



Montana High School Association

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October, 2009

TO: MHSA SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

FROM: MARK BECKMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: MHSA/U.S. BANK SPORTSMANSHIP PROGRAM

The MHSA is pleased to announce that U.S. Bank has once again renewed their title sponsorship for the successful sportsmanship program for member schools and their communities. This is the third year of this very popular initiative and the MHSA is very fortunate to have U.S. Bank as a partner providing the valuable components of this program. The MHSA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program will continue to provide many resources for member schools to use in promoting and rewarding good sporting behaviors by players, coaches and spectators at interscholastic activities. The MHSA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program offers three tiers of recognition for positive behaviors:

1. A medal program for recognizing good sporting behaviors at regular season games;
2. A certificate program, known as the Super Fan Program, for recognizing schools' long-time fans for their positive support of high school activities; and
3. A banner program for recognizing good sporting behaviors as a cornerstone of each school's activities programs.

The Montana High School Association is proud to be partnered once again with U.S. Bank to provide this valuable program for our 179 member schools and their communities. Wayne Hirsch, Regional President of U.S. Bank in Montana, said, "Through the MHSA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program, students will learn important lessons through their participation in high school activities that will stay with them throughout their adult lives. We're pleased to continue our support of the Montana High School Association and this unique program."

One program that will be offered is the **MHSA/U.S. Bank Local Recognition Award**. The purpose of this program is to recognize good citizenship and sportsmanship. The program is designed for each game, and schools can either present an award to one student-athlete or to one student-athlete from each team, chosen for exceptional sportsmanship during that game. U.S. Bank will provide recognition in the form of medals for participating schools to present to players who meet the criteria of the good citizenship program during regular season contests. The following links will provide you more information on the Local Recognition Medal Program:

[Steps for Implementing Local Recognition Program](#)
[Local Recognition Medal Program – Criteria to Select the Recipient\(s\)](#)
[Local Recognition Medal Program – Sample Awards Presentations](#)

(Hard copies of all the information will be mailed with other program resources in the near future).

The **MHSA/U.S. Bank Super Fan Award** is a continuing component of this program. Schools can recognize "Super Fans" from their communities. Super Fans are those fans that have supported

high school activities in special ways such as supporting all activity participants including coaches and officials, promoting good citizenship in extra-curricular activities, proudly representing their community at extra-curricular activities and long time attendance at regular season contests and/or post season events. Schools can nominate their Super Fan(s) by submitting a nomination form that is available through the hyperlink below. Member schools have selected 117 Super Fans since the inception of the program. We hear so much about “bad” fans, it is important for all involved to recognize fans who set a “good” example. The following link will provide you more information on the Super Fan Program:

[Super Fan Program](#)

The **MHSA/U.S Bank Sportsmanship Banner Program** will once again be offered but this year, with U.S. Banks continued generous support, we will be sending every MHSA school a banner to encourage “Good Sports” in your school and community. We realize that every school works hard to promote good sporting behaviors and, hopefully, this banner will help support each school efforts by being a visible reminder to every coach, player and fan that participate and watch high school sporting events at that venue.

To participate in any of the components of the MHSA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program please call or email Brian Michelotti, MHSA Assistant Director at – 442-6010 or bmichelotti@mhsa.org. **There is no cost to participating schools for these programs.** Our hope is that schools will give these positive, proactive programs a try.

In a separate mailing, copies of the popular MHSA / U.S. Bank Sportsmanship posters (3 R’s of Activities) will be sent to each school. Please display these posters in visible areas of your school to promote good sporting behavior by coaches, players and fans. Also, information about these programs and many more resources can be found on the MHSA / U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Page. This page is located at <http://www.mhsa.org/Sportsmanship/Sportsmanship.htm>. You can also navigate to this page from our homepage at www.mhsa.org and following the appropriate links to the sportsmanship page.

The MHSA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program will also be providing many new resources this year, similar to the Sportsmanship DVD’s sent the past two years. Two years ago this program provided each school with Bruce Brown’s “Parents Role In Athletics” DVD. This DVD has been utilized in many preseason parent meetings throughout the state. Last year we provided the NFHS Sportsmanship Kit to every school and the resources contained in that program have been well received. Be on the lookout for similar new resources during the year to aid your promotion of good sporting behaviors.

Also, a reminder that the MHSA / U.S. Bank required sportsmanship clinic is now available online at www.mhsa.org. Member schools are required to have an on site administrator and/or athletic/activities director who have attended an in-service clinic on sportsmanship.

Thank you for your efforts in promoting good sporting behaviors by coaches, players, student and adult fans. Hopefully some of the resources from the MHSA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program will be helpful in your promotion.

MB/jlh

Enclosures