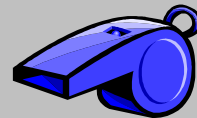




# MIAA GAME OFFICIALS WINTER 05-06 NEWSLETTER



WINTER EDITION 2005-06

From the Assistant Director  
Bill McGuirk

The Fall tournaments are now history and our first Nor'easter is undoubtedly right around the corner. MIAA State Champions are proudly displaying their trophies, "break-up" banquets are scheduled, and winter sport tryouts are winding down. Let the games begin! For many game officials, the uniform changes, but the whistle is a constant companion, and they look forward to finally moving indoors to warm up!

In this issue of the MIAA Winter Game Officials Newsletter hopefully you will note an outline of protocol in the event of dangerous conditions existing at a game site. While authored specifically for the sport of basketball by the Massachusetts State Basketball Officials Association (MSBOA), it certainly does have relevance to most sport venues. It should be stressed that every high school sport contest is a partnership between and among many stakeholders, athletes, coaches, administrators, spectators, and game officials. All constituents should work cooperatively to provide a safe environment for all concerned.

May this winter season be a successful, safe, and fulfilling one for all our dedicated high school student athletes, coaches, school administrators, spectators, and game officials. We appreciate your efforts as game officials to blend your knowledge of the rules with a firm-but-professional approach which you will bring to the many contests you will be officiating this winter.

GAME OFFICIALS COMMITTEE  
REPEALS "90% COMPENSATION"

At the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MIAA Game Officials Committee, the GOC voted to repeal the "90% Compensation" formula for game officials who are scheduled to work two consecutive contests at the same site.

This compensation formula, originally scheduled for implementation in all sports for the current 2005-2006 school year, was discussed at the first GOC meeting in September. In light of significant input from many sport officials boards, implementation was deferred until the 2006-2007 school year, with the intent to gather more information from MIAA sport committees and officials boards.

The original intent of the "90% Compensation" formula was to ensure that new and inexperienced officials would have the opportunity to be assigned to sub-varsity contests. But after hearing lengthy testimony at the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting from game officials' representatives to MIAA sport committees regarding the hardships this would cause due to the shortage and/or lack of availability of officials in many sports and in certain geographic regions, the committee voted to repeal the fee recommendation.

- *BMCG*

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

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## PROCEDURAL STEPS FOR DANGEROUS CONDITIONS (MSBOA)

A dangerous condition can be any foreign substance, material or object(s) which may come within the confines of the court or in contact with any players, officials, bench personnel and possibly even spectators. Officials need to be aware of not only keeping the playing surface clean and unobstructed within the boundary lines, but also outside the boundary lines where any player or official may need to stand.

1. Introduce yourself to the on-site administrator.
2. Ask the on-site administrator if there is any problem(s) that they are aware of concerning actual or possible dangerous conditions in their gymnasium.
3. Determine if people are allowed to walk across the court especially upon entering or exiting the gymnasium. Do they allow people to walk across the court at half time and inform them that during time outs while the game is being played no one is allowed to be on the court?
4. Do an inspection of the court and surrounding areas paying particular attention to the following:
  - a) Any type of debris or contaminant on the court.
  - b) Any objects hanging or suspended above the rim.
  - c) Padding around the backboard. Room along the boundary lines.

If a condition exist or is discoverable take all reasonable steps to remedy the problem. If all reasonable steps to remedy the condition have failed, the game should then be suspended or postponed. The school or league will determine whether the game is made up, not the officials.

If a dangerous condition occurs or is discoverable during the playing of the game, the game should be stopped immediately while all steps are taken to remedy the problem. The on-site administrator and both coaches should be informed as to what is occurring. Officials need to keep in mind, as well as remind the on-site administrators and coaches, that no game is so important that it needs to be played where any player, official or spectator could suffer any injury regardless if it is minor or life threatening as the result of a dangerous condition.

# Around the Rim



## Basketball Rule Clarifications for 2005-2006

- Shot Clock Rule implementation remains identical to last season. The MIAA Basketball Committee voted NOT to enforce the change in the NCAA Women's shot clock procedure (which called for a reset of the shot clock to 15 seconds, instead of 30, when the ball has been intentionally kicked by the defense with less than 15 seconds left on the shot clock). An intentionally kicked ball violation results in a reset of the shot clock to 30 seconds. **(See and carefully review Shot Clock reset and non-reset criteria at: <http://www.miaa.net/bskshotclock.pdf>)**
- **Disqualified Player criteria is clearly defined by NFHS Rule 4; Section 14; Article 1:**  
“ A disqualified player is one who is barred from further participation in the game because of having committed his/her fifth foul (personal and technical), two technical fouls or a flagrant foul.” If a disqualification occurs under this rule it results in a suspension from the next contest for that player and the referee MUST fill out the MIAA Student Contest Disqualification Form, provided by the site administrator----with **ONLY ONE EXCEPTION**. Per MIAA Handbook Rule 49.3, if the disqualification is for five (personal and technical) fouls, the form is NOT completed. It is a misconception that the technical fouls have to be of an unsportsmanlike nature (fighting, abusive language, etc.) for the Disqualification Forms to be filled out. Example: If A1 is assessed a technical foul for dunking in the warm-ups and later in the game also is assessed a technical foul for reaching across the boundary line and deflecting an in-bound pass, that player would be disqualified from further participation, the Student Contest Disqualification Form would be filled out and the player would be suspended from participation in the next scheduled contest.

- BMCG

# 2005-06 Winter Sport Rule Revisions

## Basketball

(click for all Basketball rule changes)

- The Basketball Committee voted 17-0-1 to waive the new NFHS rule requiring white uniforms for home teams until such time as each school has an opportunity to purchase new uniforms. (When new uniforms are purchased, home teams must wear white jerseys and the visiting team a dark colored jersey.)
- The Basketball Committee voted not to enforce the new NCAA Shot Clock requirement by a vote of 13-0-0. The Shot Clock procedure will remain the same as it was in past years.
- Note that 3 officials will be utilized throughout the 2005-06 MIAA Basketball Tournament at all levels of competition. Preference for assignments will be given to officials who have worked at least 10 regular season high school games for each tournament and gender when possible.
- Officials are requested to review and enforce the MIAA [mouthguard](#) and [coaching box](#) rules as posted on the MIAA web page.
- Basketball Observers will again be utilized to observe high school basketball games during the regular season. Of particular emphasis will be enforcement of the MIAA mouthguard and coaching box rules.

## Ice Hockey

(click for all Ice Hockey rule changes)

### NFHS Rule Change (regarding goalkeeper's pads)

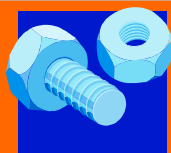
- "Protective padding attached to the back or forming a part of the goalkeeper's blocker glove shall not exceed 9 inches (22.86 cm) in width at any point, nor shall it exceed 17 inches (43.17 cm) in length. Protective padding attached to the back or forming a part of the goalkeeper's catching glove shall not exceed 9 inches (22.86 cm) in width at any point, nor shall it exceed 17 inches (43.17 cm) in length." – **Rule 3-3-3**

## Wrestling

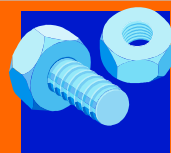
(click for all Wrestling rule changes)

- The 2005-06 Wrestling Tournament will include both an [Individual Tournament](#) and a [Team Tournament \(NEW\)](#).

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



## 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.

### 19<sup>th</sup> Annual MIAA Leadership training institute

(click for more details about this valuable program)

#### Learn Strategies for:

- Tobacco/Alcohol/Drugs
- Sportsmanship
- Community Service
- Leadership
- Citizenship

**Completion earns 40 PDP's (free) and 3 graduate credits through Endicott College for only \$150.**

## 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.

## Fall Sportsmanship Award winners

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is proud to recognize the 2005 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:** **Ludlow** - Boys  
**Melrose** - Girls and Boys

**Field Hockey:** **Stoughton** - Division 1  
**North Reading** - Division 2

**Football:** **Martha’s Vineyard**  
**Bay Path Regional**

**Soccer:** **Fitchburg**- Division 1 Girls  
**Attleboro** - Division 1 Boys  
**Mon. Mountain** – Div. 2 Girls  
**Hampshire Reg.** – Div. 2 Boys  
**Savio Prep.** - Division 3 Girls  
**Hopedale** - Division 3 Boys

**Volleyball:** **HS of Commerce** - Division 2  
**Upper Cape Cod Tech.** – Div. 3

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.

## 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)**

# 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.

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