



MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



## **-Wrestling- Guidance on how to communicate with officials & properly set-up a gym.**

Dear MIAA Wrestling Athletic Directors and Coaches,

In April 2023, the MIAA Wrestling Committee met with the leaders of the Massachusetts Wrestling Officials Association. During the meeting, the leaders from the Wrestling Officials Association expressed deep concerns about the poor treatment of wrestling officials throughout the state, and the negative impact it is having on the dwindling number of wrestling officials we have. Sadly, some of our state's best wrestling officials have walked away from the profession recently, due to the poor treatment they have endured from coaches, fans, parents, etc. The poor treatment of our officials combined with the dwindling number of officials is an extremely concerning trend that could jeopardize schools' abilities to host dual meets, quads, and tournaments.

It is our collective responsibility to put an end to this concerning trend and ensure that our wrestling officials feel safe, supported, and valued. We are asking all Athletic Directors, Wrestling Coaches, wrestlers, school staff, parents, and fans to help us in stopping this negative behavior and concerning trend.

Members of the wrestling committee and officials' association have collaborated to come up with ideas on how to address this problem. Together, they created a document (linked below) intended to outline how Athletic Directors and Coaches should properly set-up their gym for a wrestling event, as well as provide guidance on how coaches should appropriately approach and communicate with the officials.

- [Click here](#) to access the guidance document on how to appropriately communicate with officials and how to properly set-up your gym for a wrestling meet. This is also posted on the [MIAA Wrestling page](#).

Please take some time to read through the documents listed above and speak to your wrestling team (coaches and wrestlers) about how to interact with wrestling officials in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner. Please also encourage your parents and fans to do the same by sending out memos, hanging up signs, and/or making announcements at meets and tournaments.

This is a very serious matter, and I have the utmost confidence that we all can help stop this trend if we each do our part. Thank you for reading this, and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you,

Phil Napolitano  
MIAA Assistant Executive Director

# EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS



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