



NEWS

BUILDING THE FUTURE THROUGH ATHLETICS

Volume 24, Issue 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Executive Director

<i>Fall Workshop Completed</i>	2-1
<i>Principals / Leadership</i>	2-2
<i>World War III</i>	2-3
<i>News for HS Coaches</i>	2-4
<i>Rule Interpretations</i>	2-5
<i>Publication not to be mailed</i>	2-6
Additional Articles	
<i>Attn: Basketball/Hockey</i>	2-7
<i>Kinney/Unsung Awards</i>	2-8
<i>NFSH Assoc.</i>	2-9
<i>Ice Hockey Notes</i>	2-10
<i>Jewelry</i>	2-11
<i>Track-Javelin</i>	2-12
<i>Student Eligibility</i>	2-13
<i>Recent Forfeitures</i>	2-14

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: DICK NEAL

2.1 Fall Workshops Completed

My sincere thanks to the principals and athletic directors who joined us for one of the six regional Fall Workshops. With the events of the day, leaving your schools was probably more difficult than ever. Under the circumstances attendance was strong. The Board's concern about the involvement of high school principals in your own athletic programs and within the Association was manifested during the Fall Workshop series. At one of the workshops there was but a single principal among 46 attendees. This phenomenon is detrimental to both local programs and to the work and responsibilities of your Association.

2.2 Principals Must Assume Leadership of their School and State-wide Athletic Programs

MIAA member school principals are the constitutionally identified agents who must: be responsible to the Association; and interact with the organization. The principal is ultimately responsible for assuring that the philosophy, rules, and policies established by MIAA are enforced, both in letter and spirit, throughout that school's athletic program. Similarly it is the member school principals who provide, along with our athletic directors, the core of every one of the 35 constitutionally established committees and boards of the organization. So, to a great extent, it is the principals' role to develop the rules and policies of the or-

ganization and then to ensure that these standards are fully satisfied at each member school. I have seen too many times principals in uncomfortable situations because something has gone awry in that school's athletic program. Like it or not, the emotion and passion associated with sport draws out the most extreme feelings in a community, for good or bad. When an athletic problem occurs, the principal cannot avoid accountability for it. Therefore it makes no sense for the principal to disengage from athletic responsibilities, either locally or statewide.

2.3 World War III

As Winston Churchill attributed victory in World War II to the "playing fields of Eaton", we will be some day attributing victory in this war to the playing fields of the high school campuses across our nation. Our long-standing commitment to the learning opportunities which interscholastic athletics provides is standing exceedingly tall today. We have long known that high school sport was not about wins and losses or developing elite athletes. Rather we have diligently worked to teach or emphasis values such as courage, honor, perseverance, rising from a defeat, etc. Our leadership and citizenship programs have been national models. Since more than 50% of high school students across the Commonwealth participate in interscholastic athletics, we have

been graduating annually tens of thousands of young men and women who understand what it takes, and who possess the values that will allow them to lead us to victory

2.4 MIAA News for High School Coaches

Posted on our website since the last edition of this publication is the initial issue of a publication for high school coaches. Before the Fall Workshop series began, my idea was to mail hard copy of this publication to the 1,200 coaches whose addresses we have as a result of their successfully completing the MIAA Coaches' Education program. But, as I discussed my plan through the Fall Workshops, it became clear to me that you and your coaches would be better served if I treated this publication as an electronic document. This way the opportunity to share this with all 15,000 coaches within our high schools is more likely. Kindly refer your coaches to our website, or download the document and copy it for each of your coaches. My intent is to create an issue at the start of each of our three sport seasons. Suggestions from principals and athletic directors about future content will be most welcomed.

(Continued Page 2)

REMINDER

Space is still available for our *Middle School Girls Summit: Making Wise Decisions*. The Summit will be held on November 7th at the Millford Radisson Hotel. Please check the MIAA website for program and registration information or contact Elena at 508-541-9832 or emarchand@miaa.net

DATES TO REMEMBER

Middle Level Girls Summit, Nov. 7

Sportsmanship Summit, Nov. 15

2.5 Rule Interpretations, Applications, and Clarifications

During the Fall Workshops I spent time discussing major Association rules and their nuances. The rules that I selected are those listed in the inside front cover of the current Blue Book under "Points of Emphasis". If you did not attend your Workshop, you should carefully review these rules (if you have not done so already). Otherwise you are almost guaranteeing a problem for you and your school, sooner or later. If you have any questions whatsoever, do not hesitate to call the office for answers. At one Workshop I was asked to emphasize that the Consecutive Season rule now is interpreted in such a way that the consecutive season "clock" begins when a student firsts successfully completes grade 8. In other words, if a student has academically succeeded in grade 8 and would move onto grade 9

except for the fact that the parents have decided to have that student repeat grade 8. That repeat year is the first of the four consecutive years of athletic eligibility to which each student is entitled. As a result, such a student would not be eligible for athletic participation in his or her senior year.

2.6 This publication not to be mailed in the future.

Beginning with the next issue of the MIAA News, the traditional mailing will be replaced by direct email to member school principals and athletic directors, and a posting on the website. Kindly notify the office if you wish us to continue mailing you a hard copy.

End of Directors Column

OUTDOOR TRACK

SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN HOSTING EASTERN MASS OUTDOOR TRACK MEETS SHOULD CONTACT THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR MARY GRANT AT 617-364-9006

2.7 ATTENTION!!! BASKETBALL AND HOCKEY SUMMIT-DECEMBER 9

The MIAA mission to utilize the vehicle of interscholastic athletics to help our student-athletes to become better citizens requires constant attention. This mission is strengthened through a partnership among the MIAA, the "teacher-coaches", and officials who are entrusted with the care of our respective sports.

Please encourage your Varsity Basket-

ball and Ice Hockey Coaches, as well as league representatives for each sport to attend *The MIAA Basketball and Ice Hockey Pre-Season Summit* to be held at the Radisson, Milford on December 9, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Fliers have been mailed directly to officials and to athletic directors for distribution to Varsity Coaches. Attendance will

be limited to 400. We will hold 100 places for coaches and officials in each sport until November 23rd. After November 23rd we will have open enrollment.

2.8 "SHERMAN A. KINNEY" AND "UNsung HEROINE" AWARDS

Please consider nominating a worthy individual for either the **Sherman A. Kinney Award** for outstanding contributions to the sport of basketball, or a woman who has made a major contribution to the advancement of athletic participation for girls for the **Unsung Heroine Award**.

The criteria for each award

are described on each nomination form. *An MIAA member school must make each nomination.* Please feel free to contact Virginia Anderson at the MIAA Office if you have questions concerning these awards.

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

2.9 News Release

National Federation of State High School Associations

New Hampshire Newspaper Prints Erroneous Information Regarding Use of Pistols for High School Track meets

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (October 18, 2001) - Information released today by the Manchester Union-Leader in Manchester, New Hampshire, regarding NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Committee prohibiting officials from using pistols to start races at high school track meeting was erroneous and without a source.

Rule 5-7 in the NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Rules states that "all races shall be started with the firing of a pistol or electronic gunless device."

The Committee has not met since its meeting this past June and did not discuss the issue of pistols at that time. Three years ago, the committee added the option of an electronic gunless device, but there has been no recent discussion about not allowing pistols to start races at high school track meets.

Although the Union-Leader article said that "Last week, the NFHS...enforced a bylaw that prohibits officials from using caliber pistols....to start races," the NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Committee has not met since June and did not discuss this issue at that meeting.

The Union-Leader is running a follow-up

story, noting its mistake and printing rule 5-7-1 from the NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Rules.

With indoor track this winter and outdoor track in the spring, the method of starting races remains unchanged-a pistol or electronic gunless device.

SPORTSMANSHIP SUMMIT

Space will be limited for the 8th Annual Sportsmanship Summit scheduled for November 15th at the Radisson, Milford. Registration available on the MIAA website at www.miaa.net

2.10 ICE HOCKEY NOTES

The following actions took place at the October 17 meeting of the Ice Hockey Committee:

- ◇ All Tri-Valley League Ice Hockey Teams will complete in the Division II North Tournament for 2002-2005
- ◇ All Preliminary ice hockey

games will be played at the site of the top seeded team. As per MIAA policy in other team tournaments the top seeded team will be responsible for site acquisition and game management. It is appropriate that schools plan accordingly by reserving ice time

at their home rink for February 27 or Feb 28.

- ◇ William Capelli, principal of Robison Park School in Agawam, has been appointed MIAA Western Mass. Ice Hockey Director

2.11 JEWELRY

New National Federal Rule #4-3-7

Contestants shall not wear jewelry with the exception of religious or medical medals. If such medals are worn, they shall be taped to the body.

The National Federal informs us that wristwatches are allowed (classified as equipment). All other jewelry is not allowed, such as, but not limited to – earrings (including stud types), finger rings, rings on all body parts (e.g.; lip, tongue, eye).

MIAA express gratitude for the unique support of the following organizations

- ◆ Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- ◆ Massachusetts Department of Education
 - ◆ Massachusetts Medical Society
 - ◆ Harvard Pilgrim Health
- ◆ Bob's Stores
- ◆ New Balance



2.12 Track-javelin

The Cross Country & Track Committee reminds all Athletic Directors and Track Coaches that beginning with the 2002 spring season, the "new rules" javelin must be used during all competitions. The Committee strongly recommends the following safety measures at all track meets where the javelin event is contested.

- 1 The throwing sector should be roped off and clearly marked.
- 2 Injuries are most common during warm-ups. A certified official should run warm-ups. The throwing sector should be open to groups of throwers and then closed while javelins are retrieved. Once the sector is clear it can be opened for further warm-up throws.
- 3 Javelins, when not in use, should be placed on a rack or laid down flat on the ground. Injuries occur when athletes accidentally walk into the back tip of the javelin. This is known to happen frequently.
- 4 Officials and coaches cannot emphasize enough safety regarding the javelin.

2.13 Student Eligibility

A reminder that the deadline for waiver requests for Winter Sports is **December 15, 2001**. Waiver requests postmarked after the established date will not be reviewed for that season. The first eligibility requests received are the first ones to be processed.

Please allow a reasonable time for the processing of your waiver request and be sure all required information is submitted. Incomplete information will result in delays.

Do not wait until after the season begins to guarantee that all participants are eligible. Forfeited contests cause upset. The principal must have a "fail safe" process in place for ensuring every participant is eligible. This process should preclude a coach from permitting a student to practice until a form signed by the principal introduces that student to practice.

"NEED TO KNOW"		
Late Filing Fees for Missed Deadlines		
	Due	Fine
MIAA Membership Process (\$200 per step beginning with 9/1 deadline)		\$200
Tournament Schedule/Commitment Form	Sept.30, Jan.15, Apr.15	\$200
Annual Enrollment Report	Oct. 13	\$200
End-of-Season Tournament Application	See Formats	\$300
Middle-Level Participation Waivers	60 days before start of each season	\$300
Multi-School/Interstate/Int'l Events	Nov. 1 - Winter Sports	\$200

CHECK OUT WWW.MIAA.NET

- * New publication for high school coaches
- * Blue Book to be posted soon
- * The MIAA News, in the future, will be emailed to member school principals and athletic directors, and posted onto the website
- * Members Only Section
- * Tournament Alignments
- * 2001-02 Monthly Calendars
- * News Releases
- * Coaching Vacancies
- * Open Dates
- * Coaches Education Clinic Dates
- * Deadline Dates
- * Sport Pages
- * Committee Pages

We welcome any suggestions you may

2.14 Recent Forfeitures

The following forfeited contests have been self-reported by the principals or athletic directors of the forfeiting schools. Their integrity is much appreciated.

- Ware High School forfeits its girls varsity soccer game of September 14, 2001 to Chicopee High School.
- Mahar Regional forfeits its junior varsity soccer game of September 13, 2001 to Greenfield High School.
- New Bedford High School forfeits its boys' junior varsity soccer game of September 8, 2001 to Attleboro High School
- Cathedral High School forfeits its junior varsity boys' soccer game of September 10, 2001 to East Longmeadow HS
- Revere High School forfeits the following boys' soccer games: September 7, 2001 to Everett; September 10, 2001 to Somerville; September 12, 2001 to Waltham; and September 17, 2001 to Arlington
- Hudson Catholic forfeits all of the following scheduled contests for 2000-2001:

JV Football	JV Girls' Soccer
JV Girls' Volleyball	JV Girls' Basketball
Boys' Varsity Baseball	JV Baseball
Girls' JV Softball	Boys' & Girls' Track
- Hudson Catholic forfeits the following games for 2001-2002: jv football to Nashoba Tech; jv volleyball to St. Bernard's (first