

**MIAA SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, September 19, 2023 – 9:30am**

**Attendance**

Peter Smith, Derek Atherton, Donna Harrington, Kevin May, Steve LaForest, Kristen Kelly, Joe Cusack, Pat Gonzalez, Sheila Hoffman, Wesley Jackson, Peter Serino, Dan Thornton, and Ric Beaudoin

Meeting called to order at 9:36am. The meeting took place in person at the MIAA office, 33 Forge Parkway, Franklin, MA.

**Election of Officers**

Chair: Derek Atherton, Unanimous

Vice Chair: Kelly St. Coeur, Unanimous

Secretary: Michelle Hopkinson, Unanimous

Committee members provided a brief introduction to start the meeting.

**Minutes of June 21, 2023 Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes by Pat Gonzalez, Second by Kevin May. Unanimous.

**Sportsmanship Essay/Multimedia Contest**

At the last meeting, the committee suggested revisiting the past theme, “Social Media and Sportsmanship”. The theme for this year’s contest was finalized as “How can you use social media to positively promote sportsmanship in your school?” Contest information has been sent to member schools and entries are due October 11, 2023. Volunteers for the October 18<sup>th</sup> contest judging subcommittee are Derek Atherton, Joe Cusack, Patricia Gonzalez, Wesley Jackson, and Kristen Kelly. Essays and multimedia submissions will be sent to subcommittee members in advance of the meeting.

**Sportsmanship Summit Planning  
Schedule and Format**

- Timeline adjusted to accommodate an earlier lunch for students.
- Breakout session timeframes will be 40 minutes with a shorter time for transition between sessions.

**Award Recommendations**

- Bill Gain Award - Jim Antonelli from Westford Academy
- Ron Burton Award - Pete and Derek are working with the Burton Family

**Presenters**

- The committee suggested continuing with two workshops for students. Potential presenters and topics include – Game Officials Panel, DEI, Mark Leinweaver.
- Potential topics for the adult workshop include how to work with parents to provide a positive experience; the role of the game administrator/site manager; best practices in promoting

sportsmanship; follow up from the Addressing Hate in Sports initiative; and supporting athletic directors in educating spectators, parents and students.

### **Contest Disqualification Data**

The committee reviewed the contest disqualification data from the 2022-23 school year. A discussion took place regarding how to best utilize the data to educate the MIAA membership. Suggestions included following up with schools when a specific number of contest disqualifications have been received, analyzing the data by district, league and season, and sending communication to schools to bring awareness about disqualifications. This topic will be on the next committee agenda for further discussion.

### **Other**

The committee discussed the use of the MIAA Sportsmanship Guidelines for Fan/Spectator Support Items. This document will be reviewed at the next meeting to determine potential use moving forward. A suggestion was made to create an MIAA approved playlist for pregame music and utilizing the Student Advisory Committee to make recommendations.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Student Leadership Summit – October 20, 2023 at Doubletree Westborough
- Sportsmanship Summit – November 9, 2023 at Gillette Stadium
- Becoming a Student of Leadership Workshop – December 1 at MIAA Office

### **Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

- October 18, 2023, 10:00 am – Essay/Multimedia Contest Judging
- December 13, 2023, 10:00 am – Committee Meeting (Virtual)
- April 24, 2024, 10:00 am – Committee Meeting (TBD)

The meeting adjourned at 11:12am. Motion made by Peter Serino, seconded by Pat Gonzalez. Unanimous.