



# MIAA Game Officials *Newsletter*

FALL 2014

## The importance of your role...

Hopefully the summer of 2014 has allowed everyone a chance to rest, reflect, and recharge for the new school year. As the days of August fly by, high school sports will soon take center stage, throughout the Commonwealth. Thousands of student athletes will have the opportunity to mature and develop, as they learn “life lessons” on the “fields of friendly strife.”

It is exciting to think of the official’s critical role in this educational athletic experience. Although I’m well aware of the many challenges that face officials on game day, I’m also keenly aware of the many opportunities they have to be role models. You have a significant impact on these student athletes!!

As the MIAA Liaison to the Game Officials Committee, I feel it is imperative to have effective, two-way communication between all game officials and the Association. With this in mind, never hesitate to contact me with your input, observations or concerns. Only when we work together, can we maximize the experience for those we serve.

Please know how much the Association respects your profession and appreciates your commitment and service to our MIAA member schools and student athletes. I know we’ll have a terrific fall season. Best of luck to all.

Best Regards,

**Ned Doyle**  
**MIAA Assistant Director**

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

Ned Doyle: [ndoyle@miaa.net](mailto:ndoyle@miaa.net)

Phil Napolitano: [pnapolitano@miaa.net](mailto:pnapolitano@miaa.net)

# Sports Specific Tournament Formats



**All game officials** are required to be well versed on their sport tournament format in order to be assigned to tournament events. A format is a detailed breakdown of how each sport tournament is conducted. It's important to remember that each sport has its own format, covering dates, rules, tournament ball agreements, overtime rules, and tie breakers, among other information. This information can be found on the [MIAA Tournament Formats](#) page of the MIAA website ([miaa.net](http://miaa.net)).

## Student and Coach Disqualifications

**It is recommended** that all game officials carry coach and student disqualification forms with them to each contest. These forms can be found on the [MIAA Game Officials](#) page on the MIAA website. All game officials are required to know all procedures when it comes to disqualifications, including MIAA Handbook Rule 49.1 (pg 48).



## Tournament Ball Agreements



**All game officials** are required to know exactly what tournament ball is to be used during MIAA tournament contests. This information can be found on the [MIAA Game Officials](#) page of the MIAA website.

# 2014 Fall Sport Rule Highlights

## VOLLEYBALL



**Beginning in the 2014 season**, it will be required that either the libero or her teammates wear a solid color jersey. The solid-colored uniform must clearly contrast from the predominant color(s) of the teammate(s) jerseys. Predominant colors are those that appear on approximately half of the body of the uniform.

**The length of timeouts** is increasing from 60 seconds to 75 seconds

## FOOTBALL



### **RULE 9-1-9, Roughing the Passer**

“When an offensive player is in a passing posture with one or both feet on the ground, no defensive player rushing unabated shall hit him forcibly at the knee area or below. The defensive player also may not initiate a roll or lunge and forcibly hit this opponent in the knee area or below. [Exceptions. (1) It is not a foul if the offensive player is a runner not in a passing posture, either inside or outside the tackle box. (2) It is not a foul if the defender grabs or wraps this opponent in an attempt to make a conventional tackle. (3) It is not a foul if the defender is not rushing unabated or is blocked or fouled into this opponent.]”

**COMMENT:** This is to protect a passer in the act of passing who cannot defend himself from a low hit. It does not apply to a quarterback who is moving as a runner.

## CROSS COUNTRY



**4-3-3, 9-6-3** The prohibition of wearing jewelry has been removed from the rules for track and field and cross country competition. As in previous years, the wearing of a medical alert with the alert visible continues and is encouraged for purposes of risk minimization.

## SOCCER



### **RULE 3-3-2b(2)**

If the referee stops the clock for an apparent injury to a field player or goalkeeper, the field player or goalkeeper will have to leave the field. The field player may be replaced, and the goalkeeper may be replaced.

# Concussion Information

**56.2** Each school's medical person/staff is responsible for the members of that team. These individuals annually must have taken, and been certified in, the NFHS on-line Concussion Course ([click here](#)) or other recognized education program. In the event of injury, that medical person/staff will make the final judgment as to whether a student athlete may return to play (please see Rule 56.4 below regarding concussions). Whenever a medical person is on duty at an athletic event, he/she shall be responsible for both teams (unless the other team has its own medical person present). ***When a physician is not present at an athletic event, a licensed/certified athletic trainer, if available, shall be considered the higher medical authority on-site when an EMT is providing medical coverage at the same event.*** His/her judgment will be final. Physical disqualification by the medical person renders the student ineligible. The Penalty for playing an ineligible student is forfeiture.

**56.4** Any student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the practice or competition and must not return to practice or competition that day, and further shall not return to play until cleared (in writing to the Athletic Director) by an appropriate health-care professional (as determined by the Department of Public Health). Whenever it is decided to disqualify a student-athlete from further participation for a suspected concussion or other injury, the person making that decision must communicate about this matter with the injured athlete's coach and athletic director in a timely fashion.

## **105 CMR: Department of Public Health – 201.007 (E) Training Program**

*“Game officials **shall complete** one of the training programs approved by the Department as specified on the Department's website **annually** and shall provide independent verification of completion of the training program to schools or school districts upon request.”*

The yearly certification requirement is only valid between July 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> of a given academic year. In support of Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations cited above, and in the best interests of our student athletes, all MIAA Tournament Directors and Tournament Assignors will require successful completion of a DPH approved concussion training program as a condition for an official accepting an MIAA tournament assignment. Your acceptance of an MIAA Tournament contest assignment will be considered an implicit confirmation that you are a member in good standing with your local board, that you are enrolled with the MIAA, and that you have successfully completed a concussion training program as required by the DPH.

The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) training module, “Concussions in Sports: What You Need to Know”, is one of the MDPH approved training programs and may be accessed using the link: [Concussions in Sports: What You Need to Know](#)

# MIAA Team Sportsmanship Awards



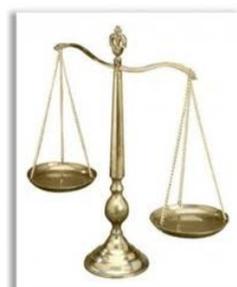
**The MIAA** would like to encourage game officials to nominate a boys or girls varsity team for consideration by that MIAA Sport Committee for recognition at the MIAA State Championship contest. Nominated teams do not have to be tournament teams but should exemplify the tenets of good sportsmanship to the highest degree. The nomination form information can be found in each sport specific [MIAA Tournament Format](#).

## Game Officials Fees

**The recommended** Game Officials' regular season fees for 2014-2015 will remain the same as the recommended fees from last year, 2013-2014. The entire list of recommended fee's can be found under MIAA Rule 91 (pages 106-107) of the MIAA Handbook.



## 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, NFL, NBA, MLB and NASO, developed the *Code of Conduct for Sports Officials*. The *Code* outlines the personal responsibilities officials have to the game. This can be found on page 12 of the MIAA Handbook.