



MIAA GAME OFFICIALS FALL 2007 NEWSLETTER



From the Assistant Director...

“All officials’ assignors/commissioners engaged by member schools and/or leagues to assign officials to MIAA contests will be required to attend an annual pre-season meeting with MIAA staff.”
(Rule 90.18—2007-2009 MIAA Handbook)

Opportunity knocks.

At first glance, this recent rule addition to the MIAA Handbook might seem intimidating, but that is far from the intent.

After a lengthy two-year process during which new rule proposals from coaches, game officials, athletic directors, principals, student athletes, and parents, undergo the scrutiny of multiple sport and administrative committees and eventually the binding vote of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC), the above rule has been adopted.

The MIAA considers this an *opportunity* to promote the concept of “educational athletics” with an emphasis on consistent enforcement of MIAA and sport rules, to develop a better understanding of the game official’s role in promoting sportsmanship, and to improve the communication between game official assignors/commissioners and the MIAA.

The MIAA and our member schools value good officials. The best officials are those who understand that the contest being officiated is not the “be all and end all” event in the student athlete’s life. Rather, it is an extension of the classroom, an important activity to be sure, but one designed to provide many important “life lessons” that transcend the goal of “victory at all cost”. The importance of the role of the game official in establishing the proper contest environment, in setting the standards of sportsmanship and “fair play” cannot ever be overestimated.

Hopefully this pre-season meeting requirement will also be considered an *opportunity* by commissioners and/or assignors to strengthen their relationship with the MIAA, to learn from each other, and to reaffirm that we are pursuing the same goals.

-Bill McGuirk

Remaining Dates for Assignors/Commissioners Pre-Season Meetings

Thursday, November 29, 2007

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

(See next page for flyer and registration information)

If you would like to communicate with us, please use the following means:

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Assignors/Commissioners of Game Officials Pre-Season Mandatory Meeting



PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED (see below)

Rule 90.18: All officials' assignors/commissioners engaged by member schools and/or leagues to assign officials to MIAA contests will be required to attend an annual pre-season meeting with MIAA staff.

Purpose:

To promote the concept of “educational athletics” with an emphasis on consistent enforcement of MIAA and sport rules, to develop a better understanding of the game official’s role in promoting sportsmanship, and to improve the communication between game official assignors/commissioners and the MIAA.

Format:

The MIAA will conduct an evening pre-season meeting prior to each sport season at the MIAA office in Franklin, MA. Assignors/Commissioners will be expected to pre-register with the MIAA. A capacity enrollment figure will be determined and when reached, registrations will be closed. A light buffet dinner will be served from 6:00 to 6:45 PM and the general session will take place from 6:45 to 8:00 PM.

Agenda Items:

- *MISSION: Educational Athletics*
- Game Officials’ Role in Promoting Sportsmanship
 - *Communicating with Coaches and Athletes*
- Assignors/Commissioners “Best Practices” (Panel)
 - *Recruiting and Assignment of Quality Officials*
 - *Evaluation and Accountability*
- MIAA Responsibilities and Sport Rules Update
- Fees and Tournament Assignments
 - Role of Game Officials’ Committee
 - Tournament Assignment Criteria
- Q & A

Meeting Dates: (only need to attend ONE meeting)

Winter: Thursday, November 29th, 2007 ([Click here to register on-line](#))
Spring: Tuesday, March 25th, 2008 ([Click here to register on-line](#))

NFHS/ASEP Officials Education Program Contract Canceled

Human Kinetics/American Sport Education Program (ASEP) canceled the NFHS Officials Education Program contract that was scheduled for renewal in April. ASEP shared that the decision was based on poor sales over the past three years and little interest in organizational commitments for the future. The NFHS and ASEP will be working together to assist those states that had contracts with ASEP for this program. The courses posted are still excellent training and educational resources and appropriate for professional development.

[NFHS Officiating Principles Online Course Now Available \(PDF\) \(.pdf\)](#)
[NFHS Officiating Basketball Methods Online Course Now Available PDF \(.pdf\)](#)
[NFHS Officiating Softball Methods Online Course Now Available PDF \(.pdf\)](#)
[NFHS Officiating Football Methods Online Course Now Available PDF \(.pdf\)](#)
[NFHS Officiating Baseball Methods Online Course Now Available PDF \(.pdf\)](#)
[NFHS Officiating Soccer Methods Online Course Now Available \(PDF\) \(.pdf\)](#)
[NFHS Officiating Track & Field and Cross Country Methods \(.pdf\)](#)
[Basketball Methods ordering information](#)
[Baseball Methods ordering information](#)
[Football Methods ordering information](#)
[NFHS Officiating Wrestling Methods \(.pdf\)](#)
[Officiating Principles ordering information](#)
[Officiating Principles Online Course Kicks off](#)
[Soccer Methods ordering information](#)
[Softball Methods ordering information](#)
[Track & Field and Cross Country Methods ordering information](#)
[Wrestling Methods ordering information](#)



2007 Fall Sport Rule Changes

Football

(click for all Football rule changes)

NCAA Rule 6-1-1 and 6-2-1

Kickoff from 30 yard line and kickoff out of bounds may be put in play 35 yards in advance of previous spot.

MIAA Amendment

Kickoff to remain from 40 yard line. An out of bounds kickoff may be put in play 30 yards from previous spot

NCAA Rule 12-3-1

List plays reviewable by instant replay

MIAA Rule

There will be no instant replay in MIAA contests

NCAA Rule 3-2-2-h

Following TV timeouts the ready for playtime will be 15 seconds

MIAA Amendment

Ready time for play time will be 25 seconds

Soccer

(click for all Soccer rule changes)

1-5-3 EXCEPTION: When teams are placed on opposite sides of the field, each team area shall be located as specified above and shall be placed diagonally across from each other.

4-1-1 Beginning with the fall **2008** season, shinguards must meet the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) specifications.

4-3 Each head coach shall be responsible for ensuring that each of his/her players is properly equipped.

Add Penalty: An improperly equipped player shall be instructed to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play. ***The head coach shall be cautioned (yellow card) for improperly equipped players. (* Penalty deferred for the 2007 season by MIAA Board of Directors)**

Delete 5-2-2-d-3 Examine the uniform and equipment of each player to see that it complies with the rules.

Upon request by the MIAA Soccer Committee, the MIAA Board of Directors voted to defer, for the 2007 season, implementation of the penalty portion of the new National Federation Rule 4; Section 3, requiring a caution (yellow card) to be assessed to the head coach for any player who is not properly equipped.

The MIAA Soccer Committee was concerned that a literal enforcement by game officials, especially given the mandatory mouth guard rule, the ongoing shin guard rule implementation, and the fact that a "subsequent caution" to a coach (or player) warrants a red card, could actually result in a number of undesirable game forfeits.

The MIAA Soccer Committee endorses the intent of the new rule which is to emphasize that it is the head coach who is responsible for ensuring that all players under his/her jurisdiction are properly equipped. This expectation has not been deferred, and it will be incumbent upon all head coaches to reinforce all equipment rules. It is only the mandatory issuing of a yellow card upon the first offense, which could even be for a shirt not tucked in that has been deferred for the 2007 season only. This will allow coaches and game officials to be better prepared for the eventual enforcement of this penalty in 2008.

Volleyball

(click for all Volleyball rule changes)

The MIAA continues to utilize current NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules in most instances. We would like to take a moment to highlight new volleyball rules that have been changed or modified recently as a result of the MIAA Rules Change process. The rule numbers and pages referenced are the current Association Rules for Volleyball play and are reflected in the July 1, 2007-June 30, 2009 MIAA Handbook.

Changes from past practice to be aware of are:

Page 77: 81.1.5 The NCAA rule regarding "pursuit" will be permitted, provided the venue had enough room. Any net system that incorporates wire or chain shall be deemed unsuitable for the pursuit rule, regardless of the amount of free space around them.

Page 77: 81.2 Junior varsity competitions will be two out of three games, played to 25 points utilizing rally scoring, with the third game played to 25 points, and will count toward the season and weekly schedule limit.

Page 78: 81.7 Boys playing on a girls team

81.7.1 It is a fault for a male player on a mixed gender girls' team to attack the ball at any time inside the 3 meter attack line if at contact, the ball is entirely above the top of the net.

81.7.2 Only female front row players are permitted to participate in a completed block.

***Change of Team Areas in the Deciding Game**
Old Rule: Teams will not switch sides of the court in the middle of the deciding game.

New Rule: When a team reaches eight points in a deciding game, both teams change team areas without delay. (NCAA Rule 9.2.5.1 pg. VR 51)

For all other Fall sport rule revisions, please [CLICK HERE](http://www.miaa.net/sport-rule-revisions.htm)
(<http://www.miaa.net/sport-rule-revisions.htm>)

Sportsmanship Awards

The MIAA Tournament Management Committee has approved an Annual Sportsmanship Award to be presented to one school in every sport at the MIAA State Championship.

We would like to encourage game officials to nominate a boys or a girls varsity team for consideration by that MIAA Sport Committee for recognition at the MIAA State Championship Contest. Nominated teams do not have to be tournament teams but should exemplify the tenets of good sportsmanship to the highest degree.

Please look on the MIAA Homepage: www.miaa.net – click on the “Tournament Formats” link and scroll down to the “**Team Sportsmanship Award Nomination Forms**” then click on the specific sport form.

Please be sure to submit the completed form by the due date.

Just a Reminder

All game officials must be enrolled before the first competition of the fall season in order to be eligible to officiate MIAA fall tournament contests. Registration information has already been mailed to board secretaries as well as posted on the Game Officials’ section of the MIAA website:

www.miaa.net/game_officials_main_page.htm

Enrolling all officials in a timely manner will help ensure the best officials will be considered for post-season play. Please provide email addresses whenever possible so the MIAA can more effectively communicate with its officials.

Click on the link below to view the list of Presidents and Secretaries of those boards that are enrolled with the MIAA. If you are interested in becoming an official, please contact the Board nearest you to learn how to become a game official.

[BOARD CONTACT INFO](#)

Secretaries & Presidents

[ENROLLED
GAME OFFICIALS](#)

Officials Encouraged to Submit Articles

The MIAA is interested in drawing from the wealth of practical techniques, experiences and methods that successful contest officials have developed throughout their careers. In this regard, practicing officials are encouraged to submit articles for review and potential publication.

Contest officials are encouraged to submit material in one of the three formats discussed below.

THREE FORMATS FOR ARTICLES

1. **Ideas That Work:** Single ideas, tips or suggestions that can enhance the efficiency of day-to-day practice for contemporary contest officials. Typically, these are one or two paragraph submissions that describe a resource or time-efficient procedure. These articles may also express the nature of a contemporary problem or issue within the first few lines of the first paragraph. When included, a second paragraph should focus on local response(s), procedure(s) or applications.

2. **Current Issues:** A short, one -page article focused on a contemporary issue or trend. Typically, the article contains an introductory paragraph that elaborates or defines a problem or issue of contemporary interest. In subsequent paragraphs, a short description of local response to the issue should be developed. Of great interest to readers is the use of captioned checklists that provide self-explanatory guides to practicing officials.

3. **Formal Article:** Articles comprise the main body of each Game Officials Newsletter issue. Articles should be developed as follows:

- a.) Cite a topic of contemporary, widespread interest (e.g., recruitment, training and retention of officials; safety, and insurance).
- b.) Indicate the immediate, long-term or potential effect of the issue or problem. Cite references as required.
- c.) Describe the response or management procedures you and/or others have used in responding to the problem(s). Include the impact, effect or projected effect of the response in resolving the problem(s). If possible, use checklists and other graphics to illustrate or demonstrate the applicability of the program you have used.
- d.) Summary - present a short review of the relevant issues and resolution strategies and cite their importance to the reader.

Please forward all articles c/o Bill McGuirk, MIAA, 33 Forge Parkway, Franklin, MA 02038 or email to bmcguirk@miaa.net

Contest Officials' Code of Ethics

In 2001, the Officiating Development Alliance, a group of individuals representing various officiating organizations, such as the NFHS, NCAA, ASA, USSF, the NFL, NBA, MLB and NASO, developed the *Code of Conduct for Sports Officials*. The *Code* outlines the personal responsibilities officials have to the game.

1. Officials shall bear a great responsibility for engendering public confidence in sports.
2. Officials shall be free of obligation to any interest other than the impartial and fair judging of sports competitions.
3. Officials shall hold and maintain the basic tenets of officiating which include history, integrity, neutrality, respect, sensitivity professionalism, discretion and tactfulness.
4. Officials shall master both rules of the game and mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.
5. Officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interactions with student-athletes, coaches, school administrators, colleagues and the public.
6. Officials shall display and execute superior communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal.
7. Officials shall recognize that anything, which may lead to a conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Gifts, favors, special treatment, privileges, employment or a personal relationship with a school or team, which can compromise the perceived impartiality of officiating, must be avoided.
8. Officials shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.
9. Officials shall not be party to actions designed to unfairly limit or restrain access to officiating, officiating assignments or to association membership. This includes selection for positions of leadership based upon economic factors, race, creed, color, age, sex, physical handicap, country or national origin.
10. Officials shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.
11. Officials shall work with each other and their governing bodies in a constructive and cooperative manner.
12. Officials shall resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself.
13. Officials shall never participate in any form of illegal gambling on a sports contest, may never gamble on any sporting event in which they have either a direct or indirect involvement, and may never gamble on events involving high school athletics.
14. Officials shall not make false or misleading statements regarding their qualifications, rating, credentials, experience, training or competence.
15. Officials shall accept responsibility for all actions taken.

**MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC
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