MIAA Basketball Committee Meeting  
April 24, 2019 – 10:00am

1. Call to Order at 10:07 am

2. Attendance: Jeff Newhall, Jim Reynolds, Mark Donahue, Pat White, Dwayne Early, Bob Martin, Bill Boutilier, Ron Drouin, Tim Finn, Larry Kelleher, Joe Rocha, Rita Castagna, Steve Hemman, Roger Bacon, David Racette, Bob Rodgers, Sean Burke, Lou Conte, Peter Falkowski, Tony Price, Oderra Jones, Mike Rubin, Peter Smith

3. Minutes of February 4, 2019 Meeting - Approved 15-0

4. A 2019 MIAA Basketball Tournament Summary was provided for committee review including the number of teams qualified and games played by section. A total of 211 boys teams and 204 girls teams qualified for the 2019 tournament. 207 boys games and 200 girls games were played across all sectional and state rounds of the tournament.

The summary also included the list of tournament host sites at the sectional/state levels and a list of tournament champions in each division and section. One student game disqualification was reported during the tournament.

Team sportsmanship awards were presented to Fellowship Christian Academy (girls), Lenox Memorial Middle and High School (boys) and Mansfield High School (boys) during the tournament.

Steve Gaspar, retired coach from Dartmouth High School received the 2019 MIAA Sherman A. Kinney Award for outstanding contributions to high school basketball. The award was presented at the state finals at Holy Cross.

5. Appreciation was expressed to the many individuals and locations that contributed to the various aspects of the 2019 tournament:
Seeding Subcommittee Members – Jeff Newhall, Oderra Jones, Steve Dubzinski, Dwayne Early, Mark Donahue, Jim Reynolds and Sean Burke.
Sectional and State Tournament Host Sites and Staff – see handout provided.
Championship Breakfast – Goat’s Head Restaurant (WPI) and WPI athletics staff, Guest Speaker Bill Raynor.
Kinney Award Subcommittee Members – Lou Conte, Roger Bacon, Oderra Jones and Jeff Newhall.
Tournament Directors – Roger Bacon, Rita Castagna, Lou Conte, Larry Kelleher and Joe Rocha.

6. 2019 MIAA Basketball Tournament Review
Tournament Directors and committee members reported on the successes and challenges of the 2019 tournament.
North – Tsongas Arena hosted six sectional final games. Appreciation was expressed to Ron Drouin and the staff at Tewksbury Memorial High School for hosting the Division 4 North Finals. A quarter-final round game between Shawsheen and Hamilton-Wenham was moved due to concerns with gym capacity. There were challenges with lower seeded teams hosting semi-final round games as predetermined sites.
South – There were early challenges with seeding due to the impact of exclusion games with tiebreakers and format language regarding three-team leagues. A tiebreaker error between two teams was not discovered until after the deadline passed and seeding was final. Some scheduling challenges occurred due to weather or ice hockey conflicts. Taunton High School and Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School hosted the semi-final and final games.
Central – Attendance was slightly down for the Central tournaments this year. Weather presented some rescheduling challenges earlier in the tournament. WPI, Clark and Worcester State hosted semi-final games with the finals at Worcester State. Feedback has been positive from Central schools about these sites.

West – WNEU and UMass Curry Hicks hosted the semi-final and final round games. Feedback has been positive from West schools. There were no major weather issues in the West this year.

State – Finals were hosted in Worcester this year after being in Springfield for the past three years. Four games were hosted at both Holy Cross and WPI. A handout was provided with State Finals attendance over the past ten years. Attendance increased by approximately 900 spectators for the state finals this year. The smaller venues provided a more contained environment. There were some challenges with parking at each location earlier in the day. Further discussion is needed regarding venues for state finals.

The impact of exclusion games on seeding tiebreakers was discussed. Examples from this year’s tournament were a head to head tiebreaker in which one school excluded both games against the other team, and a common opponent that excluded a game against one of the teams involved in the tiebreaker. A request will be forwarded to the Tournament Management Committee to review the impact of exclusion games on the seeding tiebreaker process.

The topic of venues for South finals was discussed. Bob Rodgers complimented Taunton High School for doing an excellent job hosting the South tournament games and suggests exploring venues other than high school gyms such as UMass Boston, Northeastern and Boston University for the finals.

Additional discussion took place regarding larger venues for state finals. Holy Cross and WPI were commended for hosting this year’s games. The availability of venues such as TD Garden and Boston College Conte Forum were discussed as possibilities. Options will be explored as soon as possible to finalize in advance of the 2020 tournament.

The topic of tournament format criteria for hosting tournament games was discussed. Conversation included the challenges of gym capacity, anticipated attendance and parking at venues. Tony Price asked the committee where the line is drawn for moving a game when a team has earned a higher seed and a home game. This topic will be included on the summer subcommittee agenda to look at standards for hosting tournament games.

The topic of boys and girls games at the TD Garden was discussed. Attendance data for games at the TD Garden over the past ten years was provided for the committee. Rita Castagna described challenges experienced this year with potential scheduling of schools that had boys and girls teams in different divisions and ice hockey conflicts. Jeff Newhall emphasized the importance of flexibility for tournament directors to decide game dates and times. The summer subcommittee will review this topic.

7. Coaches Association Report
   Mark Donahue reported that the MBCA Senior Awards Breakfast is scheduled for May 5 at Holy Cross. Mark has received questions regarding the process for the Tournament Management Committee statewide tournament proposal. TMC representatives presented a session at the MSSADA Conference and the MIAA Annual Meeting with a potential timeline moving forward. The committee received meeting highlights from the most recent TMC meeting on March 19.

8. Officials Association Report
   Bill Boutilier reported on efforts and challenges in recruiting officials. Additional discussion took place regarding the need for a site director on the floor at the end of a game.

9. 2019-20 MIAA Basketball Tournament Format
   A draft 2019-2020 MIAA Basketball Tournament Format was provided with updated corresponding dates for next season. Per the Tournament Management Committee timeline, winter sport formats are due by May 1 and will be reviewed by the TMC.
Discussion took place about establishing a specific time deadline for games to be completed on the cutoff date. Motion – Add 6:00pm as the deadline time for all games to be completed on the cutoff date. **Approved 16-0**

Additional discussion took place regarding changes in league membership and the impact of format item #2 on page 3: *Please note that for the purposes of state basketball tournament qualification the MIAA Basketball Committee decided that a minimum of four teams are needed to constitute a league. However, exceptions were granted for the Big Three as ‘grandfathered’ in the sport of basketball and the Central Division of the South Worcester County League – (voted 10/09)*

Motion – Delete item #2 on page 3 from the Basketball Tournament Format. **Approved 16-0**

A handout was provided with the start and end dates for upcoming seasons. Per the MIAA Handbook start and end dates, the 2020 and 2021 seasons will be 12 weeks in duration, compared to the past four seasons which have been 13 weeks.

Saturday, March 14, 2020 is a tentative SAT Date, which is also the date for Basketball State Finals. Advisory communication will be sent to member schools about this date.

Motion – Approve the 2019-2020 MIAA Basketball Tournament Format as updated. **Approved 16-0**

The format will be forwarded to the Tournament Management Committee for review.

10. Alignment Correspondence
Recent communication has been received from schools inquiring about the opportunity to appeal divisional placement for the remainder of this alignment cycle. After discussion, the Basketball Committee reaffirmed the position of not hearing mid-cycle alignment appeals.

11. Rule Change Proposal Update
A handout was provided with the current status of the rule change proposal submitted by the Basketball Committee to enable a coach to remain standing/use the coaching box following a technical foul. The MIAA Board of Directors will vote on this proposal on May 22 and the MIAC will make the final decision on May 30. Other rule change proposals authored by the Basketball Committee will be included in the next MIAA Rule Change Proposal Packet to be voted upon during the 2020-21 school year.

12. Summer Subcommittee
Communication will be send to Basketball Committee members regarding interest in serving on the Summer Subcommittee to review topics identified at today’s meeting.

13. Other
Jeff Newhall thanked Pat White for his service as a District E representative on the Basketball Committee. Pat will be retiring at the end of the school year.

14. Next Meeting
The committee expressed an interest in adjusting the 2019-20 meeting schedule to meet in October, January and April. The meeting adjourned at 11:46am.