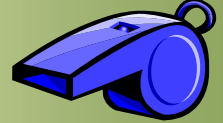




MIAA GAME OFFICIALS SPRING 2008 NEWSLETTER



MIAA/MSBOA/IAABO Presidential Meeting March 27, 2008

On March 27, 2008, MIAA President Jim Peters hosted a meeting with IAABO President Peter Carroll and MSBOA President Bruce Edwards to pursue a meaningful and productive relationship with Basketball Officials. President Peters wishes to express his thanks to each president for their commitment to this goal. More information and details will be shared with Basketball Game Officials and the MIAA membership in the near future, however in the interim President Peters asserts "a most productive dialogue has commenced."

This was the press release issued by MIAA President Jim Peters shortly after the post-tournament meeting, a commitment by all parties which, along with an agreement by the MIAA to extend the officials enrollment deadline, brought the post-game handshake saga to a peaceful conclusion, allowing the 2008 MIAA Basketball Tournament games to proceed with an expanded pool of highly qualified game officials.

This short, concise, and positive statement doesn't begin to tell "the story behind the story". Getting to this point was not without "casualties". For many within the officiating fraternity, it presented significant conflict. Conflicts of opinions, strategies, and values surfaced and unfortunately in some instances, fractured long-standing personal relationships. In this current age of advanced technology, words literally streamed into cyber space. These words were laced with a variety of "tones"; passion, contempt, solidarity, and occasionally, reconciliation. Many well-intended stake-holders embarked on self-appointed "negotiation" missions, further clouding the already muddy waters.

It is safe to say, mistakes were made along the way, on both sides of the issue. What is most important to understand, and to appreciate is that everyone involved in, and consumed by this dialogue over the past four months, is passionate for the sport and has the best interests of student athletes on their radar screens. It is a testament to the aforementioned leadership and collective wisdom of MIAA President Peters, IAABO President Peter Carroll, and MSBOA President Bruce Edwards, that reason prevailed over rhetoric and that they have now embarked on a journey of positive dialogue intended to heal the "wounds" and create an even stronger working relationship between the MIAA and basketball officials across the state. File this under "Lessons Learned"?!

-BMcG

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

Nate Bonneau: nbonneau@miaa.net

(508) 541-9807

Bill McGuirk: bmcguirk@miaa.net

(508) 541-9810

Attention Officials: Assignors/Commissioners Input Wanted

The MIAA is looking for feedback from those officials who have attended either the August 28, 2007, November 29, 2007 or March 25, 2008 Assignors/Commissioners pre-season dinner meeting. Your input will be particularly helpful in shaping future officials meetings as well as our continuing relationship to provide the best educational athletic experience possible. Please contact either Nathan Bonneau or Bill McGuirk as outlined on the first page of this newsletter.

Bill McGuirk

bmcguirk@miaa.net

508-541-7997

Nathan Bonneau

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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](#)



2008 Spring Sport Rule Changes

Baseball

(click for all Baseball rule changes)

Sporting News is no longer publishing Baseball Rulebooks, please refer to Triumph Books (www.triumphbooks.com) or [Click Here](#).

http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/official_rule_s/foreword.jsp

MLB rules will be used as referred above with the exception of those MIAA rules modifications found in the Baseball Format:

<http://www.miaa.net/baseball-2008-format.pdf>

Included in the MIAA rules modifications is the adoption of the NCAA Play-Slide Rule.

Softball

(click for all Softball rule changes)

The tournament will be conducted in accordance with the 2007 – 2009 MIAA Handbook and the 2008 National Federation Rules and Regulations with the following exception:

- a. The tie breaker rule will not be used. Games will be played until a winner is determined.
- b. The distance between the nearer edge of the pitcher's plate and the apex of home plate shall be 43 feet.
- c. Metal cleats and metal toe plates will NOT be allowed in the Spring 2008 season.

Boys Lacrosse

(click for all Boys Lacrosse rule changes)

All tournament games will be played under the rules of the National Federation except for those modified by the MIAA for high school use including the following:

74.9 In Boys' Lacrosse (Facing-Off): The official will say "down" and then blow the whistle.

74.10 In Boys' lacrosse: No penalty will be assessed if a school has different colored helmets.

74.11 In Boys lacrosse: Two stick checks per half may be conducted at random times by the officials.

Girls Lacrosse

(click for all Boys Lacrosse rule changes)

The 2008 rules (changed for 2007) state that numbers on the back must be eight inches tall; numbers on the front must be six inches tall and must be centered at chest level. The Girls Lacrosse Committee voted unanimously to allow the MIAA Liaison, Dick Baker, to waive this rule if any schools were in non-compliance due to using past uniforms. Any school wishing to request a waiver should send to nhuntley@miaa.net.

For all other Spring sport rule revisions, please [CLICK HERE](#)
(<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 in a timely manner in order to be eligible to officiate MIAA spring 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

GAME OFFICIALS COMMITTEE VOTES 3% INCREASE TO RECOMMENDED FEES FOR 2009-2010

At their March 31st, 2008 meeting the Game Officials Committee voted to increase the recommended Game Officials Fees for 2009-2010 by 3% over the 2008-2009 figures, except for Gymnastics which will remain at the 2008-2009 level.

In their deliberation on officials' fees, the committee wished to recognize the fact that the game officials fees had been frozen during the 2003-2004 season and that they had received only minimal raises during the past few years. The committee also applauded the commitment of game officials to support the MIAA sportsmanship initiatives.

After hearing a presentation by Peter Foley, representing Swim Officials, a separate motion to increase the recommended Swim Officials' Fees for *next year*, (2008-2009) to \$66, passed by a 9-1-1 vote.

A chart of GOC approved recommended fees for the next two years can be found on the following page

FALL	2008 (GOC vote 3/29/07)	2009 (GOC vote 3/31/08)
Cross Country	(+ 2.0 %) \$66	(+ 3.0 %) \$68
Football		
Varsity	\$80	\$82
JV/Fr	\$57	\$59
Thanksgiving	\$95	\$98
Field Hockey		
Varsity	\$72	\$74
JV/Fr	\$51	\$53
Soccer		
Varsity	\$72	\$74
JV/Fr	\$51	\$53
Volleyball		
Varsity	\$72	\$74
JV/Fr	\$51	\$53
Swimming		
Varsity	\$66* <i>*(voted 3/31/08)</i>	\$68

WINTER	2008-09 (GOC vote 3/29/07)	2009-10 (GOC vote 3/31/08)
Basketball	(+ 2.0 %)	(+ 3.0 %)
Varsity	\$72	\$74
JV/Fr	\$51	\$53
Ice Hockey		
Varsity	\$72	\$74
JV/Fr	\$51	\$53
Track		
	\$66	\$68
Wrestling		
Varsity-Dual	\$75+(3)*	\$77+(3)*
JV/Fr	\$51+(3)*	\$53+(3)*
Gymnastics		
Varsity-Dual	\$82	\$82*
Varsity-Tri (w2)	\$86	\$86* <i>*(voted 3/31/08)</i>
Swimming		
Varsity	\$66* <i>*(voted 3/31/08)</i>	\$68

SPRING	2009 (GOC vote 3/29/07)	2010 (GOC vote 3/31/08)
Baseball	(+ 2.0 %)	(+ 3.0 %)
Varsity	\$72	\$74
JV/Fr	\$51	\$53
Lacrosse		
Varsity	\$72	\$74
JV/Fr	\$51	\$53
Softball		
Varsity	\$66	\$68
JV/Fr	\$44	\$45
Track		
	\$66	\$68
Volleyball		
Varsity	\$72	\$74
JV/Fr	\$51	\$53

**2008-2010
GAME OFFICIALS FEES**

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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