



MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

PROMOTING SUCCESS ON THE COURT, ON THE FIELD, ON STAGE
AND EVERYWHERE ELSE UNDER THE BIG SKY SINCE 1921.

April 25, 2024

TO: MHSА MEMBER SCHOOLS

FROM: BRIAN MICHELOTTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: APRIL EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION

The Montana High School Association Executive Board conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on April 22-23, 2024, and the following action was taken:

1. The Board reviewed reports regarding recently held state tournaments in Speech and Drama, Wrestling, Basketball, and Swimming. The Executive Board and MHSA staff appreciate the tournament managers and the venue personnel that administered and hosted those extremely successful events.
2. The Board elected John Fitzgerald, Superintendent at Red Lodge Public Schools and the Class B Representative to the Board, as the new Board President and Kara Triplett, the Superintendent at Lambert Public Schools and Class C Representative, as the new Vice-President.
3. The Board approved ESports and Girls' Flag Football as emerging sports to pilot these new sports in the MHSA for two years.
4. The Board awarded the 2025-26 Annual Meeting to the Delta Hotel and Convention Center in Helena.
5. The MHSA has updated the Pre-Participation Physical Exam form for the 2024-25 school year. The Board approved important additions to this form. Specifically, PHQ-4 questions concerning mental health of the student were added and the format of the document was updated. MHSA corporate partner Logan Health continues as the official recommended health care provider of the MHSA. [Click here for the updated form to use after May 1, 2024.](#)
6. The Board reviewed and approved the 2022-23 Audit Report.
7. The Board approved a date change for 2025 for the district #1 Music Festival. The new dates will be April 10-12, 2025.
8. The Board approved the request to postpone separating girls and boys for practice in the sport of wrestling. The MHSA, in consultation with our legal counsel, is drafting a memo to send to each MHSA wrestling school soon with recommendations regarding criteria for practice plans. This postponement of the gender specific practice rule will remain in effect until the 2028-29 season, at which time, each school will be expected to have gender specific practice plans in place.
9. Effective in 2025-26, the following schools were reclassified and assigned to the district/divisions as indicated (district and division assignments are tentative with final action on alignment to be taken at the November Executive Board Meeting):
 - Plentywood High School from Class C to Class B. Plentywood High School is tentatively assigned to District 2B for basketball, volleyball and track and field and Class B for boys' and girls' cross country and the Southeast Division for golf. Plentywood will remain in the Eastern Division for eight-player football and the Eastern Division for B-C wrestling.



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- Fort Benton High School from Class C to Class B. Fort Benton High School is tentatively assigned to District 1B for basketball, volleyball and track and field, and the Northern Division for girls' and boys' golf. Fort Benton will remain in the Northern Division for eight-player football, and the Eastern Division for B-C wrestling.
- Superior High School from Class B to Class C. Superior High School is tentatively assigned to District 13C for basketball, volleyball and track and field and the Western Division for boys' and girls' golf. They will remain in the Western Division for B-C wrestling, the Western Division for eight-player football and the Northwest Division for girls' tennis.
- Park City High School from Class B to Class C. Park City High School is tentatively assigned to District 6C for basketball and track and field, 4C for volleyball, Class C for boys' and girls' cross country and the Eastern Division for boys' and girls' golf. They will remain in the Southern Division for eight-player football.
- The following schools met the enrollment guidelines to change classifications, but petitioned the Board to remain in their current classification:
 - Butte Central Catholic High School will remain in Class A.
 - Cascade High School will remain in Class C.

The following information is being sent to member schools for a two-week notice period.

Baseball

10. The Board approved a new policy for baseball play-in contests in regard to the game ending procedures. [Click here to see the adopted language.](#)

Basketball

11. The Board approved a new policy for assigning offsite game locations for Saturday morning games at the state basketball tournaments. The gym assignments for Saturday morning contests will not be determined until after the Friday semifinal games are completed. The following factors would be used to determine which games are played at the main tournament site and which games are played at the secondary site:
 - A team will not play in their home gym.
 - Different gender teams from the same school should not play at separate locations.
 - Gym capacity could be considered for crowd size.

Brackets would be updated with gym assignments Friday night and affected teams would be notified as soon as possible.

Football

12. The Board approved a 4-year rotation for 8-Player football playoff brackets with the new 4-Division format. [Click here to view the 8-Player playoff brackets.](#)
13. The Board approved the timeline for football reclassification. [Click here to view this timeline.](#)



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14. The Board approved a change to the process for awarding football conference trophies. In the future, conference presidents can request that trophies for football divisional winners be sent earlier so the trophy can be presented immediately after the final regular season contest.

Softball

15. The board re-aligned Manhattan High School to the East for B/C Softball.

Track and Field

16. The Board approved allowing schools to conduct non-high school track & field meets at the same time as high school district track & field meets. The high school and non-high school events must be conducted separately. This is being allowed to provide adequate rest time between races and to utilize the same workers. This change is effective for the 2023-24 MHSA Track & Field season.

Wrestling

17. The Board approved the State Wrestling Tournament to be scheduled as a 3-day tournament beginning in the 2024-25 school year. [Click here to see the proposed schedule.](#)
18. The board approved changes to the wrestling weight classes. The boys and the girls divisions will go to 14 weight classes. [Click here to view the new wrestling weight classes.](#)

General

19. The Board approved significant changes to the cooperative sponsorship (co-op) language.
 - **Removed the 3-year contract** -The co-op shall be **continuous** unless an application for dissolution is submitted to the MHSA. However, the MHSA may terminate said agreement based upon valid reason as determined by the MHSA to become effective at the conclusion of a school year. An Application for Dissolution is required from only one member school of the cooperative. **Existing co-ops are grandfathered and do not need to be renewed this year.**
 - Schools in each co-op are allowed to have an official name recognized by the MHSA that is different from the combination of school names (Ex: Saco-Whitewater-Hinsdale could officially be called North Country in the MHSA Handbook and on tournament brackets).
 - February 1st is the application deadline for new co-ops and also for the dissolution of existing co-ops (for all sports except football).
 - Football co-ops will be reviewed on the same cycle as football reclassification (2-year cycle). Enrollment and participation data may be requested by the MHSA office to determine if a cooperative sponsorship will be dissolved or reclassified.
20. The Board approved a new AED and CPR requirement for coaches. The MHSA requires completion of the NFHS Learn CPR & AED Training course prior to contact with student-athletes. Certification is good for a one-year period. *
 - * The following courses/certifications can be substituted for the NFHS Learn CPR & AED course (**for two years**):



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1. American Heart Association

- Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR & AED Training
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS)
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) for Experienced Providers
- Heartsaver CPR/AED

2. American Red Cross

- In-person class and skills check OR online class and in-person skills check
- Advanced Life Support (ALS)
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)

21. The Board approved a change in security policy at all postseason events to utilize safety measures such as metal detectors and/or bag check procedures when available at the site.

22. The Board approved a change to the MHSA Open Gym policy. One on one instruction will be allowed in open gyms as long as it is separate from the group activity.

Montana Officials Association

23. The Board approved the following MOA items:

- 6-year MHSA / MOA regular season fee plan- [Click to Link](#).
- 6-year MHSA / MOA postseason fee plan- [Click to Link](#).
- Regular season change for officials' mileage - When an official is assigned a contest in the pool site city, but lives outside that city, they shall get paid round trip mileage and per diem from their home zip code to the pool city or zip code.
- Regular Season per diem rate increased from \$0.12 per mile to \$.16 per mile.
- Post Season per diem rate increased \$5.00.

Other items for your information:

The MHSA Executive Board placed the [state events for 2025-26](#) and the remaining [state events for 2024-25](#). [Click on this link to access the CALENDAR page of the MHSA website](#)