

MHSA Present and Future Issues

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- THOSE WHO CONTROL THE GAMES CHILDREN PLAY, CONTROL SOCIETY'S FUTURE.

• DR. HARRY EDWARDS
- SOCIOLOGIST

MHSA

- MHSA's Mission Statement
- The mission of the MHSA is to assure that the membership is provided with leadership and support in advancing equitable MHSA interscholastic activities for the growth and educational experience for students.

MHSA

- Purpose of the MHSA
- The purpose of the MHSA is to provide leadership for the development, supervision, and promotion of interscholastic competition and other activities in which its member schools participate. The Association assures that policies, standards, and regulations democratically developed by competent school leaders are strictly enforced. These policies and regulations are designed to provide maximum benefits consistent with sound educational practices for every student in every school.
- MHSA also provides services as required in the management and administration of the activities program and as requested by the membership and approved by the Executive Board.

MHSA Executive Staff

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MHSA website www.mhsa.org

- Myriad of information – Handbook, forms, sport specific information etc.
- Please send website suggestions or comments to Brian Michelotti
- MHSA Reference Manual – six years ago at the Annual Meeting – now on-line in the same directory type format as your binder – all info and forms included for easy downloads
- Handbook online by next Monday or Tuesday

New By-Laws

- **No new By-Laws were enacted by the membership for this year.**
- **The membership did authorize the Board to appoint a committee to study the possible adoption of competitive cheerleading and a committee to consider adopting another sanctioned competitive sport for females.**
- **Also, the Board appointed a committee to study adding a fifth classification and appointed a committee with the mission of examining the different ways the Board of Public Education allows for the dissemination of course work to formulate recommendations to the MHSA membership to align eligibility rules accordingly.**
- **Montana Digital Academy – By-Law still in place – must be in bricks and mortar for four periods per day (20 hours per week) Questions and answers on website under announcements**

Reclassification

- When the MHSA Executive Board adopts classification for member schools, the classifications shall remain in effect for the next two (2) school years. (In November – every 2 years)
- Any school that exceeds the maximum enrollment levels by no more than 10% may remain at the lower classification for two years - 10% range lends stability to district and divisional alignments.
- Range -
- AA – 908+ (826+)
- A – 374-907 (340-825)
- B – 132 -373 (120-339)
- C – 1-131 (1-119)

Reclassification

- The Executive Board will decide at their November (2010) meeting whether the classification change will be granted, and the affected member schools will be notified of the proposed change at least two weeks prior to the November Board meeting. – allows for concerns by schools affected to be heard at the November meeting – won't have to wait until January. Two-week notice will still be given after the change but final action can taken during a conference call of the Board if more concerns are received after the change.
- Enrollment figures used will still be the average of the current fall and previous spring high school reports submitted by that school to the OPI.
- Six schools were reclassified beginning in the 2010-11 school year.
- Next time schools will be reclassified – 2011 (with the decision being made at the November 2010 Meeting).

New Rules and Regulations

- Every sport has new NFHS Rules regarding concussions.
- The MHSA has expanded the scope to include possible concussions and other serious injuries.
- The MHSA Return to Play Rule is as follows:

Section (4) Return to Play

- *A participant in any MHSA 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).*

Section (4) Return to Play

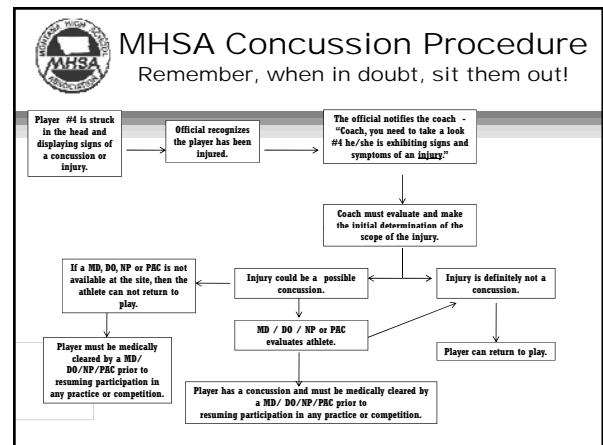
- Officials and coaches are not expected to “diagnose”
- Previous rule required some level of medical judgment
- New rule – officials use best judgment in observing signs/symptoms of concussion or other injury

Section (4) Return to Play

- Officials are not responsible for evaluation – only for observation of signs of injury and stoppage of play
- Coaches and other personnel are responsible for further evaluation and management (MD/DO/PAC/NP)
- Coaches and school-designated individuals determine RETURN TO PLAY (RTP)
- Written permission is not required for RTP

Section (4) Return to Play

- **When in Doubt, Sit Them Out!**
- School policy samples available through the MtSBA – Joe Brott.



New Rules and Regulations

- Section (9) Specialized Camp Rule, Invitational Tournaments & Other Events
- Review Handout

Rules Clinics

- Clinics for football, volleyball, soccer, cross country, golf and spirit are available now at mhsa.org
- Sport specific clinics must be completed by each head coach before the first allowable contest date (early for golf – 3 days instead of 5)
- MOA members must complete the clinic by August 27th

Speech and Drama Changes

- The Board approved miscellaneous amendments topics, matrix and speaking order changes. A list of these specific changes is available by contacting the MHSAs office.

Music Changes

- The Board approved miscellaneous amendments to the Music section, some of which involve adjudicator stipends and all state fees. A list of these specific changes is available by contacting the MHSAs office.

Spirit (Cheerleading)

- Numerous spirit rules changes were made by the National Federation Spirit Rules Committee and those changes will be highlighted in the 2010-2011 Spirit Rules Clinic which can be accessed on now on the MHSAs website. The spirit rules clinic must be viewed by the head spirit and dance coach.
- If at any time during the year you have any questions relating to spirit, please contact Janie Holmes at the MHSAs office.

Sport Specific Rule Changes

- **Reclassification – decision for 2011 will be made at November Board Meeting**
- **Realignment**
- **Class A Softball from three divisions to four divisions**
- **Class A Tennis – reassigned two schools**
- **Six-Player Football – approved four schools to compete in the division**
- **Volleyball – realigned the Eastern C Division**

Sport Specific Rule Changes

- **Softball –**
- **Approved a maximum time limit of 1 ½ hours at invitational tournaments and that regular season games played within an invitational tournament format will not be affected by the maximum time limit.**

Sport Specific Rule Changes

- **Track and Field –**
- **Coaches box**
- **Maintain schedule boys followed by girls**
- **Soccer**
- **Schools are reminded that effective 2012 the home team uniform must be solid white.**

Sport Specific Rule Changes

- Golf -
- Approved changing the practice requirement from five days to three days.
- Approved new uniform requirements and approved language regarding hair control devices.
- Approved new allowable fees for Class B and Class C State Golf Tournaments.
- Approved for Class C golf tournaments that qualifying scores must be posted during a meet with at least three teams present and markers must be used.
- Approved a calendar change for Class AA and Class A Golf with the first date for practice August 12 and with the divisional and state golf tournaments moved up one week.
- Approved for Class B divisional play that ties for 15th will all advance to state.
- Approved that including range balls not part of fee but in bid

- **Football –**
- **Six Player – addition of Alberton, Carter County(Ekalaka), St. Regis and Stanford/Geyser**
- **Six player conference alignment and playoff structure– football section – Handbook**
- **Sub varsity jamborees approved – see the football section of the handbook for rules/regulations.**
- **New uniform specifications will go in effect in 2012**

Sport Specific Rule Changes

- **Football (cont)**
- Point Rule - Classes A, B and C: **In any Class A, B or C (8 and 6 player) football game, if at any time the score differential reaches 35 points or more, the clock will not be stopped for 6 different reasons.**
- Coin Toss - mandates the coin toss or simulated coin toss to occur at 3 minutes prior to the game.
- **Tennis**
- Class A – amended the scoring for state tournament and to provide medals for 5th and 6th place at state
- Approved new uniform requirements and approved language regarding hair control devices
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Sport Specific Rule Changes

- **Volleyball**
- All Class Volleyball State Tournament – survey results continue to be positive
- New officials rotation will be used at state – different partners
- State – Nov. 11-13 – MSU
- A solid white ball shall be used for regular and post season play – all levels of competition
- Revised the dual volleyball tournament to play either 3 matches using a 3 out of 5 format or 5 matches using a 2 out of 3 format with all matches using rally scoring.
- Libero Tracker – home team responsible to have unless they don't use libero – then they have to call and inform the visiting team to provide their own.

Sport Specific Rule Changes

- **Wrestling**
- MRSA Information – will be sent to all school contacts by email – posted on the website (concern for all activities not just wrestling)
- Restructured weight management section – recertification language was clarified (not being able to recertify during the year)

- **Review of legislative action and rule changes from previous years**

AGE RULE

19 or on before midnight, August 31 – Ineligible
19 after midnight, August 31 – Eligible
Membership made this rule permanent

Old rule – only
IDEA/504
could file a
waiver

Rule – any 19
year old can
file a waiver –
IF ---

Following must be proved by the student:

- The student does not create a safety risk
- Does not skew the overall competitiveness of the activity
- Participation will not exclude others
- Meet all necessary criteria to participate in MHSA activities
- Fall sports – filed by March 15th – otherwise 60 days before
- 18 approved in six years
- Decision – parents file for student to play as a 15 year old eighth grader – not eligible as a Senior or wait and hope they meet the above criteria

Eighth Grade Participation

- To field varsity team only – no jv
- Basketball (10 total) Volleyball (12 total) – Track – for relay team only
- Form with names must be submitted for approval (only those 8th graders eligible)
- Can't compete concurrently

Sportsmanship Clinic Tournament Manager Clinic

- Sportsmanship Program – medals, banners, DVD's, Super Fan, Posters – U.S. Bank renewed for the fourth year
- Member schools are required to have on site administrator and or athletic/activities director who have attended and completed an in-service clinic on sportsmanship. On-site personnel are required to complete a renewal every five years. Initial compliance should have been completed by the end of last school year.
- Available on-line only – hopefully coaches and other administrators will also view the clinic
- Sportsmanship/Citizenship – a high priority – MHSA Board, Staff and Schools
- Tournament Manager Workshop – this year the Board is requiring all tournament managers to take the tournament manager workshop for the sport they are managing

Crowd Control Good Sporting Behaviors

- **Reminder from previous years**
 1. Special attention to the supervision of student cheering sections
 2. Players – do not engage in celebrations/chants that will antagonize or embarrass an opponent.
 3. School flags – School mascots
 4. Students and spectators – profanity in cheers / profane statements – single out players – do not advance towards the court – no offensive cheers/chants to opposing cheering section –shirts must be worn at all times.
 5. Cheerleader, Student and Spectator Sections – prohibited from any activity that poses a safety risk or interferes with competition, including jumping or bouncing on the bleachers at any time.

MOA

- MOA fees – increase this year (three year plan)
- Varsity - \$60
- Sub varsity - \$36
- Before this increase the last fee increase was in 2002-03
- Mileage – from .55 down to .50 (IRS Rate)

MOA

- Allowing a district or divisional representative to request in writing from the officials pool the availability of officials for each weekend before the coaches vote.
- Mechanics Clinics required in football, basketball, volleyball and wrestling to be eligible for post season Mechanics clinics for SC and SB will be made available in future years -
- MCA membership – MOA's can be associate members - \$ used for mechanics clinics here in Great Falls on Friday – train the trainer format (wrestling at AAU Nationals and football here on Friday)
- Post season tournament officials selection – Friday workshop at 8:00 am in the Auditorium– explain the process - out in field

Air Quality

- Information will be sent in the August Executive Director's Update
- Specific to the air quality in your location – school district has the autonomy to determine what is safe
- <http://todaysair.mt.gov>
- We cannot waive practice requirements or lengthen the season (overlapping issues with winter sports)

Points of Emphasis

- **Open Gyms – interpretation printed in the Handbook**
- **Required Instruction – open gyms, camps, tournaments etc. – weight training, conditioning – more calls and correspondence the past few years with coaches taking attendance at these functions**
- **Awards Rule – contact Scott McDonald – \$50.00 max**
- **Sunday Practice**
- **Deadlines – May 1st – new activity programs (divisions) – except Speech and Drama – Sept. 1**
- **Coaching rule, # of practices (interrupted)**
- **Volunteer coaches – coach of record**
- **Fundraising**
- **Out of Season Contests – scrimmage against other teams in the summer at school gyms – event not allowed unless paying for the gym – equity / liability etc.**

Coaches Education

- Password – password will be chosen by each coach
- Every three years
- Coaches print test results (keep copies)
- New questions – new material - upgrades
- Each school must send in the coaches education certification report each year by May 15th. Schools failing to submit the report will be subject to the appropriate penalties.
- Liability – mandatory program
- Spirit (cheerleading) coaches are no longer mandated to complete the program
- Questions or comments concerning Coaches Ed – contact Joanne Austin

Les Irish Memorial Scholarship

- Fifth year – provided by Northwestern Scholastic Insurance
- Students who are pursuing a career in education
- Awarded for 2006-07 to individuals from– Custer Co. High School, Miles City and Belgrade High School – 2007-08 – Thompson Falls High School, and Flathead High School, 2008-09 - Hinsdale High and Colstrip High, 2009-10 - Glacier High and Circle High.
- \$500.00 each
- Information and application form on the MHSa website – mhsa.org

MHSa Future Issues MHSa Future Plan is posted on our website

- Co-ops and consolidations – late co-ops may affect schedules (without co-op schedules may have been affected anyway)
- Financial issues – Association finances stable -
- Legal reserve - \$136,000
- Technology reserve - \$85,000 (used \$15,000 to update all hardware and software.
- Rules Clinics – online – head coaches must view – reviews have been extremely positive (all sports)
- Concussion Information - mhsa.org – Sports Medicine Page
- All rules clinics are being produced in-house

MHSA Future Issues

- Medical Advisory Committee is active again - many issues on the agenda - concussions - information on the new sports medicine website page / new pre-participation physical exam form
- Other issues - wrestling weight management - Board directive
- Any agenda items contact Brian in our office
- AIM Higher Program - drug and alcohol awareness and prevention - also citizenship issues - good sporting behaviors - schedule has been changed - too many conflicts in spring - material upgraded - Meth / Steroids, Hazing / Team Captains etc. - Thanks to Coke and PowerAde

MHSA Future Issues

- Technology - provide more information, more services for schools on website

Any interest in serving on an MHSA Committee? - Contact Scott in our office

MHSA Future Issues

- State Wrestling - Metra? Update
- State Class A Basketball also
- Montana Digital Academy courses - Questions and Answers under announcements - website - committee meeting this fall

Service Organization

What can we do to better serve you?

Contact us with any questions, comments or concerns

And when in Helena stop by and see your office and office staff

**Questions/Comments/
Suggestions?
Have a great year!**