Awareness of the changing rules...

For the third and final edition of the GOC newsletter, thank you to all officials for your work throughout our sport seasons. The time spent in preparation, travel, at games and reviewing your work do not go unnoticed. We have had two successful seasons this year which is due in large part to the work our officials do at each of our contest sites. As I said at the beginning of the winter season, we are fortunate to have you as partners in the “game” guiding student-athletes with life lessons.

In the February issue of the NASO Advisor, a section on page 6 offers thoughts on “helping members absorb rule changes.” We all know that rules changes come from the national rule making body as well as some adjustments every two years in the MIAA Handbook. Regardless of the body making the change, an awareness of the changes is important as each season begins.

In the Advisor they offer five ideas to help a board/association educate all officials on recent changes.

1. Cover the change and why it is changed
2. Educate your members visually
3. Cover changes throughout the season, not just in an early meeting
4. Review past changes
5. Encourage members to start rules study groups

(From the NASO Advisor, February 2018)

I found these ideas valuable as possible plans for a board or just for each individual official. Taking the time to be aware of the changes is very important. Please think about reviewing these before the season and maybe revisit again during the season. I am very aware that many officials spend time studying rule changes and I even think this happens at the end of every game as the officials talk about how the contest was on any given day.

Thank you for your work and continue to represent your sport by performing at the highest level possible. Also, think about growing the ranks of officials by mentioning to others to become an official and be a part of this exciting profession.

Thank you for all that you do.

Richard L. Pearson
Associate Director
Liaison – MIAA Game Officials Committee

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

Richard Pearson: rpearson@miaa.net
Phil Napolitano: pnapolitano@miaa.net
MIAA Official of the Year Award

2017-18 MIAA Game Official of the Year
“Exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and moral character”

This award seeks to recognize and honor officials who have displayed character, integrity and dignity, while displaying the highest standards of ethical conduct. Award candidates should have a record of exceptional performance, as well as a reputation, among their peers and the athletic community, for fair play, for good sportsmanship, and for the development of these attributes in our student-athletes.

If you feel that you have a nominee who meets these criteria, please complete and submit the attached MIAA Nomination Form, along with any supporting materials (nomination form must be completed for candidates to be considered). A selection committee made up of members of the MIAA Game Officials Committee (GOC), will review each nomination and choose an Official of the Year, in each sport. Officials and guest(s) will be invited to attend the awards banquet in May 30, 2018 at the MIAA Office in Franklin, MA. A maximum of two guests will be invited per official.

2017-18 MIAA Game Official of the Year Nomination Form
(click link to access nomination form)

2018 Spring Tournament NEW Cutoff and Seeding Dates

The Tournament Management Committee (TMC) voted to extend spring tournament cutoff and seeding dates. This proposal was approved unanimously by the committee and supported by MIAA President Marilyn Slattery, in an effort to afford schools an opportunity to complete a full season of competition given the unprecedented weather conditions that currently affect field availability and other spring sport conditions. Each sport committee will publish a detailed calendar of tournament dates within their format.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Previous Cutoff</th>
<th>New Cutoff</th>
<th>Previous Seeding</th>
<th>New Seeding</th>
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<tr>
<td>Team Tennis</td>
<td>5/24</td>
<td>5/31</td>
<td>5/25</td>
<td>6/1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6/4</td>
<td>5/29</td>
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<td>Golf</td>
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Concussion Information

New HEADS UP Fact Sheets for Sports Officials: Setting the Tone for Safety
Aggressive and/or unsportsmanlike behavior among athletes can increase their chances of getting a concussion by as much as 25%. Sports officials play a key role in setting the tone for safe play and can help lower an athlete’s chances of getting a concussion or other serious injury.

CDC’s new fact sheets for high school and youth sports officials provide info to help officials:
- protect athletes from concussion or other serious brain injury,
- learn how to spot a possible concussion, and
- know what to do if a concussion occurs.

Download the new fact sheets at: [www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP](http://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP).

Read the New CDC Report on Other Opportunities to Change the Culture of Concussion: [http://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP/resources/playbook.html](http://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP/resources/playbook.html).

105 CMR: Department of Public Health – 201.007 (E) Training Program

“Game officials shall complete one of the training programs approved by the Department, as specified on the Department’s website, annually and shall provide independent verification of completion of the training program to schools or school districts upon request.”

The yearly certification requirement is only valid between July 1st and June 30th of a given academic year. In support of Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations cited above, and in the best interests of our student athletes, all MIAA Tournament Directors and Tournament Assignors will require successful completion of a DPH approved concussion training program as a condition for an official accepting an MIAA tournament assignment. Your acceptance of an MIAA Tournament contest assignment will be considered a implicit confirmation that you are a member in good standing with your local board, that you are enrolled with the MIAA, and that you have successfully completed a concussion training program as required by the DPH.

The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) training module, “Concussions in Sports: What You Need to Know”, is one of the MDPH approved training programs and may be accessed using the link: [Concussions in Sports: What You Need to Know](http://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP).
SOFTBALL

The MIAA will **NOT** adopt the following sections of the NFHS Rules regarding "*intentional walks*".

2-65-2, 8-1-1c, 8-4-3a, 9-6-2: *The coach, pitcher or catcher of the defensive team may request an intentional walk either before or during the pitch count.*

For a complete list of NFHS Softball rule changes, [click here.](#)

LACROSSE

**MIAA Rule 74.1.1** – The Boys’ and Girls’ Lacrosse Committees voted that they will **NOT** be recognizing the 120 yard unified lacrosse field option recommended by the NFHS (section 1, article 2).

**For girls’ lacrosse tournament purposes**, beginning in 2020, three MIAA enrolled Game Officials will be assigned during all contests beginning with the preliminary rounds through the state finals.

RUGBY

**Uniform option:** “Boys have the **option** to wear cotton blend long tights, with single inside leg seam under their shorts and socks. Tights must be the same solid color throughout the team.”

While girls’ were already permitted to wear tights, they must be the same solid color throughout the team.

OUTDOOR TRACK

**Several prohibitions**, such as use of weights or artificial aids, wearing a shoe(s) containing a device that gives a competitive advantage or pushing on the back of a vaulter at takeoff during warm-ups or competition now have a penalty of disqualification from the event.

For a complete list of NFHS Track and Field rule changes, [click here.](#)
Sports Specific Tournament Formats

All game officials are required to be well versed on their sport tournament format in order to be assigned to tournament events. A format is a detailed breakdown of how each sport tournament is conducted. It’s important to remember that each sport has its own format, covering dates, rules, tournament ball agreements, overtime rules, and tie breakers, among other information. This information can be found on the MIAA Tournament Formats page of the MIAA website (miaa.net).

Student and Coach Disqualifications

It is recommended that all game officials carry coach and student disqualification forms with them to each contest. These forms can be found on the MIAA Game Officials page on the MIAA website. All game officials are required to know all procedures when it comes to disqualifications, including MIAA Handbook Rule 49.1 (pg 48).

Tournament Ball Agreements

All game officials are required to know exactly what tournament ball is to be used during MIAA tournament contests. This information can be found on the MIAA Game Officials page of the MIAA website.
MIAA Team Sportsmanship Awards

The MIAA would like to encourage game officials to nominate a boys or girls varsity team for consideration by that MIAA Sport Committee for recognition at the MIAA State Championship contest. Nominated teams do not have to be tournament teams but should exemplify the tenets of good sportsmanship to the highest degree. The nomination form information can be found in each sport specific MIAA Tournament Format.

Game Officials Fees

The recommended Game Officials’ regular season fees for 2017-2018 have increased $2.00 for all sports. The entire list of recommended fee’s can be found under MIAA Rule 93 (pages 110-112) of the MIAA Handbook.

Game Officials Roundtable Sessions with the MIAA

As we enter the final season of the year I would like to thank all of the board leaders and assignors who attend the GOC Roundtables in the fall of 2017. Thirteen meetings were held to discuss the state of officiating across Massachusetts and in particular the various nuances of each sport. We asked specific questions of each board and sport:

◊ How is your current enrollment of officials? Increasing or decreasing?
◊ What are some ideas you may have to increase the pool of officials?
◊ Conditions of work? Positives and Negatives. Biggest challenges?
◊ What other sportsmanship message might support game officials?
◊ How best to get info out?
◊ What more can our association/schools do to validate the work you do?

The MIAA Game Officials Committee will be using this information to support planning and development of ideas to grow the pool of officials as well as support the daily work during each season.
MIAA Background Check Information

FAQ’s

1. I registered and have been approved by the MIAA under one email address, but my assignor has a different email for me under their account, thus I am not showing as approved to them. What should I do?

   **Answer:** You will need to contact Arbiter support, 1-800-311-4060, and ask them to link your email accounts together. The email you provided for the MIAA background check is the one that will show you as an approved official.

2. If my assignor uses Arbiter to assign games, how can they gain access to the list of approved officials?

   **Answer:** The assignor will need to contact Phil Napolitano, pnapolitano@miaa.net and provide their 6-digit arbiter account number, along with the sport and leagues they assign. They will be linked to the MIAA super group. Once linked, the eligibility column will show up in their assigning account.

Click on the link above to enter Registration then follow steps below

**2018-19 REGISTRATION WILL OPEN ON JULY 1, 2017**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** All officials who were approved during the 2015-16 school year must complete another background check this year. The fees will remain the same. Background checks are valid for three years.

**NEW OFFICIALS**

*Background Check and Registration*

1) Click on the **registration tab** on the top left of this MIAA ArbiterSports page.
2) Select all sports for which you wish to register and click the REGISTER button.
3) Follow directions and complete all information and consents. A photo is not required. If you already have an Arbiter account, it will recognize your email once you type it in, then follow all directions.

**RETURNING OFFICIALS**

*Registration Only/Previously Completed Background Check*

*Login in the top right-hand corner prior to entering registration*

All officials must register annually - $10 per sport. Returning officials must confirm pre-populated information and complete all steps of the registration process (see steps above under “New Officials”). Please check and/or correct all contact information.

In order to finalize your registration you will need to once again consent to the **background check in step 5 of the registration process**, even though you have already been approved. During the final payment step you will **not** be charged for another background check nor will it be run again. Approved background checks are valid for three years. If you were approved during the 2015-16 school year, it is valid until June 30, 2018.
THE FINAL WHISTLE?
NOT SO FAST.

THE HIGH SCHOOLS IN YOUR STATE NEED NEW OFFICIALS!

- Give back to the sport you love
- Support the teenagers in your community
- Earn extra income

Apply online at HighSchoolOfficials.com