



Fall 2019

## MIAA GAME OFFICIALS PRESEASON NEWSLETTER

Welcome to another school year of exciting high school sports! Thank you for being a part of this great opportunity to guide and develop high school athletes. Game officials are critical to the overall success of building life skills through educational athletics!!

One of the important needs for all of us supporting officials is to help build the profession and guide new officials and find others to become officials. Nationally, the ranks of officials seems to be decreasing and all of us could help foster support to maintain the membership of your board as well as add to it when possible.

In the June 2019 issue of the NASO Advisor, Jason Palmer wrote an article listing six rules for mentors. His six rules are: “1. Make yourself Available, 2. Protect Your Mentee, 3. Be Professional, 4. Instruct Don’t Criticize, 5. Give Positive Feedback, and 6. Work a Game With the Mentee.” I thought these ideas suggested a great place to start building capacity and membership among your boards. Some of his ideas center around a formalized mentoring program but most of them are effective ideas that could successfully build on the skills of individuals. As a former educator and principal myself, some of these are simply solid teaching strategies that help support the learner.

I am aware that many board leaders are already employing ideas to develop new officials. As you begin the school year, I wish all of you the best in your work and suggest that you pass along your years of experience and expertise to help grow the ranks of officials in Massachusetts.

Thank you for being a part of high school sports. Thank you for taking responsibility to be the best you can be. And thank you for anything you can do to ensure that we will have officials to be a part of our interscholastic competitions today and into the future.

*Richard L. Pearson*

Associate Director  
Liaison – MIAA Game Officials Committee



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# CONCUSSION INFORMATION



## CONCUSSION

AWARENESS WEEK SEPTEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup>



### TAKE THE PLEDGE

During the week of September 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 an 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 be accessed using the link:

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

*(click link to access training course information)*

## SPORTSMANSHIP

### 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](#) or the [Team Sportsmanship page](#)



# 2019 Fall SPORT RULE CHANGES / HIGHLIGHTS

## Transitioning to NFHS Football Rules

The MIAA Football Committee has developed numerous resources to support the transition to NFHS Football Rules for this 2019-20 season. By following this [link](#) one can find many support documents and guidance about the new rules. There is also access to various presentations with embedded video to help understand the rules with greater insight.

**Parent/Fan "Rules 101":** PLEASE consider getting the document at this [link](#) out to fans, spectators and anyone interested in learning more about the new rules.

**40/25 clock:** Please click on this [link](#) for general principles for the use and management of the 40/25 second clock. These 14 points add additional clarity to 40/25 guidance found on the NFHS Football Rules Transition page.

**Overtime:** The MIAA Tie-Breaker Rule from page 65 of the [MIAA Handbook](#) is the entire rule for overtime play.

**Important clarification:** during overtime, defense can recover or intercept **and** advance the ball for a possible score on plays from scrimmage and field goal attempts not on any tries. For the first and subsequent tie breaking periods, any team that scores a touchdown must attempt a two-point conversion by run or pass from scrimmage. **The two point try ends if the defending team gains possession. The try is over.**

The 2019 MIAA Football Format can be found at this [link](#) for other important information including times, tournament procedures and state final rotations related to Gillette Stadium.

## Soccer

### NFHS Rule Changes:

**9-2-1, 9-2-3, 9-2-5, 9-2-6, 9-3:**

#### Dropped Ball

Any number of players, including the goalkeeper, may now contest a dropped ball. Additionally, the referee cannot decide who may contest a dropped ball or determine its outcome.

#### Time out and in

Rule 7-4-3 was added to stop the clock when a substitute by the leading team is beckoned onto the field in the last five minutes of the second period, second period of overtime and fourth period of a game played in quarters

For more information follow links below:

[NFHS Soccer Rules Changes - 2019-20](#)

[Soccer News Letter—Fall 2019](#) see page 3

## Swimming & Diving

### 9-7-4 Note (NEW)

The diving referee may confer with a member of the diving panel regarding a possible unsatisfactory dive.

**8-1-7, 8-2-1g, 8-2-2h, 8-2-3g, 8-2-4e, 8-3-5:**

A legal finish now requires the competitor to contact either the touchpad or the finish end according to the finish rules pertaining to the stroke being swum.

**9-4-Table:** The degree of difficulty for back and reverse double somersaults was lowered to be consistent with back and reverse 1½ somersaults degrees of difficulty. **Rationale:** Provides consistency of degree of difficulties assessed to back and reverse dives versus back and reverse somersaults.

NFHS Swimming and Diving Rules Changes - 2019-20 found [HERE](#)

## Volleyball

This year volleyball will be officiated using NFHS rules. As many are already aware, the MIAA Volleyball Committee presented 6 modifications to the MIAA BOD and had them approved for 2019-20 MIAA play. More information can be found on the volleyball page of the MIAA website, the link is below.

**Modification #1:** In set 5 of the Varsity match, teams will change courts when one team reaches eight (8) points.

**Modification #2a:** Allow head and assistant coaches to stand.

**Modification #2b:** Players not currently in the match are allowed to stand at the end of the bench or past the end line and at least six feet away from the sideline.

**Modification #2c:** Players and coaches can still be sanctioned for any unsporting conduct but would not lose the right to stand.

**Modification #3:** Modifying the penalties for submitting the lineup slightly late in sets 2-5. Amend Rule 7-1-4. For Sets 2-5, the 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.

**Modification #4:** Continue the use the Official's uniform currently worn at matches. MIAA Volleyball Committee approved 13-0

This information can be found on the [MIAA Volleyball page](#) of the MIAA website ([miaa.net](#)).

## OTHER INFORMATION

MIAA Rule Change of note for 2020-21: allows all fall sports (**except football**) to begin on 2nd Monday preceding Labor Day. Maximum total of 13 practices prior to Labor Day – Implementation to start July 1, 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, and boys' and girls' volleyball.**



# MIAA BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION



Click above to view the MIAA policy for Massachusetts High School sports officials

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

All officials who registered and completed the background check in year two of this process (2016-17), now have an expired background check. 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.



**ArbiterSports**

2019-20 REGISTRATION OPENED  
ON JULY 1, 2019

**NOTE: Background Checks are valid for three years but officials still must register Annually**

## NEW OFFICIALS

### **Background Check and Registration**

- 1) Click on the **registration tab** on the top left of the MIAA Arbiter Sports 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**

#### **Log in 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 was valid until June 30, 2018. If you were approved during 2016-17 school year, it is valid until June 30, 2019. If you were approved during 2017-18 school year, it is valid until June 30, 2020.



# MIAA—Official of the Year Recipients

## Congratulations to the 2018-2019 MIAA Game Officials of the Year!



The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) hosted their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Game Officials of the Year Recognition Banquet on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at the Associations' office in Franklin, MA.

Congratulations to the 22 game officials representing all MIAA sports who were acknowledged because they have “displayed character, integrity, and dignity, while displaying the highest standards of ethical conduct.” As stated by Elizabeth McAndrews, MIAA Game Officials Committee Chair, “Each of you have been selected for this honor because you have made it a priority to take your role seriously.”

The game officials award recipients are: Kevin T. Henderson, Baseball; Michael Goldman, Football; Brenda Shea, Girls Gymnastics; Joseph Kimemiah, Rugby; Janel Lafond Paquin, Indoor Track; David Pearl, Boys Volleyball; Paul Keeting, Boys Lacrosse; Sean Monaco, Boys Gymnastics; Charles Butterfield, Cross Country; Diana Cares, Outdoor Track; Judith Slamin, Girls Bolleyball; George Kacavas, Wrestling; Daniel Trepanier, Boys Soccer; Jahmahl Galloway, Boys Basketball; Cherly Welsh, Girls Soccer; Michael Norton, Boys Ice Hockey; Cathy Silva, Girls Basketball; Joseph McAuliffe, Girls Ice Hockey; Bob Veronesi, Softball; Lynne Geiger, Girls Lacrosse; Susan Gasper, Swimming and Diving; and, June Murphy, Field Hockey;

Not only are these officials being recognized for their outstanding service to all student-athletes, but also for being an integral part of the MIAA Educational Athletics opportunity. We thank them for their efforts to support the highest ideals of sportsmanship, fair play and athletic achievement.

The MIAA looks forward to our continued partnership with the various games official's organizations that support the mission of the Association. We appreciate the hard work, effort, dedication and commitment to promoting good health, sportsmanship, and safe and fair play among the student-athletes, coaches and parents/guardians that all games officials provide. Thank you for a very successful year!