



NEWS

Building the Future Through Athletics

MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dick Neal

Thank you so much for your attention to Association membership renewal. In the "Notes from Wendy" column you will see her report that all but one member school submitted institutional registration by the required September 1 deadline. That is an Association standard that has never before been reached. Do review those "Notes" on page 3 that Wendy has written. They will help you in the long run.

Welcome once again to our newest member schools that have completed final pre-membership requirements by attending the MIAA Workshop held this past August 17. Our newest members are Ashburnham Apostolic Lutheran School, Berkshire Country Day, Fellowship Christian Academy, Pioneer Valley Christian School, South Shore Christian Academy, and University Park Campus. Ecole Bilingue of Cambridge is still evaluating MIAA Standards as they might affect eligibility, and no final decision has been made regarding MIAA membership. Somerville Charter School forfeited its membership opportunity for this academic year by failing to be fully represented at the Summer Workshop.

During the annual Summer Workshop we had some good discussion about nuances associated with certifying eligibility. Although I cannot capture the full discussion, I can offer some "helpful hints" that were part of the dialogue. A review of this information before the start of each season will be beneficial.

1. Each member school principal is responsible for certifying the eligibility of all student athletes.

Discussion: Although the principals of some schools delegate this responsibility, it is the principal whom the Association holds accountable for any participation of ineligible students. Since forfeiture of contests is the penalty for ineligible participation, it is critically important to have a comprehensive approach to the certification of the eligibility of each student athlete.

2. Develop a protocol which ensures that no coach permits a student who has not been certified as eligible to begin practice.

Discussion: This could take the form of requiring the coach to submit a pre-season list of students who have expressed an interest in participating in that sport. The administration then verifies the eligibility of the students on that list and signs off on each. Subsequently as students not on the certified list express an interest, the coach knows that they may not begin to practice until the administrator's signature releases that student to the coach as eligible.

3. Be certain to certify the eligibility of athletes before they begin practice.

Discussion: There is no upside to putting this off until prior to the first contest. You actually may be busier at that time. Liability issues are enormous if your certification has not been done, and you have students who have not satisfied the physical examination requirement, or a student is over age, etc.

- 4. The certification of eligibility of each student athlete must include minimally the examination of rules 57 through 63 on pages 47 through 51 in the MIAA Handbook.

Discussion: The MIAA office receives tens of thousands of telephone calls each year. The most welcomed calls are those from principals and athletic directors who are concerned about the application, interpretation, or nuance of a rule as it might affect a student's eligibility. Don't make guesses. It is likely that MIAA staff has experience with a situation which may be unfamiliar to you. Use us in these cases as a resource. Just as we would measure the year as perfect if we collected no late filing fees, more significantly would we measure a year as perfect if there were no forfeitures of competition. Unfortunately almost every issue of our NEWS conveys the self-reporting by a member school principal or athletic director of the forfeiture of contests as a result of the inadvertent participation of an ineligible student. The purpose the aforementioned is to assist you minimizing the possibility that such could happen to you.

TOURNAMENT ALIGNMENTS FOR 2001-02 through 2004-05 ACADEMIC YEARS

The proposed tournament alignments for the Fall of 2001 through the Fall 2004 seasons are now available on our web site (under "NEW"). Appeals by the high school principal or league president must be filed before December 21, 2000. Appeals by each sport committee will be heard during the Winter of 2000-2001. Final Fall alignments will be released during the Spring of 2001.

ADVISORY!! - INTERSTATE INVITATIONS

An entity known as KSA and others promote interstate competition among high school teams. On more than one occasion we have seen schools and

communities excited about these invitations, committing to participation before approval for such participation is even presented to MIAA. Funds have been raised, non-refundable airline tickets purchased, etc. at a time when such participation cannot possibly be assured. MIAA approval should be sought at the outset to avoid major problems, hurt feelings and misunderstandings. Refer to MIAA standard #40 on pages 33 and 34 of the MIAA Handbook.

RECENT FORFEITURES

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

Chicopee High School forfeits the 9/6/00 golf match to Southwick-Tolland Regional High School.

Revere reports ineligible participation in a wrestling match last Winter. The match was lost by Revere.

LEADERSHIP VACANCIES

Currently there are vacancies within the Association Governance structure. Interested men and women should contact their District Chair if you have an interest in district vacancies or Executive Director Dick Neal if your interest is in the at-large vacancies available to women. A listing of the vacancies may be found on our web site by clicking on "[Association Leadership Vacancies](#)" under "NEW".

OPEN HOUSE

On Sunday, October 22 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. we will have an Open House/Dedication of the new building in Franklin. Invitations have been sent to you. You and your guests are warmly welcome. You may RSVP your acceptance ("Regrets" are unnecessary) of this invitation twenty-four hours a day by phone, to Kathy at 508.541-7997 x814, by fax at 508.541.9888, or by e-mail at miaa@miaa.net. Knowing the number who will join us on the 22nd is very important to our planning.

“Notes from Wendy”

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/DUES REMINDER

We are glad to report that all but one MIAA member school submitted their institutional registrations by the September 1 deadline. Please note that October 2 is the deadline to submit a promissory note or purchase order to cover membership dues or a penalty fee of \$200 will be assessed.

OCTOBER 1 ENROLLMENT REPORTS DUE

Enclosed to principals is the October 1 Enrollment Report to be completed and returned to the Association office by October 13, 2000. To make your task easier, your enrollment report can simply reflect your grade-by-grade enrollment as it exists on October 1. If all students are assigned homerooms, then homeroom tallies as of October 1 will serve as a source of your data. Do not overlook factors such as home-school students, middle-level participation, etc.

TOURNAMENT PASSES

We have recently completed mailing complimentary passes to the attention of MIAA member principals for their administrators and coaches. Included to principals and also athletic directors was an order form for purchasing additional or replacement passes throughout the school year.

As previously stated, these all tournament passes **replace** the administrator, football coach, ice hockey coach, and basketball coach passes of the past. The quantity issued now is based on the number of your varsity teams. The passes no longer require the signature of the bearer so they can be used by any school representative the principal / athletic director wishes.

DIRECTORY AND INFORMATION UPDATES

Please notify Wendy Berg of any corrections to your NEWS mailing label and also of any changes in phone number, fax number, or e-mail address. Directory updates can be found on our web site by clicking ["Directory/Information Updates"](#) under "NEW".

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sportsmanship Summit
November 20

Leadership Training Institute
January 22-26, 2001

| “NEED TO KNOW” | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>Late Filing Fees for Missed Deadlines</u> | | |
| | <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 |

Team Academic Excellence Awards and Sportsmanship Commendations

Recipients of MIAA Sportsmanship Certificates & Academic Excellence Awards are now posted on the web site (www.miaa.net) and will be updated on a monthly basis.

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

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

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

Sportsmanship Compliance Policy Continued for Academic Year 2000-2001

At the May 26, 1999 Sportsmanship Committee meeting, the following policy was adopted which became effective with the start of the Fall 1999 Season. "Any coach who is suspended from an MIAA Interscholastic Athletic Contest or had three (3) athletes suspended during his/her sport season will be required to attend a Sportsmanship Compliance meeting before being eligible to coach interscholastic events the following year in that sport at any MIAA school.

WELLNESS ON WEB

The MIAA Wellness Program welcomes its new coordinator Michael J. Kane; and enters the millennium with a new web site. Chris Jackson, 18, a 2000 graduate of Algonquin Regional High School, has spent the past few months establishing the site. Anyone interested in learning more about the Wellness Program can now access the mission statement, event calendar, list of videos available for lending, and other information. An application form is also on-line for the upcoming Leadership Training Institute, which will be held January 22 – 26, 2001. Since the site is still under construction, you may want to check it our frequently for updates. It can be reached at: www.miaawellness.net.

SPORTSMANSHIP SUMMIT

The MIAA Sportsmanship Committee is co-sponsoring, with the Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors' Association, the Seventh Annual Statewide Sportsmanship Summit on **Monday, November 20** at the Milford Radisson. Again this year high school captains are invited to participate and collectively explore their role in promoting sportsmanship. Mailed with the "NEWS" is a flyer/registration form. Additional participants suggested are administrators, athletic directors, coaching staff members as well as booster club presidents.

COMPOSITE LEATHER FOOTBALL

The MIAA has approved use of a composite leather football for regular season play. This is consistent with National Federation game ball specifications which all other high school associations have adopted.

CONCUSSION BROCHURE

The Massachusetts Medical Society, in partnership with the MIAA, has authored a Concussion Brochure, which

is available to MIAA member schools in whatever volume is requested. This is a valuable resource that highlights a coach's pullout resource card for assessing potential concussions. For a supply, please call Carol Tosches @ 508-541-7997. A copy of this brochure is enclosed in the mailing of this issue of the NEWS.

SOCCER RULES

Athletic Directors are reminded to review with all members of their soccer coaching staff, the Soccer Newsletter that was forwarded to Game Officials and Administrators recently. Please pay close attention to the new time-out rule as well as the mouthguard rule. In MIAA Tournament play, the Soccer Tournament Officials have been alerted to remind players that shirts must be left on at all times during and after the soccer match. All Tournament Officials have the jurisdiction to give a red card at tournament venues when this policy is violated. During the regular season, Officials will give a yellow card (caution) for a player removing the shirt in the handshake line. However, if in the judgment of the Game Official, a player's removal exceeds a misconduct foul because the offense is Taunting, a red card should be issued.

DIVISION IA ICE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE:

The Ice Hockey Committee is inviting feedback from ice hockey schools regarding a change in the Division IA Tournament for Year 2001. Since the inception of this tournament it has been a double elimination tournament. The change proposed is that the **first** final between the team that has worked its way through the lower bracket and the team that is undefeated be the only final game. Simply stated, if the undefeated team loses there will **not** be a rematch. The winner of the first final will be declared the Div. IA Champion. A motion to approve this change for 2001 Season IA Tournament will be made at the October 18th meeting of the Ice Hockey Committee. Please forward your comments to staff liaison Bill Gaine or your District Ice Hockey Committee representative.

ATTENTION ATHLETIC DIRECTORS:

Mailed with this issue of the news are instructions for TIMERS at Basketball games. Please share with your Basketball Coaches and Timers. Also, enclosed is a poster from the National Federation of State High School Association entitled: "2000-01 MAJOR BASKETBALL RULES REVISIONS".