

**MIAA SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 22, 2025 – 10:00 am**

**Attendance**

Derek Atherton, Christopher Basta, Chris Carrig, Joe Cusack, Keith Davie, Michael Jackson, Kevin May, Kelley St. Coeur, Jessica Stephens, Peter Smith, Donna Harrington

**Meeting called to order at 10:08 am.**

**Election of Officers**

- Derek Atherton elected as Chair (9-0)
- Kelley St. Coeur elected as Vice Chair (9-0)
- Michelle Hopkinson elected as Secretary (9-0)

**Sportsmanship Essay Contest**

- The theme of this year's contest is "What Does Good Sportsmanship Look Like From The Stands?"
- The deadline to submit entries is October 7.
- The subcommittee decided to move forward solely with the essay contest at the beginning of the year followed by a potential graphic design contest and video challenge to take place later in the school year. The MIAA Student Advisory Committee will be asked to assist with the parameters for the video challenge.

**Sportsmanship Summit Planning**

- A draft of the summit agenda with an updated timeline was shared with the committee.
- Evren Gunduz will serve as the student keynote speaker.
- Student breakout sessions will follow a similar format to last year with fan behavior scenarios presented for small group discussion and large group debrief.
- The Mental Health Collaborative will present a "Mental Health Essentials for Coaches and Athletic Directors" training during the adult breakout session.
- John Brown (Wellesley HS Athletic Director) was selected as the recipient of the William N. Gaine Jr. Sportsmanship Award.

**Final Contest Disqualification Data**

- The final contest disqualification data for the 2024-25 school year was shared with the committee.
- The total number of disqualifications has increased from 350 (2022-23) to 423 (2023-24) to 482 (2024-25).
- Communication will be sent to the basketball and boys lacrosse committee to raise awareness of the increased numbers of disqualifications in these sports.
- The disqualification data will be broken down and shared with each league individually.

**Updated Resources**

- Drafts of the updated MIAA Tournament Sportsmanship Expectations, MIAA Taunting Policy and MIAA Sportsmanship Handshake Toolkit were provided for first reads by the committee.
- Discussion and updates were made to the Sportsmanship Expectations document. Each document will be shared as a google doc for committee members to provide comments in advance of the next meeting.

**Finalize Process for Rule 49.5 Appeals**

- The new MIAA Handbook Rules 49.5.1 and 49.5.2 were reviewed by the committee.
- Volunteers were identified to serve on the subcommittee to hear potential appeals prior to tournament seeding. The subcommittee will establish date(s) to meet for the fall season based on the established cutoff dates: field hockey and volleyball (10/26), soccer (10/30) and football (11/1).

**Other**

- The committee discussed potential sportsmanship programming for student leaders.
- Next meeting – October 16 (Essay Judging) and January 15 (Full Committee – Virtual).

**Meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.**

DRAFT