



# GAME OFFICIALS' NEWSLETTER



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## FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Bill McGuirk-----

I am pleased to join the MIAA staff and especially to have the opportunity to be the new liaison to the Game Officials' Committee chaired by Carl Ostrowski.

The Committee extends it's congratulations to Marshall Sawyer, recently retired Assistant Director, who successfully served the MIAA and Game Officials across the state through his tireless efforts to enhance the quality of interscholastic athletic competition.

As a matter of introduction, my background of thirty-five years in education includes teaching, coaching, and refereeing as well as twenty-three years in various high school administrative roles. I also have been a member of the MIAA Soccer, Basketball, and the Sportsmanship, Integrity & Ethics Committee which I had the pleasure of chairing.

I also welcome, Nate Bonneau, a new member of the MIAA support staff who will be assisting Nancy Huntley in efficient and effective service to our enrolled official membership.

I look forward to working with the Game Officials' Committee in a renewed attempt to improve and enhance the communication between the MIAA and our Game Officials whose dedication and good judgment are integral to successful athletic competition.

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

- Nate Bonneau: [nbonneau@miaa.net](mailto:nbonneau@miaa.net)  
508-541-9807
- Nancy Huntley: [nhuntley@miaa.net](mailto:nhuntley@miaa.net)  
508-541-9817
- Bill McGuirk: [bmcguirk@miaa.net](mailto:bmcguirk@miaa.net)  
508-541-9810

## GAME OFFICIALS HANDBOOK ONLINE

We are pleased to notify all game officials that the 2003-2005 edition of the Game Officials' Handbook has been posted on the MIAA Homepage ([www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net)).

You may access this document by scrolling down the menu in the left-hand column and clicking on "Game Officials". This will bring you to the Game Officials Homepage where you will click on Game Officials' Handbook. You may utilize the search tool (binocular icon on the Acrobat Reader toolbar) if you are looking for particular information in the handbook.

### CONTEST FEES "FROZEN" FOR 2003-2004 (see pages 13-15 in the Game Officials Handbook)

The Game Officials' Committee voted in the Spring of 2003 to recommend "freezing" fees in all sports for the 2003-2004 school year. The rationale for the recommendation was summarized by Executive Director Richard Neal:

"In the Spring of 2003 the Game Officials' Committee voted to recommend that contest fees paid to officials in academic year 2002-2003 be maintained for the 2003-2004 academic year. This decision was in response to a "call for help" from member schools as they face the most critical fiscal issues since Proposition 2 1/2. (One school Principal reports zero funding for athletics this year, and that all but one coach have agreed to return to their athletic positions without compensation.) We hope that this impact upon you will not be upsetting. The recommendation will allow our schools to accumulate \$500,000 in savings from the one or two dollar increase that had been previously recommended for FY04."

We appreciate your continued support of and contribution to our interscholastic athletic programs.

## The Top Traits of Officiating Excellence

Excellent officiating is ensuring the contest is played by the rules, while emphasizing fairness and safety, and doing so in a manner that enhances the stature of sports officiating.

Based on the results of a nationwide NASO survey of officials, respondents rank ordered 17 traits of officiating excellence. Respondents rated the relative importance.

The top six traits to officiating excellence are:

- Knowing the rules of the game
- Being consistent
- Being honest
- Being fair
- Displaying sound judgment
- Knowing correct officiating mechanics

Once there is a clear understanding of desired officiating traits, officials can identify area areas for improvement.

## JUST A REMINDER

All game officials must be enrolled before the first competition of the winter season in order to be eligible to officiate MIAA spring tournament contests.

## 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 you 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.

## MIAA BLUE BOOK SPORT SPECIFIC RULE CHANGES Winter 2003-2004

### BASKETBALL:

Rule 65.1 - Mouth guards are *required* for all basketball players while on the court.

#### **Basketball Mouth Protector Rule:**

*All players must wear mouth protectors that must cover all molars as well as front teeth.*

Mouth protectors must be worn in all practices and games. This includes pre-season scrimmages, jamborees as well as the state tournament.

Mouth protectors are required of all participants at **all** levels of interscholastic competition (Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity).

There is no color requirement for mouth protectors.

#### **Administration on the Court:**

Coaches must assume the responsibility to make certain each player is provided with and is properly wearing a mouth protector.

In the event a player intentionally participates without a mouth guard, the game official will require that the player be replaced at the next dead ball whistle. The removed player may not re-enter until after the clock has started and a substitution opportunity occurs.

**BE SURE TO VISIT OUR GAME  
OFFICIALS MAIN PAGE!**

Go to [www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net)  
in left hand column click on "Game Officials"



## Progress through Technology

The MIAA has made a major commitment to technology and the advantages it provides in terms of quality communication. "Paperless communication" has become the norm in the relationship between the Association and its member schools.

A seasonal newsletter for high school coaches is emailed to member school principals and athletic directors for their coaches, while at the same time it is posted on the MIAA website.

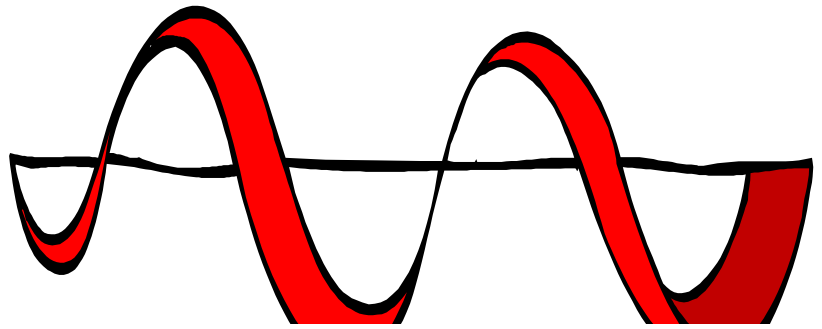
Enrolled game officials provide us with opportunities for communication that cannot occur with our high school coaches. As we have no coach's database for coaches, we certainly do for enrolled contest officials. What we currently lack however is the email addresses of almost 90% of the 6000 contest officials enrolled with MIAA. We have been told that most officials have email addresses. As soon as we are able to obtain the majority of those, we will take advantage of the opportunity that provides.

We will be more effective and helpful to contest officials when we are able to communicate with you instantly. Currently we either organize a mailing, or simply "pass" on the opportunity to communicate because the need for timeliness discounts the value of postal communication.

Email addresses must be precise, but are often transcribed incorrectly. The most efficient way to share an email address is through email. The MIAA encourages you to email [nhuntley@miaa.net](mailto:nhuntley@miaa.net) so that we may update and expand our database. We just added a new feature – go to our website: [www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net) – in left-hand column click on Game Officials. There now is an email communications form that takes only a minute to fill out and send.

We presently are looking into the possibility of an athletic scheduling system, which would provide, when postponement was necessary an email advisory to all involved (e.g.. participating schools, contest officials, bus company).

Technology is the way of the future and we are committed to utilizing technology to improve the way we work together. Please help us by assuring that we have your up to date email information. THANK YOU.



## MIAA GAME OFFICIALS' PRE-SEASON DINNER MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the MIAA Office:  
33 Forge Parkway, Franklin, MA at 5:30 PM on  
Thursday, November 20, 2003

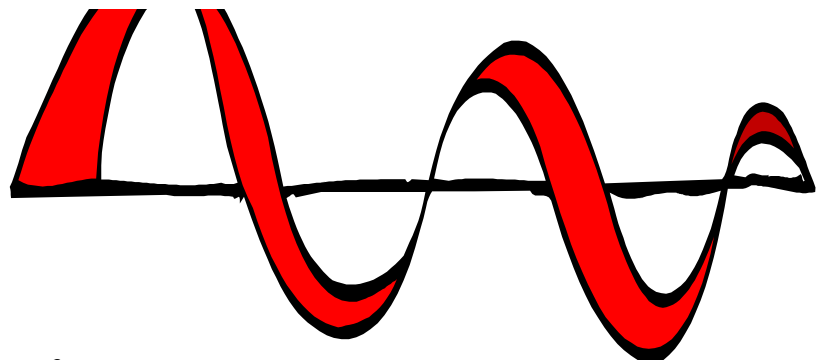
In the interest of continuing the improved dialogue with our winter sport officials generated by the very successful Basketball/Ice Hockey Winter Summits held the past two years, we are expanding our agenda of our annual Winter Officials' Pre-Season Dinner meeting to include sport specific issues. We hope the topics will be of interest to our enrolled membership. Keep in mind that even if you don't see an item on the agenda below, you may speak to whatever issue you have in mind during the Open Forum. So please join us for dinner (on the house!) and valuable information designed to get your winter season off to a great start. We look forward to meeting you!

### AGENDA

- Miaa/Game Officials' Committee Mission Statements
- 2003-2004 Contest Fees
- Game Officials' Education
- Basketball Mouthguard Guidelines
- Gymnastics Rule Changes
- Winter Track Certification Issues
- Ice Hockey One-Year Suspensions
- Officials' Open Forum

Please let us know if you are planning on attending by  
November 12th!

[Nhuntley@miaa.net](mailto:Nhuntley@miaa.net) or by calling Nancy @ 508-541-9817



# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual MIAA/MSSADA Sportsmanship Summit

"Celebrating a decade of sportsmanship!"

For the past nine years, an Annual Sportsmanship Summit has been held to honor and educate those who make sportsmanship a priority in their schools and constantly strive to improve the sports culture in Massachusetts. We hope to make this year's summit the biggest to date. Bring a team of representatives and help us celebrate the tenth anniversary of this event!

Wyndham Hotel - Westborough  
November 21, 2003  
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Highlights Include:**

- **Dorothy Franco-Reed**, *Athlete*  
*United States Olympic Team (1984)*
- **James Haugen**, *President*  
*National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)*
- **Dan Switchenko**, *Professor/Coach*  
*Eastern Connecticut State University*
- **Steve Burton**, *Sports Reporter*  
*WBZ-TV Channel 4 (Boston)*
- **MAPS**, *Massachusetts Alliance for the Promotion of Sportsmanship*
- **Sportsmanship Essay Contest**
- **Concurrent Workshops**
- **More Announcements to Follow**  
*Please check the MIAA website*  
*(www.miaa.net)*

## Who should attend?

School Administrators

Athletic Directors

Coaches

Student Leaders

Team Captains

Booster Clubs

Officials



Please return this registration form by  
November 14, 2003

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_