



# THE OFFICIAL WORD

June 2007

A Publication of the Montana Officials' Association

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## RATINGS

Enclosed with this mailing are MOA cards and officials' ratings letters. If you have a problem with your rating or if it is incorrect, you have ten (10) days to notify Theresa at the MOA office to have it corrected. We suggest that you check your ratings carefully. Ratings will not be changed if you fail to contact the office within this period of time. If you have questions regarding this policy, please refer to page 268, item G of the current MOA Handbook.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

As a reminder to all MOA members, if you move, or for any reason have a change of address, please notify this office with that change. A change of address card at the post office will **not** be sufficient to forward your 2007-08 rules books to you. These books, along with registration forms, bulletins etc. are sent out to you as bulk mailings, and the post office does not forward bulk mail. Please call, send a change of address card to this office or use the form available on our website to ensure there will be no interruption in your receipt of MOA materials. If you do not receive your books because you did not notify us of a change of address, we will be obligated to charge you for a second set of books, at a cost of \$6.50 each.

## 2007-08 EXAM DATES

Listed below you will find the dates that have been finalized for the MOA qualifying exams this year. **Please note that fall and spring sports exams are again scheduled for August and March, respectively.** All exams must be completed within a two-hour time interval and are administered by the regional director or his designated replacement.

Football, Volleyball & Soccer . . . . . **August 28, 2007**  
Basketball & Wrestling . . . . . December 3, 2007  
Softball . . . . . **March 17, 2008**

Those officials wishing to take the exam in order to upgrade their rating should contact this office in writing with their request to upgrade a minimum of 20 days prior to the test date. The upgrade form is available on our website ([mhsa.org](http://mhsa.org)), or can be mailed to you upon request. Assuming you meet all other requirements, your name will be added to the list to take the exam. You will not be contacted by this office unless there is a problem with your request, but if you want to verify that your request was received, feel free to contact Theresa via phone or email.

## SUMMER HOURS

Beginning June 1, 2007, the MHSA/MOA office hours will be 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. **The office will be closed on Fridays.** These hours will be in effect until August 13, 2007, when office hours will return to 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## ELECTION RESULTS

Region 1 28 Voted Randy Saunier received 22 votes

Region 2 37 Voted Doug McAlear received 36 votes

Region 3 25 Voted Bob Rowling received 24 votes

There were a total of 549 ballots distributed of which 90 were returned. That computes to a 16% return.

## JUNE MOA DIRECTORS MEETING

The MOA Directors, along with MOA/MHSA staff, met on June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the MHSA office. The Regional Directors discussed issues tabled at their December meeting and addressed current concerns and member proposals for the 2007-08 school year. Please see "Hitting the Mark" on pages 3 and 4 for a recap of the changes the Directors approved for 2007-08.

## 2007 STATE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT UMPIRES

The following umpires were selected to officiate the State Softball Tournaments at Kalispell, Polson and Great Falls:

### Class AA – Kalispell

Jim Knight, Helena  
Larry Lewis, Great Falls  
Michelle Peterson, Great Falls  
Greg Pierce, Great Falls  
Bill Unger, Missoula  
Wayne Wade, Missoula

### Class A – Polson

Kayla Brosious, Missoula  
Dennis Harsell, Missoula  
Hal Karl, Bonner  
Steve Picard, Ronan  
Mike Rasmussen, Lakeside  
David White, Whitefish  
Liz Zeier, Kalispell

### Class B/C – Great Falls

Tony Anthony, Great Falls  
Jim Harrison, Great Falls  
Ed Landes, Great Falls  
Dale Perchert, Great Falls  
Rock Rayl, Great Falls  
Neal Roush, Cut Bank  
Ron Rowling, Butte  
Sean Schulte, Anaconda  
Traci Thomas, Anaconda

## ***NON-VOTING SCHOOLS***

Listed below are the schools which did not return softball ballots, returned them unsigned, or failed to return them by the date specified for the selection of tournament officials.

Billings Senior	Browning
Columbus	Drummond
Flathead (Kalispell)	Hardin
Helena	Laurel
Lincoln Co (Eureka)	Missoula Sentinel
Noxon	Park (Livingston)
Plains	St. Ignatius
Stevensville	Sunburst
Thompson Falls	

## ***DUES MEMO***

If you have not paid your dues and wish to renew your membership you must remit your dues plus a \$25.00 late fee. You will be required to retake the exam for your sport and score appropriately to your rating. In addition, as a result of paying your dues after June 15, 2007, you will be denied the privilege of upgrading for a period of one year.

## ***OFFICIALS' MEMBERSHIP LIST***

Effective with the printing of the 2007-08 versions of both the MOA Handbook and the MHSA Handbook, the officials' membership roll will no longer be included as part of these publications. The list will, however, be available via the MHSA website on the Officials (MOA) page. It will be updated after each set of exams, late registrations, etc., so will actually be a much more complete and current list.

## ***REGIONAL DIRECTORS' CORNER***

### ***LET'S TALK MECHANICS***

*By Dave Peterson – Director Region #4*

Over the last couple of years mechanics has become a hot topic of conversation at both the national and state level. The MOA has been fortunate to have several of its Regional Directors and MHSA Assistant Directors involved in this process to begin constructing a mechanics program for both football and basketball. The summer of 2006 saw the initial mechanics clinic for football officials in Butte on the Montana Tech Campus and for basketball officials, a three person mechanics clinic was held on the Campus of MSU-Northern. Both clinics were well attended by MOA officials.

The Regional Directors, in their June 2007 semi-annual meeting, took the next step in making the mechanics clinic uniform for all officials in football and basketball. The MOA will require for football and basketball initially, starting with the 2008-09 season, that all officials attend a yearly mechanics clinic for the sport(s) in which they officiate. This will be accomplished by having the clinic become one

of the eight study clubs required for both sports. The pools will need to be pro-active in this endeavor, start early and work closely with their regional director to begin the process of accomplishing this task.

Trainers will need to receive instruction on how to present the clinic to all officials in their sport. This training of officials can be accomplished in several ways. You can have a pool member(s) attend the Train the Trainer Mechanics Clinic which will be presented for the first time at the MCA Clinic in Great Falls next summer (2008). The pools can also work together and save expenses by sending an official(s) to the Train the Trainer Clinic. Once trained, these officials can present the mechanics clinic at the study club to other pool officials. Another option is to bring in a certified trainer to present the mechanics clinic. And, if pools start planning now for the mechanics clinic, other options may develop for consideration.

As stated above, to become a certified trainer, starting in the summer of 2008, the first Train the Trainer Mechanics Clinic will be included in the Montana Coaches Association Conference that is held each year in Great Falls. The clinic will provide the attendees the training necessary to be a certified trainer. This will give these individuals the ability to train other officials within their sport. Certification for the Train the Trainer Mechanics Clinic must be renewed every other year with the publication of the new officials' manual for their respective sport.

The Regional Directors and MHSA believe this requirement will bring mechanics for all officials together for their respective sport. As an example, basketball officials who work post season tournaments with officials from other pools will be more confident knowing the three person mechanics will be the same for all officials. This program will also give the football officials who will work a split crew in a post season contest the confidence they need mechanically to provide the best job they can for the athletes and the schools they represent.

If the pools work together within their areas, this will be a very trouble-free, economical and successful process and provide well balanced officiating crews.

If you have any questions on the mechanics clinic and/or the Train the Trainer Clinic please contact your Regional Director or the MHSA.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer and we will see you all in August for the start of the 2007-08 MOA season.

## ***2007 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES***

Mark Beckman, Executive Director of the Montana High School Association, recently announced that **Dick Huse of Missoula and Ken Leland of Great Falls** will be inducted into

the Montana Officials Association Hall of Fame for 2007. The MOA Hall of Fame is located at the MetraPark in Billings.

Dick Huse's football officiating career spanned forty years. He was ranked as a master or top rated football official for thirty-five years and worked contests in all classifications. Huse was selected by the coaches of the state to officiate more than forty post season football playoffs, including ten championship games. Dick was also a boys' and girls' basketball official for twenty-seven years, nineteen of those at a master rating. He officiated over fifteen post season basketball playoffs, including several championship games. Huse held all offices of the Missoula Football Officials Pool from secretary to pool chair. He also served the Montana Officials' Association as the District Delegate of Region Two for four years (1980-1984). Dick Huse has been instrumental in the mentoring of officials in Missoula and throughout the state.

Ken Leland officiated football for twenty-two years. He was a master or top rated football official for nineteen years of his career. Leland worked six post season football playoffs including two State Class B Championship games. In girls' and boys' basketball Leland officiated over ten district and divisional tournaments, and also one Class A championship and four Class AA championships. Leland was the head of the Great Falls officiating pool for five years. He served that group as an instructor, an assignor, and an evaluator of officials. Ken also served as District Delegate for Region Five for three years (1987-1990).

### ***CLINIC ATTENDANCE SUMMARIZED***

The total number of individuals viewing the 2007 softball rules clinic was 212. This includes 130 registered officials, 7 prospective officials and 75 coaches/administrators.

The total number of individuals viewing the 2007 track and field rules clinic was 275.

### ***2007-2008 RULES CLINICS***

As an enclosure with this publication you will find information regarding the 2007-08 rules clinics. Please keep in mind that failure to complete the rules clinic requirement in your sport will render you ineligible for any postseason contest. Also, your rating will drop one classification and can only be restored when you complete the next rules clinic offered for your sport.

### ***PRESENTATION OF SERVICE PINS***

For the eighteenth year, the MOA-MHSA will be presenting service pin awards to officials for years of service in Montana. Pins will be awarded for those officials who have 15-20-25-30-35 and 40 years of service in Montana. Those officials who qualify will receive their pins in July.

### ***NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SPORTS OFFICIATING***

This summer's national conference conducted by NASO and the NFHS is scheduled for July 29-31, 2007, in Denver, Colorado. The theme this year is "The Power of Persuasive Officiating: Resolve Conflicts, Manage Games, Build Relationships". You can register online at <http://www.naso.org/summit2007/>.

### ***HITTING THE MARK***

It is hard to believe that another year of whistle blowing, penalty calling, yellow carding, mat slapping, etc. has come to an end. In regard to officiating the year went extremely well with very few major situations reported and very few negative reports filed in the MOA office on officials throughout the year.

It is time to look ahead and to review the changes that will take place next year in regard to the MOA. The Regional Directors meet twice a year, in December and then again in June to discuss issues related to officiating MHSAs sports. The Directors made quite a few changes for next year and a short summary of those actions includes approval of:

- Synchronizing the inclusion of case books for basketball, football and softball packets to the printing of new officials' manuals – except in the case of new officials.
- Allowing the gray shirt as an option for wrestling officials.
- Allowing basketball officials to wear either the gray or the black and white shirts based upon the entire crew wearing the same shirt.
- Adding a rotation for three person crews at a six team basketball tournament.
- Adding language to the assignment section to exclude an official working a varsity contest or tournament **where they cohabitate with, or have** an immediate relative who is participating as an athlete or a head coach.
- Increasing the limit, from \$100 to \$300, of the fine that may be imposed for misconduct.

Also new for next year is the opportunity for MOA members to join the MCA as an associate member. About 10% of the officials registered this year joined the MCA and those officials will find their MCA Associate cards enclosed with this mailing. The dues collected will help to fund mechanics clinics, beginning in 2008, to be held in conjunction with the MCA yearly convention in Great Falls.

Your card will also grant you admission to regular season athletic contests of participating high schools and colleges.

If you are still interested in joining please contact Theresa in the MOA office.

Also the Regional Directors approved the following for the 2008-09 school year: For football and basketball: Attendance will be required for each registered official at a certified MOA mechanics clinic or verification of training by a "train the trainer" representative who has attended the MOA mechanics clinic at the MCA in Great Falls and who provides the training at a mandatory mechanics study club by all MOA basketball and football officials. Recertification of trainers will be required concurrent with the printing of each new NFHS officials manual. For the first year football and basketball will be piloted and committees will be created to formulate mechanics clinics for soccer, softball, wrestling and volleyball.

As you can tell by the above summary, 2006-07 was once again a busy year for your representatives to the MOA Board. The MOA Regional Directors, the MHSA Board and the MHSA/MOA staff are continuing to work diligently to review and revise how we operate our great Association. I would like to share an appropriate observation from "The Wisdom of the Sands" which states, "As for the future, your task is not to foresee it, but to enable it." I believe we are all working collaboratively to enable the future for those who will benefit from the services provided by the over 1700 members of the Montana Officials Association.

Once again, on behalf of the MOA Regional Directors, the MHSA Executive Board and the MHSA/MOA Staff I want to thank you for your support and for your willingness to provide input during this year. The MHSA/MOA office staff is here to serve and if you have any questions, comments or concerns please let us know.

Mark Beckman, MOA Commissioner

## Enclosures:

### 2007-08 NFHS Rules Revisions:

- Football
- Soccer
- Volleyball

MOA ratings letters and MOA cards

MCA Associate cards

Rules Clinic Information

Service Pin List

### NFHS 2007-08 Publications:

- Football
- Rulebook, Casebook, & Preseason Guide

- Soccer
- Rulebook & Preseason Guide

- Volleyball
- Rulebook, Casebook/Officials' Manual, & Preseason Guide