

EXECUTIVE CORNER

I am pleased to report we have experienced smooth sailing for fall sporting events to date. The decision by the MHSA Executive Board to start fall golf practices earlier last year with the state tournaments adjusted accordingly worked well once again, with the State AA and State A Golf Meets experiencing excellent weather for their recently concluded events. However, I once read that "smooth sailing never made a skilled mariner" - hopefully that doesn't mean we have to experience some rough waters as we head into football, volleyball and soccer playoffs along with the State Cross Country Meet and All-State Band, Chorus and Orchestra Festival. I know our tournament managers and playoff/festival hosts will work very hard to assure the sailing remains smooth. Also, we hope the weather will continue to cooperate for our fall events and, with any luck, we will experience nice fall weather for the remainder of our post season events.

A few things I would like to mention before winter activities begin:

- The first date for wrestling and swimming practice this year is November 17th. The first date for practice in basketball is November 21st.
- The MHSA rules clinics for basketball, wrestling, and spirit will once again be presented online. It is required that all head coaches, all assistant coaches and all school approved volunteer coaches in basketball, wrestling, swimming and spirit view the clinic for their specific sport/activity. The clinics will be available on November 1st and the clinics need to be viewed by December 2nd. Further information is included with this Activity News regarding the MHSA online clinics.
- U.S. Bank has once again renewed their title sponsorship for the successful sportsmanship program that has been provided for our member schools and their communities. This is the fifth year of this very popular initiative and the MHSA is very fortunate to have U.S. Bank as a partner providing the valuable components of this program. The MHSA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program will continue to provide many resources for member schools to use in promoting and rewarding good sporting behaviors by players, coaches and spectators at interscholastic activities. Information regarding all the components of this program was mailed to school contacts in early October. Please consider using the local recognition program (medal program) during the final portion of your fall sports season. Also, please display the posters included in the mailing in visible areas of your school to promote good sporting behavior by coaches, players and fans. Please contact Brian Michelotti (bmichelotti@mhsa.org) to participate in the program or for more information.
- Recruiting MOA officials continues to be a high priority of the MHSA Executive Board and MOA Regional Director Board. Included with this Activity News are posters sponsored by U.S. Bank encouraging individuals to "Become a Sports Official" and to "Get Back in the Game". Please display these posters in areas such as entrances to your gymnasiums, fields of play etc. Officials are an integral part of competition administering fair play and good sporting behaviors.
- Also included is information on how officials are selected for playoffs, district and divisional and state tournaments and championships. Please share this information with your head coaches.

And, as we wrap up the fall activity season and begin to prepare for winter activities please contact the MHSA office with any questions or comments you may have.

Mark Beckman
Executive Director

NEW SEASON OF ONLINE CLINICS

ONLINE CLINICS

The MHSA/MOA rules clinics for all activities are presented exclusively online. The basketball, wrestling, spirit and swimming clinics will be posted on our main website at www.mhsa.org. Enclosed please find an instruction sheet that details the procedure for accessing the clinics. **November 1** is the planned launch date for the basketball, wrestling, and swimming clinics. Coaches must view the clinics prior to **December 2, 2011**, to receive credit. Also, cheer coaches who have not previously viewed the spirit rules clinic because they coach only squads who cheer for basketball will also need to complete their online clinic.

This year all coaches, including the head coach and all assistant coaches and all school-approved volunteer coaches, are required to view the clinic. An information sheet explaining the procedure on accessing these clinics is enclosed with this newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact the MHSA office.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Make sure you check the "News and Announcements" section of the mhsa.org homepage for important directory updates. Please notify Amanda Hazlett at the MHSA with any changes to your school's directory contact information.

OFFICE STAFF TO PRESENT AT MCEL WORKSHOPS

Mark Beckman will present a MHSA Current Issues and Updates forum at MCEL this year. It will include a synopsis of recent By-Law amendments and current topics involving high school activities.

Topics include eligibility changes and their correlation to MTDA and an overview of Cultural Diversity Training that will be delivered to member school administrators, coaches and MOA officials in the coming year.

The session is scheduled for Friday, October 21, 2011 at CMR High School (Room 227) beginning at 10:10 a.m.

TOURNAMENT MANAGERS' WORKSHOP

The MHSA Executive Board recently approved a requirement that all MHSA tournament managers view an online Tournament Manager's workshop before their event. The workshop includes valuable information on managing the sport specific tournament, including:

- MHSA guidelines for post season events
- Information on completing financial reports
- MOA Officials information

- Media policies
- Tournament Manager resources

The Board believes these online workshops will provide a plethora of helpful information for use by each Tournament Manager and the electronic format provides flexibility for delivering this important information. Workshops are sport specific and need to be viewed once every five years for that sport specific post season event.

Post season Tournament Managers can access their sport-specific clinic by going to mhsa.org and clicking on the 'Tournament Manager' link on the home page. Currently, the Volleyball Tournament Managers' clinic is available for viewing.

The MHSAs would like to thank all Tournament Managers for agreeing to manage a MHSAs post season event. If you have any questions regarding the information provided in the Tournament Manager workshop, please contact Scott McDonald at the MHSAs office.

EXECUTIVE BOARD ITEMS

NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The next regular meeting of the MHSAs Executive Board will be held in Helena beginning on Monday, November 21, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. in the MHSAs office. The board meeting will continue Tuesday, November 22 if business has not been completed.

Major Agenda Items for Executive Board Meeting:

1. Adoption of proposed 2012-2013 budget.
2. Plans for Annual Meeting (Billings).
3. Meritorious Service, Service Citation and Mildred Adams Awards.
4. Act on rules and regulations proposals from member schools.
5. **Redistricting/Realignment.

**MHSAs school enrollments are evaluated over a two year period for reclassification purposes. The next time schools will be reclassified is in 2013 with the decision being made at the November 2012 Executive Board Meeting.

Anyone wishing to be on the agenda must contact the MHSAs office at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

MHSAs AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED

As in the past, the MHSAs will honor deserving individuals at the Annual Meeting to be held in Billings in January. The MHSAs Executive Board, during their meeting on November 21-22, will consider the nominees for the following awards:

1. **James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award:** Presented for "Outstanding Contributions to the MHSAs Activities." This is the highest award given by the MHSAs;
2. **Service Citation Award:** Presented for "Significant Contribution to the MHSAs", and;
3. **Mildred Adams Award:** Presented to school support staff personnel who work with activities.

SUBMIT ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSALS

Remember that the deadlines are approaching for presenting proposed amendments to the MHSAs By-Laws and/or Rules and Regulations.

1. Proposed changes by member schools for any of the Rules and Regulations of the MHSAs Handbook, must first be presented to the MHSAs Executive Board at its November 21-22 meeting.
2. Schools may submit proposed changes in the By-Laws (pages 11 - 38) to the Executive Director by December 1. By-Law changes do not need to be presented to the Executive Board for approval.

No proposal can be presented from the floor that has not been received by the Executive Director by the December 1 deadline. Proposals must carry a fiscal note if there are financial implications to

the Association and proposals will be separated by the Resolution Committee to be considered by affected classifications.

2012 ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR BILLINGS

The next MHSAs Annual Meeting will again be held in Billings on January 16, 2012. The Billings Hotel and Convention Center is the host facility. Call 800-537-7286 and ask for group code "MHSAs12."

BASKETBALL

BASKETBALL RULE REVISIONS ENCLOSED

Enclosed are the basketball rules revisions for the 2011-2012 season. Please give these to your basketball staff for their review.

BASKETBALL TO START

Monday, November 21, 2011, is the first date for basketball practice. Friday, December 2, 2011, is the first date a basketball game is permitted under the MHSAs rules. Basketball Rules and Regulations, Item (4), page 97 of the current MHSAs Handbook provides that: No individual shall play in any Association basketball contest until that individual has a minimum of ten (10) days of practice of at least one practice session per day on 10 different days (no practice permitted on Sunday), prior to the date of the first allowable game.

This rule applies to games that are scheduled to be played with independent teams, alumni teams, or any other teams.

Also, please note the interpretation under Article II, Section (1) of the By-Laws, Association Contest, page 18, of the current MHSAs Handbook concerning game limits.

OTHER BASKETBALL RELATED ITEMS

The MHSAs Board and/or the MOA Regional Directors have approved the following for the 2011-2012 basketball season:

- **Scorekeeper's Shirt:** For the 2011-12 basketball season, it is mandatory that the official scorer wear a black and white striped shirt and that their location be clearly marked by a "X" 12 inches long and 2 inches wide that shall be placed on the floor out-of-bounds directly in front of the official scorer to help substitutes and officials with the proper location of the scorer.
- Added to Section (34), D.1. (MHSAs 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.
- Approved requiring Cultural Diversity Training for all MHSAs 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.
- Approved the policy regarding lighting for player introductions and other related matters. MHSAs Allowable Procedures for varied and/or dimmed lighting during contest introductions:
Regular Season
For any indoor MHSAs 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.

WRESTLING

WRESTLING SEASON TO BEGIN

Rule I, Section (5), under the Wrestling Rules and Regulations as found on page 205 of the current *MHSA Handbook* provides that "prior to the first interscholastic meet or match, **each contestant** must participate in ten (10) days of practice sessions on ten different days, excluding Sundays." The first date for wrestling practice this year will be November 17th and the first date for competition is December 2nd. A wrestling match or meet will be permitted on this day only if the contestants participated in the required number of practice sessions.

The materials for the 2011-2012 wrestling season will be mailed under separate cover to each wrestling coach.

Remember that the MHSA will continue to use and comply with NFHS Wrestling Rule 4-5 regarding weigh-in procedures.

Check your scales: if you are concerned about your scales weighing true for your wrestling program, you can get them checked and certified by calling the State Bureau of Weights and Measures in Helena at 841-2240.

Although the bureau has people stationed throughout the state, they would still appreciate a two week notice prior to the date you need the scale certified.

SPIRIT

DID YOU KNOW?

...Your spirit coach should have participant medical release forms with you at all times including practices, games, competitions, and any other school sponsored events where you are responsible for the student's welfare.

...Your spirit coach must be in attendance and attentive at all practices, functions, games, and competitions.

...If your spirit team performs ANY stunt (any tumbling skill, toss, partner stunt or pyramid), your coach must be certified in AACCA Safety Certification.

...Mascots are a part of the spirit team; therefore, they are under the supervision and direction of the spirit coach and must follow rules found in the National Federation Spirit Rules Book and MHSA Handbook.

CROWD CONTROL

Per MHSA Handbook, Rules and Regulations, Section (34), Crowd Control at MHSA Contests, student sections are prohibited from any activity that poses a safety risk or interferes with competition, including jumping or bouncing on the bleachers at any time. Please instruct your cheerleading coach that if any chant being used allows this type of behavior, it needs to be modified so the students are not jumping or bouncing on the bleachers.

MUSIC

MUSIC REMINDERS

The following requirements can be found on page 226 of the 2011-12 *MHSA Handbook*.

Each school shall send a representative to the district rules and procedures meeting. The festival chair shall call a meeting following the annual MMEA festival chairs clinic held in conjunction with the MMEA conference.

The festival chair or a district representative shall attend the Festival Rules Clinic held in conjunction with the MMEA conference each fall.

VOLLEYBALL

2011 STATE ALL CLASS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The 2011 State All Class Volleyball Tournament will be held at MSU-Bozeman's Brick Breeden Fieldhouse on November 10-12, 2011. The MHSA staff will be managing this tournament. The schedule for the tournament is as follows:

Thursday and Friday, November 10-11

All classes match times:

10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 12

Classes A & B match times:

11 a.m., 1 p.m.– Championships (3 p.m. if necessary).

Classes AA & C match times:

11 a.m., 3 p.m.– Championships (5 p.m. if necessary).

Doors will open for ticket sales Thursday and Friday at 9 a.m. and on Saturday at 10 a.m.

To address parking concerns for teams, cheerleaders, bands and fans who will be attending the state volleyball tournament, MSU has developed parking guidelines that can be viewed by going to mhsa.org, clicking on volleyball and looking under the "State All Class Volleyball Tournament Information."

Also, enclosed is information regarding bands for this tournament. If you have any questions or concerns about the tournament, please contact Scott McDonald at the MHSA office.

FOOTBALL

VARIOUS FOOTBALL ISSUES ADDRESSED

As we work our way to the post season, there are numerous football issues that need clarification or emphasis. Please refer to the enclosed Football News Summary for information quarter length for middle school football games, halftime promotions, other halftime issues and footballs furnished by Rawlings. Feel free to copy and distribute this information to all your personnel involved in football.

SOCCER

SOCCER SEASON CONCLUDES IN NOVEMBER

This year's state soccer tournaments for Class AA and the playoff structure for Class A will be held this month. Specific information is listed by classification below:

Class AA Tournament

- October 27 - 29, 2011
- 8 boys' teams and 8 girls' teams (four from each division).
- First place teams in each conference will have a bye during playoff week and will be the 1st seed at state.
- Tournament Location: Helena - Siebel Fields

Class A Playoff Structure

- October 10 -15 - First Round
- October 17 - 22 - Semi-Final Round
- October 27 - 29 - Championship Games
- Higher seeded teams will host

Schools are reminded that in post-season play only 18 players may be in uniform. Coaches are responsible for the personnel in the bench areas and all personnel should be listed on the roster.

The Festival Chairs' Meeting will be held on Friday, October 21st at 12:30 pm in Room 217 at Billings Skyview. Erik Engebretson, MHS Music Committee Chair and Band Director from Malta High School, will conduct the meeting.

AIM HIGHER

SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOPS THIS FALL

In September, the first AIM Higher workshops of the year were held at the Old Armory in Culbertson on September 13 and at Custer Co. High School in Miles City on September 14. The Culbertson workshop was facilitated by Connie Wittak from Scobey and students from Bainville, Culbertson, Medicine Lake, Nashua, Plentywood, Scobey and Sidney participated. In addition to the great participation and hospitality from the administration at Culbertson, students and sponsors gained knowledge in many areas, especially in the sections involving leadership, mentoring and sportsmanship. The Miles City workshop was facilitated by Richy Powell from Dawson County, whose energy during the workshop motivates everyone in attendance. Participants from Carter County, Custer County, Powder River County, Dawson County and Wibaux County High Schools benefited from the Miles City workshop. Highlights of the workshop included sportsmanship activities, team captain training session and hazing awareness information.

In October, a workshop was held in Missoula on October 5. The Missoula workshop was facilitated by Scott Whaley from Missoula Sentinel. Participants from Charlo, Darby, Hamilton, Loyola Sacred Heart, Missoula Sentinel, and Victor attended the workshop at the Grant Creek Inn. During the day, proper sportsmanship, hazing awareness and leadership from student athletes were among many of the topics and discussions. Students did an outstanding job during the leadership activities and their sportsmanship skills were well done.

We continue to experience great participation at the workshops and we invite you to send your students to this leadership training workshop when it is in your area. Here are the remaining workshops for 2011-12:

November 9, 2011 – Butte High School Commons, Butte
December 6, 2011 – St. Luke's Lutheran Parish Hall, Shelby
December 7, 2011 – MSU College of Technology, Great Falls
January 25, 2012 – Hampton Inn, Billings

ACADEMIC ALL TEAM

MHSA/MONTANA ARMY NAT'L GUARD ACADEMIC ALL TEAM

The Montana High School Association is again proud to be partnered with the Montana Army National Guard to provide the MHSA/Montana Army National Guard Academic All Team Program to our 179 member schools. Information about participating in this program will be sent to you in the near future, please contact Scott McDonald at the MHSA office, 442-6010 or smcdonald@mhsa.org to find out more about the program. **There is no cost to participate in this program.** After the five teams with the highest grade point averages are identified at each level of competition and for each classification, the Montana Army National Guard will contact your school to offer assistance in presenting the certificate to the winning teams in the format each school would prefer, such as at games, assemblies, banquets, etc.

ENCLOSURES

James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award, Service Citation
Award and Mildred Adams Award Form
Annual Meeting Proposal Form
Bands at Volleyball Tournaments
2011-12 NFHS Basketball Rule Changes
2011-12 Basketball Hand Signals
2011-12 Basketball Timer & Scorer Instructions
2011-12 Wrestling Rule Changes
Online Clinic Information
Basketball Rule Books (2)
MHSA Pocket Calendar
Post Season Officials Selection Procedure
October 2011 Football News Summary
"Become a Sports Official" poster
November Calendar

STAFF MEMBERS

Mark Beckman, Executive Director
Joanne Austin, Associate Director
Scott McDonald, Assistant Director
Brian Michelotti, Assistant Director
Janie Holmes, Business Office Manager
Theresa Stanisich, MOA Coordinator
Amanda Hazlett, Receptionist and Information Clerk



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Perius, Assistant Activities Coordinator, Gardiner
High School (*President*)
Dennis Holmes, Principal, Billings Senior High School
(*Vice President*)
Karen Underwood, Principal, Laurel High School
Pat Lynch, Activities Director, Manhattan High School
Malia Kipp-Camel, Governor's Appointee, Ronan
Lance Voegelé, MtSBA Representative, Belgrade
Lee Stiffarm, State Superintendent's Appointee, Billings