



# **MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

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

April 23, 2026

**TO: MHSAA MEMBER SCHOOLS**

**FROM: BRIAN MICHELOTTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**RE: APRIL EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION**

The Montana High School Association Executive Board conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on April 20-21, 2026, and the following action was taken:

1. The Board recently reviewed reports on the successful state tournaments for Speech and Drama, Wrestling, Basketball, and Swimming. The Executive Board and MHSAA staff extend their heartfelt appreciation to the tournament managers and venue personnel who made these events possible. Their hard work and dedication contributed significantly to the success of each tournament!
2. The Board elected Kara Triplett, Superintendent at Lambert Schools, Activities Director at Richey / Lambert and Class C Representative to the Board, as the new Board President and Joe McElroy, Office of Public Instruction Representative from Missoula, as the new Vice-President.
3. The Board awarded the 2027-28 Annual Meeting to the Delta Hotel Helena Colonial and the 2028-29 Annual Meeting to the Billings Hotel and Convention Center.
4. The Board reviewed and approved the 2024-25 Audit Report.
5. The final MHSAA Executive Board Meeting of the 2025-26 school year will move from the originally scheduled date of June 18<sup>th</sup> to June 23, 2026.
6. Effective in 2027-28, the following schools were reclassified and assigned to the district/divisions as indicated (district and division assignments are tentative with final action on alignment to be taken at the November Executive Board Meeting):
  - a. Anaconda High School from Class B to Class A. Anaconda High School is tentatively assigned to Southwest conference for basketball, football, golf, softball, tennis, track & field, volleyball and wrestling. Anaconda will be placed in the Class A division for cross country.
  - b. Cascade High School from Class C to Class B. Cascade High School is tentatively assigned to District 1B for basketball, volleyball and track & field, Northern division for golf and the Class B division for cross country. Cascade will remain in the Northern division for eight-player football, and the Western division for B-C wrestling.
  - c. Fairview High School from Class B to Class C. Fairview High School is tentatively assigned to District 2C for basketball, volleyball and track & field, Class C for cross



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- country and the Eastern division for golf. Fairview will remain in the Eastern Division for eight-player football.
- d. Jefferson High School from Class B to Class A. Jefferson High School is tentatively assigned to Southeast conference for basketball, football, golf, track & field, volleyball and wrestling. Jefferson will be placed in the Central division for tennis and the Class A division for cross country.
  - e. Park City High School will be reclassified from Class C to Class B. Park City High School is tentatively assigned to District 4B for basketball, track & field and volleyball, Class B for cross country and the Southeast division for golf. They will remain in the Southern division for eight-player football.
  - f. Plentywood High School from Class B to Class C. Plentywood High School is tentatively assigned to District 2C for basketball, volleyball and track & field and Class C for cross country and the Eastern division for golf. Plentywood will remain in the Eastern Division for eight-player football and B-C wrestling.
  - g. The following schools met the enrollment guidelines to change classifications, but petitioned the Board to remain in their current classification:
    1. Butte Central Catholic High School will remain in Class A.
  - h. The following schools decided to dissolve their cooperative sponsorship (coop) and because of this met the enrollment guidelines to change classifications:
    1. Three Forks will be moved from the Eastern Division in Class A Wrestling to the Western Division in Class B/C wrestling.
    2. Ennis will be moved from the Eastern Division in Class A Wrestling to the Western Division in Class B/C wrestling.

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

7. **Baseball** – The following Baseball Handbook change was approved regarding state tournament bracket language: The state tournament will be an ***eight-team single elimination with consolation bracket***, three-day tournament.
8. **Basketball** - The Board approved a proposal to dissolve the Master Basketball Scheduling Committee and eliminate the Master Basketball Schedule. Each classification will form a committee and/or appoint individuals to develop the 2027-28 basketball schedule for the respective classifications.
9. **Football** - Click the following link for the approved 8-player football bracket for 2026-2029. [8-Player Football Bracket](#)



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10. **Speech, Drama and Debate - Montana Forensic Educators Association Proposal Items** -
  - a. The MHSAA Executive Board approved all the 2026-27 MFEA proposal items. Visit the MHSAA website to view all MFEA approved items. Click to view the information: [2026 - 2027 Speech, Drama and Debate Approved Proposal Items](#)
  - b. The following Handbook addition for Medical Care at Postseason Tournaments was approved. This information will be updated in the MHSAA Handbook and the MHSAA Speech, Drama and Debate Handbook: ***Fine Arts events including Music, Speech, Debate, and Drama will be included in the requirement to have an updated EAP for all postseason events.*** All schools hosting a postseason event are required to submit an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) to the MHSAA. All judges and event staff must be provided with a copy of the EAP to ensure that every room with participants has a clear understanding of procedures in the event of an emergency
  
11. **Tennis** - The Board approved the proposed Class B/C Tennis Divisions. This is effective for the 2026 tennis season. [2025-26 Tennis Alignments](#)
  
12. **Track & Field** – The board approved that six will qualify from District 6C and 7C in the Class C Southern Division. This is effective for the 2026 track and field season.
  
13. **Wrestling**
  - a. The following handbook changes were approved for the 2026-27 wrestling season:
    1. A two-pound weight allowance is allowed for regular season matches held on Monday or Tuesday in December. The weight allowance cannot exceed +3 pounds over the original weight class.
    2. Weigh-ins for the 2nd day of a regular season and/or postseason tournament cannot officially begin until the weight class is finished for the day. The weigh-in will close 1 hour after the last match of the day. It is recommended that tournament management have 2 or more scales available and enough volunteers to avoid long waiting times. Weigh-ins are not allowed after the 1-hour time limit has elapsed.
    3. Each wrestler must certify his/her weight on or before the **3rd Wednesday of December (December 17, 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.
  - b. The following was approved regarding girls' wrestling classifications and state qualifiers: Starting in the 2026-27 wrestling season, girls' wrestling will have two classifications. The new classifications will be AA and A-B-C. In both classifications, 16



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girls will qualify per weight class, and the top 6 place winners will be recognized. Girls' wrestling will continue with 6 divisional/seeding tournaments with tournaments taking place at the same time and location as the boys divisional/seeding tournaments.

- c. Boys' weight classes will change to the 14 NFHS weight classes as listed in the NFHS wrestling rule book starting in the 2026-27 season. The new weight classes will be 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 144, 150, 157, 165, 175, 190, 215, 285.
- d. New language regarding wrestling match limits will be as follows: Each individual wrestler may have no more than eighteen (18) contested events (where he/she weighs in and wrestles at the same physical location) with a **maximum of fifty-five (55)** total matches prior to the post season.

## 14. **General**

- a. The Board approved the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee's recommendation to require a Pre-Event Medical Meeting which is a brief gathering held before every MHSAA athletic contest to review the emergency action plan (EAP), confirm AED location, and clarify each participant's role. A full description of the Pre-Event Medical Meeting is found here: [Pre-Event Medical Meeting](#)
- b. Last year, the Board approved the removal of the 5-year requirement for the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching. New coaches now need to complete this course only once in their coaching career. Additionally, an annual online continuing education requirement will be added, and the Board approved the NFHS Course "Coaching Mental Wellness" as the new requirement for all coaches in the 2026-27 school year.

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

The MHSAA Executive Board placed the [state events for 2027-28](#) and the remaining [state events for 2026-27](#). [Click on this link to access the CALENDAR page of the MHSAA website](#)