

APPROVED

MIAA RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS FOR 2021-2023 HANDBOOK

2. Page 18

Part I, Icon I: Game Officials Committee

By: Richard Pearson, MIAA Associate Executive Director & Game Officials Committee Liaison

Current Rule:

I Game Officials' Committee Membership of the Game Officials Committee (GOC) consists of five school committee members, five school superintendents, five principals, and five athletic directors. Game officials representing each sport which has elected to enroll with the MIAA serve as non-voting advisors to the GOC.

Proposal:

Membership of the Game Officials Committee (GOC) will consist of:

- A. One principal and one athletic director from each of the nine athletic districts. Principals and athletic directors are appointed by their respective District Athletic Committees. ("Principal" may be either a principal or assistant principal who spends at least 50% of his/her time in duties related to the general administration of the school.) If a district is unable to provide both a principal and an athletic director to serve as representative, the District Chair may appoint a second principal or athletic director to serve for a one-year term only.
- B. Two school committee members appointed by MASC from school systems having one or more schools that are institutional members of MIAA.
- C. Two superintendents appointed by MASS from school systems having one or more schools that are institutional members of MIAA.
- D. Game officials representing each sport sponsored by the MIAA may serve as non-voting advisors to the GOC.

Rationale:

Each sport committee of the MIAA is represented by 2 school leaders, principals and athletic directors, from each district and region of the state as well as other appointments. This model has been a valuable opportunity for information to be received from and pushed out to Association members in all regions of the state. The input of regional leaders is a key component of governance and thorough decision-making of the MIAA. Athletic Directors and principals are very much involved in the budgetary discussions of their schools districts and can add a vital voice to the work of the GOC

A major responsibility of the GOC is to set recommended regular season fees as well as tournament fees. The GOC takes this responsibility seriously but has also recognized that during deliberations, all regions of the state may not be represented due in large part to the previous structure of the committee.

The current Game Officials' Committee has maintained an original structure from many years ago that has met with questions from membership as to representation from all regions of the state. This proposal affords regional representation from all areas of the state but also adding an extra superintendent and school committee representative to the committee given the nature of responsibilities of the GOC relative to finances that impact schools.

3. Page 22

Part II, Rule 3: Adult Representation

By: Donna Becker – Girls Head Soccer Coach at Southeastern Regional High School

Current Rule:

3 The principal, headmaster, or director of the school in all cases is responsible to the Association for the acts of school teams and other school organizations. All teams and individual participants must have adult

representation present and responsible for them at all times. Such adult representation must be an employee or a designated representative of the school district. If the representative is not the coach of record, then the designee must provide written introduction on school letterhead, signed by the principal, or the student(s) will not be permitted to participate. Must have game coverage (other than the coach) at varsity boys' soccer, varsity basketball, and varsity ice hockey.

Proposal:

Must have game coverage (other than the coach) at varsity soccer, varsity basketball, and varsity ice hockey.

Rationale:

Simply removing "boys" from the rule. We were confused as to why soccer is differentiated by gender but basketball is not. Girls' varsity soccer should be on the list, just like boys' soccer.

- 5. **Page 34**
Part III, Rule 34: Recognized Sports and Scheduling Limits for School
By: Sherry Bryant, MIAA Associate Executive Director & Field Hockey Committee Liaison
**Supported by the MIAA Field Hockey Committee*

Current Rule:

None

Proposal:

Under Fall Sports insert:

<u>Fall Sports</u>	<u>Maximum # of Competitions</u>	
	<u>Per Season</u>	<u>Per Week</u>
Boys' Field Hockey	18	3

7 v 7 format which operates under the current Field Hockey Committee and follows NFHS rules, modified by the MIAA Field Hockey Committee for 7's.

Rationale:

We understand the timing for this rule is less than ideal given the challenges related to the pandemic that have come to exist for member schools. We respectfully request support for the sanctioning of boys' field hockey in order to allow the structure of this pathway for boys to be created and available for individual schools and co-op programs as they look to move forward. We recognize that in the absence of viable gender specific programs that all high school players may participate in the current High School Field Hockey programs, providing equity for all, while gender specific programs are grown.

- 8. **Page 34**
Part III, Rule 34: Recognized Sports and Scheduling Limits for School
By: Scott Tremlett, MIAA Wrestling Tournament Director (Supported by MIAA Wrestling Committee)

Current Rule:

<u>Winter Sports</u>	<u>Maximum # of Competitions</u>	
	<u>Per Season</u>	<u>Per Week</u>
Alpine Skiing	16	3
Basketball	20	3
Gymnastics	18	2
Ice Hockey	20	3
Indoor Track	16	3
Nordic Skiing	16	3
Swimming	18	3
Wrestling	20	2

Proposal:

For the sport of wrestling, increase the maximum number of competitions per week from two (2) to three (3). The season limitation of twenty (20) would remain the same.

Rationale:

Due to teams looking to get more competition for both their top performers and their sub-varsity athletes, there are occasions when they have to split their squads and send them to two separate competitions on the same day. Under the current limitations, any time this happens, the team would hit the weekly limit of two (2) competitions. Additionally, some of the larger two day tournaments, per MIAA rule 84.2.6, count as two (2) of the twenty (20) days allowed for competition. So any school that competes in a Friday/Saturday tournament, would not be allowed to have a dual meet during that week leading up to the tournament. Schools will not be able to abuse this weekly increase as the season limit will remain the same, twenty (20).

10. Page 35

Part III, Rule 35: Starting and Closing Dates for Tryouts, Practices and Contests

By: Tom Arria, Athletic Director of Cambridge Rindge & Latin School

Current Rule:

35.1 Beginning July 1, 2020, Fall practice (except football) may begin on 2nd Monday preceding Labor Day (August 24, 2020). No team may have more than thirteen (13) single practice sessions (i.e., "double sessions" count as two single practice sessions) through and including the Friday before Labor Day. Double practice sessions are not permitted on the first three days of fall practice. Preseason practice for the sport of football will follow the published Preseason Calendar, Practice Chart & Definitions. Football teams must precede their initial "full contact" practice with an additional five days of single conditioning and "limited contact" sessions. These practices can begin on the third Friday prior to Labor Day (August 21, 2020) and practice is not permitted on Sundays prior to Labor Day (August 23, August 30, and September 6, 2020).

Proposal:

Fall start date for Boys Golf – allow golf to begin their season the third Friday prior to Labor Day (*same as football*)

Rationale

Golf is limited to a very short time frame for play due to daylight. By allowing the three (3) extra days, this may allow for another match to be scheduled prior to the start of school. This is significant because it will eliminate a day or two of early dismal for golfers when school is in session.

19. Page 45

Part IV, Rule 45: Loyalty to the High School Team: Bona Fide Team Members

By: Mark Schruender, Girls Basketball Coach, Saugus High School

Current Rule:

45 A bona fide member of the school team is a student who is consistently present for, and actively participates in, all high school team sessions (e.g. practices, tryouts, competitions). Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non-school athletic activity/event in any sport recognized by the MIAA. Students cannot be given special treatment (late arrival, early dismissal, etc.) for non-school athletic programs. Saturday and Sunday practices ONLY may be excluded from this rule and no waiver is required.

First Offense: Student-athlete is suspended for 25% of the season (see chart on Rule 62).

Second Offense: Student-athlete is suspended for an additional 25% of the season, and is ineligible for tournament play immediately upon confirmation of the violation. See Rule 98 for additional tournament restriction and Rule 88 for waiver guidelines.

Proposal:

Proposal is to alter the penalty for a first offense.

A bona fide member of the school team is a student who is consistently present for, and actively participates in, all high school team sessions (e.g. practices, tryouts, competitions). Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non-school athletic activity/event in any sport recognized by the MIAA. Students cannot be given special treatment (late arrival, early dismissal, etc.) for non-school athletic programs. Saturday and Sunday practices ONLY may be excluded from this rule and no waiver is required.

First Offense: Student-athlete is suspended for one (1) game/meet/match of the season.

Second Offense: Student-athlete is suspended for an additional 25% of the season, and is ineligible for tournament play immediately upon confirmation of the violation.

Rationale:

The first offense consequence for violating the chemical health policy and for missing a team competition to play another sport are equivalent. The state law only prohibits one of these two things. Most people in our society would also agree one crime is worse than the other. By default of the penalties being the same, one of these punishments is not fitting the crime here.

Last year a basketball coach told me his player skipped a game to go to a football showcase in Florida. The player perceived the opportunity as a chance to get a college scholarship, and indeed there were coaches that would have never seen him otherwise. He did not want to miss one basketball game, but the opportunity was too good for him to pass up. As a result, the player would up missing that one game plus four more. The disincentive of the penalty had no impact on the player's decision to leave the team. In fact, in the long run it was in the player's best educational interest to leave the team.

I understand the intent of the rule and believe in penalizing players for putting other team commitments first, but one competition would be a more reasonable penalty than one-fourth of a season. If a player does it a second time, then clearly the player's commitment level is minimal. At that point, a stiffer penalty is more appropriate.

Other rules affected: Rule 62.1 – The chemical health violation becomes the stiffest penalty an athlete can face.

20. Page 50

Part IV, Rule 51: Student Eligibility: Baseline Eligibility Requirements

By: Richard Pearson, MIAA Associate Executive Director

Current Rule:

51 For a student to practice with, or to represent a MIAA member school in athletic competition, the student must be duly enrolled in that school. Additionally, the student must be a candidate for that school's diploma, subject to the jurisdiction of that school's principal (i.e. the principal must have the authority to suspend the student from classes), and under the supervision of that school principal (i.e. the principal must have control and knowledge of the student's daily attendance and achievement). Ultimately the interpretation and application of Association rules rests with the MIAA executive director/staff and the Board of Directors. Principals (or athletic directors) must contact the Association executive staff to resolve any possible eligibility issues before permitting a student to represent your school. This rule complements Rule 52, 53, 54 and 55.

51.1 An ineligible student who is duly enrolled in your school, may practice with team if approved by your school administration.

Proposal:

Remove "Student Eligibility" from the title of Rule 51.

Rationale:

Rule 87 of the MIAA Handbook references "Student Eligibility Waiver – The Process." This process has referenced the Student Eligibility rules 51 -62. Given that Rule 51 has had this criterion in the title, it has

been met with unique and new waiver requests over the past 5-10 years. A student who does not attend the public high school, rather a private school not affiliated with the town school community may seek a waiver to attend one school and play at another.

A cornerstone of high school student participation in interscholastic athletics has been the ability of a school to maintain a culture, climate, and expectation for students in their school environment. The ability for a principal to set standards and expectations for student participation is directly connected to their enrollment in their school building, living every day with others in that school environment.

Rule 51 was created to detail those criteria and expectations that describe a “student member of the school community.” Participation in interscholastic athletics was meant to enhance and support the articulated values of the school community.

Removing the words “student eligibility” for the title of this rule solidifies the vital support of a developed school community with common goals and values. If removed, there would be no means of a waiver to be submitted for a student to play for the MIAA member school who does not attend the institution. For example, given the current wording, a student who lives in a given town with a public high school could attend a purely private school, anywhere in MA, but seek a waiver from the school principal to play sports for the public high school. Principals have sought clarity in this rule to not permit this request in any manner. This change would allow the principal to no entertain this request by rule.

Removing this wording does not limit the necessary provisions of Rule 52 which afford opportunities for unique circumstances for students that are the legal responsibility of the school district. Removing this wording simple clarifies the fundamental value of students attending schools and being responsible for the necessary expectations of the school community they represent.

23. Pages 53-55

Part IV, Rule 57: Student Eligibility: Transfer Students

By: A subcommittee of Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC) and Eligibility Review Board (ERB) Members, listed below:

MIAC Subcommittee Members	ERB Subcommittee Members
Paul Carroll , MASC	Tom Arria , AD, Cambridge R&L
Dave Uminski , Principal, Oakmont	Bob Rodgers , AD, Whitman Hanson
Marc Talbot , Principal, Pembroke	Christine Vigneux , Principal, Belchertown (District F ERB Chair)
Andy Crisafulli , AD, Dartmouth	Patricia Fry , MASS, Plymouth
Laura Fallon , MASC, Northampton	Sam DePina , School Superintendent of Operations & Safety, Boston
Phil Napolitano , MIAA Assistant Director and Student Eligibility Liaison.	

Current Rule:

57.3.2 MIAA Form 200 must be dated and filed at the receiving school before the student is declared eligible (as to the transfer rule only) by the receiving school principal. Note that Form 200 will not yield eligibility for a student who transfers after the opening date of that practice season (57.5)

Proposal:

A copy of Form 200 must be submitted by the receiving school, to the MIAA, in all transfer cases.

Rationale:

When a Form 200 is completed between schools and no waiver is necessary, the MIAA has no ability to track how many actual transfers occurred throughout the year. This allows a method to track and have record of every transfer, with the exception of those that fall under the MIAA Rule 57.7 “Exemptions to the Transfer Rule”.

25. **Page 63**
Part V, Rule 66: Basketball
By: MIAA Basketball Committee

Current Rule:

None

Proposal:

Add New Rule:

The Shot Clock will reset to 15 seconds when there is an intentionally kicked or fisted ball with 14 seconds or less left in the possession. If the violation occurs with 15 or more seconds on the shot clock, no reset will take place and the offense will have the remaining time left in the possession.

Rationale:

The current rule of resetting the shot clock to 30 seconds after these violations gives the offense a new full possession. In these scenarios the defense is essentially penalized by losing time on the clock. This situation can especially come into effect towards the end of the game.

Several state associations that utilize the shot clock have implemented this 15 second reset in recent years. The MIAA Basketball Committee voted unanimously in favor of proposing this rule change.

26. **Page 63**
Part V, Rule 66: Basketball
By: MIAA Basketball Committee

Current Rule:

NFHS Rule NFHS Basketball Rule 9-10-1-a “Closely Guarded” states “A player must not, while closely guarded, in his/her frontcourt, hold the ball for five seconds or dribble the ball for five seconds.”

Proposal:

Add New Rule (modification to current NFHS Rule 9-10-1-a)

The five-second count on the closely guarded player **dribbling** the basketball in the front court does not apply.

Rationale:

The MIAA Basketball Committee voted unanimously in favor of this rule change proposal. The proposal is a rule modification to NFHS Basketball Rule 9-10-1-a “Closely Guarded”.

The current rule states, “A player must not, while closely guarded: In his/her frontcourt, hold the ball for five seconds or dribble the ball for five seconds.” This proposal would only delete the words “**or dribble the ball for five seconds**” from the NFHS Rule. The five second count on the closely guarded player holding the ball in the front court would still apply. With the use of the shot clock, this rule is not as necessary because there are very few players with the ability to dribble out the clock.

27. **Page 63**
Part V, Rule 66: Basketball
By: MIAA Basketball Committee

Current Rule:

66.7 Athlete Participation Limitations

66.7.1 A student may practice or play for their high school basketball team only once in any one day.

66.7.2 No member of a high school basketball squad shall participate in more than four quarters per day. (This does not include official over-time periods. On a given day, a student may participate in more than

one interscholastic basketball contest at different sites provided that the four quarter limit is not exceeded).

Proposal:

Increasing the number of quarters a high school basketball player can participate in during a day from four (4) quarters to six (6) quarters. The updated rule would read:

66.7.2 No member of a high school basketball squad shall participate in more than *six* quarters per day. (This does not include official over-time periods. On a given day, a student may participate in more than one interscholastic basketball contest at different sites provided that the *six* quarter limit is not exceeded).

Rationale:

With the approval of the MIAA Board of Directors, schools in the Merrimack Valley Conference participated in an experimental pilot of this rule during the 2019-20 season. The feedback received from participating schools and coaches was very positive and included the following comments:

- “Loved this, gave younger players the opportunity for a full JV season and gain varsity experience.”
- “This allowed for more development in our program.”
- “Huge help for my JV Coach, she could coach her team correctly and develop sub patterns to benefit all her players.”

In reviewing the basketball rules of other NFHS Section 1 state associations, all but one of these states have rules that allow students to participate in more than four quarters per day, or do not have basketball participation limitations at all.

The Basketball Committee feels that this rule change proposal will enhance player development at all levels of high school basketball and voted unanimously in favor of the proposal.

**Please note – the Basketball Committee has also submitted an experimental rule request to the Board of Directors for consideration to allow this rule for all schools at all levels during the 2020-21 school year.

**28. Page 63
Part V, Rule 66: Basketball
By: David Keir, Retired Athletic Director**

Current Rule:

66.3 The ten-second back court count does not apply to girls’ games.

Proposal:

Eliminate rule 66.3

Rationale:

Gender equity – girls are just as skilled as boys. There is no need for this rule.

**30. Page 65-67
Part V, Rule 69: Football
By: Patriot League Athletic Directors – Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Marshfield, North Quincy, Pembroke, Plymouth North, Plymouth South, Quincy, Scituate, Silver Lake & Whitman-Hanson**

Current Rule:

None

Proposal:

Prohibited Field Equipment - Football

Jurisdiction regarding the presence and location of communication equipment within the playing enclosure resides with game management personnel.

a. Television replay or monitor equipment is prohibited at the sidelines, press box or other locations within the playing enclosure for coaching purposes during the game. Motion pictures, any type of film, facsimile machines, videotapes, photographs, writing-transmission machines and computers may not be used by coaches or for coaching purposes any time during the game or between periods. Computers, tablets, etc. are not allowed in the coaching booth. [Exceptions: 1) Monitors may be used only to view the live telecast or webcast. The home team is responsible for assuring identical television capability in the coaches' booths of both teams. This capability may not include replay equipment or recorders. 2) A monitor is permitted on the sideline only to assist team medical staffs in the diagnosis and treatment of student-athletes.

b. Only voice communication between the press box or designated coaching area and team area is permitted.

c. No one in the team area or coaching box may use any artificial sound amplification to communicate with players on the field.

d. Any attempt to record, either through audio or video means, any signals given by an opposing player, coach or other team personnel is prohibited.

Rationale:

We are currently allowing MIAA member schools that sponsor the sport of football to use video replay during a game in ways that are currently illegal at both the NCAA and NFL level. Until last year, schools could not set up video replays on their sidelines and press box and other locations due to NCAA regulations that governed MIAA football. It is not that the NFHS allows the use of such devices, it simply does not have a rule in place to govern the use of this type of equipment.

The equipment needed to run sideline video could be considered expensive to many districts. By allowing the use of such devices, only member schools with the budgetary or fund raising means would be able to use these devices. Others may not be able to afford such luxuries leading to an inequity between programs throughout the state.

The rule proposal uses language from the NCAA in regards to the use of replay equipment for coaching purposes during the game.

31. **Page 65**
Part V, Rule 69: Football
By: Maria Hutsick, MS. LATC, CSCS, Medfield High School

Current Rule:

69.2 A licensed physician, licensed trainer or certified EMT must be in attendance and on duty for all interscholastic football games. The medical person shall be responsible for both teams unless the visiting team has its own medical coverage. His/her judgment will be final with regard to the condition of a player after injury. No player may continue to play against the medical person's advice. The penalty for violation of this provision is forfeiture of the game.

Proposal:

A licensed physician, licensed trainer or certified EMT must be in attendance and on duty for all interscholastic football games. ***For all varsity football games, each team must employ a licensed physician, licensed trainer or certified EMT to be with their team. In the case of sub-varsity games, the (MIAA BOD on 8/18/21 voted to delay implementation until Fall 2022 season)*** medical person shall be responsible for both teams unless the visiting team has its own medical coverage. His/her judgment will be final with regard to the condition of a player after injury. No player may continue to play against the medical person's advice. The penalty for violation of this provision is forfeiture of the game.

Rationale:

Medical personnel have a great deal of responsibility during a football game. With increased attention to concussion laws, management of concussion and management of other injuries, one athletic trainer cannot attend to all players on both teams and communicate effectively with coaches, parents and others during the game.

It is very unrealistic to think that one athletic trainer can provide medical coverage to both teams. Running back and forth across the field to be available for the multitude of medical needs at a varsity football game is not a reasonable expectation for one person. The teams come off opposite sidelines and an injury occurs almost every 5-10 plays. Throughout the years, the laws and liability have changed. The home school/venue provides coverage for visitors' other teams at the high school level because those teams are non-contact and come off the same sideline. The teams are smaller in participants and contact is few and far between.

In the game of football concussion laws and now thermoregulation, are being stressed and athletic trainers must provide a very high standard of care for these and many other types of injuries. The possibility of liability is also very high. It is unrealistic for a school to think that another school will care for their football team when our profession is required to provide care for their own team.

32. Page 69-71

Part V, Rule 72: Ice Hockey

By: Paul Spear, Athletic Director, Framingham High School & MSHCA President

Dan Connolly, Head Ice Hockey Coach, Marshfield High School & MSHCA Vice President

Current Rule:

NFHS Rule 9-12 **ART. 2 ...** By state association adoption, a procedure may be established whereby schools may play up to a 17-minute period.

Proposal:

NEW RULE: The MA State Hockey Coaches Association (MSHCA) proposes the MIAA allow member leagues that wish to play 17 minute periods be allowed to do so as NFHS rules allow. Seventeen-minute periods are acceptable under NFHS rules and the change would create an opportunity for member schools to be consistent with NFHS rules as we are with 2 minute penalty times.

Rationale:

In this time of consistency with NFHS rules the MSHCA is asking that standard be applied to ice hockey. It is not mandate however can be applied by leagues who favor this option and they should be able to play within parameters of our rule book. The change would increase participation for student athletes. Other state associations, such as Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin successfully use the 17-minute periods. Three of the fourth states with the highest player enrollment are Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin with Massachusetts as the highest enrollment.

33. Page 69-71

Part V, Rule 72: Ice Hockey

By: MIAA Ice Hockey Committee

Current Rule:

None

Proposal:

NEW RULE:

At the conclusion of the third period, if teams are tied, a five-minute overtime will be played.

- There will be a 1-minute intermission at the conclusion of the third period.
- Teams will play 4-on-4 for five minutes and goaltenders will **switch** ends for the entire overtime period.

- The team that scores first wins the game; if no team scores during the overtime period the game is also ended after five minutes.
- The overtime period shall be considered part of the game and **ALL** unexpired penalties shall remain in force.
- Timeouts cannot be used during the Overtime period(s). (Unused timeouts do not carry over into overtime)
- If game ends in a tie, each team will receive 1 point each for MIAA seedings
- If game ends with a goal, winning team receives 2 points and losing team receives 0 pts
- Statistics for individual players count toward yearly stats
- Shorthanded Guidance for the 4-on-4 can be found in the official MIAA Ice Hockey Format

Rationale:

The MIAA Ice Hockey Committee request and voted 14-0 to request a 2-year pilot for regular season overtime beginning in the 2019-20 school year. The MIAA Board of Directors approved the two-year pilot beginning in the 2019-20 school year. During the first pilot year, 11 leagues adopted the use of overtime with additional leagues looking to pilot overtime for the 2020-21 school year. None of the 11 leagues reported a challenge in ice time availability to complete the overtime period. The MIAA Ice Hockey Committee voted 8-1-1 to propose a regular season overtime for the rule change process of 2021-23.

Originally, the request for an overtime period came from an individual league asking to consider permitting overtime games during the regular season for the purpose of affording teams the experience of playing an overtime period (reduced players, 4-on-4) at the conclusion of a full length regular season game, in preparation for tournament play. Reduced strength overtime periods are required in the MIAA Tournament Format because a winner of a game must be determined for tournament play.

Many sports include the option of overtime to have the game end with a winner. Although ice hockey has not had overtime during the regular season, the pilot 5-minute overtime period has already created great excitement and the opportunity for a winner of the contest. NFHS rules allow for the adoption of a state association approved overtime period, and other NFHS ice hockey playing states exercise this adoption opportunity.

Additionally, and quite possibly most important, a procedure to limit tied games supports the use of MaxPreps as the MIAA Tournament Qualification Ranking System beginning in 2020-21. Ties are not clearly recognized in MaxPreps with a winner of the contest being an important factor for the final MaxPreps calculation. The reduced strength overtime period will allow more games to end with a winner, adding clarity to the MaxPreps ranking for MIAA Ice Hockey.

**34. Page 77 & 78
Part V, Rule 79: Softball
By: Robert Pearl, Assistant Director, MIAA**

Current Rule:

79.3 Prior to starting the delivery (pitch) the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot on or partially on the top surface of the pitcher's plate and the non-pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. Both feet must be in contact with the pitcher's plate and on the ground within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.

Proposal:

Prior to starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate.

Rationale:

This rule eliminates MIAA Rule 79.3 to be in compliance with the NFHS rules. This also clarifies that the pivot foot must be in contact with the pitcher's plate, rather than on the top surface of the pitchers plate.

35. **Pages 81 & 82**
Part V, Rule 83: Volleyball
By: Carole Burke – State Volleyball Rules Interpreter

Current Rule:

83.1 High School volleyball shall be played under the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations as modified by the MIAA.

83.1.1 There will be no limit to the number of substitutions of junior varsity players in a junior varsity contest.

83.1.2 Head and assistant coaches are allowed to stand in the libero replacement zone. Substitutes are allowed to stand at the end of the bench or past the end line and at least six feet away from the sideline. Bench personnel sanctioned for unsporting conduct will not lose the right to stand.

83.1.3 In the 5th set, teams will change courts when one team reaches 8 points

83.1.4 Rule 7-1-4. For Sets 2-5 penalty for late submission of line up shall be: • After 1:00 remaining deadline: Unnecessary Delay – Yellow Card • At 0:00: Loss of Rally/Point to Opponent to start the set.

Proposal:

Add new rule:

83.1.5 Rosters are not required to be submitted to the game officials.

Rationale:

Under current NFHS rules, a coach must submit a roster to the game officials at the pre-match conference. If that roster is submitted late the team is sanctioned.

- Game Officials have no reasonable way of determining the accuracy of a roster.
- Students are consistently used as scorers on matches and this places an undue and unreasonable burden on them to ensure accuracy of numbers during a fast paced match.
- Eliminating the submission of rosters also eliminates an unnecessary sanction before a match has even begun.

36. **Page 82**
Part V, Rule 83: Volleyball
By: Carole Burke – State Volleyball Rules Interpreter
Jacqui Niosi, Boys' & Girls Volleyball Coach, Quincy High School

The MIAA Board of Directors at its August 18, 2021 meeting voted to revert back to wording from Volleyball Rule 83.5 from 2019-21 Handbook

37. **Page 85 & 86**
Part V, Rule 84: Wrestling
By: Paul Shvartsman – Co-President of the Mass Wrestling Coaches Association
**Supported by the MIAA Wrestling Committee*

Current Rule:

84.4.8 Schools may weigh their wrestlers at their home schools on the day of the meet and only during the 60-minute period immediately prior to the beginning of the academic school day. For matches beginning after 3:00 p.m. on a non-school day, a single 60-minute weigh-in period between 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon will be allowed. Any wrestler who makes weight during the earlier weigh-in is allowed an additional three pounds at the match site weigh-in. Any wrestler failing to make weight at the earlier weigh-in must make scratch weight at the match site weigh-in. Actual weights will be recorded on all dual meet weigh-in sheets. Signatures of the coach and a school administrator (the principal or his designee) must appear in ink on the dual meet weigh-in sheets in order for the weigh-in to be validated. These dual

meet weigh-in sheets will be kept by the coaches and one for each and every day of competition must be handed in at the sectional seeding meeting, or the day will not count toward certification or seeding.

Proposal:

For all matches beginning after 3:00 p.m., wrestlers will get an additional two pounds at the match site weigh-in. (This would eliminate morning weigh-ins, which are against the NFHS rules)

Rationale:

The Massachusetts Wrestling Coaches Association would like to eliminate morning weigh-ins. Morning weigh-ins are against the National Federation Rules. Many wrestlers do not need or use morning weigh-ins. It is an extra inconvenience for coaches and it’s impossible to track and ensure coaches are not taking advantage of the current rule due to lack of oversight. Giving the two (2) pound allowance on the days would help kids focus on school and not making weight as some kids only get good meals at school.

38. Pages 91-92

Part VII, Rule 87: Student Eligibility Waiver- The Process

By: A subcommittee of Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC) and Eligibility Review Board (ERB) Members, listed below:

MIAC Subcommittee Members	ERB Subcommittee Members
Paul Carroll, MASC	Tom Arria, AD, Cambridge R&L
Dave Uminski, Principal, Oakmont	Bob Rodgers, AD, Whitman Hanson
Marc Talbot, Principal, Pembroke	Christine Vigneux, Principal, Belchertown (District F ERB Chair)
Andy Crisafulli, AD, Dartmouth	Patricia Fry, MASS, Plymouth
Laura Fallon, MASC, Northampton	Sam DePina, School Superintendent of Operations & Safety, Boston
Phil Napolitano, MIAA Assistant Director and Student Eligibility Liaison.	

Current Rules:

87.2 The MIAA Executive Director or his/her designee shall have the authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule upon an individual student if (1) the rule works an undue hardship on the student, (2) granting the waiver will not result in an unfair competitive advantage, (3) **the waiver approval would not cause displacement of another student-athlete from the appellant’s own team, and** (4) the waiver would not be in conflict with the general well-being of MIAA interscholastic athletic objectives.

87.5 ...The student, parents or guardians or other representatives may appear in person before the ERB and MIAC. The four standards which must be addressed in an appeal before the Board or Council are:

87.5.1 The rule works an undue hardship on the student; and

87.5.2 Granting the waiver will not result in an unfair competitive advantage; and

87.5.3 The waiver approval would not cause displacement of another student athlete from the appellant's own team; and

87.5.4 The waiver would not be in conflict with the general well-being of MIAA interscholastic athletic objectives.

Proposal:

Change the language of the third standard to say the following: *“Address how this waiver will impact the home school student body”*

Rationale:

The subcommittee believes that all waivers cause displacement, whether it is a roster spot or playing time opportunities. They did not believe we should be requiring a standard to be addressed when waivers, more often than not, displace another student. By asking the school to address the impact on the “home school student body”, it allows the question of displacement to be asked, but also incorporates the full impact, beyond athletics, to be addressed. E.g. How is the student perceived by his teachers, coaches, and peers?

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Part VII, Rule 87: Student Eligibility Waiver- The Process

By: A subcommittee of Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC) and Eligibility Review Board (ERB) Members, listed below:

MIAC Subcommittee Members	ERB Subcommittee Members
Paul Carroll , MASC	Tom Arria , AD, Cambridge R&L
Dave Uminski , Principal, Oakmont	Bob Rodgers , AD, Whitman Hanson
Marc Talbot , Principal, Pembroke	Christine Vigneux , Principal, Belchertown (District F ERB Chair)
Andy Crisafulli , AD, Dartmouth	Patricia Fry , MASS, Plymouth
Laura Fallon , MASC, Northampton	Sam DePina , School Superintendent of Operations & Safety, Boston
Phil Napolitano , MIAA Assistant Director and Student Eligibility Liaison.	

Current Rules:

Requires the form to be completed in full and must include a letter of support submitted by the Principal (or school admin), the student's transcript and attendance records are to be included. The form must be signed by the Principal.

Proposal:

In addition to the current application requirements, "the waiver application form is to require a comprehensive student-athlete resume". The template will be created and provided by the MIAA.

Rationale:

The subcommittee felt it is very important for schools to provide a detailed resume on the athletic achievements of the student they are applying a waiver for. This template, which will be created by the MIAA, may look something like this:

For the sport in which the student is seeking the waiver, please fill out the information below.

Participation:

School Year	Sport	Level of Play	# of Games in Season	# of Games eligible to play	# of Games Started

Performance: Please list the year, position(s) played, Honors earned (All-Star, All-Scholastic, etc), as well as the student's stats from each year related to the sports they are seeking a waiver for.

Team Success: Please list the team's regular season record and how far the team advanced in the MIAA Tournament during the years the student has participated.

By: A subcommittee of Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC) and Eligibility Review Board (ERB) Members, listed below:

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Laura Fallon , MASC, Northampton	Sam DePina , School Superintendent of Operations & Safety, Boston
Phil Napolitano , MIAA Assistant Director and Student Eligibility Liaison.	

Current Rules:

None

Proposal:

As part of the waiver application process, the application, including the comprehensive athletic resume, must be submitted to your league or district and put fourth for an advisory vote. The results of the advisory vote must be included in the final submission of the application to the MIAA.

Rationale:

The subcommittee strongly believes that it was critical for the application to include the minutes/advisory vote of the league in which the student participates. This is a non-binding vote but provides insight into whether or not the league supports the waiver. It would provide an opportunity for a school applying for the waiver to strengthen their case or for a league to express concern for a waiver.

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Part VII, Rule 87: Student Eligibility Waiver- The Process

By: A subcommittee of Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC) and Eligibility Review Board (ERB) Members, listed below:

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Laura Fallon , MASC, Northampton	Sam DePina , School Superintendent of Operations & Safety, Boston
Phil Napolitano , MIAA Assistant Director and Student Eligibility Liaison.	

Current Rules:

87.4 An adverse decision by the Executive Director may be appealed before a subcommittee of the Eligibility Review Board (ERB). Three ERB members will constitute a quorum. Requests for an appeal hearing before the ERB must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director within seven school days of notification of the adverse decision. The appeal must include the endorsement of the school principal.

87.5 Adverse decisions of the ERB may be appealed by the student's principal for a hearing before a subcommittee of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC). All appeals before the ERB or the MIAC must be presented in person by the high school principal or his/her designee who must be an assistant principal in that high school or the athletic director. Appeals of ERB decisions must be filed in writing with the MIAA Executive Director or his/her designee within seven school days of receipt of notification of the adverse decision (See Rule 87.4). The student, parents or guardians or other representatives may appear in person before the ERB and MIAC. The four standards which must be addressed in an appeal before the Board or Council are:

- 87.5.1 The rule works an undue hardship on the student; and
- 87.5.2 Granting the waiver will not result in an unfair competitive advantage; and
- 87.5.3 The waiver approval would not cause displacement of another student athlete from the appellant's own team; and

87.5.4 The waiver would not be in conflict with the general well-being of MIAA interscholastic athletic objectives.

Proposal:

The below proposal would eliminate the second level of appeal and essentially combined 87.4 and 87.5 into one rule, with new language. The proposal is to amend the appeal process to consist of a single appeal hearing, which would consist of a combined hearing panel of MIAC and ERB members. This hearing panel must consist of no less than five (5) total members and no more than nine (9) total members. The appeal board members will be selected by the MIAA Liaison.

New Rule would read: An adverse decision by the Executive Director may be appealed before a subcommittee of both the Eligibility Review Board (ERB) and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC). The subcommittee would consist of no less than five (5) members and no more than nine (9) members. A combination of five (5) total ERB and MIAC members will constitute a quorum. The subcommittee will be selected by the MIAA Executive Director or their designee.

Requests for an appeal hearing before the ERB/MIAC subcommittee must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director within seven school days of notification of the adverse decision. The appeal must include the endorsement of the school principal.

All appeals before the ERB/MIAC subcommittee must be presented in person by the high school principal or their designee who must be an assistant principal in that high school or the athletic director. The student, parents or guardians or other representatives may appear in person before the ERB/MIAC subcommittee. The four standards which must be addressed in an appeal before the ERB/MIAC subcommittee are:

- 87.5.1 The rule works an undue hardship on the student; and
- 87.5.2 Granting the waiver will not result in an unfair competitive advantage; and
- 87.5.3 The waiver approval would not cause displacement of another student athlete from the appellant's own team; and
- 87.5.4 The waiver would not be in conflict with the general well-being of MIAA interscholastic athletic objectives.

Rationale:

The subcommittee felt that by eliminating a level of appeal would create a more consistent and efficient process. Additionally, expanding the total number of members who serve on a panel, while mixing MIAC and ERB committee members, allows for a more comprehensive review of each case. District F used to only have one level of appeal and found success with that model.

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Part VII, Rule 87: Student Eligibility Waiver- The Process

By: A subcommittee of Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC) and Eligibility Review Board (ERB) Members, listed below:

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Paul Carroll, MASC	Tom Arria, AD, Cambridge R&L
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Laura Fallon, MASC, Northampton	Sam DePina, School Superintendent of Operations & Safety, Boston
Phil Napolitano, MIAA Assistant Director and Student Eligibility Liaison.	

Current Rule:

There is no current rule for this proposal

Proposal:

Add a new section under Rule 87 titled: "Accountability"

- A. Waiver approvals can be withdrawn at any time if new or misinformation is brought to light. The school may be entitled to a new hearing.
- B. The MIAA Board of Directors has the jurisdiction to require the following:
 - The Principal must conduct an investigation and report the findings, in writing, back to the MIAA Board of Directors.
 - The Principal and school personnel may be required to attend a hearing with the MIAA Board of Directors.
- C. Sanctions will be determined by the MIAA Board of Directors and may include:
 - The suspension of school personnel from attendance at MIAA Tournaments;
 - Team suspensions;
 - Fines; and
 - Any other sanctions deemed appropriate by the MIAA Board of Directors
- D. All findings and sanctions will be reported to the school Principal, Superintendent and Chair of the School Committee.

Rationale:

The handbook does not outline the consequences of school providing inaccurate or incomplete information during the waiver process. The subcommittee felt strongly that we need to include a section on "accountability". The proposal above outlines what could happen if a school is found to have provided false or incomplete information.