



MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



More Officials, Better Fan Behavior Needed in High School Sports

April 28, 2021

Dear Statewide Media:

As you know, this has been a challenging year for everyone involved in high school sports and other activity programs. The good news, however, is that after a year of ups and downs, by the end of the school year, most schools in most states across the country are playing sports.

On the flip side, however, is a concerning subject, and that is a desperate need for more individuals to serve as referees and umpires for middle school and high school sports across our state. And even more than that, we need a vast improvement in the behavior of fans – mostly parents – so that we can retain the men and women who are currently serving as officials. We need those individuals who attend middle school and high school sporting events to think about the repercussions of their actions the next time they yell at officials – that is events may have to be cancelled if there are not enough individuals to officiate games.

With this in mind, please consider sharing this op-ed ([CLICK HERE](#)) with your readers and followers. Hopefully, it may attract some new people to the avocation of officiating and, equally important, it may cause others to think about their behavior at the next event they attend.

Thank you for sharing this important message. As always, I am available to provide additional insight or answer questions. I would welcome your call.

Sincerely,

William N. Gaine
MIAA Executive Director

EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS

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