



MIAA Volleyball Committee Highlights May 4, 2021

The Volleyball Committee met virtually on May 4, 2021 and was attended by 21 people including MIAA staff, Committee members and members of the press.

Format: The 2021 Boy's State Volleyball Tournament Format was reviewed. Thanks was given to Steven Porter (Pioneer Valley Regional HS), Deb Loomer (West Tournament Director), and Marc Arria (Winchester HS) for serving on the sub-committee. One addition will be added to the format: "Trained adults will serve as scorekeeper and libero tracker during the sectional finals, state semi-finals, and state finals." The format still needs final approval from the Tournament Management Committee.

2021 Spring Tournament Structure: There was much discussion about the tournament structure for 2021. Committee members were brought up-to-date as to what the tournament will look like. Tournament Directors were informed that an upcoming meeting, date TBD, will be held with Sherry Bryant and Richard Pearson outlining their responsibilities. A question was posed relative to what happens if at the playoff level two schools are involved that are both in the COVID 19 Red Zone? An answer will be investigated.

Power Rating: Feedback was solicited from the Committee relative to the proposed Information Sheet for Power Rating System which will be used in seeding state tournaments. Overall the Volleyball Committee believed that the system was fine. There was some disagreement on eliminating the third game. Folks believed that oftentimes the third game can be used to let many more kids play that often may not get game time play.

Coaches Report: The Coaches' Reports were given by Jane Bergin (Lexington HS) and Tom Turco (Barnstable HS). The coaches informed the Committee that they forwarded MIAA alignment appeal protocol to their membership as well as the proposed MIAA "Information Sheet for Power Rating System." Kathleen McSweeney, Liaison, explained the appeal process to the Committee.

Officials Report: Ted Wilcox gave the Volleyball Officials Report in which he requested all volleyball schools and Directors of Athletics be reminded that all COVID 19 Modifications are still in place including the mandate of having a site COVID 19 Officer at game sites.

Rules Interpreter's Report: Carole Burke provided the Rule Interpreter's Report: She shared that there are very little changes for the Fall. There will no longer be a requirement for a waiver for any athlete wearing headwear for religious reasons, there is the need for a waiver for headwear for medical

reasons. The consequence for late submission will be changed to a delayed sanction. In the future, officials may wear multi colored shirts. Lastly, Carole reminded everyone that this is the first season that boys are playing under NFHS rules.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Symposium: Kathleen E. McSweeney (MIAA Volleyball Liaison) informed everyone about the upcoming and **free Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Symposium being held on May 13, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Entitled: "Using Your Voice, Making the Choice, Being the Change" the symposium has five outstanding presenters who will address pertinent topics in the areas of equity and inclusion. Register via the MIAA or MSAA website.

Nominations: The Committee was reminded that the deadline for Coach of the Year and Official of the Year nominations has been extended to June 30, 2021; they were encouraged to make a nomination(s).

Other: The topic of "Boys Playing on Girls Teams" was lengthy. The current playing rule does not allow for boys to play the front row or to spike in the front row. This rule is scheduled to change in the Fall of 2021, which would allow boys to play and attack in the front row. In an effort to address this upcoming rule implementation, the Volleyball Committee submitted rule change proposals addressing this concern. These rules will be voted on at the May 10, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting. In addition, there is on-going dialogue with the Blue Ribbon Committee to assess language/criteria that can be applied to all volleyball players equally to ensure the safety and well-being of all players.

Next meeting: Fall 2021

EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS

MIAA | 33 Forge Pkwy | Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997

