



MIAA Board of Directors Meeting Highlights – August 18, 2021

The MIAA Board of Directors met on August 18, 2021 in Franklin with approximately 25 people in attendance including Board members, MIAA staff and members of the media.

Welcome: Lindsey von Holtz, MIAA President and Mt. Greylock Athletic Director, welcomed the Board to the 2021-2022 school year with a message of opportunity and appreciation. She thanked Bill Gaine for his commitment and service to the Association and introduced Dr. Robert Baldwin as the incoming Executive Director.

New members:

- a. Nicole Bottomley, Principal, Holliston High School, District 7
- b. Thomas Anderson, Superintendent, New Bedford Public Schools, M.A.S.S.
- c. Dave Bouchard, Athletic Director, Quaboag Reg. Middle/High School, District 2
- d. Pam Gould, Superintendent, Sandwich Public Schools, M.A.S.S.
- e. Jim Quatromoni, Athletic Directors, Hingham High School, District 9
- f. Ellen Holmes, MASC, Ashburnham-Westminster, MASC

Communications: Tara Bennett, Director of Communications, presented on the recent NCAA ruling that impacts Name, Image, and Likeness and the potential impact on high school student-athletes and schools. MIAA Rule 47, Amateurism, was emphasized. You may view the presentation [HERE](#).

Sister Associations:

MSAA: Brian McCann reported a successful 2021 Summer Institute with over 300 members present at the new venue in Plymouth, Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor. MSAA Convocation is scheduled for September 21st.

There were no reports provided for MSSADA, MASC, or M.A.S.S.

Educational Athletics: Peter Smith, Associate Director provided an update on Educational Athletics initiatives and activities during the spring and summer. Check out the amazing content [HERE](#).

Spring tournaments: Executive Director Bill Gaine provided a summary of 2021 Spring Tournaments. You may view the presentation [HERE](#).

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI): The joint DEI and Sportsmanship sub-committee is continuing to work on Discriminatory Incident Reporting Policies. A formal proposal will be presented at an upcoming Board meeting.

Post Season League / District Tournaments: The Board of Directors continued discussion from their previous meeting regarding exemption of post season league/district tournament games. Communications from TMC and the PVIAC were shared with the BOD.

Motion: The post season league/district tournament championship game will be exempt from the maximum game limit number for each sport and allow Executive Staff to create and manage this process. (B. Callahan/S. Sibley)

APPROVED 16-1

Guidance includes the following:

- Any games played prior to the cutoff will be included in a team's power ranking
- Any games played after the cutoff will NOT be included in a team's power ranking
- No games may conflict with the MIAA tournament
- A form will be created and those responsible for the tournament must fill out the form each year requesting the exemption
- Exempted games will be recorded by the MIAA staff

Meeting Dates: MIAA Board meeting dates were provided. Every other Board meeting will take place in Franklin.

Motion: To approve the Annual meeting on April 1, 2022 at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough, MA. **APPROVED 17-0**

A tentative schedule of District Workshop dates was provided. District Workshops are scheduled to be in-person.

Sports Medicine Committee: Associate Director Richard Pearson and Dr. John Jardine presented an update from the Sports Medicine Committee on heat modifications. Clarification regarding the difference between practice activity and interscholastic competition was included in this update.

Motion: To accept changes in the Heat Modification Policy with a minor edit of: *maximum practice time is one hour including breaks.* (M. Miville/C. Conefrey)

APPROVED 16-0-1

You may view the updated Heat Modification Policy [HERE](#)

Sports Medicine met on Monday, August 16, 2021 and discussed the matter of requiring masks for the upcoming season with no recommendation to BOD.

Motion: The Board of Directors will require masks for indoor activities through the fall 2021 season. (T. Arria/S. Sibley) **DEFEATED 2-15-0**

NFHS Summer Meeting: Executive Director Bill Gaine provided an summary of the NFHS Summer meeting including congratulating Sherry Bryant on receiving the NFHS Citation for Section 1, as well as highlighting NFHS presenter Lesley Visser, a S. Hadley HS graduate and Field Hockey player, as a Title IX Pioneer.

He also announced the celebration of the Title IX 50 Year Anniversary Programming from NFHS.

You may view the press release for Sherry Bryant [HERE](#).

MIAA Handbook Rules 2021-2023

Many important discussions took place on MIAA Rules. See the July 2021-June 2023 Handbook [HERE](#). Look specifically at page 2 for a summary of new rules.

Bonafide Member Rule 45: Discussion to clarify language on the application of the penalty to the next immediate contest. View Rule 45 [HERE](#).

Motion: To have the penalty apply to the next game available, regular season or tournament game.

M. Miville/M. Trahan) **APPROVED 17-0**

New Waiver Process Summary: Clarification that there is only one level of appeal even to those leagues that approve waivers in their own district. Additionally, new waiver application forms were created and can be found under the "fillable pages" link in members only on the website. View the new process [HERE](#).

Volleyball Rule 83.5: Tom Costello, MIAA Legal Counsel shared concerns regarding the newly voted rule 83.5.

Motion: Revert to former Rule 83.5 and charge the Volleyball and Blue Ribbon Committee to develop an alternative proposal. A report will be provided to the Board at their December 8, 2021 BOD meeting. (P. Gould/J. Quatromoni)

APPROVED 13-1-1

View the updated rule 83.5 (which was the rule from July 2019-June 2021)

[HERE](#).

Athletic Trainer Rule 69.2: Discussion about the implementation of Rule 69.2 for fall 2021 took place.

Motion: Delay the implementation of rule 69.2 for one year. (S. Sibley/P. Mara)

APPROVED 15-0

View Rule 69.2 [HERE](#).

Member School Applications:

Motion: To accept the applications of Boston Prep Charter Public School and Berkshire Waldorf HS to join MIAA membership. (E. Holmes/B. McCann)

APPROVED 15-0

Other:

Tournament Management Committee provided two updates to the Board:

Power Ratings: The BOD charged TMC to review margin of victory (MOV) per the request of the Hockomock League's concern related to MOV component to the power rating system. TMC representatives provided insight into the process and data utilized in the setting of the MOV. The committee worked to establish numbers low enough to help mitigate the expressed concern. Overall feedback from sport committees has been in support of the numbers presented. TMC emphasized that MOV is something they will assess as the new state tournament begins. If changes need to be made, they will be made. Sportsmanship is an important concept to the Committee.

Division IA Tournament: In June, the TMC sub-committee invited all sport committee chairs/designees and liaisons to discuss Division IA tournaments. At that meeting, the Baseball and Hockey Committee reps presented their rationale regarding the reason the IA tournament should continue as they have in the past. A motion was approved (16-0) at the TMC meeting to have the established criteria remain in place for four years and to have TMC review data after two years to determine if there is enough data, at that point, to show dominance in any sport.

House of Representative Post Audit and Oversight Committee correspondence was shared with the Board. A meeting with representatives will take place in the coming weeks.

The Board moved to Executive Session.

Next Meeting: September 28, 2021 – Virtual Meeting

Finance and Personnel Committee Update

Lindsey von Holtz provided the report on the Finance Committee meeting. May 2021 financial documents were reviewed by Controller Sherry Bryant. A \$25,000 grant was received by NFHS foundation to support DEI initiatives. A \$350,000 grant was awarded from the American Rescue Plan to help offset the cost of spring tournaments.

Motion: To approve the Finance committee’s recommendation to add Tom Arria (AD, Cambridge Rindge & Latin School), Deb Davis (MASC) and Pam Gould (Superintendent, Sandwich Public Schools) to the Finance and Personnel Committee. (E. Holmes/C. Conefrey) **APPROVED 17-0**

Motion: To approve the Finance committee’s recommendation to appoint Stephanie Sibley (Malden House Principal) as the Vice President and Chair of the Finance Committee. (C. Conefrey/B. Callahan) **APPROVED 17-0**



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