

## MIAA Football Committee

Minutes – Jan. 28, 2026

- 1) Minutes of Sept. 17, 2025  
Moved and Approved (M. Rubin, E. Maguire) 17-0-1
- 2) 2025 Tournament Review
  - Football liaison, R. Pearson thanked Reilly Christie for his efforts and that of his team. T. Hooten was thanked for his work to secure the best possible officials for the semi-finals and state finals.
  - It was reported that attendance for the 8 state finals games was approximately 16,800. The extreme cold weather conditions was discussed as a contributing factor
  - Reilly Christie, TD reported out on the efforts of the 2025 tournament season; he recognized the efforts of all to make the experience excellent for all players and schools
  - Semi-Final sites are challenging but appreciative of all that volunteered their sites
- 3) Football Format 2026 – Approval (*attached*)
  - Committee discussion, of Belmont who declined participation in the non-playoff; write a letter, to be heard; RP write the letter on behalf of the committeeMoved and Approved (J. MacCreery, B. Sittig) 19-0-0
- 4) Fall 2026 Planning – Discussion
  - Discussion about the preseason calendar for 2026
  - Committee members discussed current 2026 preseason calendar and new proposal submitted by committee member T. Selmon
  - It was suggested that the committee consider this proposal and return to the March meeting with feedback allowing for discussion and/or action
  - It was suggested that a notice about technology prior to the 2026 season will be beneficial
- 5) Arm Sleeve Notice for 2027 - Update
  - Liaison R. Pearson updated the committee on the 2027 rule change for material on any arm sleeve
  - This information was published in the 2025 NFHS rule sand will be published again in the 2026 rules, to be effective fall 2027.
- 6) Playoff Proposal - Update
  - J. Costa, updated the committee on the work of the current sub-committee
  - The sub-committee will meet again and is working to bring back thoughts/recommendations to the Football Committee; any working ideas would only be possible beginning in fall 2027for Fall 2027

- 7) NFHS Rules 2026 – Update
- Liaison R. Pearson updated the committee on the recent NFHS Football Rules meeting held on Jan. 12-14
  - Topics of discussion: Knee pads, uniforms, penalties; Hurdling and leaping over front line/punt blockers; Equipment - play cards on belt, sweatbands, clothing under helmet; Use of timeouts; Fair catch signals; D scoring on a try; Face masking penalties
  - NFHS will publish final approved rules for fall 2026 in February 2026
- 8) Overtime Procedure – Discussion
- Officials representative T. Azevedo submitted a proposal to the committee to use the current NFHS suggested Tied-Games/Overtime procedure
  - The committee had discussion and will consider the information and seek input from constituents.
  - The committee will come back at the March meeting with feedback, thoughts and consideration of asking the MIAA BOD to approve for use beginning in 2026
- 9) Officials Topics
- Tom Azevedo, western MA chain crew, compensation consideration; raise the \$25 fee to sub-varsity fee
  - Motion JV fee semi-finals and finals (D. Pignone, S. Dembowski) 18-0-1
- 10) Coaches Topics
- Coaches representative S. Dembowski, mentioned the inconsistent use and understanding of using electronic equipment during the game
  - The committee had discussion about how to address; (could be March meeting for rule change)
  - It was mentioned that locker rooms are a need, inconsistent, challenge and concern for coaches
  - Could committee consider higher seed for semi-final? Committee discussion no action
- 11) Other
- How best to address technology
  - Question of divisional alignment, maintaining size of divisions; How can committee to be attentive
  - R. Pearson to get information from TMC

Meeting Adjourned

Upcoming Meeting Schedule  
March 3, 2026 – Franklin Office 10:00 a.m.