



## MIAA Football Committee Meeting Highlights September 15, 2020

The MIAA Football Committee met virtually on September 15, 2020 with approximately 28 people on the call including committee members, Member School Athletic Directors, MIAA staff and members of the media.

### **2020-2021 Football Committee Leadership Positions:**

**Chair:** Jim Pignataro, Grafton High School Principal

**Vice-Chair:** Jay Costa, Shrewsbury High School Athletic Director

**Secretary:** Dave Pignone, Stoneham High School Athletic Director

**Football Alignment:** Richard Pearson, MIAA liaison to the football committee offered an update to the alignment process which took place during this summer of 2020. Final alignments were presented to and approved by the TMC at the end of July.

**Fall II Football Season:** The committee had an open discussion about the future Fall II season where football is slated to take place. Coaches' representative Steve Dembowski commented on aspects for planning and the discussion he has had with various coaches during the past few months. Tom Azevedo, game officials' representative mentioned that officials were currently working on education on the rules and preparing for the Fall II season. Other discussion involved questions about TMC process and timing as it relates to football for the upcoming school year.

The committee decided to start working on sport modification guidance for football. Committee members were encouraged to contact R. Pearson if interested. A subcommittee will begin meeting as soon as possible.

**NFHS Rules:** As for officials' topics, Tom Azevedo mentioned the need for clarity on using the 2020 NFHS Football Rules during the Fall II season given that new rule modifications may be available when the season begins.

*Motion:* Use 2020 NFHS Football Rules for the Fall II season in March – April 2021. (J. O'Leary/T. Azevedo) **APPROVED** 18-0-0

**Other:** Coaches' representative Steve Dembowski spoke about the coaches' association season and tournament play proposal. A subcommittee will meet as soon as possible to begin looking at the proposal.

Additional discussion of out-of-season coaching expectations for schools and coaches took place. No action taken. It was reminded that the MIAA BOD has already voted (Aug. 2020) that all out-of-season coaching practice technique and requirements must be monitored by individual schools with attention to established EEA guidance for youth sports.

At the next football committee meeting, the MIAA Rule Change packet will be voted on as well as further discussion of subcommittee work and Fall II planning.

**Next Meeting:** October 14, 2020 at 10:00 am

