



MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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

January 28, 2021

TO: MHSA MEMBER SCHOOLS
FROM: MARK BECKMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RE: EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ACTION

On Thursday, January 28, 2021, the MHSA Executive Board conducted a Zoom meeting. Following is a synopsis of the major items:

The Board approved the following:

Winter Activities Formats / Requirements and Considerations

- **Swimming – State Meet**

The MHSA State Swim Meet will be separated (Class AA and Class A-B) and compete on separate days at separate sites. County health department approval will be required. Entries will be limited to the top 24 place finishers during the season in Class AA and the top 18 place finishers during the season in Class A. The requirements and considerations for regular season will be followed along with a few other specific additions. Each participant will be allowed two tickets for the state meet.

- **Wrestling – Divisional and State Meets**

Divisional wrestling tournament sites will be required to have local county health department approval to host and that approval must be sent to the MHSA office. The tournaments must follow all the relevant requirements and considerations previously approved by the Executive Board including separate (by weight class grouping) sessions to be held on each day or a similar schedule with MHSA approval. A schedule of the meet must be sent to the MHSA office for final approval.

State tournament sites – Boys' – the three classification tournaments will be held at different sites on March 5-6. Girls' – the girls' state tournament will be held February 19-20, 2021. All relevant COVID requirements and considerations must be followed.

State Sites

(Girls – February 19-20, 2021)
All Class – Billings (Lockwood High School)

(Boys – March 5-6)

Class AA – To be determined
Class A – Miles City (Custer County High School)
Class B-C – Shelby (Shelby High School)

- **Basketball – District, Divisional and State Tournaments**

District and Divisional tournaments are required to have local county health department approval to host and that approval must be sent to the MHSAs office and the MHSAs office must approve the format also. The Districts and Divisions have two options for their tournament:

- 1) Playoff bracket – highest seed hosting (single elimination)
- 2) Tournament Format – top half bracket / bottom half bracket – bracket play will be played at one gym or at two separate gyms/sites (either double or single elimination). There will only be the two teams playing and then teams and fans exiting and the two other teams in the bracket readying for play followed by a break to clean and sanitize (Compete/Clear/Clean). Fans will only be allowed in for their team's games.

State tournaments – the MHSAs office is checking to see if the awarded facilities/communities are still able to host the event.

- 1) Class AA will conduct playoffs for both division and state tournaments
- 2) Play at the assigned site however add one day to Class A, Class B and Class C tournaments – conduct six games per day – two teams with fans and then exit and next two teams and fans enter – Compete/Clear/Clean

State Sites

Class AA – playoffs
Class A – Butte Civic Center – tentative
Class B – Billings Metra
Class C – MSU Bozeman – tentative

- **District Music Festivals**

The district music festivals will be conducted virtually this year. The Board also approved all performances will be for comments only and no ratings will be given by adjudicators. No state music festival will be held this year. The Board waived the sight-reading requirement, waived the requirement for large groups to perform and waived the requirement that students must perform with their large group to be eligible to perform a solo or in an ensemble. Students will be required to be enrolled in a curricular class to be eligible to perform a solo or in an ensemble.

- **Spectator Passes (MHSAs Post Season Events)**

General - Each site must provide a minimum of two tickets per suited player for both home and visiting fans. Schools will determine distribution criteria and must sell the tickets and provide names for check off and contact tracing for the host site. No more than the maximum can be distributed, and tickets must be distributed equally for home and visitors. And leftover tickets at schools cannot be redistributed to other schools. Complimentary tickets will be provided for coaches, players and managers per current MHSAs policy. Administrative tickets will be provided per current MHSAs policy.

- 1) State Swim – 2 per swimmer
- 2) Post Season Wrestling – minimum of 2, maximum of 4 – depending on site capacity
- 3) Post Season Basketball
Basketball - allow up to a maximum of 25% capacity of the facility but no more than 500 fans per teams in larger facilities or whatever the lower limitations imposed by the local county health departments would be.
- 4) State Ticket Prices - \$20 per ticket – state wrestling, swimming and basketball
District and Divisions will determine their own ticket prices
- 5) Support Groups

- a) Maximum of 12 cheerleaders for basketball – no cheerleaders for wrestling or swimming
- b) Bands – no bands at state events (district and divisions can have a different policy)
- c) Student Cheering Sections – there will be no endzone seating for cheering sections. Students with tickets will have to practice proper social distancing in the fan seating area.

6) Administrative Passes / Complimentary Passes – per current MHSA policy

- **Winter Sports Finances Distribution -COVID**

The tournament will first pay the MOA officials, trainers and scorebooks, nets, etc. And then the bid will be covered or a portion of the bid if there isn't enough revenue. If all those are covered any remaining money will be distributed to participating teams in that tournament through a mileage factor formula

- **Girls Weight Classes and Participation Numbers** - Based on the number of girls certified at each weight class, the Executive Board approved increasing the amount of weight classes for the remainder of the 2021 season. In the first year of girls wrestling, the MHSA certified 169 girls' wrestlers from 48 MHSA Schools. We are excited about the growth of this new MHSA Sport.

The Board approved adding 3 weight classes (120, 132 and 145) for a total of 10 weight classes for the remainder of the season for girls wrestling. The weight classes are as follows:

103, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 170 and 205

Thank you and if you have any questions please feel free to contact the MHSA office.

Have a great weekend.

MB/gb