



# ***FALL 2009***

## **GENERAL TOURNAMENT POLICIES FOR MIAA SPONSORED SPORTS**

**\*ATHLETIC DIRECTORS - PLEASE SHARE A COPY OF THIS WITH EACH COACH.  
(The information included herein applies to every Fall Sport).**

### **I. Administrators**

Upon arrival at an MIAA tournament event a school administrator or designee other than the participating coaches, are expected to seek out and meet the MIAA site manager. Please indicate where you will be sitting during the contest.

### **II. Artificial Noisemakers, etc.**

Horns, posters, noisemakers, confetti, pompoms, balloons, and banners are not to be permitted at any site. If the site manager feels that something not mentioned above is also creating a nuisance at a contest site, the site manager should have such items removed.

The MIAA Sportsmanship Committee has voted to permit bands to be present and to play at MIAA Fall, Winter and Spring Tournaments. However, the following restrictions are part of this action.

1. A maximum of 12 is permitted. An advisor must be in attendance and sit with the band.
2. Permission in advance must be granted by the Tournament Director and Site Director.
3. Pep bands are not permitted to play while the game is in play.

A full compliment of high school bands is permitted at all Superbowl football contests.

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### III. Athlete and Coach Disqualification

The MIAA site manager is responsible for having the MIAA student contest suspension forms and the coach contest exclusion forms available for contest officials. The official(s) shall complete the form before leaving the site of the contest and give it to the site manager, who sends copies to the following:

- A. Principal of each school
- B. Athletic Director of each school
- C. Executive Director of the MIAA

### IV. Awards

- A. Only MIAA awards will be presented at an MIAA tournament.
- B. Participating teams, coaches, and athletes are expected to participate in the concluding awards ceremony at each Sectional and State Final. The award ceremony is to be a major focus of the event, affording competing teams maximum respect.

### V. GAME EXCLUSION POLICY:

To enable the following schools to fill their schedules, the MIAA allows other member schools to schedule contests with *Barnstable, Bishop Feehan, Bishop Stang, Boston College High, Bridgewater-Raynham, Brockton, Cambridge Rindge & Latin, Catholic Memorial, Coyle and Cassidy, Durfee, Everett, Fontbonne, Malden Catholic, Malden HS, Martha's Vineyard, Medford HS, Nantucket, Nauset, New Bedford, Notre Dame (Hingham), Provincetown, St. John's Prep (D), Somerset, Somerville, Ursuline, and Xaverian with the option of choosing not to include these contests toward tournament qualification and seeding under the following parameters.*

- A. Member schools may exceed the maximum number of seasonal competitions by two and exceed the weekly limit by one, when scheduling contests with the schools listed.
- B. These contests will count for the schools listed, and therefore must be included on the "Season Schedule and Commitment Form" submitted to the Tournament Director by September 30<sup>th</sup>. *Schools must check the box if games **WILL NOT** count toward Tournament qualification*

### VI. Controlled Substance

Alcoholic beverages and other controlled substances, including any tobacco product, will not be permitted by a participant, coach, game official, or spectator at any game site.

If there are any alcoholic beverages or any other controlled substances, including any tobacco product, in the locker room, at the playing site, bench area or team bus, that school will be suspended from further tournament participation and the school will be subject to suspension from MIAA tournament participation in that sport the following school year. This policy includes coaches and game officials.

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## VII. Facial/Body Paint

Athletic participants may wear only sun glare black under their eyes.

## VIII. Reminder about Amateurism

According to the MIAA Rule 47 (Amateurism), a student forfeits amateur status when he/she receives any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the MIAA or when he/she capitalizes on athletic achievement by accepting money or gifts of monetary value. Only items with no intrinsic value may be accepted by a high school student-athlete. Athletic shoe or clothing companies have programs directed at top high school athletes or teams which would have students receive free or discounted items. Accepting such items will place an athlete's amateur status at risk.

## IX. Reporting Results

Results must be reported immediately to determine next round pairings, location, and starting time. **The winning coach must report the score within 30 minutes after the conclusion of the contest to the Tournament Director and to the metropolitan and local newspapers in the area.**

## X. College Board Examinations

There shall be no postponements of games because of conflict with College Board Examinations. Schools that feel that they have a chance of making the play-offs should encourage their students to take the examination on a date that will not conflict with tournament play. Please Note: Testing dates can be found on the College Board website: <http://www.collegeboard.com>

## XI. Schedule Manipulation

In the event a school must cancel a contest, the principal of that school must notify the Tournament Director in writing with the reason(s) for that cancellation. Notification must be made prior to the cut-off date.

Postponed contests should immediately be rescheduled for the very first available date on which neither team is scheduled to compete.

Failure to notify the Tournament Director could result in that game or games being counted as a loss on both schedules. If the cancellation of that game occurs on the cut-off date, the notification may be made by telephone.

## XII. Seeding

A. Seeding is to be done by a committee which is limited to the director who is a non-voting member of the seeding committee, voting members of the MIAA Standing Committee for that sport, and may also include as voting members, district athletic committee members from the tournament district(s). At least one coach should be present as an observer.

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- B. **GENERAL RULES: See "Sport Specific" regulations in specific tournament formats.**

Ties will be resolved by lottery or coin flip.

- C. MIAA Sport Committee may vote to use a form of the Walker Statistical Instrument as a basis for seeding teams in the tournament.

### XIII. **Site Information**

- A. For all games leading up to neutral sites, the "Home" team is responsible for all site costs, including officials. Officials' fees for tournament contests differ from regular season fees. Please be sure the correct amount is paid.
- B. Host schools will be required to conform to the financial expense limits as approved by the MIAA Tournament Director. If these issues cannot be resolved and the home team does not find an acceptable alternate site, the Tournament Director will assign a facility which could be the opponent's site.
- C. ALL SCHOOLS INVOLVED IN THE TOURNAMENT MUST PLAY AT THE SITE, ON THE DATE, AND AT THE TIME SET BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR. The Tournament Director shall have the prerogative to set or change the site or date of any tournament contest.
- D. Neutral Sites - Sites will be selected with the following criteria in mind:
  - 1. Health and safety of the participants
  - 2. Comfort and safety of the fans including adequate seating and parking
  - 3. Relative travel requirements for participating schools
  - 4. Ability to collect tickets in a secure manner
  - 5. Court or field size meets requirements as established for that sport
  - 6. Facility expenses and site budget

### XIV. **Solicitations**

Solicitation of funds is not permitted at tournament site. Fund raising activities by the host schools and host sites must be approved by the MIAA Executive Staff.

### XV. **Sportsmanship**

All schools are responsible before, during, and after a contest for the proper conduct of their coaches, athletes, students, and other spectators. When requested, a school must complete a report regarding the contest in which a problem occurred.

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## XVI. Ticket and Pass Information

- A. Admittance to MIAA Tournaments is limited to designated MIAA ticket or to the following. All individuals admitted with a pass must "sign in" on the form provided.
- MIAA COMPLIMENTARY TOURNAMENT PASSES (white and blue) and MIAA GOLD LIFETIME PASSES will admit the bearer and a single guest A coach's spouse, and all other potential guests of a participating school should be provided by the school with MIAA COMPLIMENTARY TOURNAMENT PASSES which are issued at the start of the academic year for that specific purpose.
  - PRINT MEDIA may be admitted to tournament events with proper press credentials.
  - MIAA MEDIA PASS (bright blue in color) admittance (bearer only) is limited to tournament events in which one or more of the schools listed on the pass are competing.
  - Pre-school age children (5 years of age and younger) may be admitted without charge.
  - When a student ticket is available, senior citizens (62 years of age and older) may purchase a student ticket for admittance.
  - If the event, or restroom facilities, require pass-outs, then individuals must be hand stamped/marked upon leaving the gate area, if they are to be re-admitted. Beyond that, no pass-outs at tournament events are permitted.
- B. Ticket Sales:

MIAA tickets must be sold at all contests for which admission is charged. MIAA schools may sell their own tickets through the quarterfinal rounds provided visiting schools are notified that ticket sales will take place.

## XVII. Tournament Cut-Off Dates

Tournament cut-off dates cannot be changed. These published dates place all schools on the same standard. To alter dates is to disadvantage some schools in order to provide special opportunity to other members.

The following are cut-off dates for 2009 Fall Sports:

Cross Country	Wednesday	11/4/09
Field Hockey	Sunday	11/1/09
Football	Thanksgiving Day	11/26/09
Golf	Thursday	10/22/09
Soccer	Wednesday	11/4/08
Swim	Sunday	11/8/09
Volleyball	Tuesday	11/3/09

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## XVIII. Tournament Qualifications (Team Sports)

- A. A team must have a minimum winning percentage of fifty (50%) of contests played with any and all MIAA member schools and out of state schools that are members in good standing of their own state high school association.
- B. In leagues where a team's schedule is comprised of more than seventy percent (70%) of higher division schools, and there is no small and large breakout, all league and 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.
- C. All league champions, regardless of winning percentage. This includes co-championships.
- D. Runner-up or multi runner-ups in leagues of five or more teams, provided the league has a single champion. In the case of multi-champions, no runner-up will automatically qualify.
- E. See "Sport Specific" regulations for tournaments where the above does not apply.