



SPORTSMANSHIP

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 Soccer Committee would like to recognize those schools, whose soccer teams, during the 2008 season, distinguished themselves in the area of good sportsmanship, which earned them an MIAA Soccer Team Sportsmanship Award presented at the 2008 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 2008

Boys - Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School

Girls - Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School

2009 Dates to Remember

- **August 24th**
Pre-Season Dinner/Clinic
- **August 27th**
First Practice Date
- **September 6th**
First Contest Date
- **September 30th**
Schedule & Commitment Form Due
- **November 4th**
Cutoff Date
- **November 5th**
Tournament Seeding
- **November 17-18**
State Semi-Finals
- **November 21st**
State Finals

Soccer Rules Clinic

What: Annual Clinic to review Rules & Policies for the 2009 Soccer Season

When: August 24, 2009

Where: MIAA Office

Time: 5:00pm Light Buffet, 5:30 pm Clinic

For: Commissioners, Athletic Directors, Game Officials & Coaches

RSVP to Nathan Bonneau

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From the State Interpreter

As we finally get some summer weather, I get the call from “Bill” McGuirk, soccer’s liaison to/from the MIAA, that it is that time again! Fall is on the horizon! Massachusetts’ version of “The Beautiful Game” is about to appear on playing fields all over the Commonwealth and we must be ready!

The young folks are out there now – girls and guys – playing “their” game, anxious to see the Fall practices start (27 AUG) and their seasons begin for real! We, as the supervisors, whether it be as a coach, school administrator or official, have the responsibility to be just as excited as they are. To be less so is to not do our job!

Our job is hard to describe for fear of leaving out one (or more) aspect. It is not that hard to “understand” however! ***We simply must provide all players the opportunity to enjoy playing soccer in a safe and fair environment.*** “We” now encompasses all adults who participate in ANY fashion. This expanded category must include those mentioned above, as well as game site supervisors, safety officers and parents. It is essential that we ALL understand and do everything in our power to see that it is accomplished.

The Rules of the game have been “tweaked” here and there, but have remained essentially unchanged over the last several years. The Rule requiring the head coach and official to share responsibility for players’ equipment (proper and legal) is formalized in the NFHS Rules, as is the requirement for submission of full team rosters at least five minutes prior to the contest. The coaches and the officials know this! They also understand the occasional minor changes in the Rules, none of which change our dedication to the Spirit of the Game! As one mother described the game to me, “It’s still 11 on a team and you can’t touch the ball with your hands.” Were it ever so simple! I look forward to a great 2009 season!

Calvin G. Perry---MA State Soccer Interpreter

NFHS Soccer Rule Changes

3-1-3: Each team shall submit a team roster, containing the names of all players, all bench personnel and all coaches, to the officials at least five minutes prior to the start of the contest. The game shall not begin until this is complete. Players, bench personnel and coaches may be added to the roster after the start of play.

4-1-1: Shinguards must meet the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) specifications. The NOCSAE seal and the appropriate height range of the player shall appear on the shinguard. Beginning with the 2012 fall season, the NOCSAE seal and height range shall be permanently marked on the front of the shinguard.

4-2-1g: Illegal equipment shall not be worn by any player. This applies to any equipment which, in the opinion of the referee, is dangerous or confusing. Types of equipment that are illegal include, but are not limited to, the following:

(g) ankle braces made of metal or unyielding materials, unless covered by a stocking or other suitable material. Ankle braces not made of metal or unyielding material may be worn outside a stocking.

5-1-3a: The officials shall be dressed alike in the uniforms primarily consisting of:

(a) a shirt approved by the state association; in the event of a color conflict between the officials and the field players of either team, the officials shall change to a jersey of a color distinct from the field players of both teams.

NFHS Points of Emphasis

Unconscious Player

If the player is determined to be unconscious or apparently unconscious by game officials, the player cannot return to the game until written authorization by a physician is presented.

Ankle Braces

Technological advances in "joint" braces have made them safer over the past decade. A player may wear an ankle brace over the sock providing there is no exposed metal or unyielding material.

Shinguard Placement

Shinguards need to be placed no higher than 2 inches above the ankle for safety purposes.

NFHS Code of Ethics

Coaches and officials should read the NFHS Code of Ethics and incorporate them into their game preparations.

NFHS Soccer Signals

Officials in the course of enforcing the rules of play need to properly and consistently use the NFHS Official Soccer Signals.

Ball Holders

At least two ball holders should be provided by the home team to prevent delays. Ball holders are under the direct supervision of the official(s).

Team Areas

The team areas shall be at least 10 feet from the touchline and extend 10 yards on each side of the halfway line, for a distance of 20 yards. When placed on opposite sides, each team area shall be placed diagonally across from each other.

New MIAA Soccer Rules 2009-2011

The New Rule Proposal process concluded with the final MIAC vote this Spring on all the proposals submitted for the new 2009-2011 MIAA Handbook. Changes which are of particular importance to the sport of soccer are as follows:

MOUTHGUARDS no longer mandatory:

MIAA Rule 77.1.5: Mouth guards are *highly recommended* for all soccer players while on the field.

COACHES PENALTY for ILLEGALLY EQUIPPED player--first offense, per NFHS Rule 4.3 has been RE-INSTATED:

The yellow card caution, to be assessed to the head coach upon the first instance of an *illegally* equipped player, previously deferred by the MIAA Board of Directors because mouthguards were mandatory, has been re-instated as a result of the change in the mouthguard rule noted above.

NFHS Rule 4.3: "...The head coach shall receive the first caution issued (yellow card) for an illegally equipped player. Any subsequent cautions (yellow cards) for illegally equipped player(s) shall be issued directly to the player(s) and not to the head coach.

MIAA Coaches Education Requirements

With the exponential growth of the sport of soccer at the recreational and interscholastic program levels, high school coaches and administrators should be aware of the existing MIAA coaches' education requirements:

MIAA COACHES' EDUCATION Rule 33:

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete an MIAA sponsored or approved coaches' education course of study. The approved course will consist of the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Coaches' Principles Course (must be passed prior to coaching a second year) and the NFHS Sports First Aid course (must be passed prior to coaching a third year).

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2007 must complete the NFHS Coaches' Principles Course, the NFHS Sports First Aid course and the NFHS Sport Specific Technical and Tactical Skills Course in the sport they are coaching (must be completed prior to coaching a third year). Note: The sport-specific requirement will begin on July 1, 2007 or when the particular sport-specific course becomes available, if after this date.

The NFHS Coaching Principles Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Coaching Principles Clinic.

The NFHS Sports First Aid and Sport Specific requirement may be met by completing on-line courses.

MIAA RULE 33 CLARIFICATIONS:

- All coaches hired prior to August 1, 1998 are exempt from the Coaches Education Rule
- All coaches hired after August 1, 1998 but before July 1, 2005 must complete the Coaching Principles Course WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CERTIFIED MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS
- ALL COACHES hired after July 1, 2005 must abide by the Coaches Education Rule 33 (INCLUDING CERTIFIED TEACHERS)
- **ALL COACHES - WHETHER ON STIPEND OR VOLUNTEER, ARE SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF RULE 33.**

Sportsmanship: Athlete & 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. Judgments of game officials are not subject to appeal. If the event does not have officials (e.g. golf, tennis) it is the responsibility of the site manager to report any suspension to the Athletic Director who in turn will complete the MIAA suspension form.
- 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.

2009 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 77.2.21). 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.

Summary Rule Infraction Reporting System

<u>Infraction Code and Name</u>	<u>Total Cards</u>			<u>No. of Red</u>			<u>No. of Yellow</u>		
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
1. Delay of game	58	52	56	0	0	2	58	52	54
2. Encroachment	27	32	27	0	0	0	27	32	27
3. Tactical handball foul	17	14	12	0	0	0	17	14	12
4. Equipment violation	19	20	13	0	0	0	19	20	13
5. Persistent infringement	90	85	59	1	0	1	89	85	58
6. Dissent	213	244	207	2	1	3	211	243	204
7. Incidental language	72	80	80	0	0	1	72	80	79
8. Holding, kicking, tripping	608	577	486	0	0	1	608	577	485
9. Faking injury or foul	5	9	7	0	0	0	5	9	7
10. Subsequent caution	15	22	8	15	22	7	0	0	1
11. Excessive celebration	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
12. Violent conduct	20	24	16	20	24	15	0	0	1
13. Serious foul play	17	13	12	17	13	11	0	0	1
14. Insulting, abusive language	23	20	18	23	20	14	0	0	4
15. Taunting	12	2	8	12	2	6	0	0	2
16. Other	148	143	103	25	28	6	123	115	97
TOTALS	1345	1338	1112	115	109	67	1230	1229	1045

November 2009/MIAA Soccer Calendar

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

A Gentleman, Friend of Massachusetts HS Soccer

R.I.P. Tom Ford



Thomas E. Ford
1942-2009

On July 22, 2009, Tom Ford passed away surrounded by his loving family. Born in Palmer, MA on October 19, 1942, he was the son of the late John and Eva (Bonci) Ford. Tom has lived in Belchertown for the past five years, and was a former longtime resident of Monson.

In 1966, he graduated from Northeastern University and from 1967-1981 was a teacher of Physical Education, basketball coach, and Director of Athletics at Monson Jr. Sr. High School. During that time, he also coached basketball at Cathedral High from 1974-1978.

Most recently Tom had been the Athletic Director at the Granby Jr. Sr. High School. For many years, he was the West Boys and Girls Tournament Director for the sports of soccer, basketball and baseball and also served as the State Tournament Director for the MIAA in soccer and basketball.