



EXECUTIVE CORNER

BITS AND PIECES

Fall activities are under way! As our student-athletes and our student-activity participants practice for and participate in thousands of contests this fall activity season, it is important to stress good sporting behaviors by our coaches and players. Important behaviors to promote include character, loyalty, class and respect.

I would like to share with you a story that I use when I speak to student groups concerning these important qualities. The story is about the great athlete of the 1930's and 40's, Jesse Owens. Jesse overcame prejudice all of his life by not only being a great athlete but by competing and acting the right way. He was competing at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin and at the time he held the world record in the long jump. The poisonous prejudice of Hitler's Nazi regime, Hitler's master race belief, filled the air, and Owens' foot faulted on his first two qualifying jumps. If he fouled again, he'd be eliminated, a victory for Hitler. Seeing Owens pacing in agitation, a blond blue-eyed athlete named Luz Long introduced himself and suggested that Owens make a mark several inches before the take-off board. It worked and Owens advanced to the finals to compete against Long. That's sportsmanship at its best.

During the finals, Owens set an Olympic record and won the gold. Long earned the silver medal. Long was disappointed but proud to have competed against the best jumper in the world. Though Long knew it would not please Hitler, he congratulated and embraced Owens and walked with him. That's character and class.

Owens never saw Long again (he was killed in battle during WW II) but he corresponded with Long's family and according to one story, when Long's daughter got married, Jesse Owens gave her away. That's loyalty.

Before Owens died in 1980, he wrote, "You can melt down all the medals and cups I have, and they wouldn't be the plating on the 24-karat friendship I felt for Luz Long." That's Respect.

One such touching story from the high school ranks here in Montana was reported to me this year by a volleyball official regarding the outstanding display of class and respect shown by the Custer County High School volleyball team. Custer Co. was playing Powder River Co. (Broadus) on August 30, which would have been Broadus coach Kimber Emmons daughter's ninth birthday. The Emmons lost their daughter to cancer last spring. As each member of the Miles City team was introduced and came to shake hands with Coach Emmons they each presented her with a beautiful white rose. They also presented a card to Coach Emmons. That is character, class and respect. (Thanks to Gary Parry for submitting this heartfelt story).

We all have some personal stories we can relate about friends, family, students, coaches, and players who have exhibited the qualities above in various situations. Sadly, I have reported to me many more unsporting acts that occur during high school activity events than the many good acts and displays that are occurring in high school activities. Hopefully more administrators, coaches and officials will share more of the positive things that are happening out in the trenches.

In the September Quick Bits I like to reemphasize the importance of reviewing the eligibility of each of your student participants, whether transfer students, foreign exchange students or established students.

A Montana High School Association Publication
1 South Dakota Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 442-6010 (406) 442-8250 fax
www.mhsa.org
September 2011

The areas that have to be monitored closely for all students' eligibility are age, academics, and semesters.

Don't forget about the change in attendance eligibility effective this year: A student must be enrolled **in twenty hours per week** and in regular attendance **ten** hours per week at the school where the student participates. **Regular attendance is defined as actual physical presence in the building (bricks and mortar).** A home school student is not eligible to participate for an MHS member school.

Also, the membership approved an amendment to the eighth grade participation rule: Eighth grade students may play on a high school volleyball, track relay and/or basketball teams. Permission for eighth grade participation must be requested by the school and authorization granted by the Executive Director of the MHS. Once granted approval, those eighth grade participants are eligible to participate in varsity and **JV competition**. Any eighth grade student allowed to participate will have eight semesters of high school eligibility remaining. All eighth grade students participating must meet the academic requirements.

Eighth grade participants are eligible to play (varsity or **junior varsity**) upon meeting all eligibility criteria and upon approval granted by the MHS Executive Director. To access further information and the forms required for submitting eighth grade participation requests go to www.mhsa.org.

Transfer student issues continue to surface and the following are important points that must be reviewed before declaring a student varsity-eligible after a transfer:

- 1) First, as stated above, they must be academically eligible, age eligible and semester eligible.
- 2) Transfer students have to be checked for residency – A change of residence is the actual physical relocation by the parents or legal guardians (guardianship must be established one year before the transfer) of a student at a new residence and termination of all occupancy of a previous residence. The change in residence must be bona fide, include other minor siblings and involve transfer from one school district attendance area to another school district attendance area. For the purpose of eligibility, there can be only one residence.
- 3) Is it a parent-to-parent move? – A parent to parent move can only be from parent to parent, not parent-to-grandparent or parent-to-aunt/uncle or parent-to-legal guardian etc. Also it must be the first parent-to-parent move in the student's high school career for him/her to be varsity eligible.
- 4) A transfer can occur to a legal guardian but for the student to be varsity eligible that guardianship must have been established one year before the transfer.
- 5) **Transfer – New Return to Parent** - A student who has attended high school and resides in a district other than where the student's parent(s) resides, and who subsequently returns to live with the student's parents becomes immediately transfer eligible for varsity competition in the parent's district. This can be applied only one time during the student's career. The new Return to Parent Form must be completed.
- 6) Foreign Exchange students are transfer students and must meet all eligibility requirements except that these students will be living with a host family in your attendance area. Foreign Exchange students cannot have graduated from a high school in their country and they must be placed through a CSJET approved program.
- 7) Also, the membership, by two-thirds majority vote at the 2008 Annual Meeting eliminated the transfer exception for court orders, ward of the court and ward of the state designations. Now, if a transfer student has been court ordered to a school's attendance area a hardship petition could be filed if the court

order was a protection order and not because of criminal or bad behavior by the student in question.

- 8) Hardship Petitions – A request to waive the transfer rule can be filed for a student whose transfer was not a bona fide family move if the transfer was absolutely necessary and beyond the student's control (again no drug or alcohol use, criminal behavior or attempting to avoid a penalty).
- 9) Reminder – there is no provision for an emancipated 18 year old student to be varsity eligible –Transfer Rule Interpretation # 6 states - For the purpose of these rules a student cannot establish a residence apart from his/her parents. If he/she habitually makes his/her home with a relative and the student changes schools because the relative changes residence, the student will lose eligibility time in accordance with the transfer rule. A student, both of whose parents are deceased and who has no legal guardian, may change high schools without loss of eligibility time. However, a student may not change school systems within a city or school district.

If you have any eligibility questions/concerns please contact me at the MHSA office.

On behalf of the MHSA Executive Board and staff, we hope for continued good days for fall activities at your school.

Mark Beckman
Executive Director

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

2011-12 DIRECTORY OF SCHOOLS

Please note: the 2011-12 Directory of Schools were sent to all MHSA member schools this month. Please review your school's entries and confirm their accuracy.

If you notice any errors, please contact the MHSA office. If some of your coaches have not yet been hired or if your administrative staff or coaching staff change, please call the MHSA office or e-mail ahazlett@mhsa.org so we can update the Directory and our database.

APPROVED FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Attached is a copy of the 2011-2012 approved list of Foreign Exchange Programs from CSIET. As per Article II, Section (10), these are the only approved programs that waive the MHSA Transfer Rule for participation. However, please keep in mind that while students under these programs are varsity eligible under the transfer rule for two semesters, they still must meet all other eligibility requirements, i.e., age, academics, number of semesters, etc., and they cannot have graduated from their high school.

TOURNAMENT MANAGERS' WORKSHOP

Anyone who will be managing a MHSA Basketball, Golf, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball or Wrestling Post-Season Event during the 2011-12 school year is, by MHSA Executive Board Action, required to view the new on-line Tournament Managers' Workshop for their activity once every five (5) years. The workshop focuses on pre-tournament preparation, on site procedures during the event and MHSA guidelines and regulations.

The Volleyball Tournament Managers' Workshop is now available for viewing. Go to www.mhsa.org; click on Tournament Managers' Workshop and read the instructions provided. Tournament Managers will be sent an e-mail reminder of this requirement.

If you have any questions or concerns about the workshop, please call Scott McDonald at the MHSA office or email him at smcdonald@mhsa.org

MIAAA ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Montana Interscholastic Administrators Association would like to encourage educators around the state to nominate deserving

individuals for the MIAAA Activities Director of the Year Award. One award is given to each classification, as well as an All-Class Activities Director of the Year Award.

Also, the MIAAA is sponsoring a Gold Pass Award of Merit for long time athletic directors or principals who have made significant contributions to Montana student activities. This is a very prestigious award that presents the recipient with a lifetime pass that is valid at any MHSA contest or tournament.

Application forms for these recognition opportunities are attached.

2011 STATE CROSS COUNTRY MEET IN MISSOULA

The 2011 State Cross Country Meet will be staged in Missoula on October 22. The competition will take place at the University of Montana Golf Course. Brian Fortmann, Activities Director of Missoula Big Sky High School, is the meet director. Information will be mailed shortly from his office with logistics concerning the 2011 State All Class Cross Country Meet. Mr. Fortmann can be reached at 782-2401 x8026.

To view the 2011 MHSA State and NFHS Cross Country rules addressing uniform and sportsmanship items that all coaches and competitors will be expected to adhere to go to www.mhsa.org, click on "Cross Country" and then click on the "2011 State Cross Country Policies and Procedures and NFHS Rules" link.

The schedule for the 2011 State Cross Country meet on October 22, 2011 is as follows:

Class B Boys	11:00 am
Class C Boys	11:30 am
Class B Girls	12:00 pm
Class C Girls	12:35 pm
Class AA Boys	1:10 pm
Class A Boys	1:40 pm
Class AA Girls	2:10 pm
Class A Girls	2:45 pm

Entries must be entered online and will be due to the Meet Director by October 18 by 4:00 p.m.

MHSA HANDBOOK ON WEBSITE

The MHSA Handbook is available online. Visit our website at www.mhsa.org to view the Handbook in PDF format. We hope this will assist administrators, coaches, counselors, and fine arts directors in obtaining copies of MHSA information that is most useful to them. It's also a means of making information available to parents, especially the sections which include student eligibility and other participation information.

TROPHIES AND AWARDS REMINDER

TROPIES AND AWARDS

Because of questions received in the MHSA office concerning conference trophies, the following information from the MHSA Handbook is offered:

1. Conference trophies are given in football (except for Class AA), Class A softball and Class A soccer (they are considered district or divisional trophies).
2. In other sports, if a conference would like to award a trophy (first place only) for its conference champion it must be ordered through the MHSA office and must be paid for by the conference. The MHSA office staff does not automatically order conference trophies because some conferences choose not to award them.
3. Trophies that are awarded by MHSA rule will be given to both schools if the activity is cooperatively sponsored, but the office will need to know which school was presented the trophy at the tournament. Also, if there is a co-op conference champion or a co-conference champion the conference still needs to order those trophies through MHSA and pay for both.

4. Individual miniature trophies for first and second place MHSA state championship events may be purchased from the Association's award provider.

Also, only one (1) trophy will be awarded at any MHSA meet or tournament when a maximum of five (5) teams are participating. However, the conference may elect to buy a second place trophy through MHSA if they so desire.

5. Divisions may purchase divisional medals beyond the first and second place medals provided by the MHSA in speech and drama, golf, tennis, track and field and wrestling. The medals must be ordered through the MHSA office ten (10) weeks before they will be needed.

FOOTBALL

BANDS PLAYING DURING LIVE BALL

A very important change that will go into effect for this year's football season was not mentioned in the 2011 MHSA Football Rules Clinic. The MHSA Executive Board approved the following rule change in regard to bands playing at outdoor contests:

At all outdoor contests bands will not be allowed to play during "live ball."

Beginning this year at MHSA football games, bands will only be allowed to play during the following (the same rules apply to recorded music played during the contest):

- **Timeouts (both team and official's timeouts),**
- **Between quarters**
- **Halftime**
- **Anytime from after a touchdown is scored, through the try and until both teams lineup for the ensuing kickoff.**
- **Any change of possession (fumble, interception or punt)**

Bands or PA music cannot play between plays while the same team maintains possession of the football, except during a timeout and after a touchdown and until team's lineup for the ensuing kickoff. If a band starts to play and the timeout is shortened for any reason, the band must stop playing immediately. The only exception is after a touchdown.

If an official hears a band playing at any other time during the game (during live ball), he/she should notify the game administrator. The game administrator must notify the band director that playing during live ball is a MHSA rule violation and to stop. This rule is an MHSA administrative rule and must be enforced by the school administration and not by MOA officials. If the problem persists after the communication with game administrators, the official does not have authority to terminate the game. After the conclusion of the game, officials must report the situation to the MHSA immediately and we will penalize the school accordingly and also ensure the situation does not happen in their future games.

HELMET TO HELMET CONTACT – TEACHING AND ENFORCING THE NFHS POINT OF EMPHASIS

The NFHS Football Rules Committee's point of emphasis is a very detailed commentary on concussions, illegal helmet contact, and proper helmet fitting. This is not a rule change this year, but because of the concerns at all levels of football with concussions recently, this is a focal point for this season and beyond. I would like to point out a few items from this point of emphasis that needs to be stressed to coaches and officials:

The committee is encouraging a renewed emphasis by both coaches and officials on other types of contact with and to the helmet, which are prohibited by the existing three rules cited above, as well as the unnecessary roughness provisions of Rule 9, which include:

- Blows to the Head by the Defender
- Initiating Contact to the Head
- Helmet-to-Helmet Contact

- Making Initial Contact with the Defender while Running with the Head Down –

The illegal acts noted above have no place in the game, and the committee believes that renewed emphasis on getting illegal acts out of the game will improve player safety. When in doubt, these acts should be viewed as illegal. Coaches and officials must focus on:

- **Teaching** – Coaches must reinforce, through continual repetition, the proper techniques associated with blocking, tackling and running. Officials must learn to recognize the illegal aspects of these techniques and ensure that study is done by all officials on the crew and within the local association.

- **Recognition** – Because of the increased focus on head injury, officials and coaches must realize that helmet-to-helmet and illegal helmet contact fouls need to be consistently recognized and called throughout the game. It is imperative that officials and coaches also focus not only on the contact WITH the helmet, but any contact TO the helmet.

- **Calling / Enforcing** – Once recognized, officials must penalize these illegal acts consistently throughout the game, without warning, regardless of the situation. Whether it is in the first quarter of the first game, or overtime of the state championship, illegal helmet contact must be enforced and must be removed from the game by both coaches and officials. It is hoped that this simplified approach will be a positive step toward reinforcing player safety!

In summary - this point of emphasis has excellent information to help coaches in teaching proper techniques and will it help facilitate more stringent enforcement by officials, but one principle that needs to be recognized as a general concept for coaches and officials to put all of this in the proper perspective moving forward that will help clarify this situation is **Anytime, in an official's judgment, a player uses his helmet as a weapon, he should be penalized!**

MUSIC

MUSIC COMMITTEE FALL MEETING

The MHSA Music Committee's annual fall meeting is scheduled for October 2-3, 2011 in Helena. Various items were reviewed including preparation for All-State Band, Chorus and Orchestra Festival.

SPIRIT

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHEER SAFETY

Jim Lord, Executive Director of the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators offered the following information in a recent publication: *In June (a year ago) the National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research at the University of North Carolina published its annual report of catastrophic injuries, and immediately headlines such as "Cheerleading Most Dangerous Sport" were popping up all over the national media. While it's great that cheerleading is included in such studies alongside sports like football and gymnastics, news organizations often look at the data only at face value, neglecting to delve deeper into the report to notice that it clearly states that cheerleading has actually become safer and the risks are in line with other school athletics. Some media outlets took one part of the report, that cheerleading accounts for 67% of female catastrophic injuries, and ignored the "female" part of the statistic. They falsely reported that cheerleading accounts for 67% of ALL high school and college sports injuries. This is clearly incorrect, as in 2007-08 there were four such injuries for cheer and 39 in football. Other news services picked up on this sensational story and ran with the false headlines, never bothering to double check the facts. If they had, they would have found a different story.*

Most importantly for administrators of MHSA schools to realize is that Montana is one of a handful of states proactively making changes for the safety of the schools' cheerleaders. Not only do we require cheer coaches (paid and volunteer) to complete the mandatory spirit rules

clinic each year, they are also required to complete the AACCA Safety Certification once every four years if their team does any stunting. In supporting the task of keeping our athletes safe, we ask that you help us make the following the standard for every cheerleading team:

1. That the cheerleading team be under the direction of a knowledgeable coach.
2. That the program follows National Federation and MHSAA safety rules.
3. That the program has emergency procedures in place
4. That the squad has access to appropriate medical personnel such as athletic trainers

Please know that MHSAA is doing everything in their power to keep your cheerleaders safe!

VOLLEYBALL

END-OF-MATCH PROTOCOL FOR THE 2011 VOLLEYBALL SEASON

The MHSAA Volleyball Committee and the MHSAA are recommending the following: after the last set in a match and after the R1 has blown the whistle and released the players from their end lines, players and all bench personnel (substitutes, managers and coaches) move counter clockwise from their end line and proceed to shake hands with the other team members under the net on their side of the court. We believe this is the best way to show sportsmanship after a match.

AVAILABILITY OF ELIGIBLE OFFICIALS FOR POST SEASON ASSIGNMENT

For the 2011 Volleyball Season, Volleyball Official Pools may provide information regarding availability of eligible officials for post season assignment to a district or division representative for distribution to schools in those districts or divisions, when requested in writing. Individual officials shall not provide such information. The MOA regional Directors are allowing pools to provide a list of officials and the dates those officials are available for post season assignment to a district or divisional representative to distribute to the schools in their respective districts or divisions allowing coaches to vote for officials who are available on each weekend of post season competition.

POLICY REGARDING LIGHTING FOR PLAYER INTRODUCTIONS

MHSAA Allowable Procedures for varied and/or dimmed lighting during contest introductions:

Regular Season

For any indoor MHSAA 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.

If you have questions or concerns about these clarifications, please contact Scott McDonald at the MHSAA Office.

BASKETBALL

Please give the following items, which are specific to basketball competitions, to the appropriate personnel in your school.

ARM COMPRESSION SLEEVES

The MHSAA Office continues to get questions about basketball athletes wearing compression sleeves on their arms (elbows). According to NFHS Basketball Rule 3-5-3, The specifications regarding arm compression sleeves have changed to require the item to be white, black, beige or a single solid school color. The sleeve must also be the same color for each team member and have only a single manufacturer's logo that does not exceed 2¼ square inches. Arm compression sleeves must still be worn for medical purposes. To clarify this interpretation of this rule, for the 2011-2012, in order for any basketball athlete to wear compression sleeves on their arms (elbows), the athlete shall present a note from an MD, DO, PAC or NP stating that the athlete must wear the compression sleeve. The note must be presented to the officials at the pre-game conference. If a medical note is not presented, the athlete must remove the compression sleeve before participating in the contest.

MHSAA BASKETBALL MERCY RULE

For the 2011-2012 Basketball Season, the Basketball Mercy Rule will again be used by all MHSAA member schools.

It will be used for all levels of play, (Varsity, JV, Sophomore and Fresh) in the second half only, once a team has a forty (40) point or better lead against their opponent, a running clock will ensue until the end of the game even if the difference in the score drops below the forty point margin. The only time the clock will stop will be between quarters, time outs, and when replacing an injured or disqualified player.

In the second half of a basketball game, the official scorer and timer will be responsible for running the clock continuously except for the below situations, once a team has a forty (40) point or better lead against their opponent.

1. Once the clock signals the end of a quarter or overtime period, the clock will be stopped until play is started for the next quarter or overtime period.
2. Once an official signals for a called time-out, the clock will be stopped until play is started following the time-out.
3. Once an official beckons or bench personnel come onto the floor to attend to an injured player, the clock will be stopped until play is started again.
4. Once an official informs the Head Coach that a player has been disqualified from further participation in the game, the clock will be stopped until play is started again.

The clock will be restarted when:

1. The ball touches or is touched by a player on the court.
2. If play is resumed by a throw-in, the clock shall be started when the ball touches, or is legally touched by, a player on the court after it is released by the thrower.

Game management must inform the official scorer and timer of this MHSAA Basketball Mercy Rule and the provisions of the rule.

If you have questions about the above issues, please call Scott McDonald in the MHSAA Office.

ATTACHMENTS

[MIAAA Forms](#)
[General Instructions for Football Line to Gain Crews](#)
[General Instructions for Football Clock Operators](#)
[Football Pre-Game Information - 80 yards](#)
[Football Pre-Game Information - Regulation Field](#)
[Basketball Court Diagram](#)
[Pierce Flooring Information](#)
[CSIET List](#)
[October Calendar](#)