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MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

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January 5, 2009

Dr. Joseph Maruszczak, Principal
Mansfield High School
250 East Street
Mansfield, MA 02048

RE: Mansfield/Ineligible Football Player – 2008

Dear Dr. Maruszczak,

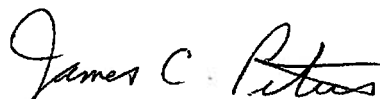
After an approximately one hour and forty-five minute meeting with representatives of Mansfield High School (including Principal Dr. Joseph Maruszczak, Athletic Director Patrick Burns, and Head Football Coach Michael Redding), the Board Sub-Committee began deliberations and votes over the next one hour and thirty-five minutes. During that time the following motions were moved, seconded and unanimously adopted:

1. The Board notes that in his presentation at the meeting on December 18, the Principal acknowledged that Mansfield had played an ineligible student in two games during the 2008 season.
2. Sustain the forfeit of two games as required by Rule 84, and require the surrender of the subsequently received MIAA Superbowl runner-up trophy.
3. The Principal as required by Rule 84 must send "letters of forfeiture" to the Principals of the schools against whom the ineligible student participated.
4. Place the Mansfield High School athletic program on probation for one (1) year from the date of receipt of this correspondence (Rule 83):
 - a. In view of the systemic failure of Mansfield High School to credibly certify the athletic eligibility of its student athletes, the Principal and Athletic Director will collaborate in an effort, to be completed within ninety (90) days, to develop a process to better determine athletic eligibility together with an enhanced coaches' handbook, both of which are to be submitted to the Board of Directors for its review. (The Board noted the absence of any appropriate eligibility certification procedure at the school. The modified school form submitted to the Board, effectively left the only limited eligibility review to parents.)
 - b. Any future violation of the Association's rules, especially during the probation period, will result in increased consequences, including possible disqualification from MIAA sponsored tournaments.
 - c. The Principal and Athletic Director will meet with the Board of Directors in December, 2009 after having submitted a report on steps that have been taken to establish a communication and leadership structure between the administration and coaching staff that insures that all Head Coaches have a means of contacting the Principal or a designee within 24 hours of their first knowledge of possible violations of the MIAA's Rules.

5. Given Coach Redding's continued disregard for MIAA rules and policies, and given his irresponsibility of withholding knowledge of potential ineligibility for five (5) critical days, thereby obstructing any process that might have permitted the school to develop and evaluate the facts and the response(s) appropriate to those facts in a reasonable manner, the Board charges the Principal to create and apply corresponding consequences to the Coach. These penalties must be reported to the Board without delay. If the Board considers the penalties to be inadequate, the Board will take such additional action as it deems appropriate.
6. The Principal is required to take steps to ensure that all the requirements upon Coach Redding contained within the February, 2008 letter from MIAA Football Committee Chairman are satisfied by the earliest possible date.
7. When the litigation initiated against the Association by the Mansfield School Committee has been concluded, the Mansfield Public Schools will reimburse the Association within 60 days the legal expenses incurred by the Association as a result of having to defend its member schools in this case (Rule 29).

Please do not hesitate to be in touch, if I might provide clarity to any of the above.

Very sincerely yours,



James C. Peters
MIAA President
Principal, Monson High School

Dr. Keith Crowley
Assistant Principal, Xaverian Brothers High School (Westwood)

Sean Gilrein
Superintendent of Schools, Dudley-Charlton Regional Schools
Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents

Karl Lord
Massachusetts Association of School Committees
Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School

Brian McCann
Principal, Case High School (Swansea)

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