



# **MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

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

November 26, 2025

**TO: MHSAA MEMBER SCHOOLS  
MONTANA NEWS MEDIA**

**FROM: BRIAN MICHELOTTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**RE: NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION**

The Montana High School Association Executive Board conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on November 24, 2025. Following is a synopsis of the major items:

1. The Board reviewed reports from the recently held state events in cross country, football, golf, soccer, and volleyball. The Board and MHSAA staff appreciate the efforts of all those who contributed to these well-organized and successful events.
2. The Board approved the extension of Girls Flag Football as an emerging sport. The Girls' Flag Football Committee will continue working to align with MHSAA and NFHS rules with the goal of becoming a fully sanctioned MHSAA sport in the future.
3. The Board placed the 2026 Class AA State Baseball Tournament in Butte. The event will be held at Three Legends Stadium, May 28–30, 2026.
4. The 2026 Class A/B/C State Baseball Tournament site remains open. Interested communities are encouraged to submit bids prior to the MHSAA January meeting.
5. The Board approved East Helena High School as the host site for the 2026–27 Class A Speech & Drama Tournament, scheduled for January 29–30, 2027.
6. The Board approved the 2027–28 MHSAA Calendar. [Click here for the 2027-28 calendar.](#)
7. The Board approved the preliminary budget for 2026–27, pending final approval by the membership in January.
8. The Board reviewed proposals submitted by member schools for consideration at the MHSAA Annual Meeting in January.

The Executive Board took the following actions regarding realignment for football:

9. The Board approved Arlee for eligibility in the 8-Player football postseason for the 2026 season. Last year, Arlee opted down and was therefore ineligible for postseason play. MHSAA rules allow for review during the interim year, and Arlee met the required rubric standards to compete in the 8-Player division and be eligible for the playoffs.

The Board took the following action, for which schools are given two weeks' notice. Finalization of the items will take place during the January board meeting after affected schools have had the opportunity to submit final comments.

1. The Board approved the baseball alignment into two classes, along with new conferences for the 2026 baseball season. [Click here for the 2026 MHSAA Baseball Conferences.](#)



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2. The Board approved new language regarding Wrestling Walk-Up Music for this year. [Click here for the new policy.](#)
3. The Board approved updated language for the MHSAA Media Policy Requirements. [Click here for more information.](#)
4. The Board approved updated policy language regarding safety precautions during MHSAA events. [Click here to view the updated rule.](#)
5. The Board approved updated language clarifying the MHSAA Ejection Policy. Under these new interpretations, a coach or spectator who is ejected must leave the site immediately and shall not be present on-site or within sight, sound, or communication for the remainder of that day of competition. A student who is ejected may be allowed to remain on the team bench as long as they do not create further disturbance. However, officials may require the student to leave, in which case they must be accompanied by an adult.
6. The Board approved an exception to the MHSAA Practice Rule for fall sports. If a student returns from documented military basic training over the summer, the MHSAA Executive Director can reduce the total number of initial practices (no more than half the number of required practices for that sport or activity) at their school. In football, the student athlete will still be required to have at least 3 days of practice with no pads and only helmets.
7. The Board approved a new format for sub-varsity basketball jamborees. Schools interested in piloting this format for the 2025–26 season may do so with permission from the MHSAA Executive Director. [Click here to view the new format.](#)

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

1. The Board approved new language for this year allowing coaches to coach after July 31<sup>st</sup> if their summer team advances to a state event. The MHSAA office must be notified, and the competition must be approved.
2. The Board approved the 6-player football bracket for 2025-2029. [Click here for the brackets.](#)
3. The Board approved new language for this year regarding the swimming uniform. [Click here for the new rule.](#)
4. The Board approved new language for this year regarding the use of backstroke ledges. [Click here for the new language.](#)

The MHSAA Annual Meeting will be held on January 19, 2026, at the Delta Inn and Convention Center in Helena. The Executive Board will meet on January 17th.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact the MHSAA office.