

MONTANA CHRISTIAN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
REGULAR SEASON GUIDELINES
(09/04, Amended 04/09, 04/11, 04/13, 04/14, 04/15, 04/18, 4/19)

I. Rosters

A. Rosters are due to the Board of Directors before first conference games. (Please include all players in your program ~ C squad, JV & Varsity)

B. Changes can be made to team rosters no later than September 15 (Fall) and December 15 (Winter); Changes after those dates must be submitted to and approved by the MCAA Executive Council.

II. Regular Season Tie Breaker Criteria

A. Head-To-Head records

B. Point spread against each other:

Basketball ~ up to 40 point maximum

Volleyball ~ number of games played and the score of the games

Soccer ~difference in number of goals scored

C. Coin toss ~ if point spread is the same

D. Playoff games are played to determine a tournament berth in situations where the 4th and 5th seeds are tied for their overall conference record at the end of the regular season and their head-to-head record is also tied (the game/contest will be played at a neutral site).

III. Games/Contests

A. The MCAA Board will be notified in writing by May 1 (prior to the start of the season) whether a team is playing a Varsity or JV schedule. Then the scheduled varsity games are games of record regardless of who is sent to play the games.

B. Everyone must play all the teams in their perspective conference twice, even those on original probation, regardless of level played (JV or Varsity).

C. All conference games should be completed ten (10) days before the MCAA state tournament, unless the MCAA Board grants an extension.

D. Each organization is expected to have an administrator, athletic director, or an appointed representative at all home games.

E. If a player or coach is ejected from a game, they will sit out the next game. This includes all regular season games and all tournaments.

F. Each organization is expected to report any infractions to their respective representative.

G. The MHSA Handbook may be used as a **guide** for MCAA rules and programs. This information is available online at www.mhsa.org or from the MHSA office in Helena @ (406) 442-6010.

H. Soccer will be played in an 8v8 format with 35-minute halves. Tie scores are permitted in conference play but are not permitted in tournament play (see Tournament Guidelines). Conference and tournament matches may be played up to an 11v11 format as long as consent is mutual between opposing teams.

I. To better accommodate an 8v8 soccer format, soccer field dimension may vary up to 15 feet from standard dimensions (length 85-100 ft and width 60-75 ft).

I. BASKETBALL

- A.** The top four teams from each division qualify for the state tournament.
- B.** Teams will be seeded as a result of each team's win/loss record from games against division opponents only (exception to this will be granted to cross-conference challenge winner).
- C.** Consolation format will be used.

II. SOCCER

- A.** The top four teams from each division qualify for the state tournament.
- B.** Teams will be seeded as a result of each team's win/loss record from games against division opponent only (exception to this will be granted to cross-conference challenge winner).
- C.** Consolation format will be used if there are 8 eligible teams; Round Robin format will be used if there are fewer than 8 eligible teams
- D.** In Round Robin format, games are played with 15-minute halves and, in the event of a tie, the match goes to immediate shootout (no ties, no overtime). If a tie record remains after the round robin rounds (all teams with a 1-and-1 record), the tie will be broken as follows: 1) Goal difference from Round Robin (Max of +4 for any one contest); 2) Head-to-Head Winner; 3) Goals scored (Max of +4 for any one contest); 4) Fewest Goals Allowed (Max of -4 for any one contest)
- E.** Tournament soccer contents will be played in an 8v8 format with 35-minute halves; however, tournament matches may be played in 9v9, 10v10, or 11v11 format as long as consent is pre-arranged and mutual between opposing teams.

III. VOLLEYBALL

- A.** The top four teams from each division qualify for the state tournament.
- B.** Teams will be seeded as a result of each team's win/loss record from games against division opponents only (exception to this will be granted to cross-conference challenge winner).
- C.** True double elimination format will be used.

IV. TOURNAMENT TEAMS & AWARDS

- A. BALLOTS** - Coaches must submit their All Conference ballots and Christian Character selections in order to have their players considered. If a coach fails to submit a ballot his/her players will not be eligible for awards/ recognitions.

B. AWARDS - All students nominated for award recognition must be in good standing with their respective organizations and the MCAA encourages coaches to reward students who not only demonstrate skill competence but also exemplify the spirit of Christ through their speech and behavior.

B.1. ALL CONFERENCE - Nominations due by October 1 (Fall) and February 1 (Winter). Coaches will submit a list of nominees from their varsity teams for All-Conference Award consideration. MCAA Representatives will compile the listing according to team seeding and will send out the All Conference ballots to all coaches at least five (5) days prior to the state tournament. Ballots will be due to the MCAA Representative or Tournament Director no later than 3:00pm on the first day of the tournament.

B. 2. CHRISTIAN CHARACTER - Each team participating in the respective varsity season is eligible to submit one student from the team to receive recognition at the state tournament as being the Christian Character honoree from his/her team. These selections must be submitted to the MCAA Representative or Tournament Director no later than 3:00pm on the first day of the tournament.

B.3. ALL TOURNAMENT/ALL STAR – Players eligible for this award must be participants at the state tournament and these awards will be determined by the All Tournament Voting Committee.

C. NOMINATIONS

C.1. ALL CONFERENCE TEAM – Coaches should list on their team’s nominees in the order of importance on their All-Conference Nomination form as final seeding will determine how many players from each team may be placed on the All Conference Ballot per the following allowances:

Volleyball 1st Seed-5, 2nd Seed-4, 3rd Seed-3, 4th Seed-2, Unseeded-1

Soccer 1st Seed-6, 2nd Seed-5, 3rd Seed-4, 4th Seed-3, Unseeded-1

Basketball 1st Seed-5, 2nd Seed-4, 3rd Seed-3, 4th Seed-2, Unseeded-1

The All-Conference Award will be based on the total number of votes each athlete receives and is limited to recognition of the number of players: Volleyball-10, Soccer-11, and Basketball-10. Those players recognized with All Conference Awards will be invited to participate in the All-Stars Weekend Event.

C.2. ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM – Players eligible for this award must be participants at the state tournament. This ballot will be included in the coach's packet and is due at the conclusion of the championship game for each sport. Votes cast on ballots submitted prior to the championship match will not be counted.

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D. TROPHIES

D.1 Trophies are awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams at state tournament.

D.2 Trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will be permanent picture plaques and are considered part of the tournament expenses incurred by the host organization.

D.3 The 1st place team will also receive a traveling trophy, which is maintained at the MCAA's expense, said trophy to have area for engraving of each year's state champion.

D.4 The championship traveling trophy will be awarded to the state champion at the state tournament and the state champion is responsible to transport this trophy to the following year's state tournament.

V. TOURNAMENT HOST & DATES

A. At the annual meeting the fall tournament dates for two years in the future are proposed and approved. Winter tournament dates are contingent on host organization approved and facility availability.

B. Approval of tournament host organizations is made the annual meeting for the following year. If there is more than one applicant requesting to host a tournament, the Executive Council may either decide which organization is granted the privilege to host or ask the membership to decide which applicant is granted the right to host by a vote.

C. Tournament host is responsible for administration of the state tournament (i.e. facility and officials, trophies and awards, gate admission collection, hospitality room, financial report). Proceeds from gate admission against tournament host expenses are shared in a 50-50 split with the MCAA. In the event that the tournament host loses money, the MCAA agrees to reimburse the host organization for the amount of the loss with sufficient reporting of this loss.

D. Tournament host is granted the right to bring its own teacher-supervised classes to the state tournament without being charged admission if such attendance is during in-session school hours. Such exception must be approved by the MCAA Executive Council in advance of the event.

E. Pep band organization members are to be admitted to state tournaments without being charged admission.

VI. TOURNAMENT BOOKS/PROGRAMS/ADMISSION

A. Printing, distribution, and sales of the tournament book will be the responsibility of the tournament host organization.

B. Each team will pay \$50 for their roster page to be included in the tournament. All teams may purchase a roster page, even if their team does not qualify for state tournament.

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VI. TOURNAMENT BOOKS/PROGRAMS/ADMISSION (continued)

C. Advertising pages can be purchased in the tournament book for \$100 per page, deadline for submission of such advertising to be set by the tournament director.

D. Admission pricing structure will be as follows (effective Fall 2018):

All-Tournament pass: \$20 adult/\$13 student

Day pass: \$12 adult / \$6 student

Championship sessions -- \$10 adult / \$4 student

Children 6 and under free with a paying adult

VII. CROSS-CONFERENCE CHALLENGE MATCH

- A.** As the MCAA has two conferences (East & West), composition of which is determined as being approximately from Great Falls and eastward being in the Eastern Conference and from Helena and westward being in the Western Conference, there are occasions when an imbalance exists between the conferences in terms of total numbers of teams. In the event that such an imbalance exists such that one conference has only 4 teams in a particular sport and the opposite conference has more than 4 teams, the team in the larger conference that is ranked 5th place at the conclusion of the conference season, may challenge the 4th place team in the opposite conference for its tournament berth.
- B.** An intent to challenge must be filed with the MCAA by October 1 (fall season) or February 1 (winter season). Final conference seedings do not need to be finalized for an intent to challenge to be issued and multiple teams may issue a challenge if there is reasonable anticipation of being ranked 5th place.
- C.** The Cross-Conference Challenge match must be played no later than Monday of the week of state tournament.
- D.** The MCAA will incur expenses associated with the officials for a Cross-Conference Challenge Match.
- E.** The team being challenged has the right to host the challenge match in their geographic area. Challenging team bears expense of traveling to facility and of facility rental. In the event that no facility is available in the challenged team's area, challenging team may provide facility but must pay challenged team's travel expenses (one vehicle at 7cents per mile). The MCAA may be called upon to help with facility procurement.
- F.** Should any 5th place team reject the option of a Cross-Conference Challenge Match, no other team is eligible to issue a challenge.
- G.** Because of the financial arrangements for the Cross-Conference Challenge Match, no gate admission is to be charged for said match.