



# MIAA Game Officials *Newsletter*

W I N T E R 2 0 1 5 - 1 6

## The Public Eye...



Game officials in particular are always in the public eye while working a high school contest, and subject to the scrutiny of the most fickle of fans who are cheering for “their” team. While this presents a potential “no win” scenario for the game official, there are a number of instances where an official’s own actions are the root cause of negative perceptions. Sometimes we are our own worst enemies.

There are many actions that can occur during a game that we need to reflect on and evaluate under the lens of “what does this look like under the scrutiny of the public eye?” Gestures, posture, shaking hands with a spectator, socializing with one coach and not the other, tone of voice when articulating a foul, pointing directly in a player or coach’s face, and indifference, are some of the many actions with the potential of creating negative perceptions of an official’s performance on any given day.

Projecting the image of a knowledgeable, fit, positive, impartial professional is always a challenge. Meeting that challenge takes effort and proper preparation. Good officials understand that and are a credit to their profession.

The MIAA and our member schools value good officials. The importance of the role of the game official in establishing the proper contest environment, in setting the standards of sportsmanship and “fair play” cannot ever be overestimated.

We thank you for your renewed commitment to our student athletes during the winter season as they compete in “the game of life”.

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

## 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](#)

# 2015-16 Winter Sport Rule Change Highlights

## INDOOR TRACK



**3-6-4 New, 3-19-3:** Changes the responsibility of checking the starting blocks from the implement inspector to the head starter.

For a complete list of NFHS Track and Field rule changes, [click here](#).

## ICE HOCKEY



The NFHS worked during the past year to reformat the NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Book. Below are a few bullet points that address some of the broad changes.

✦ Rule 6 is now Participant Conduct

Rules 7, 8 and 9 were added to the rules book

Rule 7 is Physical and Stick Fouls

Rule 8 is Other Fouls

Rule 9 is Game Flow

✦ Penalty Options were added within Physical and Stick Fouls (Rule 7) to allow officials to have the ability to call what they see and give the appropriate penalty for the infraction that occurred.

A table has been added (Rule 7-4) to list the penalty options for physical and stick fouls.

Please click on this link for further detail of [2015-16 NFHS Ice Hockey rules changes](#).

## BASKETBALL



**10-6-12:** The following acts constitute a foul when committed against a ball handler/dribbler. A player becomes a ball handler when he/she receives the ball. This would include a player in a post position.

a. Placing two hands on the player.

b. Placing an extended arm bar on the player.

c. Placing and keeping a hand on the player.

d. Contacting the player more than once with the same hand or alternating hands.

## WRESTLING



**3-1-5 (NEW):** The duties of the referee before a tournament begins each day were expanded. Specifically, the referee shall perform the skin checks or verify that the designated, on-site meet appropriate health-care professional has performed the skin checks.

# 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 Vignesi 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	Ms. Melissa DiGregorio A.D., Jefferson High School Mr. Derek Folan Principal, Canton High School Mr. Dylan D'Attilio A.D., Peppesone High School	Dist. H	Dr. Keith Crowley Principal, St. John's Prep Mr. Alvin 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	Officiate Representative	Mr. Ted Ladd
Dist. E	Mr. Mark Holsie Principal, Asabel Valley Regional Mr. Robert Fitzgerald Asst. Prin., Waltham High HS	Coach Representative	Mr. Manny Costa
	Mr. James Hook A.D., Tyngborough High School Ms. Terry Riley A.D., Asabel Valley Regional	MAS Representative	VACANCY
		MASC Representative	Mr. George O'Hara

MIAA Staff Liaison  
Mr. Phil Vaccaro  
Assistant Director

MIAA Staff Assistant  
Mr. Phil Nagotiano  
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.