



Winter 2022

MIAA GAME OFFICIALS PRESEASON NEWSLETTER

Dear MIAA Game Official,

Here we are in the midst of the 2021-22 school year and still impacted by pandemic conditions. Thank you to all officials from the fall for getting us on the fields and courts. Thank you to the winter officials for keeping us functioning inside with many of the same challenges from last year. And thank you to the spring officials for getting trained and prepared for the upcoming season.

Given the unique conditions, of this school year, we find ourselves managing many aspects of the games. I am already aware of some great collaboration among officials and coaches to help follow the current guidelines for our sports. Thank you for making that work even though it is a great challenge for all.

As we continue on this year, it is continually important to recognize the ongoing shortage of officials in all sports. Please work to recruit and support the growth of your boards and area officials. Training and mentoring are key aspects of this opportunity and will grow the ranks of officials. Through the NFHS we are partners in the **#BecomeAnOfficial** campaign and have received new names of interested candidates weekly. I have mentioned the www.highschoolofficials.com webpage for interested candidates to register. Pass it along.

Additionally, if you are a board leader and someone reaches out to you with interest, please be sure to respond and promote your board. We pass along board information when we get these names from the NFHS so look out for their interest.

NASO, the National Association of Sports Officials, is also promoting the growth of the profession. At their website www.sayvestoofficiating.com you can access various videos to promote the satisfaction in becoming an official. On this same website at www.sayvestoofficiating.com/announcements there is an excellent 13-minute video that interviews a few experienced officials. Don't hesitate to pass this along to anyone who shows interest in becoming an official. It may be the little spark that moves them forward.

In closing, let me repeat what I wrote in the fall 2021 newsletter:

THANK YOU for being a part of high school sports. *THANK YOU* for taking responsibility to be the best you can be. *THANK YOU* for anything you can do to ensure that the MIAA will have officials to be a part of our interscholastic competitions today and readily into the future.

With appreciation,

Richard L. Pearson

Associate Director and Liaison – MIAA Game Officials Committee



IMPORTANT WINTER TOURNAMENT INFORMATION



2021- 22 MIAA Tournament Winter Formats General Information — **NEW INFORMATION**

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 is found on the [MIAA Tournament Formats](#) page of the MIAA website.

2021- 22 MIAA Statewide Tournament

As was the case this fall, sport committees and MIAA staff are actively working to plan for the Winter 2022 State Tournaments. More information and helpful FAQ documents will be posted as they are developed. Be sure to check the MIAA Tournament Website as the season progresses. The current statewide tournament design will have brackets of 32 teams created in team sports. Other than preliminary games, prior to the round of 32, there will be five rounds: 32, 16, 8, 4 (State semi-final) and State Final. The games in the rounds of 32, 16 and 8 will be played at the site of the higher seed. This will necessitate communication with schools and assignors across the state to plan for these games, which is somewhat different than the past when a regional assignor may have scheduled officials. Final details will be clarified prior to the start of the winter 2022 tournaments near the end of February.



2022 WINTER SPORT RULE HIGHLIGHTS



2022 Basketball

Basketball Points of Emphasis - 2021-22 Click [HERE](#)

By NFHS on May 18, 2021

Go to the Basketball MIAA web page for Important Supporting Information for winter 2021-22 [HERE](#)

Basketball Rules Changes - 2021-22

By NFHS on May 14, 2021

2-14 (NEW): By state association adoption, effective with the 2022-2023 season, member state associations may establish a shot clock in which the team in control shall attempt a try for field goal within 35 seconds after gaining team control. **ART. 1** This shall be regulated by a visible shot clock. **ART. 2** The tap or try for field goal shall leave the shooter's hand before the expiration of time and subsequently strike the basket ring or enter the basket before or after the shot clock period has expired.

Rationale: This proposal allows each state to authorize the use of the shot clock as a state adoption. The use of the guidelines, provided in the rules book, encourage standardization among those who choose to adopt.

3-5-4e (NEW): Head coverings worn for religious reasons shall not be made of abrasive or hard materials; and must fit securely so that it is highly unlikely to come off during play. **NOTE:** The State Association shall be notified, after the contest, if there is a concern about a head covering worn for religious reasons.

Rationale: The addition of this provision allows for religious head coverings to be permitted without state association approval provided they are secured properly and not made of abrasive or hard materials.

Click [HERE](#) for a Brief summary of MIAA Handbook Rule 66.3 (NEW), 66.10 (NEW) and the deletion of previous Rule 66.3 from the MIAA Basketball Preseason Newsletter 2021-22 (page 4).



2021-22 Ice Hockey

Ice Hockey Rules Changes - 2021-22 [HERE](#)

Points of Emphasis 2021-22

- The NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee continues in its belief that the main threat to the health of high school ice hockey is **violent and reckless play**.

Officiating Points of Emphasis

- Faceoffs – Both teams must have an equal opportunity to play the puck. This requires proper positioning of all players and the official conducting the faceoff.
- Icing – If the puck is shot from behind the center red line, potential icing applies. It is improper to waive icing simply because the puck is close to the center red line.
- Offside – Officials must always be in a proper position to accurately determine offside. A goal scored on an obvious offside play will adversely impact the officials' credibility throughout the game.
- Calling the game – A smooth flowing game is a great experience for all participants and spectators. However, this does not mean that officials should "let them play." Offenses must be penalized at all times during the game, regardless of the score or period.

Sportsmanship

- All coaches, officials, administrators, parents and participants need to understand their role in education-based athletics and activities.
- Fair play and respect are an essential part of high school hockey.



2022 WINTER SPORT RULE HIGHLIGHTS



2022 Track and Field

NFHS Points of Emphasis - 2021-22 [HERE](#)

1. Exchange Zone
2. Use of Electronic Devices
3. Adapted Athletes

Rules Revision:

1. Uniform bottoms may have a single manufacturer's logo no more than 2^{1/4} square inches on the leg and larger logo/trademark/reference around the waistband
2. Hair coverings worn for religious reasons are not considered hair devices and must not be made of abrasive, hard or unyielding material; and must be secured to the body and/or uniform.
3. A 30-meter exchange zone shall be used when the incoming competitor is running 200 meters or less in lanes.
4. Warm-up approaches in horizontal jumps, pole vault and javelin shall only be run in a direction the event will be conducted.
5. Athletes are no longer penalized for a hat or sunglasses falling in the pit after they have made their mark.
6. Clarified when measurements for record attempts for vertical jumps need to be taken.

NFHS Track & Field and Cross Country Rules Changes - 2022 [HERE](#)

2021-22 Wrestling

Important Items for the upcoming 2021-22 wrestling season.

1. ***Student-athletes, coaches, and officials that are indoors shall be masked.*** These are the minimum required State safety standards that remain consistent with the practice that take place during the school day. DESE has set a January 15, 2022 date to assess masking guidelines.
2. Officials should continue to utilize **electronic** whistles.
3. **2021-22 NFHS Wrestling Rule Changes** can be found [here](#).
4. **NEW MIAA RULE - Morning weigh-ins are no longer permitted**
5. *MIAA Rule 84.4.8 - For all team matches beginning after 3:00 p.m., wrestlers will get an additional two (2) pound allowance 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.*
6. [Click here](#) to view all **Wrestling** specific rules in the [MIAA Handbook](#). Please read Rule 84.4.6, 84.4.7 and 84.4.8 carefully as the language has been cleaned up to avoid confusion.

Click to view the [MIAA Wrestling page](#), which includes important information, dates, etc.

NFHS Rule on "Head, Neck, Cervical" Injury Time – Please [click here](#) to review the document explaining Injury Time.



CONCUSSION INFORMATION



Massachusetts Concussion Law 105 CMR 201: Head Injuries and Concussions in Extracurricular Athletic Activities

Concussion Training

Game officials **shall complete** one of the training programs approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health **annually** and shall provide independent verification of completion of the training program to schools or school districts upon request.

Department of Public Health training program information:
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/concussion-trainings>

NFHS training course information:
[Concussions in Sports: What You Need to Know](#)

MIAA BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION



2021-22 Registration Open Now
click [HERE](#)

Background Checks are valid for three years but **officials still must register annually.**

In order to finalize your registration you will need to once again consent to the **background check in steps of the registration process**, even though you have already been approved. (There are new, additional screens in this process, but information is clear and detailed well). During the final payment step you **will not** be charged for another background check nor will your background check be run again.

Approved background checks are valid for three years. New background checks this year will expire on June 30, 2023

When should you register for the background check and/or seasonal registration?

- **Fall Officials** should register by **Aug. 1.**
- **Winter Officials** should register by **Nov. 1**
- **Spring Officials** should register by **Feb. 1**
- **All officials** can register for the year beginning on July
Register one time for the entire year !

Student and Coach Disqualifications

It is **recommended** that all game officials carry coach and student disqualification forms with them to each contest. These forms can be found on the [MIAA Game Officials](#) page on the MIAA website. All game officials are required to know all procedures when it comes to disqualifications, including [MIAA Handbook](#) Rule 49.1 (pg. 46).



Game Officials Fees

The list of **recommended** Game Officials' regular season fees for 2021-2022 is found under MIAA Rule 93 (pages 104-106) of the [MIAA Handbook](#).



SPORTSMANSHIP

MIAA Handshake Protocol

Rule 92.20

August 31, 2021

In order to safely maximize full participation of MIAA sports, *the suspension of the MIAA Handshake Protocol – Rule 92.20, will remain in effect until further notice.* This rule was originally suspended in **July 2020** by the Board of Directors. In an effort to continue the important role that sportsmanship plays in athletics, the Sportsmanship and Student Advisory Committees have recommended having teams line up facing their opponent and wave saying “good game” or to have teams provide a cheer/salute thanking opponents, officials and fans.

Officiating Shortage Reaches Crisis Level

– All Groups Must Work Together

NFHS Executive Director Karissa Niehoff addresses the ongoing national crisis involving a lack of individuals to officiate high school sports. While the NFHS encourages all interested individuals to consider officiating, there’s several ways administrators, coaches, parents and players can help protect and promote the efforts of current officials.



The NFHS Voice—October 20, 2021

MIAA Team Sportsmanship Awards

The MIAA would like to encourage game officials to nominate varsity teams 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. Click [here](#) for the nomination form.

Make The Right Call

Become A High School Official

Be the difference Maker Your Community Needs

The MIAA is an organization of 377 high schools, who sponsor athletic activities in 33 sports. More than 227,000 young men and women compete annually in 100,000 competitions among MIAA member schools.

MIAA currently enjoy enrollment from 103 game official boards across the state, totaling over 8800 enrolled officials.

How to Get Games

You are strongly encouraged to become a member of a local officials association, where you can receive training, mentoring, and assistance in obtaining game contracts. A list of board presidents and secretaries, along with contact information is accessible on our game officials page.

Please share the information: Request For Information To Become An MIAA Official [HERE](#)



MIAA GAME OFFICIALS Official of the Year Recipients

Congratulations to the 2020-2021 MIAA Game Officials of the Year!

These game officials were selected to receive the 2020-2021 MIAA Official of the Year Award. Click [HERE](#) to see the MIAA announcement for Game Officials' of the year. 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.



2021-22 MIAA Game Official of the Year: *New Deadline* June 30, 2022

Seeking to recognize and honor officials!

Please read the following application to better understand the nomination process and criteria. Complete and submit the MIAA Game Official of the Year Nomination Form [HERE](#) with supporting documentation as requested by June 30, 2022.

