



# NEWS

*Building the Future Through Athletics*

## MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

33 Forge Parkway  
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038  
Tel: (508) 541-7997

Fax: (508) 541-9888  
E-mail: [miaa@miaa.net](mailto:miaa@miaa.net)  
[www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net)

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

*Dick Neal*

#### 3-1 DISTRICT WORKSHOP NOTES

##### **Appealing Player and Coach Disqualifications**

The Board of Directors reviewed District Workshop highlights during the Board meeting of October 18. There continues to be lack of clear direction following the narrow vote during the April Business Meeting. With the exception of the Districts B/H Workshop where a vote of 21-12 was taken in support of the concept of granting appeals, all five other regional gatherings resulted in overwhelming votes of opposition to such a plan. The combined District Workshop vote was 158 (75%) opposed to moving forward and 54 (25%) supporting the notion of granting appeal hearings for students and coaches disqualified for unsportsmanlike behavior. Absent strong support, the Board continues to move deliberately. There are two specific proposals within the Rules Packet for appealing contest disqualifications. The Board has chosen to review the actions of those who review these proposals. The rule change process has already begun, and will afford the Board an opportunity this Winter to add to its deliberations the input received from this rules process.

##### **Cooperative Teams**

The Board also asked the membership during the fall workshop to consider the advantage of

the Board delegating decision-making with regard to cooperative team requests to the District Athletic Committee of the host school. During the Fall Workshop series there was almost unanimous support for the Board delegating this responsibility to a more local element of the MIAA governance structure. As a result the Board will ask the District Chairs to discuss the implementation of this policy during the annual February meeting of the district leadership. Upon implementation, the deadline, by additional vote of the Board, will be shortened to required submission of a

#### About this issue...

- 3-1 DISTRICT WORKSHOP NOTES
  - Appealing Player and Coach Disqualifications
  - Cooperative Teams
  - Concerns Regarding Game Officials
  - Non-Member School Recruitment
  - Directions to High School Sites
- 3-2 Recent Forfeitures
- 3-3 October 22 Open House/Dedication
- 3-4 Massachusetts Girls' and Women in Sport Day
- 3-5 MIAA Girls' Leadership Conferences
- 3-6 Western Mass Baseball Director Position
- 3-7 Outdoor Track (re: Javelin)
- 3-8 Game Officials' Newsletter
- 3-9 Wrestling Tournament Director
- 3-10 Non-member School
- 3-11 Field Hockey Reminder
- 3-12 Boys' Gymnastics Experiment
- 3-13 Interactive Forms
- 3-14 Athletic Director Enclosures

cooperative team prior to the first practice date of the season preceding the season in which the cooperative team would participate (e.g. a cooperative request for the sport of field hockey would have to be submitted prior to the first practice date of the previous Spring season).

### Concerns Regarding Game Officials

At most of the workshops the broadest discussion involved game official concerns. Shortages, quality, tournament assignments, gender and ethnicity were each a focus of constructive comment from participants. The issues are so deep that the solutions will be complex and quite lengthy in development and execution.

### Non-Member School Recruitment

Another workshop discussion item that drew interest in more than one workshop was the recruiting of student-athletes by coaches of non-member schools. Particular focus was on the private independent schools. Until an Association-wide strategy is considered, I would suggest that such recruitment be reported to the private school head when it occurs. The general consensus is that transferring schools as an upper classman (which is often the scenario) is generally not good for the student. Such recruitment pulls the student from the established curriculum and away from his/her peers at a crucial time of personal development and growth.

### Directions to High School Sites

Athletic directors in particular during our workshop series encouraged the posting of directions to high school sites on our web page. Most of our schools have web pages. I would urge that directions to your school be included on your school page. We will continue to add directions to tournament sites on the MIAA web page.



### 3-2 Recent forfeitures

The following forfeited contests have been self-reported by the principals or athletic directors of the schools where student eligibility violations were discovered.

- ✓ *Monson girls' soccer match on September 8 forfeited to Granby.*
- ✓ *Easthampton High School forfeits the girls' varsity soccer game between Easthampton and Southwick played on October 6.*
- ✓ *Marshfield High School forfeits the following girls soccer games: September 8 vs. Silver Lake which was a loss; September 15 vs. Whitman-Hanson which was a win; and September 19 vs. Sandwich which was a tie.*
- ✓ *Assabet Valley forfeits the girls' soccer game to Norfolk County Agricultural played on September 22.*
- ✓ *Northeast Regional High School forfeits the following varsity soccer games: September 13 vs. Fellowship Christian Academy; September 18 vs. Minuteman Tech High School; and September 20 vs. Chelsea High School.*
- ✓ *Putnam Vocational forfeits the boys soccer game with Ware High School scheduled for October 30.*



### 3-3 October 22 Open House/Dedication

Thanks to all who made the effort to join us on that Sunday afternoon. The weather was beautiful, the turnout was approximately 200, and the day went very well. We continue to be very proud of the impact that students from two of our member schools have had on our Franklin building project. Students and staff at Tri-County Vocational School in Franklin (only a few minutes from the office) built picnic tables and benches which they delivered to our grounds during the Summer. And from the culinary arts department, Tri-County students prepared and served those in attendance at our Open House/Dedication. Food and service were terrific! The same pride is felt for the students and staff at Keefe Technical School in Framingham. Keefe students handcrafted and installed cabinets, shelves, and countertops in our resource center. The woodwork is beautiful, making that room the heart of the new building. Sincere thanks to Tri-County Principal Peter Rickard, his staff and students, and to Keefe Principal Karl Lord along with his fine staff and students.



### **3-4 Massachusetts Girls' and Women in Sport Day**

Mark your calendar. Massachusetts Girls' and Women in Sport Day will be celebrated on Friday, February 2, 2001 at Fanueil Hall. Registration materials will be sent to each school's athletic director in January. This is a ticketed event with reserved seating for the student-participants.

An important part of the day's program is the presentation of our UNSUNG HEROES. These are women who have devoted their lives in support of female athletes. If you know such a woman, we would encourage you to submit her name in nomination. Please call Elena for a nomination form.

### **3-5 MIAA Girls' Leadership Conference to be hosted by the MIAA in December and March**

The MIAA will host two events designed for female athletes at our new office in Franklin. The first conference, Middle School Girls: Making Wise Choices will be conducted on December 13. The program is designed for middle school girls and their physical education teachers and coaches. The second workshop Female Athletes: Living a Leadership Role has been designed for high school female athletes and their teachers, coaches or athletic directors. Early registration is encouraged as it will be necessary to limit the number of participants. A registration for the December conference can be found at:

<http://www.miaa.net/conferences.htm>

### **3-6 Western Mass Baseball Tournament Director's Position Available**

The Baseball Committee is announcing a vacancy for the position of Western Mass Baseball Tournament Director following the resignation of Tom McGrath who is returning to baseball coaching. Any interested candidate is invited to telephone Bill Gainé at 508-541-7997.

### **3-7 Outdoor Track (Re: Javelin)**

At the September 14 meeting of the Cross Country and Track Committee, it was voted to allow either the old or new javelin to be used for the Spring of 2001.

### **3-8 Game Officials' Newsletter**

Athletic Directors will receive the official newsletter that is mailed to all game officials starting with the next edition in November. Inadvertently, the athletic directors were omitted when the officials' newsletter was started again for this year.

### **3-9 Wrestling Tournament Director**

The MIAA Division III wrestling tournament invites applicants for the Division III Tournament Director position. Please submit a letter of application to the attention of Marshall Sawyer at the MIAA office before the end of November.

### **3-10 Non-Member school**

North Star Academy Charter School is no longer a MIAA member school.

### **3-11 Field Hockey Reminder**

A reminder that the deadline for submission of the "Field Hockey Head Injury Surveillance - End of Season Exposure Form" is November 27, 2000.

If the "End of Season Exposure Form" lists any injuries, the supporting form: "MIAA Head Injury Form - Field Hockey" must be also be completed and submitted for each incident.

All schools with registered Field Hockey teams received these forms in a direct mailing and are required to submit the form as directed to avoid the \$300 late filing fee. The forms may also be found as a link from our website at:

<http://www.miaa.net/Fall00-format-home.htm>

### **3-12 Boys Gymnastics Experiment**

The MIAA Board of Directors approved the Gymnastics committee request for a one-year experiment for the 2000-2001 boys' gymnastic season, changing the current rule of competing 5 gymnasts on any event and counting the top 3 scores to competing 6 gymnasts and counting the top 4 scores on each event. This request has been submitted in the current rule change process. The gymnastics committee supported the change given that the result would be increased participation. Concerns were expressed relative to the fragility of the sport. There are currently only 7 member schools

sponsoring the sport of boys' gymnastics. The committee felt a one-year experiment of the proposal would provide valuable information that could then be shared with the Board of Directors and MIAC prior to the votes on the rule change proposal submitted in the process.

**3-13 Interactive Tournament Forms**

In response to requests made by athletic directors during district workshops we will be working to provide interactive tournament forms. Our hope is to have these available for the upcoming winter tournament season. To ensure proper security of submissions, these forms will be found in a member only section of the MIAA web page. In the next few weeks, principals will receive a direct mailing containing a school username and PIN number. This information will be necessary to gain access to the "member only" section. It is important that member school administrators safeguard this information. Our intent is to provide forms that may be completed online and then electronically sent directly to tournament directors that have e-mail capability or printed out as completed forms and faxed to directors. We will still provide hard copies of tournament formats to those schools without internet access.

**3-14 Athletic Director Enclosures:**

Enclosed with the mailing of the "NEWS" A.D.s will find "Wrestling Scorers and Timers Instructions". Please share with your wrestling scorers and timers. Also enclosed is a page summarizing the 2000-01 NFHS Basketball Rules Interpretations.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sportsmanship Summit**  
November 20

\*\*\*\*\*

**Leadership Training Institute**  
January 22-26, 2001

MIAA expresses gratitude for the unique support of the following organizations:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Massachusetts Department of Education  
Red Auerbach Youth Foundation

**“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 8	\$200
Cooperative Teams	Fall Feb. 1	\$300
	Winter May 1	
	Spring Sept. 1	
Tournament Schedule/Commitment Form	Sept.30, Jan. 15, Apr. 15	\$200
End-of-Season Tournament Application	See Formats	\$300
Four-Year Alignment Appeals	Fall Dec. 21, 2000	\$200
	Winter Dec. 21, 2000	
	Spring June 21, 2001	
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	Nov. 1 - Winter Sports	\$200

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

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

**CHECK OUT:**

www.miaa.net

- News Releases
- Coaching Vacancies
- Open Dates
- Association Leadership Vacancies
- Coaches Ed Clinic Dates
- Certified Coaches
- Tournament Alignments
- Tournament Formats
- Directory Updates
- Sportsmanship Commendations
- Team Academic Excellence Awards