



SPORTSMANSHIP — 2006 Game Infraction Results

The Massachusetts high school soccer community--school administrators, coaches, players, game officials, and the MIAA State Soccer Committee--has worked diligently over the past decade to improve the quality of interscholastic soccer, with a strong emphasis on sportsmanship. Through a unified effort and with a balance of educational programs and strict accountability measures, the goal has been to significantly reduce the negative behaviors exhibited by some soccer players, coaches, and spectators.

The MIAA has tracked game infractions over the course of each season and the results are in for the 2006 season. (See chart on page 7). You will note that some code numbers and/or titles were changed from the previous season, making comparisons a little more difficult than usual. The bottom line is that there were 30% more cards reported for the 2006 season. The results are open to interpretation but the 94% increase in fouls that involve holding, kicking, tripping, or pushing from the 2005 season, should be of concern. In addition a 24% increase in reported violations for dissent or incidental language warrants attention. It is only through the unified efforts of the entire soccer community, that we will be able to make measurable progress during the 2007 season. We appreciate the ongoing efforts of all those who have made sportsmanship a priority for their players and their schools!

The MIAA Soccer Committee would also like to recognize those schools, whose soccer teams, during the 2006 season, distinguished themselves in the area of good sportsmanship, which earned them an MIAA Soccer Team Sportsmanship Award presented at the 2006 State Soccer Finals. These are teams which, through the collective efforts of their coaches, players, fans, and administrators, demonstrated their unique commitment to sportsmanship, integrity, and ethics.

Congratulations to:

MIAA Soccer Team Sportsmanship Award Winners 2006

Division 1 Girls----Amherst-Pelham Regional High School
 Division 1 Boys----Sandwich High School
 Division 2 Girls----No nominations
 Division 2 Boys----Oakmont Regional High School
 Division 3 Girls----Millis High School
 Division 3 Boys----Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School

2007 Tournament News

- **August 22nd**
Pre-Season Dinner/Clinic
- **August 23rd**
First Practice Date
- **September 2nd**
First Contest Date
- **September 30th**
Schedule & Commitment Form Due
- **October 31st**
Cutoff Date
- **November 1st**
Tournament Seeding
- **November 13-15**
State Semi-Finals
- **November 17th**
State Finals

Soccer Rules Clinic

What: Annual Clinic to review Rules & Policies for the 2007 Soccer Season
When: August 22, 2007
Where: MIAA Office
Time: 5:00pm Light Buffet, 6 pm Clinic
For: Commissioners, Athletic Directors, Game Officials & Coaches
 RSVP to Nathan Bonneau
 508-541-7997
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Soccer Official's Editorial

MINIMAL PLAYING RULE CHANGES FOR 2007

If the quality of "OUR" game were to be measured by the number of playing rule changes suggested this year; our game must be close to perfect! If only that was the case! There are several changes this year which are essentially administrative in nature.

The National Federation Rules Committee chose this year to emphasize the area and scope of the coach's responsibilities. This really is NOT a change! This year's changes establish more specific instructions outlining expectations for coaches and, consequently, specific penalties for head coaches who fail to shoulder their responsibilities for his/her players. Players' dress and decorum have always been under the purview of the coach, but until now, very difficult for the officials to legislate. That is not the case any more! There are stern repercussions included this year in the Federation rule changes.

Implementation of some of these penalties in Massachusetts has been delayed for one year, upon recommendation of the MIAA Soccer Committee and approved by the MIAA Board of Directors. Specifically, the penalty in Rule 4.3 requiring the head coach to be cautioned (yellow card) for "improperly equipped" players has been deferred to the 2008 season. This delay must give us all, officials and coaches alike, a "wake-up call"! We are, after all, the only adults on site. We, coaches and game officials, are there to manage 30+ teenagers in "THEIR" game. We must act as the professionals we are, to see that every contest is safe and enjoyed.

Have a great season all!!

Calvin G. Perry---MA State Soccer Interpreter

2007 NFHS SOCCER RULE CHANGES

1-5-3 EXCEPTION: When teams are placed on opposite sides of the field, each team area shall be located as specified above and shall be placed diagonally across from each other.

4-1-1 Beginning with the fall **2008** season, shinguards must meet the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) specifications.

4-3 Each head coach shall be responsible for ensuring that each of his/her players is properly equipped.

Add Penalty: An improperly equipped player shall be instructed to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play. ***The head coach shall be cautioned (yellow card) for improperly equipped players. (* Penalty deferred for the 2007 season by MIAA Board of Directors—see page 5)**

Delete 5-2-2-d-3 Examine the uniform and equipment of each player to see that it complies with the rules.

Major Editorial Changes

1-4-1 If used on a football field, portable goals should be anchored at least 2 yards in front of the base of the existing football goal posts.

5-3-1 Note 2: If a coach or bench personnel is being disqualified for a subsequent act of misconduct, the referee will show a yellow card indicating the subsequent caution followed immediately by showing a red card.

11-1-1-b The player is not nearer to the opponent's goal line than at least two opponents. ***Note: The position of any part of the player's head, body or feet will be the deciding factor, not the player's arms.***

12-8-3 Insert after b: **c. subsequent caution on coach or bench personnel.**

12-8-5 Misconduct Penalty Chart

Misconduct-Penalty Chart			
	Player	Bench Personnel	Coach
Yellow Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must leave field until next legal substitution opportunity • May be substituted or play short 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substitute (nonplayer) remains in team area until next legal substitution opportunity • Other bench personnel remain in team area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remains in team area
Yellow/Red Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must leave field • May not return • May be substituted or play short • Restricted to team area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
Red Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must leave field • May not return • May not be substituted; must play short • Restricted to team area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted to team area for substitutes or other students • Adult bench personnel must leave vicinity of playing area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must leave the vicinity of playing area

MIAA SOCCER ROSTER AND SCORE SHEET

It is important that all schools hosting interscholastic soccer contests (**both genders—all levels**) be aware of their responsibilities to properly execute the 2007 MIAA Roster and Score Sheet. Among those responsibilities are the following:

- They must be available for game officials at the scorers table PRIOR to the start of the game
- They must be sent **to the MIAA Office** by the host school athletic director for **all games in which a contest infraction occurs**
- A copy must be provided to the visiting team prior to their departure
- Game officials must fill out the Contest Infraction section with appropriate codes and required specifications
- If a red card violation occurs, both Player and Coach Disqualification forms **MUST** be available **at the game site** for game officials to fill out and sign prior to leaving the field
- Both game officials must sign the Roster and Score Sheet
- Roster and Score Sheet must be properly dated, with the gender and level of play (varsity/sub varsity) indicated
- For Boys Varsity games, the execution of Roster and Score Sheet is the responsibility of the Contest Manager---not the Head Coach
- The 2007 Roster and Score Sheet is the only form that should be used. **All other forms are outdated and inaccurate**
- The host school administrator (athletic director or contest manager) must sign the Roster and Score Sheets sent to the MIAA Office

Sportsmanship: Athlete and Coach Contest Disqualifications/Suspensions

- 49.1 The contest official who excludes a student or coach under the provision of this rule should immediately inform the coach of each team, official scorer (if any), and state the violation. If the game official fails to file his/her written report, the individual is nevertheless bound by the suspension. An official who fails to complete the form required as a result of an athlete or coach ejection shall be suspended from officiating any MIAA contest in that sport for at least two weeks or until the form is completed and received by the principal of the disqualified athlete or coach.
- 49.2 The athletic director in charge of the contest, or his/her designee, is responsible for: (1) having the official suspension forms available for game officials, and (2) sending copies to the principal of each school involved, the athletic director of each school involved, and the executive director of the MIAA. Contest official(s) should complete the forms before leaving the site of the contest.

SOCCER CONCUSSION AWARENESS

There has been considerable discussion in the past year about concussions in the sport of soccer. It is a topic of conversation nationally and in Massachusetts legislation was proposed to “ban heading in the sport of soccer” and subsequently to “mandate the use of helmets”.

In the interest of increasing awareness about concussions in the sport of soccer, the following information has been selected from a detailed report provided to the MIAA by “SoccerHeadInjuries.org”, a not-for-profit website dedicated to “providing third party information on head injuries in soccer free of rampant hyperbole from manufacturers and organizations and biased opinions on both sides”:

- Concussions do occur with significant frequency in soccer
- Comparing concussion rates in soccer to football, the rates, while not identical, are comparable even though football is considered to carry a much higher risk than soccer
- Concussions in soccer are seldom caused by heading the ball
- Most soccer concussions are caused by impacts between a player’s head and some hard object (e.g. goal post, opponent’s head/elbow/knee)
- Even some recognized concussions (by a player) are not reported
- After a player has suffered one concussion, he is 4 – 6 times as likely to have a second compared to a player who has never been concussed
- If a player who has been concussed returns to physical activity before his/her brain has fully recovered, he/she is at risk for “Second Impact Syndrome”, in which a seemingly minor head impact may cause severe brain swelling and a potentially dire outcome
- Women are nearly 2 ½ times as likely to sustain a concussion than men
- The only type of impacts for which mouthguards would be beneficial in concussion prevention are blows to the chin, which cover only a small number of concussions incurred in soccer

Source: SoccerHeadInjuries.org

Consensus Statement Concerning Head Injuries in Football (Soccer) and the Merits of Protective Headguards

Concussions are occurring at higher than previously believed levels in football (soccer). These concussions are most commonly a result of head to hard surface impacts, such as head to head, head to ground and head to goal post collisions. The intentional act of heading the ball generally does not result in concussion.

Concussions are caused by rapid acceleration or deceleration of the head. While the exact force to cause concussion might vary from person to person, or incident to incident, the most commonly used concussion threshold is 80g (gravitational forces).

Protective headgear is generally designed to meet certain performance standards specifically developed for that activity such as skiing, cycling, rugby, etc. Standards are generally developed after careful deliberation and study by independent organizations that specialize in such. One such leading standards body is ASTM International. ASTM issued the first football (soccer) headgear standard in 2006, ASTM F2439-06. This standard required products to achieve head form acceleration /deceleration of no greater than 80g’s in head to head, head to ground and head to goalpost impact simulations.

In a study funded by F-MARC, published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, concluded that certain headguards can provide a measurable benefit in reducing acceleration / deceleration which should reduce the incidence and/or severity of injury. This research was limited in scope to laboratory simulations of head to head impacts. Compliance with the ASTM standard F2439-06 includes head to head impact simulations as well as requires head to ground and head to post impact simulations, all with 80g limits. As a result, headguards complying with ASTM F2439-06 will show measurable benefits in three of the most common types of mechanisms of football concussions.

While no field studies have been published at this time, it is reasonable to conclude that the use of certain headguards, such as those meeting ASTM F2439-06, will reduce injuries.

Therefore, at this time, use of headguards complying with ASTM F2439-06 should be encouraged, but not required, and field studies should be encouraged.

Third International Meeting on Mild Traumatic Brain Injuries in Sports, March 2007

2007 Selected MIAA Soccer Rules

77.2 Sportsmanship:

- 77.2.8 Any team whose players/coaches receive collectively a total of more than four red cards during the regular season shall not qualify for the MIAA tournament.
- 77.2.9 After a combination of five red cards, subsequent violations will result in a team forfeiture of the next MIAA contest. These penalties will carry over to the next season should the violation occur in the final match of the season.
- 77.2.12 A coach who receives a third yellow card in a season shall be suspended from coaching for a period of two matches. A fourth yellow card in a season shall result in a one year suspension.
- 77.2.15 Any varsity team exceeding four red or thirteen yellow cards also must assign a contest manager other than a coach to away contests, as well as for all home matches (as required by Rule 75.2.21). This rule pertains to both boys' and girls' soccer and to matches played at all levels.
- 77.2.16 For purposes of obtaining tournament eligibility, no team may exceed four red or thirteen yellow cards during the regular season. Delay of game, encroachment, and deliberate (intentional) handball are infractions which will continue to be enforced and penalized. The impact of these infractions will be assessed and will be considered towards tournament ineligibility.
- 77.2.17 Any team whose players/coaches receive collectively five (5) yellow and/or red cards in a match will result in immediate termination of the match and result in forfeiture by the offending team.
- 77.2.18 Game officials must complete the infraction section of the MIAA score sheet for all infractions. Each school must forward to the MIAA all score sheets where infractions are reported. This rule applies to boys' and girls' teams at all levels. Infraction reports must be submitted by October 30th.

Soccer Mouth Guard Rule 77.1.5 and Interpretation

- All players shall wear a solid color (not clear) mouth guard that must cover all molars as well as front teeth.
- Mouth guards must be worn in all practices and competitions.
- Mouth guards are required of all participants at all levels of interscholastic competition (Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity), both boys and girls.
- Coaches shall assume the responsibility to make certain each player is wearing a mouth guard.
- In the event a player is participating without a mouth guard the game official shall remove the player from the match and cannot return until the next dead ball whistle. The removed player may re-enter during a dead ball after reporting to an official who shall be satisfied the player's mouth guard is in place. There will be no substitution for the removed player.
- If a player is found to (1) have cut down the mouth guard (2) hides the mouth guard in a part of the uniform (e.g. socks) or (3) discards the mouth guards on the field of play-**A YELLOW CARD WILL BE ADMINISTERED.**

Penalty for Improperly Equipped Player Deferred

Upon request by the MIAA Soccer Committee, the MIAA Board of Directors voted to defer, for the 2007 season, implementation of the penalty portion of the new National Federation Rule 4; Section 3, requiring a caution (yellow card) to be assessed to the head coach for any player who is not properly equipped.

The MIAA Soccer Committee was concerned that a literal enforcement by game officials, especially given the mandatory mouth guard rule, the ongoing shin guard rule implementation, and the fact that a "subsequent caution" to a coach (or player) warrants a red card, could actually result in a number of undesirable game forfeits.

The MIAA Soccer Committee endorses the intent of the new rule which is to emphasize that it is the head coach who is responsible for ensuring that all players under his/her jurisdiction are properly equipped. This expectation has not been deferred, and it will be incumbent upon all head coaches to reinforce all equipment rules. It is only the mandatory issuing of a yellow card upon the first offense, which could even be for a shirt not tucked in that has been deferred for the 2007 season only. This will allow coaches and game officials to be better prepared for the eventual enforcement of this penalty in 2008.

Soccer Time-Out Rule and Interpretation

- Each team may use one (1) time-out per half and each extended time period.
- Unused time-outs do not carry over to the next period of time.
- The time-out may be called by a head coach or field player by verbal or visual request to either field official.
- The total time of the time-out should not exceed one (1) minute unless both teams are ready to play prior to the sixty seconds. The official will blow the whistle at 45 seconds to warn the teams, and will beckon the teams onto the field at 60 seconds. If a team refuses to play after being instructed to do so, the game may be terminated.
- The calling official will blow the whistle, give "stop the clock" signal, and indicate which team has called the time-out. The time-out will begin when the table and coaches are notified of the time-out by the official. The official on the field will then keep the time.
- During the time-out period, teams should go to area of the field near their bench. Players must remain on the field, coaches can come onto the field, and bench personnel should remain on the bench.
- During the time-out period, each official should observe one team from about half the field.
- During the time-out period, both teams will be allowed unlimited substitution; however, during a penalty kick, the kicker must be a player who was in the game when the penalty kick was called. Substitutes must check in at the center table and be beckoned in. This can be done during the time-out period.
- When a caution is given, the player receiving the caution must remain out of the match until the clock has been restarted.
- At the conclusion of the time-out, the game will be restarted by the proper method of restart dictated prior to the time-out. The officials will check with each other, assess the readiness of the players, warn both teams play is about to commence, make eye contact with fellow official, and blow the whistle to continue the game. The clock will start when the ball is properly put back into play.
- **Which team is allowed to call a time-out?**
 - **Either Team:** after a card (yellow or red), after a goal is scored, after an injury time-out and when a drop ball.
 - **Only the Team Having the Offensive Restart:** penalty kick, corner kick, goal kick, throw in, direct free kick and indirect free kick

Comments:

1. The intent of this rule is to allow coaches a time to plan, calm down, or talk to their team.
2. This time should never be used to confront officials.
3. Teams should never assume a time-out has been granted until a whistle and signal are given.
4. Teams should be very clear and emphatic about requesting their time-out.
5. Once a ball is properly put into play, a time-out request will be ignored.
6. The request of an excess time-out will be ignored by the official. A caution may be given if this persists or is done tactically against the other team.
7. Once asked for, a time-out cannot be retracted.
8. Consecutive time-outs can be awarded (this should not be done in an unsporting manner).

Summary Rule Infraction Reporting System

Infraction Code and Name	Total Cards			No. of Red			No. of Yellow		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
1. Delay of game	59	49	49	0	0	1	59	49	48
2. Encroachment	36	30	21	0	1	1	36	29	20
3. Tactical handball foul	7	11	15	0	1	0	7	10	15
4. Equipment violation (including mouthguard)	31	15	19	0	1	0	31	14	19
5. Persistent Infringement	64	75	87	0	1	0	64	74	87
6. Dissent	148	163	171	0	10	6	148	153	165
7. Incidental Language	78	57	53	0	9	2	78	48	51
8. Holding, Shirt or Shorts	42	48	28	0	1	0	42	47	28
9. Kick, Trip, Hold, Push	272	328	286	0	9	4	272	319	282
10. Taunting	17	35	4	0	16	4	17	19	0
11. Subsequent Caution	9	12	5	0	12	4	9	0	1
12. Violent Conduct	45	40	25	45	12	14	0	28	11
13. Serious Foul Play	72	60	28	72	14	9	0	46	19
14. Insulting, Abusive Language	57	33	25	0	13	12	57	20	13
15. Fighting	17	35	23	17	35	21	0	0	2
16. Other	312	270	194	0	18	15	312	252	179
TOTALS	1266	1261	1033	134	151	93	1132	1108	940

Infraction Code and Name	Total Cards	No. of Red	No. of Yellow
	2006	2006	2006
1. Delay of game	58	0	58
2. Encroachment	27	0	27
3. Tactical handball foul	17	0	17
4. Equipment violation	19	0	19
5. Persistent infringement	90	1	89
6. Dissent	213	2	211
7. Incidental language	72	0	72
*8. Holding, kicking, tripping	608	0	608
*9. Faking injury or foul	5	0	5
*10. Subsequent caution	15	15	0
*11. Excessive celebration	1	0	1
12. Violent conduct	20	20	0
13. Serious foul play	17	17	0
14. Insulting, abusive language	23	23	0
*15. Taunting	12	12	0
16. Other	148	25	123
TOTALS	1345	115	1230

(*name and/or number change)

November 2007/MIAA Soccer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
First Practice August 23rd First Contest Sun. Sept. 2nd			OCT 31st Cutoff Date	1 Seeding (N/S/C)	2 Seeding (W)	3 Sectional Games Begin
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Sectional Finals
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sectional Finals		State Semi-Finals	State Semi-Finals	State Semi-Finals		State Finals
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
State Finals (Rain/Snow Date)				Thanksgiving		
25	26	27	28	29	30	