



MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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

July 13, 2022

TO: MHPA MEMBER SCHOOLS

FROM: BRIAN MICHELOTTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: JUNE/JULY EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION

The Montana High School Association Executive Board conducted meetings on June 22, 2022 and July 7, 2022 and the following actions were taken:

1. The Board reviewed reports regarding state championships held in the spring including golf, tennis, softball and track and field. The Executive Board and MHSA staff appreciates the managers and the venue personnel that administered and hosted these extremely successful events.
2. The Board heard reports from each of the classification's summer meetings held in June of 2022.
3. The Board awarded the 2023 State Class C Golf Meet to Anaconda Hills Golf Course in Great Falls, May 15-17, 2023.
4. Because of structural issues at the Bozeman Swim Center, the Board changed the site for the 2023 MHSA State Swim Meet to be held in Great Falls at Great Falls High School. The dates of the event will remain the same on February 10-11, 2023.
5. The Board added the final Executive Board meeting date for the 2022-23 school year for June 22, 2023. This meeting, held via Zoom, has been posted to allow classifications to set their summer meetings to allow ample time to present changes for the following school year.
6. The Board heard reports regarding the installation of basketball shot clocks in MHSA schools for the coming basketball season. The Board will review the progress in September to determine if any adjustments need to be made.

The following information is being sent to member schools for a two-week notice period. All changes are effective for the 2022-23 school year:

Basketball

- 1) The Board approved Class A to go back to an eight (8) team state tournament in basketball for the 22-23 season with the addition of a play-in game between West #5 and East #4 prior to the tournament at a neutral site.

Baseball

- 1) The Board approved the MHSA staff to add rules to the MHSA Handbook to mirror the MHSA Softball section of the Handbook.
- 2) The Board heard reports of the anticipated number of teams that will be participating in Baseball in 2023. At this point, there will be eighteen (18) teams in three (3) divisions. A Baseball scheduling committee will be formed to assist with scheduling for the first season.
- 3) The Board approved an eight (8) team state tournament format. The MHSA will send information out to communities interested in bidding on the first state tournament in 2023.



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- 4) The Board approved the pitch count rules for the 2023 season. [Approved Baseball Pitch Count Rules](#).

Flag Football - Girls

- 1) The Board heard reports on the number of teams that will be playing Girls' Flag Football next fall. Three teams will be participating, with a championship date set for early October.
- 2) The Board approved the MHSA staff to add rules to the MHSA Handbook to mirror the MHSA Football section of the Handbook.

Football

- 1) The Board approved adjustments to the Class AA State Football Brackets. There will not be any reseeding in football next year. [Approved Class AA Football Brackets](#)
- 2) The Board approved adjustments to the Class A State Football Bracket. The number one seed in the West will move to the top of the bracket. [Approved Class A Football Brackets](#)
- 3) The Board approved an adjustment to the Class A playoff football financial distribution. The following language will be added: *The expenses paid to schools will be paid as gate receipts allow. No school will be required to pay expenses beyond the income from the gate receipts.*
- 4) The Board approved adjustments to the Eight-Player Football Brackets. They have approved a five-year rotation for the 5 conferences. [Approved Eight Player Football Brackets](#)

Golf

- 1) The Board approved that Class B state golf tournaments use a shotgun start for the practice round, but to utilize tee times for both days of competition.
- 2) The Board approved that Class C state golf tournaments use a shotgun start for the practice round and the first day of competition, but use tee times for the final day of competition.
- 3) The Board directed the staff to research a platform to use for electronic scoring in the regular and postseason for the future.

Soccer

- 1) The Board approved an adjustment to the mercy rule for Class A soccer. When a team is winning by 8 and 9 goals, they will not reduce their number of players and when the goal differential is 10 goals, the contest ends.
- 2) The Board approved the Class AA State Soccer brackets. [Approved Class AA Soccer Brackets](#)
- 3) The Board approved the Class AA to allow 22 (20 in the past) players to dress for post season soccer contests.

Softball

- 1) The Board approved a 10:00 a.m. start on Saturday at the Class A State Softball Tournament.

Speech, Drama and Debate

- 1) The Board approved the Class AA proposal to allow 4 entries per event with no cap at the state tournament
- 2) The Board approved the addition of the event Duo Interpretation in Class A Speech.



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Tennis

- 1) The Board approved a new uniform rule in Tennis for all classes.

Track and Field

- 1) The Board approved updated Track and Field qualifying standards for each classification. [Approved Track and Field Qualifying Standards.](#)
- 2) The Board approved adding the Class AA/A and B/C option to the State Track and Field Meet rotation. Classifications voted unanimously to add the third option in the future, which now will be AA/B and A/C; AA/C and A/B; and AA-A and B/C.

Volleyball

- 1) The Board approved Class A to go back to an eight (8) team state tournament in volleyball for the 22-23 season with the addition of a play-in game between West #5 and East #4 prior to the tournament at a neutral site.
- 2) The Board approved in Class AA in cross-conference volleyball double headers to allow sub-varsity games to be the best of three and varsity matches to be the best of 5.

Wrestling

- 1) The Board approved in Class AA for team scores at the Divisional and State Wrestling Tournaments to be calculated by scoring the top thirteen (13) scorers from each team.
- 2) The Board approved in Class A to fill byes at the State Wrestling Tournament with wrestlers from the other division.
- 3) The Board approved in Class B/C new qualifying language for the State Wrestling Tournament. Class B/C will base the number of state qualifiers on the equitable distribution of qualifiers (EDQ) formula for each weight class. The EDQ formula will be a total of divisional participants divided by total potential qualifiers in both divisions multiplied by sixteen (the number of state qualifiers) with no less than 6 per division.
- 4) The Board also approved in Class B/C for the divisional brackets to be posted online on Friday at noon for both the East and West. At that time, the EDQ formula can be used to determine the exact number of qualifiers for state that each division will receive for each weight class.

General

- 1) The Board approved the Class AA awards adjustments for Divisional traveling trophies and medals in Golf, Tennis, Track & Field and Wrestling.
- 2) The Board approved adjustments to the MOA postseason fees for 2022-23 to align with regular season fee structure increases. [Approved 2022-23 Postseason Fees.](#)
- 3) The Board approved the MHSAA to form a MHSAA / MOA Committee of Administrators and Officials to address future fees, assignment procedures and other issues to build relationships, recruit and retain officials.
- 4) The Board approved the addition of an MHSAA / MOA Rules Interpreter in Basketball, Football, Softball, Track & Field and Volleyball. The MHSAA currently has rule interpreters in Soccer, Swimming and Wrestling.
- 5) The Board approved waiving the co-op deadline and the enrollment requirement to allow a co-op in basketball and volleyball for Harlowton / Ryegate and Judith Gap



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- 6) The Board approved a co-op enrollment waiver for girls' and boys' basketball and golf for Whitehall, Harrison and Willow Creek.
- 7) The Board approved a co-op enrollment waiver for softball for East Helena and Jefferson.

Final action was taken on the following items from previous meetings:

1. Soccer Officials Pay – Regular Season – Assistant referee will receive the same pay as the center official. Both will receive the current varsity rate (2022-23 -\$70)
2. Postseason Payments - Postseason officials must be paid at the beginning of a postseason tournament (upon arrival). Play-in games will be paid a separate check at the beginning of that post season event.
3. Volleyball invitational tournament fee structure
 - a. \$15 per set for pool play
 - b. If match play - \$30 (2 out of 3) – There is a Cap at 25 per set
 - c. Sub varsity fees will be the same format - \$12 and \$24 (2 out of 3 match play)
4. The Board approved the same awards for Class C Golf Divisional – Same as Class A and Class B.
5. Speech – As recommended by the MFEA, various amendments to speech, debate and drama rules were approved. Click on the following link to access the Speech & Drama page of the MHSA website for a summary of all changes. [2022-23 Speech and Drama approved Changes](#)
6. Music – the Board approved a date change for the 2022-23 District VII music festival to be held in Shelby. The new date will be April 21-22, 2023.
7. The Board approved various adjustments to Girls' Wrestling for both the regular season and postseason competition for 2022-2023 –[Girls' Wrestling Link](#)