



Quick Bits

A Montana High School Association Publication
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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD PROGRAM

Enclosed with this *Quick Bits* you will find NorthWestern Energy's Academic Excellence Award report form. The competition was initiated in the 1988-89 school year.

Please review the material and make plans to enter your school's students in the 2006-2007 competition. The award is very prestigious, and the interest in the award continues to grow.

MHSA DUES/CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE AND COACHES CERTIFICATION REPORT

Each member school should have received the applications for both MHSA membership dues and catastrophic insurance. Annual dues and catastrophic insurance premiums are payable and due on **August 1st** of each year. Any school failing to pay its annual dues and catastrophic insurance premiums on or before that date shall be ineligible from **August 1st** until such fees are paid and shall be required to pay a penalty of \$50 in addition to the regular dues before reinstatement can occur. (See Article I, Section (2) of the MHSA By-laws). Please make certain that the dues form has the appropriate signatures and that the **original** form is submitted to the MHSA office.

Along with the aforementioned mailing, you will find a Coaches' Education Program Certification Report form. Please complete it per the directions and mail it to the MHSA office on or before **May 15, 2007**. Please contact Jo Austin at the MHSA office if you need assistance with the certification report.

2007-2008 ORDER FORMS ARE ENCLOSED

Two separate order forms for the 2007-2008 school year are enclosed with this *Quick Bits*. Please refer to the cover letters with each form. If you have questions please contact the MHSA office.

The 2007-2008 materials order form is provided for each school to order miscellaneous supplies such as extra rules books, score books etc. The 2007-2008 *Activity News* order form is to be used when ordering **extra** sets of MHSA *Activity News*.



"LOOKING AHEAD"

- Next year it is required that all Head Coaches view the mandatory MHSA clinics in his/her sport/activity. However the MHSA still encourages all members of the coaching staff to view the clinics.
- The MHSA Sportsmanship Committee is reviewing many exciting programs for your school's participation in promoting good sporting behaviors. Information regarding these programs will be sent to each school in the near future.
- The MHSA will be launching a new website shortly. The website will be a huge improvement over our old website and we are excited about the services this new site will bring member schools. You will find www.mhsa.org easier to navigate and immediately you will be able to access forms, access all activities' information, and access school information. In the future, filling out records of transfer forms on-line, downloading other schools team rosters, and an interactive calendar function for your conference or district are a few of the upgrades we plan to offer member schools.

NFHS PARTICIPATION SURVEYS

Enclosed with the *Quick Bits* you will find the annual National Federation Survey for Athletic and Non-Athletic Student Participation. In the past your response has been excellent and it is important that all of you once again take the time to fill out the enclosed material, being as accurate as possible. **Please return the surveys to the MHSA office no later than Friday, May 11, 2007.**

AWARD RULE - REMINDER

With all the invitational tournaments and sports camps that occur during the spring and summer months, please review with your schools' coaches the award rule found on page 26 of the 2006-07 MHSA Handbook. Part A of this rule states that **NO** award exceeding twenty dollars (\$20.00) in value shall be given per event in any MHSA sanctioned sport or any MHSA sanctioned interscholastic activity by a member school, by any person or by an organization to a student in recognition of that student's achievement or participation in any interscholastic activity. An event is defined as a sports camp, an invitational tournament/meet, a post season recognition function (i.e. sports banquet) or a fund raiser or similar function. Cash can not be awarded. If you have questions about the awards rule, contact Scott at 442-6010 or smcdonald@mhsa.org.

OUT OF SEASON CONTESTS - COACHING REMINDER

For team sports, the coaching rule is in effect for out of season contests that are not held from June 1 - July 31 (the team coaching rule doesn't apply during this period of time). The head coach or any member of the coaching staff of one gender's team cannot coach any of the players who have competed in their overall program unless the player is a senior and the sport season has concluded. Coaches of record (those coaches who actually coached during the season) cannot coach their own players during the off season (except for June 1 - July 31 period of time) even if the coach doesn't have a contract for the next season. If a coach resigns at the end of a season, he/she would be the coach of record and could not coach his or her players in the off season. Coaches who coach one gender only can coach the other gender in that sport without penalty.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Belt - Boys' Track - Jim Wichman, Girls' Track - Stacy Stimpson

Harlowton - Girls' Track - Danika Klock
Boys' & Girls' Golf - Gregg Wasson

TRACK

RULE BOOK CORRECTION

It has come to our attention that a change in the wording in the 2005-06 Track and Field Rules Book by omission of a phrase, presents Rule 4-3-c to read that a manufacturer's logo is permissible on the uniform top but not the uniform bottom. This is not an accurate statement. There has been no change in the rule. Therefore, a single manufacturer's logo is permissible on **each** piece of the uniform (top and bottom) for a two piece uniform.

A question has been presented regarding whether or not a manufacturer's logo on the outside back of an undergarment with the same prominent logo on the front is legal. Such an undergarment would not be legal if **both logos are visible**.

IMPORTANT TRACK REMINDER

As we discussed at the recently conducted track rules clinics, MHSA rules modify Rule 4, Section 2, Article 4 of the National Federation Track Rules to provide that each school can enter up to five (5) contestants per individual events meets involving four or more schools. This information can be found on page 169 of the 2006-07 MHSA Handbook. This rule modification applies to Class AA and A Divisional Track Meets and to Class B and C District Track Meets.

POLE VAULT COMPETITORS' EVENT VERIFICATION FORM

In compliance with NFHS Track and Field Rule 7-5-3, enclosed with this publication is a copy of the current pole vault competitors' event verification form. This form must be completed and submitted to the event manager prior to competition. Feel free to duplicate this form as necessary.

AIM HIGHER

The last workshop of the year will be conducted in Glendive on April 11, 2007. Prior to this, a very successful workshop was conducted at Butte High School by Aim Higher facilitators Richey Powell and Jill Flynn. Students from Butte High, Butte Central, Powell County, Shields Valley, Sweet Grass County, and Whitehall were in attendance. The workshop focused on sportsmanship, leadership, mentoring and respect. The students were very interactive, which made for a productive day for everyone.

So far this year 471 students have attended the workshops at seven different sites in the state. We truly thank all those schools that hosted workshops, and all those schools that allow their personnel to be facilitators at workshops. Next year's schedule of workshops will be included in the May *Activity News*. Also, we will be meeting this summer to revise the Aim Higher curriculum, so if you have any input please contact Brian Michelotti at the MHSA office.

SPIRIT

MCA CLINIC

As in the past several years, the **Montana Coaches Association** offers courses for spirit coaches during the MCA clinic held in Great Falls each August. This year a nationally recognized speaker, Jennifer Uselton, will speak on a variety of topics from developing positive leadership skills to avoiding coaching burnout. Registration sheets for the MCA clinic are not sent from the MHSA office but will come from MCA. In addition, Mary Kay Minor, AACCA certifier, will offer the certification for spirit coaches on the Friday of the MCA clinics and Lisa Parker will offer National Federation coaches' education courses as well. A rules clinic will also be held during the conference. Please have your spirit coaches watch for information from MCA.

ENCLOSURES

2006-2007 Academic Excellence Award Program
2007-2008 *Activity News* Order Form
2007-2008 Materials Order Form
NFHS Participation Survey
NCAA Eligibility
Pole Vault Competitors' Event Verification Form
2006-2007 Basketball Financial Summary
2006-2007 Wrestling Financial Summary
2007-2008 MOA Fee Schedule
May Calendar

