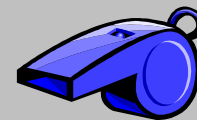




MIAA GAME OFFICIALS SPRING 2006 NEWSLETTER



SPRING EDITION 2006

From the Assistant Director
BILL MCGUIRK-----

*“Now don’t be sad ’cause two out of three
ain’t bad...” Meat Loaf, circa 1977*

Those lyrics from “Two Out of Three Ain’t Bad” from the Meat Loaf album “Bat Out of Hell” came to mind after the *two*-hour-plus March 29th Game Officials Committee meeting. It was a very intense and spirited meeting which truly represented the value of broad representation within a committee. More impressive was the climate of mutual respect between and among the membership which allowed for the free, honest, and open discussion of often-diverging, if not directly opposite points of view.

The “hottest” issue centered on a comparison of *three* (as opposed to *two*) person officiating crews. While *three* person crews have been utilized in the MIAA Tournament for a number of years in multiple sports at the advanced levels, basketball, for the just-concluded 2006 tournament, expanded the use of *three* officials to all levels of the tournament. On the Game Officials Committee agenda for discussion on this warm afternoon was the evaluation of a Baseball Committee vote to use three umpires at the Sectional Semi-Finals of their tournament. Also, on the “burner” was the question of recommended fees for *three* person crews during regular season play. As you can imagine, these were “hot button” items.

The membership of the GOC includes Superintendents, School Committee members, Principals, Athletic Directors, Game Officials, and Coaches, with many wearing *two or even three* “hats”. All took the opportunity to “weigh in” on the issues at hand. Arguments, counter arguments, challenges and rebuttals, filled the room. All points were made with passion and conviction, yet with a mutual respect between professionals gathered together to make decisions in the best interests of student athletes. The Sportsmanship Committee would have been proud!

When the “dust” cleared, the following *three* motions passed and are subject to further review by the MIAA Board of Directors:

1. Motion to approve the Baseball Committee request to use *three* umpires in the Sectional Semi-Finals.
2. Motion to recommend that Game Officials regular season fees to be increased by 1.5% for the 2007-2008 season.
3. Motion that, beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, if and when *three* (3) officials are used for regular season contests in the following sports: Soccer (B&G), Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse (B&G), Field Hockey, Basketball (B&G), and Ice Hockey (B&G), it is recommended that they each be paid 85% of the standard fee.

Opinions concerning the issue of *two vs. three* officials may be as plentiful as the number of hits Meat Loaf, who believe it or not, coached his *two* daughters’ Connecticut high school softball team, has recorded. Let us hear yours!

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

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(508) 541-7997

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2006 Spring Sport Rule Revisions

BOYS LACROSSE

(click for all Boys Lacrosse rule changes)

- The MIAA Boys Lacrosse Committee voted unanimously to **exempt** the penalty for **the 2006 boys lacrosse season** on the National Federation **Rule: 1-9-1-a:** All players of a team shall wear helmets of the same color. This was then approved with a vote of 12-0 by the MIAA Board of Directors. This will provide all schools a second year to meet that requirement.

- **1-9-1-c:** Revises the color of tooth and mouth protectors and stipulates that they must be of a readily visible color, other than white or clear.

While participating, each player must wear a professionally manufactured (not altered to decrease protection) tooth and mouth protector (intraoral) which shall include an occlusal (protecting and separating the biting surfaces) and a labial (protecting the teeth and supporting structures) portion that covers the posterior teeth with adequate thickness. It is recommended the protector be properly fitted and:

1. Constructed from a model made from an impression of the individual's teeth.

2. Constructed and fitted to the individual by impressing the teeth into the tooth and mouth protector itself.

Beginning in 2006, the tooth and mouth protector must be of any readily visible color, other than white or clear.

Girls Lacrosse

(click for all Girls Lacrosse rule changes)

- Girls Lacrosse field set-up and measurements diagram ([click here for diagram](#))

Boys Volleyball

(click for all Boys Volleyball rule changes)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING BOYS VOLLEYBALL

- **Junior Varsity Competition:** Play is best 2 out of 3. Game 1 and 2 are 25 point games. The deciding game (#3) is to 15 points, you must win by 2 points.
- **Varsity Competition:** Play is best 3 out of 5. Games 1 through 4 are 25 point games. The deciding game (#5) to 15 points, must win by 2.
- There will be a 15 minute warm-up time for both the Varsity and the Junior Varsity during the regular season (2-6-6-1) The clock starts after the captains' meeting.

Softball

(click for all Softball rule changes)

- **REMINDER:** beginning January 1, 2006 batting helmets shall have a NOCSAE-approved face mask/guard protector.
- **NOTE:** in all situations where a batting helmet is required, the helmet shall be equipped with a face mask/guard protector.



Nuts and Bolts



NFHS Officials Education Program

(click for more details about this valuable program)

Overview: The NFHS Officials Education Program is a two-course curriculum (Bronze Level) designed to provide officials with a solid foundation in officiating philosophy, game management, and sport-specific mechanics. Developed by the American Sport Education Program ([ASEP](#)) in conjunction with the NFHS, the NFHS Officials Education Program features high-quality, interactive instruction with the convenience of online delivery.

Upcoming Student Services Programs

(click for more information about Student Services)

- April 4 - Massachusetts Student-Athlete Citizenship Day (Eastern Massachusetts) @ Northeastern University's Blackman Auditorium – Boston, MA
- April 11 - Massachusetts Student-Athlete Citizenship Day (Western Massachusetts) @ Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame – Springfield, MA
- May 12 - 10th Annual MIAA Wellness Summit @ MIAA Office – Franklin, MA

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. 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 – click on the “Tournament Formats” link and scroll down to the **“Team Sportsmanship Award Nomination Forms”** then click on the specific sport form.

Winter Sportsmanship Award winners

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is proud to recognize the 2005-06 Winter Team Sportsmanship Award Winners. High Schools from across the state have been recognized, nominated and awarded for their outstanding displays of team sportsmanship. Please join the MIAA in congratulating the following schools for their laudable achievements.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Basketball: | Newton North – Boys Div. 1 Nashoba Reg. – Boys Div. 2 Parker Charter – Boys Div. 3 Nashoba Reg. – Girls Div. 1 Monument Mt. – Girls Div. 2 Parker Charter – Girls Div. 3 |
| Ice Hockey: | Cathedral (boys) Medford (boys) East Boston (boys) Bishop Fenwick (boys) Nashoba Reg. (boys) Falmouth (girls) |
| Swimming: | Burlington – Division 1 Boys Oliver Ames - Division 1 Boys Wachusett Reg. – Div. 1 Girls |
| Track: | Marlboro |
| Wrestling: | Reading Memorial High School |

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

Game Officials Code of Conduct

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.

**MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

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