MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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November 24, 2026

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

FROM: **BRIAN MICHELOTTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

RE: **NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION**

The Montana High School Association Executive Board conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on November 23, 2026. Following is a synopsis of the major items:

1. The preliminary budget for 2027-28 was reviewed and approved by the Board pending final approval by the membership in January.

2. The Board reviewed proposals submitted by member schools for consideration at the MHSA Annual Meeting in January. The Board also discussed several potential reclassification options, which will be shared with the membership during the classification caucuses in January.

3. The Board approved the 2028-29 Calendar. 2028-29 Calendar link

4. The MHSA still has one open state tournament event for the 2026-27 school year. The State A/B Baseball Tournament is still open, and we encourage any interested schools / communities to contact the MHSA office.

5. The Executive Board took the following actions regarding reclassification or realignment:
    a. The Board approved moving Arlee to Class C from Class B due to a significant drop in enrollment. They will be placed in the 14C for basketball, volleyball and track & field.
    b. The Board approved the proposed alignment for Class A. Click here for the 2027-28 Class A Realignment for all sports except tennis and soccer.
    c. The Board approved the proposed realignment for Class B Northern Division in basketball, track and field and volleyball. Click here for the 2027-28 Class B Northern Division Realignment.
    d. The Board approved the proposed realignment for Class C Eastern Division in basketball, track and field and volleyball. Click here for the 2027-28 Class C Eastern Division Realignment.
    e. The Board approved the proposed realignment for Class C Northern Division in basketball, track and field and volleyball. Click here for the 2027-28 Class C Northern Division Realignment.
    f. The Board approved the proposed realignment for Class C Golf for the 2026-27 spring golf season. Click here for the 2026-27 Class C golf realignment.

6. The Executive Board approved the following schools to move classifications in football for the 2027-28 and 2028-29 school years:
    a. Custer / Hysham / Melstone will move to 8-Player from 6-Player

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b. Denton / Geyser / Stanford / Geraldine will move to 8-Player from 6-Player
c. Joliet will move to 8 Player from 11-Player/Class B
d. St Labre will move to 8-Player from 11-Player/Class B
e. St Regis will move to 6-Player from 8-Player
f. Sweet Grass County will move to 8-Player from 11-Player/Class B
g. Victor will move to 6-Player from 8-Player
h. Westby / Grenora will move to 6-Player from 8-Player

7. After hearing appeals, the Board placed the following schools in a higher football classification. These schools will decide whether they will participate fully in the higher classification or opt to participate in the lower classification, but not be postseason eligible:
    a. Absarokee was placed in 8-player football
    b. West Yellowstone was placed in 8-player football

8. After hearing appeals, the Board dissolved the cooperative sponsorship agreements for the following schools for the 2027-28 and 2028-29 school years:
    a. Drummond / Granite (Drummond will remain in 8-player football and Granite was recommended to participate in 6-player football)
    b. Hardin / Lodge Grass (Hardin will remain in Class A football and Lodge Grass will be placed in 8-player football.)

9. The Board took the following action, for which schools are given two-week notice. Finalization of the items will take place during the January board meeting after affected schools have had the opportunity to submit final comments.
    a. The Board approved an extension with our ticketing partner GoFan for the next 5 years.
    b. The Board approved the following handbook change for wrestling mixers – varsity and non-varsity participation (this change will go into effect immediately): A transfer student who changes high schools without the corresponding change of residence by parents or legal guardian (legal guardianship must be established at least one calendar year before the transfer) is eligible to compete as a member of a non-varsity team, only, if his/her school is in a contest against non-varsity teams, only, of other member schools, providing he/she meets all other eligibility requirements. No student may compete unattached or independently.

    NOTE a: Athletes participating in cross-country, track and swimming will be allowed to compete in the contests where varsity and sub-varsity team members compete at the same time to conserve time and expense but are scored separately. Example: cross-country meet where varsity and sub-varsity runners run at the same time but are identified and scored separately. **Athletes participating in wrestling may compete in mixers where varsity and sub-varsity team members compete simultaneously, provided no team score is kept.**

    NOTE b: The following interpretations apply only to transfer students and their eligibility for varsity Association contests:

c. The Board approved new football medical coverage language as recommended by the MHSA SMAC - Football Medical Coverage
d. The Board approved the following football reclassification handbook language change – Reclassification Language Change
e. The Board approved the following changes for the 2026-27 Class C Golf season:
    - Golfers must shoot a minimum score of 115 for boys and 130 for girls during the regular season ***with a marker present*** to compete in the postseason.
    - In addition to the top **three (3)** teams that qualify, the top **twelve (12**) participants with the lowest score will also qualify. Included in the top **twelve** participants with the lowest score may be members of the qualifying teams.

The MHSA Annual Meeting will be held on January 16, 2027, at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Missoula. The Executive Board plans to meet on January 18, after the conclusion of the MHSA Annual Meeting.

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