



Quick Bits

A Montana High School Association Publication
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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION TOURNAMENT MANAGERS

If you managed a divisional or a state tournament during this winter season, please remember to return all of the banners sent to you by this office. These banners include MHSA, NorthWestern Energy, Farmers Union Insurance, Dairy Farmers, Mikasa and any other corporate sponsors that were included to the various sports tournaments. We appreciate your cooperation in returning these banners as soon as possible, the spring events are just around the corner!

SOFTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD RULES CLINICS

Enclosed with this *Quick Bits* are the instructions for viewing the on-line softball and track and field rules clinics. The softball and track and field clinics will be available for viewing beginning **March 1st and must be viewed by each school's head coach by Saturday, March 22nd to receive credit.**

Please note - to receive credit the clinics must be viewed by the head coach and must be viewed by March 22nd.

If you have any questions about the softball or track and field rules clinics, please call the MHSA office at 442-6010.

SAMPLE STUDENT INTEREST SURVEY

Enclosed with this *Quick Bits* are two sample student interest surveys. They differ because of the fall and spring golf seasons, which are separated by class. School districts may use the enclosed forms or edit the surveys.

It is important to survey your student population periodically even if your district has been successful in offering an equal number of sports. Annual surveys are not mandatory but surveys should be conducted on a regular basis. The MHSA office recommends conducting an interest survey every two years. **The completed surveys are to be kept on file in your district.**

OUT OF SEASON CONTEST GUIDELINES

This is the time of year when many out of season tournaments and contests take place. An information sheet with several out of season contest guidelines is enclosed. Please share this information with the appropriate administrators, coaches and student participants. If you have any questions please contact the MHSA office.

OPENGYM GUIDELINES

Montana High School Association rules allow schools to conduct "open gyms" or "open fields" in any activity. Coaches and schools cannot be involved in out-of-season practice for athletes (except from June 1st to July 31st).

However, open gyms do not violate MHSA rules if they are conducted according to the following guidelines:

1. The open gym is open to any youngster that is interested in attending.
2. There is no instruction during the open gym, whether by a coach or anyone else.
3. Coaches may supervise open gyms, but they may not instruct, organize drills etc., or participate with the students.
4. There is no organized competition, such as established teams participating in round-robin competitions etc.

The philosophy for the open gym is that youngsters may attend, for wholesome recreation, or for purposes of improving their skills, but it's something they do on their own. It would be a violation of MHSA rules to mandate attendance at open gyms or to limit participation based on athletic status.

EXECUTIVE BOARD ITEMS

BOARD TO MEET APRIL 17-18

The next regular meeting of the MHSA Executive Board will be Tuesday and Wednesday, April 17th and 18th at the MHSA office in Helena. The meeting will begin on Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. and continue Wednesday to finish the agenda's business.

At this regularly scheduled meeting the Executive Board members will be focusing on the following agenda items:

1. Financial reports of winter sports season's culminating events.
2. Board & Staff reports of winter season's activities final events.
3. Standing MHSA committee's appointments.
4. Election of 2007-2008 officers.
5. Bids for State sites 2008-2009.

SOFTBALL

NOTES FOR 2007 SEASON

In February, the following information for this year's softball season was mailed to softball contacts - Softball Rules Book, Softball Rules Changes and Major Editorial Revisions, Points of Emphasis, General Rules and Regulations from the MHSA Handbook, MHSA/MOA Softball Rules Clinic Information, 2007 NFHS Softball Rules Interpretations, Enforcement Procedure for the NFHS Bat Standards and information on Illegal Pitches. If you have any questions on this information please contact Mark Beckman at the MHSA office.

Please note - effective immediately the inning limitation for pitching has been eliminated. The previous rule limited a pitcher to 14 innings per day. Now a pitcher can pitch unlimited innings per day.



MUSIC

COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS

Music teachers and administrators are reminded that Xerox copies of literature to be performed at District and State Festivals are illegal. The performer and the adjudicator should both be using published music. Music instructors are reminded that each adjudicator needs an original score for each number performed.

ALL-STATE CODE NUMBERS REMINDER

All-State code numbers were sent under separate cover to all music teachers in February. These codes must be used when submitting auditions for All-State Band, Orchestra and Choir. If you have questions regarding these codes please contact the MHSa office after your district festivals.

WRESTLING

STATE TOURNAMENT COMPLETED

The 2007 State Wrestling Tournament went very well again this year. The All Class Tournament has been in place for nineteen years, and everyone involved in the great event ensures that it runs smoother each year. Once again the skin condition / grooming checks were completed successfully. The coaches and school administration should be complimented for making skin checks a part of their post season preparation. Ten wrestlers needed to be further examined by our doctors, and in almost every case, the wrestlers had paperwork explaining the treatment of the area in question. As everyone knows with the situation in Minnesota earlier this year where wrestling was suspended for eight days in the entire state, we must continue to take preventative measures to protect our wrestlers from the spread of infectious diseases.

As we look forward to the twentieth anniversary of the All Class State Wrestling Tournament, we will be instituting one major change for next year. The current award process on Saturday night requires that wrestling stop twice during the championship night for twenty to twenty-five minutes to give individual awards after five weight classes have wrestled. Next year, the 98 lb weight class will be awarded immediately following the 105 lb weight class, then the 105 lb weight class will be awarded directly after the 112 lb weight class and so on. We feel this will help the event flow even better, while still recognizing the great achievements of these wrestlers.

There was one negative from this year's tournament: the cooler room. We sent pictures to all wrestling schools showing the heap of garbage left in this room. We do need everyone's assistance next year to make sure this room is kept cleaner, or we will not be able to have the luxury of wrestling teams bringing in coolers in future years.

Thanks to everyone for a great tournament and we look forward to the twentieth annual State All Class Wrestling Tournament.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1	First date for practice in softball, track & field, tennis and golf (Classes B & C)
March 14	AIM Higher Workshop - Butte
March 17	First date for competition in golf (Classes B & C)
March 23	First date for competition in softball, track & field and tennis (all classes)
March 26	MOA Qualifying Exam for softball

April 9-10	District Music Festival - 9
April 11	AIM Higher Workshop - Glendive
April 12-13	District Music Festival - 6
April 13-14	District Music Festival - 1, 7, 11, 13
April 17-18	MHSa Executive Board Meeting
April 20-21	District Music Festivals - 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12

GOLF

CLASS C REMINDER

This is a reminder that Robert Swanson from Valier High School, who is the Class C Divisional scorer, must record individual scores from meets held during the regular season. He will send each golfer's record of eligible competitions to the state tournament manager one week before the state tournament practice round. Schools must insure that these qualifying scores be earned during a meet/tournament. Also, this is the first year that Class B will have divisionals. The divisionals will be held the week of May 7-12.

The Class B State Golf Tournament is May 15-16 at the Marias Valley Golf Course in Shelby and the Class C Tournament is May 15-16 at Judith Shadows Golf Course in Lewistown.

CLASSIFIEDS

CHECK THE WEBSITE

The MHSa has added a new service to our Website. We now have a Games Wanted / Classified Ad section that all schools can utilize. In any of your sports or activities, please submit any dates you need a game or have an open date so other schools can come to a central area to see your needs and respond directly to you. This link is located on the MHSa website as www.mhsa.org in the quick links area on the MHSa front page and on each activity page. We encourage every school to begin using this service immediately.

ENCLOSURES

2007 Track & Field and Cross Country Rule Interpretations
2007-08 NFHS Football Rules Change Press Release
High School Football Jerseys - Effective 2012
2007 Softball, Track & Field Rules Clinic Instructions
2007-08 Volleyball Rules Revisions
Sample Student Interest Surveys
Out of Season Guidelines
April Calendar

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.

