



Media Release

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The High School sport season is well underway with Volleyballs being spiked, Soccer balls being kicked, and Footballs being tossed and caught. Over 25,000 student athletes will be participating in a variety of activities this coming school year, vying for city, zone and provincial titles. The High School Football season is well underway, leading to their City Championships in three divisions in mid November. High School Volleyball tournaments are beginning shortly leading to their Provincial Championships at the end of November.

The Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association, the governing body of high school sport, introduced some changes for the coming school year. The biggest change is the amalgamation of the Rural Track and Field Championships with the Urban Provincial, "Milk" Track Championships. Previously Rural Schools had their own Championship, with the winners advancing to the Provincials. A committee was developed and reviewed both Championships, and felt that all athletes could compete on an equal basis with the Winnipeg Schools, and as well, the committee took into consideration the rising prices of fuel, time away from school etc. The first ever-combined Track Championships will be held June 10th, 11th, and 12th at the University of Manitoba.

The fall sports Championships arrive very quickly with Golf Provincials taking place September 25th, in Minnedosa, Cross Country Running Championships October 21st at Spruce Woods Park, and the Rural Soccer Championships October 16th and 17th in Steinbach. Major changes to sports activities this year include expanding the Rural Soccer Championships to forty-five (45) minute halves. In past years, they have played thirty-five (35) minute halves. In Baseball, the association voted to utilize wood bats only, effective the 2010-2011 high school season, while a committee will be structured to review all of the Provincial Championships and the funding of.

Don Hurton, Superintendent of Prairie Spirit School Division, was elected for a second two-year term as President of the Association. Some of the new initiatives coming forth will be the development of a coach's introductory program, called "Call Me Coach" which will be a three-hour course to introduce both the new and veteran coach to philosophies and issues pertaining to coaching high school sports. This will be a collaborative effort with Coaching Manitoba and Sports Medicine Council of Manitoba. The Association is also looking at enhancing its communication with all stake holders relating to school sport and education, as well as developing more on line resources for coaches and parents.

The Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association is a not for profit organization funded by membership fees, grants from Sport Manitoba, corporate partnerships, gate receipts, and general community support. It is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and includes representation from the Department of Education, School Trustees, School Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, and Student Representatives.

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