

MIAA Football Committee  
September 15, 2021 – 10:00 AM

MINUTES

Call to order and attendance taken by Richard Pearson

Committee members were welcomed to the in-person meeting by 2020-21 Vice-Chair Jay Costa and liaison Richard Pearson. After welcoming the committee, Richard Pearson showed the committee one of the Agganis Football Championship Trophies which were first presented in 2019. Additionally, Richard thanked Jim Pignataro for his many years of service as chair of the MIAA Football Committee. Jim retired in June 2020 from his position of principal at Grafton High School.

**Election of Officers:** Dave Pignone nominated (seconded Fonseca) Jay Costa as chair of the committee. With no other nominations, Jay Costa was elected chair, 14-0-1. Jay Costa nominated Don Heres for vice-chair (seconded Gamache). With no other nominations, Don Heres was elected vice-chair, 15-0-0. Jay Costa nominated Dave Pignone for secretary (seconded Gamache). With no other nominations, Dave Pignone was elected secretary, 15-0-0.

**Minutes:** Minutes of previous meeting, June 15, 2021. Were moved and approved 13-0-2 (Gamache, Procacini)

**Football Format 2021:** Richard Pearson mentioned that the 2021 Football Format had been approved by the TMC and is available on the MIAA website. It was noted that given the requirement for a minimum of 7 games to qualify for the tournament, if schools would lose a game(s) due to COVID circumstances that an appeal could be requested. Process to be developed.

**Football Format 2022 time of quarters for State Finals:** The Committee discussed this topic that was introduced in the spring of 2021 and moved forward to discussion for this school year. A subcommittee was developed to meet and have more discussion prior to the December 15<sup>th</sup> committee meeting. Subcommittee members: Josh MacCreery, Steve Dembowski, Steve Traister, Scott Fry, Ryan Conway and Joe Gamache.

**NFHS and MIAA promotion, #ThisIsHSFootball:** Richard Pearson presented additional information about the NFHS/MIAA promotion of ThisIsFootball. He also showed the committee some of the data from the national survey from the spring of 2021.  
<https://thisishighschoolfootball.com/>. The Committee had additional discussion about the state

[football in MA and the country, increase/decrease in participation and other thoughts about promoting the sport for students.](#)

**Length of Quarters – Discussion:** A member school athletic director/football coach submitted a letter to the committee for the consideration of alternative quarter time lengths less than 12-minutes. Members discussed challenges with schools and programs. Members will elicit continued dialogue with their constituents for further discussion this school year.

**Officials Topics:** Tom Azevedo, mentioned that officials are pleased to be back on the field with players and fans. Additionally, he has worked on 7-man mechanics to be used for the state semi-finals and state finals.

**Other Topics:** Committee member Dave Pignone asked about hashmarks for fields, especially with those fields that have NCAA hashmarks. It was reiterated that once the Association converted to NFHS rules, the NFHS hashmarks were to be used, indicating the hashmarks with paint, cones or any other approximation. The committee will meet virtually in the next few weeks to setup the non-playoff scheduling committees.

**Next meeting:** Dec. 15, 2021

Adjourn (J. Gamache/J. MacCreary)