



THE OFFICIAL WORD

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A Publication of the Montana Officials' Association

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It is hard to believe that spring championships are around the corner. We have had a great spring and are excited to gear up for all our spring championships. Postseason baseball and softball are upon us. We are in the process of hiring officials for both sports. Scott Wilson and Amy Bartels will be in contact as they finalize the ballots from our schools.

Everyone in the MHSА/MOА office has settled into their positions this year. The hard work and dedication of our staff has created many positive changes in our association. We will continue to grow and are excited for the challenges in the future.

The MOA, through action by the Regional Directors, has brought forth rules and regulation changes/additions for the benefit of the MOA membership. The Regional Directors meet in person in December and recently via zoom in April to discuss issues related to officiating MHSА sports. The MOA Regional Directors took the following action for the 2025-26 School year:

- [Action Approved April 8, 2025 - Click Here](#)

The MOA Regional Director Board is dedicated to guiding the MOA Officials membership towards a positive and progressive future. Their commitment to addressing various challenges has laid a comprehensive roadmap for our growth. We are grateful for their unwavering support and advocacy for officials across the state.

We are also thrilled to announce the upcoming implementation of the new Arbiter Platform for our officials and member high schools next year. This significant change for the MHSА/MOА represents a commitment to enhancing communication and efficiency. We are determined to make this a state-of-the-art tool for everyone involved. Please reach

out to us with any questions or concerns as we work together to ensure a seamless transition for the 2025-26 season.

It has been a great year in the MHSА and MOА, and we appreciate everyone's support.

Brian Michelotti
MOA Commissioner

2025 - 26 Registration Information

All MOA Registration Information will be available on the MOA Section of the MHSА website on May 1st, 2025, at the following link.

[MOA Information - Click Here](#)

Registration Open – All Sports
May 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025

Late Payment

July 1, 2025, or after seeing the following regarding late payment information:

- Renewed officials will receive a \$25 late fee and will be required to retest with the score equivalent to the officials rating.
- All requirements must be completed to officiate as an MOA.
- Late pay officials at any level will not be allowed to upgrade in any sport for the 2025-26 year.
- Only MOA officials in good standing may officiate at the varsity level.
- Renewed officials must complete all requirements by the published deadlines.
- New officials or eligible reinstating officials do not have requirement deadlines but are required to follow MOA rules and regulations when officiating at all levels.

Master Officials - Postseason Information

- If a master official pays dues late, they must pay the late fee of \$25 and test at the equivalent test score to be eligible. Tests must be completed prior to the published deadline.
- Late Requirement(s) – Master Official
 - A master official that does not complete the requirement(s) by the published deadline will be ineligible for any postseason.
 - A master official may reinstate to be eligible for postseason by paying a fee of \$25 per late requirement and completing the requirement(s) per MOA rules and regulations.
- All fees must be paid on Arbiter no later than 7 days following fee notification from the MOA office.
- All requirements must be completed, uploaded, and approved on Arbiter prior to participating in any varsity contest.
- No official may participate in any contest at any level without completing the NFHS Concussion in Sport requirement.

Reciprocity - Members of the MOA can join as members of the official association in the bordering states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and/or Idaho by paying dues of \$20.00 per sport to the state organization(s).

MOA Regional Directors Election

Regions 1, 2 & 3 have opened Regional Directors Positions. Submissions for any active official are due not later than Monday, April 21st, 2025. Submission must include a letter of interest, and a personal biography sent to the MOA office at abartels@mhsa.org.

May 1st - Ballots are sent only to the regions that have an open regional director position.

May 15th - Ballots are due to the MOA office via electronic ballot.

Electronic ballot information will be sent to regions with an open position. Only active MOA officials are eligible to vote and only one submission per active official is allowed.

Postseason Tournament Officials

Follow the link below to access the MOA Tab/Archives for all MOA information archived including postseason tournament officials for all sports.

This section is in the process of being updated with all past postseason tournament officials. Additional information will continue to be provided throughout the summer.

2024-25 Postseason Officials - Click on the following link to access the MOA Archives.

[MOA Archives - Click to View](#)

Officials Information Updates

Official information including name, address, email, phone, sports, and sport pool(s) must be updated. MOA information will be sent to your current information on your Arbiter account. The MHSAs/MOAs will not be responsible for late requirements due to inaccurate information on your Arbiter account.

Contest payments: Schools will access your information from your Arbiter account. Your address needs to be correct, or they may not be able to pay you in a timely manner.

W9 Forms: Schools that require a form to be filled out must have this completed by all officials before they will be paid any contest fees. If you have questions, contact the school as necessary for information on this process.

Do not create additional accounts due to the inability to access your Arbiter account. This may impact rating, years of service, delay testing and uploading requirements, or games assigned games.

Contact Arbiter to get help with any account issues:

For any help with Arbiter, you may always access the [Arbiter Help Articles – Click Here](#)

Technical Support - 800-311-4060

Email: Support@arbitersports.com

The MHSAs/MOAs office cannot access any Arbiter Pay information, please reach out directly to Arbiter.

Officials Requirements

NFHS Concussion in Sport:

Each MOA official who works in any MHSAs contest must complete the NFHS Concussion in Sports course each year. That course must be taken after June 1st for the subsequent school year and must be completed before officiating scrimmages or contests. If an official is to receive credit for attendance, they must complete the clinic prior to the published deadline in the format provided.

MHSAs Sport Rules Clinic:

The MOA will offer rules clinics in football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, softball, baseball, and wrestling. If an official is to receive credit for attendance, they must complete the clinic prior to the published deadline in the format provided. Rules Clinics must be completed by the individual official and may not be watched by a group. For the 2025-26 season Arbiter will manage all rules clinics. A email with instructions will come closer to each season.

Testing:

Officials that are required to test include new officials, eligible upgrading officials, late pay officials, and reinstating officials.

All testing officials are required to test at a score equivalent to their rating. The required scores are as follows:

- Apprentice or Associate: 60% or higher.
- Certified: 70% or higher
- Master: 80% or higher

All certificates **must** be uploaded or transferred into your Arbiter account to be verified and approved.

Exam/Rule Clinic Dates:

- Fall August 1 – August 27, 2025
- Winter November 1 – December 3, 2025
- Spring March 1 – March 25, 2026

**** renewed officials only ****

Upgrading:

All officials that are eligible to upgrade are required to turn in a Request to Upgrade form to the MOA

office 7 days prior to the opening of the testing window.

Upgrading officials will not be eligible to test without submitting a Request to Test Form submitted by the deadline and approved by the MOA office. Forms are available on the MHSAs website at [MOA Forms](#).

Requirement Due Dates

Fall	Aug 27, 2025
Winter	December 3, 2025
Spring	March 1, 2025

Hall of Fame

The selection of candidates will occur every year. Nomination forms are routed through the Regional Directors and are due in the MOA office by April 1st of each year. Nominees remain for a period of five years.

April 1st: Nominations due to the MOA office.

May 20th: Inductees are notified.

June 15th - July 1st: Inductees are announced to the media.

NFHS Publications Information

NFHS Books & Preseason Guides:

The MOA will send out a physical copy of the rules/case book, officials manual (2-year restriction) and preseason guides to all officials this upcoming season. Officials' manual may be sent directly to pools for disbursement.

It is important to get registered from May 1st - June 30th each year to receive your NFHS publications and MHSAs information in a timely manner.

An electronic version of the NFHS Rules Book will not be available through the MOA, but may be purchased from the NFHS at <https://allaccess.nfhs.org/Help>

Preseason Guides:

Preseason Guides will be mailed with each official's packet prior to the season or within seven business days after registration is completed.

Pool information

All officials must be a part of one pool for each sport. This must be updated in your Arbiter account. If you are not a part of a pool your pool leader/assignors will not be able to assign you in Arbiter.

If a school pays an official through Arbiter, you will need to set up your Arbiter Pay account to access your contest fees. See the following link for help setting up your My Money account.

[Arbiter Pay Support – Click Here](#)

OPI Renewal Units

The MHSA has been approved as an OPI Renewal Unit Provider. All NFHS courses will be allowed for currently employed and licensed educators.

Additional information can be found on the MHSA website at www.mhsa.org. For all questions contact Amy Bartels at abartels@mhsa.org.

MOA - Officials Apparel

Please click the following link for all new MOA apparel selections.

<https://purchaseofficials.com/collections/montana>

Visit the MOA section of the MHSA website at www.mhsa.org for all MOA Information

Arbiter Central Hub

The MOA Central Hub in Arbiter will be available and MOA information will be updated as the MHSA/MOA transitions in the Arbiter System.

At this time, you may always refer to the MOA section on the MHSA website.