



MIAA Game Officials *Newsletter*

W I N T E R 2 0 1 4 - 1 5

While cleaning my office, still cluttered with Fall Tournament residue, I wanted to share the following thoughts...

Amazing how knowledgeable so many parents are of the nuances of officiating and how critical they are of officials who were “obviously biased” for the opponents of their child’s team.

Game officials have a very difficult job. In most cases, they are well trained and bring a wealth of experience to the contest they are officiating. The MIAA and our member schools value good officials. The importance of the role of the game official in establishing the proper contest environment, and in setting the standards of sportsmanship and “fair play” cannot ever be overestimated.

While criticism is “part of the territory”, many critics lose sight of the concept of educational athletics and the importance of “life lessons learned”, which trumps “winning the game at all costs” - unless it is the “game of life”!

Thank you for your contributions to a successful Fall season. Another one “in the books”. Bring on the Winter season!

Best Regards,

Ned Doyle
MIAA Assistant Director

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

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Sports Specific Tournament Formats

2014-2015 WRESTLING INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT FORMAT

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, Seabrook HS Mr. Douglas Deporre A.D., Seabrook HS
Dist B	VACANCY	Dist G	Mr. Scott Arnold Asst. Prin., Monmouth Mt. Reg. Mr. Paul Gibbons A.D., Monmouth Mt. Reg.
Dist C	Mr. Melissa Duprecci A.D., Jefferson High School	Dist H	Dr. Jack Crowley Principal, St. John's Prep Mr. Alex Campese A.D., Catholic Memorial HS
Dist D	Mr. Derek Folan Principal, Canton High School Mr. Dylan D'Attila A.D., Peppesone High School	Officiate Representative	Mr. Ted Ladd
Dist E	Mr. Tom Piniello A.D., Coyle & Cassidy High School Mr. Keith Pordley A.D., South County Agricultural HS Mr. Mark Holsie Principal, Asabel Valley Regional Mr. Robert Fitzgerald Asst. Prin., Wethersfield HS	Coach Representative	Mr. Manny Costa
	Mr. James Hook A.D., Tyngsborough High School Ms. Terry Riley A.D., Asabel Valley Regional	MASC Representative	Mr. George O'Hara
	MIAA Staff Liaison Mr. Phil Vaccaro Assistant Director	MIAA Staff Assistant	Mr. Phil Nagollano Executive Assistant

In order to be assigned to tournament events, all game officials are required to be well versed in their sport tournament format. The format is a breakdown of how each sport tournament is run. It's important to remember that each sport has its own format, covering dates, rules, tournament ball agreements, overtime rules, tie breakers, among other things. This information can be found on the [MIAA Tournament Formats](#) page of the MIAA website (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.

2014-15 Winter Sport Rule Change Highlights

INDOOR TRACK



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.

ICE HOCKEY



6-4-1 ART 1...No player shall check, cross-check, elbow, charge or trip an opponent in such a manner that causes the opponent to be thrown violently into the boards. PENALTY: MAJOR

6-4-2 ART 2 ...If flagrant or the check causes the player to crash headfirst into the boards, either a MAJOR and MISCONDUCT or GAME DISQUALIFICATION penalty must be assessed.

GYMNASTICS



4-1-2E(2), (3), NOTES, 7-3-5, 8-3-5, 9-3-5: Gymnasts who connect an Advanced High Superior acro element to a Superior salto/Superior acro element receive more credit in Bonus for a difficult combination.

Rationale: Allows gymnasts to be rewarded for a more difficult combination and is

BASKETBALL



There are four major rules changes regarding Basketball, including clothing, intentional fouls, free throw lanes and fouling the ball handler.

[Click here for complete rule details](#)

WRESTLING



The MIAA Board of Directors unanimously supported a recommendation from the Wrestling Committee to waive the NFHS wrestling rule requiring hair coverings to be **attached to the ear guards** for the 2014-2015 school year. This waiver was necessary because manufacturers are currently unable to meet the demands for this product and many are out of stock until the spring. The approval of this waiver is for the 2014-15 season only.

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 1st and June 30th 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.