

MIAA SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 21, 2023 - 10:00am

Attendance:

Peter Smith, Derek Atherton, Kevin May, Donna Harrington, Steve LaForest, Kelley St. Coeur, Joe Cusack, Ryan Conway, Michelle Hopkinson, and Rich Beaudoin

Meeting called to order at 10:03am by Derek Atherton. The meeting took place virtually.

Minutes from September 21, 2022 and October 31, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes from both September and October meetings by Kelley St. Coeur, Second by Ryan Conway. Approved 7-0.

Sportsmanship Summit Review (November 10, 2022)

Derek asked members for feedback from last year's summit in preparation for this upcoming Summit, taking place on November 9th at Gillette Stadium.

- Pete reported that the evaluation sent out after the summit only had 20 responses with 850 attendees. There was a general response that some topics got away from sportsmanship overall especially for the adults.
- The schedule worked well for the students and their rotation but the adult rotation could be reviewed for next year
- There was feedback that the lunch could be planned sooner, 12:30 was late. The committee will consider trying to move it back to 12:00pm as originally planned last year. The change came from the time needed for the keynote speaker.

Sportsmanship Summit Planning (Fall 2023)

Essay Contest Theme- The committee looked at past contest themes and committee members suggested the theme, "Social Media and Sportsmanship" as it hasn't been addressed since 2014.

Award Recommendations

- Bill Gaine Award - A motion to nominate Jim Antonelli from Westford Academy for the Bill Gaine's Award was made by Steve LaForest, Seconded by Kelley St. Coeur. Approved 8-0.
- Ron Burton Award - Pete and Derek will work with the Burton Family for a recipient

Presenters

- Student Workshops - Committee agreed to continue with two workshops and suggested the following topics
 1. Looking through the lens of an official - what is it like?
 2. Kids can become officials
 - a. Ref Reps suggested to speak
 3. Dave McGilvray was recommended to speak at a workshop
 4. Hot topics include: DEI, Mental Health, and Anti-Bullying

a. Coordinate with the DEI committee

- Adult Workshops suggestions included the topics of revitalizing the proposed legislation regarding assaults on game officials
- Keynote speaker - Andrew Tippett was recommended

Contest Disqualification Data Review (2022-2023 school year)

The committee reviewed the data and noted the greater rate of game disqualifications, being the highest since the 2014-2015 school year. In order to address this, the sportsmanship committee will send out a survey in August to all Administrators and Athletic Directors. The communication will make all member schools aware of the concerns as well as get feedback and suggestions to address this.

Fan and Spectator Support Items

Will be tabled until the next meeting. Pete reported this is a great resource to support schools. A survey question will also be added to the August survey.

MIAA Handbook Rule Changes (Approved for 2023-2025)

Pete shared the rules changes with the committee that we had proposed and helped to approve. (identify them here)

Addressing Hate in School Sports Partnership

Pete reported to the committee that there have been 13 district trainings between March and May 2023. The committee had been an early proponent to get the ball rolling along with the ADL and Northeastern University's Sport and Society who facilitated the workshops.

Other

The MIAA Coach of the Year Award and Official of the Year Award nominations are due by June 30, 2023. There will be one more communication going out and committee members were asked to consider a nomination.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The committee will continue to meet three times per year (September, January, and June). The September meeting will be in person while the other two will meet virtually.

The motion to adjourn at 11:13am as made by Rich Beaudoin, seconded by Kevin May. Approved 7-0.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Hopkinson