

MIAA Football Committee Meeting
Minutes – Jan. 19, 2022

Jay Costa and Richard Pearson welcomed the committee members.

Minutes of Sept. 15, 2021 meeting were motioned and approved. (B. Fonseca, J. Gamache) 18-0-0

Football Tournament 2021 Committee members were welcomed to the in-person meeting by Committee Chair Jay Costa and liaison Richard Pearson. After approving minutes, the committee received a presentation about the 2021 Football Tournament from Tournament Administrator Scott Paine and Richard Pearson. All host school sites venues were thanked and commended for their efforts to host those tournament games. An additional thanks was extended to the hosts of the state semi-final games for their efforts to welcome schools to their communities and make an additional weekend available in their facilities. On behalf of the Coaches Association Representative Steve Dembowski commended the quality of officials for the final games at Gillette Stadium. Tom Azevedo, Officials' Representative also commented on the officials for the tournament. Tom commended Tim Hooten, state tournament assignor, for the development of two virtual meetings in advance of both the state semi-finals and state finals supporting the effective use of 7-man official mechanics used for the state semi-final and state final games.

Richard Pearson mentioned that attendance for the 8 final games at Gillette was greater than in 2018 and 2019. It was also mentioned that all games were played with 12-minute quarters which was afforded to the change in schedule. Scott Paine extended a thank you to Kraft Productions for all of their effort to accommodate 8 MIAA State Final games among their busy stadium schedule. Kraft Productions worked very collaboratively with the MIAA to squeeze in games on Weds. 12/1 (3 games), Thurs. 12/2 (3 games and Friday 12/3 (2 games).

Football Format 2022: Richard Pearson mentioned the upcoming timeline for approval of the 2022 Football Format. Given the date of the next meeting, the Committee will plan for approval at their March meeting. In planning ahead for the format discussion, Richard Pearson reiterated the use of 12-minute quarters for the 2021 state finals and offered this has created an opportunity to solidify a possible plan to maintain the 12-minute quarters going forward for the 2022 format. The 2022 Football Format will be discussed and approved at the next meeting.

NFHS Rules 2022: Richard Pearson will be attending the NFHS Football Rules Committee on Jan. 23-25. He gave the committee information about the process as well as some national survey data which was collected relative to playoff game statistics from many other states. It was also mentioned that other survey data, which was offered to MA coaches and officials was collected to help inform the national rules committee.

Officials Topics: Tom Azevedo, mentioned the challenge with uniforms not reaching below the knee as required by NFHS Football Rules. He also mentioned a recent video he viewed from NFHS Learn, *The Parent Seat*, and suggested its value for others.

Coaches Topics: Steve Dembowski, representing coaches, mentioned that there has been discussion among his members about the Margin of Victory for football, 14 points. The committee agreed that any MOV ideas should be submitted to Richard Pearson by Feb. 1. This information will be sent out to the Committee members at that time in preparation for a discussion at the March meeting. Richard Pearson affirmed that football committee discussion can be passed along to the TMC as they will continue to receive feedback for the state tournament structure and administration.

Meeting was adjourned (J. MacCreery, T. Azevedo) 18-0-0

Next meeting: March 1, 2022