

GAME OFFICIALS' NEWSLETTER



Published by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

WINTER EDITION
2001-2002

Advocating BAD Sportsmanship

Message from the Assistant Director

The MIAA and Game Officials share an important responsibility ensuring that High School Sports are played at the highest quality possible and that proper attention is given to the sportsmanship of the participants. Unsportsman-like conduct destroys the purpose of the game. It is hard to believe that good sports are winners and that bad sports are losers. That is a placebo and we are deceiving ourselves with a false sense of security that does not stand-alone when caught up in the game.

A close working relationship must exist between those who officiate the game and those who are responsible for sponsoring the games. This relationship is a pre-requisite for any games to be played.

As always, we wish every game official a smooth and successful winter sports season. When things go right we all look good. When things do not go smoothly, we all share the flood of negativity that is directed our way. That is the way it happens.

Game officials are again reminded that the MIAA is here to help and whatever we can do, we stand ready. Game officials refuse to be intimidated by players, coaches, or fans and should be concerned only with seeing that the players on the court/track/pool receive their best effort.

The MIAA wishes to express gratitude to those officials who respond to our request for input in this publication. We welcome your involvement and recommendations.



**PLEASE READ THE RULE
CHANGE PAGES ATTACHED
TO THIS NEWSLETTER!!!**

Not too long ago I attended a sports tournament that was meant to be a hockey tournament. Unfortunately a few parents let their frustrations build up and in a very public way voiced their opinions of the quality of the referees.

There was little left out of their complaints, "how's it feel to blow a game!" a man shouted as two referees tried to make their way through a crowd of people. A woman added her two cents worth about how stupid the referees were, just as they escaped to their locker room.

During this same tournament, the tempers of some parents reached the point where the police had to be called because some people were very afraid that a serious fight would break out among the spectators.

The easy thing to do would be to blame someone else – perhaps any body from that group. This would be false, however. Our groups cannot be immune from yelling at referees, umpires, or coaches. The behavior simply carries over to the athletes competing in these games.

When mothers and fathers blame defeats on the officials, they are telling their children that they do not have to be held accountable for their performance. These parents are saying that outside forces have more control over their success and failure than the play of the team. Is that the message our children need to hear?

Another disturbing message those parents sent to every young person within earshot was "you don't have to respect authority." That is the wrong message to be given out. Parents need to recognize that yelling at officials, coaches and players is wrong. What they should be hearing is



that the officials are human and they can make mistakes. They have to hear that mistakes are a normal part of a season. Officials are going to miss a few calls.

What a lesson these athletes could acquire. A life lesson of competitive sports - that sometimes even your best is not good enough. The best team doesn't always win and sometimes in losing, you gain character that will be beneficial in the future.

Let's avoid the temptation to scream at the officials. Let's remember why our children play sports to begin with. Let's let them have fun.



ENROLLING MEMBERS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION

“One football organization in Denver set out to gather fresh faces a few years ago, and took the following steps toward starting a beginners course in the summertime:

1. Announcements on a radio sports talk show.
2. Postings in health clubs and recreation centers.
3. Notices to assignors of softball and little league umpires.
4. Announcements in major newspapers and in local weeklies. A want ad in the employment sections of same papers.
5. Notes on bulletin boards in supermarkets.

To reach the market you may have to do some legwork and you may have to generate an attractive handout with an announcement for a

time and place for orientation or a class – make it a freebie, if possible.

It took a concentrated effort, but the response was startling. Forty-five people showed up, including three women, and the room had to be changed from a classroom in a junior high school to a small auditorium. In that situation, legwork worked. Don't wait for new recruits to come to you. Go out and find them.”

Jerry Grunski is a News Net Contributor – “This can be used in any organization.”



Expectations of Officials

There are several things that officials must do if they are to be met with confidence and trust. These are essential when handling the game.

1. Accept role in an unassuming manner. Showboating and over officiating are not acceptable.
2. Maintain confidence and poise, controlling the contest from start to finish.
3. Know the rules thoroughly and abide by established code of ethics.
4. Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before contest.
5. Never exhibit emotions or anger with participants and coaches when enforcing rules.

All of these efforts are one big step in enforcing the Mission Statement: “The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity should permeate all interscholastic athletics in our community. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior, which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Our athletic fields should be the laboratory to produce good sports reflecting ‘fair play’ in every area of life.”

The MIAA case for sportsmanship within the definition of management is to handle direct with a degree of skill. Game management can be defined as the ability to handle game situations with efficiency.



12 QUESTIONS

Rate your officiating performance by asking yourself “Did I”

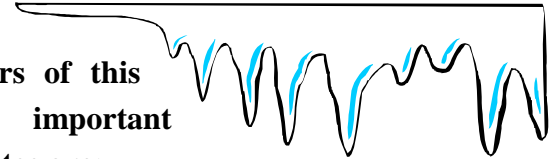
1. Arrive at the playing site on time?
2. Dress smartly and appropriately?
3. Conduct or participate in a beneficial pregame conference?
4. Look confident without appearing over-confident?
5. Give the proper signals in an appropriate manner?
6. Develop and maintain genuine teamwork with my partners?
7. Maintain proper positioning?
8. React appropriately to insults or profanity directed at others or me?
9. Place my hands on a player’s person for any reason?
10. Treat all participants with the appropriate amount of respect?
11. Make every effort to defuse potentially volatile situations?
12. Leave the field in the company of my partners?

* Dr. Roy Askins

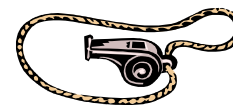
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Game Officials Committee is on Tuesday, November 27, 2001. The meeting starts at 12:30 PM and is a regular committee meeting followed by a pre-season dinner meeting at 5:30 PM. The meeting is open to all registered game officials.

The members of this very important committee are:



Distr.	Name	School/Home
A	Richard Ruth, AD	Lynn Class.
C	Bob Denise, AP	Mashpee
C	Bill Fallon, AD	Foxboro HS
D	Rogério Ramos, Prin.	Diman Reg.
E	Peter Antonellis, AP	Murdock Reg.
E	John Gibbons, AD	Clinton
F	Roland Joyal, Prin.	Chicopee
F	Michael Deary, AD	Longmeadow
G	Margaret Downing, Prin	St. Joseph
G	John Quinlan, AD	St. Joseph
H	Rick Mazzei, AD	Malden Cath.
H	Carl Ostrowski, Prin.	Hampshire Reg.
	Don Fredericks, Coach	Braintree
	Bill Loftus, Official	Worcester
	Bernie LaFortune, Official	Gardner
	David Magee, Official	Tewksbury
	James Rondeau, Official	S. Dennis
	Louis Massoia, MASC	Agawam
	Peter Desy, MASC	W. Boylston
	Thomas Polito, Jr., MASC	Dedham
	Robert D’Antonia, MASC	Reading
	Aldo Cecchi, MASS	Blackstone-Mill.
	Shawn McDonald, MASC	N. Dartmouth



A few years ago, the Game Officials Committee adopted a Game Officials’ Committee Statement of Expanded Mission. This statement is repeated below:

“The MIAA Game Officials’ Committee is responsible to provide leadership and service to MIAA member school and enrolled game officials. The comprehensive jurisdiction of the committee includes recommending fees,

promoting sportsmanship, integrity, and ethics; and responding to issues germane to the relationship of game officials and interscholastic athletics.”

The winter pre-season meeting is held at 6:00 PM on the same day (5:30 PM Dinner). This meeting is an informal gathering of officials and MIAA staff. Any comments or suggestions are accepted in the spirit that they are given. Winter officials please mark this date:

- WHAT? Winter Pre-Season Meeting
- WHEN? Tuesday, November 27, 2001
- TIME? 5:30 PM (Dinner)
- WHERE? MIAA Headquarters

KEEP US UPDATED

Please notify the MIAA office of address changes or changes in officers on your respective Boards. Your assistance in this matter ensures the accuracy of our records in our publications. It only takes a minute, but it will allow you to receive vital information, as it becomes available. *Any changes please notify Nancy Huntley at the MIAA office at 508-541-9817 or email: nhuntley@miaa.net.*

MIAA FORMS

The appendix of the Game Officials’ Handbook includes a number of forms to assist game officials. Please note that these forms can be downloaded from our web site: www.miaa.net. The MIAA strongly encourages the use of these forms. The taunting policy, printed on a small card and to be read before competitions, is enclosed with this newsletter. The use of the

suspension and exclusion forms should help to deter unsportsmanlike behavior. The “Sportsmanship, The Only Way to Win” form is used to report and acknowledge good sportsmanship.

JUST A REMINDER

All Game Officials must be enrolled before the first game of the season in order to officiate MIAA tournament games. Contact Nancy Huntley at 508-541-9817 or email: nhuntley@miaa.net with questions, comments, or concerns regarding enrollment.

“YOU HAVE TO LOVE IT WHEN THEY BOO”



This is the title of a recent video from the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO). This twelve-minute video is available to any group by requesting it from the MIAA office. The video celebrates the profession and the men and women who officiate. The video targets individuals who are thinking about becoming game officials. It is a positive presentation and tells why officials love what they do. The film has an “intent to present a fair and informative piece that will allow officiating organizations an opportunity to show what the profession is all about.”

Hosted by three-time Super Bowl referee and former NASO chair, Jim Tunney, it features interviews with officiating superstars including Jerry Markbreit, Ed T. Rush, Ed Hightower, Randy Christal, and Red Cashion.

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

