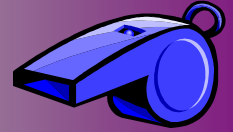




# MIAA GAME OFFICIALS FALL 2006 NEWSLETTER



## From the Assistant Director...

After all the recent Red Sox catastrophic injury reports, daily Deion Branch hold-out fine total updates, and the never-ending (ad nauseum) "Tour de Fraud" testosterone test report commentaries, it is such a welcome relief to turn ones attention to the 2006-2007 Fall season of high school sports!

As game officials, the prospect of coming off a summer of reduced officiating schedules and most likely an increased "schedule" of leisure activities including, but not limited to, golf, hiking/camping, water sports, and of course, outdoor barbecues, clambakes, lobster-fests, etc., can make getting in shape for the Fall season a daunting task. The conscientious "professional" however, will make the effort necessary to ensure he/she will be both physically and mentally ready for those Fall assignments. The preparation starts with a step on the bathroom scale and look in the mirror, a gradual and incrementally increased fitness regimen, and should also include pre-season clinics/scrimmages, and rule "refresher exams". I already "feel your pain"!

If I were pressed to select just two of the countless issues/concerns that cross my desk during the course of a school year for your consideration as part of your pre-season regimen, they would be:

- **Selective Enforcement**

By raising selective enforcement as a topic, I am not advocating "whistling" one-hundred percent of all observed rule violations, because I am a charter member of the "no-advantage, no-foul" club. What I am referring to is a dangerous tendency toward non-calls of sportsmanship and/or health and safety related violations such as vulgar/profane language, coach bench-conduct, and illegal/improper equipment. Selective enforcement in these particular situations is an implicit (and potentially dangerous) message to players and coaches that you condone those actions.

- **"Let's Make a Deal"**

Game officials do not have the post-game discretionary authority to change rulings made on the field during the course of a contest. Most often this surfaces as an "altered" Roster and Score Sheet on which a red card (in soccer) or disqualification (all sports), either initiated by the official or upon impassioned appeal by a coach or athletic director, results in a lesser penalty.

The path to perfection is typically a long and rocky one. Please be assured that the MIAA Game Officials Committee strives to be responsible to our member schools and to our contest officials as they address multiple issues. I thank you for your dedication to your officiating avocation and for the tremendous service you provide for our schools and student athletes. Have a great season!

-Bill McGuirk

If you would like to communicate with us, please use the following means:

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(508) 541-9807

Bill McGuirk: [bmcguirk@miaa.net](mailto:bmcguirk@miaa.net)

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# NFHS / ASEP Officials Education Program Expands in 2006



The Officials Education Program currently consists of eight online courses: the sport-neutral Officiating Principles course and sport-specific Officiating Methods courses

for baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, track & field and cross country, and now, wrestling. Officiating Volleyball will be released in spring 2007.

The courses each include a textbook and CD-ROM, providing a comprehensive, interactive learning experience focusing on NFHS-approved mechanics combined with the convenience of structured online learning. The CD for the wrestling course contains live action video of on-the-mat scenarios faced by wrestling officials.

These courses are excellent opportunities for game officials boards to supplement and enhance their training programs for their membership and/or for individual officials to independently strengthen and expand their knowledge base of mechanics and rule interpretations.

Check it out! For information on ASEP sport education courses and resources, visit [www.ASEP.com](http://www.ASEP.com).



# 2006 Fall Sport Rule Changes

## Soccer

(click for all Soccer rule changes)

### **Rule 4-1-1:**

Beginning with the 2007 fall season, shinguards must meet the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) specifications.

### **Rule 4-2-8:**

A protective face mask may be worn by a player with a facial injury. The mask may be made of a hard material, but must be worn molded to the face with no protrusions. A medical release for the injured player signed by a physician (MD/DO) shall be available at the game site.

### **Rule 5-1-2:**

The jurisdiction of the officials shall begin 15 minutes prior to the start of the game and end with they are leaving the field of play and its immediate surroundings.

## Volleyball

(click for all Volleyball rule changes)

**Please note:** The new NCAA attack line extensions will be required court markings as described in the current NCAA Volleyball Rule Book beginning the 2006 MIAA Girls Volleyball season.

- *The extension of the attack lines will be marked outside the court with five 15-centimeter (6 inches) lines spaced 20 centimeters (8 inches) apart to a total length of 1.75 meters (70 inches). For reference refer to the attached volleyball court diagram*

MIAA member schools have the option to utilize temporary end line tape to mark their volleyball courts in compliance with this rule until such time as their gymnasium floors are scheduled to be painted.

Click below for a diagram of these court markings:  
<http://www.miaa.net/VB-Court-Diagram-2006.pdf>

## Football

(click for all Football rule changes)

The official rule code of Massachusetts high school football is the NCAA Football Rules Book. All amendments to the NCAA rules can be found in the MIAA Handbook. The following are the 2006 NCAA Rule Changes and MIAA amended rules recently approved by the MIAA Board of Directors at the request of the MIAA Football Committee:

### **Rule 1-4-5-s:**

Eye shields that are not clear are illegal....FR-35

### **Rule 2-15-4-c: (see amendments below)**

A kicking tee may not elevate the ball's lowest point more than one inch above the ground.....FR-48

### **Rule 3-2-5: (see amendments below)**

When the ball is free kicked, the game clock will start....FR-68

### **Rule 3-2-5-e: (see amendments below)**

When Team B is awarded a first down, the game clock will start on the ready-for-play signal.....FR-69

### **Rules 7-1-3-b, 7-1-4-b:**

Fouls concurrent with the snap on scrimmage kick plays may be enforced at the previous spot or succeeding spot.....FR-96, 97

### **MIAA amendments as voted by the State Football Committee:**

**2-15-4-c:** Allow 2" tee

**3-2-5:** Clock does not start until touched on free kick

**3-2-5-e:** Clock does not start until after first down ball is snapped

For all other Fall sport rule revisions,  
please [CLICK HERE](http://www.miaa.net/sport-rule-revisions.htm)

(<http://www.miaa.net/sport-rule-revisions.htm>)

## Sportsmanship Awards

The MIAA Tournament Management Committee has approved an Annual Sportsmanship Award to be presented to one school in every sport at the MIAA State Championship.

We would like to encourage game officials to nominate a boys or a girls varsity team for consideration by that MIAA Sport Committee for recognition at the MIAA State Championship Contest. Nominated teams do not have to be tournament teams but should exemplify the tenets of good sportsmanship to the highest degree.

Please look on the MIAA Homepage: [www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net) – click on the “Tournament Formats” link and scroll down to the “**Team Sportsmanship Award Nomination Forms**” then click on the specific sport form.

**Please be sure to submit the completed form by the due date.**

## 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. Registration information has already been mailed to board secretaries as well as posted on the Game Officials’ section of the MIAA website:

[www.miaa.net/game\\_officials\\_main\\_page.htm](http://www.miaa.net/game_officials_main_page.htm)

Enrolling all officials in a timely manner will help ensure the best officials will be considered for post-season play. Please provide email addresses whenever possible so the MIAA can more effectively communicate with its officials.

Click on the link below to view the list of Presidents and Secretaries of those boards that are enrolled with the MIAA. If you are interested in becoming an official, please contact the Board nearest you to learn how to become a game official.

### [BOARD CONTACT INFO](#)

*Secretaries & Presidents*

[ENROLLED  
GAME OFFICIALS](#)

## Officials Encouraged to Submit Articles

The MIAA is interested in drawing from the wealth of practical techniques, experiences and methods that successful contest officials have developed throughout their careers. In this regard, practicing officials are encouraged to submit articles for review and potential publication.

Contest officials are encouraged to submit material in one of the three formats discussed below.

### THREE FORMATS FOR ARTICLES

1. **Ideas That Work:** Single ideas, tips or suggestions that can enhance the efficiency of day-to-day practice for contemporary contest officials. Typically, these are one or two paragraph submissions that describe a resource or time-efficient procedure. These articles may also express the nature of a contemporary problem or issue within the first few lines of the first paragraph. When included, a second paragraph should focus on local response(s), procedure(s) or applications.

2. **Current Issues:** A short, one-page article focused on a contemporary issue or trend. Typically, the article contains an introductory paragraph that elaborates or defines a problem or issue of contemporary interest. In subsequent paragraphs, a short description of local response to the issue should be developed. Of great interest to readers is the use of captioned checklists that provide self-explanatory guides to practicing officials.

3. **Formal Article:** Articles comprise the main body of each Game Officials Newsletter issue. Articles should be developed as follows:

a.) Cite a topic of contemporary, widespread interest (e.g., recruitment, training and retention of officials; safety, and insurance).

b.) Indicate the immediate, long-term or potential effect of the issue or problem. Cite references as required.

c.) Describe the response or management procedures you and/or others have used in responding to the problem(s). Include the impact, effect or projected effect of the response in resolving the problem(s). If possible, use checklists and other graphics to illustrate or demonstrate the applicability of the program you have used.

d.) Summary - present a short review of the relevant issues and resolution strategies and cite their importance to the reader.

Please forward all articles c/o Bill McGuirk, MIAA, 33 Forge Parkway, Franklin, MA 02038 or email to [bmcguirk@miaa.net](mailto:bmcguirk@miaa.net)

# *Contest Officials' Code of Ethics*

In 2001, the Officiating Development Alliance, a group of individuals representing various officiating organizations, such as the NFHS, NCAA, ASA, USSF, the NFL, NBA, MLB and NASO, developed the *Code of Conduct for Sports Officials*. The *Code* outlines the personal responsibilities officials have to the game.

1. Officials shall bear a great responsibility for engendering public confidence in sports.
2. Officials shall be free of obligation to any interest other than the impartial and fair judging of sports competitions.
3. Officials shall hold and maintain the basic tenets of officiating which include history, integrity, neutrality, respect, sensitivity professionalism, discretion and tactfulness.
4. Officials shall master both rules of the game and mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.
5. Officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interactions with student-athletes, coaches, school administrators, colleagues and the public.
6. Officials shall display and execute superior communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal.
7. Officials shall recognize that anything, which may lead to a conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Gifts, favors, special treatment, privileges, employment or a personal relationship with a school or team, which can compromise the perceived impartiality of officiating, must be avoided.
8. Officials shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.
9. Officials shall not be party to actions designed to unfairly limit or restrain access to officiating, officiating assignments or to association membership. This includes selection for positions of leadership based upon economic factors, race, creed, color, age, sex, physical handicap, country or national origin.
10. Officials shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.
11. Officials shall work with each other and their governing bodies in a constructive and cooperative manner.
12. Officials shall resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself.
13. Officials shall never participate in any form of illegal gambling on a sports contest, may never gamble on any sporting event in which they have either a direct or indirect involvement, and may never gamble on events involving high school athletics.
14. Officials shall not make false or misleading statements regarding their qualifications, rating, credentials, experience, training or competence.
15. Officials shall accept responsibility for all actions taken.

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