



Montana High School Association

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May 2, 2011

TO: MHS A MEMBER SCHOOLS
FROM: MARK BECKMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RE: EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION

The Montana High School Association Executive Board conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on April 26-27, 2011. Following is a synopsis of the major items:

1. The Board reviewed reports regarding recently held state tournaments in speech and drama, wrestling, boys' basketball, 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 elected Dave Perius, Assistant Activities Director at Gardiner High School and the Class C representative to the Board as the new Board President. Dennis Holmes, Principal at Billings Senior High School and the Class AA representative to the Board is the newly elected Vice-President.
3. The Board approved new appointees to various MHSA committees.
4. The Board reviewed a report from the Spirit Advisory Committee.
5. The Board reviewed a report regarding ejections of players and coaches for unsporting behaviors during MHSA Association Contests this year noting that ejections to date have significantly decreased, specifically coach ejections, compared to this same time period in previous years.
6. The Board approved the creation of an ad-hoc committee to address various multi-cultural issues affecting MHSA activities. The committee will consist of member school administrators, MHSA Board members, MOA members and members of the legislature. The committee will be appointed in the near future.

The following information is being sent to member schools for a two-week notice period:

- The Board approved requiring Cultural Diversity Training for all MHSA member school coaches and administrators and for all MOA officials. The format for the training, including locations etc. will be announced in the near future.
- Speech – As recommended by the MFEA, various amendments to speech, debate and drama rules were approved, including specific changes to topics, sources, original material, entries and the progress of individual events. There were significant amendments to eligibility rules for forensic participants that were precipitated by the recently amended eligibility By-Laws for athletics. **Refer to this Speech & Drama link for a summary of all changes.**

- Music – Several amendments were made to the music rules and regulations, including a change in the All-State audition fee that will facilitate online auditions. As with speech and drama, additional amendments include significant changes to eligibility rules for music participants that were precipitated by the recently amended eligibility By-Laws for athletics. **Please carefully review the Music addendum, and note that the eligibility amendments take effect in 2011-12 for music participants who participate in state events and in 2012-13 for all major performing group members.** Refer to the linked information.
- The Board approved implementing qualifying standards for the 2011-2012 Class A State Track and Field Meet. **The standards and procedures will be similar to Class AA, except the Board approved Class A to use hand-held adjusted times and seeding methods appropriate for Class A.** Refer to the linked information.
- Football – The Board approved the **Class B Football Playoff Structure for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 football seasons.** Refer to the linked information.
- Golf – the Board approved adding the following to the Class C Golf Section in the MHSA Handbook: Qualifying scores for the State C Meets ***must be recorded on a regulation golf course (9 hole course – minimum of a par 35; 18 hole course – minimum of a par 70) and*** will be: Boys = 100, Girls = 120
- Wrestling – the Board approved adding a **pay level for wrestling mixers from 0-30 matches.** Refer to the linked information.
- The Board approved, for Class B-C Wrestling, to award two additional team trophies for Class C schools. Class B-C wrestlers will continue to compete together for individual medalist honors. Trophies are presently awarded to the top three teams in Class B-C and also to the Class C team with the most points. With this change first, second and third place trophies will be awarded to Class B schools and first, second and third place trophies will be awarded to Class C schools.
- The Board approved the **Class A Soccer Play-Off Bracket format.** Refer to the linked information.
- The Board approved the revisions to the **Class AA State Soccer Tournament brackets.** Refer to the linked information.
- The Board approved the following addition to Section (34), D.1. be made to the MHSA Crowd Control policy: Special attention must be given to the supervision of student cheering sections **including having an administrator present near the vicinity of the student cheering section for home and post season contests to assist with crowd control**
- The Board approved the policy regarding lighting for player introductions and other related matters.

MHSA Allowable Procedures for varied and/or dimmed lighting during contest introductions:
Regular Season
 For any indoor MHSA athletic contest, facility lights may be dimmed or partially extinguished only during introductions and only within the following guidelines:

 1. If lights are dimmed or modified during introductions, enough light must remain to ensure the safety of all occupants in the facility, specifically for the purposes of maintaining crowd control and guaranteeing that aisles, stairways and exits are visible.
 2. If partial lighting sections above the area of competition are fully extinguished, the lighting sections above the fan areas must remain on, and aisles, stairways and exits must remain visible.
 3. The use of spotlights is allowed provided they are used appropriately and do not delay the start of the game.
 4. Home and visiting teams must be introduced in the same manner, and gender equity standards must be met in showcasing introductions in this manner.
 5. All local fire and public safety codes must be followed.

Post Season: For all indoor post season events (playoffs and tournaments), full facility lighting will remain on throughout introductions and between contests if applicable.

- The Board approved providing wrist bands to be worn by qualifying school's band members for admission to state tournament events.
- The Board approved the Class AA Conference's request to discontinue awarding football and basketball conference trophies.

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

- The requirement for assistant and school approved volunteers to view the MHSAs mandatory online rules clinics for their respective sports.
- State Cross Country Fee Structure – assessing an amount per participant to cover costs.
- Class B realignment:

District 1B: Choteau, Conrad, Cut Bank, Fairfield, Rocky Boy and Shelby

District 2B: Glasgow, Harlem, Malta, Plentywood, Poplar and Wolf Point

District 3B: Baker, Colstrip, Forsyth, Lame Deer, Lodge Grass, and Powder River

District 4B: Columbus, Huntley Project, Joliet, Red Lodge, Roundup, and Shepherd

District 5B: Broadwater Co., Jefferson Co., Manhattan, Sweet Grass, Three Forks and Whitehall

District 6B: Florence Carlton, Loyola Sacred Heart, Powell Co., Ronan and St. Ignatius

District 7B: Bigfork, Lincoln Co., Plains, Thompson Falls and Troy

MHSA Interpretations

- The following interpretation addresses college recruiting at MHSAs regular and post season events interpretation: ***The MHSAs recognizes and appreciates the interest of post-secondary coaches in high school student-athletes. In order to ensure that MHSAs participants are provided the maximum participatory and educational experience, contact with recruiting personnel is not permitted on the field of competition. This restriction is applied from the beginning of warm-up(s) until the completion of the individual event(s) or team contests. After competition is completed, recruiters/post secondary coaches are permitted contact with student-athletes at the venue, but said contact is limited to general access areas. Contact for the purpose of recruitment is not permitted within areas that are restricted to event personnel and/or participants.***
- The following interpretation will be added to the Softball Section of the MHSA Handbook under **Interpretations, 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. ***A school must have at least 14 players participating to be able to schedule sub varsity games or play a sub varsity schedule. At least five players must be designated as varsity only and cannot play in the sub varsity contest whether on the same or different day of the varsity contest.***
- At the Class AA State Golf Tournament, no practice round will be allowed on the tournament course the day before the state tournament begins or at any time during the seven day period preceding the opening of the tournament including all other provisions per General Rules for Post Season Golf Meets, # 12 on page 141 of the MHSA Handbook. (per existing Class AA policy).

Other items for your information:

- The MHSА Executive Board placed the **state events for 2012-13** and for the remaining **state events for 2011-12**. Click on the links to see the calendar of state events for those years.
- Due to the inclement spring weather, the Executive Board has extended the date for Class C golf qualifiers to be sent to the state tournament coordinator from Monday, May 9th to Thursday, May 12th.
- The Board set the 2011 State Cross Country fee at \$5.00 per participant, based on the costs submitted by Missoula County Public Schools to host the event.

As always, if there are questions about the aforementioned material, please feel free to contact the MHSА office.

MFB/jlh