



# MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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

April 20, 2023

**TO: MHS 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 17-18, 2023. 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 MHS staff appreciate the managers and the venue personnel that administered and hosted those extremely successful events.
2. The Board elected Steve Thennis, Principal at Helena High School and the Class AA Representative, as the new Board President. Krystal Zentner, Montana School Boards Association Representative from Bridger, was elected as Vice-President.
3. The Board approved changes to the MHS Committees:
  - New appointees to various MHS committees were approved.
  - The name of the Athletic Committee is now the Sport Advisory Rules Review Committee.
  - The Multicultural Committee will now be the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee.
  - Two at-large positions will be appointed to each of our committees. There will be one Native American and one female representative on each of our advisory committees.
  - The Speech and Drama Committee representation will be adjusted to be consistent with other MHS committees.
4. The Board reviewed and approved the Audit Report.
5. The Board awarded the 2024-2025 Annual Meeting to the Billings Hotel and Convention Center
6. The Board approved MHS as an OPI Renewal Unit provider for our NFHS Rules Clinics.

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

1. The Board approved the following language for live streaming in MHS Schools:
  - All Post Season live video-streaming of MHS events will be exclusively broadcast on the NFHS Network.



# MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

---

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

- All video streaming of regular season events must be approved by the MHSA Executive Director. The NFHS Network is the preferred service of the MHSA. If a school uses a different commercial company for streaming their regular events, these events must also be live parallel streamed on the NFHS Network.
2. The Board approved changing the number of preseason days of practice from 10 to 8 in all sports except football and golf. Football will remain at 10 and golf will remain at 2 preseason required practices.
  3. The Board approved a policy to send digital NFHS rule books to schools for all sports beginning in the 2023-24 school year. A hard copy of the rule book can be received upon request.
  4. The Board approved the following MHSA Post Season Ticket Prices for the 2023-24 school year. [Click here to view the new state tournament prices](#)
  5. MOA Items
    - The Board approved One Way Mileage for Officials for the postseason.
    - The Board approved an increase in sub-varsity pay for MOA officials. The current fee is \$48 per game, and this will go to \$55 per game beginning in the 2023-24 school year.
    - The Board approved a change to the MOA soccer assigning policy and fee structure. [Click here to view the new policy and fee structure.](#)
  6. The Board approved the following for walk-up music in MHSA Baseball and Softball
    - **Baseball** - Walk-up music may be played if approved by the school's administration. Each team can choose their own approved music. Administrators should review the music to determine its appropriateness. Walk-up music should stop the moment the batter steps into the batter's box. Officials may order the music turned down or off if the music is inappropriate or is interfering with the orderly administration of the game.
    - **Softball** - Walk-up music may be played if approved by the school's administration. Each team can choose their own approved music. Administrators should review the music to determine its appropriateness. Walk-up music should stop the moment the batter steps into the batter's box. Officials may order the music turned down or off if the music is inappropriate or is interfering with the orderly administration of the game.
  7. The MHSA has updated the Pre-Participation Physical Exam form for the 2023-24 school year. The Board approved the removal of Covid-19 Language and the addition of MHSA new corporate partner Logan Health as the official recommended health care provider of the MHSA. [Click Here for the updated form to use after May 1, 2023.](#)



# MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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

8. The Board approved revised language, criteria, and procedures for football reclassification. [Click here to view this change.](#)
9. The Board approved changes to the MHSA jewelry policy. Effective immediately in the 2022-23 spring season, ***Jewelry can be worn if allowed by NFHS rules or governing body for the sport (USGA or USTA).***
10. The Board approved a new rule regarding the additional practice requirements when a student transfers to another school. If a student transfers to a new school after completing the required days of preseason practices for their sport or activity, the student must complete an additional number of practices (equal to half the # of required practices for that sport or activity) at their new school.
11. The board approved the following changes to the MHSA Summer Coaching rule. This rule will be in place beginning immediately:
  - ***The team coaching rule is suspended from the Tuesday after Memorial Day through July 31<sup>st</sup>. The team coaching rule for MHSA Baseball coaches is suspended from the Sunday after the State Baseball Tournament through July 31<sup>st</sup>.*** This means a coach of a team sport can coach his/her players anytime, anywhere, during this period. During this period a team can scrimmage against another team without violating the out-of-season contest requirements (renting facility etc.). ***Practice, competition, and facility use during the coaching rule suspension are not covered by MHSA insurance (liability, catastrophic, concussion etc.).***
  - The team coaching rule is in effect from August 1 - ***the Tuesday after Memorial Day.*** ***The team coaching rule for MHSA Baseball coaches*** is in effect from August 1 - ***the Sunday after the MHSA State Baseball Tournament.*** This means that there is to be no coaching of one's team sport (team sports being football, basketball, volleyball, softball, and soccer) out of season other than the one-on-one provision allowed presently. Coaches of individual sports (individual sports being cross country, wrestling, track and field, swimming, golf, and tennis) are not affected by this rule.
12. The Board approved a change in Volleyball to go back to switching benches between sets.
13. The board approved language regarding the participation on outside club teams during the MHSA team sport seasons - [Click here to view the new language](#)

### **Other items for your information:**

The MHSA Executive Board placed the [state events for 2024-25](#) and for the remaining [state events for 2023-24](#). [Click on this link to access the CALENDAR page of the MHSA website.](#)