



MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



# NFHS Football Rules Transition Plan for 2019-2020

On August 7, 2018, the MIAA Board of Directors voted to support the change put forward by the Tournament Management Committee for all MIAA sports to follow NFHS rules beginning in 2019-2020. This necessitated the development of a plan to implement NFHS rules for the sport of football.

At the suggestion of various football sources, including officials, implementation design and planning was put off until the end of the 2018 football season. A subcommittee of 15 representatives made up of officials, coaches, an NFHS rules consultant and the MIAA liaison for football first met on November 26, 2018 with follow-up meetings in December 2018 and February 2019. Additionally, a large group meeting with interested game official board leaders was held on January 9 to introduce eight broad topics/differences between NFHS and NCAA football rules.

MIAA football liaison Richard Pearson met with the executive board of the Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association (MHSFCA) on February 13 to introduce the work being developed for transition to NFHS football rules beginning in the fall of 2019. An NFHS Football Rules Transition for 2019 informational area is available on the football sports page of the MIAA website.

On February 14 the subcommittee developed a plan to offer three regional workshops for coaches and three regional workshops for officials to be held in the early spring, late spring and summer. These workshops will offer attendees a more detailed understanding of the rule differences using discussion and video examples. When available, game officials and high school coaches with NFHS football rules experience will be invited to offer their thoughts and perspective. Dates and locations will be published in the NFHS Football Rules Transition area on the MIAA website as well as sent out to schools, officials and coaches.

**EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS**

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