



THE OFFICIAL WORD

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A Publication of the Montana Officials' Association

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MOA Registration

2026-2027 MOA Officials Registration will open on May 1st, 2026.

The Montana High School Association (MHSA) and Montana Officials Association (MOA) are excited to announce a continuing partnership with Arbiter for the 2026-2027 school year aimed at streamlining the administration of education-based sports and activities across Montana's high schools.

[Arbiter Registration Link - Click Here](#) or click the QR code



MOA Sports Fee

\$ 80.00 Registration Fee - all sports

\$ 32.00 Additional Sport Fee

\$ 20.00 Reciprocity Fee
More information- [Reciprocity Information](#)

\$ 40.00 High School Students
Must be currently enrolled in high school

MOA Testing Requirement

All MOA officials will test in each sport that they are registered for each year. The testing window will open on July 1st, and all renewed officials must have the test done by the posted date each season.

New officials will not have a testing deadline but are required to test each season to be an MOA. There will be no late pay test requirement, but all renewed officials that pay July 1st or after will receive an additional \$10.00 added to all registrations.

This testing requirement cannot be used for an upgrade in any sport. To be eligible for an upgrade, an additional test must be completed and all required procedures followed.

Upgrading: Online Registration

Upgrades will be submitted through the Arbiter platform and may be added upon registration. If officials have already submitted a physical Request to Upgrade form and subsequently registered an upgrade in Arbiter, please contact the MOA office at abartels@mhsa.org. The MOA office will review submitted physical forms and online registrations to verify and confirm upgrade applications.

Upgrading officials will not be eligible to test without registering on Arbiter by the deadline and approved by the MOA office.

Emails to the MOA will not be an acceptable method for submitting upgraded requests. Officials are expected to use the Arbiter platform to submit

any upgrade requests. The MOA office will provide instructions to officials who submit applications via email and direct them to complete the process through the proper Arbiter procedures.

Officials Information Updates

Official information including name, address, email, phone, sports, and sport pool(s) must be updated. MOA information will be sent to your current information on your Arbiter account.

The MHSА/MOА will not be responsible for late requirements due to inaccurate information on your Arbiter account.

Contest payments: Schools will access your information from your Arbiter account. Your address needs to be correct, or they may not be able to pay you in a timely manner.

W9 Forms: Schools that require a form to be filled out must have this completed by all officials before they will be paid any contest fees. If you have questions, contact the school as necessary for information on this process.

Do not create additional accounts due to the inability to access your Arbiter account. This may impact rating, years of service, delay testing and uploading requirements, or games assigned games.

Contact Arbiter to get help with any account issues:

For any help with Arbiter, you may always access the [Arbiter Help Articles – Click Here](#)

Technical Support - 800-311-4060
Email: mhsa@arbitersports.com

The MHSА/MOА office cannot access any Arbiter Pay information, please reach out directly to Arbiter.

Flag Football

Currently, Flag Football officials are not required to complete the MOA General Rules Clinic, Sports-Specific Clinic, or testing. Officials will receive

years of service credit; however, an MOA rating will not be assigned at this time.

Instruction and development will be provided through memos/webinars conducted by Flag Football Leadership. Officials should add the pool, **Montana Flag Football**. A single statewide pool will be used to assign officials, with assignors coordinating coverage across the various regions of Montana.

Girls Flag Football is an emerging sport through the MHSА. The MHSА/MOА involvement will create structure for the future of sports before it becomes sanctioned. The goal is to grow flag football officials within the MOА, and this step will support that development.

Arbiter

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.

A list of Arbiter training dates will be sent out later. Training will be live and available for all MOА Official [Arbiter Training Room](#).

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

Reciprocity

Members of the MOА can join as members of the official association in the bordering states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and/or Idaho by paying dues of \$20.00 per sport to the state organization(s).

If you are interested in applying for reciprocity in a border state, you will need to reach out to that state. Paying for reciprocity through your Montana Arbiter Dashboard will not register you for another state.

MOА Regional Directors Election

May 1st - Ballots are sent only to the regions that have an open regional director position.

May 15th - Ballots are due to the MOA office via electronic ballot.

Electronic ballot information will be sent to regions with an open position. Only active MOA officials are eligible to vote and only one submission per active official is allowed.

MOA Regional Directors Meeting

The MOA Regional Directors met in Helena from April 27th – 28th, 2026.

Please click the link to access the MOA Regional Directors correspondence page on the MHSAs website.

[April 27-28, 2026 - MOA Board Action](#)

MOA - Officials Apparel

Please click the following link for all new MOA apparel selections. Updated uniform information will be available as the new MOA logo is and additional shirts become available.

[Purchase Officials Apparel](#)

Visit the MOA section of the MHSAs website at www.mhsa.org for all MOA Information.

MHSAs Rules Interpreter – Interested Officials Final Request

The MHSAs/MOA values its strong collaborative relationship with our current rule's interpreters. These individuals work closely with our state office sport liaisons and play a vital role in supporting our

programs. Interpreters serve four-year terms. At the conclusion of each term, the MHSAs/MOA office has the option to renew the appointment.

As several terms are coming to an end, we are opening the interpreter positions in each sport to current individuals serving in the role (if they want to continue) and are also accepting applications from new, interested candidates.

High school sports rules interpreters play a vital leadership role in supporting schools and officials while maintaining consistency across the state.

Selected individuals act as a liaison between MHSAs/MOA, officials, and coaches while ensuring accurate interpretation and application of rules and mechanics.

- Primary Responsibilities:
- Interpret and clarify sport-specific rules and mechanics
- Conduct preseason and in-season training sessions for officials
- Distribute weekly or periodic bulletins addressing rule changes, clarifications, and commonly misinterpreted scenarios
- Communicate effectively with the state office, officials, and coaches as needed

Strong communication skills, both written and verbal, are essential. Candidates must demonstrate a deep understanding of the selected sports' rules, commitment to the MHSAs, and the ability to provide clear, consistent guidance.

If you are interested in becoming the next rule interpreter for your sport, we encourage to reach out to Brian Michelotti at bmichelotti@mhsa.org.

Postseason Tournament Officials

Follow the link below to access the MOA Tab/Archives for all MOA information archived including postseason tournament officials for all sports.

This section is in the process of being updated with all past postseason tournament officials.

Additional information will continue to be provided throughout the summer.

2025-2026 Postseason Officials - Click on the following link to access the MOA Archives. Postseason information will be posted throughout the year.

[MOA Archives - Click to View](#)

Ejection Information:

New Online Ejection Form

The MHSAs/MOA has an online form to submit all ejections (player, coach and spectator). Please use the following link.

[Ejection Report - Click Link](#)

When any official ejects a coach or player from a contest, this ejection must be reported in writing to the MOA office within 24- hours.

If a spectator must be ejected from the premises, the officials must first contact the contest administrator, and the administrator must remove the spectator from the premises.

[Ejection Policy Information - Click Here](#)

New Report of an Unusual Situation

The MHSА/MOА has an online form for submission of all unusual situations.

[Report of Unusual Situation Form Click Here](#)


Both reports will be available on the MOA section under forms/links on the MHSА webpage at [MOA - Forms and Links](#)

At this time the MOA Word format and PDF forms may be used for the remainder of the 2025-26 season. Only the use of an electronic form will be accepted for the 2026-27 season.

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.

MHSА 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 MHSА and MOA Information.

Electronic Communication

Emails from various associations and individuals will be sent to officials throughout the season. Please ensure that the following email addresses are added to your approved/safe sender list and not directed to spam or trash. This will help ensure you receive all MOA communications, NFHS Digital Book information, and NFHS Network updates.

abartels@mhsa.org
mhsa@arbitersports.com
dpappas@nfhs.org
messaging@arbitersports.com
noreply@nfhs.org

Support

[Arbiter Support - Click Here](#)

For any help with Arbiter, you may always access the [Arbiter Help Articles](#)

Technical Support - 800-311-4060

Email: Support@arbitersports.com

[NFHS Support - nfhslearn.com](#)

For any help with the NFHSLearn Center, you may always access

https://nfhslearn.com/help_desk

Technical Support 1-377-565-2023

Email: Log into your account to access Email Support

The MOA office cannot access any payment accounts or any NFHS Learn accounts. See the following contacts for support.

MOA information may also be found on the MOA section of the MHSА website at www.mhsa.org. Click the link for all information including registration, training & study clubs, forms, MOA archives and more!