



GAME OFFICIALS' WINTER NEWSLETTER

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WINTER 2002-2003



2nd ANNUAL BASKETBALL & ICE HOCKEY VARSITY COACHES AND OFFICIALS PRE-SEASON SUMMIT



The Second Annual Basketball & Ice Hockey Coaches and Officials' Summit took place Sunday, October 20th at the Westborough Wyndham Hotel. Dick Neal,

Executive Director of the MIAA, opened the Summit. Sherry Bryant, MIAA Assistant Director, then demonstrated what was available to help coaches and officials on the MIAA web page.

Bob Norton, Woburn High School Principal, was the keynote speaker. Mr. Norton spoke of the guiding principals of high school athletics and the responsibility of both coach and official in providing positive role models for our young student athletes.

Sessions focused on the theme of teacher-coach and the role of the game official in partnering with coaches in the educational mission of the MIAA.

Basketball participants addressed the 5 issues most often noted by coaches and officials during the 2002 Summit. They were:

- Should the coaching box be re-evaluated? Suggested strategies were discussed for ensuring compliance.
- What is the proper place for coaches to speak to officials regarding calls during the game?
- Should there be a required pre-season meeting of coaches and officials to discuss rules, interpretations, and how rules will be applied?
- Should there be continued emphasis and enforcement from administration on MIAA sportsmanship policies regarding coaches, fans and players? What kinds of things have you seen that are effective?
- Should coaches have input as to the assignment of game officials? Who should be consulted?

Specific recommendations which were unanimously recommended by ice hockey coaches and officials for immediate implementation include:

1. Hockey officials visit locker room each game to provide pre-game meeting instructions to all student-athletes.
2. Adoption of a three-person officiating crew; two referees and a linesman. Western Massachusetts will conduct a pilot during the 2003 Tournament.
3. MIAA Rules 71.12 and 71.16 be deleted for 2002-2003 season. This recommendation will be considered by the MIAA Board of Directors at the December 3rd meeting. The rationale for such a change is to encourage officials to make the misconduct call; examples – hitting from behind, hitting after the whistle. This will remove excuses surrounding the impact of these penalties on Tournament eligibility.

The summit ended with the combined hope of a successful upcoming winter season.

SPORTS MEMBERSHIP

HONOR ROLL OF MEMBER SCHOOLS

Contest Suspension statistics for the 2001-2002 academic year identified 122 member schools as those without a single student or coach disqualification. These schools are listed on our web site in the left hand column under Awards & Honor Roll.

We want to extend our congratulations to the student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, and school administrators of these schools.

The number of schools on our honor roll continues to grow. The MIAA is striving to have 100% of our member schools on this honor roll list.

A GOOD OFFICIAL

An official may have excellent mechanics and style, but if you lack the ability to deal effectively with coaches, which is a major part of game management, the chances of being an effective official are greatly dismissed. Here are a few suggestions for you to consider:

- Exude confidence without being cocky.
- Have the ability to disarm the coach and diffuse a situation. Don't embarrass a coach in front of student athletes.
- Allow players to establish a flow, and officiate accordingly.
- Make calls when you are sure of the situation.
- Don't be overly officious in applying the rules.
- Have the courage to make the unpopular call, and don't feel the need to justify it.
- Do not predispose to favor one team over another.
- Be approachable, not militaristic.

These are just a few suggestions for you to follow to improve your officiating skills.

OFFICIALS

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN! www.miaa.net



Please check our web site. Welcome are constructive comments regarding the things you may find useful to be able to access.

In left hand column:

Click on "Game Officials" & surf!

Click on "Sports" and check on your specific sport for updated information, related links, check on rule changes.

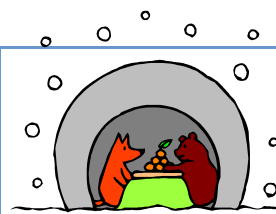
Order rule books. Download forms.

Board secretaries should send us information if your board will be hosting an officials' training or clinic in the near future or any information you think would be useful to your fellow colleagues.

We want to improve our sharing of information and to keep lines of communication flowing.

Feel free to email your suggestions/comments to nhuntley@miaa.net

CHECK LIST FOR OFFICIALS!



There are always things that each official must address before the contest begins. The following may help with your "game day" preparation:

- ◆ Inspect player equipment to insure proper use/safety. Inspect player uniforms. Inspect playing surface.
- ◆ Identify the contest-site manager. Ask where she/he will be stationed before, during, and after the game. If you should need a problem to be solved, you will know where to turn for support.
- ◆ Be sure that authorized sideline personnel, photographers, and visitors are at a safe distance from the area of play. In baseball/softball be very sure guests/photographers remain in designated areas. In basketball/football make sure that cheerleaders and the players bench is kept clear of the playing surface.
- ◆ Be prepared to deal properly with potential and actual player injuries. If a trainer is required to be present make sure they are there. When a participant appears to be injured, you should work with your partner(s) to do what needs to be done to prevent further injury.
- ◆ If you temporarily stop a contest for any problem, be sure that the problem is satisfactorily corrected before resuming. Sometimes during a game, you will have to temporarily stop it due to a hazardous condition. For example: in basketball the floor may get wet when two players dive for a ball, in football, a piece of turf may be torn away from the field. The best method is to stop the contest as soon as you can and call the condition to the attention of the home coach or to the contest site administrator.
- ◆ Be aware of potential problems which may develop during the contest. Use the same reasonable judgment you use to make your calls. Err on the side of safety. You and your partner(s) should agree that if something unusual occurs during the contest, you will stop the game, confer and then make a reasonable decision as to how to handle the situation.
- ◆ Do a quick review of the rules and be prepared to enforce the rules of the game to maintain proper control. Be especially careful to call the fouls and take appropriate disciplinary action against players who are conducting themselves in a manner which may cause injury to another player. If a fight does occur, make a mental note of what is occurring so you can later assess the appropriate penalties.

Keep this list with you and use it during your pre-game conference.



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OFFICIALS

As an official, your behavior both on and off the field has a big impact on how the entire officiating community is perceived. That is where a code of conduct can come in handy. This version of the "Code of Conduct for Officials" has been in the making for over a year and a half.

The "Code of Conduct for Officials" is the first part of the labors of the Officiating Development Alliance (ODA), a group of individuals representing various officiating organizations, such as NFHS, NCAA, ASA, USFF, NFL, NBA, MLB, and NASO.

The ODA encourages anyone interested in adopting or discussing the "Code of Conduct for Officials" to feel free to use the following:

- 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 that 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 that can compromise the perceived impartiality of officiating must be avoided.
- 8 Officials shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally; shall dress neatly and appropriately to, during and from a contest; 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. That 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 sports contests, 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.

KEEP US UPDATED

Please notify the MIAA Office and your Game Official Board of address changes along with any changes of email, home or work phone numbers. Your assistance in this matter ensures the accuracy of our records and in our publications. It only takes a minute, but it will keep you receiving vital information as it becomes available. **ANY CHANGES, PLEASE NOTIFY NANCY AT THE MIAA OFFICE AT 508-541-9817 OR BY FAX AT 508-541-9888 OR VIA EMAIL AT nhuntley@miaa.net.**

PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO WE CAN KEEP YOU UPDATED!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Game Officials' Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2002
1:00 P.M.

At the MIAA Office, Franklin, MA
Winter Game Officials' Pre-Season Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2002
Buffet at 5:30 PM
Meeting at 6:00 PM
MIAA Office, Franklin, MA

This meeting is open to all enrolled game officials. A flyer is attached with more information concerning this meeting.

Please register by November 12th if you are planning on attending by calling Nancy at the MIAA Office at 508-541-9817 or email: nhuntley@miaa.net.

The Spring Game Officials Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, March 24, 2003.



PLEASE BROWSE THROUGH THE TWO FLYERS ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER.

THESE ARE JUST TWO OF THE UPCOMING MEETINGS WE ARE OFFERING.

BOTH OF THESE MEETINGS COULD BE OF INTEREST TO GAME OFFICIALS.

MORE INFORMATION AND MEETING FLYERS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE.

9TH ANNUAL SPORTSMANSHIP SUMMIT

November 22, 2002
Wyndham Hotel, Westboro, MA
8:30 AM – 2:15 PM

This summit is geared to the promotion of sportsmanship in high school sports.

“Sportsmanship doesn’t just happen. It must be modeled.”

A flyer is attached with more information concerning this meeting.

N.A.S.O.

National Association of Sports Officials

Our Next National Conference
will be held in
Portland, Oregon

From June 21-23, 2003

Host site: Portland Marriott



MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

33 Forge Parkway
Franklin, MA 02038
Phone: 508-541-7997 Fax: 508-541-9888
Email: nhuntley@miaa.net



MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

GAME OFFICIALS'
PRE-SEASON DINNER MEETING

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

Buffet Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Meeting 6:00 p.m.



MIAA Office Franklin, MA

These meetings are arranged so that there is a free flow of ideas, suggestions, and discussion of problems. Come share your experiences with us!

Please let us know you are coming by November 12, 2002

THE GAME OFFICIALS' PRE-SEASON MEETING

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

Buffet Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Name (please print)

Sport/Board

Address

Phone

Email (please print clearly)

Return to MIAA Attn.: Nancy Huntley
33 Forge Parkway, Franklin, MA 02038
Fax: 508-541-9888 Phone: 508-541-9817

**Massachusetts Interscholastic
Athletic Association, Inc.**

**33 Forge Parkway
Franklin, MA 02038**

**Phone: 508-541-7997
Fax: 508-541-9888
E-mail: miaa@miaa.net**

Directions to the MIAA office – Franklin, MA

From the Mass Pike: Get off at exit 11A - Route 495. Follow directions below for from the north.

From the North: Follow Route 495 south to Exit 17 (Franklin/Bellingham) Route 140 (north). At the end of the exit ramp take a right. Follow Route 140 for approximately 1 mile going through 1 traffic light and past the train station. Take the first left after the train station into Forge Park. The MIAA is the first entrance on the left.

From the South: Follow Route 495 north to Exit 17 (Franklin/Bellingham) Route 140. At the top of the exit ramp take a left. Follow Route 140 for approximately 1 mile going through 2 traffic lights and past the T station. Take the first left after the train station into Forge Park. The MIAA is the first entrance on the left.

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

9th Annual Sportsmanship summit

November 22, 2002
Wyndham Hotel, 5400 Computer Drive,
Westborough, MA
8:30 AM – 2:15 PM



Highlights

- Peter Roby, Director, Northeastern University Center for the Study of Sport in Society
- Scott Blanchard, National Federation President
- Steve Burton, WBZ-TV
- Jeffrey Long, MIAA President
- Jo-Jo White, Boston Celtics
- Joe Cummings, Boston Breakers, GM
- George Selleck, Ph.D, author, former Basketball All-American, college referee
- District Sportsmanship Awards
- Sportsmanship Essay Contest Presentation and Awards
- Captain's Workshop: Dan Switchenko and pro athletes
- Concurrent Workshops

Who Should Attend...

- ◆ Administrators
- ◆ Athletic Director
- ◆ Coaches
- ◆ Game Officials
- ◆ Booster Clubs
- ◆ Captains

Special Update: **MAPS**
Massachusetts Alliance to Promote Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship doesn't just happen. It must be modeled.



Reserve Now!
See back for registration

9th Annual Sportsmanship Summit Registration

November 22, 2002
Wyndham Hotel, Westboro

The conference fee is designed for a **high school team of 5** and costs **\$200**. Any team of **less than 5 or more than 5** may register for **\$50 each**. (includes workshops, speakers, continental breakfast, luncheon and materials)

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:30 Opening General Session
- 9:30 District Sportsmanship Awards and Essay Award Presentation
- 10:30 Concurrent Sessions
- 11:30 Second General Session - "MAPS" Program - *Steve Burton, WBZ-TV*
- 12:30 Third General Session - *Scott Blanchard, National Federation President*
- 1 p.m. Luncheon

**MIAA Sportsmanship Summit
Return Registration by November 16, 2002**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ **Fax** _____

Email _____

Names of persons attending (Please designate if students) _____

PO.# _____

Check # _____

Total \$ _____

Return to: MIAA, 33 Forge Parkway, Franklin, MA 02038, or fax: 508-541-9888

Cancellation policy: Cancellations received up to 72 hours before the Summit will be honored. If you do not cancel and do not attend, you are responsible for full payment.