

MHSLA Meeting Minutes

Objective: Monthly Meeting

Date: 7/8/2025

Time: 7:30 PM

Facilitator: President Thesing

Members Present: Present Members Highlighted in Yellow

Entity	Designated Representative	Other Representative	Other Representative
MHSLA President	Todd Thesing		
MHSLA Vice President	Pat Marron		
MHSLA Treasurer	Eric Sutherland		
MHSLA Secretary	Brad Koon		
Sheridan	Jeff Scheidemier		
Billings Beartooth	Desarae Detling		
Billings Rimrock	Howard Ruzick,		
Bozeman	Rob Leder		
Cody	TJ Gionet	Joe Haskins	
Jackson	Tori Hederman		
Last Chance	Nathan Nachtsheim		
Butte	Dan Carroll		
Great Falls	Jeremy Comstock		
Missoula Wild	Jennie Grasser		
Missoula Spartans	Elena Furrow		
Northwest Avalanche	Chris McLaughlin		
Cheyenne	Colton Rasmussen		

1. President's Report

- a. Get in State Tournament Bids
- b. Review Bylaws in time
- c. Mailed out all state docs to each club today

2. Vice President's Report

3. Secretary Report

- a. Comments on the 6/10/2025 MHSLA Minutes?
 - i. Chat with John Noble on Sports Engine or something different
 - ii. Rob said crossbar may be a good option
 - 1. Rob thinks Missoula Spartans uses it
 - a. Elena confirmed
 - 2. Elena likes Team Snap better
 - iii. Brad will set up a meeting with John Noble and Todd
 - 1. Cross Bar
 - 2. Sports Engine
 - 3. Team Snap
 - 4. USA Lacrosse

4. Treasurer Report

- a. Balance = \$9,677.32
- b. Paid MLOA
- c. Reference following unpaid list. Invoices for balance were sent out.

	Estimated Amount	Amount Paid	DUE		DUE
Beartooth	\$2,265	\$2,105	\$165		\$1,845.00
NW Avalanche	\$8,420	\$7,300	(\$505)		\$905.00
Rimrock	\$2,905	\$0	PAID		\$510.00
Helena	\$8,900	\$8,900	PAID		\$1,700.00
Missoula (Wild)	\$1,625	\$1,625	PAID		\$940.00
Missoula (Spartans)	\$4,210	\$4,210	PAID		1090
Bozeman	\$9,405	\$9,405	PAID		\$2,400.00
Great Falls	\$2,265	\$2,265	PAID		\$470.00
Butte	\$1,465	\$1,465	PAID		\$420.00
Cody	\$2,105	\$2,105	PAID		\$460.00
Sheridan	\$5,515	\$5,515	PAID		(\$200.00)
Cheyenne	\$1,695	\$1,695	PAID		\$400.00
Jackson	\$5,010	\$5,010	PAID		\$1,650.00

5. Bozeman Rule Change Proposal

- a. Review following proposed changes and prepare to vote at August Meeting.

Request #1:

We are writing this to formally request that the State Board reconsider and roll back the changes made to the Varsity and Junior Varsity team placement requirements for the 2025 season. We kept this brief since Northwest did a great job laying out the same issue in their request to the board, incorporating the MHSLA 2025 Rules.

- 1. Negative impact to the JV Division
- 2. Fewer teams creating less competition
- 3. Unintended Competitive Disparity

As we heard from a few clubs during our brief State board meeting during State Championship weekend the rigid placement rules can widen performance gaps between teams that were forced to play at the Varsity Level.

We appreciate that the state Board acted in good faith for the growth of the game in Montana. However, we feel the current model does not fully align with program realities, and has led to unintended negative consequences to some clubs.

We firmly believe that taking this action will foster better athlete development, competitive equity, and long-term growth of the sport.

Request #2:

Create a 3rd and 4th place game for JV (if applicable) and V during the State Championship weekend for the Boys and Girls divisions.

Request #3:

As our kids watch and follow the game of lacrosse at higher levels they see these players using eye black to express themselves during games. We would like the board to consider allowing our kids to use eye black for their games.

6. NW Avalanche Rule Change Requests

- a. Review following proposed changes and prepare to vote at August Meeting.
- b. Attached from NW Avalanche

7. NW Avalanche Offseason Items for Board Members

- a. Attached from NW Avalanche
 - i. Discuss in September Meeting



8. Scheduling Management

- a. Brad to set up meeting with Todd and John Noble to discuss options for best system
 - i. USA League Management – JR
 - ii. Sports Engine
 - iii. Team Snap
 - iv. Cross Bar
 - v. Discuss Arbiter and relationship with MLOA

9. Other

- a. Joe Haskins said TJ Mentioned 3 tier approach to the league
 - i. Is this something being considered
 - 1. There is a struggle with three tiers because there aren't enough teams
 - 2. Potential to play Idaho teams.
 - ii. Todd said his opinion was that many of the teams playing in Varsity this season should have been on JV.
- b. Add Elena efurrow@hotmail.com
 - i. Add Cody's reps to email when sending out
- c. Please send Brad Koon and email if you did not receive the email with the agenda before the meeting bkoon@tripletreemt.com
- d. Todd noted it would be good to have information on youth coming up for discussion at next meeting.

10. Adjourn: 8:00 PM

NWA Proposed Rule Changes to the MSHLA 2025 Rules Revised

1. 2025 Rule

I. Rosters

Proposed Rule Change

Change the number of this to Section III and all other Sections following move up 1 numeric number.

2. 2025 Rule

V. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

c. Any player who meets any of the following criteria shall be ineligible to participate in any MHSLA activities:

1. The player is a graduate of a regular four-year high school.

Proposed Rule Change

c. Any player who meets any of the following criteria shall be ineligible to participate in any MHSLA activities:

1. The player is a graduate of a regular four-year high school unless the player started the fall semester and graduated 1 semester early per Montana High School requirements.

3. 2025 Rule

IX. MHSLA LACROSSE RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Rule E, F, G, do not apply to JV players swinging to Varsity).

B. New programs (boys only) may register teams at the Junior Varsity level for two seasons to allow for growth of the program, regardless of the number or age of registrants. New programs may also register teams at the Varsity level in the first two seasons if desired.

C. After two seasons of a new program (boys only) the following applies.

a. If the number of registrants exceeds 18 players, then the program must register the team at the Varsity level.

b. If the number of registrants exceeds 26 players, then the program must register at least one team at the Varsity level and can register one team at the Junior Varsity level.

c. Each program may register teams at the Varsity and Junior Varsity levels, but the number of Junior Varsity teams may not exceed the number of Varsity teams in the program.

E. Every team and player are allowed to compete in a maximum of twenty MHSLA League sanctioned contests per season.

Proposed Rule Change

Eliminate rule B, C, and E of Section IX

4. 2025 Rule

IX. MHSLA LACROSSE RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Rule E, F, G, do not apply to JV players swinging to Varsity).

F. Every BOYS player shall have at least a 2-hour break between MHSLA league sanctioned games unless agreed upon by the head coaches.

Proposed Rule Change

F. Every BOYS player shall have at least a 2-hour break between MHSLA league sanctioned games unless agreed upon by the head coaches. This does not apply to any player swinging up to either play on a JV or Varsity game.

5. 2025 Rule

IX. MHSLA LACROSSE RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Rule E, F, G, do not apply to JV players swinging to Varsity).

G. Every GIRLS player shall have at least a 1.5-hour break between MHSLA league sanctioned games unless agreed upon by the head coaches.

Proposed Rule Change

G. Every GIRLS player shall have at least a 2-hour break between MHSLA league sanctioned games unless agreed upon by the head coaches. This does not apply to any player swinging up to either play on a JV or Varsity game.

6. 2025 Rule

IX. MHSLA LACROSSE RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Rule E, F, G, do not apply to JV players swinging to Varsity).

P. All member programs will submit a State Tournament roster for each of their teams to the MHSLA board, two weeks prior to the start of the tournament. These rosters will go into effect at the beginning of the State Tournament.

Proposed Rule Change

Eliminate Section IX rule P. (this rule is covered on Section I Rosters rule c.)

c. Each member program must post their team rosters online via the MHSLA mandated website, Sports Engine, at least one day prior to the first scheduled game of the season and one week prior to any state tournament game.

Offseason Items for Board Members/Volunteers

1. “How to” guides for new board members and reps

- How to add a roster to the MHLA website
- How to register a team on the MHLA website
- How to input in stats to the MHLA website

Written Procedures Volunteer-

2. MHLA Website

- Stats
 - Stats page that is readable when scrolling
 - All players have jersey numbers for stats, not just names

Volunteer for MHLA website upkeep-

3. Scheduling

- 2-3 locations per weekend
- Add weekday games for teams that can travel less than 2.5 hours to an opponent
 - Helena-GF, Missoula, Bozeman
 - Missoula- GF, Helena, Kalispell
 - Billings- Bozeman, Cody, Sheridan
 - Bozeman- Billings & Helena
 - Great Falls- Helena & Missoula
 - Kalispell- Missoula
 - Cody- Billings
 - Sheridan- Billings

Possible MHLA 2026 Schedule Locations

<u>Varsity Boys</u>	<u>JV Boys</u>	<u>Youth</u>
Week 1- Helena	Week 1- Helena/Cheyenne	Week 1- OFF
Week 2- Missoula/Billings	Week 2- Great Falls/Cody	Week 2- Great Falls
Week 3- Helena	Week 3- Helena/Sheridan	Week 3- Helena/Sheridan
Week 4- Missoula/Bozeman	Week 4- Bozeman	Week 4- Bozeman/Miss
Week 5- Kalispell/Bozeman	Week 5- Kalispell/Bozeman	Week 5- Kalispell
Week 6- Kalispell/Billings	Week 6- Kalispell/Butte	Week 6- Billings

Scheduling Volunteer- Chris Mac

4. MTLOA Officials

- Adult officials' recruitment
- Jr. Officials training for home weekends

Volunteer for adult recruitment-

Volunteer for youth training sessions-

5. MHSLA/MYLA and all Clubs Combined Energy

- Bulk buy equipment
 - Free gear for grades 1-4 that enter the youth programs
 - Buying power for start-up gear through a distributor
 - Buying power for jerseys/pinnies through Signature Lacrosse
- All clubs pay into a pool for social media- 18+ clubs \$1500 each per year
 - Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok
 - Daily posts each week during the season
 - Weekly posts in the off season
 - 2x Posts weekly during registration and Learn to Play sessions or camps
- Barrier of Costs for youth
 - Grants/Donations/City Provided
 - USA Lacrosse grants
 - Large company donations
 - City Provided Grants- (Discover Kalispell 15k for youth tournament)

Volunteer for bulk buying equipment and jerseys-

Volunteer to look for a state wide social media company and projected costs-

Volunteer to look at USA Lax and per city grants-