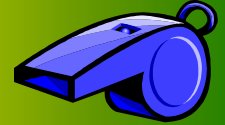




MIAA GAME OFFICIALS

WINTER 2006-07 NEWSLETTER



From the Assistant Director...

It is difficult to believe this is the Winter Season and that we are really in New England, given the 60 degree temperatures we have been recently experiencing--in the middle of December?!

This season finds many of you shifting gears from soccer or field hockey to basketball or ice hockey, or other multi-sport combinations. I never cease to be amazed at how many of our officials work two, or three seasons. Be assured that the MIAA appreciates the work you do and especially the contributions you make to maintaining high standards of sportsmanship for our student athletes and coaches.

As we enjoy this holiday season, I would just like to share with you some observations, concerns, clarifications, that have collected either on my desk or in my consciousness during the Fall season....

- I witnessed an exceptional pre-game locker room conference lead by the referee of a Superbowl Playoff crew, with his colleagues—which resulted in a “perfect game” on the field!
- A soccer referee in a state semi-final at Cawley Stadium in Lowell controlled a potentially volatile environment by a great balance of pro-active verbal cautions, foul calls, and cards when it became necessary.
- Would you believe that some game officials and coaches violate the Chemical Health Rule with their use of smokeless tobacco at the game site?

- The MIAA Game Officials Committee recommends game fees for regular season play, and sets fees for tournament games.
- The MIAA is not a bargaining agent for any local game officials board in any sport.
- Local schools and/or leagues determine length of periods for sub-varsity competition in within parameters allowed by MIAA and/or existing sport rules.
- The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) included an “Action Plan” for handling apparent concussions in their sport rule books this year, which created major concerns among game officials who thought that it was a prescriptive protocol for game officials who are not trained to evaluate, or treat medical conditions. The NFHS has clarified that this Action Plan was for School Administrators and their staffs, not game officials.
- First impressions, whether it be the cleanliness/condition of your uniform, your initial greeting/handshake with site administrators, or the professionalism with which you conduct a pre-game conference with captains and/or coaches, are so crucial to your “success” in any given game.
- It should not matter whether or not it will be the second technical, or the subsequent caution resulting in disqualification, or whether it will be the misconduct penalty that will impact a team’s tournament eligibility, make the call!

Best wishes to all our officials and families for a peaceful and fulfilling holiday season, and a sport season of “perfect games”!

-Bill McGuirk

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

Nate Bonneau: nbonneau@miaa.net

(508) 541-9807

Bill McGuirk: bmcguirk@miaa.net

(508) 541-9810

NFHS / ASEP Officials Education Program Expands



The Officials Education Program currently consists of eight online courses: the sport-neutral Officiating Principles course and sport-specific Officiating Methods courses for baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, track & field and cross country, and now, wrestling. Officiating Volleyball will be released in spring 2007.

The courses each include a textbook and CD-ROM, providing a comprehensive, interactive learning experience focusing on NFHS-approved mechanics combined with the convenience of structured online learning. The CD for the wrestling course contains live action video of on-the-mat scenarios faced by wrestling officials.

These courses are excellent opportunities for game officials' boards to supplement and enhance their training programs for their membership and/or for individual officials to independently strengthen and expand their knowledge base of mechanics and rule interpretations.

Check it out! For information on ASEP sport education courses and resources, visit www.ASEP.com.



2006-07 Winter Sport Rule Changes

Basketball

(click for all Basketball rule changes)

1. The MIAA will continue to administer the Shot Clock as they have since the adoption of the Shot Clock Rule many years ago. [Click here](#) for a link to the MIAA Basketball Shot Clock Information.
2. The MIAA basketball mouthguard rule remains in effect. The MIAA continues to require that all players wear mouthguards. Please help by enforcing this rule. [Click here](#) for a link to the MIAA Mouthguard Rule and Guidelines.
3. NFHS has provided us with this clarification for the Hair-Control Device and Headbands Rule: [Click here](#)

Gymnastics

(click for all Gymnastics rule changes)

Rule 1 Safety Collar - Manufactured mat that goes around the front and side of a vaulting board. It is the responsibility of each team to provide the safety collar for its own gymnasts.

Rationale: The safety collar is required for all round off-entry vaults. It is important to clarify who is responsible for providing this mat.

2-1-5: Judges shall not use cell phones or other electronic devices in the competitive area.

Rationale: This rule change removes a potential interference beyond the control of the competitor during her performance.

Wrestling

(click for all Wrestling rule changes)

- Each state association shall develop and utilize a weight-management program that includes a specific gravity not to exceed 1.025; a body fat assessment no lower than seven percent for males/12 percent for females; and a monitored weekly weight loss plan not to exceed 1.5 percent a week.
- The 275-pound class has been increased to 285 pounds.
- A match begins when the proper wrestler reports to the scorer's table in dual matches.
- A wrestler who properly reports to the scorer's table for a dual match cannot be withdrawn or replaced without causing the individual to be disqualified and the weight class forfeited.
- The overtime shall consist of a one-minute sudden victory period; if no scoring occurs, two 30-second tiebreakers shall be utilized; and if the score remains tied a 30-second ultimate tiebreaker will be competed.
- Hand(s) to the face and/or raking the eyes have been added to the listing of illegal holds.
- An exception has been added indicating that the match will not be stopped to penalize the offensive wrestler for stalling when the defensive wrestler has come to the standing position.

For all other Fall sport rule revisions,
please [CLICK HERE](#)

(<http://www.miaa.net/sport-rule-revisions.htm>)

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 – 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.

Just a Reminder

All game officials must be enrolled in a timely manner in order to be eligible to officiate MIAA winter tournament contests. Registration information has already been mailed to board secretaries as well as posted on the Game Officials’ section of the MIAA website:

www.miaa.net/game_officials_main_page.htm

Enrolling all officials in a timely manner will help ensure the best officials will be considered for post-season play. Please provide email addresses whenever possible so the MIAA can more effectively communicate with its officials.

Click on the link below to view the list of Presidents and Secretaries of those boards that are enrolled with the MIAA. If you are interested in becoming an official, please contact the Board nearest you to learn how to become a game official.

[BOARD CONTACT INFO](#)

Secretaries & Presidents

[ENROLLED
GAME OFFICIALS](#)

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

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.

**MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

33 Forge Parkway
Franklin, MA 02038

Phone: 508-541-7997

Fax: 508-541-9888

email: miaa@miaa.net

www.miaa.net