

ACTIVITY NEWS

Montana High School Association · 1 South Dakota Ave · Helena, Montana 59601 · 406-442-6010 · www.mhsa.org

November 2025

FUNDAMENTALS

TIME TO REVIEW FUNDAMENTALS

As we close one sports' season and begin another, the time is right to review the basics of MHSAA rules. Fundamentals of MHSAA Athletic Regulations, a comprehensive review of rules, guidelines and interpretations, is linked to this publication. After reading the attached, please feel free to contact Brian Michelotti at bmichelotti@mhsa.org or 442-6010 with any questions you may have.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Executive Board will be November 24, 2025, in Helena. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Monday. The meeting will be held at Helena Public Schools Administration Building, which is located at 1325 Poplar Street in Helena. The new MHSAA Building is almost finished but we were not able to get occupancy in time for this meeting. We are excited to showcase our new building at the 2026 MHSAA Annual Meeting in Helena

Major Agenda Items for Executive Board Meeting:

1. Adoption of proposed 2026-2027 budget.
2. Review of any proposals to be submitted to the membership at the Annual Meeting.
3. Plans for the MHSAA Annual Meeting.
4. James C. Haugen Meritorious Service, Service Citation and Mildred Adams Awards.
5. Act on Rules and Regulations proposals from member schools.
6. Act on appeals/waivers.
7. Redistricting/ Realignment for all sports
8. Football Reclassification**

****Football Reclassification will not occur at this meeting. This is a two-year process and we are in the interim year. The Board will determine next November which schools will remain or move to a new classification again for the 2027-28 and 2028-29 school years.**

If anyone wishes to be on the agenda, they must contact the MHSAA office at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIRECTORY UPDATES

There is a Public Directory available at www.mhsa.org under Schools and Directory. Any updates or changes to this directory need to be made through Arbiter. We will no longer have access to a printed directory. Please call or email Jenise Cockhill (jcockhill@mhsa.org) with any questions regarding the directory.

IMPORTANT MHSAA ADMINISTRATIVE DATES

We have compiled a list of important administrative dates and deadlines for our office. Although this list is not entirely comprehensive, it summarizes www.mhsa.org most of the important deadlines. You can find this list on our website under Resources and Calendar. Please call or email Jenise Cockhill (jcockhill@mhsa.org) with any questions. [2025-26 Important Administrative Dates](#)

MHSAA AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED

The MHSAA will honor deserving individuals at the Annual Meeting to be held in Helena in January. The MHSAA Executive Board, during their meeting on November 24-25, will consider the nominees for the following awards:

1. **James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award:** Presented for "Outstanding Contributions to the MHSAA Activities." This is the highest award given by the MHSAA.
2. **Service Citation Award:** Presented for "Significant Contribution to the MHSAA", and.
3. **Mildred Adams Award:** Presented to school support staff personnel who work with activities.
4. **Spirit of the Sport** - please click on the link for information about this award. [MHSAA Spirit of the Sport Award](#)
5. **Heart of the Arts** - please click on the link for information about this award. [MHSAA Heart of the Arts Award](#)

REMINDER TO SUBMIT ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSALS

Remember that the deadlines are approaching for presenting proposed amendments to the MHSAA By-Laws and/or Rules and Regulations.

1. Proposed changes by member schools for any of the Rules and Regulations of the MHSAA Handbook, must first be presented to the MHSAA Executive Board at its November 24-25 meeting. Proposals must be received ten days prior to the meeting.
2. Schools may submit proposed changes in the By-Laws (pages 7 - 21) to the Executive Director by December 1. By-Law changes do not need to be presented to the Executive Board for approval.

No proposal can be presented from the floor that has not been received by the deadline. Proposals must carry a fiscal note if there are financial implications **to the Association** and proposals will be separated by the Resolution Committee to be considered by affected classifications.

We request that when writing proposals for the MHSAA Annual Meeting you refer to the MHSAA Handbook, Article IX, page 20. Please submit your proposal by using the proposal form posted at www.mhsa.org.

ANNUAL MEETING in Helena

The next MHSAA Annual Meeting will be held in Helena on January 19, 2026. The Delta Hotels is the host facility: for online registration, you can use the following link to book directly: [Room Reservations](#) The last day to book rooms is Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

MHSAA Annual Meeting Registration

Click Link - [2026 MHSAA Annual Meeting Registration Link](#)

SUBMIT ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSALS

If you plan to submit proposals for the coming Annual Meeting, please be advised of the following important dates:

1. Proposed changes by member schools for any of the Rules and Regulations of the MHSA Handbook (pages 23-35), must first be presented to the MHSA Executive Board at its **November 24-25 meeting**.
2. Schools may submit proposed changes in the By-Laws (pages 7-22 to the Executive Director by December 1. By-Law changes do not need to be presented first to the Executive Board, but it is best if all proposals are received before the Board Meeting.

TOURNAMENTS

TOURNAMENT MANAGERS

It is the responsibility of tournament managers to make sure that they report to the Montana High School Association office in Helena any incident or injury involving spectators and/or participants. Also, any property damage should be reported. Please submit a facility or school district report of these occurrences immediately following your tournament by emailing the report to Brian Michelotti (bmichelotti@mhsa.org) in the event that any type of litigation occurs following the incident.

Because there is a claims made coverage deadline from the date of the occurrence in which it has to be reported, all tournament managers should send this report as soon as possible following your event. Your cooperation is appreciate

MUSIC

If your school is hosting a district music festival in the spring and you are planning to move the dates of that event, please be advised that you must first contact the MHSA office. Only schools that have paid music dues are eligible for participation, and schools with paid music programs must ensure district music festival participation.

2026 District Music Festivals

The following dates are for the District Festivals in Spring 2025. Festival Dates (subject to change)

April 7	District 9 - Curricular
April 13	District 9 - Solo and Ensemble
April 17-18	District Music Festival - 2,4,7,10, 12
May 1-2	State Solo and Ensemble Festivals

All festival dates are subject to change, please refer to the MHSA website for all updated information [2025-2026 Festival Information](#)
*Some districts begin on Thursday Evening.

WRESTLING

MHSA SKIN LESION FORM

Attached you will find a copy of the MHSA Skin Lesion form which can also be found on the wrestling page of the MHSA web site at Wrestling Forms. Proper use of these forms is a point of emphasis in wrestling this season.

WR#1 FORM DEADLINES

Each wrestler must certify his/her weight within thirty-four (34) calendar days (December 23, 2025) of his/her first wrestling practice. To be certified, a wrestler must have on file a completed WR#1 form with the school principal or his/her designee. This form will bear the wrestler's name, his/her school, and the dated signatures of the examining physician, the wrestler, his/her parent or guardian, and the coach. On this card, the examining physician will record the lowest weight he/she

feels the wrestler may safely attain during that wrestling season. The other parties must sign the form after the examining physician has recorded his/her lowest weight, and by so doing, they indicate agreement with the physician's assessment.

It is recommended that wrestling coaches and schools monitor weight control of their student athletes through skin-fold measurement techniques. It shall be the responsibility of the school administration to see that the above provisions are met as specified.

A student who joins the team after the deadline for certification must have his WR#1 Form completed immediately and .

There can be no recertification at a lower weight class once the WR#1 form is complete. A wrestler who wrestles in a weight class lower than that dictated by the WR#1 form at any time or at any level during that season is in violation of these rules.

The lowest weight class shown on the original WR#1 form for that season shall apply for the entire season. However, a wrestler may compete at any higher weight at any time during the season. If a wrestler weighs in more than one weight class above the lowest weight class shown on the original certification, the wrestler will no longer be eligible to wrestle at the lowest weight class shown on the WR#1. The wrestler must move to at least one weight class higher than shown on the WR#1.

On October 15th, coaches were sent email reminders and login information for setting up their school accounts on the NWCA portal. Schools are required to set up a separate boys' and girls' account.

Scale Recertification Changes

The State of Montana Bureau of Weights and Measures has notified the MHSA that they no longer have the resources to certify scales. Enclosed with this mailing is a list of scale service agencies registered with the State of Montana. Please contact one of these agencies if you need to certify your scales. A link to these agencies will also be on the wrestling page at www.mhsa.org.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Scott Wilson at the MHSA office.

BASKETBALL

2025-26 BASKETBALL RULE CHANGES

Enclosed are the basketball rules revisions for the 2025-26 season. Please give these to your basketball staff for their review.

BASKETBALL INFORMATION INCLUDED

Attached to this publication is information concerning selection of basketball scorers, timers and shot clock operators, the MHSA basketball mercy rule, duties of a shot clock operator, and the 2025-26 basketball rules interpretations. This information should be provided to, and reviewed with, basketball coaches and personnel that will be your scorer, timer and shot clock operator at basketball games.

BASKETBALL PRACTICE RULE

The Montana High School Association Executive Board shall establish the starting date for practices and the first allowable date when any contest can be played. No individual shall play in any Association basketball contest until he/she has a minimum of eight (8) days of basketball practice with at least one practice session per day on eight (8) different days (no practice permitted on Sundays) prior to the date of the first allowable game. **Warm-ups or walk-throughs before a game cannot be used as a day of practice to meet the minimum of eight (8) days of basketball practice. Additionally, a practice the day of the game does not count, unless an athlete is practicing with another squad that does not have a game that day (i.e. a varsity team member stays home and practices with the JV team that does not have a game that day).**

QUARTER ELIGIBILITY

The Association prohibits all students of Class A and AA member schools from entering more than five (5) quarters of basketball in any one day, except Class A subvarsity players may play six (6) quarters if not suited for the varsity game. Students of Class B and C member schools may play in six (6) quarters of basketball in any one day.

Should a non-varsity contest be played using a variation in the length of quarters or the number of quarters played, one of the approved variations shown on the basketball page of the MHSAs website must be used. The applicable game and quarter limit interpretations are also included on the website (www.mhsa.org). Montana basketball teams will always follow the MHSAs game limitation rule when playing in neighboring states. This MHSAs quarter rule is not a NFHS rule and basketball officials will not regulate or administer the quarter rule.

PLAYERS STARTING A GAME

NFHS basketball rules state, "Each team consists of five players, one of whom is the captain. A team must start all games with five players." If a team can't start a sub-varsity game with five players because of an insufficient number of players, the school must request permission to start the game with fewer than five players from Brian Michelotti, the MHSAs Executive Director. **Remember that by MHSAs rules, the Association prohibits students of member schools from playing in a preliminary contest and starting in the varsity contest on the same day. Coaches must ensure that this MHSAs rule is not violated. Because this is a MHSAs rule, MOA basketball officials will follow NFHS rules requiring a varsity team to start with 5 players, even if some of the players have played in a sub-varsity contest.**

SPIRIT

REMINDER

If your school did not have cheerleaders for the fall season but will be fielding a team for the winter season, make certain your coach completes the online spirit rules clinic by December 1st.

As basketball season is upon us, please keep in mind that spirit participants (cheerleaders) shall stand outside the free-throw lane lines extended towards the sidelines throughout a basketball game. (Rule 2-1-16). In addition, spirit participants shall remain outside of the playing area during a 30-second or less time out during a basketball game (Rule 2-1-14).

ATTACHMENTS

[Important Administrative Dates for 2025-26](#)
[James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award, Service Citation Award and Mildred Adams Award Form and Proposal form](#)
[2025-26 NFHS Basketball Rules Changes](#)
[Selection of Basketball Scorer, Timer and Shot Clock Operator](#)
[Duties of a Shot Clock Operator](#)
[MHSAs Basketball Mercy Rule](#)
[2025-26 Basketball Rules Interpretations](#)
[2025-2026 Swimming Rule Interpretations](#)
[2025-2026 Wrestling Rules Interpretations](#)
[Wrestling Skin Lesion Form](#)
[Fundamentals of MHSAs Athletic Regulations](#)
[Wrestling Scale Service Agencies](#)

Staff Members

Brian Michelotti, Executive Director
Kip Ryan, Senior Associate Director
Scott Wilson, Associate Director
Amy Bartels, Assistant Director
Greta Buehler, Assistant Director
Jenise Cockhill, Business Manager
Ryan Richards, Corporate Sponsorships



Executive Board Members

John Fitzgerald, Superintendent, Red Lodge School (President)
Aric Harris, Activities Director, Whitefish School (Vice President)
Joe McElroy, State Superintendent's Appointee, Missoula
Dan Mills, Principal, Bozeman High School
Kara Triplett, Superintendent, Lambert School
Krystal Zentner, MTSBA Appointee, Bridger
Jimmy Patelis, Governor's Appointee, Billings
Dee Pretty on Top, American Indian Representative, Lodge Grass

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