

MIAA Soccer Committee Minutes

September 18, 2024 -10:00am

MIAA Office

1. Call to order
 - a. Welcome and Introductions – Steve Dubzinski MIAA Assistant Director
 - b. Conflict of Interest Forms
2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
3. Approval of Minutes – May 7, 2024 (attached)
4. Alignement Update
5. Tournament Update – Format, Dates, Sites
6. Yellow Card discussion- Karen Guilmette
7. Coaches Report – Laura Ramos, Agawam and Dave Gavron, Wayland
8. Referee Update – Ric Beaudoin
9. New Business
 - a. Rule Change Proposal Vote ([Click here to view](#))
 - b. Educational Athletics initiatives updates– Steve Dubzinski
 - c. Coach of the Year
 - d. Game Official of the Year
10. Future meeting dates
11. Adjournment

Notes:

- Meeting Called to order: 10:08am
- Introductions:
 - Jay – Running the infractions
 - Reminder: Infractions should be submitted that night, Red cards especially
 - Game ended early last night: 5 cards for one team == auto forfeit
 - MIAA Rule supersedes NFHS Rule on Shinguard Rule (and in general)
 - Ours can be less restrictive if we have a rule
 - Frequently seeing very small shinguards that are not age appropriate and provide little protection
 - Enforcement on shinguards has varied; some officials look for label others just ensure everyone has them on
 - Federation specifies age and size appropriate
 - **Erickson:** Having a rule is redundant – we should emphasize students should be removed from the field if they aren't wearing appropriate shinguards

- Chair Vote: Mackin nominates Erickson, seconded Joncas. Unanimous. Erickson is chair.
- Vice Chair: Karen is nominated by Erickson. Second by Viele. Guillernette is Vice Chair.
- Chair official nominations need to be in next agenda; no quorum.
- Alignment:
 - Appeal deadline is Oct. 1
 - Some are moving far, low 3 to mid 2
 - Football ex: Up 3 division in 4 years (Anderson)
 - Demographics and participation in sports are taken into account during appeal decisions (Dub)
 - We use last year's numbers to make next year's alignment decisions
 - There shouldn't be any unexplained movement (Mackin)
- Sidenote: JJ is sitting in for TPG (fly on the wall), providing details on his role in bringing corporate partnerships in to increase MIAA funding
- Tournament Update:
 - We had a false date advertised last year and it slipped by us.
 - Soccer will have its own showcase weekend, avoiding conflicts with XC and others
 - Set for Thanksgiving weekend
 - Schools:
 - We have Worcester State for Friday night and Saturday
 - In talks with WPI for Saturday / Sunday, finalizing now
 - Potentially 1030, 1, 430, 6pm for 4 games at each on Saturday (rough estimates) (Dub)
 - Turf is great at Worcester State, parking is a bit tricky (Mackin)
 - We will need graphics for the finals, we want to do it right (Erickson)
 - Planning a kickoff announcement with TPG (Dub)
 - Boys at one school, Girls at another (Dub), unless both from same school are in, they would be an exception and at the same location
 - College sites are roughly 3x more expensive, costs have been going up year-by-year (Dub)
 - When WPI finalized, committee will be notified waiting on finalized contract (Dub)
 - Erickson: Streaming options for the final games?
 - Dub: Ideally one crew at each venue, Jim Clark handles this in MIAA
 - Erickson: MIAA needs to set a policy for streaming of the semifinals. We need to provide clarity on livestream info, or make it known that it won't be live streamed. Coordination is key.
 - Erickson: Karen took the lead on this and it looks good
- Yellow Cards:
 - Karen: McCarthy brings up the potential for a stronger penalty for a Yellow Card

- They can go back in in the next substitution
 - Should we have a more formal time allotment like other sports
- Beaudoin: Severity of Yellow card play a role? There's no differentiation as of now.
- Ramos: Coaches generally play it by instance; some yellows are more punishable, some are small and they let the player go back in quickly
- These coaching decisions are usually made during the game from a strategic perspective; if they get another yellow card they are out.
- Beaudoin: Generally, coaches put star players who got a yellow card back in immediately
- Beaudoin: Do scrimmage cards carry over into the regular season?
 - Erickson: Scrimmage is not really a scrimmage, MIAA considers them a practice; we may be overextending our reach if we dictate this
 - Terranova: Scrimmages are vital for choosing who makes the team
 - Erickson: Officials should still give cards, but they should not necessarily carry over
 - Mackin: Seconded, helps set the boundaries especially with regard to new rules. Can be a teaching moment.
 - Erickson: Send a reminder of the formstack's location and that it is the school's responsibility to monitor for 5 yellow penalties
 - Jay: MIAA has the capability to monitor moving forward
 - Beaudoin: Bench clearing brawl style situation; any procedure?
 - Erickson: It's one of those things that is hard to legislate, make is clear that entering the field of play to fight is a clear violation of the rules, would recommend discretion by the officials
 - Formstack: Stopping a promising attack (SPA), talked about during spring (Joncas)
 - **Should be a violation code in the Formstack.**
- Coaches Report:
 - Ramos: Shinguard clarification: Officials checking for the symbol.
 - Shinguards should provide adequate protection and are age-appropriate. NFHS Rulebook provides clear outlines (read aloud). (Erickson)
 - NFHS Rule provides clarity for a general MIAA rule (Erickson).
 - Mackin: Shin guards must be N Certified, but that being said we don't want to exclude kids who don't have access to good shinguards
 - Erickson: We don't want to force kids to pull down socks and force them to not play.
 - Beaudoin: Many people aren't practical and follow the letter of the NFHS rulebook and will throw a player out if the label fell off. We need to make it fair and safe. Coach has to vouch for the safety and legality of their shinguards. If that is found to be false, yellow card for the coach.

- Erickson: The officials have the authority to throw kids off with very small shinguards and card the coach if they deem it necessary, but pregame sock checks are a bit overboard.
 - Ramos: From the association, shinguards will be checked for the symbol on their shinguards for the rest of the season. The correct policy needs to be sent out to the rest of the state.
 - Erickson: Fair to check a questionable pair, not fair to check every kids pair before every game
 - Mackin and Ramos would like to be CCed on this material
 - Dub to Beaudoin: We should get this out sooner rather than later
- Ramos: Someone reported 3 refs from the board of the team they were playing in playoffs, they were concerned about a conflict
 - Erickson: Home teams are responsible for assigning the officials
 - Through Round of 8 (Newhall)
 - Final 4 guarantees neutral officials (Newhall)
 - Potential conflicts of interest should be avoided (Beaudoin)
- Officials:
 - Beaudoin: Comms for 2-person game is very beneficial
 - Erickson and Karen agree, no rule that prohibits the use
- Rule Change Proposal:
 - Erickson: These are advisory rules, lets limit discussion to 1 min per
 - Rule 1:
 - Mackin: Must may me too strong for ADs
 - Anderson: Must is not necessarily possible
 - Karen: Happens organically, must is not necessary
 - Erickson: Does not support this, puts all the responsibility on the ADs, can be legal liability risk, mandate is too much
 - Rule 2:
 - Erickson: Old, silly rule
 - Rule 3:
 - Erickson: Makes logical sense, should we go further
 - Mackin: Why make a positive out of bringing back a suspended player?
 - Rule 7:
 - Joncas: Clubs exist, providing it as a varsity sport gives the governing body clarity that club sports don't have
 - Rule 8:
 - Dub: Note that Girls Flag Football will likely lead to the addition of Boys Flag Football as a Spring Sport
 - Rule 9:
 - Dub: Restricts cheer to one season, many Cheer coaches and MSAA opposed
 - Rule 11:

- Erickson: Doesn't impact soccer we have our own rule, makes the other sports align with the current rules in soccer and hockey
- Rule 19:
 - Erickson: Recommended no, there's no rule about shorts currently its just jersey and socks
- Dub: Keep updated on the education initiatives on the website.
- Dub: No submission: Girls Soccer coach of the year (pretty sure its Girls soccer)
- Dub: Future meeting date: Typically Late January. Expected Virtual.
 - Dub to send dates to Chair and Vice Chair
- Motion to adjourn. Seconded. End of Meeting. 12:01pm