



# GAME OFFICIALS' FALL NEWSLETTER



Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

Fall 2002

## The Role of the Official in High School Soccer

With the 2002 season just around the corner, certain areas of concern and emphasis should be reviewed by those officiating high school soccer in Massachusetts.

All officials working high school matches in Massachusetts are reminded that we are governed by Federation rules and mechanics with MIAA modifications. Any questions or concerns regarding these rules should be directed first to your local interpreters. Further explanation, opinions, or research can be received from your State Committee representative and interpreter, Jack Domurat (jackurat@aol.com).

The necessity of more consistent application has come to our attention in three major areas:

First, the Federation Rules (5,2,1-2-3 on pages 18-19) specify certain pre-game responsibilities which must be attended to prior to every match. Such items include: (a) inspection of balls, field, & nets; (b) verifying ball holders, scorer, & timer; (c) addressing coaches regarding legality of equipment & good sportsmanship; and (d) examining the uniform & equipment of all players. In addition, the MIAA requires review of its taunting policy with the captains prior to each match. Particular attention must be given to inspecting the equipment and uniform of each player prior to every match. Make a list, keep it in your pocket and check it off before every match!

A second area of concern is to consistently enforce the MIAA rule regarding contest managers. For all boys' varsity matches, the home team is responsible to assign an adult contest manager (not a member of the soccer coaching staff).

Thirdly, MIAA roster forms are required for use in all high school games at all levels played in Massachusetts. These should be filled out prior to the match, and all cards issued should be recorded on these forms

More consistency in the above areas can only improve the high school game of soccer. All officials are responsible for pre-game duties, and all schools are responsible for contest managers and roster forms to be on site. Failure to cooperate in these areas should be first addressed at the local level and then (if necessary) taken to the State Committee level.



Jack Domurat

## TEAM CAPTAINS

Some of you who follow my articles will realize that one year ago I commented on the "game management" value of good team captains. This article is basically dealing with the same subject, except that it contains a different perspective.

You might know that coaches establish the guidelines for a successful team captain. Most of these guidelines pertain to the team captain on the field. This article deals with the team captain both off the field and in the practice area.

Coaches will spend time with their entire team outlining the responsibilities of a team captain. The coach may have teammates make a list of what captains need to do to ensure a successful season. The list might include that the captain should be the first one at practice and the last one to leave after the area has been cleaned up.

At practice, a team practices hard. The captain runs hard, drills hard, and scrimmages hard. By example, the captain challenges teammates to work as hard as they do.

A team captain serves as a mediator whenever problems arise. If some of the team members start "trash talking," the captains need to step in.

Another important job of a team captain is to mentor the younger players on the team. They must role model the behavior they expect from younger members on the team.

Coaches must have a solid relationship with the captains and be able to openly and honestly discuss any issues that are helping or hurting an individual or the team. There is no mistaking that the success of a schools "Wellness Program" depends on the leadership of the captains.

These are some of the responsibilities of the captains. The person chosen as captain needs to know and accept these responsibilities.

## WE ARE LISTENING!

A suggestion was made that not all officials need rule changes for every sport, so beginning with this Newsletter - Fall Game Officials will receive their sport specific rule changes and pertinent information, while Athletic Directors will receive all enclosures.

## TAKING THE TIME TO DEVELOP

Attitude and education are important components that make good officials. If officials think of themselves as professionals and act accordingly, they will be perceived as such. Recommendations for becoming a professional official are as follows:

- ◆ Becoming a student of the game, not only from a refereeing standpoint but also from coaching and playing aspects. With that knowledge you have a better feel for the game and can anticipate what will happen.
- ◆ Always look for advanced training. Seek advice and input from your colleagues.
- ◆ Don't be close minded. You can always learn something. It is interesting to see experienced referees sit in an entry-level course and still discover new aspects of officiating.
- ◆ Subscribe to and read publications that address refereeing issues.
- ◆ Join and participate in professional referee associations.
- ◆ Work games and tournaments away from your community. Gain experience working with referees from other areas.
- ◆ Expand your horizons. Become licensed as a referee instructor or assessor.
- ◆ Referees must look at themselves as professionals. It is not a job or a volunteer, but a professional commitment to the sport and to the student athletes.
- ◆ Getting to the game early enough to inspect the field and conduct a proper pre-game conference.
- ◆ Preparing yourself by making sure your uniform is clean, looks good, and fits properly.
- ◆ Speaking to players and coaches in a friendly but authoritative manner.
- ◆ Making decisive calls and always using the proper signals.
- ◆ Keeping yourself physically fit.
- ◆ Adjusting and cleaning your uniform and shoes at half-time.
- ◆ In conclusion, use the above mentioned suggestions to become a professional in the area of officiating.



### **SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN VOLLEYBALL SCORE- KEEPING**

**\*\*\*DUE TO THE RALLY  
SCORING CHANGE THIS YEAR, ALL  
TEAMS WILL NEED TO BE RETRAINED  
IN SCORE-KEEPING PROCEDURES FOR  
VOLLEYBALL\*\*\***

## Tips of the Tongue

This article presents a talk given by author David Sabaini. He is the director of audio operations at Indiana State University and a board member of the Wabash Valley Officials Association in Terre Haute, Indiana.

“Despite a lack of rules or even advice for officials at the high school level and below for dealing with the media, there are certainly some tips that can be adapted from higher levels of officiating.

Tip #1: You have the right to refuse any interview request at the high school level and below. Often the best comment is “no comment.”

Tip #2: When approached by a reporter during pre-game, all you need to supply is your name, the pronunciation of your name, position, and the name of your association. Anything else, even a response like “Sure is a big name isn't it” can lead to undesirable on air speculation.

Tip #3: After the game, follow the lead of professional officials and comment on rules interpretations only. Never comment on specific calls. Saying something like “that is not the way I saw the play,” is unnecessary and leaves you open to second guessing. It's much safer to say something like “by rule, the runner is out in such a situation.”

Tip #4: Don't volunteer information, especially opinions, on assignments, teams, or coaches. Your only comment about officiating colleagues should be general and positive.

Tip #5: When reporters are around virtually everything you say is fair game. Even if you're merely watching a game, you are often known to be an official. Refrain from public speculation over another official's calls or how a game was refereed.

Tip #6: Avoid calling broadcast stations or newspapers to comment about a game or team, even to defend yourself. You are unlikely to change many minds, and you subject yourself to more aspersions.

Tip #7: If asked to serve as a commentator for a local broadcaster, do so only under the condition you will not be identified as an official. Then never bring another official's calls into question on air or to your partner.

Reporters have a job to do. Most often, that job is simply to report the facts, add some of their own observations, and get quotes from participants. Sometimes, you will be asked as an official to add some insight, clarifying a rule or even to give an opinion. The best advise is usually the simplest: Think before you speak.”

## **SOCCER**

**AUGUST 21ST WILL BE THE 10TH ANNUAL SOCCER RULES/ SPORTSMANSHIP CLINIC FOR COMMISSIONERS, ATHLETIC DIRECTORS, GAME OFFICIALS, AND COACHES TO REVIEW CHANGES FOR THE 2002 SOCCER SEASON AT THE MIAA OFFICE, FRANKLIN, MA. AT 6:00 PM.**

Light buffet available at 5:30pm – please RSVP to Carol @ 508-541-9815 or by email: ctosches@miaa.net



### **MIAA FORMS LOCATED IN THE APPENDIX OF THE GAME OFFICIALS' HANDBOOK**

- **Student Contest Disqualification Form** – please be sure to note that located at the bottom of this form are check off boxes for rule 49.6 and 49.7 both of which carry a one-year suspension in **all** sports.
- **Coach Contest Exclusion Form**
- **Sportsmanship: The Only Way To Win**
- **Soccer Roster & Score Sheet**

The MIAA strongly encourages the use of these forms which also can be downloaded from our web site: [www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net).

The use of the suspension and exclusion forms should help to deter unsportsmanlike behavior. The "Sportsmanship, The only way to win" form acknowledges good sportsmanship.

The taunting policy, printed on a small card and to be read before competitions, is enclosed with this newsletter.

Game Officials' Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 12, 2002  
1:00 P.M. at the MIAA Office  
Followed by the Fall Game Officials' Meeting  
Buffet at 5:30 P.M.  
Meeting at 6:00 P.M.

The MIAA Game Officials' Committee meets three (3) times each school year at 1:00 P.M. The Game Officials' Seasonal Meetings are held on the same day as the Committee Meeting.

For the 2002-2003 school year, the dates are as listed below:  
Thursday, September 12, 2002  
Tuesday, November 19, 2002  
Monday, March 24, 2003

The meetings times are as stated above for each of these meetings.

Game Officials' Pre-Season Meetings offer game officials an opportunity to comment, suggest, and ask questions among each other and to speak to MIAA staff liaisons. It also gives new officials a chance to interface themselves and to meet experienced officials who have mastered their professions.

Invariably from these meetings comes a request from the officials for actions that will improve their working conditions. We are always happy to pass along these requests to our member schools. Two very frequent requests relate to having facilities for officials and prompt and proper payment procedures. We have responded to that type of request frequently.

All officials should take a very active role in regards to potential safety problems. Satisfying every safety requirement in the rules is essential to proper game administrations. No official should hesitate to point out better safety conditions, and that certainly includes having adequate security personnel to meet anticipated needs.

**Officials planning to attend this September 12th evening meeting are asked to RSVP to Nancy Huntley at 508-541-9817, or email your intentions to [nhuntley@miaa.net](mailto:nhuntley@miaa.net) by September 5th.**



## GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

The coach is first and foremost a guardian of good sportsmanship. That is because sportsmanship is timeless and endless. This, however, does not mean the official can sit back or do nothing.

The Mission Statement of the National Federation of State High School Associations states that, "Good sportsmanship is viewed as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and general concerns for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and to model good sportsmanship."

The official should know what disciplinary action to take if someone violates a basic code of sportsmanship. Players should be taught what the intrinsic rewards are that come from playing with honor, courage and consideration of others under all circumstances. A coach who implores the team to practice good sportsmanship and then breaks under game pressures, completely nullifies the effect of previous exhortations.

Winning and sportsmanship can go hand-in-hand. Losing and sportsmanship also go hand-in-hand. A key role of the coach is always to gain an element of winning from every loss. With good sportsmanship as a constant companion this goal always can be realized. Good sportsman are winners. With supportive officiating, they will stay on the right track.

**SOCCER OFFICIALS  
PLEASE READ YOUR  
ENCLOSED SOCCER  
NEWSLETTER FOR  
IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
& RULE CHANGES**

### KEEP US UPDATED

Please notify the MIAA office of address changes or changes in officers on your respective Boards. Your assistance in this matter ensures the accuracy of our records. It only takes a minute, but it will allow you to receive information, as it becomes available.

**PLEASE INCLUDE EMAIL ADDRESSES.** Any questions, comments, concerns, or changes – please contact Nancy Huntley at 508-541-9817, or by email: [nhuntley@miaa.net](mailto:nhuntley@miaa.net)

### JUST A REMINDER

All Game Officials must be enrolled before the first competition of the fall season in order to be eligible to officiate MIAA fall tournament contests.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

ALL VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS SHOULD FIND ENCLOSED A VOLLEYBALL PACKET REGARDING THE 2002-2003 VOLLEYBALL SEASON CHANGES.



MIAA SCHOOLS WILL BE USING NCAA RULES. MODIFICATIONS TO THOSE RULES ARE ALSO ENCLOSED TO VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS & A.D.'s.

TO PURCHASE A NCAA RULE BOOK PLEASE CALL 1-888-388-9748 OR GO ON-LINE AT: [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)



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