



# MIAA Game Officials *Newsletter*

SPRING 2016

## To Be Or Not To Be!

In a supplement to REFEREE MAGAZINE, I recently discovered 101 tips for better officiating. As you prepare for the Spring 2016 season, I thought the following excerpts, taken directly from the supplement's chapter, would be useful and thought provoking.

1. **Be Approachable:** One of the things that most turns off coaches and players is when an official seems unapproachable, standoffish, even cold.
2. **Be Prepared:** No matter how long you've refereed or how many times you've worked with the same officials, it's crucial to have a pregame conference before every game.
3. **Be Focused:** You cannot allow anything or anybody to get under your skin.
4. **Be Yourself:** Control the game first and foremost, and to administer it within the framework of the rules.
5. Just go out and work the game and have some fun.
6. **Be Sure:** The best call is a good no call.
7. **Be Realistic:** Your officiating chums might think you're crazy for turning down a promotion, but that's what you should do if you're really not ready to move to the next-higher level.
8. **Be Balanced:** It's counterproductive to work too many games or to work games at levels which don't offer challenges.
9. **Be Savvy:** Knowing the rules is an initial step towards becoming a capable official. The next step: To understand the rules.
10. **Be Better:** No Matter what you've done lately and no matter how lofty your reputation, you must firmly believe that you can become an even better official.

As you approach your officiating responsibilities this Spring season, please know how much the MIAA values your critical role in the educational athletic experience. Thank you for your service to our MIAA member schools and student athletes. I wish you all a great Spring. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

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)

# MIAA Background Check Information



## FAQ's

[Click above to view the policy](#)

1. I registered and have been approved by the MIAA under one email address, but my assignor has a different email for me under their account, thus I am not showing as approved to them. What should I do?

**Answer: You will need to contact Arbiter support, 1-800-311-4060, and ask them to link your email accounts together. The email you provided for the MIAA background check is the one that will show you as an approved official.**

2. As an administrator on my board, how do I know who has been approved?

**Answer: Administrators can access their list of officials by going to the users tab. There you will see a list of officials who have selected your board. You will also see an eligibility column on that page. If the official has an icon in the column (usually a sport ball), then they have completed the registration and passed the MIAA background check.**

3. If my assignor uses Arbiter to assign games, how can they gain access to the list of approved officials?

**Answer: The assignor will need to contact Phil Napolitano, [pnapolitano@miaa.net](mailto:pnapolitano@miaa.net) and provide their 6-digit arbiter account number, along with the sport and leagues they assign. They will be linked to the MIAA super group. Once linked, the eligibility column will show up in their assigning account.**



[Click on the link above to enter Registration then follow steps below](#)

- 1) Click on the registration tab on the top left of this MIAA ArbiterSports page. *If you are an existing arbiter user, you must log out of your account before beginning these steps.*
- 2) Select all sports for which you wish to register and click the **REGISTER** button.
- 3) Follow directions and complete all information and consents. If you already have an Arbiter account, it will recognize your email once you type it in, then follow all directions.

### How do you know if you have been approved?

To check for background check approval status, sign in to your personal Arbiter account. In the Central Hub area select the [Eligibility Tab](#).

If you are listed as eligible for your selected sport(s), your background check has been completed and approved. If no status is indicated, your approval is still in process.

### How can I request a copy of the background check report?

The officials can request a copy of the report to [Support@peopletrail.com](mailto:Support@peopletrail.com).  
Phone (801) 307-4100 or (866) 223-8822.

# Concussion Information



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Your Online Source for Credible Health Information

## New HEADS UP Fact Sheets for Sports Officials: Setting the Tone for Safety

Aggressive and/or unsportsmanlike behavior among athletes can increase their chances of getting a concussion by as much as 25%. Sports officials play a key role in setting the tone for safe play and can help lower an athlete's chances of getting a concussion or other serious injury.

CDC's new fact sheets for [high school](#) and [youth sports officials](#) provide info to help officials:

- protect athletes from concussion or other serious brain injury,
- learn how to spot a possible concussion, and
- know what to do if a concussion occurs.

Download the new fact sheets at: [www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP](http://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP).

Read the New CDC Report on Other Opportunities to Change the Culture of Concussion: <http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/resources/playbook.html>.



## 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](#)

# 2016 Spring Sport Rule Highlights

## OUTDOOR TRACK



**7-1-1 thru 7-2-1** Expands and clarifies definitions of trial/attempt, flight, round, pass, foul and what determines the initiation of purposeful action of completing the specific jump.

**7-6-3** Updated size of takeoff board to accepted sport specifications by recommending it be 8 inches wide, but permits up to 24 inches.

## BASEBALL



**The MIAA Baseball Committee** worked to clarify nuances in the NFHS Re-Entry and DH rules that have been used by all association schools for many years. The current 2016 Baseball Format is online now ([CLICK HERE](#)) and details information about this clarification in the format sections: **Section I #'s 6, 7 and 8 & Section N.**

This information will assist coaches in utilizing re-entry and DH techniques during tournament games. Leagues may also wish to integrate this information in your regular season games as well. understanding this new information.

## LACROSSE



**MIAA Rule 74.10** is being implemented for the Spring of 2016 season. In regular season games for Girls Lacrosse if teams remain tied at the end of regular playing time then the contest will continue into overtime utilizing Rule # 4, Section 7 – Overtime Procedures from the US Lacrosse 2016 Women's Rule Book.

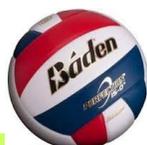
**MIAA Rule 74.10:** In Girl's Lacrosse: If teams remain tied at the end of regulation, will use US Lacrosse Rule with the modification that the first 6 minute period will be SUDDEN VICTORY for regular season play.

## TENNIS



**Two Bounce Rule:** The wheelchair tennis player is allowed two bounces of the ball. The player must return the ball before it bounces a third time. The second bounce can be either in or out of the court boundaries.

## VOLLEYBALL



**The “White colored Volleyball Officiating Jersey”** is the only allowable color for officiating any MIAA sanctioned Event, including play days.

# Sports Specific Tournament Formats

## 2014-2015 WRESTLING INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT FORMAT

SPORT SPECIFIC INFORMATION

2014-2015 WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dist. A	Ms. Cate Scuzarella Principal, North Andover HS Mr. Scott Woreau A.D., Chelmsford High School	Dist. F	Ms. Christine Vigneau Principal, Rockport HS Mr. Douglas Deporre A.D., Bedford Hills HS
Dist. B	VACANCY	Dist. G	Mr. Scott Arnold Asst. Prin., Monmouth Mt. Reg. Mr. Paul Gibbons A.D., Monmouth Mt. Reg.
Dist. C	Ms. Melissa Dupreault A.D., Jefferson High School Mr. Derek Folan Principal, Canton High School Mr. Dylan D'Attilio A.D., Peppesong High School	Dist. H	Dr. Keith Crowley Principal, St. John's Prep Mr. Alex Campese A.D., Catholic Memorial HS
Dist. D	Mr. Tom Piniello A.D., Coyle & Cassidy High School Mr. Keith Piniello A.D., South County Agricultural HS	Officiator Representative	Mr. Tom Piniello
Dist. E	Mr. Mark Holsie Principal, Asabel Valley Regional Mr. Robert Fitzgerald Asst. Prin., Northborough HS	Coach Representative	Mr. Manny Costa
	Mr. James Hook A.D., Tyngborough High School Ms. Terry Riley A.D., Asabel Valley Regional	MAS Representative	Mr. George O'Hara
	MIAA Staff Liaison Mr. Phil Vaccaro Assistant Director	MIAA Staff Assistant	Mr. Phil Haggittano Executive Assistant

**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.

# 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 2015-2016 will remain the same as the recommended fees from last year, 2014-2015. The entire list of recommended fee's can be found under MIAA Rule 93 (pages 110-112) 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.