



Quick Bits

A Montana High School Association Publication
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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Fairview - now co-oping in softball with Sidney.

Westby - new co-op with Grenora, ND in boys' and girls' track and field.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD PROGRAM

Enclosed with this *Quick Bits* you will find NorthWestern Energy's Academic Excellence Award report form.

Please review the material and make plans to enter your school's students in the 2007-2008 competition. The award is very prestigious, and the interest in the award continues to grow. The deadline for returning the form is **July 1**.

MHSA DUES AND CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE

Each member school contact has been sent via email 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 1, 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. You may also access these forms by going to the MHSA website (mhsa.org) and going to "Top Forms".

COACHES' EDUCATION REPORT DUE

Enclosed with this publication 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, 2008**. **This report is mandatory.** Please contact Jo Austin at the MHSA office if you need assistance with the certification report.

2008-2009 MATERIALS ORDER FORM

Enclosed with this *Quick Bits* is the materials order form for 2008-2009. This form is provided for each school to order miscellaneous supplies such as extra rules books, score books etc.

NFHS PARTICIPATION SURVEYS

Enclosed with this *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 9, 2008.**

CLASS C REPRESENTATIVE TO BOARD

As most of you know, Jason Butcher was elected to the MHSA Executive Board during the 2008 Annual Meeting as the Class C Representative. Jason has accepted the superintendent position in Lewistown and wanted to share the following correspondence with the membership:

"I am writing this letter as a formal resignation for the MHSA Executive Board. I have accepted the Superintendent of Schools position in Lewistown Public Schools and therefore, I am unable to fulfill my duties as the Class C Representative on the Executive Board.

I am very honored to have been elected to this position and while I am very disappointed that I will not be able to serve on the MHSA Executive Board and represent Montana's Class C schools, I am excited for the opportunities and challenges that lie before me.

I am looking forward to continuing to play an active role in the MHSA. My thanks go out to you, the MHSA staff, the Executive Board and all the schools for supporting me."

Jason A. Butcher, Superintendent Shields Valley Public Schools

CLASS C REPRESENTATIVE PROCESS

The MHSA By-Laws stipulate that a ballot for one of the four elected positions will be held at each annual meeting, the purpose of which is to ensure continuity of the Executive Board. After considering a possible appointment to serve in the interim until the next Annual Meeting, the Board members determined that the intent of the By-Law would be better served by conducting a special election to fill the four-year term, which will maintain a four-year rotation of elected members.

In a first for our Association, online balloting was used to conduct two elections and we are in the process of tabulating the third and final ballot at the printing of this *Quick Bits*. In the first two ballots, no candidate received at least 50% of the votes cast, so per MHSA By-Laws a third ballot is being conducted with the top two candidates: Tim Tharp, Superintendent at Dutton/Brady Schools and Dave Perius, AD at Gardiner Schools. As soon as the votes are tabulated, we will notify member schools of the new Class C Representative to the Board.

This individual will be replacing outgoing Class C Representative Jim Baldwin. Jim was an outstanding Board member who has completed his four-year term, culminating with service as the 2007-2008 MHSA President. His unwavering support of high school activities throughout his educational career has been a boon to the Association, and the membership has been well served by his contributions as a Board member.

The MHSA Board and Executive Staff appreciate the four candidates who threw their names into the hat to run for the position and also appreciate member schools taking part in this historic online balloting process.



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 2007-2008 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 fundraiser or similar function. Cash cannot be awarded. If you have any questions about the awards rule, contact Scott McDonald 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 does not 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) even if the coach does not 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.

TRACK AND FIELD

2008 STATE TRACK & FIELD THROWING AND HORIZONTAL EVENTS WARMUPS

The Games Committee for the 2008 Track and Field meets has adopted a general warm-up before the start of state throwing and horizontal events for all competitors, then a period where only the flight's competitors are allowed to warm up before their flight starts competition.

NFHS CLARIFICATION OF USE OF BUNGEE CORD IN POLE VAULT

We have received questions about whether or not it is acceptable for a bungee cord to be used for warm-ups in the pole vault at an interscholastic track and field meet.

In 2006, the NFHS Track and Field Rules Committee discussed the use of the bungee cord for warm-ups at an interscholastic meet and agreed this would not be acceptable under Rule 7-5-16. This restriction would be in effect during the actual competition as well as the warm-up period prior to the event.

SITUATION: The pole vaulters from Team A want to use a bungee cord to place on the vaulting standards during warm-ups at the visiting school. The event judge for the pole vault informs the vaulters and their coach that this is not acceptable under Rule 7-5-16 during competition, and is not allowed during warm-ups, as the item is not the acceptable crossbar and may not be appropriate to be placed on this vaulting standard system. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Rule 7-5-16 is clear that a crossbar may not be used in warm-ups once the competition has begun. The field event judge has exercised the correct judgment for the pre-event warm-up, as only the use of a crossbar manufactured for the event should be used. Training devices such as bungee cords shall not be used at interscholastic meets.

TRACK AND FIELD UNIFORM CLARIFICATION

SITUATION: A competitor from Team A is warming up for the long jump wearing a long-sleeved, single-solid-color visible undergarment on which the seams are stitched on the outside of the garment in a visible contrasting color to the undergarment. The competitor asks the event judge if this undergarment is legal. The event judge indicates the undergarment is legal. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Rule 4-3-1d would prohibit the wearing of a visible, multicolored undergarment in competition. The contrasting thread in this situation serves a functional purpose in the basic construction of the garment. It is not a design sewn onto the garment. (4-3-1d)

AIM HIGHER

WORKSHOPS

The last workshop of the year was held in Butte on April 9, 2008. This workshop was conducted by AIM Higher facilitator Randy Shipman from Dillon and Brian Michelotti from the MHSA. Students from Butte High, Butte Central, Powell County and Shields Valley were in attendance. Butte High School hosted this workshop, and we appreciate their commitment to this very worthwhile program. The hazing/bullying section of the workshop was very well received by the students, along with the sportsmanship section in the afternoon. Many of these future leaders committed to go back to their school and make a positive difference.

A week earlier, a very successful workshop was conducted at Sidney High School by AIM Higher Facilitators Richy Powell and Connie Wittak. Students from Custer County, Dawson County, Fairview, Nashua, Sidney and Wibaux attended. Thanks to Sidney for hosting this workshop. The workshop focused on sportsmanship, leadership, mentoring, hazing awareness, and drug prevention. The students were very interactive, which made for a productive day for everyone.

This was the second year of the new format for the Aim Higher workshops. We are very pleased with the feedback we have received from the attendees and we will continue to update the information for future years. This year 484 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.

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. Registration sheets for the MCA clinic are not sent from the MHSA office but will come from MCA. In addition, AACCA certification will be offered for spirit coaches during the MCA clinics and National Federation coaches' education courses will be offered as well. A rules clinic will also be held during the conference. Please have your spirit coaches watch for information from MCA.

ENCLOSURES

NFHS Participation Survey
Coaches' Education Mandatory Report Form
2007-08 Academic Excellence Award Program
2008-09 Materials Order Form
NCAA Eligibility
Pole Vault Competitors' Event Verification Form
2007-08 Basketball Financial Summary
2007-08 Wrestling Financial Summary
2008-09 MOA Fee Schedule
May Calendar