

ATTENTION – FOOTBALL OFFICIALS



This form is intended for football officials, but it could be easily applied to most sports by rephrasing the type of officiating skills.

1. Am I doing things mechanically correct, or am I picking up some sloppy shortcut habits?
2. Do I report at the game site one hour prior to the starting of the game?
3. Am I open to constructive suggestions from other officials?
4. Do I review the rules book and officials manual a couple of times a week?
5. Have I let a coach talk me into or out of a call?
6. Do I keep my uniform clean and neat?
7. Do I communicate appropriately with other officials with whom I work?
8. Do I hustle to be in the right place at the right time?
9. Do I watch action around the ball, rather than just watching the ball carrier?
10. Do I signal stopping and starting the clock consistently?
11. Do I blow the whistle too quickly, or am I not assertive enough with it?
12. Do I spot the ball correctly? Do I share in the ball-relay situations?

LIGHTNING TIPS



The following has been gleaned from a combination of the Vermont Principals Association's policy and the publication of the Texas Medical Association Committee on Sports Medicine.

The temperature inside a lightning bolt may reach 55,000 degrees Fahrenheit, which is five times hotter than the surface of the sun.

- When thunder is heard or lightning is seen, students and spectators must leave the area of play and go inside.
- Wait at least 30 minutes after a thunder and lightning storm passes before resuming outside activity.
- When in doubt, err on the side of caution.
- Stay away from individual trees, lone objects, standing pools of water and open fields.
- Avoid the tallest object in the area. Do not take shelter under a single tall tree.
- If there is no safe shelter within a reasonable

distance, crouch in a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or in a dry ditch. Crouching with only your feet touching the ground and keeping your feet close together, wrap your arms around your knees and lower your head to minimize your body surface area. Do not lie flat.

- Pay more attention to the lightning threat than the rain. It need not be raining for lightning to strike; lightning can strike far from the rain shaft.
- Do not stand next to light poles.
- Get out of metal stadiums. Get away from wire fences, railings, and other metal structures as they can act as an electrical conductor.

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

MIAA FORMS



The appendix of the Game Officials' Handbook includes a number of forms to assist game officials. Please note that these forms can be downloaded from our web site www.miaa.net under forms. The MIAA strongly encourages use of these forms. The taunting policy, printed on a small card, to be read before competitions, is enclosed with this newsletter. The use of the Suspension and Exclusion forms should help to deter unsportsmanlike behavior. The "Sportsmanship, The Only Way to Win" form is used to report and acknowledge good sportsmanship.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2001~2002

GAME OFFICIALS' COMMITTEE

Membership of the Game Officials Committee(GOC) consists of five school committee members, five school superintendents, five principals, and five athletic directors. Game officials representing each sport which has elected to enroll with the MIAA serve as non-voting advisors to the GOC. Any game official may attend meetings and address the committee on any specific item.

This committee meets three times each year with lunch at 12:30 p.m., and the meeting at 1:00 p.m. The dates of these meetings for the 2001-2002 school year are:

Thursday, September 13, 2001
Tuesday, November 27, 2001
Thursday, March 28, 2002

PRE-SEASON MEETINGS

Pre-season meetings for officials are held three (3) times a year. The meetings are held in the fall, winter and spring and on the same date as the Game Officials Committee meeting. Meetings are arranged so that there is a free flow of ideas, suggestions and discussion of problems. Pre-Season meetings begin with a buffet supper at 5:45 p.m. followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m.. The dates of these meetings are:

Thursday, September 13, 2001
Tuesday, November 27, 2001
Thursday, March 28, 2002

Please register by September 7, 2001 if you are planning on attending the September evening meeting by calling Nancy Huntley at the MIAA office, 508-541-9817, or via fax#508-541-9888, or email nhuntley@miaa.net



FEMALE OFFICIALS

Most people would agree that more female officials should be working games. Gender equity is an important concept. It is also a spirit and a personal ethic. It is a commitment to do what is right and fair for all athletes, officials, coaches, and athletic administrators. It means creating an atmosphere and an environment in which opportunities and resources are distributed fairly to all.

The MIAA believes that concerned people should take steps to promote gender equity. We hope that your board is taking positive action to reach out to female officials.



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