



MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

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SPORTSMANSHIP INITIATIVES 2009-2010

The MIAA is committed to encouraging and promoting the high ideals of sportsmanship, integrity and ethics at all levels of interscholastic competition. It is imperative that programming, policy and celebration of achievement be implemented statewide to provide and promote a positive sports culture. The following is a brief overview.

Committees

- **Sportsmanship, Integrity and Ethics Committee** - Membership of the Sportsmanship, Integrity and Ethics Committee elected by the Assembly consists of one principal and one athletic director from each of the eight athletic districts except District E which has two principals and two athletic directors; two coaches, and two enrolled game officials representing boys and girls activities, in addition to one school committee member and one superintendent elected or appointed by their respective associations. Duties and responsibilities of the Sportsmanship, Integrity and Ethics Committee include "prepare and promote strategies designed to improve the attitudinal postures of all constituencies" and "warn, censure, place on probation, or suspend up to one calendar year any player, team, coach, game or school official, or school determined to be acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship."
- **Sportsmanship Alliance of Massachusetts (SAM)** - This collaboration of leaders represents the professional and scholastic sports community, health and education experts, state and local law enforcement, and others with the mission to "promote a culture of fairness, respect, responsibility, and civility in sports and to foster initiatives which encourage positive attitudes and behavior in athletes, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators of all ages in Massachusetts." The MIAA is a founding member of SAM and is currently represented as co-chair.
- **Student Advisory Committee** - This committee is comprised of twelve students who attended the NFHS National Student Leadership Conference. Student Advisory Committee members attend seasonal meetings with the Wellness Advisory Committee and help facilitate student and captains leadership workshops throughout the school year. In addition, these students are asked to participate in various association activities and provide continual feedback from the perspective of students on how to improve the Student Services offerings of the MIAA.
- **MIAA Student Ambassadors Program** - This initiative seeks to provide student-athletes from each MIAA member school with the opportunity to become involved and educated in the Association structure. MIAA member schools are asked to appoint or elect one junior and one senior student to serve as their school's ambassadors. Regular communication regarding Association news, policies and events is sent to the ambassadors. In addition, these students are asked for their feedback to help the Association improve the services that it offers.

Programs

- **Sportsmanship Summit** – The MIAA has held this event for the past 15 years. It features a captain’s panel, district sportsmanship awards, and workshops on topics such as fan control, sportsmanship strategies, and how students can make a difference. Over 1,000 educators and student leaders have attended this event for the past five years. 16th Annual MIAA Sportsmanship Summit – November 20, 2009 at Gillette Stadium.
- **Leadership Training Institute** – The purpose of this one-week residential training workshop is to train participants to take advantage of opportunities within athletics and other school activities to promote positive sportsmanship, wellness and leadership. Workshop participants learn practical strategies for involving school activity staff members, health educators, student activity participants and their parents in these efforts. 23rd Annual Leadership Training Week – January 25-29, 2010.
- **MIAA/Anti-Defamation League's "A World of Difference" Respect Workshop** – This workshop has been conducted in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League’s “A World of Difference Institute” for the past eleven years. The training focuses on the implication of respect, bias, racial diversity and integrity on athletic competition. Through case studies, the workshop explores specific strategies to improve the quality of the school and athletic climate. MIAA/ADL Respect Workshop – March 2010.
- **Massachusetts Student-Athlete Citizenship Day Program** – This annual event is sponsored by the MIAA and Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society to honor and congratulate student-athletes from across the state for their achievements on the playing field, in the classroom and for their commitment to community service. Events of the day include panel discussions, keynote speeches, and award presentations. Two separate events are held at Northeastern University and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Massachusetts Student-Athlete Citizenship Days – April 2010.
- **NFHS Student Leadership Conference** – Members of the MIAA Student Advisory Committee interact with over 300 students from across the United States, Canada and Israel at this four-day conference in Indianapolis. Students take part in large and small group sessions involving a citizenship-based curriculum. Components of the curriculum involve respect, positive values, perspective, sportsmanship, teamwork, healthy lifestyles, community service and self-evaluation. NFHS Student Leadership Conference – July 2010.
- **Citizenship Through Sports/Leadership Training Institute** – This workshop gives athletic directors and coaches theoretical and practical instruction on how to create, modify, implement and maintain a character-based athletic program. The program is presented in a manner that provides clear, understandable explanations of terms, concepts and practical methods that athletic directors and coaches can capture, reflect and act upon.
- **Captain’s Leadership Workshops** – This one-day workshop involves students interacting with adult Leadership Training participants to learn ways that they can make a significant difference in their schools. Through small group activities, students discuss strategies for influencing their peers and handling difficult situations. Workshops are conducted regularly at the request of leagues or schools.
- **Sportsmanship Pre-season Meetings** – These meetings are conducted seasonally at the local level with administrators, coaches, representatives of athletic teams, and parents focusing on the educational mission and desired outcomes of each athletic program. MIAA speakers and resources are available upon request. A complete list of speakers can be found at: <http://www.miaa.net/student-services/resourceist.pdf>
- **Sportsmanship “The Only Way to Win” Program** – Through this program, coaches, athletic directors, game officials or school administrators can nominate individuals or teams to be recognized for outstanding acts of sportsmanship. Recipients of this monthly award receive a letter of recognition and a certificate from the MIAA praising their actions. Press releases are provided to the local media, and the awards are published on the MIAA web site and in the Association’s Student Services newsletter. Sportsmanship “The Only Way to Win” nomination forms are available online at: <http://www.miaa.net/onlywaytowin.htm>

- **MIAA Sportsmanship Essay/Multimedia Contest** – This contest is held annually to promote various themes of sportsmanship. Students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to share their ideas in an essay of 500 words or less or a multimedia presentation of 3 minutes or less. The authors of the top three entries present their work at the annual MIAA Sportsmanship Summit and are appropriately recognized for their achievements. Winning and honorable mention entries are published in an anthology entitled "Sportsmanship: A Game Plan for Life" and distributed at various MIAA functions. The theme of this year's 9th Annual MIAA Sportsmanship Essay Contest is "How do my choices impact sportsmanship?" - 9th Annual Sportsmanship Essay Contest Entry Deadline - October 16, 2009.
- **District Sportsmanship Awards** – These awards are presented annually at the MIAA Sportsmanship Summit to one school in each of the eight athletic districts within the MIAA structure. District sportsmanship awards are chosen by the athletic directors from the member schools in each district. Previous District Sportsmanship Award winning schools can be found at: <http://www.miaa.net/student-services/sportsmanshipawards.htm>.
- **Sportsmanship Alliance of Massachusetts (SAM) Awards Program** – These seasonal sportsmanship awards are presented by the professional sports teams in Massachusetts to deserving teams in their respective sport. The award recipients are honored at a home event of the professional team. Participating professional teams include: the New England Patriots, Boston Bruins, Boston Cannons, Boston Celtics, and Boston Red Sox. Previous SAM Awards can be found at: <http://www.miaa.net/student-services/sportsmanshipawards.htm>
- **Team Sportsmanship Awards** – These awards are presented at the state championship final of every MIAA sponsored sport to a worthy team in each division of competition. The awards are presented to those teams who have demonstrated a sincere commitment to the highest ideals and objectives of sportsmanship during their season of play. Teams can be nominated for this award by coaches, administrators, or officials. A list of past award winners can be found at <http://www.miaa.net/student-services/sportsmanshipawards.htm>.
- **James F. Mulloy Annual Sportsmanship Awards** – These annual awards are presented to the boys and girls high school hockey program in each division that exemplifies the sportsmanlike qualities of the late James F. Mulloy, former MIAA Ice Hockey Committee Chair and high school ice hockey coach.
- **MIAA "Outstanding Sportsmanship Award" Certificate Program** – These certificates are available to MIAA member schools upon request for presentation to student-athletes who exemplify the true spirit of interscholastic athletic competition through the demonstration of outstanding sportsmanship.
- **NFHS/MIAA Sportsmanship Certificate Program** - This joint program of the NFHS/MIAA provides certificates to MIAA member schools for presentation to student-athletes who exemplify the true spirit of interscholastic athletic competition through the demonstration of outstanding sportsmanship.
- **Tournament Sportsmanship PSA requirements (statewide)** – These contractual commitments are required of all radio/television mediums who cover MIAA Tournament events.
- **Sportsmanship Public Address Program (local level)** – Public service announcements are offered to member schools to welcome and introduce all interscholastic games as well as remind spectators and participants of their expected behavior.

Resources

- **"Building the Future" Student Services Newsletter** - This newsletter is printed seasonally and forwarded to all MIAA principals, athletic directors, wellness coordinators, school committees, superintendents and state legislators. "Building the Future" highlights Wellness, Sportsmanship, Coaches' Education, Student Leadership and Community Service initiatives. Current and past editions of this publication are available on the MIAA website: <http://www.miaa.net/student-services/newsletters.htm>.

- **MIAA Sportsmanship Manual** - This resource for school administrators provides a comprehensive guide to sportsmanship initiatives. The manual includes the fundamentals of sportsmanship, roles and guidelines for behavior, MIAA rules and procedures, crowd control policies, and many other sportsmanship related materials. This publication is available for school administrators and is distributed at various MIAA functions. The manual can be found online at: <http://www.miaa.net/student-services/Sportsmanship-Manual-2005.pdf>.
- **"Sportsmanship: A Game Plan for Life"** - This anthology represents the top entries in the annual MIAA Sportsmanship Essay Contest. The top three essays are presented at the annual MIAA Sportsmanship Summit and are included in this publication along with other honorable mention entries. These publications are distributed at various MIAA functions and can be found online at: <http://www.miaa.net/student-services/sportsmanshipessaycontest.htm>
- **MIAA Video Library** - A wide variety of resource videos are available for lending purposes to member schools. Video topics include alcohol, drugs, tobacco, sportsmanship, leadership, safety, values, steroids, depression, and stress. For a complete list please visit <http://www.miaa.net/student-services/videolibrary.htm>.

Policies

- **MIAA Taunting Policy** – This policy was adopted by the Board of Directors in November of 1994. Taunting includes any actions or comments by coaches, players or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean others. Examples include “trash talk” and “in the face” confrontations. Officials are to consider taunting a flagrant unsportsmanlike foul that disqualifies the offending contestant or bench personnel from the contest. The offender may also be subject to existing MIAA expulsion rules. Spectators may be given one warning for taunting. Thereafter, spectators who taunt players, game officials or other spectators are subject to ejection. More information can be found at: <http://www.miaa.net/taunting-brochure.pdf>.
- **Game Officials’ Partnership** – The MIAA Taunting Policy is read by game officials prior to every MIAA interscholastic athletic contest to the participating team captains (90,000 annually).
- **Sportsmanship Compliance Rule** – MIAA Handbook Rule 49.11 – “Any coach who is disqualified from an MIAA interscholastic athletic contest or had three (3) athletes disqualified 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 or before coaching any other sport at any MIAA member school.”
- **Coach/Media Relations Rule** – “Coaches will not publicly criticize any game official; will not permit anyone under their supervision to criticize game officials; will cooperate with the media in the interpretation and clarification of rules and/or other aspects of the game, but will not make comments about specific decisions of game officials; and will make an effort in their communication with the media, to stress the positive displays of sportsmanship demonstrated by the student-athletes, coaches, fans, spectators, and schools involved in the contest.”
- **Hockey/Soccer Sportsmanship** – All leagues must conduct a pre-season meeting for all head coaches to review sportsmanship goals and objectives.
- **Hockey/Soccer Sportsmanship standards for tournament eligibility** – Any team who receives a combination of (specified number) misconducts, game misconducts and/or game penalties during the regular season shall not qualify for the MIAA Tournament.
- **Hockey/Sportsmanship Compliance requirements** – As part of the MIAA’s continuing effort to promote the concepts of sportsmanship and an appropriate on-site atmosphere, an additional requirement for state tournament qualification states that all member schools who enter the MIAA Ice Hockey Tournament, will provide the presence of school personnel that will assist the efforts of on-site management in maintaining control and conduct of their student spectators at all games in the tournament during which their team is a participant.