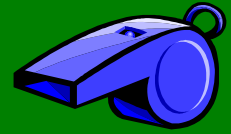




MIAA GAME OFFICIALS FALL 2005 NEWSLETTER



FALL EDITION 2005

From the Assistant Director
Bill McGuirk

Welcome to all of our game officials! Another school year is upon us and preparations are in full swing for the Fall sport season.

Among those preparations, for the game official, should be fitness training and rules review. That would be a Number 8 (super-sized?) in the Contest Officials' Code of Ethics (pg. 12, MIAA Handbook). "Officials should 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."

For the physical training, it is a matter of self-motivation and survival, especially in those fast paced sports that require two officials to cover a large field/court/rink. For the rules review, your local boards all provide and emphasize refresher exams and rule-change clinics. Also, by the time this goes to print, I hope to have seen many of you at the annual MIAA Pre-Season Soccer Clinic.

The path to that "perfect game" is typically a long and rocky one. Please be assured that the MIAA and the Game Officials Committee strive to be responsible to our member schools and to our game officials as they address multiple issues, such as accountability, fees, and CORI checks. I thank you for your dedication to your officiating avocation and for the tremendous service you provide for our schools and student athletes. Have a great season!

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

Nate Bonneau: nbonneau@miaa.net
(508) 541-7997

Bill McGuirk: bmcguirk@miaa.net
(508) 541-9810

North Shore Baseball Umpires Association (NSBUA) Conducts CORI Checks

In response to the MIAA survey published in our Winter Game Officials Newsletter which sought to identify game officials associations who are (or are considering) conducting CORI (Criminal Offense Record Information) checks on prospective and/or current members, Mr. Stephen Carroll, President of the NSBUA, reports that CORI checks have been successfully implemented by the NSBUA since 1999.

In a very measured and reasoned manner the CORI process was studied and then incrementally implemented by the NSBUA over a five year span. It started with just the association officers and advisory board, followed by all new members, and finally the CORI check was conducted on the entire membership. NSBUA President Carroll reports, "all prospective members are required to successfully complete a CORI check as a condition for taking our Board sponsored umpire's clinic. We proceeded slowly, as a way of getting the process and procedure out carefully, with significant attention spent on privacy, confidentiality, and due process details."

While the officers and Advisory Board of the NSBUA established the criteria upon which membership is accepted or denied, President Carroll is the only authorized person to actually review the results of the individual CORI checks. He reports that all raw data is destroyed in June of each year, with only the umpire's signed CORI Authorization Form retained. The NSBUA also applied for and received a waiver of associated fees for this process. President Carroll confirms, "uppermost in our mind was to find a tangible means of addressing a volatile public safety and confidence issue, which was and is of deep concern to our Board".

Editor's Note: If your Board has not yet responded to the [SURVEY](#) (click here for survey), please do so by e-mail to bmcguirk@miaa.net ASAP.

- BMCG

2005 Fall Sport Rule Changes

Soccer

(click for all Soccer rule changes)

At their meeting on August 9, 2005 the MIAA Board of Directors approved the recommendation of the Soccer Committee to *add* the following to existing MIAA Soccer Sport Rule 75.2.12 which addresses consequences for Coaches receiving yellow cards:

"...A fourth yellow card in a season shall result in a one year suspension."

The Board of Directors endorsed the Soccer Committee rationale that a coach, who should be setting the example for his/her players, should be held to a higher standard. If a coach has already received three (3) yellow cards in one season and has been suspended for two (2) games, then repeats his/her pattern of negative behavior and subsequently receives a fourth card, they should not be in a leadership position and are deserving of a minimum of a one-year suspension from the date the fourth offense occurs.

Volleyball

(click for all Volleyball rule changes)

Schedule of matches:

- All varsity competitions will be three out of five games, played to 25 points utilizing rally scoring, and will count toward the season and weekly schedule limit. The fifth varsity game will be played to 15 points. Junior varsity competitions will be two out of three games, played to 25 points utilizing rally scoring, with the third game to 15 points, and will count toward the season and weekly schedule limit.

Cross Country

(click for all Cross Country rule changes)

The MIAA Cross Country Committee recommends that all Cross Country meets use at least one certified official.

Football

(click for all Football rule changes)

NCAA Rule 9-2-1-a-1-a

Unsportsmanlike acts. A listing of examples developed by CCA supervisors of officials and others was added to this section to encourage more consistent application of this rule:

“Examples of such acts include, but are not limited to:

- Imitating a slash of the throat;
- Resembling the firing of a weapon;
- Bowing at the waist;
- Punching one’s own chest excessively;
- Crossing one’s arms in front of the chest;
- Placing one’s hand by the ear as if to indicate that the player cannot hear the spectators;
- Diving into the end zone when unchallenged by an opponent;
- Entering the end zone with an unnatural stride (e.g., high stepping);
- Going significantly beyond the end line to interact with spectators;
- Standing over a prone player in a taunting manner;
- Attempting to make the ball spin as it were a top;
- Performing a choreographed act with a teammate(s) (e.g., pretending to take a photo, falling down in unison); and
- Entering the field of play by coaches or substitutes in protest of officials’ calls.”

Additionally, the committee added language to the rule that reads: “Spontaneous celebrating with teammates on the field of play, provided it is not prolonged, taunting or intended to bring attention to the individual player, is allowed.”

Rationale: By providing a list of examples, the committee hopes to assist officials to consistently enforce this penalty. Also, the committee believes there are some situations in which celebration penalties are flagged where the celebration was spontaneous and not excessive or prolonged. This isn’t a lessening of the penalty, but a reminder that team celebrations can be allowed.

For all other Fall 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 before the first competition of the fall season in order to be eligible to officiate MIAA fall tournament contests.



GAME OFFICIALS PRE-SEASON DINNER MEETING

**Canceled
Due to
Lack of
Participants**

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
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

33 Forge Parkway
Franklin, MA 02038

Phone: 508-541-7997

Fax: 508-541-9888

email: miaa@miaa.net

www.miaa.net