



Fall 2018

## MIAA GAME OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

### Preserving the future...

We are again at the beginning of the school year and another year of officiating MIAA games! First of all, thank you all for your time and commitment to officiating. I suggest you allow the new year to bring new excitement and enthusiasm for all that you do for young and impressionable athletes.

I have fallen back to NASO *Advisor* articles again since the information is so very relative. In the February 2018 edition, there are three suggestions to “Keep Association Meetings Fresh”.

1 – Start the meeting with a positive video; 2 – Start with a testimonial from an association member; and 3 – discuss hot topics submitted by members. These suggestions seem like great ideas to add to your annual meetings but also to include association members and positive motivation as the basis for your meetings.

In the August 2018 *Advisor*, Tim Sloan from Davenport, Iowa speaks about ideas to get new members. He says, “Most of the time they want something to show for and tell about their experiences; an association that goes heavy on networking and rubbing elbows with their officials supports that. The organization is there to share their glory and pain equally. That does a lot to encourage new officials to stay and developing ones to keep trying.” He further states, “Officiating numbers will grow when we resume our investment at the grass roots.” “... we must return to investing face time in developing officials rather than showing them pretty pictures and hoping they’re art connoisseurs.” Developing officials and growing the pool of quality individuals is critical for all!!

During roundtable discussions last fall with all officials’ boards, we heard from many of you about the pool of officials decreasing. This is the case across the country. Fostering valuable discussion, training and extra supports will go a long way in changing this declining trend.

Thank you for all that you do.

**Richard Pearson**  
*MIAA Associate Director*  
*MIAA Game Officials Committee*



Contact Us

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# CONCUSSION INFORMATION/AWARENESS WEEKS

## ThinkTaylor Concussion Awareness Week, September 10-14, 2018



During the week of September 10th, all MIAA Member High School varsity athletes will take part in ThinkTaylor/MIAA Concussion Awareness Week.

Please take part in the #TTpledge with your students at [ThinkTaylor.org](http://ThinkTaylor.org) and by posting your support on social media using #TTpledge.

## MIAA/NFHS Concussion Training

**105 CMR: Department of Public Health – 201.007 (E) Training Program**

*“Game officials **shall complete** one of the training programs approved by the Department as specified on the Department’s website **annually** and shall provide independent verification of completion of the training program to schools or school districts upon request.”*

The yearly certification requirement is only valid between July 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> of a given academic year. In support of Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations cited above, and in the best interests of our student athletes, all MIAA Tournament Directors and Tournament Assignors will require successful completion of a DPH approved concussion training program as a condition for an official accepting an MIAA tournament assignment. Your acceptance of an MIAA Tournament contest assignment will be considered a implicit confirmation that you are a member in good standing with your local board, that you are enrolled with the MIAA, and that you have successfully completed a concussion training program as required by the DPH.

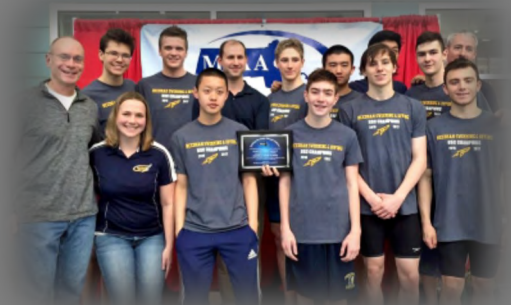
The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) training module, “Concussions in Sports: What You Need to Know”, is one of the MDPH approved training programs and may accessed using the link:

[Concussions in Sports: What You Need to Know](#)

*(click link to access training course information)*

## MIAA TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS

The MIAA would like to encourage game officials to nominate a boys or girls varsity team for consideration by that MIAA Sport Committee for recognition at the MIAA State Championship contest. Nominated teams do not have to be tournament teams but should exemplify the tenets of good sportsmanship to the highest degree. The nomination form information can be found in each sport specific [MIAA Tournament Format](#).



# 2017 Fall Sport Rule Highlights

## Soccer Uniform Rule Change

**Beginning this fall (2018), the home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks, and the visiting team shall wear white or light jerseys and socks.**

“This change allows home teams to wear their school-color jerseys at home,” said Theresia Wynns, NFHS director of sports and officials and liaison to the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee. “It also could provide the opportunity to use an alternative color uniform for special events.”

## Volleyball—NCAA Rule changes

**7.1.1.2** The libero jersey must be immediately recognized from all angles as clearly contrasting the jerseys of the other teammates.

**10.1.1.3** A coach is allowed to add a libero to their lineup sheet after submission, prior to the first beckon for service.

**10.1.1.10** A coach is allowed to correct their lineup if a duplicate number was submitted both in the libero position and another position, prior to the first beckon for service.

## Sports Specific Tournament Formats

**All game officials are required** to be well versed on their sport tournament format in order to be assigned to tournament events. A format is a detailed breakdown of how each sport tournament is conducted. It's important to remember that each sport has its own format, covering dates, rules, tournament ball agreements, overtime rules, and tie breakers, among other information. This information can be found on the [MIAA Tournament Formats](#) page of the MIAA website ([miaa.net](http://miaa.net)).

## Cross Country

**4-3-1:** Eliminates redundant language and expands definition of foundation garments.

**Rationale:** This change expands the current interpretation of foundation garment to include any item worn under the uniform top and/or bottom as well as eliminate duplicate language in same rule.

**4-3-2:** Clarifies uniform language for relay and cross country team members.

**Rationale:** Slight differences in design of uniform do not negatively impact the identification of a relay or cross country team. The expectation of this rule is that all relay and cross country team members can be clearly identified as representing the same school.

## Football

### 1. Kickoff – Fair catch (Rule 6-5-1)

Careful attention to NCAA Football Rule 6-5-1 exception:  
*“Exception: If a Team B player makes a fair catch of a free kick behind Team B’s 25-yard line, the ball belongs to Team B at its own 25-yard line.”*

**2. Eliminate MIAA rule 69.1.15**  
Touchbacks after free kicks/kickoffs, ball placed at the 25 yard line (per NCAA rules).

Rationale: Allows for consistency with above NCAA Rule 6-5-1 exception.

Other NCAA Rule Changes for 2018-19 can be found [at this link](#).

## Swim & Diving

### NFHS Rule 2.7.2C

if one or more starting platforms are not securely attached to the deck or end wall, the following options may be used provided the water depth rule is not violated:

1. all swimmers shall start in the water;
2. All swimmers shall start on the deck;
3. Any affected lane(s) may be excluded with prior mutual consent.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR 2019-2020

Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, all MIAA sports that have NFHS rules written for them will use those NFHS rules. The newly affected sports are baseball, football, girls’ lacrosse, boys’ volleyball and girls’ volleyball.



# MIAA Official of the Year Award



The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association would like to congratulate the following game officials for being selected to receive the 2017-2018 MIAA Official of the Year Award.

Each official was recognized at the Third Annual MIAA Official of the Year Banquet on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at the MIAA Office in Franklin, MA.

- Wayne Bolden**- Football
- Peter Clark**- Wrestling
- Kelly Craven**- Rugby (Girls)
- Anthony Estaphan**- Outdoor Track
- Mary Fitzgerald**- Soccer (Girls)
- Robert Hawkes**- Ice Hockey (Boys)
- Richard Hickey**- Cross Country
- Don Jennings**- Rugby (Boys)
- Derek King**- Basketball (Boys)
- Bernard LeClair**- Softball
- Michelle Letendre**- Volleyball (Girls)
- Marian Nihan**- Swimming & Diving (Fall)
- John Pelli**- Swimming & Diving (Winter)
- Joel Perry**- Soccer (Boys)
- Dave Rist**- Lacrosse (Boys)
- Neville Rivet**- Volleyball (Boys)
- Lisa Roberts**- Lacrosse (Girls)
- Billy Jo Robidoux**- Baseball
- Laura Sauro**- Gymnastics (Girls)
- Renee Tourigny**- Basketball (Girls)
- Karen Veronesi**- Field Hockey
- Sherman Wallen**- Ice Hockey (Girls)



## 2018-19 MIAA Game Official of the Year

*"Exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and moral character"*

This award seeks to recognize and honor officials who have displayed character, integrity and dignity, while displaying the highest standards of ethical conduct. Award candidates should have a record of exceptional performance, as well as a reputation, among their peers and the athletic community, for fair play, for good sportsmanship, and for the development of these attributes in our student-athletes.

If you feel that you have a nominee who meets these criteria, please complete and submit the attached MIAA Nomination Form, along with any supporting materials (nomination form must be completed for candidates to be considered). A selection committee made up of members of the MIAA Game Officials Committee (GOC), will review each nomination and choose an Official of the Year, in each sport. **Officials and guest(s) will be invited to attend the awards banquet in May 29 2019 at the MIAA Office in Franklin, MA. A maximum of two guests will be invited per official.**

[2018-19 MIAA Game Official of the Year Nomination Form](#)



# MIAA Background Check Information



Click above to view the policy

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

All officials who registered and completed the background check in year one of this process (2015-16), your background check has expired. Please be aware that when you register this year, you will be charged for another background check. Background checks are valid for three years.

## FAQ's

1. I registered and have been approved by the MIAA under one email address, but my assignor has a different email for me under their account, thus I am not showing as approved to them. What should I do?

**Answer:** You will need to contact Arbiter support, 1-800-311-4060, and ask them to link your email accounts together. The email you provided for the MIAA background check is the one that will show you as an approved official.

2. If my assignor uses Arbiter to assign games, how can they gain access to the list of approved officials?

**Answer:** The assignor will need to contact Phil Napolitano, [pnapolitano@miaa.net](mailto:pnapolitano@miaa.net) and provide their 6-digit arbiter account number, along with the sport and leagues they assign. They will be linked to the MIAA super group. Once linked, the eligibility column will show up in their assigning account.



Click on the link above to enter registration page, then follow steps below

## NEW OFFICIALS

### **Background Check and Registration**

- 1) Click on the **registration tab** on the top left of this MIAA ArbiterSports page.
- 2) Select all sports for which you wish to register and click the REGISTER button.
- 3) Follow directions and complete all information and consents. A photo is not required. If you already have an Arbiter account, it will recognize your email once you type it in, then follow all directions.

## RETURNING OFFICIALS

### **Registration Only/Previously Completed Background Check**

**\*Login in the top right-hand corner prior to entering registration**

All officials must register annually - \$10 per sport. Returning officials must confirm pre-populated information and complete all steps of the registration process (see steps above under "New Officials"). Please check and/or correct all contact information.

In order to finalize your registration you will need to once again consent to the **background check in step 5 of the registration process**, even though you have already been approved. During the final payment step you will not be charged for another background check nor will it be run again. Approved background checks are valid for three years. **If you were approved during the 2015-16 school year, it is valid until June 30, 2018.**

