



Fall 2024

MIAA GAME OFFICIALS FALL SEASON NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to the new school year, 2024-25. Annual registration has been very busy over the summer months which is a good sign to have everyone ready for the beginning of MIAA school competition this fall.

Over the past few years, we have added some new members to your ranks of officials. We could still use more in many sports, but some growth has been evident. My thought for all is to exhibit encouragement throughout this year.

Encourage athletes to always be their best and exhibit sportsmanship. Encourage your colleagues to enjoy the contest(s) and be their best with athletes, coaches and administrators. And maybe most important, encourage new and younger officials to grow their craft every day. Maybe even encourage them to add another sport to their officiating portfolio. With effort from each one of you, we can maintain the great atmosphere of sport, support each other and continue to grow the ranks of officials.

The MIAA began a partnership with RefReps, an online NFHS rules education platform last year. I am pleased to let you know that all indications show that we are seeing an increase in high school students and schools using RefReps as a course offering during the school day. Don't be surprised if you start to see and hear about young men and women learning officiating at the young ages of 14-18. It is nice to see some interest in the next generation of officials! The RefReps curriculum is excellent. If you have any interest in considering the learning platform for your board instruction, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Oct. 1 is again the deadline to complete MIAA Registration to be eligible for post season assignments. Almost all assignors are required by their league to use MIAA registered and background checked officials, so it is best to complete registration immediately before the season begins.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as our school athletic directors navigate the many tasks of the school day, dismissal times and busing challenges. In talking to athletic directors, they are very aware of your time and commitment and always work to respect that.

On behalf of all our students and teams of the MIAA, thank you for being that vital part of the games. We need you and value your efforts to offer the best athletic experience for students that certainly helps them develop important life skills!

Richard L. Pearson
MIAA Associate Executive Director



MAKE THE RIGHT CALL BECOME A HIGH SCHOOL OFFICIAL

BE THE DIFFERENCE MAKER YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS

GET STARTED



If you know of someone who would be a great fit as an official or has some initial interest, send them to <https://highschoolofficials.com/>

REGISTER AS AN OFFICIAL TODAY!

Register Annually through **ArbiterSports** once per year by [CLICKING HERE](#) - registration opened in July

MIAA Annual Registration Deadlines

To be eligible for MIAA Tournament assignments, all officials must complete annual sport registration. Seasonal Registration will close on the following dates:

Fall Season - Oct. 1

Winter Season - Jan. 15

Spring Season - May 1

Background checks are valid for three years.



Student and Coach Contest Disqualifications Forms

Please make sure to use the most up-to-date version of the MIAA Student and Coach Contest Disqualification Forms. These forms were updated in August 2023 and are available in the [“Officials” section](#) of the MIAA website. When a student or coach is disqualified from a contest, the required form must be completed by the game official and submitted to the athletic director in charge of the contest before leaving the site. Below are links to each form:

[Student Contest Disqualification Form](#)

[Coach Contest Disqualification Form](#)

Please note - All fields within the form are required to be completed by the game official, as well as a description of the disqualification including the violation called. Forms submitted with incomplete information may be returned to

Rule 49 of the MIAA Handbook details the responsibilities of officials, students, coaches, and athletic directors relative to sportsmanship expectations as well as submission of forms listed above. Below is the portion of the rule pertaining to game officials. The rule was rewritten this year to better explain all aspects of the rule.

49. Sportsmanship: Athlete and Coach Contest Disqualifications/Suspensions

49.1 Game Officials' Responsibilities

- 49.1.1 The contest official who disqualifies a student or coach under the provision of this rule must immediately inform the coach of each team, official scorer (if any), and state the violation. The contest official(s) must complete the coach/student contest disqualification forms before leaving the site of the contest.
- 49.1.2 If the game official fails to file the written coach/student contest disqualification form, the individual is nevertheless bound by the suspension. An official who fails to complete the required disqualification form 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.
- 49.1.3 Judgments of game officials are not subject to appeal or review. *Refer to 49.3.10 & 49.4.10 for additional information.*
- 49.1.4 Fighting and unsportsmanlike conduct penalties will always be within the authority of the game official. The game official's authority extends to pre-game and post-game oversight.
- 49.1.5 Additional reasons that an official may disqualify a student or coach from a contest outside of sport codes that would lead to a game disqualification are:
- Fighting
 - Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct which is defined but not limited to violent action toward a player, official, or spectator, the use of foul or abusive language, taunting, trash talk, and the like.



Overtime and Suspended Play Quick Reference Document

Athletic directors, coaches, fans, and officials have asked for a quick reference document to access overtime procedures and suspension of play rules. Throughout the years, there have been different NFHS and MIAA specific rules. Now there is a compiled document that can be accessed via the MIAA website. You can access this document by [CLICKING HERE](#). The document contains information about suspended play rules as well as regular season and post-season overtime procedures. This document was compiled to clarify when NFHS rules apply and to also clarify if there is a state association adoption of a specific suspended play/overtime rule. When you view this document you will see strikethroughs when there **IS NOT** a state association adoption, thereby the NFHS rule fully applies.

2024 FALL SPORT RULE HIGHLIGHTS

CROSS COUNTRY

Points of Emphasis - [CLICK HERE](#)

- Fair Starts
- Safety

Rules Revisions - [CLICK HERE](#)

- Adjusts recall distance to within first 50 meters

Visit the [NFHS Track & Field-Cross Country](#) page for additional information...

Visit the [MIAA Track & Field-Cross Country](#) page for local rules and information...

FIELD HOCKEY

Points of Emphasis - [CLICK HERE](#)

- Penalty Corners
- Goalkeeper Equipment & Uniform

Rules Revisions - [CLICK HERE](#)

- Flexibility in awarding penalty corner
- Goalkeeper equipment clarification

Visit the [NFHS Field Hockey](#) page for additional information...

Visit the [MIAA Field Hockey](#) page for local rules and information...



2024 FALL SPORT RULE HIGHLIGHTS

FOOTBALL

Points of Emphasis - [CLICK HERE](#)

- Sportsmanship and altercation prevention and protocol
- Player equipment and enforcement
- Formations

Visit the [NFHS Football](#) page for additional information...

Visit the [MIAA Football](#) page for local rules and information...

Rules Revisions - [CLICK HERE](#)

- Clarification of home team uniform

SOCCER

Points of Emphasis - [CLICK HERE](#)

- Stopping of a promising attack
- After a goal procedures

Visit the [NFHS Soccer](#) page for additional information...

Visit the [MIAA Soccer](#) page for local rules and information...

Rules Revisions - [CLICK HERE](#)

- Minor uniform clarification

SWIMMING & DIVING

Points of Emphasis - [CLICK HERE](#)

- Athletes well-being
- Electronic devices
- Risk minimization - backstroke ledges

Visit the [NFHS Swimming & Diving](#) page for additional information...

Visit the [MIAA Swimming & Diving](#) page for local rules and information...

Rules Revisions - [CLICK HERE](#)

- Removal of “clerical” from official’s authority over a meet
- Guidance relative to announcement of disqualified athlete



2024 FALL SPORT RULE HIGHLIGHTS

VOLLEYBALL

Points of Emphasis - [CLICK HERE](#)

- Ball Handling
- Scoring Best Practices
- Host Management Best Practices

Rules Revisions - [CLICK HERE](#)

- All rostered players can stand on respective end lines
- Line judges required to switch sides between sets

Visit the [NFHS Volleyball](#) page for additional information...

Visit the [MIAA Volleyball](#) page for local rules and information...

