



NEWS

Building the Future Through Athletics

MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dick Neal

6-1 23rd Annual Business Meeting

The Association conducted its annual meeting at the Milford Radisson on April 5th. Three hundred and twenty-five delegates from 189 MIAA member high schools registered for the professional and business aspects of the meeting.

During the afternoon business meeting the Assembly voted (99-53) to reject an amendment that would have increased the number of athletic directors on the Board of Directors. Also rejected (by a vote of 146-15) was an amendment that would have permitted mail-in ballots for annual and special meetings. Rejected also (by a vote of 136-19) was an amendment that would have increased membership dues to support member school principals' registration at annual meetings.

The membership also advised against a proposal to modify the penalties associated with the chemical health rule (by a vote of 77-69). Support (by a vote of 115-34) was given to a rule change proposal that would permit a principal to designate an assistant principal or the athletic director to carry forward eligibility appeals before the Eligibility Review Board or Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council. The latter vote will be reported to the MIAC, which will take final action on the proposal in May.

By a vote of 112-37, the Assembly rejected a proposal that would bind votes whenever the Assembly voted upon a proposed rule change.

The membership expressed its appreciation and commendation to Robert Chrusz (John Young Award), Nancy Martens, and Bruce Hutchins who were singularly recognized with the Distinguished Service Awards.

The professional aspect of the day included sessions on: violence in sports and good

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sportsmanship; activities and programs provided by the Association's Wellness staff; consideration for providing a process for appealing contest disqualifications for unsportsmanlike behavior; and concern regarding court interference with association eligibility standards.

During the business meeting the membership also elected approximately 300 school leaders to serve within the Association's governance structure.

6-2 Violence In Sports – Board Recommendations

The MIAA Board of Directors recommends that school principals consider including in their student handbooks a section on behaviors expected of student athletes and students who attend athletic events. The Board is aware that most student handbooks refer to "fighting" as an act leading to school suspension. To further encourage proper behavior at athletic events, the Board recommends that the principals apply the school suspension consequence to student-athletes and students attending athletic events who engage in fighting. Just as school rules apply to other activities conducted on or off campus (e.g. a prom), standards governing behavior should be applied to those attending athletic events, whether they are conducted on or off the high school campus.

6-3 Court Interference and Suspension of Tournaments

The Board of Directors continues the discussion that drew attention of the membership during the recent Annual Meeting. Those within the Association membership concerned about this matter have seen judges repeatedly set aside eligibility rulings and place ineligible teams into Association sponsored tournaments. During its most recent meeting, the Board voted (11-2) to notify the membership that the Board during its August meeting would consider adopting a policy that would have the Association suspend any tournament that was affected by a court issued temporary restraining order. (As a matter of clarity, the Board has no intention to do anything but provide the least possible impact should this policy be adopted. Specifically if the court order affected the Division I North Boys' Basketball Tournament, then that would be the only tournament to be suspended.)

Following discussions on this subject over very many months, the Board agrees in principal with

the notion of stopping tournament play until the Association has a fair opportunity to respond to the plaintiff's complaint. (Again as a matter of clarification, the Board decision would not cause tournament suspension until full trial occurred many months after the initial complaint, but rather would provide the Association a fair opportunity to represent its position.) So very often the Association has no prior notice of judicial proceedings, or such short notice that proper preparation for the Association defense is impractical.

6-4 Eligibility of "Non-Traditional" Students

Member school principals and others with any form of athletic eligibility certification responsibility are reminded that it must be ascertained before a student is allowed to participate in athletics that he/she fulfills, and is able to fulfill, all athletic eligibility requirements. If you are not absolutely certain as to how a non-traditional education program affects the athletic eligibility of a student, then you must call the Association office for clarification. Students who are taking course work off the high school campus must be satisfying all of the tenets of the academic eligibility rule. They also must be under the supervision and jurisdiction of the member high school principal, which assures that principal will be aware of that student's attendance and academic progress in those off-campus academic endeavors. The MIAA member school principal must have clear authority to suspend the student from both on-campus and off-campus courses. In all cases, the student being evaluated must be eligible for and scheduled to receive the MIAA member school diploma. In addition, the student must not be eligible to participate athletically at the non-traditional site.

6-5 Amateurism Update

The NCAA has chosen to delay its spring vote to at least October. The original proposals to deregulate amateur standards have been revised to: exclude the sport of basketball; eliminate the possibility of compensation to high school students if that sport is offered in the high school; and eliminate the possibility of education expenses during the high school years. These changes are significant, and in direct response to the strong opposition to the NCAA plan voiced by high school leaders across the nation.

6-6 Board Approves Time-Out Modification for Boys' Lacrosse

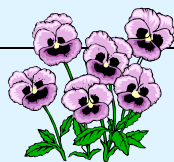
At the recommendation of the MIAA Lacrosse Committee the Board has voted, effective Tuesday, May 8, that "In a live ball situation, time-outs may be called only by the team in possession while the ball is in the offensive half of the field." This is the NCAA rule that Boys' Lacrosse has followed for many years. This vote by the Board replaces the National Federation rule which allows time-out to be called by the offensive team which has the ball anywhere on the field. Between now and Tuesday May 8th, the two competing schools will agree as to which time-out rule will be in force for that game. On, and after, May 8th there will be no choice. The modified rule, as stated above will be used.

6-7 New Member Schools Accepted Conditionally

An Association membership welcome to Cape Cod Academy in Osterville, Fenway High School in Boston, The Leadership Charter School in Springfield, New Mission High School in Boston, and Sturgis Charter School in Hyannis. Membership acceptance is contingent upon the Principal and Athletic Director of each of these schools attending the August 15th MIAA Rules Workshop. All member school principals and athletic directors are encouraged to attend this annual workshop as well.

6-8 Annual Summer Workshop

If you are a principal or athletic director who has not attended a summer workshop or fall district workshop in the last three years, then you should plan to join me on the morning of Wednesday, August 15. Click [HERE](#) to access the agenda/registration form. Kindly consider committing yourself now to these few hours in August before the opportunity escapes you. Attendance should help prepare you for a year free of athletic controversies. Given increasing evidence that responsible school leaders are not clear about the application or interpretation of some Association rules, it would be well to attend this summer workshop.



6-9 Athlete Physical – Good Only 365 Days

School and athletic leaders are again reminded that the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee insists that the annual physical examination rule limits the length of physicians' certification of well being to one year from the date the physical was administered and the physical eligibility certified by a medical professional as described in the rule. The athlete must be seen and examined within 365 days of any athletic participation.

6-10 Lightning Tips

The following has been gleaned from a combination of the Vermont Principals' Association's policy and a publication of the Texas Medical Association Committee on Sports Medicine.

The temperature inside a lightning bolt may reach 55,000 degrees Fahrenheit which is five times hotter than the surface of the sun.

1. When thunder is heard or lightning is seen, students and spectators must leave the area of play and go inside.
2. Wait at least 30 minutes after a thunder and lightning storm is past before resuming outside activity.
3. When in doubt, err on the side of caution.
4. Stay away from individual trees, lone objects, standing pools of water and open fields.
5. Avoid the tallest object in the area. Do not take shelter under a single tall tree.
6. If there is no safe shelter within a reasonable distance, crouch in a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or in a dry ditch. Crouching with only your feet touching the ground and keeping your feet close together, wrap your arms around your knees and lower your head to minimize your body surface area. Do not lie flat.
7. Pay more attention to the lightning threat than the rain. It need not be raining for lightning to strike; lightning can strike far from the rain shaft.
8. Do not stand next to light poles.
9. Get out of metal stadiums. Get away from wire fences, railings, and other metal structures as they can act as electrical conductors.

6-11 League Changes

Harwich High School will leave the Cape and Islands League to join the South Shore League in the Pilgrim Conference, effective with the 2001 fall season.

Chatham High School of the Cape and Islands League will join the Mayflower Conference, effective with the 2001 fall season.

6-12 Diversity Task Force Progress

Since the Board of Directors voted this past winter to authorize the President to appoint members to a Task Force on Diversity, the Committee already has provided some product and direction for the benefit of the Association, its member schools, and student-athletes. The following men and women are serving the Association as members of this Task Force.

Mr. Michael Contompasis, Chairman,
Chief Operating Officer, Boston Public Schools

Mr. Curtis S. Collins Jr.
Retired Principal, Cohasset High School

Dr. James Cokkinias
Principal, Ludlow High School

Roger Dowd, Esquire

Mr. John Grondin
Principal, Bourne High School

Ms. Alice MacInnis
Athletic Director, Melrose High School

Mr. Ricardo Gomes
Athletic Director, Carver High School

Ms. Patricia Gonzalez
Athletic Director, Ursuline Academy

Mr. Al Holland
Deputy Superintendent, Boston Public Schools

Mr. Les Kimbrough
Dean, Cambridge Rindge & Latin High School

Dr. Cynthia McMullen
Principal, Doherty Memorial High School

Mr. Francis Rose
Principal, Plymouth North High School

At the suggestion of the Task Force, two minority school leaders have been invited to serve on the Eligibility Review Board to help insure at least one minority hearing officer whenever an appeal is brought forth on behalf of a minority student.

The Task Force members are initially thinking that the best way to include minority leadership within the Association governance structure is through an "at large" election/appointment process. This will avoid displacement of elected and appointed committee and Board members.

Member high schools with a minimum of 20% minority student enrollment have been requested to

complete a survey which identifies minority staff members, athletic administrators, principals or assistant principals, superintendents, and school committee members. The Task Force will use this database to identify minority members within districts, which will then lead to the opportunity for their involvement within the MIAA governance structure.

6-13 Cooperative Team Approval Shifts

The Board and the MIAA District Athletic Committees have agreed that cooperative team requests will be the responsibility of the District Athletic Committee of the host school. The guiding document and revised cooperative team application form reflecting this change have been posted on the MIAA web site, and should be reviewed by school personnel who might be considering the creation of a cooperative team.

6-14 Kudos to Dr. Duff

We were proud to learn that Dr. John F. Duff, MIAA Sports Medicine Chairman Emeritus has been named this year's recipient of the Thomas A. Grady Community Service Award. Dr. Duff was nominated for this national award presented by the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine by current MIAA Sports Medicine Committee Chair, Dr. John C. Richmond. This singular award will be presented formally during the AOSSM Annual Meeting in Keystone, Colorado. The award is presented to a single individual who has "made a significant and demonstrable commitment of personal involvement and time in the specialty of Sports Medicine in his or her community through education, research and/or service."

6-15 MIAA Pocket Calendar

We prepared and distributed at the recent Annual Meeting monthly calendars for the period April, 2001 through June, 2002. In those calendars we indicated a number of Association deadlines. The project was conceived simply to provide our school and athletic leaders with a portable calendar that also would serve as a clear reminder of administrative responsibility. Missed deadlines cause angst for everybody involved; this is simply our latest attempt to help you to avoid missing important deadlines. If you did not receive a calendar, or would like additional calendars, please do not hesitate to call or email the Association office.

End of Director's Column

6-16 Recent Forfeitures

The following forfeited contests have been self-reported by the principals or athletic directors of the forfeiting schools.

- Smith Vocational and Agricultural HS forfeits its boys' varsity basketball game of February 13 to St. Mary's High School.
- Methuen High School forfeits its February 19 ice hockey game to Newburyport High School and its February 23 ice hockey game to Waltham High School.
- Agawam High School forfeits its ice hockey games on February 3 to Pittsfield High School and February 14 to Holyoke High School.
- Barnstable High School forfeits its entire 2000-2001 Ice Hockey Season.

6-17 "A Good Letter"

Since the last edition of the MIAA news a copy of this letter was received in the Association office. It is typical of the collegial leadership that exists throughout our Association family. It is a good reminder of the kinds of things that happen within the MIAA network every day.

"It is with great gratitude, respect and friendship that I write this letter to give recognition to Principal Steve Sangster and Athletic Director Bob Fisher of Rockland High School. Due to the reconstruction of our gym, we did not have enough seating to hold a home game in the state tourney. These two administrators offered the Rockland High School gym as an alternate site.

"Bob Fisher acted as the site director. I could not have asked for better hospitality. The Rockland people were so well organized and cordial that both teams, the winners and losers, walked away from the site singing the praises of both of these gentlemen.

"These two administrators are great for education. They understand the importance of athletics in the development of today's youth and the true meaning of sportsmanship. I will always be indebted to them. If there is an MIAA award to recognize these two friends they have my nomination."

Sincerely,

(S)

Allen J. Smith

Athletic Director

East Bridgewater High School

6-18 Rubber Tipped Javelins

Rubber tipped javelins can also be dangerous. Coaches must make sure that athletes who are in this event be educated to their danger. They must not warm-up in an unauthorized area.

The Mass. State Track Coaches' Association stresses javelin safety at their clinics, as they do for pole vault.

6-19 Tournament Director Appointments

Congratulations to:

Dan Walsh, Athletic Director of Cathedral High School for his appointment as Western Mass. Outdoor Track Tournament Director,

Ted Dutkiewicz, from Springfield Central High School for being appointed Western Mass. Cross Country Tournament Director, and

Lee Walter for her appointment as South Sectional Girls' Lacrosse Tournament Director.

6-20 Annual Participation Surveys

Mailed to the Principal was a copy of the National Federation's Athletics and Activities (non-athletic) Participation Survey. It is very important that we receive the figures from your school. The results of these surveys are widely used in promoting interscholastic activities at the state and national level.

Member schools are asked to complete the surveys and return them to the MIAA by **Monday, May 21, 2001. Forms not received by May 21, 2001 are subject to a \$200 late fee.** Should you need an additional copy of the Participation Surveys, they can be printed via link in the "Members Only" section of our [website](#). We thank you in advance for your cooperation.



“NEED TO KNOW”
Late Filing Fees for Missed Deadlines

	<u>Due</u>	<u>Fine</u>
Annual Enrollment Report	Oct. 13	\$200
Annual Participation Survey	May 21	\$200
Tournament Schedule/Commitment Form	Sept.30, Jan.15, Apr.15	\$200
End-of-Season Tournament Application	See Formats	\$300
Four-Year Alignment Appeals	Spring June 21, 2001	\$200
MIAA Membership Process (\$200 per step beginning with 9/1 deadline)		\$200
Middle-Level Participation Waivers	60 days before start of each season	\$300
Multi-School/Interstate/Int'l Events	Aug. 1 - Fall Sports	\$200

***** OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALLS *****

		<u>Through</u>
Football	Rawlings	2003
Soccer	Spalding	2002
Volleyball	Wilson	2001-02
Basketball	Wilson	2001-02
Baseball	Wilson	2002
Softball	Wilson	2004

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wellness Summit May 10
 Office Vacation Shutdown..... Weeks of July 2 & July 9
 Summer Rules WorkshopAugust 15

MIAA expresses gratitude for the unique support of the following organizations

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
 Massachusetts Department of Education
 Red Auerbach Youth Foundation
 Massachusetts Medical Society
 United States Marine Corp.
 Rawlings



CHECK IT OUT!

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- ◆ Members Only Section featuring:
 - *Interactive Forms*
 - *Member School Lookup*
 - *Up-to-Date Membership Directory*
 - *Cooperative Team Governing Document and Application*
- ◆ Tournament Alignments
- ◆ Tournament Formats
- ◆ Monthly Calendar
- ◆ List of 2001-02 “League Meeting Dates” (*Monthly dates that may be utilized for planning league meetings without conflicting with a scheduled MIAA meeting.*)
- ◆ 2001 Fall Workshop Dates
- ◆ News Releases
- ◆ Coaching Vacancies
- ◆ Open Dates
- ◆ Coaches Ed Clinic Dates
- ◆ Certified Coaches
- ◆ Sportsmanship Commendations
- ◆ Team Academic Excellence Awards