball team that receives a forfeit(s) may be allowed to schedule and play a makeup game(s), but the team that gives the forfeit must count the forfeited game(s) as part of the season's game limit for its school, and that team will not be allowed to schedule another game in place of the forfeited game(s).

2. Definition of "squad" - 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, i.e. a participant who plays in a preliminary contest cannot start in the varsity game in the same day.

- (6) The basketball season for both boys and girls officially closes with the end of the state tournament for the classification of the school concerned.
- (7) Quarter Eligibility for all classes - The Association prohibits all students of member schools from entering more than five (5) quarters of basketball in any one day [Class C-six (6) quarters]. Should a non-varsity contest be played using four minute quarters in any part of that contest, participation in one or two quarters of four minutes or less would be considered identical to that of one eight-minute quarter as it relates to the Five Quarter Rule (Class C Six Quarter Rule). Participation in any part of three or four of the four-minute quarters would count as two quarters toward the Five Quarter limit (Class C Six Quarter limit).
- (8) The Association prohibits students of member schools from playing in a preliminary contest and then starting in the varsity game on the same day.
- (9) Schools must participate in the basketball schedule and play the majority of their scheduled games to be eligible to participate in the MHSA tournaments.
- (10) 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 regular season game 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 in to the first tournament held in that district or in that division. That team shall not be allowed to withdraw from playing in such tournament without the specific approval of the Executive Director. The penalty for violation shall be as outlined under Penalties, Article VIII, Section (2).

- (11) Master basketball schedules are for varsity competition only. Any deviation must be approved by the MHSA Executive Director.
- (12) Regular Season Breakage
 - a. Rim Breakage: If a sub-varsity or varsity team breaks a rim while attempting to dunk a ball in pregame, that school will be responsible for payment of the rim. If the rim is broken during the sub-varsity game or varsity game, the responsibility for payment will be that of the home team. If the home team does not have a replacement at that time, the varsity game will be rescheduled for a later date.
 - b. Backboard Breakage: If a sub-varsity or varsity team breaks a backboard during the pregame while attempting to dunk the ball, that school will be responsible for payment of the backboard. The team will also forfeit games scheduled for that

time period. If the backboard is broken during a game, the home team will be responsible for payment and the varsity game may be suspended or rescheduled for a later date if there is no replacement backboard available.

Tournament Breakage

- a. Rim Breakage: If a team breaks a rim while attempting to dunk a basketball during the pregame, that team will be responsible to pay for the replacement of the rim. If the rim is broken during the game, the cost of the replacement of the rim will be drawn from the tournament receipts unless prior arrangements have been made. If the tournament site does not have a replacement rim, the game or games will be rescheduled as soon as possible.
 - b. Backboard Breakage: If a team breaks a backboard while attempting to dunk a basketball during the pregame, that team will forfeit the game and be held responsible for the cost of the replacement of the backboard. If the backboard is broken during a game, the cost for the replacement of the backboard will be drawn from the tournament receipts unless prior arrangements have been made. If the tournament site does not have a replacement backboard, that game and any other scheduled to follow will be rescheduled as soon as possible.
- (13) Teams are to conduct pre-game and half-time warm-up on their half of the floor only. If jogging or running is part of their warm-up drills, then it is to be confined to their half of the court to warm-up. Teams are not to run under the basket of the opposing team when entering the floor or any time during warm-ups.
 - (14) 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.
 - (15) Controlling the Playing Court

The MHSA Executive Board urges all school administrators, athletic directors and coaches to establish a policy in their school to prohibit students from rushing onto the floor at the conclusion of athletic contests. The request for this policy comes as a result of the dangers to players, officials and fans with the rushing of uncontrolled fans onto the confined area of the gymnasium floor.
 - (16) For MHSA post-season play boys shall use the Mikasa BQ1100 competition basketball and girls shall use the Mikasa BQ1100 compact basketball. For regular season and post season play the ball used for all levels of play shall include the NFHS authenticating mark.
 - (17) 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 - DISTRICT, DIVISION, PLAYOFF AND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PARTICIPATION

- (1) The playing rules as authorized and published by the National Federation of State High School Associations for the current year shall be followed for all games.
- (2) No all-state teams or players shall be picked or announced at the tournament site by either the Executive Board or tournament officials. This applies to district, divisional and state tournaments.

- (3) It shall be mandatory for the winners of Class AA playoffs, Class A, Class B and Class C divisional tournaments to take part in the final playoff series. In the event that any such winners should refuse to take part as provided above, then such team shall forfeit its right to its respective tournament championship, trophies etc., and the next team in line shall take its place and receive all respective trophies and replace the defaulting team in the final playoff. Furthermore, the defaulting team shall be barred from all tournament participation the following year, unless excused by the Executive Board for such default.
- (4) It is recommended that officials not be seen in the company of coaches, socially or otherwise, at any time during the course of the tournament.
- (5) In 2012, the Class AA boys and girls state basketball tournaments will be held concurrently in Bozeman. The following time schedule will be observed:

Thursday - All-Day Session

9:00 am - Game #G1 (girls)
 10:30 am - Game #G2
 12:00 pm - Game #B1 (boys)
 1:30 pm - Game #B2

Thursday (cont.)

3:30 pm - Game #G3
 5:00 pm - Game #G4
 6:30 pm - Game #B3
 8:00 pm - Game #B4

Friday - All-Day Session

9:00 am - Game #G5 (loser out)
 10:30 am - Game #G6 (loser out)
 12:00 pm - Game #B5 (loser out)
 1:30 pm - Game #B6 (loser out)

Friday (cont.)

3:30 pm - Game #G7
 5:00 pm - Game #G8
 6:30 pm - Game #B7
 8:00 pm - Game #B8

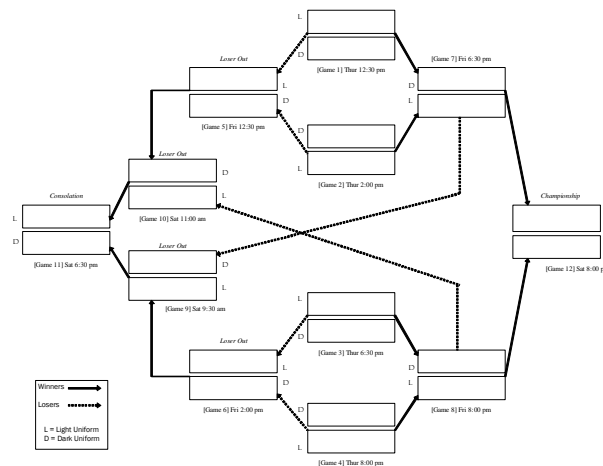
Saturday - Morning Session

9:00 am - Game #G9 (loser out-Shroyer)
 9:00 am - Game #G10 (loser out-MSU FH)
 10:30 am-Game #B9 (loser out-Shroyer)
 10:30 am-Game #B10 (loser out-MSU FH)

Saturday - Evening Session

3:30 pm - Game #G11 (Consolation)
 5:00 pm - Game #B11 (Consolation)
 6:30 pm - Game #G12 (Championship)
 8:30 pm - Game #B12 (Championship)

- (6) The following bracket will be followed for all other state tournaments, but the indicated times may be adjusted by the tournament manager:



III - ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

The teams and players recognized as eligible to participate in interscholastic basketball in Montana under the rules of the Montana High School Association will be eligible to

participate in the tournaments arranged. All schools of the state are cautioned to carefully check their lists of potential players and make certain that each student whose name is submitted is fully qualified under the rules.

IV - TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS

No more than twelve (12) players can be in uniform for any tournament/playoff game.

V - PRETOURNAMENT PRACTICE SESSIONS

- (1) The tournament floor shall not be made available for practice purposes for any tournament team during the days when the tournament is in progress (other than the regular warm-up period) or at any time during the ten-day period immediately preceding the opening of the tournament, except when a team plays the majority of its home season games on the floor selected as the tournament site. Then that team only would be permitted to practice on the tournament floor during the ten-day period prior to the opening of any Association tournament.
- (2) Teams which have a bye for the first game will be allowed one open practice period ***during the days when the tournament is in progress*** prior to their first game of the tournament if scheduling at the tournament site permits.
- (3) Teams which receive byes after their first game and/or have a day without a game can practice on the tournament floor with the tournament manager's approval.

VI – TOURNAMENT PRE-GAME WARM UP PERIOD

District and divisional tournament pre-game warm up periods will be twenty (20) minutes in length except Districts 5B, 11/12C, 13C, 14C, and Western C Divisionals which will have a pre-game warm-up period of fifteen (15) minutes. State tournament pre-game warm up periods will be twenty-five (25) minutes in length except AA Boys' and Girls' State which will have a pre-game warm-up period of twenty (20) minutes for the first game each day and fifteen (15) minutes for all other games each day.

VII - MEDICAL CARE AT TOURNAMENTS

It is recommended that medical and first-aid assistance be available at all MHSA tournaments.

VIII - NET CUTTING

No team, coach or individual shall cut down the nets following the championship game at any tournament level or at any MHSA sanctioned basketball game.

IX - NUMBER OF GAMES DURING ANY TOURNAMENT DAY

No team shall be permitted to play more than two games on any one day of any playoff or tournament.

X - TOURNAMENT POLICING

- (1) The local tournament manager and/or committee must make arrangements for adequate policing at the gymnasium during the course of the tournament which includes general policing of the building and grounds as well as policing of team dressing room facilities.
- (2) These rules apply for district, divisional and state tournaments.

- (3) Special attention must be given to insure that the game officials are afforded proper protection when leaving the floor, during the movement to the dressing room area and while in the dressing room.

XI - VIDEO TAPE AT TOURNAMENTS

The MHSA Executive Board has established the following policy for video taping at MHSA sponsored tournaments in basketball, volleyball and wrestling:

- (1) All video taping must be approved by the tournament manager.
- (2) All team video taping shall be conducted from an area designated by the tournament manager. [Refer to Rules and Regulations, Section (32) Policies for Videotaping, Cybercasting, Telecasting and Photograph of MHSA Events.]
- (3) No video taping shall be conducted for commercial purposes unless previously approved by the MHSA Executive Director.

XII - DETERMINATION OF TOURNAMENT SITES

- (1) Each district and division will determine their own tournament sites and managers and are authorized to make all arrangements for the proper staging of said tournaments in accordance with the General Rules and under the MHSA finance plan. Tournament managers cannot be a coach or an official if that coach or official is participating in the tournament.
- (2) The determination of sites, tournament managers and arrangements for all MHSA state tournaments 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 tournament.
- (3) Following are some of the criteria which will be considered by the Board in making the determination of tournament sites: (a) adequate gym facilities; (b) adequate community facilities for team and spectator housing and eating; (c) reasonable assurance of financial success; (d) definite invitation showing local community support; (e) geographical rotation when feasible.
- (4) If the Board locates a tournament in a member school's facility, an administrator of that school will usually be named tournament manager. If the state tournament is located in a facility other than a member school, the Executive Director, a member of the MHSA staff or a member of the Executive Board will be named manager.

XIII - TOURNAMENT PROGRAMS, CONCESSIONS AND CORPORATE SPONSORS

- (1) The tournament program rights for all district and divisional programs will be determined by the respective district or division. The tournament program rights for all state tournaments will be the responsibility of the MHSA Executive Board.
- (2) The concession rights for any state tournament must be approved by the Executive Director. Concession rights include but are not limited to t-shirts, other apparel, photos, buttons etc.
- (3) At district and divisional events, concessions where goods and/or services are received would be at the approval of managers of events.
- (4) Corporate sponsorship of any post season event is the responsibility of the MHSA Executive Board and requires Board approval. Exceptions are: a) program advertisements and b) signage or announcements acknowledging the receipt of

donated goods including food or beverages for the hospitality room, the use of tents at outdoor events, or the use of other equipment necessary for staging the event. Signage should be placed only in the appropriate areas; i.e. on the tents or in the hospitality room/area.

Established facility sponsorships are not affected provided that MHSA corporate sponsorship requirements are met.

XIV - DISTRICT/DIVISIONAL CHALLENGE GAMES

In the event of a district or divisional challenge game being necessary, the MHSA Executive Director can select a neutral site for the game that is geographically located so as to require the least amount of travel necessary for both teams involved in the challenge contest.

XV - TOURNAMENT FINANCE PLAN

- (1) After each district, divisional or state tournament the tournament manager shall remit to the MHSA Executive Director a complete financial report of the tournament within fifteen (15) days following the conclusion of the event.
- (2) The Executive Board points out that the local community definitely profits from the tournaments in three ways: (a) all concessions of the tournaments are normally given to local organizations; (b) local communities profit considerably through income at hotels, motels, restaurants and stores; (c) the local school is under no expense to send its teams to the tournament.
- (3) The host school does not underwrite the expense of the tournament but is obligated to do its best to see to it that the gross receipts are such that allowable expenses are paid in full.
- (4) Pretournament or post tournament playoff games are considered part of the tournament, and therefore, all receipts and expenses of these games are part of the tournament financial report.

Allowable Tournament Expenses

Charges against the tournament will stand for payment in the following order:

- (1) Referees' fees and expenses.
- (2) Basketball - only one may be charged against the district tournament. (The basketballs for all divisional and for all state tournaments will be furnished by the MHSA office at no charge.)
- (3) Normal administrative expenses. (Printing tickets, scorebook, one set of nets, advertising, signs, postage, telephone, clerical, scorer and timer.)
- (4) Use of facility charges (rental), shall include all charges, if any, for the following: extra custodial service, utilities, ticket sales, ticket takers, police/security, door guards, ushers, parking attendants, first aid room and towel service.
- (5) Team expenses are to be computed as follows:
 - a. In addition to the certified players on the tournament roster (a maximum of twelve) per diem will be allowed for four additional persons at \$30.00 per day for a maximum of 16 persons (12 players, 2 managers, 2 coaches) plus travel expense allowance of \$2.50 per mile for one round trip for each school participating.

- b. The decision to stay at the tournament site or to commute rests with each school. If a school elects to commute to the tournament site, any or all days the tournament is in session, they will be paid expenses as follows:
1. \$2.50 per mile for each round trip, maximum of one round trip per day, plus \$15.00 a day per person, to a maximum of 16, for meal allowance for each day they commute while the tournament is in session.
 2. For the days when the team stays overnight at the tournament site, the regular schedule of \$30.00 applies.
 3. No expenses are paid for the day following the tournament.
- c. For Class AA, one additional day per diem will be allowed if the team stays overnight an extra night preceding the state tournament dates.
- For Classes A, B & C, one additional day per diem will be allowed if travel distance is more than 200 miles one way, if the team stays overnight an extra night preceding the tournament dates.
- d. Teams required to report to the tournament site a day early for a playoff game will be entitled to an extra day per diem at \$15.00 or \$30.00 whichever applies.
- e. If a team(s) draws a bye and does not have to play on any day of the tournament, they will be paid expenses, either commuting or overnight schedule, whichever is applicable, if they are in attendance at the tournament on that day(s).
- f. If, after a team is eliminated from tournament play, they leave before completion of the tournament play, they will receive one day less per diem than they otherwise are entitled to receive under this schedule.
- g. Teams located at the tournament site will not receive any mileage or per diem.
- h. Participating teams required to remain at the tournament site for a playoff game will be entitled to two additional days per diem. If participating teams do not remain at the tournament site, but return home and then travel to the playoff game, they will be entitled to an additional round trip mileage and \$15.00 for 16 persons for other expenses.
- i. In computing miles traveled, the shortest paved route open to travel as listed on the current official Montana Highway Map published by the Montana Department of Highways will be the mileage used.

Note: No guarantee is made that teams will receive maximum expense allowance.

Non-allowable Tournament Expenses

- (1) Proper policing of hotels.
- (2) Proper timing and scoring equipment.
- (3) Adequate dressing room and shower facilities.

Established Ticket Prices for District, Division and State Tournaments

- (1) Each district and division in each classification shall determine its own ticket prices for each tournament for both boys and girls.

- (2) The following ticket prices as established by the MHSA Executive Board will be used for all boys' and girls' state tournaments.

Classes A, B & C

<u>All-Session Tickets</u>		<u>Single Session Tickets</u>	
Reserved.....	\$28.00	Reserved	\$8.00
Student (non-reserved)	\$17.00	General Admission - Adult.....	\$7.00
		General Admission - Student.	\$6.00

Class AA - Combined Boys' & Girls' Tournament

<u>All-Session Tickets</u>		<u>Thursday or Friday All-Day Tickets</u>	
Adult	\$41.00	Adult	\$16.00
Student.....	\$25.00	Student	\$9.00

Thursday or Friday After 6:00 PM

Adult	\$7.00
Student	\$6.00

Saturday Morning Tickets

Adult	\$7.00
Student.....	\$6.00

Saturday Evening Tickets

Adult	\$9.00
Student	\$7.00

XVI - SELECTION OF OFFICIALS

Refer to the MOA section for procedure for selection of officials to work basketball tournaments.

XVII - SWITCHING OF BRACKETS

Teams involved in MHSA tournaments shall be notified no later than Tuesday of tournament week if there is a change in brackets.

XVIII - POLICY FOR TOURNAMENT PASSES

The Association has established the following policy for tournament passes which shall be adhered to by all tournament managers.

- (1) For school administrators - fourteen all-session (reserved seat if used) tickets when one team qualifies per school. When two teams qualify, an additional six (6) passes shall be given for a total of twenty (20). If schools co-op the host school will receive the fourteen or twenty administrative tickets and the other school(s) in the co-op will each receive an additional four (4) administrative tickets. These complimentary tickets are to be distributed by the superintendent to the principal, coaches, band directors, school board chairpersons, bus drivers, cheerleading coaches, sponsors of half-time entertainment etc., and maybe spouses of some.
- (2) For players - twelve passes for players and four for managers (total of sixteen).
- (3) For cheerleaders - one pass for each cheerleader who actually attends the tournament.
- (4) For radio - three passes to each station given permission to broadcast the tournament or game. The game (or games) must be broadcast in its (or their) entirety.
- (5) For media other than radio
 - a. Print news media - one pass for Associated Press and passes for working staff of local newspapers of teams in the tournament or newspapers in the marketing

area of those teams. Members of the print media are required to show their Montana Newspaper Association press credentials when picking up their passes.

- b. Television news media - passes for working staff of local stations of teams in the tournament or stations in the marketing area of those teams.
 - c. Commercial photography or broadcast - passes for working staff as contracted by the event manager or MHSА.
 - d. Passes will not be issued for spouses or children who attend the event with working members of the media.
- (6) For referees - one pass to each referee working the tournament.
 - (7) Bands and performing groups will be allowed free admission at state tournaments when accompanied and vouched for by the participating school's director. ***Band members attending state tournaments will be given wristbands which are required for admission throughout the duration of the event.***

XIX - DISTRICT AND DIVISION ORGANIZATION

- (1) Each district in Classes B and C and each division in Classes AA and A should organize to transact such business as may come under its jurisdiction. Such organization may transact any business at their meetings which does not conflict with the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and rules and regulations adopted by the MHSА Executive Board. District and division dues may be voted if such dues are used in the carrying out of district and division organization and plans. If dues are voted, it must be understood that they are voted in addition to the annual dues of the Association. Each should elect a full complement of officers to carry out such work as may come under its jurisdiction.
- (2) While the management and general arrangements of Class B and Class C districts and all divisional tournaments are left to each district and division, all officers are cautioned to adopt such rules and regulations as are consistent and fair to all schools within the district or division. No attempts to boycott or discriminate against individual schools will be allowed. Tournament committees and officials are cautioned not to select a tournament site unless the community or school sponsoring such a tournament has adequate facilities and housing conditions to warrant staging the event. This should particularly include an adequate gymnasium with all locker and shower facilities and sufficient hotel/motel accommodations to properly house all teams as well as patrons who are in attendance.
- (3) In order that district and divisional officers may be furnished with tournament and other Association information, it is necessary that a list of officers elected for the current year be sent immediately to the MHSА Executive Director. The president or secretary of each district will be responsible for furnishing this information at the earliest possible date along with tournament sites.
- (4) At the conclusion of respective tournaments, the secretary or tournament manager is responsible for furnishing a complete financial report of the tournament to the MHSА Executive Director.

XX - CLASS AA BASKETBALL PROGRAM - BOYS AND GIRLS

- (1) Fourteen (14) schools are classified as Class AA. The schools are aligned in two divisions as follows:

Eastern Division

Billings Senior
Billings Skyview
Billings West
Bozeman
Butte
Great Falls
Great Falls CMR

Western Division

Flathead (Kalispell)
Glacier (Kalispell)
Helena
Helena Capital
Missoula Big Sky
Missoula Hellgate
Missoula Sentinel

- (2) The Class AA schools will be charged with the responsibility of playoff structure and seeding.
- (3) Playoff structure is for both boys and girls and will be held each year. Each division will have charge of the operation and management of its respective playoffs as to times and sites, and with other arrangements in accordance with the standard tournament plan as set for all tournaments and outlined in this handbook.
- (4) Standings for AA playoffs will be determined by AA conference policy.

Playoffs for Eastern and Western Divisions

#1 - Bye (1st seed at state)
#2 - plays #7 (at #2's site)
#3 - plays #6 (at #3's site)
#4 - plays #5 (at #4's site)

- (5) The dates for playoff games will be determined by the AA Conference.
- (6) Each division's seeding will be as follows for advancement to the state tournaments:

Seeding for Eastern and Western Divisions

#1 - Division Champion
#2 - winner of the game between #2 and #7
#3 - winner of the game between #3 and #6
#4 - winner of the game between #4 and #5

In the playoff structure, if a lower seed(s) defeats a higher seed(s), the seeding for the state tournament will be adjusted as follows:

#1 Seed: Division Champion
#2 Seed: Highest remaining seed in the division
#3 Seed: Next highest remaining seed in the division
#4 Seed: Last remaining seed in the division

- (7) Seeding for the Class AA state tournaments will be as follows:

Bracket I 2nd place Eastern Division vs. 3rd place Western Division
1st place Western Division vs. 4th place Eastern Division

Bracket II 2nd place Western Division vs. 3rd place Eastern Division
1st place Eastern Division vs. 4th place Western Division

Brackets I and II shall alternate each year. Brackets shall be switched when the host city has an entry in the state tournament so the host city's team will play in the

evening session. When the host city has two teams in the tournament and they are in opposite brackets, the brackets shall remain the same. If more than two host city teams are in the tournament, then the bracket with the most host city teams shall be played in the evening. The order of games within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

XXI - CLASS A BASKETBALL PROGRAM - BOYS AND GIRLS

- (1) **Twenty-two** schools are classified as Class A. The schools are aligned into four divisions as follows:

<u>Southwestern</u>	<u>Northwestern</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Eastern</u>
Anaconda	Columbia Falls	Belgrade	Billings Central
Beaverhead Co. (Dillon)	Frenchtown Libby	Browning	Custer Co. (Miles City)
Butte Central	Polson	Fergus (Lewistown)	Dawson Co. (Glendive)
Corvallis	Whitefish	Havre	Hardin
Hamilton		Park (Livingston)	Laurel
Stevensville			Sidney

- (2) The Class A schools in each division will be charged with the responsibility of divisional tournament seeding.
- (3) Each of the four divisions will hold a divisional basketball tournament for both boys and girls each year to determine the teams that will advance to an eight-team state tournament.
- (4) Each of the four divisions will be responsible for the operation and management of its divisional tournaments. Each will be responsible for the selection of the tournament sites and tournament managers, and the financial arrangements in accordance with the MHSA Standard Tournament Finance Plan as set up for all tournaments. In the event of any ties in conference standings, the division will be responsible to determine the seeding in its divisional tournaments.
- (5) Challenge Games - A challenge game will be allowed in divisional tournaments where only two teams advance to the state tournament.

Three of the regular divisional tournament officials must be used to officiate this challenge game. If the tournament ends on Saturday night, this challenge game must be played on Monday following the completion of the regular tournament and must be played on the tournament floor.

A change in site may be permitted if more advantageous to the two schools concerned. This may be made by mutual agreement of both schools, tournament manager and a member of the Executive Board assigned to the tournament (or Executive Director if no Board member is assigned to the tournament). If none is assigned, the Executive Director or one of his/her assistants shall decide a site for the game that is relatively centrally located between the two schools. This would permit the challenge game to be played on a floor other than the tournament site.

Receipts and expenses of this challenge game are part of the regular tournament receipts and expenses. The second place trophy must be presented on the basis of this game.

- (6) The dates for the divisional and state tournaments will be determined by the MHSA Executive Board.
- (7) Seeding for Class A girls' state tournaments will be as follows:

2011-2012 (Girls)

- Bracket I 1st place Central Div. vs. 2nd place Eastern Div.
1st place Southwestern Div. vs. 2nd place Northwestern Div.
- Bracket II 1st place Northwestern Div. vs. 2nd place Southwestern Div.
1st place Eastern Div. vs. 2nd place Central Div.

2012-2013 (Girls)

- Bracket I 1st place Eastern Div. vs. 2nd place Northwestern Div.
1st place Southwestern Div. vs. 2nd place Central Div.
- Bracket II 1st place Northwestern Div. vs. 2nd place Eastern Div.
1st place Central Div. vs. 2nd place Southwestern Div.

- (8) Seeding for Class A boys' state tournaments will be as follows:

2011-2012 (Boys)

- Bracket I 1st place Eastern Div. vs. 2nd place Central Div.
1st place Southwestern Div. vs. 2nd place Northwestern Div.
- Bracket II 1st place Northwestern Div. vs. 2nd place Southwestern Div.
1st place Central Div. vs. 2nd place Eastern Div.

2012-2013 (Boys)

- Bracket I 1st place Northwestern Div. vs. 2nd place Eastern Div.
1st place Southwestern Div. vs. 2nd place Central Div.
- Bracket II 1st place Eastern Div. vs. 2nd place Northwestern Div.
1st place Central Div. vs. 2nd place Southwestern Div.

Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of the games within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

XXII - CLASS B BASKETBALL PROGRAM - BOYS AND GIRLS

- (1) **Forty-one (41)** schools comprising **forty (40)** teams are classified as Class B. The schools will be aligned in seven districts and three divisions as follows:

Northern Division

District 1B
Choteau
Conrad
Cut Bank
Fairfield
Rocky Boy
Shelby

District 2B
Glasgow
Harlem
Malta
Plentywood
Poplar
Wolf Point

Southern Division

District 3B
Baker
Colstrip
Forsyth
Lame Deer
Lodge Grass
Powder River Co.
(Broadus)

District 4B
Columbus
Huntley Project (Worden)
Joliet
**Red Lodge/Belfry
Roundup
Shepherd

District 5B
Broadwater (Townsend)
Jefferson (Boulder)
Manhattan
Sweet Grass Co.
(Big Timber)
Three Forks
Whitehall

**Cooperative Sponsorship – Girls only (Red Lodge and Belfry each have their own boys' team)

Western Division

District 6B

Florence-Carlton
Loyola Sacred Heart (Missoula)
Powell Co. (Deer Lodge)

Ronan
Saint Ignatius

District 7B

Bigfork
Lincoln Co. (Eureka)
Plains
Thompson Falls
Troy

- (2) The Class B schools in each division will be charged with the responsibility for divisional tournament seeding. Possible options include but are not limited to:
- a) All teams advance to divisional tournaments;
 - b) Playoff games in which the number of teams advancing from each district are determined by the division;
 - c) District tournament.

Divisions must inform the MHS A office of their divisional seeding plans.

- (3) For the current school year **five** districts have opted to hold a district tournament **and the 6B and 7B Districts will conduct playoff games to determine seeding into their divisional tournaments.** In the event of any ties in conference standings, the division will be responsible to determine seeding in its district tournaments **or playoff games.** Each district will advance teams to the divisional tournament and be seeded according to the following plan:

Northern Division

Bracket I 1st place District 2B vs. 4th place District 1B
3rd place District 2B vs. 2nd place District 1B

Bracket II 1st place District 1B vs. 4th place District 2B
3rd place District 1B vs. 2nd place District 2B

Southern Division

2011-12

Bracket I 1st place District 3B vs. 2nd place District 5B
1st place District 4B vs. 3rd place District 5B

Bracket II 1st place District 5B vs. 3rd place District 3B
2nd place District 3B vs. 2nd place District 4B

2012-13

Bracket I 1st place District 5B vs. 2nd place District 4B
1st place District 3B vs. 3rd place District 4B

Bracket II 1st place District 4B vs. 3rd place District 5B
2nd place District 5B vs. 2nd place District 3B

2013-14

Bracket I 1st place District 4B vs. 2nd place District 3B
1st place District 5B vs. 3rd place District 3B

Bracket II 1st place District 3B vs. 3rd place District 4B
2nd place District 4B vs. 2nd place District 5B

Western Division

- Bracket I 1st place District 7B vs. 4th place District 6B
 3rd place District 7B vs. 2nd place District 6B
- Bracket II 1st place District 6B vs. 4th place District 7B
 3rd place District 6B vs. 2nd place District 7B

For the Northern and Western Divisions Brackets I and II shall alternate each year.

Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of games within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

- (4) District Challenge Games – A challenge game will be allowed in district tournaments where only two teams advance to the divisional tournament. No challenge game is permitted in the districts where three or more teams will advance to the divisional tournaments.

If a challenge game is held, two (or three if three-person crews are used) of the regular district tournament officials must be used to officiate this challenge game. If the tournament ends on Saturday night, this challenge game must be played on Monday following the completion of the regular tournament and must be played on the tournament floor.

Exception: A change in site may be made by the MHSA Executive Director or his/her assistants to a site that is relatively centrally located between the two schools involved. This would permit the district tournament challenge game to be played on a floor other than the tournament site.

Receipts and expenses from this challenge game are part of the regular tournament receipts and expenses. Second and third place trophies must be presented on the basis of this game.

- (5) Each of the three divisions will be responsible for the operation and management of its divisional tournaments. Each will be responsible for the selection of the tournament sites and tournament managers, and the financial arrangements in accordance with the MHSA Standard Tournament Finance Plan as set up for all tournaments.

- (6) Divisional Challenge Games - A challenge game will be allowed in divisional tournaments where only two teams advance to the state tournament.

Three of the regular divisional tournament officials must be used to officiate this challenge game. If the tournament ends on Saturday night, this challenge game must be played on Monday following the completion of the regular tournament and must be played on the tournament floor.

A change in the site may be made by the MHSA Executive Director or one of his/her assistants to a site that is relatively centrally located between the two schools. This would permit the thirteenth or challenge game to be played on a floor other than the tournament site.

Receipts and expenses of this challenge game are part of the regular tournament receipts and expenses. Second and third place trophies must be presented on the basis of this game.

- (7) The dates of district, divisional and state tournaments will be determined by the MHSA Executive Board.

- (8) Seeding for the Class B state tournaments will be as follows:

2011-2012

- Bracket I 1st place Southern Division vs. 2nd place Western Division
1st place Northern Division vs. 4th place Southern Division
- Bracket II 2nd place Southern Division vs. 2nd place Northern Division
1st place Western Division vs. 3rd place Southern Division

2012-2013

- Bracket I 1st place Northern Division vs. 2nd place Southern Division
1st place Western Division vs. 3rd place Southern Division
- Bracket II 1st place Southern Division vs. 3rd place Northern Division
2nd place Northern Division vs. 2nd place Western Division

2013-2014

- Bracket I 1st place Western Division vs. 4th place Southern Division
1st place Southern Division vs. 2nd place Northern Division
- Bracket II 1st place Northern Division vs. 3rd place Southern Division
2nd place Southern Division vs. 2nd place Western Division

Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of the games within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

XXIII - CLASS C BASKETBALL PROGRAM - BOYS AND GIRLS

- (1) **One hundred-one (101)** schools comprising **eighty-eight (88)** teams are classified as Class C. The schools will be aligned in eleven districts and four divisions as follows:

Eastern Division

District 2

Bainville
Brockton
Circle
Culbertson
Fairview
*Froid/Medicine Lake
*Richey/Lambert
Savage
*Westby/Grenora, ND

District 3

Dodson
Frazer
Hinsdale
Lustre Christian
Nashua
*Saco/Whitewater
*Scobey/Opheim

*Cooperative Sponsorship - girls and boys.

Each district will send four teams each year to the divisional tournament.

Southern Division

District 4

Carter Co. (Ekalaka)
Custer
Garfield Co. (Jordan)
Hysham
Melstone
Northern Cheyenne
Plevna
Rosebud
St. Labre Indian Catholic (Ashland)
Terry
Wibaux

District 6

Absarokee
+Belfry
Bridger
*Broadview/Lavina
Fromberg
*Harlowton/Ryegate
Park City
Plenty Coups (Pryor)
*Reedpoint/Rapelje
Roberts

*Cooperative Sponsorship – girls and boys.
+JV Boys only - will play in district tournament.

Each district will send four teams each year to the divisional tournament.

Northern Division

District 7

Denton
*Grass Range/Winnett
Hobson
*Judith Gap/Moore
*Roy/Winifred
*Stanford/Geysler

District 8

Augusta
Belt
Cascade
Centerville
Fort Benton
Geraldine
*Great Falls
Central/MSDB
Highwood

District 9

Big Sandy
Box Elder
Chinook
Hays-Lodgepole
North Star
(Rudyard)
***Turner

District 10

Chester-Joplin-
Inverness
Dutton-Brady
Heart Butte
Power
Simms
Sunburst
Valier

*Cooperative Sponsorship – Girls and Boys
***Boys varsity only

Each district will send two teams each year to the divisional tournament.

Western Division

District 11/12

Ennis
Gardiner
*Harrison/Willow Creek
Lima
Lone Peak (Big Sky)
Manhattan Christian
Sheridan
Shields Valley (Clyde Park)
Twin Bridges
West Yellowstone
White Sulphur Springs

District 13

Alberton
Darby
Drummond
Granite (Philipsburg)
Lincoln
Seeley-Swan
Valley Christian
Victor

District 14

Arlee
Charlo
Hot Springs
Noxon
St. Regis
Superior
+Two Eagle River
(Pablo)

*Cooperative Sponsorship – Girls and Boys
+Varsity Boys-JV Girls only – Girls will not play in district tournament.

For the divisional tournament, District 11/12 will send four teams every year.
Districts 13 and 14 will each send the first- and second-place teams from each district tournament and the two third-place qualifiers will conduct a playoff game to determine the fifth place qualifier to the divisional.

- (2) The Class C schools in each district will be charged with the responsibility for district tournament seeding.
- (3) Each district will hold a district tournament **or have playoff games** each year to determine the teams that will advance to an eight-team divisional tournament. Each district will be responsible for selecting the tournament sites and managers. In the event of any ties in conference standings, the district will be responsible to determine seeding in its district tournaments. Also, each will be responsible for financial arrangements in accordance with the MHSAA Tournament Finance Plan.
- (4) Each of the four divisions will be responsible for the operation and management of its divisional tournament. Each will be responsible for the selection of the tournament sites and tournament managers and the financial arrangements in accordance with the MHSAA Standard Tournament Finance Plan as set for all tournaments. Each division will send two teams to the state tournament.
- (5) Challenge Games - A challenge game will be allowed in district tournaments where only two teams advance to the divisional tournament, unless the Class C districts vote before the opening of the tournament not to permit the playoff game. No challenge game is permitted in the districts where three teams will advance to the divisional tournaments.

If a challenge game is held, two (or three if three-person crews are used) of the regular district tournament officials must be used to officiate this challenge game. If the tournament ends on Saturday night, this challenge game must be played on Monday following the completion of the regular tournament and must be played on the tournament floor.

Receipts and expenses of this challenge game are part of the regular tournament receipts and expenses. Second and third place trophies must be presented on the basis of this game.

- (6) In the four Class C divisional tournaments, if the third place team has not met the second place team in divisional tournament play, then a challenge game must be held to determine second place and also the two teams that advance to the state tournament. The regulations and conditions in the two paragraphs immediately above concerning challenge games in district tournaments will apply in divisional tournaments except that three of the regular divisional tournament officials must be used to officiate this challenge game.

Exception: A change in the site may be made by the MHSAA Executive Director or his/her assistants to a site that is relatively centrally located between the two schools involved. This would permit the challenge game to be played on a floor other than the tournament site.

- (7) Teams must be seeded in the divisional tournaments according to the following plan:

Eastern Division

2011-2012

Bracket I 1st place District 2 vs. 4th place District 3
3rd place District 2 vs. 2nd place District 3

Bracket II 1st place District 3 vs. 4th place District 2
3rd place District 3 vs. 2nd place District 2

For the Eastern Division, Brackets I and II shall alternate each year. Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of games within each bracket may not be switched for any reason.

Southern Division

2011-2012

- Bracket I 1st place District 6 vs. 4th place District 4
3rd place District 6 vs. 2nd place District 4
- Bracket II 1st place District 4 vs. 4th place District 6
3rd place District 4 vs. 2nd place District 6

For the Southern Division, Brackets I and II shall alternate each year.

Northern Division

2011-2012

- Bracket I 1st place District 7 vs. 2nd place District 10
1st place District 8 vs. 2nd place District 9
- Bracket II 1st place District 9 vs. 2nd place District 8
1st place District 10 vs. 2nd place District 7

2012-2013

- Bracket I 1st place District 10 vs. 2nd place District 9
1st place District 8 vs. 2nd place District 7
- Bracket II 1st place District 7 vs. 2nd place District 8
1st place District 9 vs. 2nd place District 10

2013-2014

- Bracket I 1st place District 7 vs. 2nd place District 9
1st place District 10 vs. 2nd place District 8
- Bracket II 1st place District 8 vs. 2nd place District 10
1st place District 9 vs. 2nd place District 7

Western Division

2011-2012

- Bracket I Game 1-5th place District 13/14 vs. 4th place District 11/12
Game 2-1st place District 11/12 vs. 2nd place District 13
Game 3-3rd place District 11/12 vs. 1st place District 14***
- Bracket II Game 4-Winner of Game 1 vs. 1st place District 13
Game 5-2nd place District 14 vs. 2nd place District 11/12***

- (8) Seeding for the Class C state tournaments will be as follows:

2011-2012

- Bracket I 1st place Eastern Division vs. 2nd place Southern Division
1st place Western Division vs. 2nd place Northern Division
- Bracket II 1st place Southern Division vs. 2nd place Eastern Division
1st place Northern Division vs. 2nd place Western Division

2012-2013

- Bracket I 1st place Northern Division vs. 2nd place Southern Division
1st place Eastern Division vs. 2nd place Western Division
- Bracket II 1st place Western Division vs. 2nd place Eastern Division
1st place Southern Division vs. 2nd place Northern Division

2013-2014

Bracket I 1st place Southern Division vs. 2nd place Eastern Division
1st place Northern Division vs. 2nd place Western Division

Bracket II 1st place Eastern Division vs. 2nd place Northern Division
1st place Western Division vs. 2nd place Southern Division

2014-2015

Bracket I 1st place Eastern Division vs. 2nd place Southern Division
1st place Western Division vs. 2nd place Northern Division

Bracket II 1st place Southern Division vs. 2nd place Western Division
1st place Northern Division vs. 2nd place Eastern Division

2015-2016

Bracket I 1st place Western Division vs. 2nd place Eastern Division
1st place Southern Division vs. 2nd place Northern Division

Bracket II 1st place Northern Division vs. 2nd place Southern Division
1st place Eastern Division vs. 2nd place Western Division

2016-2017

Bracket I 1st place Western Division vs. 2nd place Southern Division
1st place Northern Division vs. 2nd place Eastern Division

Bracket II 1st place Southern Division vs. 2nd place Western Division
1st place Eastern Division vs. 2nd place Northern Division

Brackets may be switched at the discretion of the tournament manager. The order of the games within the brackets may not be switched for any reason.