

# GAME OFFICIALS SPRING NEWSLETTER



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From the Assistant Director  
**BILL MCGUIRK**-----

As this issue goes to press, our Winter Tournaments have just concluded and our contest officials, selected to officiate in the post-season, proudly represented their respective organizations.

And what is the most common question asked by game officials during tournament time? No—not “where are they playing the Division I Hockey Final?” If you guessed—“why didn’t I get a tournament game?” you’re correct! It is usually quickly followed by the comment, “Coach (x, y, and z) told me they submitted my name on their list!” Yeah, and I can get you a good price on some swamp land in Florida too!

Seriously, the fact is that each sport follows a protocol for assignment of tournament games and the Game Officials Committee (GOC) will be working on making that information more public.

Another game official’s issue that has appeared on the radar screen is the proper (or negligent) execution of the Student Contest Disqualification Form. After just completing a review of every Soccer Game/Roster Sheet submitted for the 2004 season, and cross-checking with submitted Student/Coach Contest Disqualification Forms (which should have matched the red-card infractions on the Game Sheet) it was alarming to discover so many disqualifications for which no Disqualification Form was filed. Submitting MIAA paperwork in a timely fashion is an expectation when an official accepts any game assignment. (Please note MIAA Handbook Rule 49.1 – see opposite column)

The path to perfection is typically a long and rocky one. Please be assured that the MIAA Game Officials Committee strives to be responsible to our member schools and to our contest officials as they address multiple issues.

I thank you for your dedication to your officiating avocation and for the tremendous service you provide for schools and student athletes. Have a great season!

If you would like to communicate with us, please use the following means:

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(508) 541-9807

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## MIAA Handbook

July 1, 2003-June 30, 2005 Edition

### Rule 49.

#### Sportsmanship: Athlete and Coach 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.

## NFHS 2005 Boys Lacrosse Rule Interpretation

It has come to our attention that a situation exists in the sport of Boys Lacrosse that presents a potential risk to defensive players. If a goalie's stick becomes broken during the course of a game, the goalie is instructed by the official to leave the field to replace his crosse. In some instances, play continues if the team has no timeouts left or the goalie doesn't call a timeout. With play continuing in the goalie's absence, defensive players are covering the crease and potentially blocking shots with their chests without proper protective equipment.

Based on the potential risk situation that this could present, the NFHS is issuing the following rule interpretation under Rule 4-27-1:

**Play should be suspended immediately if the goalie's stick or any of the other required goalie's equipment becomes broken or dislodged.**

Because of this interpretation, the following situation should be added to the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Case Book:

**Situation:** During the course of a game, the goalie's crosse becomes broken. **Ruling:** The official shall suspend the game immediately and instruct the player in question to correct the situation. There shall be no penalty assessed. (Rule 4-27-1)

Editor's note: If the goalie or any other team member should do anything to purposely break any required goalie equipment to stop play, it shall be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and should be penalized appropriately under Rule 5-9.

Please communicate this interpretation to lacrosse officials and lacrosse officials associations within your state so that these situations will be handled properly for the upcoming 2005 boy's lacrosse season.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kent Summers  
Assistant Director

## NFHS 2005 Boys Lacrosse Rule Changes

1-9: All players of a team shall wear helmets of the same color. **The MIAA Boys Lacrosse Committee voted to exempt this rule for this year only to give schools time to purchase the helmets.**

3-6: If the offended team is ahead, the score stands; if the offended team is behind or tied, the official score shall be Offended Team 1, Opponent 0.

6-5-14: Added the following: Penalty-Award the ball to the offended team in its offensive side of the field, at the Center Faceoff X.

6-6-3: This portion of the rule has been eliminated. All baiting and taunting acts are now clearly covered under Rule 5-9-3.

7-13: When a coach believes a rule has been misapplied, a timeout may be requested for the purpose of review.

Other Changes:  
4-12-4, 5

Reminder of Future Changes:  
All jerseys shall meet new specifications by 2008

Points of Emphasis

1. Late Arriving Team
2. Pre-Game Warm-Up Area
3. Field Markings
4. Crosse Exchanging
5. Mouth Guards – Revisited

Item#: 481 Posted: 08/11/04 - [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)

## NFHS Baseball Methods Course

For beginning baseball umpires or those who want to brush up their skills, the NFHS Officiating Baseball Methods e-course is available for purchase. It is one in a series of sport-specific officiating mechanics courses offered as a part of the NFHS Officials Education Program.

The new baseball course covers philosophy of officiating, pregame and post game procedures, plate and field mechanics and signals. It teaches how to work a one, two, or three-umpire game.

The course, which retails for \$75, includes the *Officiating Baseball* book, the latest issue of the NFHS baseball rule book and the *Officiating Baseball Mechanics CD*, developed by Epic Sports Software along with the NFHS. After completing the baseball e-course, umpires can take the course online. Those who pass are automatically entered into the National Officials Registry. For more information or to purchase the baseball e-course, go to [www.asep.com](http://www.asep.com)

*This article is from the February 2005 Referee Magazine*

## 2005 GIRLS LACROSSE RULE CHANGE NOTIFICATION

Regarding new rules changes, it will be important for all coaches and Athletic Directors to know that it will be the **timer's horn** which **will end each half and overtime**. That means there **must** be a **horn at the field**.

Each team will have two time-outs per game, including overtime. The USL has said that the time-outs may be used at any time **but may not be consecutively**.

### MIAA Game Officials Committee Survey

**If you have not yet answered our survey, please take a minute and email this information to:**

[bmcguirk@miaa.net](mailto:bmcguirk@miaa.net)

**Background:** The MIAA Board of Directors and the Game Officials Committee have discussed the issue of CORI checks of game officials on numerous occasions. While taking measures to ensure the safety of student athletes is the fundamental and unanimously accepted motivation of all participants in this dialogue, identifying the entity responsible for executing the CORI checks is a more difficult task.

For the purpose of gathering more information on the topic of CORI checks, the MIAA Game Officials Committee invites your participation in this dialogue by answering the following questions:

1. Does your game official's board currently conduct CORI Checks on current or prospective members?
2. If yes, please briefly describe the process: (use reverse side if necessary)
3. If no, was this a result of deliberate discussion on the CORI issue?
4. If no, what was the primary reason for not assuming the responsibility for CORI Checks?
5. Additional Comments on CORI Checks:

Respondent's Name (please print)

Respondent's Signature

Respondent's Title

Game Officials Board Name

Phone Number and/or E-mail Address

**\*\*\*THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING\*\*\***

The following sports medicine links have been updated on the NFHS website:

[www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)

### Updated Information from NFHS Sports Medicine Website

[Heat Stress and Athletic Participation](#)

[Reducing Brain and Spinal Injuries](#)

[Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness](#)

[Lightning Safety Tips](#)

The National Federation has forwarded information regarding communicable skin diseases which may spread quickly in the athletic arena; specifically community acquired methicillin-resistant staphylococcus infection (CA-MRSA). If you wish to review the National Athletic Trainers' Association's press release on this issue, [click here](#).

If you wish to review the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website page on this issue, [click here](#).

## ATTENTION POLE VAULT CERTIFICATIONS!

Please verify that your Outdoor Track Coach has updated their Pole Vault Certificate. Click on the link below for a complete list of certified pole vault coaches.

<http://www.miaa.net/PoleVaultCertification2005.PDF>

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