



# MIAA GAME OFFICIALS FALL 2004 NEWSLETTER

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## From the Assistant Director BILL MCGUIRK-----

A new school year brings new optimism, opportunities, and resolutions by all of us associated with interscholastic athletics. While each game official undoubtedly renews his/her intent to have another “perfect season”—getting every call correct, school administrators focus their attention on eligibility and sportsmanship issues.

Here at the MIAA office we continue to look for ways to assist game officials and school administrators in the pursuit of those noble goals. “Making the Right Call” will be greatly enhanced by active participation in your local association’s clinics and interpretation meetings. We regularly publish new rules and interpretations in this newsletter and on our website to complement the initiatives of your local boards.

Our school administrators, using the vehicle of pre-season sportsmanship workshops at the local or league level, try to make the task of the game official an easier one by creating a positive and cooperative environment for all our contests. The MIAA supports all your efforts through numerous educational initiatives such as our Coaches Sportsmanship Compliance sessions and by creating opportunities for all our constituents to recognize positive acts of sportsmanship, such as the “Sportsmanship: The Only Way to Win” award program.

Thank you for your continued dedication to your officiating avocation and for the tremendous service you provide for schools and student athletes. Have a great season!

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

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## CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN

As game officials we often overlook and underutilize team captains, especially when we need them the most. The vast majority of team captains take their roles as team leaders seriously and are determined to be positive role models both on and off the field. During practices and games their work ethic sets the tone for their teammates. They often find themselves in a mediator’s role, resolving player/player and coach/player conflicts. Game officials should also rely on team captains to assist them in proper game management.

It may surprise you to learn that our young men and women student-athletes elected or appointed to the position of team captain, possess a degree of wisdom that belies their age. I came to that “startling” conclusion a number of years ago while conducting an MIAA Team Captains Workshop. The focus of the program was to examine the roles and responsibilities of coaches, captains, and game officials in successful game management. Among many other insights, team captains offered the following pertinent observation and suggestion to game officials:

- Some games “go bad” because “you let my coach get away with too much!”
- If you “are having trouble” with my coach or a player, tell us---“we can help!”

We would be wise to heed their advice. Establishing a positive relationship with the team captains and including them as part of the solution in resolving game time conflict can be an effective preventative measure. Give them the credit they deserve as young adults in a leadership position. You may be pleasantly surprised!



BMCG

## VOLLEYBALL RULE CONCERN

The MIAA Volleyball Committee is concerned that a number of boys and girls varsity volleyball teams or players continue to wear uniforms that do not comply with NCAA Rules. As a result of this they would like to inform member schools of the following:

### School Year 2004-2005

- Officials and opposing teams will be asked to issue a warning to member schools or players that are wearing uniforms that do not comply with the current NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules during regular season contests whenever possible.
- Schools that qualify for the boys and girls volleyball tournaments during the 2004-2005 school year will *be required to wear uniforms that meet the NCAA standards during all tournament play. Failure to comply with the uniform requirements will result in the offending school forfeiting the contest.*

### School Year 2005-2006

- Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, all varsity volleyball players and teams will *be required to meet the NCAA uniform requirements during regular season and tournament play. Failure to comply with the uniform requirements will result in the offending school forfeiting the contest.*

[Click here](#) for the current NCAA Women's Volleyball Rule explaining the uniform requirements that govern both boys and girls volleyball in Massachusetts. This rule can also be obtained on the MIAA Web Page in the Volleyball Section.

## FOOTBALL RULE ALERT

The first scheduled Interscholastic Football game cannot be played until student-athletes have participated in 15 days of practice. The Board of Directors has supported a change in the recent interpretation regarding the *required 15 days of football practice for each athlete*. The three required conditioning days **may** be counted toward the 15 days.

## SOCCER BY THE NUMBERS

**9,282**—The average distance in yards covered by a forward in an 80 minute game

**10,964**---The average distance in yards covered by a mid-fielder in an 80 minute game

**12,244**---The average distance in yards covered by a **game official** in an 80 minute game

**Who needs to be in the best physical condition??!**

### 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.

### 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 you 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](http://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.



## NCAA Rule Changes Football 2004

### RULE #

- 3-3-4 Head coach may request charged time out. Previously only a player could make the request.
- 3-5-2-e When offensive team makes substitutions and offense rushes to the line of scrimmage in an obvious attempt to disadvantage the defense the referee will stop play immediately.
- a. 1<sup>st</sup> time-substitution warning given
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> time and subsequent-unsportsmanlike foul
- Currently play is not stopped until the ball is snapped (5 yd. Penalty). Defensive teams have been unsure if infraction will be called. Therefore call time out to protect themselves from bad match ups. Thus they loose time outs by virtue of illegal activity by offense.
- 6-1-2-a Receiving team of free kicks will have option of enforcing an encroachment foul (5yds) on the kicking team either at end of return or from previous spot (on rekick)
- 7-3-8-c-4 No pass interference when the potential kicker simulates a scrimmage kick by throwing ball high and deep. Defensive player can't be penalized for pass interference when holding-up wide cover man ("gunner") on punt situation.
- 9-1-2-q It will be a foul on a field goal or try for a defensive player who runs forward and leaps and enters or crosses the neutral zone in an obvious attempt to block the kick. The entrance of the neutral zone need not be an encroachment and may be after the snap. The intent is to protect players from being landed upon by the forward leaping player, encourages block attempt jump up and down, and being injured.
- 9-1-2-o Exempt defensive player blocked into passer from being penalized for roughing passer. Not exempt from personal foul vs. passer (spear, piling on, dead ball fouls, etc....).

## 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 - presents a short review of the relevant issues and resolution strategies and cites 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](mailto:bmcguirk@miaa.net)

## SOCCER INFORMATION

- Game suspensions will carry over to Tournament play. Individual card accumulation will not carry over into Tournament play.
- The Soccer Committee voted that during the 2004 Boys' and Girls' Sectional, State Semi-Finals and Finals, the three (3) person officiating program will be continued.
- For Tournament overtime games, except the state finals, penalty kicks will determine the outcome (ref., MIAA Soccer Format 2004).
- A player's card total, as well as a Tournament qualifying team's infraction count, will begin at zero (0) in Tournament play.

### North Basketball Officials:

#### Announcing an MIAA Basketball Summit and Rules Interpretation Meeting on December 12, 2004

The MIAA Basketball Committee and IAABO Board #130 have joined forces to conduct a North Basketball Summit for Basketball Coaches and Officials. This Summit will be conducted at the new North Andover High School (430 Osgood St., North Andover, MA) beginning at 10:00 am and will be combined with the Board #130 Annual Rules Interpretation Meeting. Officials from other boards are welcome.

Please save the date and plan to attend. Registration forms will be mailed to individual schools and officials later in the fall.



### GAME OFFICIALS PRE-SEASON DINNER MEETING

The fall pre-season dinner meeting will be held at the MIAA, 33 Forge Parkway, Franklin, MA 02038 on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. The buffet dinner begins at 5:30 P.M. with the meeting beginning at 6:00 P.M.

These meetings are arranged so that there is a free flow of ideas, suggestions, and discussion of problems. Come share your experiences with us!

Please let us know if you will be attending by calling Nancy @ 508-541-9817, or contact her by email at [nhuntley@miaa.net](mailto:nhuntley@miaa.net) by September 7<sup>th</sup>.

## NFHS SOCCER RULE CHANGES

- 1.4.1 Add the following to the existing rule: The vertical portion of the goal post may be padded with commercially manufactured material for soccer goals. This material shall be white, have a maximum thickness of one inch, be a minimum of 72 inches high and shall be properly secured. No markings other than a single manufacturer's identification/logo may appear on the goal post padding.
- 3.3.1(d) Replace, "d. When an injured player(s) from either team is attended to on the field" with "when a player(s) from either team is injured:" "2. The injured player (s) shall leave the field and may be replaced."
- 3.3.3 The team NOT in possession of the ball may substitute an unlimited number of players at a throw-in or corner kick if the team in possession of the ball is also substituting (provided the substitutions have checked in per 3-4-1 (d)).
- 4.1.1 The required player equipment includes a jersey, shorts, stockings, suitable shoes and shinguards which shall provide adequate and reasonable protection, be professionally manufactured, age- and size-appropriate, not altered to decrease protection, worn under the stockings, and worn with the bottom edge no higher than 2 inches above the ankle (see illustrations regarding shinguards).
- 5.3.1(b) Delete "and assists." Currently the line reads: "The referee also must signal the timekeeper when the clock is to be stopped and confirm for the scorekeeper the players to be credited with goals and assists."



### MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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