

## MIAA RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS FOR 2017-2019

The following reflects Rule Change Proposals that have been submitted as permitted in the Procedure for Requesting a Rule Change, Rule 89, page 101 of the current MIAA Handbook. **Please note: Rule Change Proposals list Current Rule (as in handbook now), Proposal, and Rationale.** All responding groups should review the proposals and forward their recommendations, using the attached form, to MIAA Assistant Director, Dick Baker. Although changes should not be made on the original proposals, any group may make amendments, which will be included in the report passed on to the next group in the process.

The MSSADA and all MIAA Administrative Committees are welcome to act on each rule change proposal. In the section on Sport Specific Rules (rule change proposals 25-36 within this packet) MIAA sport committees and coaches' associations should only act on general rules (rules 1-24 and 37-39) and rules for their own sport.

Each of the below named groups, when reviewing a rule change proposal may take one of the two following actions:

- Record votes in favor and opposed to each proposal.
- Recommend an amendment to the proposal with votes recorded in favor and opposed.

### **REVIEWING BODY ACTIONS MUST REFLECT THE ACTUAL VOTE**

1. MIAA Sport Committees, MIAA Administrative Committees, and Presidents of MIAA recognized State Sport Coaches' Associations votes are due to the MIAA by December 1, 2016.
2. The Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors Association (MSSADA) votes are due to the MIAA by February 1, 2017. The MSSADA should not act until they have the packet that includes all earlier votes.
3. The MIAA District Athletic Committees (DAC) votes are due to the MIAA by March 1, 2017. The DAC's should not act until they have the packet that includes all earlier votes.
4. The MIAA Board of Directors will act upon proposals by May 15, 2017.
5. The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council will act upon all proposals by June 1, 2017 and their decision(s) are final.

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**Part I, Rule G: Eligibility Review Board, Standing & District Athletic Committees**

**By: Dick Baker, Assistant Director, MIAA**

**Current Rule:**

\* to the DISTRICT ATHLETIC COMMITTEES (DAC) the supervision of athletics and the adjudication of protests, disputes, conflicts or controversies within their districts. They also serve as the Nominating Committee of the Association, and directly appoint a principal and athletic director to each MIAA Sport Committee. *They control the alignment or realignment of Leagues, approve all co-operative (click icons) and middle school on high school team's requests within their districts, and play an important role in the Rules Change Process, given that they have the opportunity to review all input on each rule before recommending a position to the Board of Directors.* The Board of Directors or Executive Director may request them to "fact find" or to conduct hearings with regard to alleged rule violations. That authority also permits District Athletic Committees to determine and enforce appropriate penalties.

**Proposal:**

Add a new sentence after: *They control the alignment or realignment of Leagues, approve all co-operative (click icons) and middle school on high school team's requests within their districts, and play an important role in the Rules Change Process, given that they have the opportunity to review all input on each rule before recommending a position to the Board of Directors.* District Committees will also have the responsibility of approving requests within their districts of co-operative teams looking to add Middle School participation in one or more of their co-operative teams.

**Rationale:**

District Committees deal with both Co-ops and Middle School waiver requests separately, therefore if a need for both, they are the best group to decide. Presently a request would go to the MIAA and they would seek approval via District Chairman.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	15-0-0	Approved
Basketball Committee	16-0-0	Approved
Cross Country & Track	15-0-1	Approved
Field Hockey Committee	13-0-0	Approved
Football Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Game Officials Committee	6-0-0	Approved
Golf Committee	12-0-0	Approved
Gymnastics Committee	10-0-0	Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	12-6-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	9-0-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	12-0-0	Approved
Rugby	11-0-0	Approved
Ski Committee	6-0-0	Approved
Soccer Committee	17-0-0	Approved
Softball Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Sports Medicine	11-0-1	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	8-0-0	Approved
Swimming & Diving Committee	6-0-0	Approved
Tennis Committee	8-0-0	Approved
TMC	9-3-0	Approved
Volleyball Committee	10-0-0	Approved
Wrestling Committee	15-0-0	Approved
District A	5-0-0	Approved
District C	5-0-0	Approved

District F	6-0-0	Approved
MSSADA	9-0-0	Approved
MIAA BOD	16-0-0	Approved
MIAC	16-0-0	Approved

**2. Page 21**  
**Part II, Rule 5 Medical Coverage**  
**By: MIAA Sports Medicine Committee**

**Current Rule:**

Each member school should employ a licensed certified athletic trainer. Licensed physicians, trainers, and coaches should receive sport medicine training. Schools' must have medical coverage at all levels of football games and varsity boys' and girls' ice hockey games per sport rules.

**Proposal:**

Add to rule: The school designated as the home team, or the host site identified with a participating school, must have an AED on site (and accessible) or with their medical person for all athletic events.

**Rationale:**

For the sports of football and ice hockey AED's are required. This addition places this life saving device at all athletic events for the safety and emergency response needs for all student-athletes. Many school emergency response plans already have instructions and guidelines for AED's.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	4-11-0	Rejected
Basketball Committee	0-15-1	Rejected
Cross Country & Track	13-3-0	Approved
Field Hockey Committee	*amended: change "must" to "recommend" – 13-0-0	Approved
Football Committee	8-3-0	Approved
Game Officials Committee	5-1-0	Approved
Golf Committee	0-12-0	Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	1-8-1	amend: change "must" to "recommend" – 8-1-1
Ice Hockey Committee	9-8-1	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	6-3-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	1-11-0	Rejected
Rugby	1-9-1	amend to read recommend vs required 10-0-0
Ski Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	4-12-1	Rejected
Softball Committee	1-10-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	11-0-1	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	3-3-0	
Tennis Committee	5-4-1	Approved
TMC	0-10-2	Rejected
Volleyball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	0-15-0	Rejected
District A	3-2-0	Approved
District C	0-5-0	Rejected
District F	3-3-0	
MSSADA	1-8-0	Rejected
MIAA BOD	amended: change "must" to "recommend" for 2017-18 (in 2018-19 new law mandating effective 7/1/18): 15-1-0	Approved
MIAC	amended: change "must" to "recommend" for 2017-18 (in 2018-19 new law mandating effective 7/1/18): 16-0-0	Approved

3. **Page 24-25**  
**Part II, Rules 21, 22, 23 Definition of a Jamboree, Definition of a Scrimmage, Definition of a Practice**  
**By: Thom Holdgate, Director of Athletics/Wellness, Duxbury High School**

**Current Rule:**

**21. Definition of a Jamboree**

A jamboree is a sport competition involving any number of schools in which students participate as a unit representing their own school. Game-day uniforms may be worn. Only one jamboree may be conducted per season. Competition may be no more than one-half of the length of a regular season contest, and the jamboree must be conducted within three weeks of the first day of practice. Golf must have 5 calendar days of practice, football must have 11 days of practice, and all other sports must have 8 calendar days of practice, prior to the jamboree. *PLAY-DAYS must conform to all criteria of either a scrimmage or jamboree.*

**22. Definition of Scrimmage**

A team is not allowed to have an interscholastic scrimmage which will not count against the game limitation rules unless the scrimmage meets the following conditions:

22.1 A scrimmage is competition among any number of schools where no admission is charged; no game-day uniform is worn; score is kept only by segments; and the event is intended to be a practice, with instruction occurring during competition. *PLAY-DAYS must conform to all criteria of either a scrimmage or jamboree.*

22.2 If any of these restrictions are violated, the meeting must be counted as a game and will count toward the total number of interscholastic contests for that sport.

22.3 An "exhibition game" must be counted in the season limitation for the sport, except for an alumni or faculty-student game.

22.4 *Ineligible students are NOT allowed to participate in scrimmages/play-days/jamborees.*

22.5 Scrimmages may be held at any time during the season.

**23. Definition of Practice**

A practice is a reporting of a group of potential athletes who are under the direct or indirect supervision of a member of the high school coaching staff, and who are receiving instruction in game skills or techniques.

**Proposal:**

An interscholastic scrimmage, play date, jamboree is considered a practice. Rewrite these definitions to allow ineligible student-athletes to participate in jamborees and scrimmages just like they are allowed to participate in a practice.

**Rationale:**

Webster's dictionary defines a scrimmage as follows:

“an informal game that is played for practice: a game that is not official”

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	12-3-0	Approved
Basketball Committee	14-2-0	Approved
Cross Country & Track	3-12-1	Rejected
Field Hockey Committee	13-0-0	Approved
Football Committee	6-5-0	Approved
Game Officials Committee	0-6-0	Rejected

Golf Committee	1-11-0	Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	4-4-2	
Ice Hockey Committee	9-9-0	
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	8-1-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	8-4-0	Approved
Rugby	11-0-0	Approved
Ski Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	8-9-0	Rejected
Softball Committee	10-1-0	Approved
Sports Medicine	2-10-0	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	5-0-1	Approved
Tennis Committee	6-4-0	Approved
TMC	8-3-0	Approved
Volleyball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	1-14-0	Rejected
District A	3-2-0	Approved
District C	4-1-0	Approved
District F	2-4-0	Rejected
MSSADA	8-1-0	Approved
MIAA BOD	9-7-0	Approved
MIAC	0-15-1	Rejected

**4. Page 32**

**Part III, Rule 33: Coaches Education**

**By: Tom Arria, Director of Athletics, Cambridge Rindge & Latin School**

**Current Rule:**

All coaches hired prior to August 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after 8/1/98 and before 7/1/05 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. This Board of Directors' policy became effective on Monday, November 29, 2010.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the National Federation of High Schools, NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course taught by an MIAA Instructor, (must be passed prior to coaching a second year) and an approved Sports First Aid course (NFHS, American Red Cross or American Heart Assoc. and must be passed prior to coaching a third year).

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2007 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, an approved Sports First Aid course and the NFHS Sport Specific Technical and Tactical Skills Course in the sport they are coaching (must be completed prior to coaching a third year). Note: The sport-specific requirement began on July 1, 2007 or when each particular sport-specific course becomes available, if after this date.

NFHS Sport Specific Technical and Tactical Skills Courses presently available: Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Boys' Lacrosse, Girls' Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Wrestling, Volleyball, Cheer & Dance, and Track and Field.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors.

The NFHS Sports First Aid and Sport Specific requirement may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS <http://www.nfhslearn.com>.

**Proposal:**

Change first paragraph to read:

All coaches must complete NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of those hired prior to August 1, 1998 and those who are Certified MA teachers.

Then remove above portions of rule with strike-through lines.

~~All coaches hired prior to August 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after 8/1/98 and before 7/1/05 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.~~

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. This Board of Directors' policy became effective on Monday, November 29, 2010.

~~All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the National Federation of High Schools, NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course taught by an MIAA Instructor, (must be passed prior to coaching a second year) and an approved Sports First Aid course (NFHS, American Red Cross or American Heart Assoc. and must be passed prior to coaching a third year).~~

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) ~~first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2007~~ must complete ~~the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course~~, an approved Sports First Aid *and CPR course in accordance with Massachusetts State Law Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71.*

*All coaches must complete a NFHS Sport Specific Technical and Tactical Skills Course in the sport they are coaching* (must be completed prior to coaching a third year). Note: The sport-specific requirement began on July 1, 2007 or when each particular sport-specific course becomes available, if after this date.

NFHS Sport Specific Technical and Tactical Skills Courses presently available: Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Boys' Lacrosse, Girls' Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Wrestling, Volleyball, Cheer & Dance, and Track and Field.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors.

The NFHS Sports First Aid and Sport Specific requirement may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS <http://www.nfhslearn.com>.

**Rationale:**

The requirements of coaches continues to include and add more certifications every year. While this can be a positive measure (most often is); Coaches Fundamentals Course should not be mandatory for those who are Certified Educators. Requiring such training should be a school choice. This will lessen the burden both time wise and financially. For example:

CPR/First Aid \$50 - \$150	Coaching Clinics \$50 - \$200
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Sport Tech/Tact \$50	Fundamentals \$95
Finger Printing \$35-\$55	

Prior to coaching, Districts or Individuals pay between \$280-\$550. This rule change will lessen these burdens for some, namely our teacher who have constant training.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	8-7-0	Approved
Basketball Committee	9-7-0	Approved
Cross Country & Track	11-3-2	Approved
Field Hockey Committee	2-10-1	Rejected
Football Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Game Officials Committee	5-1-0	Approved
Golf Committee	1-11-0	Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	2-6-2	Rejected
Ice Hockey Committee	10-8-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	8-1-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	9-3-0	Approved
Rugby	4-7-0	Rejected
Ski Committee	1-5-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	15-3-0	Approved
Softball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	8-4-0	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	5-1-0	Approved
Tennis Committee	1-9-0	Rejected
TMC	10-0-1	Approved
Volleyball Committee	2-8-1	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	8-6-1	Approved
District A	4-1-0	Approved
District C	5-0-0	Approved
District F	3-3-0	
MSSADA	6-3-0	Approved
MIAA BOD	3-13-0	Rejected
MIAC	1-15-0	Rejected

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**Part III, Rule 33: Coaches Education**

**By: Stephen Godbout, Coach, Algonquin Regional High School**

**Current Rule:**

All coaches hired prior to August 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after 8/1/98 and before 7/1/05 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. This Board of Directors' policy became effective on Monday, November 29, 2010.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the National Federation of High Schools, NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course taught by an MIAA Instructor, (must be passed prior to coaching a second year) and an approved Sports

First Aid course (NFHS, American Red Cross or American Heart Assoc. and must be passed prior to coaching a third year).

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2007 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, an approved Sports First Aid course and the NFHS Sport Specific Technical and Tactical Skills Course in the sport they are coaching (must be completed prior to coaching a third year). Note: The sport-specific requirement began on July 1, 2007 or when each particular sport-specific course becomes available, if after this date.

NFHS Sport Specific Technical and Tactical Skills Courses presently available: Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Boys' Lacrosse, Girls' Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Wrestling, Volleyball, Cheer & Dance, and Track and Field.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors.

The NFHS Sports First Aid and Sport Specific requirement may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS <http://www.nfhslearn.com>.

**Proposal:**

Add subsection: Mandate AED training for all coaches. Coaches will be trained on symptoms of cardiac events in student-athletes. This training will be done in conjunction with the existing, mandated CPR training.

**Rationale:**

Coaches' proposed training will prevent sudden cardiac arrest and death in student-athletes which is the number one cause of death of student-athletes according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. In developing the guidelines and materials, the MIAA and its affiliated schools may utilize, at no cost, an educational video created by Simon's Fund for the purpose of education coaches about sudden cardiac arrest, or other existing materials developed by organizations, such as Parent Heart Watch and Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes. The protocols included in this important, lifesaving initiative mirror the existing legislation in Senate Bill 1157.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	11-4-0	Approved
Basketball Committee	12-4-0	Approved
Cross Country & Track	14-2-0	Approved
Field Hockey Committee	12-1-0	Approved
Football Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Game Officials Committee	4-2-0	Approved
Golf Committee	9-2-1	Approved
Gymnastics Committee	9-0-1	Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	12-6-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	9-0-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	6-5-1	Approved
Rugby	11-0-0	Approved
Ski Committee	5-0-1	Approved
Soccer Committee	6-12-0	Rejected
Softball Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Sports Medicine	12-0-0	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	1-5-0	Rejected
Tennis Committee	9-1-0	Approved



TMC	8-3-0	Approved
Volleyball Committee	10-1-0	Approved
Wrestling Committee	16-0-0	Approved
District A	3-2-0	Approved
District C	4-1-0	Approved
District F	6-0-0	Approved
MSSADA	5-3-0	Approved
MIAA BOD	15-0-1	Approved
MIAC	10-1-5	Approved

**6. Page 33**

**Part III, Rule 34: Recognized Sports And Scheduling Limits for Schools  
By: Tom Arria, Director of Athletics, Cambridge Rindge & Latin School**

**Current Rule:**

<u>Boy's Sport</u>	<u>Maximum # of Competitions Per Season</u>	<u>Per Week</u>
Lacrosse	20	3

**Proposal:**

<u>Boy's Sport</u>	<u>Maximum # of Competitions Per Season</u>	<u>Per Week</u>
Lacrosse	<b>16</b>	2

**Rationale:**

The sport of Lacrosse for boys is an extremely physically demanding sport. The spring season is short and to play 20 games in that time at 3 per week is a lot. Looking at college schedules Division I, II, III, most men's teams are playing at most 2 games/week with some most often playing one game/week. This season limitation is in the best interest of student safety and the advancement of the sport allowing for more practice time.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	3-11-1	Rejected
Basketball Committee	1-15-0	Amend: 18 games/season, 3 per week: 15-1-0 Approved
Cross Country & Track	2-7-7	Rejected
Football Committee	2-9-0	Rejected
Game Officials Committee	0-6-0	Rejected (vote was taken prior to correcting from 18-16 per season)
Golf Committee	0-12-0	Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	0-9-1	amend: 18 games/season, 3 per week: 9-0-1 Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	0-18-0	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'		Amend to: 18 games/season, 3 games/week: 7-2-0 Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	1-11-0	amend to: 18 games/season, 3 games/week – 12-0-0 Approved
Rugby	8-1-2	Approved
Ski Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	9-8-1	Approved
Softball Committee	0-9-2	amend: 18 games/season, 3 per week: 9-0-2 Approved
Sports Medicine	4-6-2	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	8-0-0	Approved
Swimming & Diving Committee	3-4-0	Rejected
Tennis Committee	0-10-0	amend: 18 games/season 3 games/week: 9-0-1 Approved
TMC	2-8-0	Rejected
Volleyball Committee	4-6-1	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	3-12-1	Rejected

District A	2-3-0	Rejected
District C	1-4-0	Rejected
District F	0-6-0	Amend: 18 games/season: 5-1 Approved
MSSADA	3-6-0	Rejected
MIAA BOD		Amend to: 18 games/season, 3 per week: 14-1-1 Approved
MIAC		Amend to: 18 games/season, 3 per week: 16-0-0 Approved

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**Part III, Rule 34: Recognized Sports And Scheduling Limits for Schools**

**By: Dick Baker, MIAA Assistant Director**

**Proposal:**

Add new subsection rule:

34.1.4 Also exempt is approved participation in National Competitions that are sanctioned by the NFHS and the MIAA.

**Rationale:**

School Teams or Individual Team Members who qualify for a National Competition should be able to be supported by their school.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	11-4-0	Approved
Basketball Committee	3-13-0	Rejected
Cross Country & Track	16-0-0	Approved
Field Hockey Committee	9-0-4	Approved
Football Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Game Officials Committee	5-1-0	Approved
Golf Committee	0-12-0	Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	9-0-1	Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	18-0-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	8-1-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	9-1-2	Approved
Rugby	11-0-0	Approved
Ski Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	13-4-1	Approved
Softball Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Sports Medicine	12-0-0	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	7-0-0	Approved
Tennis Committee	5-0-5	Approved
TMC	10-0-0	Approved
Volleyball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	16-0-0	Approved
District A	5-0-0	Approved
District C	5-0-0	Approved
District F	6-0-0	Approved
MSSADA	7-2-0	Approved
MIAA BOD	7-8-1	Rejected
MIAC	16-0-0	Approved

**8. Page 35**

**Part III, Rule 35: Starting & Closing Dates for Tryouts, Practices & Contests**

**By: Jeff Caron, Athletic Director, Dartmouth High School**

**Current Rule:**

35.2 The Winter season must not begin before the first Monday after Thanksgiving. Winter sports include skiing, basketball, ice hockey, gymnastics, swimming (see Rule 35.1.1), indoor track, and wrestling. The Winter season must end with completion of the regular varsity season schedule, except for the varsity team or individual students completing their participation in the MIAA tournament. Exception: The Nordic ski season must end by the Saturday preceding the third Monday in March. Sub-varsity teams or individual athletes may participate after the completion of the regular season varsity schedule to complete their season schedule (maximum of two weeks beyond varsity schedule completion) or to practice with the varsity team providing it has qualified for the MIAA tournament.

**Proposal:**

The Winter Season must not begin before the *second* Monday after Thanksgiving (the rest of the rule may read “as is”).

**Rationale:**

To remove the crossover of Fall & Winter seasons. This would give football players an additional week of rest before beginning their Winter Season. For Super Bowl teams it would at least give them a weekend off before starting and allow for them to begin the winter on an equal playing field with their peers.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	0-15-0 Rejected
Basketball Committee	0-16-0 Rejected
Cross Country & Track	1-15-0 Rejected
Football Committee	5-6-0 Rejected
Game Officials Committee	0-6-0 Rejected
Golf Committee	0-12-0 Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	10-0-0 Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	0-18-0 Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	1-8-0 Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	0-12-0 Rejected
Rugby	0-11-0 Rejected
Ski Committee	0-6-0 Rejected
Soccer Committee	0-16-2 Rejected
Softball Committee	2-9-0 Rejected
Sports Medicine	0-12-0 Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	4-3-1 Approved
Swimming & Diving Committee	1-6-0 Rejected
Tennis Committee	0-10-0 Rejected
TMC	0-10-0 Rejected
Volleyball Committee	4-7-0 Rejected
Wrestling Committee	0-16-0 Rejected
District A	2-3-0 Rejected
District C	1-4-0 Rejected
District F	0-6-0 Rejected
MSSADA	0-9-0 Rejected
MIAA BOD	0-16-0 Rejected
MIAC	0-16-0 Rejected

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**Part III, Rule 35: Starting & Closing Dates for Tryouts, Practices & Contests**  
**By: Jeff Caron, Athletic Director, Dartmouth High School**

**Current Rule:**

- 35.3 The Spring season must not begin before the third Monday in March. Spring sports include baseball, girls' wrestling, golf (See Rule 35.1.1), lacrosse, *rugby (starting in 2017)*, softball, tennis, boys' volleyball, and outdoor track. The Spring season must end with completion of the regular season varsity schedule except for the varsity team or individual students completing their participation in the MIAA tournament. Sub-varsity teams or individual athletes may participate after the completion of the regular season varsity schedule to complete their season schedule (maximum of two weeks beyond varsity schedule completion) or to practice with the varsity team providing it has qualified for the MIAA tournament.

**Proposal:**

The Spring Season must not begin before the *last (forth)* Monday in March (the rest of the rule may read "as is").

**Rationale:**

Allows for better weather for tryouts and initial week of game schedule. \*Have the tournament start the week after graduations, award nights, proms, etc. and allow for a better tournament – free of distractions, conflicts and early start times – all things that reduce how “special” the tournament atmosphere should feel.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	0-15-0 Rejected
Basketball Committee	1-15-0 Rejected
Cross Country & Track	0-15-1 Rejected
Football Committee	3-8-0 Rejected
Game Officials Committee	0-6-0 Rejected
Golf Committee	0-12-0 Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	9-0-1 Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	5-13-0 Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	0-9-0 Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	0-12-0 Rejected
Rugby	0-11-0 Rejected
Ski Committee	0-6-0 Rejected
Soccer Committee	0-16-2 Rejected
Softball Committee	0-11-0 Rejected
Sports Medicine	0-12-0 Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	5-3-0 Approved
Swimming & Diving Committee	2-5-0 Rejected
Tennis Committee	0-10-0 Rejected
TMC	0-10-0 Rejected
Volleyball Committee	4-7-0 Rejected
Wrestling Committee	0-15-1 Rejected
District A	3-2-0 Approved
District C	0-5-0 Rejected
District F	0-6-0 Rejected
MSSADA	0-9-0 Rejected
MIAA BOD	0-16-0 Rejected
MIAC	0-16-0 Rejected

**10. Page 38**

**Part III, Rule 40: Out-of-Season Coach-Athlete Contact Limitations**

**By: Steven St. Martin, Coach, Westwood High School**

**Current Rule:**

- 40.1 Unless otherwise permitted in this rule, between seasons a coach may conduct a meeting(s) with team candidates only to elect captains, collect equipment, issue equipment, to provide for physical examinations, to conduct legitimate fund-raising events, or to offer wellness workshops or activities.
- 40.2 A coach is defined as any paid or volunteer member of the athletic staff.
- 40.3 The MIAA considers the last coach of record as holding that position until replaced by the principal.
- 40.4 A coach may not directly or indirectly require an athlete to participate in a sport or a training program outside of the MIAA defined sport season.

Voluntary conditioning sessions open equally to all students in a school and which are entirely devoid of sports-specific activity may be conducted between seasons provided no candidate is either required to participate or penalized for not doing so.

A "candidate" is defined as:

- 40.4.1 A varsity or sub-varsity athlete who participated in a high school program at some interscholastic level the previous year and has eligibility remaining; or
- 40.4.2 A middle school student "selected" to participate in an out-of-season program.
- 40.4.3 A sixth grade student in a 7-12 high school or an eighth grade student in a 9-12 high school.
- 40.5 A high school coach may be employed by a park or recreation department or other organization or may volunteer for such a group to teach his/her sport out-of-season provided the following conditions exist:
- 40.5.1 No candidate may either be required to attend or be penalized for not attending.
- 40.5.2 School funds are not used.
- 40.5.3 A coach's high school candidates must constitute the minority of those taking part in any out-of-season sport's program, and never more than 50% competing on any team at any moment (e.g. no more than two basketball candidates could be on the court, or 3 ice hockey players on the ice, on the same team, at any point during a game). In sports that are individual in nature, or where competition involves a series of scoring events, candidates of that high school coach must be fewer than 50% of those participating in the overall competition or program.
- 40.6 A program is deemed to be an intramural rather than an out-of season program provided that:
- 40.6.1 The program is available to all high school students on an indiscriminate basis, and a representative number of non-candidates are regular participants.
- 40.6.2 No participants may receive any attention not offered to all other participants.
- 40.6.3 Candidates in that intramural sport must constitute a minority of those taking part in the program and never more than 50% of any team actually playing or competing at any one time. (See Rule 40.5.3)
- 40.6.4 The program must be a direct offering of the high school involved.
- 40.7 ***Public High Schools can host an open house to introduce their schools, academic, extracurricular activities and facilities in the month of February including athletic department presentations (that***

*will include coaches) talking about their sport, facility and philosophy as happens during Catholic School Week. Organizational meetings for fall sports including collecting names, physical documentation and practice schedules for the fall would be not allowable until the current May 1 date.*

- 40.8 High School Coaches (paid or volunteer) of one sport may be involved in out-of-season activity of another sport during the summer only.

**PENALTY:** Because these standards are designed to protect young people from unfair and inequitable scenarios, any coach who violates, or does not prevent violations, of these standards will be rendered ineligible to participate or be present at any MIAA approved or sponsored interscholastic competition in that sport for one year from the date of determination of a rule violation. If a violation is inadvertent or relatively minor, this penalty may be reduced by the Board of Directors, or its designee.

**Proposal:**

**This proposal is broken into 2 parts: 1) During the school year & 2) During the summer**

- 1) Out of season coaches can have 3 hours max per week to teach specific skills during the school year. The skill sessions during the school year are completely voluntary and open to all who would like to participate, is free of charge, and held on school district grounds in school district buildings with only those athletes who are not participating in an in-season sport, or have written consent from the in-season coach, student, parent, and Athletic Director. These sessions will need to be pre-approved by the Athletic Director.
- 2) During the summer, coaches not only have the 3 hours per week to work on sport specific skills with their players, but can coach their athletes in leagues and tournaments. The skill sessions during the summer are completely voluntary and open to all who would like to participate, is free of charge, and held on school district grounds in schools district buildings unless cleared by the Athletic Director.

**Rationale:**

- 1) With the explosion of A.A.U., which has caused exploitation of athletes and families by coaches who are not employed by the school, under MIAA rules or guidelines, do not fill out a CORI, are not finger printed and on file with the district, and charge money, it is not conceivable that these individuals have more influence in the development and direction student-athletes that are involved in MAA schools than coaches who are under all of the above.

Other state identify this as a problem and have made rules in their handbooks to deal with this situation. For example, New Hampshire, NHIAA states in their handbook: “By allowing limited contact throughout the school year it is our belief that these students can best benefit from working with their school-based coaches who are highly trained and understand the relationships between academics, athletics, and the life lessons taught that require both components of a sound education.”

North Carolina has also taken a similar philosophy. As stated in the NCHSAA: “To encourage athletes to spend more time with their high school coaches and less time with so-called street coaches, travel and showcase teams, the NCHSAA has dropped limits on the number of athletes who can take part in offseason skill development for all sports but football. Now any coach can work with an unlimited number of players in the offseason for 90 minutes per day.”

These are just two of many who are taking this position.

- 2) High school coaches go through a rugged screening and interview process by the school’s administration in order to find the coach they want to instruct their youth. AAU coaches do not

have this process. High school coaches go through extensive First Aid and Concussion education that is sponsored by and instructed by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and The American Heart Association in which these coaches have to renew these certifications. AAU Coaches do not have this process. The five Pillars of Educational Athletics are: Community Service, Wellness, Coaches Education, Sportsmanship, and Leadership. Who better to surround our student-athletes to have a positive experience to develop these Pillars than the student-athletes' high school coach! Your link on the MIAA homepage "The Case for High School Activities" go to the NFHS website which states: **Case for High School Activities:** "Co-curricular activities are generally designed to support and work in concert with the academic goals of the schools. Education-based activities staff are trained to not only teach students athletic or performing arts skills, but skills that help students do well in school and in life. Schools are centers of learning where teaching and learning are intentionally designed and implemented. If communities and societies want to be intentional about what students learn, make the most of athletic and performing arts activity participation as well as help promote academic learning in school, they need education-based co-curricular activities."

Additionally, with other states having these options for their high school student-athletes, the MIAA is putting its athletes at an unfair disadvantage to compete for opportunities to play at the collegiate level. Athletes where states allow their coaches to work with them in the off season are more prepared to enter the collegiate sports world because they have had the instruction from coaches with whom the state athletic agency, the high school administration, and the town's people have deemed this coach the most qualified and trustworthy to instruct its athletes.

College recruiting is a global endeavor at all the levels, not just at the scholarship level, so it behooves the MIAA to give its student-athletes the best chance to reach that level if they so choose to do so.

Not only are these athlete's not receiving the best instruction on skill development in the off seasons, but college coaches are increasingly frustrated with having to deal with AAU coaches during live summer recruiting periods instead of the most qualified coach, the high school coach. In speaking with some college coaches, many said they would like to go to summer skills sessions or camps run by the high school coaches with their own players and deal with the high school coach who has the priority of the student-athlete first and foremost. In being a former college coach, I can attest to this sentiment.

It is time for the MIAA to do what is best for its student-athletes.

[Click here for a breakdown of each states MIAA equivalent body's rule regarding out-of-season contact by coaches and summer contact.](#)

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	1-14-0 Rejected
Basketball Committee	1-15-0 Rejected
Cross Country & Track	0-14-2 Rejected
Field Hockey Committee	0-13-0 Rejected
Football Committee	7-2-2 Approved
Game Officials Committee	0-6-0 Rejected
Golf Committee	0-12-0 Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	1-8-1 Rejected
Ice Hockey Committee	0-17-0 Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	0-9-0 Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	0-12-0 Rejected
Rugby	0-11-0 Rejected

Ski Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	2-15-1	Rejected
Softball Committee	0-10-1	Rejected
Sports Medicine	1-13-0	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	0-6-1	Rejected
Tennis Committee	1-8-0	Rejected
TMC	11-0-0	Approved
Volleyball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	0-16-0	Rejected
District A	0-5-0	Rejected
District C	0-5-0	Rejected
District F	0-6-0	Rejected
MSSADA	0-9-0	Rejected
MIAA BOD	0-16-0	Rejected
MIAC	0-16-0	Rejected

**11. Page 42 & 116**

**Part III, Rule 43.2.1: Boys' & Girls' on the Same Team**

**also Part IX, Rule 96: Divisional Enrollment: Cooperative & Mixed Gender Teams**

**By: Dick Baker, Assistant Director, MIAA**

**Current Rule:**

*43.2.1* Any MIAA member school sponsoring a “mixed gender” sub varsity or varsity team must report to opponents the mixed gender status of their team(s) at least 72 hours prior to each scheduled competition. The “mixed gender” status must also be included on the tournament entry form in the space provided. With the exception of boys’ golf, the combined male & female enrollments will be utilized to determine tournament divisional placement.

96. For all sports that establish divisions by enrollment, all cooperative teams and mixed gender teams (see Rule 43.2.1 for golf exception) must combine enrollments for divisional placement. Each school participating in an approved cooperative program must register that sport by indicating “co-op” on the membership registration form. In combining the enrollments, no school will be required to move up more than one division.

**Proposal:**

43.2.1: Eliminate: “With the exception of boys’ golf, the combined male & female enrollments will be utilized to determine tournament divisional placement.”

96: Eliminate: “and mixed gender teams”. Sentence would now read: For all sports that establish divisions by enrollment, all cooperative teams must combine enrollments for Divisional placement.

**Rationale:**

Mixed gender teams should not affect divisional placement for Tournaments. We do not do in Golf & Football and should not do in any other sports.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	11-3-1	Approved
Basketball Committee	0-16-0	Rejected
Cross Country & Track	0-12-4	Rejected
Field Hockey Committee	0-9-4	Rejected
Football Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Game Officials Committee	2-4-0	Rejected
Golf Committee	0-8-4	Rejected



Gymnastics Committee	0-6-4	Rejected
Ice Hockey Committee	7-9-1	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	7-1-1	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	6-3-3	Approved
Rugby	8-0-3	Approved
Ski Committee	6-0-0	Approved
Soccer Committee	5-10-3	Rejected
Softball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	2-10-1	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	1-6-1	Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	0-7-0	Rejected
Tennis Committee	0-6-2	Rejected
TMC	11-0-0	Approved
Volleyball Committee	3-7-1	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	7-4-5	Approved
District A	2-3-0	Rejected
District C	2-3-0	Rejected
District F	1-5-0	Rejected
MSSADA	3-5-0	Rejected
MIAA BOD	4-12-0	Rejected
MIAC	2-14-0	Rejected

**12. Page 42**

**Part III, Rule 43.2.1: Boys' & Girls' on the Same Team**

**By: Lisa Cropper, Marianne Jarema, Marianne Murphy**

**Current Rule:**

*43.1* No student shall be denied in any implied or explicit manner the opportunity to participate in any interscholastic activity because of his or her gender. A school may establish separate teams for males and females for interscholastic competition in a sport provided that teams comprised primarily or solely of persons of one gender shall be granted equal instruction, training, coaching, access to available facilities, equipment, opportunities to practice and compete as teams engaged in a similar activity comprised primarily or solely of persons of the opposite gender.

*43.2* A girl may play on a boys' team if that sport is not offered in the school for the girl, and a boy may play on a girls' team if that sport is not offered in the school for the boy. When a sport is offered in two different seasons, each individual must participate on the team of his/her gender.

*43.2.1* Any MIAA member school sponsoring a "mixed gender" sub varsity or varsity team must report to opponents the mixed gender status of their team(s) at least 72 hours prior to each scheduled competition. The "mixed gender" status must also be included on the tournament entry form in the space provided. With the exception of boys' golf, the combined male & female enrollments will be utilized to determine tournament divisional placement.

*43.2.1.1* Any school, which does not conform to the notification requirements above, will be ineligible for MIAA tournament competition in that sport.

*43.2.1.2* Students from mixed gender regular season teams will participate in the regional and state tournaments of their own gender in the sports of cross country, indoor track, outdoor track, skiing, swimming and diving, individual golf, and individual tennis.

43.2.2 Softball and baseball are competitively equal sports. Therefore, girls' shall participate in softball and boys' in baseball provided each sport is offered at that school. Length of game is one basic difference (i.e. time required to play baseball and softball differ).

43.2.3 Any single gender team may forfeit its competition to a mixed team because of safety reasons without tournament qualifying penalty (e.g. the 50% rule would apply only to games played). Notification of forfeit must be documented with the MIAA Executive Director and the opponent school principal(s), stating the reason for not competing. This notification must be given at least 24 hours prior to the contest.

43.2.3.1 **Reasons of Safety:** Generally anything which can be specifically stated that demonstrates a bona fide concern by a player, athletic director, or principal that a potential opponent will pose a threat to safety during an interscholastic athletic competition.

43.2.3.2 **Specific Reasons:**

(a) A bona fide reason of safety will arise when a potential opponent has caused injury during a prior interscholastic athletic contest.

(b) A bona fide reason of safety will arise when the potential opponent has previously altered the method or manner of play, in a substantial way, by means of the style of play during a prior interscholastic athletic contest.

(c) A bona fide reason of safety will arise when through the actual knowledge of the person claiming a reason of safety exists, a substantial concern is present that the opponent poses a threat to safety. In such situations, the specific basis or facts relied upon shall be disclosed.

43.2.3.3 **Exceptions:**

(a) It shall not be a reason of safety that a potential opponent may have an advantage due to greater physical skills.

(b) It shall not be a reason of safety that a potential opponent by reason of gender alone is more likely to cause injury than another player.

(c) A reason of safety does not include the possibility that a potential opponent may cause a threat to the safety of the potential opponent's teammates.

43.2.3.4 **Implementation:** Any team which invokes the application of Rule 43.2.3 shall notify the opponent's principal by telephone and in writing as early as possible. Said notice shall contain a concise statement of the reason(s) of safety that cause the application of the rule. Said notice shall also be concurrently transmitted to the MIAA.

**Proposal:**

Rewrite Rule 43 to read:

MIAA strongly supports and encourages participation by both boys and girls in interscholastic athletics. Based upon real and demonstrable physical and competitive differences between similarly aged and trained high school boys and girls in athletic performances, MIAA recognizes that combining genders for competition purposes would have a chilling effect on female participation in interscholastic athletics. MIAA further recognizes that, historically, girls' participation has been much more limited than boys' participation. To promote participation by the historically underrepresented gender in a fair competitive environment, MIAA, therefore, classifies sports by gender and limits mixed gender participation as follows.

- A. If a school has a Boys' Team in a sport, boys at the school are not eligible to play on the school's Girls' Team in that sport. If a school has a Girls' Team in a sport, girls at the school are not eligible to play on the school's Boys' Team in that sport. The Principal may waive this limitation for a girl seeking to play on a Boys' Team if the Principal believes that the girl's skill level is such that participation on the Girls' Team would not provide meaningful competition for the girl.
- B. Girls may play on a Boys' Team if the student's school does not sponsor a comparable Girls' Team in that sport. NOTE: softball and baseball are viewed as being comparable sports. Despite some differences in rules, boys' volleyball and girls' volleyball, as well as boys' lacrosse and girls' lacrosse, are also viewed as comparable sports.
- C. Boys may play on a Girls' Team if the student's school does not sponsor a Boys' Team in that sport and the Principal determines that:
  - 1. The overall boys athletic program at the student's school provides fewer opportunities for boys to participate than for girls;
  - 2. The boy would not displace any girl from the Team's roster;
  - 3. The boy would likely not, due to his physical size, athletic ability, and/or other characteristics, pose an increased risk of harm to opponents beyond that which would be posed by an average-sized and skilled participating girl; and
  - 4. The boy would not provide his Team with a significant competitive advantage (as applicable herein, this means that the boy's participation would likely cause the Team to be noticeably more competitive than it would be without the boy's participation on the Team).

In considering whether to permit participation, with regard to factors 3 and 4, above, the Principal shall be guided by the following:

- a. Where there is a question as to the risk posed to opponents or to a possible significant competitive advantage to the Principal's Team, such questions should be resolved in favor of the health and safety of opponents and in favor of preventing significant competitive advantage.
- b. Due to the increased risk of injury to opponents in direct contact sports (field hockey, lacrosse, soccer and volleyball), particular scrutiny should be applied by the Principal to requests in these sports.
- D. Rules applicable to Mixed Gender Teams: Because MIAA does not have a Mixed Gender classification, the follow provisions govern participation by Mixed Gender Teams:
  - 1. For Post Season purposes, Mixed Gender Teams (other than in the sport of Spirit) shall compete only in the sport classifications designated for boys.
  - 2. For enrollment classification purposes, a Mixed Gender Team shall be classified by using the school's enrollment number for whichever gender constitutes a majority of the Team members.
  - 3. In the sport of volleyball, a Mixed Gender Team shall play during the boys' Regular Season and Post Season.
- E. Where a student's gender is questioned or uncertain, the decision of the Principal as to the student's gender will be accepted by MIAA.

- F. Nothing in the Section shall be interpreted to require a school to have a Mixed Gender Team where such participation would be inconsistent with the school's religious beliefs.
- G. The refusal of a Team to participate in a Contest against a Mixed Gender Team shall result in forfeiture of the Contest by the Team which refuses to participate. In sports in which individual events or matches are conducted, refusal of a contestant to participate in any event or match will result in forfeiture of that event or match by that student and not by the Team.

**Rationale:**

Mixed gender athletic participation as allowed by the MIAA is based on a series of court decisions which are founded in the 1979 court decision rendered in the case of "Attorney General v. MIAA." We believe that decision is not consistent with advances in the understanding of athletic gender differences and changes in high school sports over the last 37 years.

Review of the 1979 decision finds that the MIAA's regulations limiting participation of boys on girls' teams was denied due to unsubstantiated "romanticized notions." Today, the supposed notions are found to be valid: the male athlete is bigger, faster and stronger and even less vulnerable to injury (as occur in sports with the same game rules) than the female athlete. The Kleczek decision (1990 in Rhode Island) states: "boys' innate physiological differences justify classification by gender and doing so is reasonable judgment, not prejudice."

In 1979 concern of the "swamping" of girls' teams by boys may seem to be minor with a limited number of boys playing on girls' teams. A decision rendered in Maine, states this concern well "Anecdotally they (the boys) do dominate. They handle the ball and control the play of the game such that their impact on the game is disproportional to their numbers." In this regard, not only does the boy take a roster spot, but displaces girls from game roles as well as playing time. The impact of just one boy on one team reverberates through a league and can affect in-season competition with the potential for opposing teams to qualify for tournament play.

The 1979 decision recommended consideration of standards reviewing the boy's size and skill, but does not account for improved skills during a season or career. The Petrie decision in Illinois found this concept of negative handicapping to be difficult to substantiate and could then actually be applied to girls of size and skill, too.

Title IX has an exemption for contact sports and designates basketball as a contact sport. Since 1979 several court decisions from other states have also deemed field hockey to be a contact sport. "The realities of the game situation on the playing field results in contact" (Williams decision); thus, the sport of field hockey is a contact sport. Accordingly, both the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Academy of Ophthalmology rate the sports of basketball, ice hockey and field hockey as "high risk category sports due to the injury risk by sticks, close body contact and hard projectiles." For these reasons, the NFHS has updated its official field hockey rules to require all field players to wear eye protective goggles that meet the ASTM 803 rating which is also the standard for eye protection for the sports of basketball and girls' lacrosse.

Through its extensive policies and regulations, the MIAA oversees the health and welfare of its participating athletes. Of primary importance to all its members is the safety of participants and fairness of competition. Fair competition is the reason for school enrollment tournament divisions and age limits for participants. Strict adherence to games rules for all sports is a mandate of the MIAA for the safety of its participants.

The MIAA led the nation in requiring that all participants in the game of field hockey wear eye protection. That requirement is now a NFHS field hockey game rule. Just as was done for eye protection, we ask that the officers of the MIAA and the MIAA's state field hockey committee

continue to provide leadership for its member schools. In doing so, MIAA members would be joining the rest of the nation.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	0-15-0	Rejected
Basketball Committee	0-16-0	Rejected
Cross Country & Track	0-13-3	Rejected
Field Hockey Committee	10-1-2	Approved
Football Committee	0-9-2	Rejected
Game Officials Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Golf Committee	0-12-0	Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	6-0-4	Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	13-3-2	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	0-8-1	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	2-9-0	Rejected
Rugby	0-11-0	Rejected
Ski Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	0-17-1	Rejected
Softball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	1-11-1	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	0-7-0	Rejected
Tennis Committee	0-9-0	Rejected
TMC	0-12-0	Rejected
Volleyball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	0-16-0	Rejected
District A	0-5-0	Rejected
District C	1-4-0	Rejected
District F	0-6-0	Rejected
MSSADA	0-9-0	Rejected
MIAA BOD	0-16-0	Rejected
MIAC	0-16-0	Rejected

**13. Page 46**

**Part IV, Rule 45: Loyalty to the High School Team: Bona Fide Team Members**  
**By: Johanna DiCarlo, Director of Athletics, Westborough High School and**  
**Dick Baker, Assistant Director, MIAA**

**Current Rule:**

**45. Loyalty to the High School Team: Bona Fide Team Members**

A bona fide member of the school team is a student who is consistently present for, and actively participates in, all high school team sessions (e.g. practices, tryouts, competitions). Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non-school athletic activity/event in any sport recognized by the MIAA. Students cannot be given special treatment (late arrival, early dismissal, etc.) for non-school athletic programs.

First Offense: Student-athlete is suspended for 25% of the season (see chart on Rule 62). Second Offense: Student-athlete is suspended for an additional 25% of the season, and is ineligible for tournament play immediately upon confirmation of the violation. See Rule 98 for additional tournament restriction and Rule 88 for waiver guidelines.

- 45.1 A student-athlete must be a Team Member for 50% of the regular season schedule for that sport to participate in any MIAA Tournament competition (team member: any student-athlete who attends practices or games for his/her sport teams – e.g. Freshman basketball player moved to JV and then Varsity).
- 45.2 If ineligible, cannot be in uniform. Attendance at event to be determined by High School Principal.

**Proposal:**

Add in a line: Saturday and Sunday practices ONLY may be excluded from this rule.

**Rationale:**

This rule would eliminate the need to file a waiver for the occasional Saturday and Sunday practices that teams hold, including optional practices. This rule would apply to PRACTICES ONLY. Waivers would still be filed if a student was missing a contest. The addition of more Saturday and Sunday practices (especially optional ones), has caused many conflicts in student-athletes schedules. This would allow for the conflicts to be resolved at the school level.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	9-6-0	Approved
Basketball Committee	3-13-0	Rejected
Cross Country & Track	2-8-6	Rejected
Field Hockey Committee	0-12-1	Rejected
Football Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Game Officials Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Golf Committee	11-1-0	Approved
Gymnastics Committee	9-0-1	Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	1-17-0	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	7-0-2	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	9-3-0	Approved
Rugby	0-11-0	Rejected
Ski Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	8-9-1	Rejected
Softball Committee	2-9-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	1-12-0	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	6-1-1	Approved
Swimming & Diving Committee	4-2-1	Approved
Tennis Committee	1-7-0	Rejected
TMC	11-0-1	Approved
Volleyball Committee	9-0-2	Approved
Wrestling Committee	11-6-0	Approved
District A	2-3-0	Rejected
District C	0-5-0	Rejected
District F	0-6-0	Rejected
MSSADA	5-4-0	Approved
MIAA BOD	3-13-0	Rejected
MIAC	11-5-0	Approved

**14. Page 49**

**Part IV, Rule 49: Sportsmanship: Athlete and Coach Contest Disqualifications/Suspensions  
By: David Keir, Athletic Director, Smith Academy**

**Current Rule:**

49.4 Any coach disqualified by an official from an inter-school competition (including a jamboree, scrimmage, etc.) is ineligible to coach any competition in that sport at the same level (e.g. junior varsity, varsity, etc.) until the next contest, or the next two (2) contests in the sports of baseball, ice hockey, and soccer, has/have been completed. (Note: In the sport of wrestling, the disqualified coach is ineligible to participate in any and all contests during the next scheduled date of competition). During the suspension the disqualified coach may not be present at the competition site. Whenever a coach is disqualified by an official from an inter-school competition, the official shall file a written report of the incident with the coach's principal. The coach also shall file the completed form designated for that purpose. Both reports should be completed and forwarded by the official and coach within 24 hours of the competition. The principal should immediately forward copies of the reports to the athletic director, superintendent, and MIAA executive director. If the game official fails to file his/her report, the coach is still bound by the suspension. An official who fails to complete the form required as a result of an athlete or coach ejection shall be suspended from officiating any MIAA contest in that sport for at least two weeks or until the form is completed and received by the principal of the disqualified athlete or coach.

**Proposal:**

Change the first two sentences to read:

Any coach disqualified by an official from an inter-school competition (including a jamboree, scrimmage, etc.) is ineligible to coach any competition in that sport at the same level (e.g. junior varsity, varsity, etc.) *until the next two (2) contests in that sport have been completed.* (Note: *In the sport of wrestling, the disqualified coach is ineligible to participate in any and all contests during the next two scheduled dates of competition.*)

**Rationale:**

Only Soccer, Ice Hockey and Baseball coaches currently earn a 2 game suspension. All other coaches in all other sports earn a 1 game suspension. This would make suspensions for coaches that are disqualified by officials consistent throughout all MIAA sanctioned sports. How is it fair that a baseball coach who is disqualified serves a two game suspension but the softball coach at that same school would only serve a one game suspension?

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	6-9-0	Rejected
Basketball Committee	0-15-0	Rejected
Cross Country & Track	9-7-0	Approved
Field Hockey Committee	13-0-0	Approved
Football Committee	10-1-0	Approved
Game Officials Committee	4-3-0	Approved
Golf Committee	6-5-1	Approved
Gymnastics Committee	8-0-2	Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	8-9-0	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	7-2-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	9-2-1	Approved
Rugby	0-10-1	Rejected
Ski Committee	1-5-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	9-9-0	
Softball Committee	4-7-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	11-2-0	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	7-0-1	Approved
Swimming & Diving Committee	1-5-1	Rejected
Tennis Committee	6-1-1	Approved
TMC	12-0-0	Approved

Volleyball Committee	0-11-0 Rejected
Wrestling Committee	0-17-0 Rejected
District A	2-3-0 Rejected
District C	4-1-0 Approved
District F	0-6-0 Rejected
MSSADA	4-5-0 Rejected
MIAA BOD	3-13-0 Rejected
MIAC	0-15-1 Rejected

15. **Page 49**

**Part IV, Rule 49: Sportsmanship: Athlete and Coach Contest Disqualifications/Suspensions**

**By: David Keir, Athletic Director, Smith Academy**

**Current Rule:**

49.4 Any coach disqualified by an official from an inter-school competition (including a jamboree, scrimmage, etc.) is ineligible to coach any competition in that sport at the same level (e.g. junior varsity, varsity, etc.) until the next contest, or the next two (2) contests in the sports of baseball, ice hockey, and soccer, has/have been completed. (Note: In the sport of wrestling, the disqualified coach is ineligible to participate in any and all contests during the next scheduled date of competition). During the suspension the disqualified coach may not be present at the competition site. Whenever a coach is disqualified by an official from an inter-school competition, the official shall file a written report of the incident with the coach's principal. The coach also shall file the completed form designated for that purpose. Both reports should be completed and forwarded by the official and coach within 24 hours of the competition. The principal should immediately forward copies of the reports to the athletic director, superintendent, and MIAA executive director. If the game official fails to file his/her report, the coach is still bound by the suspension. An official who fails to complete the form required as a result of an athlete or coach ejection shall be suspended from officiating any MIAA contest in that sport for at least two weeks or until the form is completed and received by the principal of the disqualified athlete or coach.

**Proposal:**

Change the first two sentences to read:

Any coach disqualified by an official from an inter-school competition (including a jamboree, scrimmage, etc.) is ineligible to coach any competition in that sport at the same level (e.g. junior varsity, varsity, etc.) *until the next contest in that sport has been completed.* (Note: *In the sport of wrestling, the disqualified coach is ineligible to participate in any and all contests during the next scheduled date of competition.*)

**Rationale:**

This would make suspensions for coaches that are disqualified by officials consistent throughout all MIAA sanctioned sports. A softball coach disqualified serves a one game suspension as would the baseball coach if suspended (as would an ice hockey coach or a soccer coach).

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	7-8-0 Rejected
Basketball Committee	0-15-0 Rejected
Cross Country & Track	3-11-2 Rejected
Field Hockey Committee	3-10-0 Rejected
Football Committee	1-10-0 Rejected
Game Officials Committee	2-5-0 Rejected
Golf Committee	5-6-1 Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	4-4-2



Ice Hockey Committee	17-1-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	0-8-1	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	1-10-1	Rejected
Rugby	7-2-2	Approved
Ski Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	5-13-0	Rejected
Softball Committee	2-9-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	4-9-0	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	0-7-1	Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	3-3-1	
Tennis Committee	1-6-1	Rejected
TMC	0-12-0	Rejected
Volleyball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	0-16-1	Rejected
District A	1-4-0	Rejected
District C	1-4-0	Rejected
District F	6-0-0	Approved
MSSADA	1-8-0	Rejected
MIAA BOD	2-14-0	Rejected
MIAC	0-15-1	Rejected

**16. Page 52**

**Part IV, Rule 53: Student Eligibility: Middle School Students on Senior High Teams**

**By: Dick Baker, Assistant Director, MIAA**

**Current Rule:**

53: A middle school student is eligible to represent a senior high school on its athletic teams only when the MIAA member high school includes those grades and they are under the direct “jurisdiction” and “supervision” of the high school principal.

**Proposal:**

Add new sub section: If a 9-12 high school requests a middle level waiver and it is granted by the MIAA District Committee, the 9-12 high school determines level of play of the middle level student-athletes.

**Rationale:**

When the MIAC repealed the Rule change adoption (11/12/15) of requiring all Middle Level participation to be approved by the District Committee, it re-opened the present inequities. We need a rule that is fair to all member schools. Presently a 7-12 school under 1 principal determines level of play for all of its student-athletes. A 9-12 school with a 7 & 8 grade waiver from the District Committee is only allowed to play at the lowest interscholastic level (i.e. Freshman or JV) offered. This rule change would allow a level playing field for all MIAA schools.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	4-11-0	Rejected
Basketball Committee	2-10-2	Rejected
Cross Country & Track	11-4-1	Approved
Field Hockey Committee	8-2-3	Approved
Football Committee	10-1-0	Approved
Game Officials Committee	7-0-0	Approved
Golf Committee	12-0-0	Approved
Gymnastics Committee	1-7-1	Rejected
Ice Hockey Committee	10-8-0	Approved

Lacrosse Committee Boys'	8-0-1	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	8-4-0	Approved
Rugby	7-2-2	Approved
Ski Committee	5-1-0	Approved
Soccer Committee	6-12-0	Rejected
Softball Committee	4-8-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	11-2-0	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	2-5-1	Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	5-1-1	Approved
Tennis Committee	1-6-0	Rejected
TMC	5-7-0	Rejected
Volleyball Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Wrestling Committee	10-4-2	Approved
District A	4-1-0	Rejected
District C	3-2-0	Approved
District F	5-1-0	Approved
MSSADA	8-1-0	Approved
MIAA BOD	9-7-0	Approved
MIAC	14-1-1	Approved

**17. Page 54**

**Part IV, Rule 55: Student Eligibility: Membership in School**

**By: Richard Medeiros**

**Current Rule:**

**55. Student Eligibility: Membership in School**

55.1 A student shall have been a member of the MIAA member secondary school for a minimum of two months (exclusive of the Summer vacation) and have been issued a report card preceding the contest, unless entering from an elementary or junior high school at the start of the school year or transfers in from another school. A pupil's attendance at school does not start when he/she registers in that school, but rather when he/she begins attending classes.

55.2 When a student drops out of school and then decides later to return to the same school, he/she cannot become eligible for athletics until a report card has been issued and until the expiration of a minimum of two calendar months from the date of his/her return to the same school.

55.3 Except as may be otherwise specified by statute or state regulation, a student must be a resident of and domiciled in a municipality which normally contributes student population to the school.

**Proposal:**

Add new subsection: If a student-athlete is cut in a sports program by his/her high school team two years in a row, then in following seasons that student-athlete will have the option to play for another school as long as that school is in need of players, or using a co-op program with other schools in order to field a team.

**Rationale:**

This rule change will give student-athletes the opportunity to be part of the high school experience in the sport they love if they are not able to play at their own school. They would not displace student-athletes at the school they don't attend if that school is in need of players anyway. It may even provide a school with just enough players to field a team where they otherwise may not have.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	0-15-0	Rejected
Basketball Committee	0-14-0	Rejected
Cross Country & Track	0-16-0	Rejected
Field Hockey Committee	0-13-0	Rejected
Football Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Game Officials Committee	0-7-0	Rejected
Golf Committee	0-12-0	Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	0-9-0	Rejected
Ice Hockey Committee	0-18-0	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	0-9-0	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	0-12-0	Rejected
Rugby	0-11-0	Rejected
Ski Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	0-18-0	Rejected
Softball Committee	0-12-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	0-12-1	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	0-7-0	Rejected
Tennis Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
TMC	0-12-0	Rejected
Volleyball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	0-17-0	Rejected
District A	0-5-0	Rejected
District C	0-5-0	Rejected
District F	0-6-0	Rejected
MSSADA	0-9-0	Rejected
MIAA BOD	1-15-0	Rejected
MIAC	0-16-0	Rejected

**18. Page 54**

**Part IV, Rule 56: Student Eligibility/School Requirements: Physical Exams/Medical Coverage/Concussions  
By: MIAA Sports Medicine Committee**

**Current Rule:**

*56.1* All students must pass a physical examination prior to participation in High School Athletics. A physical exam covers the student for 13 months from the exam date. A student's eligibility will terminate once a physical has reached the 13 month limit.

Physical examinations must be performed by a duly registered Licensed Physician, Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner. The Sports Medicine Committee recommended physical examination form is in the MIAA White Book.

*56.1.1* All MIAA member school coaches (paid or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. This Board of Directors' policy is effective with the upcoming winter season, which began on Monday, November 29, 2010.

*56.1.2* All MIAA member school Athletic Directors and Athletic Trainers are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. This Board of Directors' policy is effective with the upcoming spring season, which began on Monday, March 21, 2011.

**Proposal:**

Add: The Sports Medicine Committee required physical examination information can be found in the MIAA White Book. This required information is identical to the AMSSM (American Medical Society for Sports Medicine) form. This information and/or form must be used for all student-athletes.

**Rationale:**

The AMSSM standards have gone through extensive development and utilization in order to support the acquisition of necessary detailed information for patient health. The current and past AMSSM standards did include the current MIAA suggested form information. This current AMSSM form requires health care providers to complete necessary detailed information that can be used to measure the health capacity for a student-athlete to participate in interscholastic athletics.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	0-15-0 Rejected
Basketball Committee	0-14-0 Rejected
Cross Country & Track	2-13-1 Rejected
Field Hockey Committee	0-13-0 Rejected
Football Committee	4-7-0 Rejected
Game Officials Committee	0-7-0 Rejected
Golf Committee	0-12-0 Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	0-8-1 Rejected
Ice Hockey Committee	1-17-0 Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	0-9-0 Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	0-11-1 Rejected
Rugby	9-0-2 Approved
Ski Committee	0-6-0 Rejected
Soccer Committee	0-18-0 Rejected
Softball Committee	0-12-0 Rejected
Sports Medicine	12-1-0 Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0 Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	0-7-0 Rejected
Tennis Committee	0-8-0 Rejected
TMC	0-12-0 Rejected
Volleyball Committee	0-11-0 Rejected
Wrestling Committee	0-16-1 Rejected
District A	0-5-0 Rejected
District C	0-5-0 Rejected
District F	0-6-0 Rejected
MSSADA	0-9-0 Rejected
MIAA BOD	0-16-0 Rejected
MIAC	0-16-0 Rejected

**19. Page 54**

**Part IV, Rule 56: Student Eligibility/School Requirements: Physical Exams/Medical Coverage/Concussions  
By: Dick Baker, Assistant Director, MIAA**

**Proposal:**

Add a new sub-section 56.1.3

All students are required to take the on-line National Federation Concussion Course or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program prior to their first season of participation.

**Rationale:**

MA law & MIAA Rules mandate for coaches – so believe having our student-athletes take the same course will only help in education on concussions.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	2-13-0 Rejected
Basketball Committee	1-13-0 Rejected
Cross Country & Track	13-3-0 Approved
Field Hockey Committee	1-6-6 Rejected-need clarification-no tracking 1/yr(?)
Football Committee	7-4-0 Approved
Game Officials Committee	4-3-0 Approved
Golf Committee	0-12-0 Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	0-7-2 Rejected
Ice Hockey Committee	9-9-0
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	0-8-1 Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	0-11-1 Rejected
Rugby	0-10-1 – amend to read: recommend all schools have student concussion requirements annually – 10-0-0 Approved
Ski Committee	0-6-0 Rejected
Soccer Committee	0-18-0 Rejected
Softball Committee	0-12-0 Rejected
Sports Medicine	13-0-0 Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	0-7-1 Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	7-0-0 Approved
Tennis Committee	5-2-0 Approved
TMC	10-2-0 Approved
Volleyball Committee	1-9-1 Rejected
Wrestling Committee	0-13-4 Rejected
District A	1-4-0 Rejected
District C	3-2-0 Approved
District F	2-4-0 Rejected
MSSADA	0-9-0 Rejected
MIAA BOD	Amend: Meet regulations as put forth by Dept. of Health every year 16-0-0 Approved
MIAC	Amend: Meet regulations as put forth by Dept. of Health every year 16-0-0 Approved

**20. Page 57**  
**Part IV, Rule 57: Student Eligibility: Transfer Students**  
**By: Dick Baker, Assistant Director, MIAA**

**Current:**

57.6.2 Foreign athletes who are not in this country under the auspices of a [CSIET](#) approved program or attending a MIAA member school as the direct result of the change in residence of the parents, shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics regardless of the length of stay in this Country.

**Proposal:**

Add a new sentence to the end of present Rule 57.6.2: Schools must request a waiver of eligibility rule 57.6 for these non-CSIET students to participate. If waiver is approved by the MIAA, it will be good until student graduates or leaves that school, providing they continue to meet all other eligibility standards.

**Rationale:**

Schools requesting waivers of Rule 57.6 should not need to reapply each year, once approved from MIAA. The changes – grade/age/academic – would fall under regular school eligibility.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	13-0-1	Approved
Basketball Committee	12-1-0	Approved
Cross Country & Track	16-0-0	Approved
Field Hockey Committee	13-0-0	Approved
Football Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Game Officials Committee	6-0-1	Approved
Golf Committee	12-0-1	Approved
Gymnastics Committee	8-0-1	Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	18-0-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	9-0-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	12-0-0	Approved
Rugby	3-1-6	Approved
Ski Committee	6-0-0	Approved
Soccer Committee	17-0-1	Approved
Softball Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Sports Medicine	13-0-0	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	7-1-0	Approved
Swimming & Diving Committee	7-0-0	Approved
Tennis Committee	8-0-0	Approved
TMC	12-0-0	Approved
Volleyball Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Wrestling Committee	15-0-2	Approved
District A	5-0-0	Approved
District C	5-0-0	Approved
District F	6-0-0	Approved
MSSADA	8-1-0	Approved
MIAA BOD	16-0-0	Approved
MIAC	16-0-0	Approved

**21. Page 60**

**Part IV, Rule 62: Student (and Coach) Eligibility: Chemical Health/Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco  
By: Marilyn Belmonte, Substance Abuse Prevention Expert, Healthy Outcomes Inc.**

**Current:**

62.1 From the earliest fall practice date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product(including e-cigarettes, VAP pens and all similar devices); marijuana (including synthetic); steroids; or any controlled substance. This policy includes products such as “NA or near beer”. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student’s own use by his/her doctor.

This MIAA statewide minimum standard is not intended to render “guilt by association”, e.g. many student-athletes might be present at a party where only a few violate this standard. This rule represents only a minimum standard upon which schools may develop more stringent requirements.

If a student in violation of this rule is unable to participate in interscholastic sports due to injury or academics, the penalty will not take effect until that student is able to participate again.

Minimum PENALTIES: (also see Rule 32.8 – Ineligible Students)

First violation: When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests (regular season and tournament) totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. It is recommended that the student be allowed to remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation. During the suspension the disqualified student may not be in uniform and his/her attendance at the competition site is determined by the high school principal. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 25% of the season.

Second and subsequent violations: When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests (regular season and tournament) totaling 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 60% of the season.

If after the second or subsequent violations the student of his/her own volition becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MIAA activities after a minimum of 40% of events provided the student was fully engaged in the program throughout that penalty period. The high school principal in collaboration with a Chemical Dependency Program or Treatment Program must certify that student is attending or issue a certificate of completion. If student does not complete program, penalty reverts back to 60% of the season. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 40% of the season.

Penalties shall be cumulative each academic year, but serving the penalty could carry over for one year. Or, if the penalty period is not completed during the season of violation, the penalty shall carry over to the student's next season of actual participation, which may affect the eligibility status of the student during the next academic year. (e.g. A student plays only football: he violates the rule in winter and/or the spring of same academic year: he would serve the penalty[ies] during the fall season of the next academic year).

If a student is not an athletic participant for one full year after affirmation of a violation, then the penalty period would close and the student would face no consequence.

***Prior to any chemical health violation a student's request for and enrollment in a substance abuse treatment shall not in and of itself constitute a violation of the chemical health/alcohol/drugs/tobacco Rule 62.***

**Proposal:**

Add a subsection to this rule:

A student cannot return to competition after an injury if he/she is being prescribed opioid painkillers. Trainers and coaches should confirm with parents of student-athletes that he/she is no longer being treated by their physician with opioid narcotic medications.

**Rationale:**

The allowance of possession of student prescription medications can be misinterpreted to allow students to return to competition while taking opioids for injury. Often doctors are not aware that

students are still using the prescription narcotics when they write a note to clear the student for sports. Students report that they perform better when they take prescription painkillers. Allowing athletes to play while taking these narcotic painkillers (1) gives the athlete an unfair advantage and (2) encourages the student to continue the use of opioids after the pain is gone. ([Click here for more rationale information](#)).

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	0-14-0	Rejected
Basketball Committee	0-13-0	Rejected
Cross Country & Track	4-7-5	Rejected
Field Hockey Committee	0-1-12	Rejected-not clear of process
Football Committee	0-9-1	Rejected
Game Officials Committee	0-7-0	Rejected
Golf Committee	0-12-0	Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	9-0-0	Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	0-16-1	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	0-8-1	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	0-11-1	Rejected
Rugby	0-10-1	Rejected
Ski Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	0-17-1	Rejected
Softball Committee	0-10-1	Rejected
Sports Medicine	4-9-0	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	6-2-0	Approved
Swimming & Diving Committee	0-7-0	Rejected
Tennis Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
TMC	0-12-0	Rejected
Volleyball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	0-16-1	Rejected
District A	0-5-0	Rejected
District C	0-5-0	Rejected
District F	0-6-0	Rejected
MSSADA	0-9-0	Rejected
MIAA BOD	0-16-0	Rejected
MIAC	0-16-0	Rejected

**22. Page 60**

**Part IV, Rule 62: Student (and Coach) Eligibility: Chemical Health/Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco  
By: Shelly Warren, Substance Abuse Response Coordinator, Longmeadow High School**

**Current:**

62.1 From the earliest fall practice date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product(including e-cigarettes, VAP pens and all similar devices); marijuana (including synthetic); steroids; or any controlled substance. This policy includes products such as *“NA or near beer”*. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student’s own use by his/her doctor.

**Proposal:**

Insert after “NA or near beer,” “inhalants (defined as any substance that produces a mind-altering effect when inhaled), and misuse of over-the-counter medications and substances used for the purposes of altering one’s mental state.”



**Rationale:**

The risks to students' health posed by use of inhalants and over-the-counter meds and "household highs" are significant and they are accessible to even the youngest athletes. "Please consult the following NIDA pages for more information on prevalence and associated risks:

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/inhalants> and  
[https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/cough-cold-medicine-abuse.](https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/cough-cold-medicine-abuse)"

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	2-12-0	Rejected
Basketball Committee	5-7-0	Rejected
Cross Country & Track	7-5-4	Approved
Field Hockey Committee	13-0-0	Approved
Football Committee	4-7-0	Rejected
Game Officials Committee	0-7-0	Rejected
Golf Committee	0-12-0	Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	3-0-6	Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	18-0-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	2-5-2	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	3-6-3	Rejected
Rugby	5-0-5	Approved
Ski Committee	6-0-0	Approved
Soccer Committee	1-16-1	Rejected
Softball Committee	11-0-0	Approved
Sports Medicine	11-0-2	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	8-0-0	Approved
Swimming & Diving Committee	4-3-0	Approved
Tennis Committee	5-1-1	Approved
TMC	12-0-0	Approved
Volleyball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	14-3-0	Approved
District A	5-0-0	Approved
District C	5-0-0	Approved
District F	3-3-0	
MSSADA	6-3-0	Approved
MIAA BOD	10-5-1	Approved
MIAC	16-0-0	Approved

**23. Page 62**

**Part IV, Rule 62: Student (and Coach) Eligibility: Chemical Health/Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco**  
**By: Lauren Gilman, Project Director, EDC**

**Current:**

62.2 From the earliest fall practice date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product(including e-cigarettes, VAP pens and all similar devices); marijuana (including synthetic); steroids; or any controlled substance. This policy includes products such as "NA or near beer". It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor.

This MIAA statewide minimum standard is not intended to render "guilt by association", e.g. many student-athletes might be present at a party where only a few violate this standard. This rule represents only a minimum standard upon which schools may develop more stringent requirements.

If a student in violation of this rule is unable to participate in interscholastic sports due to injury or academics, the penalty will not take effect until that student is able to participate again.

Minimum PENALTIES: (also see Rule 32.8 – Ineligible Students)

First violation: When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests (regular season and tournament) totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. It is recommended that the student be allowed to remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation. During the suspension the disqualified student may not be in uniform and his/her attendance at the competition site is determined by the high school principal. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 25% of the season.

Second and subsequent violations: When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests (regular season and tournament) totaling 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 60% of the season.

If after the second or subsequent violations the student of his/her own volition becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MIAA activities after a minimum of 40% of events provided the student was fully engaged in the program throughout that penalty period. The high school principal in collaboration with a Chemical Dependency Program or Treatment Program must certify that student is attending or issue a certificate of completion. If student does not complete program, penalty reverts back to 60% of the season. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 40% of the season.

Penalties shall be cumulative each academic year, but serving the penalty could carry over for one year. Or, if the penalty period is not completed during the season of violation, the penalty shall carry over to the student's next season of actual participation, which may affect the eligibility status of the student during the next academic year (e.g. A student plays only football: he violates the rule in winter and/or the spring of same academic year: he would serve the penalty[ies] during the fall season of the next academic year).

If a student is not an athletic participant for one full year after affirmation of a violation, then the penalty period would close and the student would face no consequence.

***Prior to any chemical health violation a student's request for and enrollment in a substance abuse treatment shall not in and of itself constitute a violation of the chemical health/alcohol/drugs/tobacco Rule 62.***

**Proposal:**

Add: A special release of information may be needed to be signed by the student, or if the youth is under 18 years of age, by the parent, in order to receive treatment participation updates.

**Rationale:**

Treatment programs require release forms.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	0-14-0	Rejected
Basketball Committee	0-12-0	Rejected
Cross Country & Track	3-7-6	Rejected
Field Hockey Committee	0-1-12	Rejected
Football Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Game Officials Committee	0-7-0	Rejected
Golf Committee	0-12-0	Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	6-0-3	Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	17-1-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	0-10-0	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	0-12-0	Rejected
Rugby	0-8-3	Rejected
Ski Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	0-13-5	Rejected
Softball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	10-2-1	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	8-0-0	Approved
Swimming & Diving Committee	0-7-0	Rejected
Tennis Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
TMC	0-12-0	Rejected
Volleyball Committee	0-11-0	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	0-16-1	Rejected
District A	0-5-0	Rejected
District C	1-4-0	Rejected
District F	0-6-0	Rejected
MSSADA	0-9-0	Rejected
MIAA BOD	1-15-0	Rejected
MIAC	0-16-0	Rejected

**24. Page 62**

**Part IV, Rule 62: Student (and Coach) Eligibility: Chemical Health/Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco  
By: Lauren Gilman, Project Director, EDC**

**Current:**

62.3 Steroid Use - Anabolic androgenic steroid use at the high school level is of grave concern. Steroids are used by some athletes, and the seriousness of the problem has been well documented. High school coaches may not be able to prevent the use of steroids altogether, but they can clearly and forcefully discourage their use. Coaches should take a proactive role, learning about steroids, and then providing this information to their athletes.

Steroids can, with proper diet and weight training, increase muscle development; however, as is typical with most “get-rich-quick” schemes, steroid use has serious short and long term consequences.

Normal and equal musculature development can occur without steroid use. Although the natural process takes longer, muscle tone will last longer and does not carry the harmful side effects of steroids.

Most coaches would not promote steroid use intentionally. Total silence by coaches however condones use in some young people's minds. Even though steroids may not be mentioned when it is

suggested to an athlete that his/her success is limited only by a lack of weight and/or strength, without a disclaimer the statement can be a motivation to use steroids. The pervasiveness of the drugs that allow for development of increased weight under the aforementioned circumstances is a coercive power that is difficult for young athletes to resist without knowing what the side effects of the drugs may be.

The issue goes beyond protecting the integrity of sport. The use of steroids in sports is cheating. We must oppose the use of steroids for both health and ethical reasons.

**Proposal:**

Replace the first three sentences with:

*Anabolic androgenic steroid use is of grave concern. Coaches need to send a clear, unequivocal message that unauthorized steroid use is not acceptable. This discussion should highlight the fact that the penalties for other substance use apply. Short and long-term health effects can also motivate students to protect their future.*

**Rationale:**

Many of the other sections send a clear message and this paragraph should as well.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	0-13-0 Rejected
Basketball Committee	5-6-0 Rejected
Cross Country & Track	16-0-0 Approved
Field Hockey Committee	5-0-8 Approved
Football Committee	10-0-0 Approved
Game Officials Committee	7-0-0 Approved
Golf Committee	4-8-0 Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	0-10-0 Rejected
Ice Hockey Committee	17-1-0 Approved
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	10-0-0 Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	11-0-1 Approved
Rugby	0-10-1 Rejected
Ski Committee	0-6-0 Rejected
Soccer Committee	16-0-2 Approved
Softball Committee	11-0-0 Approved
Sports Medicine	13-0-0 Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	8-0-0 Approved
Swimming & Diving Committee	7-0-0 Approved
Tennis Committee	8-0-0 Approved
TMC	Amended: Add Performance Enhancing Drugs (PED's) to language of rule as well: 12-0-0 Approved
Volleyball Committee	8-3-0 Approved
Wrestling Committee	15-0-2 Approved
District A	5-0-0 Approved
District C	5-0-0 Approved
District F	4-2-0 Approved
MSSADA	6-3-0 Approved
MIAA BOD	13-3-0 Approved
MIAC	Amended: Add Performance Enhancing Drugs (PED's) to language of rule as well: 16-0-0 Approved

**By: David Keir, Athletic Director, Smith Academy**

**Current Rule:**

- 70. Golf
  - 70.1 Massachusetts high school golf shall be played under the USGA Rules with the following modifications or exceptions.
    - 70.1.1 Local club rules shall be in effect.
    - 70.1.2 No coaching is to take place during a match or tournament.
    - 70.1.3 Leagues may modify a rule, provided such a modification is not a substantive change to MIAA rules. If the league amends a rule, all schools in the league must adhere to the rule as modified.
  - 70.2 Female golfers participating on a boys' team must hit from the tee box that is placed closest (yet in front of) the tee box the boys' team is hitting from (regardless of marker color). Leagues may modify (see rule 70.1.3).

**Proposal:**

Change 70.1.2 to read: No coaching is to take place during MIAA Tournament play.

Change 70.2 to read: Female golfers participating on a boys' team during the regular season play must hit from the tee box that is placed closest (yet in front of) the tee box the boy's team is hitting from (regardless of marker color).

Add new subsection 70.3: Female golfers competing on a boys' golf team must hit from the boys' tees at the Divisional and State MIAA Tournaments.

**Rationale:**

70.1.2 – Many leagues have modified this rule for league play. It is important that coaches have the ability to speak with their players during a match and for them to be able to make rulings when players are in need of them.

70.2 – Clarifies that this rule applies to regular season play.

70.3 – Clarifies what will happen during post season play.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Game Officials Committee	7-0-0	Approved
Golf Committee	12-0-0	Approved
Sports Medicine	12-0-1	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
TMC	11-0-1	Approved
District A	5-0-0	Approved
District C	5-0-0	Approved
District F	6-0-0	Approved
MSSADA	6-1-2	Approved
MIAA BOD	16-0-0	Approved
MIAC	16-0-0	Approved

**26. Page 73**

**Part V, Rule 70: Golf**

**By: Steven Cloutier, Head Golf Coach, Diman Regional Voc. Tech. H.S.**

**Current Rule:**

70. Golf

70.1 Massachusetts high school golf shall be played under the USGA Rules with the following modifications or exceptions.

70.1.1 Local club rules shall be in effect.

70.1.2 No coaching is to take place during a match or tournament.

70.1.3 Leagues may modify a rule, provided such a modification is not a substantive change to MIAA rules. If the league amends a rule, all schools in the league must adhere to the rule as modified.

70.2 Female golfers participating on a boys' team must hit from the tee box that is placed closest (yet in front of) the tee box the boys' team is hitting from (regardless of marker color). Leagues may modify (see rule 70.1.3).

**Proposal:**

Coaches will be allowed to coach their athletes during a match. Only one certified coach per school will be allowed to coach during a match. At the State Championship Tournament, a badge/credential will be distributed to the designated coach from each school. Failure to abide by this rule may result in disqualification.

**Rationale:**

Allowing coaches to coach a player(s) would maintain the integrity of the game of golf by allowing for rules decisions that a player may not properly apply and maintain the proper pace of play.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Game Officials Committee	0-7-0	Rejected
Golf Committee	0-12-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	1-12-0	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	8-0-0	Approved
TMC	0-12-0	Rejected
District A	0-5-0	Rejected
District C	1-4-0	Rejected
District F	0-6-0	Rejected
MSSADA	2-5-2	Rejected
MIAA BOD	1-15-0	Rejected
MIAC	0-16-0	Rejected

27. Page 74

**Part V, Rule 71: Gymnastics**

**By: Bill Martin, Athletic Director, Sharon High School**

**Current:**

71.2.8 Exhibition performances are not permitted.

**Proposal:**

Change the rule to allow Exhibition performances with these conditions:

Each team is allowed to have up to two Junior Varsity routines per event.

\*\*Considerations should be made for the number of JV routines when there are more than two teams and/or the meet starts after 7 PM

These routines must follow all of the following rules:

- Be designated at the start of the event
- Once the event starts no changes can be made to the designation of the gymnast
- The routines must be the first ones on the event
- The judge must be notified at the start of the event that there is a JV competitor or two going first
- Their scores can not be used for the team score at that meet
- Their scores can not be used as qualifying scores for varsity qualifications (MIAA Sectional Meet)

**Rationale:**

Exhibition routines are not permitted by this rule. By changing this to allow JV routines, it will add additional opportunities for gymnasts to perform at meets.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Game Officials Committee	7-0-0	Approved
Gymnastics Committee	10-0-0	Approved
Sports Medicine	13-0-0	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	7-0-1	Approved
TMC	12-0-0	Approved
District A	5-0-0	Approved
District C	5-0-0	Approved
District F	6-0-0	Approved
MSSADA	7-0-2	Approved
MIAA BOD	13-3-0	Approved
MIAC	15-0-1	Approved

**28. Page 74**

**Part V, Rule 72: Ice Hockey**

**By: MIAA Ice Hockey Committee**

**Current:**

72.1 Ice hockey shall be played under the National Federation Rules, as modified herein.

**Proposal:**

Add subsection 72.1.1

Schools may choose to play 17-minute periods. The use of 17-minute periods may be adopted by the league prior to each season. For non-league games, approval should take place between schools 72-hours prior to game time.

**Rationale:**

MIAA schools currently play 15-minute periods. Art. 2 of NFHS rule 9 section 12 allows state associations to adopt a procedure for schools to play 17-minute periods. This rule addition allows that option to be used by schools. The 15-minute period remains the standard in both the NFHS rules and for the purposes of this proposal.

By permitting the option of 17-minute periods, schools would be able to expand the playing time for athletes, potentially increasing the opportunity for skill development and playing time of student-athletes. Since this would only be an option those schools choosing to expand total playing time, schools needing to remain at 15-minute periods would be able to keep this standard period length.

Massachusetts hockey player enrollment is the highest in the nation. Ice hockey in Massachusetts is of a very high caliber. This option permits those schools wishing to use expand the time of each period an opportunity for increased competition and time learning the sport.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Game Officials Committee	0-7-0	Rejected
Ice Hockey Committee	17-1-0	Approved
Sports Medicine	4-6-3	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	0-7-1	Rejected
TMC	7-3-1	Approved
District A	1-4-0	Rejected
District C	2-3-0	Rejected
District F	0-6-0	Rejected
MSSADA	4-3-2	Approved
MIAA BOD	1-15-0	Rejected
MIAC	4-12-0	Rejected

**29. Page 75**

**Part V, Rule 72: Ice Hockey**

**By: MIAA Ice Hockey Committee**

**Current:**

72.2 A minor penalty shall be 1.5 minutes, a major 4 minutes, and a misconduct 7.5 minutes.

**Proposal:**

Remove rule 72.2

**Rationale:**

Removing this rule will afford the MIAA to be in full compliance with NFHS Ice Hockey Rules without any major playing rule alterations. In NFHS rules, these penalties are 2 mins (minor), 5 mins (major) 10 mins (misconduct). Full compliance with all NFHS playing rules directly aligns the sport in MA with all national standards and all other states using NFHS rules. These NFHS rules are developed with input from all ice hockey playing states. The NFHS rules are developed to support playing rule conditions for high school age athletes. There is annual, extensive development of proper playing rules for high school students. Further, this change would also afford the state of Massachusetts an opportunity to sit on the NFHS rules making body when appointments are available. The current altered times (1.5, 4 and 7.5 mins), are considered “adjustments to major playing rules” thereby not permitting a MA representative to sit on the playing rules committee.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Game Officials Committee	4-3-0	Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	18-0-0	Approved
Sports Medicine	13-0-0	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	8-0-0	Approved
TMC	10-1-0	Approved
District A	5-0-0	Approved
District C	5-0-0	Approved
District F	6-0-0	Approved
MSSADA	7-1-1	Approved
MIAA BOD	10-6-0	Approved
MIAC	16-0-0	Approved

**30. Page 78**

**Part V, Rule 74: Lacrosse**

**By: MIAA Sports Medicine Committee**

**Proposal:**

Add subsection:



A licensed physician, licensed athletic trainer or certified EMT must be in attendance and on duty for all varsity lacrosse games (boys and girls). (It is strongly recommended that such medical coverage and an emergency transport system be in place for all games.) The medical person shall be responsible for both teams unless each team has its own medical coverage. His/her judgment will be final with regard to the condition of a player after injury. No player may continue to play against the medical person's advice. The penalty for violation of this provision is forfeiture of the game.

**Rationale:**

Given the increased participation, speed of the sport and nature of potential contact with players and equipment, the presence of a licensed athletic trainer would serve to support the health and well-being of student-athletes. Access to medical personnel quickly and efficiently helps to address medical concerns immediately. Many teams already supply trainers or attempt to when possible. This requirement will help support this ideal for all lacrosse events.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Game Officials Committee	1-5-1	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	8-2-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	6-6-0	
Sports Medicine	13-0-0	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
TMC	2-9-0	Rejected
District A	3-2-0	Approved
District C	0-5-0	Rejected
District F	2-4-0	Rejected
MSSADA	2-6-1	Rejected
MIAA BOD	2-14-0	Rejected
MIAC	0-15-1	Rejected

**31. Page 82**

**Part V, Rule 78: Soccer**

**By: Calvin Perry, Official's Rep, MIAA Soccer Committee**

**Current:**

78.2.13 Any coach (head coach or assistant) who receives a red card, is ejected from the contest, the contest shall be terminated and forfeiture will result. Coach shall be suspended from coaching for the next two contests. If a coach receives a second red card in a season, that contest is again terminated and forfeited in addition to the coach being disqualified for one year.

**Proposal:**

Amend wording to allow game to continue.

Any coach (head coach or assistant) who receives a red card, is ejected from the contest *& shall be suspended from coaching for the next two contests. If a coach receives a second red card in a season the coach shall be disqualified for one year. The game may continue if appropriate administration is available.*

**Rationale:**

The recommended change is simply to eliminate the requirement to end the game as long as the team has a second qualified coach to assume management. The presently stated penalty to the dismissed coach is NOT to be eliminated.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Game Officials Committee	7-0-0	Approved
Soccer Committee	18-0-0	Approved
Sports Medicine	12-0-0	Approved

Sportsmanship Committee	8-0-0	Approved
TMC	10-1-0	Approved
District A	5-0-0	Approved
District C	5-0-0	Approved
District F	6-0-0	Approved
MSSADA	7-1-1	Approved
MIAA BOD	16-0-0	Approved
MIAC	16-0-0	Approved

**32. Page 82**  
**Part V, Rule 78: Soccer**  
**By: Ben Laing, Coach, Newburyport High School**

**Current:**

78.2.16 For purposes of obtaining tournament eligibility, no team may exceed a four red or thirteen yellow cards during the regular season. Delay of game encroachment and deliberate (intentional) handball are infractions, which will continue to be enforced and penalized. The impact of these infractions will be assessed and will be considered towards tournament ineligibility.

**Proposal:**

For purposes of obtaining tournament eligibility, no team may exceed a four red or *TWENTY* yellow cards during the regular season. Delay of game encroachment and deliberate (intentional) handball are infractions, which will continue to be enforced and penalized. The impact of these infractions will be assessed and will be considered towards tournament ineligibility.

**Rationale:**

13 yellow cards averages out to be less than one per game in a typical 18 game season. Since teams are allowed to play up to 20 games in a season, 20 yellow cards allowed per team per season is more reasonable. Massachusetts number of 13 is among, if not, the lowest allowed by any state athletic association (RI/CT allow a combo of 16, Illinois allows 25, NY/CA/FL/TX/OH/MI/ME/NH have no limit). This would bring it more in line with other states and allow refs to issue cards as needed without worrying about disqualifying a team from the tournament.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Game Officials Committee	1-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	2-16-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	0-11-1	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
TMC	0-11-0	Rejected
District A	1-4-0	Rejected
District C	0-5-0	Rejected
District F	0-6-0	Rejected
MSSADA	1-7-1	Rejected
MIAA BOD	0-15-0	Rejected
MIAC	0-16-0	Rejected

**33. Page 84**  
**Part V, Rule 79: Softball**  
**By: Joseph Cataldo, Coach, Wachusett Regional H.S.**

**Proposal:**

New subsection: Pitchers shall wear face/head protection in the field. Also, it is strongly suggested that first and third positions wear face/head protection in the field.

**Rationale:**

For the safety and protection of our pitchers and other defensive players.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Game Officials Committee	2-5-0	Rejected
Softball Committee	2-8-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine		amend to read: It is recommended that pitchers wear face/head protection in the field. Also, it is strongly suggested that first and third positions wear face/head protection in the field. (Change “shall” to recommend): 11-1-0
Sportsmanship Committee	2-4-2	Rejected
TMC	0-11-0	Rejected
District A	1-4-0	Rejected
District C	0-5-0	Rejected
District F	3-3-0	
MSSADA	0-8-1	Rejected
MIAA BOD	1-14-0	Rejected
MIAC	0-16-0	Rejected

**34. Page 90 & Page 35**

**Part V, Rule 84: Wrestling & Part III Rule 35: Starting & Closing Dates for Tryouts, Practices & Contests  
By: Thomas Bartosek, Former Wrestling Coach**

**Current:**

84.1 The National Federation Wrestling Rules will be the official rules of all *Boys’* wrestling contests, including all tournaments with the following exception: Any regular season dual-meet competition ending in a tie score shall remain a tie. Only tie scores in a dual meet tournament will be decided by the existing National Federation tie-breaker criteria. *Girls’ wrestling will follow FILA Freestyle Wrestling Rules with rule modifications to be recommended to the MIAA Board of Directors by the Wrestling Committee.*

**Proposal:**

Girls’ Wrestling should be changed from the Spring season to the Winter season. Also, the National Federation Wrestling rules will be the official rules for Girls’ wrestling at the following weight classifications (98, 103, 108, 114, 120, 125, 130, 140, 155, 175, 220).

**Rationale:**

Girls’ Wrestling should be changed from a spring sport to a winter sport following NFHS folkstyle rules – to increase girls’ participation.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Game Officials Committee	7-0-0	Approved
Sports Medicine	10-1-0	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	4-1-3	Approved
Wrestling Committee	12-0-5	Approved
TMC	0-11-0	Rejected
District A	4-1-0	Approved
District C	4-0-1	Approved
District F	0-0-6	
MSSADA	5-1-3	Approved
MIAA BOD	15-0-0	Approved
MIAC	15-1-0	Approved

**35. Page 91**

**Part V, Rule 84: Wrestling**

**By: Paul Gibbons, Director of Athletics, Monument Mountain RHS**

**Current:**

84.3 Participation Limitations:

84.3.1 Participants may only compete in events described above.

84.3.2 A wrestler must qualify at the sectional tournament in order to wrestle in the state tournament. No substitutes will be allowed.

84.3.3 Twenty-four minutes, not including overtime, shall be the maximum amount of time that any wrestler may participate on any given day during the season.

84.3.4 A wrestler must participate in at least ten practice days before competing in a meet or tournament.

**Proposal:**

Delete Rule 84.3.3

Replace with Federation Rule 1 – Section 4 – Article 3: “No wrestler shall represent the school in more than one weight class in any meet or wrestle in more than five matches (championship or consolation) excluding forfeits in any one day of competition.

**Rationale:**

This will bring Mass wrestling into conformity with the Federation and our neighboring states and will allow tournaments to be conducted involving more than 8 teams with both championship and consolation rounds. Many of our schools already compete out of state under the Federation rule.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Game Officials Committee	6-0-1	Approved
Sports Medicine	11-0-0	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	5-0-3	Approved
Wrestling Committee	15-0-2	Approved
TMC	11-0-0	Approved
District A	5-0-0	Approved
District C	5-0-0	Approved
District F	6-0-0	Approved
MSSADA	8-0-1	Approved
MIAA BOD	15-0-0	Approved
MIAC	16-0-0	Approved

**36. Page 93**

**Part V, Rule 84: Wrestling**

**By: MIAA Sports Medicine Committee**

**Proposal:**

Add rule 84.5

A licensed physician, licensed athletic trainer or certified EMT must be in attendance and on duty for all wrestling matches. (It is strongly recommended that such medical coverage and an emergency transport system be in place for all games.) The medical person shall be responsible for both teams unless each team has its own medical coverage. His/her judgment will be final with regard to the condition of a player after injury. No player may continue to play against the medical person's advice. The penalty for violation of this provision is forfeiture of the individual match.

**Rationale:**

The presence of a licensed athletic trainer would serve to support the health and well-being of student-athletes. Given the nature of wrestling with potential injuries and constant athlete-to-athlete contact, the availability of a trainer is important for all participants. Access to medical personnel quickly and efficiently helps to address medical concerns immediately. Many teams already supply trainers or attempt to when possible. This requirement will help support this ideal for all wrestling events.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Game Officials Committee	0-7-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	12-0-0	Approved
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
Wrestling Committee	12-4-1	Approved
TMC	10-0-1	Approved
District A	4-1-0	Approved
District C	3-1-1	Approved
District F	4-2-0	Approved
MSSADA	5-3-1	Approved
MIAA BOD	13-2-0	Approved
MIAC	16-0-0	Approved

**37. Page 101**

**Part VII, Rule 88: Bona Fide Team Member Waiver Guidelines**

**By: Johanna DiCarlo, Director of Athletics, Westborough High School and Dick Baker, Assistant Director, MIAA**

**Current Rule:**

**88. Bona Fide Team Member Waiver Guidelines**

The Bona Fide rule requires that members of a school team actively participate in all team practices and competitions. Members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non-school event/activity in any sport recognized by the MIAA.

On occasion, a student might find himself/herself in potential conflict with this rule. This can happen when a student-athlete has an association with an out-of-school team or has an opportunity to participate in some special tournament or on a special team. A waiver of the bona fide team rule excusing the student from the school activity that day and allowing the student to participate in such a non-school event is possible under the guidelines set forth below. Before a waiver request (See White Book for form) is submitted ALL of the following considerations must be present:

- 88.1 The non-school event must be a significant experience -- not one normally available to most anyone.
- 88.2 The invitation must have come from a personalized invitation -- not a form letter that went to a large number of students.
- 88.3 It must be clear that the student is not being exploited and that the student is truly being singled out to participate.
- 88.4 The amount of time being missed from school will definitely be considered.
- 88.5 The number of school team activities being missed will be a factor considered.

- 88.6 There is a limit to the number of times that a student could qualify for a waiver. It would be extremely rare that a student-athlete would be granted more than one waiver per year.
- 88.7 The request for a waiver must have the written support of the school principal, the athletic director, and the coach.

Waivers will be considered on an individual basis on the merits of each case. Requests for a waiver should be addressed to the MIAA. The above points should be addressed in the waiver request.

**Proposal:**

Eliminate subsections: 88.1, 88.2, 88.3, and 88.6

**Rationale:**

These subsection rules are not generally being considered when applying for and approving waivers. Eliminating them will more accurately reflect the Bona Fide Waiver process. In addition, more than 1 waiver is often approved during a season for students. The Bona Fide team member rule and waiver process are important to help maintain the integrity of our school teams, but the current rules should be updated to reflect the needs of our current programs.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	12-1-0	Approved
Basketball Committee	6-5-0	Approved
Cross Country & Track	15-1-0	Approved
Field Hockey Committee	2-10-0	Rejected
Football Committee	6-4-1	Approved
Game Officials Committee	7-0-0	Approved
Golf Committee	12-0-0	Approved
Gymnastics Committee	0-9-0	Rejected
Ice Hockey Committee	4-13-0	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	10-0-0	Approved
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	12-0-0	Approved
Rugby	0-8-3	Rejected
Ski Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	16-0-2	Approved
Softball Committee	3-7-0	Rejected
Sports Medicine	3-6-3	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	7-0-1	Approved
Swimming & Diving Committee	5-2-0	Approved
Tennis Committee	3-5-0	Rejected
TMC	0-11-0	Rejected
Volleyball Committee	6-0-5	Approved
Wrestling Committee	15-0-2	Approved
District A	3-2-0	Approved
District C	3-2-0	Approved
District F	6-0-0	Approved
MSSADA	5-4-0	Approved
MIAA BOD	8-6-1	Approved
MIAC	16-0-0	Approved

**38. Page 117**  
**Part IX, Rule 97 Tournament Eligibility**  
**By: John Lynch, MSSADA Executive Director**

**Current:**

97.3.2 In leagues where a team's schedule is comprised of seventy percent (70%) or more of higher division schools, and there is no small and large breakout, all MIAA league and MIAA non-league contests played against equal and/or lower divisions may solely be considered in the fifty percent (50%) qualifying criteria. Schools may also access the 70% tournament qualifying opportunity if a league is aligned by enrollment BUT the league requires cross-scheduling to the extent that at least 70% of the school's total required opponents are in a higher tournament division.

**Proposal:**

Wording should remain the same and add the following at the end: "Any school qualifying for tournament play using this method will be seeded according to their winning percentage against schools that are counted in their qualifying percentage.

**Rationale:**

Teams that play a mostly upper division schedule are often one of the better schools in the division in which they will compete in the tournament. However, they are most often seeded very low and the teams that have to face them in the first couple of rounds get beaten badly. If they qualify with a 90% winning percentage, but finish the season 5-15 they should be seeded based on their qualifying winning percentage.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	0-12-1 Rejected
Basketball Committee	0-11-0 Rejected
Cross Country & Track	1-12-3 Rejected
Field Hockey Committee	0-11-1 Rejected
Football Committee	4-7-0 Rejected
Game Officials Committee	0-6-1 Rejected
Golf Committee	0-12-0 Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	3-1-5 Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	0-18-0 Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	1-9-0 Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	0-12-0 Rejected
Rugby	0-7-4 Rejected
Ski Committee	0-6-0 Rejected
Soccer Committee	0-18-0 Rejected
Softball Committee	0-9-1 Rejected
Sports Medicine	0-12-0 Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	0-1-7 Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	0-7-0 Rejected
Tennis Committee	1-7-0 Rejected
TMC	0-11-0 Rejected
Volleyball Committee	0-7-4 Rejected
Wrestling Committee	0-10-7 Rejected
District A	0-5-0 Rejected
District C	0-5-0 Rejected
District F	0-6-0 Rejected
MSSADA	1-8-0 Rejected
MIAA BOD	0-15-0 Rejected
MIAC	1-15-0 Rejected

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Part IX, Tournaments

By: Tom Arria, Director of Athletics, Cambridge Rindge & Latin School

**Proposal – new rule:**

Seeding for all sport tournaments which are determined by record (50%; Sullivan Rule: League Champions, Co-Champions; Runner ups or multi-runner ups) will be done through a Power Ranking Formula consistent through all sports.

**Rationale:**

Seeding teams based on record alone does not provide equitable and fair process. There are teams with very good records in positions to get byes while teams that are much better have additional games because they play tougher competition throughout the regular season. This is currently used for Boys & Girls Lacrosse and should be consistent for all sports.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

Baseball Committee	1-10-2	Rejected
Basketball Committee	9-2-0	Approved
Cross Country & Track	3-5-8	Rejected
Field Hockey Committee	0-13-1	Rejected
Football Committee	6-5-0	Approved
Game Officials Committee	7-0-0	Approved
Golf Committee	1-11-0	Rejected
Gymnastics Committee	10-0-0	Approved
Ice Hockey Committee	0-18-0	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Boys'	3-6-1	Rejected
Lacrosse Committee Girls'	7-4-1	Approved
Rugby	1-4-7	Rejected
Ski Committee	0-6-0	Rejected
Soccer Committee	0-15-3	Rejected
Softball Committee	0-9-1	Rejected
Sports Medicine	0-12-0	Rejected
Sportsmanship Committee	0-8-0	Rejected
Swimming & Diving Committee	0-7-0	Rejected
Tennis Committee	0-5-3	Rejected
TMC	2-9-0	Rejected
Volleyball Committee	5-2-4	Approved
Wrestling Committee	15-0-2	Approved
District A	4-1-0	Approved
District C	0-5-0	Rejected
District F	6-0-0	Approved
MSSADA	3-5-1	Rejected
MIAA BOD	2-13-0	Rejected
MIAC	1-15-0	Rejected