

MONTANA OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

I. NAME

This organization shall be known as the Montana Officials Association (MOA).

II. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the MOA is to advance and to sustain fair, competent and ethical officiating while providing safe competition at all levels of Montana's interscholastic athletic activities.

III. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the MOA are to administer rules of high school athletic contests; to promote good fellowship among its members; to elevate the standards of officiating; to provide means for correct interpretations of the rules; to advance better cooperation and understanding among officials and school personnel, players and fans; to encourage and assist in developing promising young officials; to foster a high standard of ethics and to further the interests of all sports generally by cultivating a proper spirit of sportsmanship and fair play.

IV. MOA BOARD

The MOA Board shall be composed of the eleven Regional Directors (Director) and the Montana High School Association (MHSA) Executive Director or his/her designated staff member. The *MHSA/MOA* may call meetings when necessary. The Directors shall have responsibility for the general oversight of the MOA.

V. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MOA BOARD

- A. Serve as Director of officials within the region and assure the procedures and guidelines as defined by the MOA and the National Federation are followed.
- B. Represent their Region at all MOA meetings in the best interest of the officials and the Association. If a director is unable to attend an association meeting, then they must send a qualified representative.
- C. Coordinate, at the regional level, testing information including but not limited to opening and closing dates, deadlines for upgrade requests, publicity and recruiting referrals.
- D. Assist the MOA office by monitoring study clubs, checking completed work, and recording season attendance.
- E. Regional Directors will input pool information into the current data management system. Study club forms will be submitted to the MHSA for record.
- F. Oversee the official pools within a region and ensure that procedural and evaluation guidelines are followed.

VI. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

- A. Regional Directors shall serve terms of three years. Directors shall be elected by online balloting administered by the MOA office. Any member in good standing and residing within the prescribed boundaries of his/her region may be elected to the position of Director.
- B. Officials shall receive online ballots for regional director for the region in which their pool is located. Officials who are members of multiple sports pools will receive online ballots for the official's region of residence.
- C. In the event of a tie vote, the MOA office will appoint a director. In the event of death, the MOA will appoint a director to fill the vacancy. ***In the event of a resignation, a***

special election will be administered by the MOA office. The electee shall finish the length of term. Directors will assume office immediately following the election. The appointee shall finish the length of term. Directors shall assume office on June 15 of the year elected.

VII. GAME PASSES FOR DIRECTORS

The MHSA Executive Board issues a pass to the MOA Directors for all athletic activities under the jurisdiction of the Executive Board. The passes are issued to Directors for use in observing officials and attending MHSA sponsored contests. The passes are not transferable. The passes shall be honored at all MHSA affiliated athletic activities. The MHSA Executive Board requests member schools honor passes to athletic contests presented by the MHSA to past MOA Directors who have served at least two terms. Former officials with forty years of officiating membership in Montana also receive passes in recognition of their service. These passes are to be honored at MHSA sponsored regular season contests and postseason tournaments.

VIII. POLICY CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

MOA policy may be formulated specifically by the MOA Board or jointly with the MHSA Executive Board. All decisions that involve monetary consideration within the MOA shall be presented to the MHSA Executive Board for approval.

IX. AFFILIATION OF THE MHSA and MOA

The Directors of the MOA, in a joint meeting with the MHSA Executive Board on January 28, 1968, in Great Falls established a permanent affiliation between the MOA and the MHSA contingent upon:

- A. The MHSA state office will be the official headquarters for the MOA.
- B. The MHSA staff will handle the administration of the MOA and interpret MOA policy.
- C. The MHSA Executive Director or their designee will serve as the Executive Director of the MOA.
- D. The MOA will maintain its regional organization and its method of electing Regional Directors. The Directors will serve in an advisory capacity to the MHSA Executive Board.
- E. The MOA Board will meet jointly, at least annually, and will be paid an expense allowance to attend said meetings.
- F. The MHSA will furnish office space, office supplies, postage, rule books, study materials; publish MOA newsletters; receive dues; issue online MOA membership cards; conduct rules clinics for officials; and furnish all other supplies and materials necessary to administer MOA business.
- G. In consideration of the above-listed services all annual income from the annual MOA membership dues will be credited to the MHSA beginning with fiscal year 1968-69.
- H. In the event that affiliation of the MHSA and the MOA is dissolved, the MHSA will fund the MOA in the amount of \$3,000.00 when the separation is complete.
- I. The MOA Board will be represented at the annual MHSA Executive Board meeting.

X. MOA MEMBERSHIP

- A. Securing Membership – prospective officials

Membership in the MOA is initially attained by paying the Association dues and scoring a minimum of 60% on the appropriate rule's examination. Any prospective official planning to take the examination must be at least 18 years old and be of good moral character.

B. Associate Membership

1. High school students may become associate members of the MOA by passing the MOA qualifying examination(s). Associate members may work sub-varsity contests and will receive credit for their years of experience when they apply for regular membership provided, they meet the same criteria as a regular member. Associate dues will be **\$40.00** for all high school aged members.
2. Associate members completing high school may progress to regular MOA membership by paying appropriate dues.
3. **Associate members may receive service year credit toward advancement in the MOA upon paying dues as regular members. To upgrade, associate members must submit an upgrade request and successfully complete the qualifying exam.**

C. Qualifying Examinations

1. The qualifying examinations are scheduled simultaneously nationwide. The exam dates will be published on the MOA website. No official or prospective official may take the test more than once per year, unless approved by the MHSA/MOA office.

D. Dues

The annual dues are **\$80.00** for one sport and **\$32.00** for each additional sport. The dues include payment for rules manuals, study materials, online resources and premiums for liability and supplemental medical insurance.

1. Prospective officials must submit dues to the MOA office prior to the exam date for their sport(s). If dues are paid early, the prospective member will receive MOA rules manuals and other study material prior to the test. If the official fails or does not take the examination, no refunds are provided.
2. Membership for renewing officials is continuous with the timely payment of dues. Dues are outstanding after July 1 of each year. For any dues paid July 1 or after, a \$25.00 late payment penalty is assessed, the official is required to retest and receive a score equivalent to the officials rating on the annual qualifying examination. This applies to all classifications.

Master officials will not be eligible for postseason unless they meet the testing and requirement deadlines. Failure to pass the exam with the required score, within that classification, will result in a rating reduction of one classification for master and certified officials and loss of membership for apprentice officials. Failure to take the examination will result in the loss of membership and no refund of dues will be provided. In addition, upgrading is denied for one year for failure to pay dues prior to July 1st each year.

3. MOA members in good standing are eligible to join the Montana Coaches Association (MCA) as associate members for **\$40.00** per official per year.

Note: A late paying official is eligible to officiate contests upon paying dues and passing the National Federation rule exam.

- E. Conviction Status and Background Check: Any individual convicted of: (a) a felony involving the use, possession or

sale of a controlled substance within the last ten years; or (b) a crime involving the use or threatened use of violence against a person within the last ten years is prohibited from membership in the MOA; an individual who is convicted of (c) a crime involving a minor child at any time is subject to lifetime suspension from membership in the MOA. The Executive Director or his/her designee will review any information submitted by an applicant or others regarding criminal history and make an individual and confidential determination regarding the official's status. REINSTATEMENT: Following ten (10) years from the date of conviction or deferred imposition, an individual permanently prohibited from membership pursuant to subpart (c) above may apply to the MHSA Executive Board for reinstatement upon a showing by clear and convincing evidence that the individual is not a threat to minor children and is otherwise qualified for MOA membership.

Registering officials are subject to a public criminal records background search. If he/she is found to have been convicted or is in a period of deferred imposition for any crime listed in the MOA Conviction Status Policy, subject to the right of appeal, he/she will be considered ineligible for membership.

- F. If a MOA member does not notify the MOA office of any discrepancies in their rating prior to the first date of competition, in their respective sport, no changes will be made.

- G. Dues are considered paid on time if the registration timestamp meets the appropriate deadline date. There can be no exception.

- H. A Director is exempt from paying their dues to the MOA. Past Directors are exempt from paying their MOA dues as long as they are active MOA officials, even though they were not re-elected or choose not to run for the position of Director.

XI. CONCUSSION EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Each MOA or non-MOA official who works MHSA contests 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.

Failure to complete concussion training by the published deadline will result in a loss of rating and renders an official ineligible for post season assignment. In addition, immediate suspension will apply until proof of completion is supplied to the MOA office.

XII. RECIPROCAL MEMBERSHIP IN BORDERING STATES

Members of the MOA can join as members of the official's association in the bordering states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and/or Idaho by paying dues per sport to that/those state's organization. Approval and dues for the MOA of \$20.00 must be paid to the MOA office before the official works a contest. This five-state agreement entitles members of each respective organization to officiate in any state(s) in which they maintain membership. Reciprocal arrangements with non-bordering states must be approved by the MOA office.

- A. It is required that MOA pools show preference to Montana contests over any reciprocity contests they may contract

XIII. OFFICIAL UNIFORM

- A. All MOA Sports

1. Members are required to wear the uniform specified in the Federation rules for their respective sport unless an exception is specified below.
2. The MOA patch must be displayed on the left breast of the official's uniform. Embroidered patches are acceptable as long as they are black with white background and the same size as the current patch (1 3/4" x 3").
3. Only MOA members in good standing are authorized to display the MOA patch on the uniform.
4. Except in cases where a prescription is necessary, officials working MHSAA sanctioned outdoor contests shall adhere to the following requirements for wearing sunglasses or another eye wear:
 - a. Must be lightweight and functional.
 - b. Must not distract from the rest of the uniform.
 - c. Must have strong frames which allow for a maximized field of vision.
 - d. Must fit properly for minimum movement on the face.
 - e. Multi-colored and reflective lenses are not allowed.
 - f. Lanyards, if used, shall be solid black in color **or shall match the whistle color.**
5. Jewelry, except wedding bands, watches (if necessary), and medical-alert bracelets, **shall be worn as it is aligned for athletes per individual sports.**
6. An American flag may be worn on the uniform and must be placed on the left shoulder of the uniform top.
7. Pink whistles may be used by officials at contests designated as breast cancer awareness events. Any other uniform modifications for the purpose of supporting a charitable fundraising event must be approved in advance by the MOA Commissioner.
8. All sports: In an effort to make quality footwear available, an official's shoes for INDOOR sports (i.e. basketball, volleyball) must be predominantly black but may have some clear or grey trim to deviate slightly from solid black. **In wrestling, shoes must be predominantly black but may have white or gray trim.** Whenever possible, any different color must be dyed or colored over with black.

Officials' shoes for OUTDOOR sports (i.e. football, soccer, baseball and softball), bearing white logo, trademark or manufacturer's name shall be legal. Officials' shoes must still be predominantly black and be unaltered from the manufacturer's original intent.
9. Officials may wear a facemask while officiating. The facemask must be a single solid color and unadorned. Officials may use electronic whistles.

- B. Baseball: Officials shall wear the approved black, powder-blue or navy-blue (short sleeved or long-sleeved pullover shirt).**

The official pants for baseball/softball shall be full length slack, heather gray, charcoal gray or navy blue. (Pant styles not allowed include, capri, leggings, sweats, yoga, etc.) Variance by state adoption.

Baseball/Softball umpires may wear a jacket. The required jacket shall be a standard black or navy pullover with powder blue and white (NFHS) or a navy-blue pullover with powder blue trim (USA) to be worn for varsity contests. Jackets are to be unadorned (except for MOA service pins). Variance by state adoption. For each game the uniform shirt, pants, and

jacket must be the same color for each member of the officiating crew. Variance by state adoption.

Hats worn by baseball officials must be black and may represent the MOA Logo. Hats worn by Softball officials must be navy blue and may represent the MOA Logo.

The ball bag for baseball plate umpires will be black. The ball bag for softball plate umpires can be either navy blue or heather gray.

Officials that regularly work in both sports should purchase the standard color uniforms intended for both baseball and softball.

- C. Basketball:** Basketball officials may wear a black and white striped shirt. For each game the uniform shirt must be the same for each member of the officiating crew and must be tucked in.

The official pants used for basketball shall be full-length slack of a solid black color that shall measure to the top of the official shoe, which shall include black crew length, unadorned socks. (Pant styles not allowed include, Capri, Leggings, sweats, Yoga, etc.). Basketball officials may wear a standard warm-up jacket, solid black pullover, full zip or button up, unadorned (except for MOA service pins).

A standard jacket, solid black pullover, full zip or button up, unadorned (except for MOA service pins) is allowed. Variance by state adoption

- D. Football:** The official pant used for football shall be the approved black pant, which must be black with a 1 inch to 1 1/4 inch white stripe on each leg. The pant must be of a straight leg and are not to be banded or cuffed at the ankle. (Pant styles not allowed include, Capri, Leggings, sweats, Yoga, etc.) Black socks are required.

Football officials may wear a standard jacket for warm-ups only, solid black pullover, full zip or button up, unadorned (except for MOA service pins).

Football officials may wear either the **2 inch – 2 1/4 inch** striped shirt, as long as the entire crew wears matching shirts, and the shirt must be tucked in.

Authorizes the wearing of a commemorative/memorial patch with written approval from the MHSAA Office. Variance by state adoption.

- E. Soccer:** Officials uniform colors are yellow, red, black, and blue, but green or other alternate colors may be used in case of emergency, provided that all members of the officiating crew are properly attired.

Officials uniform colors are yellow, red, black, and blue, but green or other alternate colors may be used in case of emergency, provided that all members of the officiating crew are properly attired. Variance by state adoption.

- F. Softball: Officials shall wear the approved black, powder-blue or navy-blue (short sleeved or long-sleeved pullover shirt).**

The official pants for baseball/softball shall be full length slack, heather gray, charcoal gray or navy blue. (Pant styles not allowed include, capri, leggings, sweats, yoga, etc.) Variance by state adoption.

Baseball/Softball umpires may wear a jacket. The required jacket shall be a standard black or navy pullover with powder blue and white (NFHS) or a navy-blue pullover with powder blue trim (USA) to be worn for varsity contests. Jackets are to be unadorned (except for MOA service pins). Variance by state adoption. For each game the uniform shirt, pants, and jacket must be the same color for

each member of the officiating crew. Variance by state adoption.

Hats worn by baseball officials must be black and may represent the MOA Logo. Hats worn by Softball officials must be navy blue and may represent the MOA Logo.

The ball bag for baseball plate umpires will be black. The ball bag for softball plate umpires can be either navy blue or heather gray.

Officials that regularly work in both sports should purchase the standard color uniforms intended for both baseball and softball.

- G. Volleyball: Volleyball officials are exempt from the specified uniform if they wear black shoes and cyan blue collared polo shirt short or long sleeved, and the shirts must be tucked in). The volleyball uniform must be in compliance with NFHS uniform rules. The officiating crew shall match the color of shirt worn in the contest.

The official pants used for volleyball shall be a full-length slack of a solid black color that shall measure to the top of the official shoe, which shall include black crew length, unadorned socks. (Pant styles not allowed include, Capri, Leggings, sweats, Yoga, etc.).

Volleyball officials acting as line judges have the option to wear a coat and/or a cyan long or short sleeved polo shirt if worn by both officials.

Volleyball officials may wear a standard jacket for warm-ups only, solid black pullover, full zip or button up, unadorned (except for service pins).

- H. Wrestling: All officials working at the same event must wear the same pants. Wrestling officials may wear a gray shirt with black pinstripes or a black and white striped shirt. For each match/dual/ tournament, the uniform shirt must be the same for each member of the officiating crew and must be tucked in.

The official pants used for wrestling shall be a full-length slack of a solid black color that shall measure to the top of the official shoe, which shall include black crew length, unadorned socks. (Pant styles not allowed include, Capri, Leggings, sweats, Yoga, etc.).

Wrestling officials may wear a standard jacket for warm-ups only, solid black pullover, full zip or button up, unadorned (except for MOA service pins).

XIV. STATEMENT ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Whenever a contest participant suffers a laceration or wound where oozing or bleeding occurs, the contest should be stopped at the earliest possible time and the participant should be escorted from the contest area for the appropriate treatment. The participant will not return to the contest until bleeding has been arrested, open wounds properly covered, or uniforms replaced if necessary. Contest officials will enforce the rules in these situations per the specific guidelines in Federation rulebooks.

XV. GUIDELINES FOR MOA POOLS

A pool is a group of registered MOA officials formed for the purpose of providing services to MHSAA member schools. A pool's purpose is to provide participating schools with the best-qualified officials.

- A. Establishing a new pool for a sport will be considered under the following conditions:
1. The new pool is approved by the Regional Director of that region and an application is filed with the MOA office.

2. The new pool submits a list of officers/contacts for the pool.
3. The new pool lists all MOA members of the pool.
4. The new pool submits a list of schools to be serviced.
5. The new pool shall submit a constitution and/or by-laws regarding the operation of the pool.
6. The new pool submits a proposed name for this pool.
7. The new pool lists the pool site (location) of the new pool. Listing to a pool site is mandatory.
8. A new pool must have at least enough members to service two schools at all levels.
9. The new pool agrees to follow all guidelines for MOA pools listed below.

B. An individual official can belong to only one (1) pool per sport. An official cannot individually contract game/contest assignments with schools.

C. Officials are independent contractors.

D. An individual school and/or an individual official have the right to refuse an assignment; however, a particular pool cannot discriminate against a member school(s).

E. Officials may receive mileage from either place of residence or their pool site; whichever is closer to the game site. This applies only to the regular season.

F. By June 1, every pool shall be required to have written by-laws, general assignment, and evaluation procedures on file with both their Regional Director and the MOA office.

G. Any pool that handles money will provide a yearly financial statement to the Director for their region.

H. Individual pools are responsible for training and evaluating all officials.

I. An individual official because of pool membership and MOA membership is not guaranteed game assignments.

J. New pools cannot duplicate the name of established pools.

K. Pools may provide information regarding availability of eligible officials for post season assignment to a district or division representative for distribution to schools in those districts or divisions when requested in writing. Individual officials shall not provide such information.

L. Pools must choose a secretary or head of the pool and notify the Director before the season starts.

M. Enrolled college students may only work out of one pool while in attendance at school. Exceptions for college students may be granted with approval of the MOA and the regional director from December 1 to February 1st.

XVI. MOA CLINICS

A. The MOA will offer rules clinics in football, basketball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, softball, 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.

Failure to complete rules clinic(s) by the published deadline will result in a loss of rating and render an official ineligible for postseason assignment. The official may choose to pay the MHSAA office \$25 and complete the requirement within 7 days of notice to become eligible for the postseason.

XVII. MOA STUDY CLUBS

- A. Study clubs are an integral part of the official training program of the MOA and provide a continuous learning opportunity. The MOA office will provide appropriate study club materials for review and training. The Directors are responsible for monitoring study clubs in their region, gathering and inputting study club information into the current data management system. Regional Directors will submit attendance to the MOA office for record.
- B. An official must attend at least six (6) study clubs in basketball, football, wrestling and/or volleyball in order to receive credit toward their rating. An official in baseball, soccer and/or softball must attend a minimum of four (4) study clubs in order to receive credit toward their rating and to be eligible to work an MHSAA tournament. It is recommended that study clubs begin at least one week prior to the start of each season.

Failure to complete study clubs will result in a loss of rating for the entirety of the following year.

- C. If an MOA member's employment prevents him/her from attending study clubs, the official may receive credit for attendance if they comply as follows:
 1. Make prior arrangements with the Director or head of the pool.
 2. Complete and present the study club outlines to the Director or head of the pool in advance of the meeting they will miss.
 3. Request an exception from the MOA office for certain military actions or other extenuating circumstances.
 4. An official whose employment requires him/her to be away from home during the week may attend study clubs at an alternate pool location if he/she receives permission from the regional director(s).
 5. Study clubs can be administered, with the approval of the Regional Director, via real-time interactive video conferencing (which includes, but is not limited to FaceTime and Skype.)
- D. All study club attendance information from both pools and individual officials must be received by the Regional Directors for signature and approval by the dates shown below. No credit for study clubs will be given until approved by the Director.
 1. Soccer December 1
 2. Football December 1
 3. Volleyball December 1
 4. Wrestling April 1
 5. Basketball April 1
 6. Baseball June 1
 7. Softball June 1

XVIII. MOA CODE OF ETHICS

This code of ethics for athletic officials is intended to protect and promote the best interest of interscholastic athletics and the officiating profession.

- A. I will study the rules, observe the work of other officials, and will always attempt to improve myself.
- B. I will endeavor to keep my body in sound physical condition.
- C. I will remember that while my work as an official is important, I must conduct myself in such a way that attention is drawn, not to me, but to the boys and girls playing the game. I will keep in mind that the game is more important than the wishes of any individual player or the ambitions of any individual official.

- D. I will dress and maintain my appearance in a manner befitting the dignity and importance of my profession.
- E. I will shape my character and conduct so as to be a worthy example to the boys and girls who play under my jurisdiction.
- F. I will be fair and unbiased in my decisions, rendering them without regard to the score.
- G. I will give my complete cooperation to the schools which I serve, the officials' association of which I am a member, and to the MHSAA.
- H. I will cooperate with my fellow officials and will do nothing to cause them public embarrassment.
- I. I will, in my actions on the floor or field, be firm but not overbearing; courteous, but not ingratiating; positive, but never rude; dignified, but never "cocky;" friendly, but not companionable; calm, but always alert.
- J. I will not officiate a game after having any alcoholic drink/illegal drugs that day as per MOA rules.
- K. I will not use any tobacco product while officiating any MHSAA contest.
- L. I will not approach coaches or athletic directors, personally or by mail, relative to assignments or ratings or regarding game calls, mechanics or procedural duties. Those questions should be initially addressed through the pool leader, MOA Regional Director or the MOA office.
- M. I will not make a request to officiate a specific game or games for any coach, school or conference.
- N. I will not criticize or attempt to explain a fellow official's judgment or decision.
- O. I will honor all contracts in spite of possible inconvenience or financial loss.
- P. I will not contact any coach or school administrator encouraging them to select any official for post-season work.

XIX. SEXUAL HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE

- A. The MOA believes that all its members should strive to provide a healthy, safe and appropriate environment for athletic competition. This philosophy dictates that each individual involved with interscholastic competition be treated with respect and dignity. An integral part of a contest official's role is awareness of what behaviors or practices are considered unacceptable. The following information identifies what is considered wrongful conduct, both on and off the contest arena and said conduct is hereby prohibited.
- B. Definitions:
 1. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which violates federal law. Sexual harassment is illegal. Sexual harassment includes requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, or other verbal or physical conduct or communication (including electronic communication or online postings) of a sexual nature.
 2. Sexual intimidation is conduct which subjects members of either gender to humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Sexual intimidation can be verbal or non-verbal and includes electronic communications or online postings.
 3. Sexual violence is an act of physical aggression that includes a sexual act or sexual intent. Sexual violence could include, but is not limited to, touching, grabbing,

or patting another person's intimate body parts, coercive sexual touching, or coercive sexual intercourse. Using force or the threat of force to engage in sexual touching or sexual intercourse also constitutes sexual violence.

XX. MISCONDUCT BY OFFICIALS

A. Charges of conduct unbecoming of an official or of conduct contrary to the best interests of the MOA may be brought before the Directors by an MOA member or school administrator. Such charges must be submitted in writing. Each case will be considered individually and on its own merits. The accused official must have an opportunity for a hearing before the Directors. The MHSAs or their designee will serve as a non-voting hearing officer.

B. Proven misconduct on the part of an official will result in one or more of the following penalties:

1. Permanent suspension.
2. Suspension for a stated period of time not to exceed two years.
3. Suspension for an indefinite period of time and reinstatement contingent upon the suspended official meeting such conditions as may be imposed by the Directors.
4. A fine may be imposed not to exceed \$300.00.
5. Loss of rating.
6. Any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate.

C. Charges.

In the event misconduct charges are filed against a director, they are excused from the Board during the hearing decision process. In the event that action is taken against a Director under this section, the remainder of the Board shall decide whether the members shall retain their position.

An official must apply to the Board for reinstatement following a suspension for good cause. (Refer to Reinstatement Section for criteria that must be complied with for one to be reinstated.)

D. Ruling

The Board and the hearing officer shall render a written decision within fourteen (14) days of the hearing.

E. Right of Appeal

Following the decision of the Board, the official or Director may appeal in writing within fourteen (14) days to the MOA office whose decision shall be final. The MOA office must render a decision on any appeal within fourteen (14) days.

F. Misconduct Can Be Charged for the Following:

1. Using abusive, demeaning, racially or sexually insensitive remarks or language made in the presence of or toward any student-athlete, coach, fan or other person during any MHSAs sanctioned contest.
2. Degrading fellow MOA members.
3. Providing derogatory news media releases and/or interviews that cause public embarrassment.
4. Engaging in derogatory, abusive, demeaning, and/or racially or sexually insensitive remarks through electronic communication or online postings toward any student-athlete, coach, fan or other person associated with an MHSAs sanctioned contest.

5. Using distasteful gestures.
6. Using mood-altering substances on game day prior to the contest which includes regular and post season games, playoffs, and tournaments. Mood altering substances include alcohol, narcotics, dangerous drugs and controlled substances as defined by state and federal law, or prescriptions and prescription drugs not taken pursuant to or consistent with a written prescription.
7. Fee violations.
 - a. Accepting fees above or below those prescribed by the MOA Handbook.
 - b. Accepting more or less mileage than prescribed by the MOA Handbook.
8. Working as a member of more than one pool per sport, using more than one residence, or individually contracting contest assignments while being a member of a pool.
9. Failing to notify school authorities when unable to work a contest or unable to reach the game site after previously agreeing to work the game.
10. Knowingly work a varsity contest with a non-MOA member.
11. Deviating from enforcement of National Federation Rules and mechanics other than those variances allowed in the MHSAs Handbook.
12. Failure to wear the proper MOA uniform including failure to wear the MOA patch.
13. Being charged with a felony criminal act or a misdemeanor act involving use, possession or distribution of mood or body altering substances, theft, acts involving moral turpitude or any act of violence with or without the use of a weapon. (Emergency temporary suspension is permissible at the discretion of the MOA Commissioner.)
14. An official shall not request to officiate any contest from any coach, league or official thereof. Officials should not obligate themselves to any person affiliated with any game they might be assigned to officiate.
15. Violating the MOA policy on sexual harassment, intimidation, and violence.
16. Any acts or omissions detrimental to the best interests of the MOA, MHSAs and interscholastic athletics or violating any section of the MHSAs Handbook.
17. Officiating any school district sanctioned contest or practice without having completed the required concussion training for the current school term.
18. Failure to complete concussion training, which violates Montana state law.
19. Officiating contests in another reciprocal state (Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota or North Dakota without paying reciprocity to that state.)

XXI. REPORTING ATHLETIC CONTESTS PROBLEMS

The following procedure should be followed when an official desires to lodge a complaint against a school or coach involving an athletic contest.

- A. The appropriate form should identify the problem area and be filed with their Director.

- B. The Director will then deal with the problem. If the problem is a recurring or serious situation and they feel inadequate to handle, the Director may report it to the MOA office.
- C. The MOA office may contact the proper school administrator to address the problem.

XXII. PENALTY FOR A PLAYER ASSAULTING AN OFFICIAL

- A. Any athlete who makes physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the sports official or causes reasonable apprehension of bodily injury to the sports official, in connection with an MHSA contest shall immediately become ineligible for further interscholastic competition. It shall be the responsibility of the tournament manager or principal of the school hosting the event to notify as soon as possible the MHSA or a member of the Executive Board of the incident. The official involved must report the incident in writing to the MOA office within 48 hours of its occurrence.
- B. The coach of the student involved is responsible for keeping that student from further interscholastic participation, pending a ruling by the MHSA. The MHSA shall have the power to suspend the violating participant from further interscholastic competition for a period not to exceed two semesters from the date of the infraction.

XXIII. REPORTING EJECTIONS

When any official ejects a coach or player from a contest, this ejection must be reported in writing to the MOA office within forty-eight (48) hours. If a spectator must be ejected from the premises, the official must first contact the contest's administrator and the administrator must remove the spectator from the premises.

XXIV. RATING SYSTEM BY SPORT

- A. The minimum yearly standards for rating officials in all classifications include:
 - 1. Pay dues in accordance with MOA rules and regulations.
 - 2. Complete the MOA sponsored annual rules and concussion training for the sport concerned.
 - 3. An official must complete a minimum number of study clubs in their sport(s) to receive study club credit:

a. Baseball	four
b. Basketball:	six.
c. Football:	six.
d. Softball:	four.
e. Soccer:	four.
f. Wrestling:	six.
g. Volleyball:	six.

- B. The rating requirements for each classification include:
 - 1. Apprentice
 - a. The official must score 60% on a properly administered National Federation open book examination. Note: A prospective official who has paid dues is eligible to officiate contests pending the results of the National Federation rules exam.
 - b. The official is recommended to work only sub-varsity contests but is qualified to work any regular season contest.
 - 2. Certified
 - a. The official must serve as an Apprentice official for two consecutive years prior to the year the official applies for Certified status.
 - b. The official must score 70% on a properly administered National Federation open-book examination.

- c. The official must receive a favorable recommendation from their evaluation committee and Director.
- d. A Certified official is qualified to work in any regular season contest in their registered sport. Second year certified officials may work the first round of playoffs/tournaments, if necessary, in specified sports with approval of the MHSA Executive Director.
- 3. Master
 - a. The official must serve as a Certified official for two consecutive years prior to the year the official applies for Master status.
 - b. The official must score 80% on a properly administered National Federation open-book examination.
 - c. The official must have in previous years officiated in their respective sport 10 varsity baseball, 20 varsity basketball, 10 varsity football, 10 varsity softball, 10 varsity soccer, 10 varsity wrestling, or 10 varsity volleyball contests.
 - d. The official must receive a favorable recommendation from their evaluation committee and Director.
 - e. To maintain a Master rating, the Master official must officiate in their respective sport a minimum of 3 varsity baseball, 3 varsity football, 3 varsity softball, 3 varsity soccer, 6 varsity basketball, 3 varsity wrestling, or 4 varsity volleyball contests annually (volleyball, wrestling, and softball tournaments shall count as three contests).
 - f. A Master official is qualified to work in any regular season contest, tournament, playoff, or championship contest.

C. Officials shall drop one rating classification for any of the following reasons:

- 1. Failure to complete required number of study clubs.
- 2. Failure to pay dues on established dates in accordance with the MOA requirements.
- 3. Failure to work required number of contests.
- 4. Receiving an unfavorable recommendation from their evaluation committee and Director.
- 5. Receiving a loss of rating penalty for misconduct.

NOTE: These rating reductions will be effective for the entirety of the following school year. Officials shall also drop one rating classification for:

- 6. Failure to complete the rules clinic and/or concussion training prior to the published deadline for their sport.

NOTE: Missing the deadline for rules clinic and/or concussion training also renders an official ineligible for any post season contest.

The official's rating is restored when he/she completes the next year's concussion training and/or rules clinic for his/her sport. Officials must notify the MOA office for restoration. Failure to complete concussion training by the published deadline will result in immediate suspension until proof of completion is uploaded and approved by the MOA office via **Arbiter Dragonfly**. Officiating contests without completing concussion training will lead to misconduct charges being filed.

D. Transferring from out-of-state

A member from another state may transfer to the MOA providing:

1. The MOA office receives a letter from their current official organization confirming that their membership was in good standing.
2. Payment of prescribed dues to the MOA.
3. An official transferring to Montana from another state will have their MOA rating based on their current out-of-state rating. However, an official will not receive a rating above the Certified classification for the first year. After one-year of experience, a favorable recommendation, and fulfilling all appropriate requirements, the official must test to upgrade to the next higher classification. Any official who transfers from out-of-state during the current regular season of his/her sport will have the requirement for satisfaction of any rule's clinic training waived for that season if he/she has met these requirements in his/her prior organization.
- 4.. Out-of-state service will count towards the MOA Service Award.

E. Upgrading

If an official meets the criteria to upgrade a classification, they must submit a Request to Upgrade Form to the MOA Office at least seven (7) days prior to the opening of the exam. The official must test prior to the season of the sport in which they are upgrading. It is the official's responsibility to ensure their upgrading requirements have been met. Upgrading will be denied for a one-year period for failure to: 1) complete required number of study clubs; 2) complete the current year's rules clinic and/or concussion training; or 3) pay annual MOA dues by the published date.

F. Reinstatement

An official who has had a break in service in a particular sport may request reinstatement to their previous classification providing the following criteria are met: A Reinstatement Form must be filled out and submitted to the MOA office for approval. After all requirements have been completed the official must contact the MHSA office to be reinstated to their previous rating.

1. The official must pass the qualifying examination contingent upon the requirements for that classification (their previous rating). Note: A reinstating official is eligible to officiate contests upon paying dues and passing the National Federation rules exam.
2. The official must officiate for one year at one classification below their previous rating.
3. Following one year of service at the reduced classification, the official must receive a favorable recommendation from the Director and their evaluation committee in order to have their previous rating restored.
4. The official must notify the MOA office that they have met all of their reinstatement requirements and wish to have their previous rating restored.
5. If an official chooses to reinstate membership, and he/she has violated any MOA rules while not an MOA member, upon reinstatement, the official is subject to a fine not to exceed \$300.00- and one-year unrated probation.
6. If an official chooses to reinstate membership, he or she will not be charged a late fee if they have one year's break in service.

G. Retention of Rating

If illness, injury or extenuating circumstances prevent an official from officiating, the official may request to retain his/her

rating from the previous year. The following procedure must be followed:

1. MOA dues must be paid for the current year.
2. The official must submit a completed retention of rating request form to their Regional Director. If the request is medically related the request for retention must include a written statement from a doctor confirming the injury or illness. For extenuating circumstances, a written explanation is required on the form.
3. The MOA Commissioner will act upon the request
4. The official is obligated to fulfill study club and rules clinic requirements in order to retain his/her rating.
5. The rating may be retained for one year only, unless the MOA Board extends the retention for one additional year.

H. Leave of Absence

An official may retain their current classification for up to one year if advance arrangements are made in writing with and approved by the MOA Office.

I. Military Leave

An official deployed by the military may request military leave which will retain his/her current classification. All membership requirements are waived, including dues, for the duration of their deployment. Upon termination of deployment, dues are payable for the current season, with no penalties.

J. Soccer Ratings

1. Soccer officials who are active USSF officials can join the MOA as a second year certified if their USSF rating is State/Regional referee or higher, second year apprentice if their USSF rating is a Grassroots Advanced with the same years of service requirements as the MOA ratings.
2. Documentation of the certification and years of service is required when requesting an upgrade. All MOA requirements must be met to be approved and retain the rating upgrade.
3. After one year of MOA experience, a favorable evaluation, pool recommendation and completion of requirements, the official may test up to the next level when all requirements have been met.
4. If an official is not currently a member of the USSF they must test for MOA membership and move through the rating classifications as in all other sports.

XXV. VARIANCES BY STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTION

Listed below are the rules alterations adopted by the MHSA as allowed by the National Federation of State High School Associations:

A. Baseball

1. Game ending procedures:

Any game will end when, after four and a half or five innings, a team is ten or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

Employ a maximum 1 1/2-hour time limit to end games at invitational tournaments. The game can be called if five or less minutes remain before the maximum 1 1/2-hour time limit or officials should not start a new inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes of play except if a tie exists where NFHS Softball Rules for tiebreaking would apply.

Varsity and Sub-varsity regular season games will end after three (3) innings if a team is leading by fifteen (15) runs.

For game suspensions:

Games suspended before 4 1/2 or 5 innings because of weather, darkness or tied game - will resume from the point of interruption.

B. Basketball

1. Authorizes the use of the coaches' box; the head coach may be off the bench in front of their seat within the confines of the box to give instructions to their players and/or substitutes.
2. Authorizes the use of artificial limbs if the prosthesis is approved on an individual basis by the MHSA office.
3. Officials will sign the official scorebook.

C. Football

1. Determining the number of game officials to be used in the game.— as per Montana Officials Association (see assignment section),
2. Mandating the use of a specific ball for postseason or playoff competition as per Rules and Regulations for Football, Article I-General Rules and Regulations, Section 26
3. Authorizes the use of the following supplementary equipment to aid in game administration.
 - a. Schools shall provide a sideline clip to assist officials with measurements.
 - b. It is recommended that schools equipped with field public address systems provide referee field microphones for all varsity contests.
4. Authorizes the use of artificial limbs with written approval from the MHSA Office.
5. Authorizes the use of a drum for rhythmic cadence for deaf or partially deaf teams with written approval from the MHSA Office.
6. Authorizes the use of a device to enhance a required hearing aid through a licensed medical physician (MD/DO) and with written approval from the MHSA Office.
7. Established the procedure listed in the NFHS football rules book to resolve games tied following the fourth quarter.
8. Established the following differential to terminate games or to use a running clock when the point differential is reached.

Classes A, B and C: In any Class A, B or C (8 and 6 player) football game, if at any time the score differential reaches 35 points or more, the clock will not be stopped when:

- a. The ball goes out-of-bounds.
- b. A forward pass is incomplete.
- c. A fair catch is made or awarded or
- d. A touchback occurs.
- e. A first down is declared.
- f. A score occurs, until the completion of the try. The clock will be stopped during the official's timeout between a score and the ensuing kickoff.

If the score differential falls below 35 points, normal timing procedures will be utilized.

In Class AA, this rule applies at the beginning of the third quarter in all games (varsity and sub-varsity).

The clock will continue to be stopped on all other situations as specified by the National Federation Rule (penalty, time out, end of period).

9. Established rules regarding continuation of interrupted games as per Rules and Regulations for Football, Article I-General Rules and Regulations, Section 9
10. Determined the length of halftimes, provided it is not less than 10 minutes and not more than 20 minutes. Halftime will be twelve (12) minutes with a mandatory additional three (3) minute warm-up period. The only exceptions to this rule are homecoming games, parents' nights etc.
11. Determined when the coin toss is to be held - The coin toss must occur 3 minutes prior to the game.
12. Football: Football officials shall wear approved black pants, which must be black with a 1 inch to 1 ¼ inch white stripe on each leg. The pants must be similar in style and appearance to the pants worn by officials in the National Football League (straight leg and are not banded or cuffed at the ankle). Black socks are required when wearing black football pants.
13. A standard warm-up jacket, solid black pullover, full zip or button up, unadorned (except for MOA service pins) is allowed.
14. At the sub-varsity level only, football officials may wear striped jackets with a MOA patch.
15. Football officials may either the two-inch striped shirt or 2 ¼ inch striped shirt, as long as the entire crew wears matching shirts, and the shirt must be tucked in.

D. Soccer

1. Wireless communication devices, (i.e.: two-way radio, with attached earpiece and push to talk microphone), may be worn by game officials in an effort to improve accuracy and timeliness of relaying information between crew members over great distances. If used, all members of the crew shall wear a device.
2. Overtime procedure: Follow the tie game procedure in the NFHS Soccer Rules Book but eliminate the two five-minute, sudden victory overtime periods.
3. If the game was suspended with less than one-half of the game completed, the game will be rescheduled from the start.
4. The head referee records the official time. The use of stadium clocks for unofficial timekeeping is encouraged. When stadium clocks are used, it is recommended that the stadium clock is turned off with two minutes remaining. **If timekeepers are not available to start and stop the clock as per the referee signals, then stadium clocks shall not be used.**
5. The use of the Dual Officiating Mechanic. It is to be used for sub-varsity matches and only in emergency situations. **A fee adjustment for when there is only the availability of 2 officials. The total fee paid for the contest for the 2 officials will be the same as if 3 officials were used and this is only approved for sub-varsity competition.**

E. Softball

1. Game ending procedures:

Any game will end when, after four and a half or five innings, a team is ten or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

Employ a maximum 1 1/2-hour time limit to end games at invitational tournaments. The game can be called if five or less minutes remain before the maximum 1 1/2-hour time limit or officials should not start a new inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes of play except if a tie exists where NFHS Softball Rules for tiebreaking would apply.

Games may end after three (3) innings if a team is leading by fifteen (15) runs.

For game suspensions:

Games suspended before 4 1/2 or 5 innings because of weather, darkness or tied game - will resume from the point of interruption.

2. Tie Breaker - Invitational tournaments which use a tie breaking procedure shall follow the NFHS rules. Beginning in the top of the eighth inning or at the time limit the last batter from the previous inning will be placed on second base at the beginning of each half inning with the game then proceeding in a normal manner until a winner is decided.
4. Hats worn by softball officials must be unadorned.
5. The ball bag for plate umpires can be navy blue.

F. Volleyball

1. Teams may play a five-game match in which a team is considered the winner of the match when it wins three games. The fourth and/or fifth game shall not be played unless it is necessary to determine the winner of the match. If a fifth game is necessary, a coin toss shall be conducted prior to that game. In sub-varsity games, or invitational tournaments, the length and number of games per match may be modified.
2. A continuous fifteen-minute warm-up clock will be standard for all levels of play. The buzzer will be sounded at twelve (12) minutes (signaling the end of joint court warm-up), at eight (8) minutes (signaling the end of the serving team court time), at four (4) minutes (signaling the end of the receiving team court time), at two (2) minutes (signaling the end of the serving team court time) and at 0.00 (signaling the end of the receiving team court time). The officials will conduct the pre-match conference and coin toss before the fifteen (15) minute warm-up period begins. Coaches must be on the floor at this time. This applies to regular season and post season play.
3. Modification of match format is permitted for invitational tournaments including use of pool play.
4. The volleyball uniform must be in compliance with the NFHS uniform rule as specified in the rule book.
5. A standard warm-up jacket, solid black pullover, full zip or button up, unadorned (except for MOA service pins) is allowed.
6. During regular season contests and during district and divisional tournaments, flags may be used by line judges. The R1 and R2 will provide flags and will train the line judges in the use of the flags. Flags will be required to be used during all MHS State Tournament Contests. The officials assigned to those tournaments will provide the flags.

XXVI. ASSIGNMENT

A. General Policy

1. Participating in schools will request and hire officials for all regular season interscholastic athletic contests. MOA pools will assign, through participating in schools, all officials for regular season Interscholastic athletic contests. Schools are to go through the MOA area officials' pool(s) when hiring. This process will be followed for all regular season baseball, basketball, wrestling, softball, and volleyball tournaments.
2. Each pool assignor is responsible is to work with MHS schools to place appropriate officials in each of their regular season contests. There are two approved methods of paying assignors:
 - a. Pools determine a method of compensation within their own pool. The pool determines the amount (if any) the assignor is paid. Pool dues are used as the source of funding in this method. The assignor is an independent contractor.
 - b. Soccer will have its own method of paying the assignor. An assignor, who is an independent contractor, will bill the schools \$5, per official, per game. The assignor will provide one invoice per school at the end of the season. Soccer officials will not receive a \$5 per game fee increase for the 2023-24 season. This \$5 increase, per official, per game will be given to all other MOA sports. This is a one-time fee hiatus and soccer will be given future fee increases consistent with other sports.

There is a fee adjustment when only 2 officials are available. The total fee paid for the contest for the 2 officials will be the same as if 3 officials were used and this is only approved for sub-varsity competition.

If other sports in the MOA consider schools paying the assignor, there must be agreement from all pools in that sport, across the state, and a similar process would be implemented.

3. The MOA requires that only MOA members in good standing are assigned to work all varsity regular season contests in all classifications and the MOA recommends that only MOA officials in good standing are assigned to work all sub-varsity regular season contests. The MOA recommends only Master or Certified officials work varsity contests.
4. All MOA officials working any MHS sanctioned contest shall use Federation mechanics and signals.
5. A prospective official who has paid dues is eligible to officiate contests pending results of the NFHS rules exam.
6. Officials are prohibited from working in a varsity contest or tournament where they cohabitate with or have an immediate relative who is participating as an athlete or head coach. Officials are also prohibited from working postseason contests in the gender-specific classification where they have an immediate relative **or** step relative who is participating as an athlete or head coach. An immediate relative is defined as a parent, spouse, brother, sister, child or grandchild. There is an exception for soccer officials, which allows officials to work tournaments or matches involving immediate relatives, but they must avoid the specific contest where their immediate relative participates. The wrestling exception prescribes that officials must avoid the weight class where an immediate relative participates in the regular season or a divisional tournament. Officials who are members of the coaching staff are prohibited from working a varsity contest or tournament of his/her gender-specific sport in the classification he/she coaches.
7. The MOA requires that only Master officials who have completed concussion training, completed their

appropriate rules clinic for the current year and who have officiated the required number of varsity contests during the current regular season to maintain their master rating are eligible to work postseason playoffs or tournaments.

8. Selection of officials for districts (exception: basketball), divisional and state basketball, volleyball and wrestling will be made by the MOA office by using a combination of the following: coaches' input (ballots), individual officials' pool ranking, and MOA office input.
9. The MOA office will send ballots to participating member schools for selection of state baseball tournaments, divisional, and state basketball tournaments, divisional and state wrestling tournaments, district, divisional and state volleyball tournaments, and divisional and state softball tournaments. Ballots must be returned to the MOA office by the published deadline for each sport in order to be included. Failure to submit a ballot for schools participating will result in a \$100 fine.

The MOA office staff will tabulate tournament ballots. The MOA office staff will contact officials selected for tournaments.

10. An official is prohibited from accepting any contest or tournament when the fee, per diem and/or mileage offered is an amount other than the MOA prescribed fee schedules.
11. A basketball official is allowed to work any combination of three postseason basketball tournaments. In addition, an official can only work the identical school classification state basketball tournament by gender for two consecutive years.
12. An official is prohibited from working more than two MHSAA volleyball tournaments below the state level each year. An official can work one state volleyball tournament each year. In addition, an official can only work the identical school classification state volleyball tournament for two consecutive years.
13. An official is prohibited from working more than one championship football game each year. An official is prohibited from working more than one semi-final football game each year.
14. An official is prohibited from accepting more than one MHSAA playoff contest or tournament in the same day. An official is prohibited from officiating in any other contest prior to completing their MHSAA sanctioned playoff or tournament responsibilities within the same day. Note: Soccer officials are exempt from this policy.
15. An official participating in a postseason tournament cannot serve as the tournament manager.
16. Two officials are required for all varsity baseball, softball, and volleyball contests. Two officials are recommended for all sub varsity baseball, softball, and volleyball contests. Three officials are required for all varsity soccer contests.
17. A NFHS Dual Officiating Mechanic is approved for sub varsity soccer on an emergency basis only.
18. Regular season basketball contests (at any level of competition) will have at least a 20-minute intermission between games when one game immediately follows another on the same night if the same officials or any of the same officials work consecutive games.
19. MOA officials are not authorized to officiate an extended sub-varsity contest beyond the limits of a National Federation contest.

20. Schools can schedule basketball officials, during the regular season, to work one full contest and one half of a contest as long as the school is paying the appropriate entire game fee for both contests.

B. Basketball

1. The MOA requires that six (6) officials shall be used for all district, divisional and state tournaments and that three-person crews will be utilized. Districts with seven (7) teams or fewer shall use six (6) officials unless prior approval to use five (5) or fewer is granted by the MOA staff.
2. Selection of officials for district (except basketball), divisional and state basketball will be made by the MOA office by using a combination of the following: coaches' input (ballots), individual officials' pool ranking, and MOA office input. The MOA staff may consider reasonable geographic limitations when selecting officials.
3. State tournament officials will receive notification of their assigned rotation at the state pretournament meeting for officials. All officials must attend the pretournament meeting. State tournament officials are required to remain at the tournament site until excused by the tournament manager.
4. After the rotation schedule is assigned, no deviation from the rotation is permitted, except when an official assigned to work a semi-final or championship game is from the same town as one of the teams playing in the semi-final or championship contest. If all parties agree, then only the tournament manager may exchange that official with another official assigned to work the other game that same evening. For tournaments below the state level, a schedule of alternate officials will be prepared by the tournament officials and coordinated by the tournament manager.
5. Tournaments with seven or nine teams may deviate from the assigned rotation. The MOA office will provide supplemental rotations for tournaments as necessary. The tournament manager may make other rotation schedule changes with approval of the MOA office.
6. The MOA office may use second year certified officials at the district level at their discretion and these officials will be ranked by their pools.
7. For play-in or challenge basketball games, if one tournament official has a work-related conflict and is unable to officiate the play-in or challenge game, the MOA office can assign a replacement utilizing one of the other officials assigned to the tournament.

C. Football

1. The MOA requires that only Master officials who complete the rules clinic requirement are assigned for playoff or state championship contests. Second year certified officials are allowed to work the first round of playoffs if necessary.
- 2.
3. The minimum number of officials assigned for various contests are:
 - a. Class AA
Varsity, playoffs and state championships — 5 officials (**7 if available**)
Non-varsity — 4 officials
 - b. Classes A & B
Regular season varsity — 4 officials; (5 are recommended)
Playoff and state championships — 5 officials
Non-varsity — 4 officials

- c. Class C
Regular season varsity — 4 officials (5 are allowed)
Non-varsity — 3 officials (4 are recommended).
Eight-man playoffs and state championships — 5 officials
- d. Six Player
Regular season varsity — 4 officials (5 are allowed)
Non-varsity — 3 officials (4 are recommended)
Playoffs — 5 officials
State championships— 5 officials

Note: if an injury or emergency situation occurs during the course of a football game, the other officials may continue to work that game as long as there are enough remaining officials to operate with published NFHS approved mechanics. Class AA varsity can continue with four officials, Classes A, B and C can continue with three officials using the NFHS approved mechanics.

- 4. Officials for the AA football semifinal and championship contests will be assigned from a neutral site by the MOA staff on a pool rotation basis. First round AA playoff games will be assigned at MOA staff discretion. The MOA staff may use a reasonable variation of the geographic limitations whenever feasible and necessary.
- 5. An alternate will be selected for state championship games to replace an official who is unable to continue officiating during the state championship contest. The alternate receives one-half of the game fee **and no mileage or per diem**.

D. Volleyball

- 1. The MOA requires that six (6) officials be used in all MHSAA district, divisional, and state volleyball tournaments. District and divisional tournaments with less than eight teams must request the MOA office to use less than 6 officials. All tournament officials are required to remain at the tournament site until excused by the tournament manager.
- 2. Selection of officials for district, divisional and state volleyball will be made by the MOA office by using a combination of the following: coaches' input (ballots), individual officials' pool ranking, and MOA office input. The MOA staff may consider reasonable geographic limitations when selecting officials.
- 3. Second year certified officials may officiate the district tournament if necessary.
- 4. State tournament officials will receive notification of their assigned rotation at the state pretournament meeting for officials. All officials must attend the pretournament meeting and draw their rotation number at the meeting.
- 5. After the tournament rotation schedule is assigned, no deviation from the rotation is permitted, except when the tournament manager approves urgent, short-term requests to change the line judging rotation and only if the change is acceptable to the entire officials' crew and the change is scheduled prior to the first match of the tournament.
- 6. Warm-up time for all classifications - A continuous twenty-minute warm-up clock will be standard for all levels of play. The buzzer will be sounded at twelve (12) minutes (signaling the end of joint court warm-up), at eight (8) minutes (signaling the end of the serving team court time), at four (4) minutes (signaling the end of the receiving team court time), at two (2) minutes (signaling the end of the serving team court time) and at 0.00 (signaling the end of the receiving team court time).

The officials will conduct the pre-match conference and coin toss before the twenty (20) minute warm-up period begins. Coaches must be on the floor at this time. This applies to regular season and postseason play.

E. Wrestling

- 1. Schools may use two officials per match. Both officials must be paid according to the applicable MOA fee schedules for that classification. If an assistant official is used, they shall be paid a sub-varsity fee.
- 2. The MOA office will send ballots to all member schools to select master officials for divisional and for state wrestling tournaments as per the Assignment General Policy.
- 3. Selection of officials for divisional and state wrestling will be made by the MOA office by using a combination of the following: coaches' input (ballots), individual officials' pool ranking, and MOA office input. The MOA staff may consider reasonable geographic limitations when selecting officials.
- 4. For the state All-Class wrestling tournament, twenty (20) officials will be assigned. The top vote getter from each of the Six (6) divisions (all classes) will work the state All-Class wrestling tournament. In addition, fourteen (14) officials will be selected at large based on the total number of state votes.
- 5. Six (6) officials are to be used for each divisional tournament. The top vote getter in each division will be assigned to the divisional tournament in which they are the top vote getters. If the official is the top vote getter in more than one division, they will be able to choose which tournament they would like to officiate. All 14 at large state officials will be offered a divisional tournament before the remaining sixteen (16) divisional slots are filled. Selection of officials will be based on coach's vote, regional placement, if possible, receiving at least one vote in the division and individual officials' pool ranking.
- 6. The MOA recommends that the number of officials for invitational wrestling tournaments be:
 - a. 2 Mats - (3 less than 6 hrs. -4 officials more than 6 hrs.)
 - b. 3 Mats - (4 less than 6 hrs. -5 officials more than 6 hrs.)
 - c. 4 Mats - (6 officials)

F. Selection Procedure for Volleyball and Basketball Tournament Officials

- 1. Selection of officials for district, divisional and state basketball and volleyball will be made by the MOA office by using a combination of the following: coaches' input (ballots), individual officials' pool ranking, and MOA office input. The MOA staff may consider reasonable geographic limitations when selecting officials.
- 2. The MOA office will send ballots to all member schools to select officials for district, divisional, and state basketball and volleyball tournaments per the Assignment General Policy.
- 3. The officials receiving the most votes from each district will be offered the district tournament if the additional criteria is met per the selection policy.
- 4. All ballots for the divisional tournament are tabulated individually by district. If a division is comprised of three districts, then each district would select two officials for a tournament of six. If the three-district divisional uses four officials, each district selects one official, and the fourth official is determined by composite votes.

5. The playoff officials for AA basketball and volleyball are selected by the MOA office staff with preference shown to the pool of officials selected for the state tournament, then highly ranked available local officials, and finally the next available officials, allowing for geographic consideration.
6. The MOA office will contact the selected officials in order of preference based on selection criteria to confirm the officials for the tournament.

G. Selection Procedure for Soccer Tournament/Playoff Officials

1. The MOA office, using geographic considerations and recommendations from pool leaders, will assign officials for all soccer playoffs and championship contests.
2. Certified officials in soccer may officiate postseason playoff if necessary.

H. Selection Procedure for Baseball/Softball Tournament Officials

1. Selection of officials for divisional and state baseball and softball will be made by the MOA office by using a combination of the following: coaches' input (ballots), individual officials' pool ranking, and MOA office input. The MOA staff may consider reasonable geographic limitations when selecting officials.
2. The playoff officials for Class AA softball and the Class B-C divisional softball tournaments are selected by the MOA office from the list of eligible master officials. The MOA staff may consider reasonable geographic limitations when selecting softball playoff officials.
3. The state tournament umpire rotation will be determined before the start of the tournament by the umpire-in-chief.

XXVII. REGULAR SEASON FEE/ EXPENSES

- A. Fee schedules for payment of contest officials were adopted by the MHSA and MOA Boards.
- B. No school or official may deviate from the fee schedule.
- C. The fees and expense allowances paid to each official must conform to the current established schedules as published in the MHSA Handbook.
- D. The MHSA recognizes that officials are independent contractors; therefore, methods of paying established fees/expenses will be determined by agreement between the school which has contracted for the official services and the local officials' pool, or an individual official. Officials' pools cannot receive payments from the schools to distribute to individual members as this practice would make the officials' pool the employer, nullifying the independent contract status and subjecting the pool to unemployment and workers' compensation requirements. Any changes in the payment process must be approved by the Regional Director. Note: If there is a change in the payment process one option to another that change must be approved by the Regional Director. However, the MHSA requires that one of the three following methods be utilized:

1. All assigned officials may be paid within seven (7) business days of the contest with a check issued by the member school.
or
2. All assigned officials may be paid with **Arbiter** assignment software. A member school has (7) seven business days from the date of the contest to issue payment via **Arbiter**.

3. All assigned officials may be paid before the contest with a check issued **or with Arbiter** by the member school. MOA officials are not allowed to accept checks written to other member officials. A member school has seven (7) business days from the date of the contest to reissue appropriate checks to the official(s) who worked the contest, if there has been an assigned official change.

Exception for soccer pools only: because the fee structure for soccer officials differs from all other MHSA sanctioned sports, an alternative payment method for soccer officials may be approved by the MOA Commissioner, provided that the local soccer pool, the local school(s), and the Regional Director are in agreement. The alternative payment method must be submitted in writing for approval by the MOA Commissioner on an annual basis prior to implementation.

- E. If an official was not notified but was present to work a contest that was canceled or postponed for reasons related to an act of God including, but not limited to, power failure, adverse weather, or hazardous road conditions, the officials must be paid at least half of the game fee plus all travel and per diem allowances. Contest(s) canceled due to weather or act of God will be rescheduled using the same officials (if possible) and those officials will receive only travel and per diem allowances for the canceled contest(s).

If different officials are used, officials will be paid all travel/per diem allowance and game fee. Regarding cancellations/postponements after the contest begins, officials that work one quarter (or its equivalent, i.e. two full innings in softball) or more will receive a full game fee and if the officials work less than one quarter, they will receive one half a game fee (lightning cancellations, power outages etc.).

- F. If an official was not notified by a school that a contest date was changed or canceled, but the official was present to work the contest as originally scheduled, the official must be paid a full game fee plus all travel and per diem allowances. This also applies when a team does not show up for the contest.

- G. A varsity fee shall be paid to all officials working any contest involving a varsity and sub-varsity team.

- H. The regular season fee schedules include:
MOA regular season fee sheets are available at www.mhsa.org under the MOA Tab.

Basketball	
Varsity two- or three-person	\$ 80.00
Sub-varsity two-person (including shortened contests)	\$ 60.00
Sub-varsity three-person	\$ 45.00

Football	
Varsity	\$ 90.00
Sub-varsity	\$ 70.00
Jamborees (*see the MOA page at www.mhsa.org)	*

Soccer	
Varsity Referee	\$ 75.00
Varsity Assistant Referee	\$ 75.00
Varsity 4 th Official	\$ 35.00
Sub-varsity Referee	\$ 55.00
Sub-varsity Assistant Referee	\$ 55.00
Sub-varsity 4 th Official	\$ 35.00

*Soccer assignors will receive a \$5.00 per match fee (not including 4th officials. Pools will send an invoice at the end of each season with game counts.

Baseball/Softball	
Varsity	\$ 80.00
Sub-varsity	\$ 60.00

Invitational tournament varsity	\$ 52.00
Invitational tournament sub-varsity	\$ 39.00
Jamboree - varsity	\$ 38.00
Jamboree – sub-varsity	\$ 29.00

Volleyball	
Varsity (3 out of 5 matches)	\$ 80.00
Sub-varsity (3 out of 5 matches)	\$ 60.00
Varsity Invitational tournaments (per set) pool play – cap 25 points	\$ 15.00
match play 2 out of 3 - cap 25 points	\$ 30.00
Subvarsity Invitational tournaments (per set) pool play – cap 25 points	\$ 12.00
match play 2 out of 3- cap 25 points	\$ 24.00
Dual Varsity 3 out of 5	\$ 80.00
Dual Varsity 2 out of 3	\$ 60.00
Dual Sub-varsity 3 out of 5	\$ 60.00
Dual Sub-varsity 2 out of 3	\$ 36.00
MOA Line Judge (per match) All Classifications	\$25.00
*If a different format is used contact MHSA office for information	

Wrestling	
Varsity Duals (per match)	\$ 80.00
Subvarsity and exhibition	
Up to 14 matches	\$ 60.00
Additional (per match)	\$ 4.00
Assistant referee	\$ 55.00
Invitational tournaments (per day)	
Varsity Invitational (double elimination boys or girls' division)	\$ 200.00
Varsity Invitational (double elimination boys & girls division)	\$ 275.00
Subvarsity varsity Invitational (double elimination boys or girls' division)	\$ 132.00
Varsity Invitational (double elimination boys & girls division)	\$ 172.00
Mixers (*see the MOA page at www.mhsa.org)	*

I. All travel allowances are computed using round trip mileage. The regular season expense allowances include:

- The travel allowance for each driver official: **\$.70** per mile.
- The per diem allowance for each official including the driver: \$.16 per mile.
- The driver official receives the total (**\$.86 per mile**) of the travel allowance plus the per diem allowance. The travel and per diem allowance is partially based on the travel distances between cities as prescribed for State of Montana employees using personal vehicles for business purposes. This travel allowance is established for the entire fiscal year commencing on July 1 and continuing through June 30 of the following year. Distances to determine mileage allowances will be those listed on the official Montana Department of Transportation map. The mileage allowance is based upon the shortest paved distance from the contest site to either the (1) official's home, or (2) pool site. When an official is assigned to a contest in a pool city site, but lives outside the city, they shall get paid mileage from their home zip code to the pool city zip code.
- The per diem allowance for invitational/regular season tournaments is **\$.16** per mile or \$20 per day, whichever is greater, if the official does not stay overnight, and \$30 per day if the official does stay overnight.
- Officials working in their home city/pool site receive no travel allowance but will receive a \$10.00 per diem allowance per day if they work more than two contests during that day at the same facility **for a regular season contest**.

6. When separate officiating crews are requested or used for different contests which occur on the same date, schools must pay the driver official for each crew the required travel allowance when it isn't feasible for officials to travel together. This applies even when the officials are from the same city or pool site.

7. Soccer Exception: There is a fee adjustment when only 2 officials are available. The total fee paid for the contest for the 2 officials will be the same as if 3 officials were used and this is only approved for sub-varsity competition.

XXVIII. POSTSEASON FEE/EXPENSES

A. The postseason fee schedule per official is:
MOA regular season fee sheets are available at www.mhsa.org under the MOA Tab.

Basketball	
District tournament/game	\$ 85.00
Divisional tournament/game/playoff	\$ 90.00
State tournament	\$ 570.00

Football	
First & second round	\$ 120.00
Semifinal	\$ 142.00
Championship	\$ 162.00
Championship alternate (1/2 game fee)	\$ 81.00

Soccer	
First & Second Round Referee/Assistant Referee (per match)	\$ 120.00
Semifinal Referee/Assistant Referee (per match)	\$ 142.00
Championship Referee/Assistant Referee (per match)	\$ 162.00
State Playoffs Fourth official (per match)	\$ 40.00
Recommended championship alternate (1/2 game fee only) Championship 4th	\$ 81.00

Baseball/Softball	
Divisional tournament/Play-offs	\$ 90.00
State Tournament	\$ 95.00

Volleyball	
District tournament per match	\$ 85.00
District tournament personnel who line judge only (per match)	\$ 25.00
Divisional tournament per match	\$ 90.00
Divisional tournament personnel-line judge only	\$ 30.00
State tournament	\$ 475.00
State tournament official working as line judge	\$ 175.00
Play-in match at District tournament	\$ 85.00
District Play-in match personnel who line judge only (per match)	\$ 25.00
Play-in match at Divisional tournament	\$ 90.00
Divisional Play-in match personnel who line judge only (per match)	\$ 30.00

Wrestling	
Divisional tournament (per working day)	\$ 285.00
State tournament (per working day)	\$ 305.00

B. **The postseason expense allows the following:**

- All postseason officials will be paid a one-way mileage at **\$.70** travel allowance from their home sites to the postseason tournament or playoff site. **Exception: All postseason driver officials will be paid a one-way travel allowance from their home sites to the postseason tournament or playoff site except for the official who is a bona fide member of a pool outside his/her local pool. He/she will be paid a rider's allowance from the home site to the postseason tournament or playoff site.**

Exception - Football & Soccer Postseason Mileage: All postseason driver officials will be paid a round trip travel allowance from their home sites to the postseason tournament or playoff site except for the official who is a bona fide member of a pool outside his/her local pool. He/she will be paid a rider's allowance from the home site to the postseason tournament or playoff site. Whenever an official traveling to a playoff or tournament through a community where another official working the same playoff or tournament resides, the officials shall carpool and only the driver official will receive the one travel allowance. Both officials will receive the per diem allowance.

2. Each tournament official receives a \$35.00 per diem allowance for each overnight stay at the tournament site away from home for each day the tournament is in session. Each official who travels more than 200 miles one way will also be paid one additional day per diem and provided a room if they stay away from home for an extra night. Any official who is officiates a Saturday night contest but chooses not to stay overnight, or an official who rides with an official in this situation shall receive the \$35.00 per diem for that day. The MOA office has the discretion to apply the appropriate basketball tournament per diem schedule for postseason football contests.
3. If inclement weather forces an extra overnight stay for those officials who are less than 200 miles from their home, the tournament manager must pay an extra day's per diem and lodging to such officials.
4. Officials living less than 200 miles one-way from the tournament site and who are required to report to a tournament site one day early for meetings or weigh-ins, or who must leave their home before 7:00 a.m. on the day of the tournament shall receive an extra day per diem if they commute to the site. If they are staying at the site and must leave their home before 7:00 a.m. to attend those meetings or weigh-ins, the official will be provided a room the night preceding the opening day of the tournament.
5. The tournament manager is responsible for arranging lodging for tournament officials. Lodging accommodations shall be paid from tournament receipts by the tournament manager. Officials choosing not to utilize lodging accommodations provided by the tournament manager are not entitled to any other lodging reimbursement. When feasible, officials shall be provided with a single room. Lodging expenses may be provided from the receipts of a post season football playoff game when determined necessary by the MOA office.
6. Officials who commute daily from their home city to the tournament city or who alternate during the duration of the tournament contested on consecutive days between a daily commute and an overnight stay will receive **one-way mileage per day at the current prescribed milage rate**. Officials making more than one commute per day will only be compensated for a single commute.
7. A tournament official receives **\$25.00** per day for each day that the officials commute to the tournament while the tournament is in session.
8. Tournament officials working in their home city/pool site receive no travel allowance but will receive a \$10.00 per diem allowance for each day the tournament is in session.
9. Playoff Expenses – Baseball, Basketball, Softball, Soccer, and Volleyball. Mileage - **\$.70**. Per Diem - \$.16 per mile or \$25.00 per day, whichever is greater, if the official does not stay overnight. If the official stays overnight, \$35.00 per diem. In baseball and softball, host city officials will receive \$10.00 per diem (two out of three game playoffs). In soccer the postseason officials will receive a per diem of \$10.00 per game or \$0.16 per mile (whichever is greater) regardless of if the official is out of in or out of town. Schools are responsible for room reservations and room costs.
10. Pretournament, challenge and **play-in or play-off** contests utilize selected tournament officials and are considered part of the tournament. Receipts and expenses from the pre-tournament contest(s) are considered part of the tournament's financial report.

**MOA REGIONAL DIRECTORS
CURRENT MOA
REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

Current Regional Directors are listed by region with reference to the counties they represent.

Region 1

(Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders)

David Reese

Kila

(term expires 2028)

Region 2

(Missoula, Granite, Ravalli, Lake, Mineral)

Joel Fuhrmann

Charlo

(term expires 2028)

Region 3

(Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, Powell, Beaverhead, Madison-includes Whitehall)

Shane Jorgesen

Butte

(term expires 2028)

Region 4

(Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Toole, Liberty)

Patrick Wirtzberger

Havre

(term expires 2027)

Region 5

(Cascade, Choteau, Teton, Pondera, Glacier-includes Raynesford and Geyser)

Lea Potoczny

Great Falls

(term expires 2026)

Region 6

(Gallatin, Park, Meagher – includes towns of Harrison and Ennis)

Michael Bell

Belgrade

(term expires 2027)

Region 7

(Yellowstone, Sweet Grass, Golden Valley, Bighorn, Carbon, Stillwater, Musselshell)

Jay Lemelin

Billings

(term expires 2026)

Region 8

(Roosevelt, Richland, McCone, Valley, Sheridan, Daniels, Wibaux, Dawson)

Lon Swigart

Sidney

(term expires 2027)

Region 9

(Custer, Rosebud, Carter, Powder River, Prairie, Garfield, Treasure, Fallon)

Austin Stradley

Miles City

(term expires 2026)

Region 10

(Fergus, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Petroleum)

George Maruska

Lewistown

(term expires 2026)

Region 11

(Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, Jefferson)

Duane Cunningham

Helena

(term expires 2027)

**PAST REGIONAL DIRECTORS
1952-2025**

Region 1

C.H. Brewer, Kalispell
Andrew P. Anderson, Kalispell
O. N. "Bing" Caps, Kalispell
Neil Hart, Kalispell
Neil Eliason, Kalispell
Don Crosswhite, Columbia Falls
Bill Redmond, Kalispell
Bob Pike, Columbia Falls
Chuck Grant, Kalispell
Irv Heitz, Whitefish
Randy Saunier, Kalispell
Todd Fiske, Kalispell
Chuck Dotson, Kalispell

Region 2

Henry Zahn, Missoula
Claude Potter, Missoula
Tom O'Neil, Missoula
Jay Johnstone, Missoula
Robert Bedard, Missoula
Richard Huse, Missoula
Glen Welch, Missoula
Dick Scott, Missoula
Dewey Arnold, Superior
Doug McAlear, Polson

Region 3

John Good, Butte
Dick Muffick, Helena
Gene McMahon, Helena
Bob Rowling, Butte
Ned Ellingwood, Butte
Rick Rowling, Butte

Region 4

Metro B. Karaffa, Havre
Wilbur Swenson, Havre
Ole Larson, Havre
Glenn Gregson, Havre
John Callahan, Havre
Leonard "Bud" Seelinger, Havre
John Warner, Havre
Terry Sather, Havre
Cal Wirtzberger, Havre
Dave Peterson, Havre

Region 5

Tony Dalich, Great Falls
Walter Hantsman, Great Falls
Bob Murray, Great Falls
Tony Carlson, Great Falls
Phil Caldwell, Great Falls
Marv Kildahl, Great Falls
Ken Leland, Great Falls
Tom Lorang, Great Falls
Dan Miller, Great Falls

Region 6

Pete Vavich, Bozeman
Robert Ward, Bozeman
Lynn Eilefson, Bozeman
Fred Turner, Bozeman
Dobbie Lambert, Bozeman
Bill Bruner, Belgrade
Jack Bennett, Bozeman
Guy Miller, Belgrade
Dave Sauvageau, Three Forks
Dan Rust, Bozeman
Mark Bissell, Bozeman
KC Barnhardt, Bozeman
Bob Burns, Livingston
KC Barnhardt, Bozeman
Casper Roth, Bozeman

Region 7

Gene Pearson, Billings
Walter Zimmerman, Billings
Ron Nistler, Billings
Jim McKenzie, Billings
Harold Olson, Billings

Region 8

Homer V. Loucks, Nashua
N. L. Schneider, Sidney
Rex Dougherty, Sidney
Gene Eckroth, Sidney
Richard Buehler, Sidney
Jerry Butner, Sidney
Bob Frank, Sidney
Dave Zieske, Plentywood
Frank DiFonzo, Sidney

Region 9

Fred R. Brown, Miles City
Carl Horn, Miles City
Daniel Marinkovich, Miles City
Ken Skillestad, Glendive
Chuck Strand, Miles City
Doug Ellingson, Miles City
John Laney, Miles City
Bruce Shipp, Miles City

Region 10

C. E. (Mike) Henry, Lewistown
Waldo Vangness, Lewistown
Leon Jacobs, Lewistown
Pete Tuss, Lewistown
Jack Shields, Lewistown
Bill Price, Lewistown
Doreen Heintz, Stanford
Jack Shields, Lewistown
Steve Hertel, Moore

Region 11

Gene McMahon, Helena
Fred McDermott, Helena
John Maloney, Helena
Larry Holman, Helena
Eric Obrigewitch, Clancy

LIFE MEMBERS

Individuals who have been members of the MOA for at least 10 years and are currently in good standing but are retiring from officiating may acquire life MOA membership by notifying the MOA Executive Director's Office.

Abbott, Robert	Helena	Edwards, Bob	Billings	Laird, Edward	Billings	Reed, Lawrence	Whitefish
Alley, Duane	Joplin	Eisinger, Roger	Brockway	Larson, Bryan	Missoula	Richards, Ron	Butte
Anderson, Andrew P	Great Falls	Eliason, Neil	Bozeman	Laughlin, Dan	Anaconda	Ritter, Russ	Helena
Anderson, Gary	Chinook	Emmons, Jim	Deer Lodge	Lawrence, Bobb	Helena	Roberts, Victor	Billings
Anderson, Larry	Ronan	Eschler, Jim	Billings	Leland, Al	Frazer	Rossov, Richard	Kalispell
Appelt, James	Missoula	Eudaily, Ralph	Missoula	Lewis, John	Great Falls	Russell, Donald	Billings
Augustine, Wilbur "Bunny"	Great Falls	Fjeld, Larry	Scobey	Lindberg, Mark	Simms	Rust, Dan	Bozeman
Baird, Rick	Bigfork	Fleege, Lew	Lewistown	Loeffler, Wayne	Bigfork	Salmonsens, Fred	Florence
Baldwin, Bob	Bozeman	Fleming, Jim	Billings	Lorang, Thomas	Great Falls	Salonen, William	Great Falls
Ballowe, William	Great Falls	Fowell, Ken	Great Falls	Loucks, Homer V.	Helena	Sather, Terry	Havre
Balzer, Ron	Worden	Frank, Bob	Sidney	Loveless, Steve	Libby	Sauvageau, Dave	Three Forks
Barber, Dwight	Lewistown	Frank, Jeff	Anaconda	Lynch, Mike	Billings	Schlatter, Richard	Kalispell
Bartell, Clarence "Chuck"	Great Falls	Freund, Dan	Helena	MacIntyre, Don	Helena	Schmaltz, Paul	Billings
Bedard, Bob	Missoula	Furlong, Earl	Geraldine	Mack, Clifford	Billings	Schnesder, Nic	Billings
Belnap, Tom	Great Falls	Furlong, Mike	Helena	Mackanich, Andy	Helena	Schoonover, Frank	Dutton
Benett, Jack	Helena	Galahan, Robert	Harlowton	Major, Ross	Glendive	Schuld, Eugene	Circle
Bennett, John	Missoula	Girard, Norm	Glasgow	Mallard, Jim	Helena	Schulz, John	Missoula
Berger, Edward "Barney"	Lewistown	Good, John	Butte	Malnaa, Myron	Glasgow	Seelinger, Leonard "Bud"	Havre
Bergstrom, Lloyd	Billings	Good, Logan	Great Falls	Maloney, John	Helena	Seigfried, Alan	Sidney
Bestrom, Lee	Billings	Goodheart, Bernard "Swede"	Malta	Mangen, Michael	Billings	Semansky, Frank	Butte
Bettise, Donald	Billings	Gorton, Robert	Billings	Manson, Dwayne	Anaconda	Shafer, Mark	Whitefish
Bieber, Scott	Brockway	Goyette, Edwin D	Forsyth	Marinkovich, Dan	Anaconda		
Biom, Rodney	Silesia	Green, Rae	Mpls. Minn	Marinkovich, Robert	Anaconda	Shields, Jack	Lewistown
Bittner, Gerry	Billings	Griffin, F. F. "Cap"	Billings	Mayberry, Ed	Miles City	Shogren, Carl A	Billings
Black, Tom	Great Falls	Grimstad, John	Billings	Mayer, Thaddeus	Missoula	Simon, Keith B	Billings
Bloockey, E. Al	Bozeman	Grulke, R. W. "Jeff"	Glendive	McCarthy, Bernie	Whitehall	Skillestad, Ken	Glendive
Bochy, Kevin	Billings	Hackney, Wayne	Billings	McCarthy, Pat H	Butte	Smith, David	Great Falls
Brattain, Rob	Great Falls	Hansen, Dick	Worden	McDermott, Fred	Helena	Smith, Lee	Columbia Falls
Briggs, Webster	Box Elder	Hanson, Gary	Brockton	McElwain, Frank	Missoula	Smith, Hugh	Great Falls
Brooks, Chuck	Libby	Hantsman, Walter	Great Falls	McElwain, Joseph	Butte	Snippen, Hal Jr	Great Falls
Brovold, Philip E	Libby	Harrington, Jack	Butte	McFarlane, Bob	Billings	Sooy, Les	Bozeman
Brown, Fred	Billings	Harris, Gregory	Bozeman	McGrath, George "Nig"	Butte	Stengel, Paul "Casey"	Miles City
Brown, James	Helena	Hatcher, Ron	Park City	McKenzie, Jim	Billings	Stephenson, David	Libby
Brown, Terry	Helena	Hathaway, Ron	Miles City	McMahon, Gene	Helena	Stevens, Jim	Butte
Bruner, William	Belgrade	Heebner, Jack	Three Forks	McNamara, Mike	Anaconda	Stewart, Frank	Great Falls
Buehler, Richard	Sidney	Heitz, Irv	Whitefish	Menahan, William	Anaconda	Strand, Chuck	Miles City
Bunting, Bill	Glendive	Henderson, Dean	Great Falls	Mihelish, Gary	Helena	Sulser, Sidney	Glasgow
Burns, Conrad	Billings	Henry, C. E. "Mike"	Lewistown	Miller, Bob	Sanders	Swanson, Dennis	Bozeman
Bussell, Doug	Shelby	Hill, Charles	Great Falls	Miller, Don	Laurel	Swanson, Edwin	Glasgow
Buttner, Jerry	Sidney	Hill, Gordon	Bozeman	Miller, Guy	Belgrade	Swanson, Ronald	Lewistown
Byrne, Jack	Missoula	Hill, Warren	Billings	Miller, Keith	Butte	Swecker, Vernon	Laurel
Caldwell, Phillip	Great Falls	Hobby, Eugene	Billings	Mills, Kim	Fairfield	Swenson, Wilbur	Havre
Caldwell, Tony	Great Falls	Hodges, W. T. "Bill"	Great Falls	Mitchell, Dick	Miles City	Swigart, Wayne	Billings
Callahan, John	Havre	Hofmann, Clarence	Worden	Moline, Charles	Brockway	Taylor, Graham	Great Falls
Callen, Jerry	Sidney	Hofmann, Ernest H	Havre	Monaco, John	Anaconda	Tharp, Tim	Sunburst
Carey, Emmett, Jr	Glendive	Hogart, Bill	Butte	Moog, Robert	Joplin	Toepke, Terry	Sidney
Carkulis, Tom	Billings	Hohn, Brian	Townsend	Moore, John	Helena	Toepke, Wes	Glendive
Carroll, Del	Helena	Holter, Frank "Bud"	Miles City	Moore, Robert	Kalispell	Toy, Jack	Great Falls
Carter, James	Glendive	Horn, Carl	Miles City	Moquist, Miles	Missoula	Trottier, Pat	Grangeville, ID
Charlton, Gerald	Helena	Hull, Frank	Dillon	Morhardt, Larry	Great Falls	Urbanski, Stephen	Billings
Chilton, Bob	Helena	Huncovsky, Gary	Glendive	Morstein, Joe	Dillon	Vance, Mike	Great Falls
Christiansen, Hubert "Buzz"	Billings	Huse, Dick	Missoula	Moulds, Jim	Great Falls	Van Horn, Buck	Circle
Christiansen, Nels	Billings	Isern, E. Richard	Lewistown	Mueller, Charles	Billings	VanWichen, Ward	Malta
Clark, Robert	Thompson Falls	Jacobs, Jerry	Glendive	Muffck, Dick	Helena	Vavich, Pete	Bozeman
Clausen, Bruce	Great Falls	Jacobs, Leon	Lewistown	Murray, Kelly	Malta	Verlanic, Brian	Billings
Colbrese, Mike	Helena	Jacobson, Jeff	Billings	Murray, Robert	Great Falls	Vietz, Craig	Townsend
Collins, Ron	Butte	Jansa, Kenneth	Glasgow	Naber, Duane	Havre	Wallwork, Bruce	Missoula
Combs, Dale	Wise River	Jarvis, Clyde	Livingston	Nebel, Dave	Great Falls	Walter, Mitch	Polson
Connolly, James J	Butte	Jewell, John J	Helena	Nees, Bob "Pappy"	Miles City	Ward, Don	Bozeman
Connors, Pat	Anaconda	Jimison, Allen	Glendive	Nelson, Ken	Big Timber	Ward, Robert	Bozeman
Conover, Max	Broadview	Jimison, Jerry	Glendive	Nelson, Toby	Polson	Ward, William	Lewistown
Cox, Garth	Polson	Jimison, Ralph	Havre	Nessan, Gary	Lewistown	Ware, Wayne	Billings
Cox, Henry	Billings	Johnson, Dean	Glendive	Nierstheimer, Ron	Billings	Warner, John	Havre
Crone, Glenn	Miles City	Johnson, Levon "Smiley"	Glasgow	Ochsner, Larry	Glasgow	Webb, Harold	Great Falls
Cross, Delmar	Billings	Johnson, Lloyd	Anaconda	O'Connor, Jack	Missoula	Weber, Brian	Corvallis
Crum, Mike	Anaconda	Johnson, Terry	Highwood	O'Connor, William	Butte	Wedin, James	Ramsey
Curtin, Tim	Helena	Jones, John	Helena	Ogle, William V	Bozeman	Welch, Glenn	Butte
Dalich, Tony	Great Falls	Jones, Johnny	Billings	Olson, Don	Great Falls	Weston, Steve	Hamilton
Dalton, Kathje	Great Falls	Kato, Ted	Sidney	Olson, Lance	Great Falls	Willett, Robert	Great Falls
Davidson, Russ	Colstrip	Kello, Jim	Butte	Owings, Jim	Hamilton	Williamson, Robert	Sidney
Dawson, Floyd	Belt	Kenczka, Don	Great Falls	Paffhausen, Wayne	Butte	Wirtzberger, Clyde	Billings
DeBoer, Karen	Billings	Kenison, Ronald	Butte	Papo, Walt	Geraldine	Wolterman, Roger	Lewistown
Dellwo, James	Choteau	Kirby, Kent	Missoula	Parrish, Bradley	Lewistown	Yampradit, Tom	Billings
Denton, Charles	Great Falls	Klind, Gary	Hinsdale	Peck, Ray	Havre	Yeager, Jerry	Choteau
Derrig, Marty	Billings	Kolar, Vince	Raynesford	Pfau, Doug	Stevensville	Young, Allan	Billings
Diede, Dale	Ekalaka	Kostecki, Jim	Missoula	Pfau, Meg	Stevensville	Zabrocki, Ed	Billings
Dissly, Paul	Bozeman	Koterba, Phil	Harlowton	Price, Bill	Lewistown	Zahn, Henry	Missoula
Ditto, Gerald	Helena	Koterba, Scott	Sidney	Price, Danny	Sidney	Zier, Alex	Lewistown
Dockery, Raymond Jr	Lewistown	Kozeluh, Glenn	Missoula	Qualley, Marvin	Brockton	Zieske, Norm	Sidney
Docktor, Robert	Helena	Kraai, Randy	Billings	Rae, Henry	Red Lodge	Zimmerman, Walter	Billings
Duffy, George	Sun River	Kratofil, John	Libby	Rausch, Bud	Billings		
Dunkel, Jay	Choteau	Krivec, Stanley	Billings	Ray, Lindy	Loma		
Dunckel, John	Choteau	Kuka, Jim	Havre	Rea, Reasy	Scobey		

Montana Officials Association
HALL OF FAME

The Regional Directors of the Montana Officials Association established the MOA Hall of Fame in 1984 with the purpose of recognizing those individuals who have shown distinguished and dedicated service.

Section (1) NAME

This feature of the Montana Officials Association shall be titled the Montana Officials Association Hall of Fame.

Section (2) GOVERNANCE

The governance of the Montana Officials' Association Hall of Fame shall be embodied in the Montana Officials Association Regional Directors.

Section (3) SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- A. The MOA Hall of Fame Selection Committee shall have twelve (12) anonymous members as follows:
 - 1. One (1) member from Montana High School Association Executive Staff.
 - 2. One (1) member representing each of the Eleven (11) regions in the Montana Officials Association
- B. Names of the Selection Committee individuals will be anonymous to the public.
- C. Members of the Selection Committee shall be appointed by the Montana Officials Association Commissioner with approval from the Montana High School Association Executive Director.
- D. Vacancies on the Selection Committee shall be filled by the Montana Officials Association Commissioner with approval from the Montana High School Association Executive Director.
- E. All appointed members shall serve a four (4) year term. Members can be reappointed.
- F. Committee membership shall begin July 1st.

Section (4) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MONTANA OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

The duties and responsibilities of the Montana Officials' Association office staff shall be:

- A. To receive nominations of persons who shall be considered for election to the Officials' Hall of Fame.
- B. To keep a current, accurate and complete accounting of the candidates for the Officials' Hall of Fame.
- C. Prepare and send out all correspondence as required.
- D. Tally committee ballots.
- E. Prepare press releases of inductees.
- F. Validate candidate information upon request to the selection committee.

Section (5) NOMINATIONS

- A. Nominations for the MOA Hall of Fame may be made by:
 - 1. Representatives of Montana Officials' Association
 - 2. Members of the MOA Hall of Fame Committee.
 - 3. The general public.
- B. Nomination for the MOA Hall of Fame requirements and limitations:
 - 1. Cover Letter

- 2. MOA Hall of Fame Nomination form – The form must be signed by the candidates Regional Director to be considered.
- 3. Photocopies (8 ½" x 11") of not more than six (6) of the following: newspaper clippings, magazine articles, event programs, or other such materials that detail information about the nominee's accomplishments (DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS). Please do not use notebooks with plastic sheet protectors or highlighters to point out specific facts; either underline or draw arrows to mark copy.
- 4. Letters - a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) letters of recommendation explaining why you think this individual is worthy of this honor. Please limit each letter to ONE typewritten page. Letters of recommendation for other awards or honors should not be used as a substitute for this requirement.

- C. The selection of candidates will occur every year. Nomination forms are routed through the Regional Director and are due in the MOA office by April 1st of each year. Nominees remain in consideration for a period of five years. Any nomination received after the candidates' materials have been sent to the Selection Committee will be held until the next election. The timeline is as follows:

- April 1st: Nominations are due at the MOA office.
- April 20th: Nominations are forwarded to the Selection Committee.
- May 15th: Selection Committee ballots are due to the MOA office.
- June: Inductees are notified.
- June: Winners are announced to the media.

- D. The two categories of the Montana Officials' Association Hall of Fame are:

- 1. Modern era - a person who has experienced outstanding achievement as an official while registered in the Montana Official Association. A modern competitor is eligible for nomination a minimum of one year after his/her retirement.
- 2. Old timer - a person who has experienced outstanding achievement as an official while registered in the MOA. An old timer has over twenty-five (25) years of service with the MOA. At least one old timer will be inducted annually if the criteria are met.

The criteria for selection in both of these categories include:

- a. LONGEVITY - Consideration is given for length of service as a member of the MOA and officiating service.
- b. MULTIPLE SPORTS - Consideration is also given to those officials who have officiated multiple sports throughout their career.
- c. PLAYOFF/TOURNAMENT/OFFICIATING - Consideration is given for the different levels of competition officiated, for example district, divisional, and state tournaments, along with football and soccer playoffs. This will include the number of tournaments officiated, with more consideration afforded for working at the higher levels of post season events.
- d. HONORS - Consider Distinguished Service Awards, NFOA Awards, or any recognition the official has received as a result of his/her being involved in MOA.
- e. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE - This could include serving in a leadership role of his/her local association/pool, a trainer of young officials, MOA Regional Director etc.

- E. The Selection Committee shall consider all candidates sent to the individual committee members. Each committee member shall vote for a maximum of ten (10) candidates each year. At least one inductee must be from the "old timer" category if the criteria are met.

- F. The Selection Committee will receive an updated packet of information for each candidate for each election. Files of inducted candidates can be discarded. Files of unsuccessful candidates will be retained by the MOA office to which new files will be added and distributed for each election. A candidate who has not been elected within five (5) ballots will

be dropped from the list of eligible candidates and shall not have his/her name reconsidered unless re-nominated.

1984 INAUGURAL INDUCTEES

Edward "Barney" Berger..... Lewistown
 Lloyd "Bergy" Bergstrom..... Billings
 Ernest "Al" Blockey..... Bozeman
 Fred Brown..... Billings
 J. Robert "Bob" Chilton..... Helena
 Hubert "Buzz" Christiansen..... Billings
 Robert "Bob" Edwards..... Billings
 Ken Fowell..... Great Falls
 John "Johnnie" Good..... Butte
 C. E. "Mike" Henry..... Lewistown
 Frank "Bud" Holter..... Miles City
 Stan Krivec..... Billings
 George "Nig" McGrath..... Butte
 Toby Nelson..... Polson
 Henry Rae..... Red Lodge
 Paul Schmaltz..... Billings
 Carl Shogren..... Billings
 Paul "Casey" Stengel..... Miles City
 Pete J. Tuss..... Lewistown
 James Wedin..... Ramsay
 Glenn Welch..... Butte
 Walter Zimmerman..... Billings

1985

Wilbur "Bunny" Augustine.... Great Falls
 Ron Balzer..... Worden
 Chuck Bartell..... Great Falls
 Don Bettise..... Billings
 James Dellwo..... Choteau
 Jim Emmons..... Deer Lodge
 Jim Fleming..... Billings
 Dick Hansen..... Worden
 Bill Hodges..... Great Falls
 Clarence Hofmann..... Worden
 Johnny Jones..... Billings
 Joe McElwain..... Butte
 Bob Murray..... Great Falls
 Danny Price..... Sidney
 Nic Schneider..... Billings
 Ken "Skilly" Skillestad..... Glendive
 Pete Vavich..... Bozeman
 Hal Webb..... Great Falls
 Norm Zieske..... Sidney

1986

Rex Dougherty..... Sidney
 Farrell "Cap" Griffin..... Billings
 Cliff Hagfeldt..... Scobey
 Leon "Jake" Jacobs..... Lewistown
 John Mora..... Great Falls
 Dick Muffick..... Helena
 Gene Pearson..... Billings
 Jim Stevens..... Butte
 Dean Turner..... Billings
 Bill Wallinder..... Missoula
 Roy Wood..... Havre

1987

Webster "Webb" Briggs..... Box Elder
 Richard "Dick" Buehler..... Billings
 Eleanor Buzalsky..... Bozeman
 Tony Carlson..... Great Falls
 Dale Combs..... Wise River
 Floyd Dawson..... Belt
 Fred Daylis..... Billings
 Neil Eliason..... Bozeman

Carl "Swede" Fahlgren..... Malta
 Henry Fiske..... Helena
 Walt Hantsman..... Great Falls
 Neil Hart..... Kalispell
 John Kosich..... Billings
 Dave Nebel..... Great Falls
 George "Bruin" O'Donnell..... Billings
 Donald L. Olson..... Great Falls
 John Shoquist..... Great Falls
 John "Jack" Toy..... Great Falls

1988

Robert "Bob" Bedard..... Missoula
 Mike Cloud..... Helena
 Tony Dalich..... Great Falls
 Eli "Doc" Doyra..... Great Falls
 Leonard "Bud" Seelinger..... Havre
 Don Ward..... Lewistown

1989

Doug Dierenfield..... Billings
 Don Richman..... Harlem
 Jim Simpson..... Helena

1990

Bill O'Grady..... Great Falls
 Frank "Frog" Hull..... Dillon
 Joe Morstein..... Dillon
 Bill Redmond..... Kalispell

1991

Doug Bussell..... Shelby
 Jim Kello..... Butte
 Dan Marinkovich..... Anaconda

1992

Tom Campbell..... Helena
 Nels Christiansen..... Billings
 Floyd Creekmore..... Billings
 Bernard "Swede" Goodheart..... Malta
 Ron Hathaway..... Miles City
 Guy Miller..... Belgrade

1993

Dennis Arndt..... Great Falls
 Jim Kuka..... Havre
 Fred McDermott..... Helena
 Gene McMahon..... Helena
 Bob Pike..... Columbia Falls
 Bill Wilkerson..... Great Falls
 Bob Wilson..... Billings

1994

Jim Benn..... Missoula
 Darryl Dupuis..... Polson
 Marvin Kildahl..... Great Falls
 Frank McElwain..... Missoula
 Ron Nistler..... Billings
 Richard Smith..... Kalispell
 Oscar Wirtala..... Billings

1995

Erwin Byrnes..... Missoula
 Phil Caldwell..... Great Falls
 Henry Hofeldt..... Chinook

1996

Bob Sheridan..... Missoula

1997

Mike Furlong..... Helena
 Jim McKenzie..... Billings

1998

John Maloney..... Helena
 Dan Rust..... Bozeman

1999

Jim Combo..... Butte
 Bob Frank..... Sidney
 Bill Hogart..... Butte

2000

Gene Cook..... Great Falls
 Bob Dickson..... Miles City
 Gary Mihelish..... Helena
 Mark Shafer..... Whitefish

2001

Gerry Butner..... Sidney
 Dick Schipporeit..... Missoula

2002

Bob Lemelin..... Anaconda
 Bud Rausch..... Billings

2003

Wayne Giese..... Sidney
 Jim Lodge..... Missoula

2004

Kevin Bochy..... Billings

2005

Don Peoples..... Butte

2006

Chuck Brooks..... Libby
 Terry Sather..... Havre

2007

Dick Huse..... Missoula
 Ken Leland..... Great Falls

2008

Doug Ellingson..... Miles City
 Tom Taylor..... Missoula

2009

Rob Brattain..... Great Falls
 Norm Girard..... Glasgow
 Jack Shields..... Lewistown
 Pete Waylett..... Dillon

2010

Irvin Heitz..... Whitefish
 Alan Lear..... Corvallis
 David Zieske..... Plentywood

2011

Rick Baird..... Bigfork
 Chuck Strand..... Miles City

2012

Tom Lorang..... Great Falls
 Fred Salmonsens..... Florence

2013

Gerry Bittner..... Billings

2014

Michael Anderson..... Bozeman

Ron Collins..... Butte
Marty Derrig Billings
John Laney..... Miles City
Tony LaslovichAnaconda
Randy Morrison Belgrade

2015

Hal KarlMissoula
Mike Lynch Billings

2016

Dave Bennetts..... Butte
Doug Crum..... Libby
Keith Ori.....Kalispell

2017

Larry Holman..... Helena
Marvin QualleyFroid
Steve Weston.....Hamilton

2018

Cody Kuntz..... Pompey's Pillar

2019

Ron Hatcher.....Anaconda

2020

No Inductees

2021

Pat Sherman.....Billings

2022

No Inductees

2023

Jim Foran..... Hilger
Suzette Harkin.....Bozeman
Bryan Larson..... Missoula
Bob "Rollo" Rowling.....Butte

2024

Mike Anderson.....Butte
Dan Boucher.....Havre
Frank Costello Billings
Cal Wirtzberger.....Havre

2025

Ned Ellingwood.....Butte
Steve Johnson.....Bozeman
Bryan Porch.....Missoula
Bruce Shipp.....Miles City

For more information on the MHSA/MOA
visit the MHSA website at www.mhsa.org.