

# MHSLA Meeting Minutes

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**Objective:** Monthly Meeting

**Date:** 8/12/2025

**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	Kevin Winters
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		

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### 1. President's Report

- a. Discussed Rob Leder's email
- b. Reach out to Dave Madera and Idaho Teams about games next Spring
- c. Try to figure out Fall ball stuff

### 2. Vice President's Report

- a. Echo Todd's comments on Fall Ball Options

### 3. Secretary Report

- a. Comments on 7/8/2025 MHSLA Minutes?
  - i. None
- b. Spoke with John Noble regarding considering a system besides Sports Engine.
  - i. John said he is familiar with Sports Engine, but not necessarily tied to it.
    - 1. Said Sports Engine is Clunky, but if we are going to change, we need to make sure the new program can handle everything:
      - a. Team registration
      - b. Collecting Money
      - c. Scheduling
      - d. Statistics
      - e. Ability to integrate between other websites
    - 2. John said he would be willing to work with us to evaluate other programs and make a decision.
      - a. Pay John to look into this and report back.
- c. Housekeeping: MHSLA bylaws with filename MHSLA By-Laws\_revised\_2023 and posted on the website note "Revised November 2021" in the document. Is this the correct document with a typo or is there another document out there?
  - i. This is the correct document with a typo.
  - ii. Brad will change.
- d. New rep in Cody. Kevin Winters.

### 4. Treasurer Report

- a. Balance = \$14,317.32
  - b. Have received some payments for end of year actual officiating costs. To date, following is what has been received and what is still outstanding. **Pay by the end of the August.**
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	DUE	Paid	
Beartooth	\$ 1,845.00	\$1,845.00	8/12
NW Avalanch	\$ 905.00	\$905.00	8/12
Rimrock	\$ 510.00	\$510.00	8/7
Helena	\$ 1,700.00		
Missoula (Wild)	\$ 940.00		
Missoula (Spartans)	\$1,090.00	\$1,090.00	7/23 chk 1143
Bozeman	\$ 2,400.00	\$2,400.00	7/23 chk 5199
Great Falls	\$ 470.00		
Butte	\$ 420.00		
Cody	\$ 460.00		
Sheridan	\$ (200.00)		
Cheyenne	\$400.00		
Jackson	\$ 1,650.00		

## 5. Bozeman Rule Change Proposals

### 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.

- Rob wants to take a step back and have more JV games and less Varsity games.
- Cody and Sheridan said they had players that dropped out.

**No vote.**

**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.

- Motion: Chris Mac
- Second: Rob Leder
- Discussion:
- VOTE:

Sheridan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Beartooth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Rimrock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Bozeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cody	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Last Chance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Butte	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Great Falls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Spartans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Northwest Avalanche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cheyenne	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
<b>Tally:      AYE 11   NO 0</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>PASS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FAIL</b>

**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.

- a. Motion: Chris Mac
- b. Second: Howard Ruzick
- c. Discussion: Up to the coach digression. Pat said it is a US Lacrosse Rule. Todd said he spoke with USA Lacrosse Rep and he said State boards don't need to follow every rule. Didn't seem to be called in a lot of cases.
- d. VOTE:

Sheridan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Beartooth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Rimrock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Bozeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cody	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Last Chance	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
Butte	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
Great Falls	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Spartans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Northwest Avalanche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cheyenne	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
<b>Tally:        AYE 8 NO 2</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>PASS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FAIL</b>

**6. NW Avalanche Rule Change Proposals**

**Request #1:**

**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.*

**No vote. Don't need to vote on this, just fix typo. It is changed already. Change section I to section II.**



**Request #2:**

**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.*

- a. Motion: Nathan
- b. Second: Kevin Winters
- c. Discussion: There are players that graduate prior to the spring season and want to make sure they are eligible. Desarae said they did this and had a blow up. Nathan said he thinks as long as they were enrolled, they should be eligible.
- d. VOTE:

Sheridan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Beartooth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Rimrock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Bozeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cody	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Last Chance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Butte	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Great Falls	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Spartans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Northwest Avalanche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cheyenne	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
<b>Tally:      AYE 10 NO 0</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>PASS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FAIL</b>



**Request #3:**

**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

- a. Motion: Chris
  - b. Second: Kevin Winters
  - c. Discussion: Chris Mac said that Nathan is correct that the growth of the game is the most important part. But, Chris thinks it had a negative impact last year because the skill level wasn't there. Chris thinks coaches and teams should make the decision on who is JV and who is Varsity. Todd said Cody and Sheridan lost players last year. The intention is to create well balanced games at each division. The boundary portion of this gets tricky. Chris Mac said bylaws state that Board can decide when teams move up. The way it is set up doesn't provide option for some teams that need JV team to have one. Chris agrees with a big part of the rules as they are, but doesn't think we are healthy enough yet. Jennie asked if bylaws supersede the rules and Chris Mac clarified. Too much fluidity going into the season because we don't know where teams are. It was noted that D1/D2 was changed to Varsity/JV. Depending on how this goes, in coming months, need to assess teams early so it is not last minute. Need to know by October at latest. Jeremy thinks this is too much of an all or nothing proposal. He thinks we should discuss some other alternatives before voting on this. Jeremy recommended leaving the number of Varsity teams greater than JV. There are also other things we can do to strengthen varsity teams. A waiver system would be good if a team just doesn't have enough people. Nathan said the waiver is already included in the bylaws. Some of the rosters in 2024 were very heavily weighted. Jennie asked if there has been talk of Freshmen/sophomores play JV, and JR SR play Varsity. Todd said this is happening in some cases. In 2024, there were Juniors and Seniors playing JV and there were concerns about younger kids getting hurt. Nathan said
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there has to be reason for a senior to play JV. Desarae said they don't have enough players to split this way. Todd asked if youth numbers are changing for billings and Missoula. Desarae said youth numbers are increasing. Todd said he is not opposed to tabling for another month. Chris thinks we need to vote on this one. Have more discussion in September.

d. VOTE:

Sheridan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Beartooth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Rimrock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Bozeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cody	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Last Chance	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
Butte	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
Great Falls	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Wild	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Spartans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Northwest Avalanche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cheyenne	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
<b>Tally:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>AYE 7</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO 4</b>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>PASS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FAIL</b>



**Request #4:**

**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.*

- a. Motion: Nathan
- b. Second: Rob Leder
- c. Discussion:
- d. VOTE:

Sheridan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO		
Billings Beartooth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO		
Billings Rimrock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO		
Bozeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO		
Cody	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO		
Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO		
Last Chance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO		
Butte	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO		
Great Falls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO		
Missoula Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO		
Missoula Spartans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO		
Northwest Avalanche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO		
Cheyenne	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO		
<b>Tally:</b>		<b>AYE 11 NO 0</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>PASS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FAIL</b>



**Request #5:**

**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.*

- a. Motion: Nathan
- b. Second: Chris
- c. Discussion: Keep 1.5 hour rule between girls games. Change swing players do not have to follow the 1.5 hour rule.
- d. VOTE:

Sheridan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Beartooth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Rimrock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Bozeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cody	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Last Chance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Butte	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Great Falls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Spartans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Northwest Avalanche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cheyenne	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
<b>Tally:      AYE 11   NO 0</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>PASS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FAIL</b>



**Request #6:**

**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.*

**No Vote**

7. Other

Nathan stated that we changed mandated in person meeting from November to October. Meeting in November is on 11<sup>th</sup>. Todd could do weekend of October 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>. In Person meeting in Bozeman on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Vote on it in September Meeting.

8. Adjourn: 8:45 PM

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