



MIAA GAME OFFICIALS WINTER '04-'05 NEWSLETTER

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From the Assistant Director

BILL MCGUIRK-----

The excitement (or disappointment) generated by the just-concluded Fall tournaments has yet to subside, and here we are jumping right in to the Winter season! While water cooler conversations on topics such as co-championships, tournament assignments, HS Superbowl sites, volleyball fees, and CORI checks linger, game officials are scurrying to see if last year's uniforms still fit, to prepare for sport rules refresher exams, and to finalize their winter season schedules.

What often slips off the radar screen during this hectic time is sufficient reflection on the Code of Ethics which should be the foundation of all our officiating activities this season---and future seasons. The MIAA Game Officials Committee recently voted to adopt a new code which is in the MIAA Blue Book and is printed in this newsletter for your review.

In light of the recent uproar on the national sport scene relative to steroid use and NBA player-fan criminal incidents, taking a moment or two to read and internalize the Code of Ethics for Contest Officials would be timely and appropriate.

I thank you for your dedication to your officiating avocation and for the tremendous service you provide for a schools and student athletes. Have a great season!

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

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FALL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is proud to recognize the 2004 Fall 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.

Cross Country:

Notre Dame (Hingham) – Girls

Martha's Vineyard - Girls and Boys

Burlington - Girls and Boys

Quabbin Regional - Girls

Field Hockey:

Shrewsbury - Division 1

Hamilton-Wenham - Division 2

Football:

Northampton - Western Mass.

Milford - Central Mass.

Soccer:

West Springfield - Division 1 Girls

Wachusett Regional - Division 1 Boys

Bishop Fenwick - Division 2 Girls

Belchertown -- Division 2 Boys

St. Mary's (Lynn) -- Division 3 Girls

Murdock -- Division 3 Boys

Volleyball:

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional - Division 1

Melrose - Division 2

Maimonides - Division 3

Gymnastics:

Gateway Regional

The MIAA stresses the importance of promoting good sportsmanship through both individual and team acts of sportsmanlike behavior. These teams have been recognized for demonstrating the highest level of good sportsmanship and deserve to be recognized for this honorable award.

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.

2004-05 Ice Hockey Rules Changes

Rules

Reference

6-17-b Clarifies present rule to make it more consistent with the high sticking rule.

6-28-c Revises rule to prevent unnecessary stoppages of play.

6-14-b Modifies rule to define situations that would require player disqualification.

6-14-c Modifies rule to define situations that would require player disqualification (the former rules [6-14-b and 6-14-c] used the term, "altercation." Both now have been changed to use the word, "fight.")

4-5-b Added that a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to a player who incurs five penalties, any combination of minors, majors or misconducts in the same game.

According to the 2003 High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the NFHS, ice hockey is played by 35,236 boys in 1,427 high schools. In addition, 6,628 girls play ice hockey in 405 high schools.



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.

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

Tie Scores in Wrestling Matches

Dec-01-2004:

At the request of the MIAA Wrestling Committee, the Board of Directors voted that matches that end in ties will be recorded as ties. The new National Federation 14-step procedure for breaking ties will not be utilized this Winter season.

BASKETBALL

"Effective with the 2007-08 high school basketball season, home jerseys are to be white, while visiting jerseys will remain a dark color. Rule 3-4-6 previously stated that light-colored home jerseys should be worn. However, as teams have taken greater liberties with this regulation, confusion has surfaced as home jerseys have begun to resemble visiting jerseys." [NFHS Press Release](#) (click here for entire article)

Rules

Reference:

- 1-5-2 Deletes the requirement for contrasting colored lines for the lane spaces/neutral zone and lane boundary lines.
- 1-13-2 Deletes the requirement for the coaching box line to contrast with the boundary lines.
- 3-4-6 Beginning in 2007-08, the home team will be required to wear white jerseys and the visiting team dark jerseys.
- 4-29 Expanded kicking rule to include intentionally striking the ball with any part of the leg or foot.
- 10-3-7d Expanded rule pertaining to obstructing an opponent's vision to include the player with the ball.
- 10-4-4 Added that bench personnel will be charged with a flagrant foul if they leave the confines of the bench when a fight *may* break out.

MIAA Game Officials Committee Survey

TO: MIAA Registered Game Officials Boards

FROM: Bill McGuirk, MIAA Game Officials Committee Liaison

RE: CORI (Criminal Offense Record Information) Checks

Background: The MIAA Board of Directors and the Game Officials Committee have discussed the issue of CORI checks of game officials on numerous occasions. While taking measures to ensure the safety of student athletes is the fundamental and unanimously accepted motivation of all participants in this dialogue, identifying the entity responsible for executing the CORI checks is a more difficult task.

For the purpose of gathering more information on the topic of CORI checks, the MIAA Game Officials Committee invites your participation in this dialogue by answering the following questions:

1. Does your game official's board currently conduct CORI Checks on current or prospective members?
2. If yes, please briefly describe the process: (use reverse side if necessary)
3. If no, was this a result of deliberate discussion on the CORI issue?
4. If no, what was the primary reason for not assuming the responsibility for CORI Checks?
5. Additional Comments on CORI Checks:

Respondent's Name (please print)

Respondent's Signature

Respondent's Title

Game Officials Board Name

Phone Number and/or E-mail Address

*****THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING*****

ATTENTION POLE VAULT CERTIFICATIONS!

Please go to our website to verify that your Outdoor Track Coach has updated their Pole Vault Certificate. Click on the link below for a complete list of certified pole vault coaches.

<http://www.miaa.net/PoleVaultCertification2005.PDF>

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