MIAA Basketball Committee Meeting  
February 4, 2019 – 10:00am

1. Call to Order at 10:05 am

2. Attendance: Jeff Newhall, Joe Rocha, Tony Price, Pat White, Laura Hannon, Mark Donahue, Jim Reynolds, Eileen Donahue, Sean Burke, David Racette, Tim Finn, Steve Hemman, Will Thomas, Bob Rodgers, Oderra Jones, Trudy Fisher, Wallace Johnson, Rita Castagna, George Johnson, Dwayne Early, Bill Boutilier, Bob Martin, Lou Conte, Mike Rubin, David Lanczycki, Keith McDermott, Peter Smith

3. Minutes of October 16, 2018 Meeting - approved unanimous

4. MIAA Assistant Director Rich Riley provided information about the MIAA Coach of the Year Award Program. Nominations are due March 29.

5. Preseason Newsletter Review
Committee members reviewed the MIAA Basketball Preseason Newsletter that was distributed to schools electronically at the end of November.

6. Tournament Management Committee Update
MIAA Associate Director Sherry Bryant provided an update about current Tournament Management Committee (TMC) initiatives. At their December 11, 2018 meeting, the TMC unanimously approved a change to the Divisional Alignment process. A handout was provided with details regarding the process for divisional alignment and placement, appeals and the formation of a new Alignment Committee.

At their January 10, 2019 meeting, the TMC unanimously approved beginning with Fall 2020 that team sports will be seeded by the MaxPreps rating system. A handout was provided with additional information and FAQ’s for MaxPreps. Lou Conte expressed concern regarding a change from the Walker System to MaxPreps for Western Mass.

The MIAA Board of Directors ratified the TMC proposed alignment process and seeding process at their January 16, 2019 meeting. Discussion regarding a potential Statewide Tournament system is still on the table for discussion with the TMC. The TMC will host an information session at the MSSADA Conference in March, a session at the MIAA Annual Meeting in April, and potential regional meetings for discussion. A timeline will be developed leading to a potential Special Meeting of the MIAA membership.

Bob Rodgers feels there should be more information and time for discussion. He expressed concern regarding scores not being entered on the MIAA site and how that would relate to the MaxPreps site. Laura Fallon suggested seeing a comparison between the Walker System and MaxPreps.

7. Tournament Directors Report
North - Larry Kelleher discussed predetermined sites in the North section. The UMass Lowell basketball team postseason conference tournament qualification could impact availability of Tsongas Arena.
West – Lou Conte discussed UMass Curry Hicks, WNEU and AIC as sites.
South – Joe Rocha discussed plans to host semi-final rounds at Bridgewater-Raynham and Taunton and finals at Taunton.
Central – Roger Bacon was unable to attend the meeting but has confirmed Clark, WPI and Worcester State as host sites.

State – Rita Castagna discussed the Tuesday/Wednesday schedule (3/12 and 3/13) for state semi-finals with TD Garden for the North/South games and AIC/Worcester State for the Central/West games. State final games will be played at Holy Cross (4 games) and WPI (4 games).

At the previous Basketball Committee meeting in October, a vote was taken regarding separate days for boys and girls state semi-final games at the TD Garden. Peter Smith provided background and discussed current Blue Ribbon Committee efforts. Rita Castagna discussed the consistency of alternating boys and girls games from the Sectional Finals to State Semi-Finals and the work that is done to provide the same opportunities for girls and boys games. After further discussion about the October vote, a motion was made to host the State Semi-Finals by divisional alignment (boys and girls on the same day) – **Approved 14-8.**

8. 2019 MIAA Basketball Tournament Format
Bob Rodgers discussed communication received from Bellingham High School regarding a roster larger than 15 players for the tournament. Discussion took place regarding the previous approval and publishing of the tournament format document. Motion – Give teams the ability to expand roster to 23 players until state finals – **Not approved 0-21.**

A Global Seeding Subcommittee will be established to address issues in advance of the tournament seeding. Volunteers for the committee are Mark Donahue, Oderra Jones, Dwayne Early and Jeff Newhall.

The tournament seeding meeting dates are February 22 (North, South and Central) and February 23 (West). A reminder will be sent to committee members regarding attendance on seeding day.

9. Coaches Association Report
Mark Donahue reported that 3 new MBCA Hall of Fame members were honored – Don Byron, John DiBiaso and Bill Loughnane. In addition Roger and Myrtle Bacon received the Leo Miller Award. Membership is currently strong at 400-500 members.

10. Officials Association Report
Bill Boutilier reported that the numbers coming into officiating are down. Help is needed recruiting new officials, especially female officials. Bill discussed possibilities for recruiting new officials and providing programs for high school students interested in the game. The officials’ exam is administered in November. Peter Smith and Jeff Newhall thanked Officials Representatives Bill Boutilier and Bob Martin for their assistance in clarifying the Post-Game Handshake Procedure as it relates to the fist bump that was communicated to schools in December.

11. Updates/Other
The rule change proposal submitted by the Basketball Committee is currently being voted on through the MIAA Rule Change Process. A final vote will be taken by the MIAC in the spring.

12. The meeting adjourned at 11:43am. The next meeting date is Wednesday, April 24, 2019.