



THE OFFICIAL WORD

January 2026

A Publication of the Montana Officials' Association

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Winter Postseason Dates

Basketball

Districts – February 16-21, 2026
Divisional – February 23-28, 2026
State – March 11-14, 2026

Wrestling

Divisional - February 13-14, 2026
February 19-21, 2026

Please see the MHSa website at www.mhsa.org for specific classification dates.

Spring Requirements

Spring requirements are open for all officials on March 1st, 2026. Requirements required for each season include:

NFHS Concussion in Sport – June 1st or after each season. All officials' emails must match Arbiter and the NFHSLearn to transfer the course and receive credit for the 2025-2026 season.

MHSa General Rules Clinic - Completed once each year and does not need to be completed for each sport officiated.

MHSa Sport Rules Clinic – Complete each season for each sport officiated.

NFHS Concussion in Sport and the MHSa rules clinics must be completed no later than March 25th, 2026.

* New Officials do not have a requirement deadline but must complete all MOA requirements to participate in any varsity contest or be a MOA member.

Spring Testing Officials

Softball and Baseball testing will open:
March 1 – March 25, 2026

* New Officials do not have a requirement deadline but must complete all MOA requirements to participate in any varsity contest or be a MOA member.

Upgrades

All new, approved upgrades, reinstatements or late pay officials must be an MOA eligible official. Testing will be available on the Arbiter Dashboard

All upgrades are due to the MOA office 7 days prior to the opening of the testing window. Upgrading officials will not be eligible to test without submitting a Request to Test Form submitted by the deadline and approved by the MOA office.

Upgrades may be sent to the MOA office immediately following the season with approval from your pool. To access the MOA forms section on the MHSAs website please click the following link:

[MOA Forms](#)

Officials Professionalism

Officials have the responsibility for enforcing the existing rules structure in a consistent manner. Officials are not authorized to create new rules, nor are they authorized to choose rules they will or will not enforce.

Officials' personal opinion about the value of a rule is not to have an effect on the enforcement of that rule. Players and coaches must have a consistently called game, so they

can make proper adjustments. Inconsistency breeds confusion and confrontation.

Once again it is important that I share our appreciation (the MHSa/MOA staff and the MHSa Member Schools) for all your efforts. No doubt, without officials it is just recess!

MHSa Website

🎉 The launch of our newly redesigned website — www.mhsa.org! With a fresh look, improved navigation, and updated resources, our new site makes it easier than ever to stay connected and informed on all MHSa and MOA Information.

MOA Logo

The new MOA logo has been launched, and it will begin to be used in all MOA publications and start be incorporated into the MOA uniforms beginning in 2026-2027.

Arbiter

The Montana High School Association has transitioned to Arbiter Sports. Helpful information for navigating your Arbiter dashboard may be found in the [Arbiter Training Room](#). This is a site for training videos, past webinar recordings, and other information to help you manage your account.

For all Arbiter support, please reach out to mhsa@arbitersports.com