



Fall 2022

## MIAA GAME OFFICIALS FALL SEASON NEWSLETTER

Dear MIAA Game Officials Committee Member:

Here in the second season of the 2022-23 school year I once again start by thanking all officials for everything you do to prepare for and participate in high school sports. I have said many times before, we **wouldn't have the games without you.**

Hopefully many of you have seen the social media posts supporting officiating and driving a message home to change the climate that all of you work within. On Twitter follow or use, #BenchBadBehavior. We will continue to post these announcements on social media and also continue to create any messaging that works toward creating a better atmosphere for your professional work.

Please help us monitor this work by informing your board leadership, assignors, our school leaders, and your colleagues when challenges in the athletic atmosphere impact your comfort level. Having talked to many officials across the state, many of you bring your experience to the competitions and are not easily phased by the noise from the stands. Still, fan behavior must improve. Although it may be challenging at times, your attention to the game before you, and making it the best possible event, for the student athletes is appreciated and quite obvious. Thank you for keeping that in the forefront of your mind.

It is the hope of all MIAA members schools that we can work to grow the officiating ranks, and improving the climate surrounding high school sports. During the rest of the school year, and into the future, we will continue to explore means to increase our pool of officials and enhance the opportunity that officiating brings to each and every one of you.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication on behalf of all MIAA student athletes.

Richard L. Pearson  
MIAA Associate Executive Director



# 2023 WINTER SPORT RULE HIGHLIGHTS



## 2022-23 Basketball

### Basketball Shot Clock Information

Beginning with the 2022-23 season, MIAA basketball will be played with a 35-second shot clock as described in the [NFHS Shot Clock guidelines](#). In adopting these guidelines, the Basketball Committee and the Board of Directors have affirmed that shot clocks are not required to be mounted on backboard supports. In addition, MIAA Handbook Rule 66.10 has been updated as follows, "The shot clock will reset to 20 seconds when there is an intentionally kicked or fisted ball with 19 seconds or less left in the possession. If the violation occurs with 20 or more seconds on the shot clock, no reset will take place and the offense will have the remaining time left in the possession."

With this new national high school standard for shot clock use, the NFHS Officiating Services Department has released a video reviewing the NFHS basketball rules and recommended guidelines for states that have adopted a 35-second shot clock.

Please [click here](#) for the video.

Please visit the [MIAA basketball webpage](#) for additional supporting information including:

[Basketball Rule Changes 2022-23](#)

[Basketball Rule Interpretations 2022-23](#)

[Basketball Points of Emphasis 2022-23](#)



## 2022-23 Ice Hockey

### 8-4-1: Change: Section title change to "Interference with the Game"

ART. 1...In the event that objects that interfere with the progress of the game are thrown onto the ice, a whistle is blown by a non-official, or other fan interference, the official shall blow the whistle and stop the play, and the puck shall be faced off at the nearest faceoff spot in the zone where play is stopped.

### 9-1-9: Change: Moved 9-1-10b to be new 9-1-9e.

The puck shall be faced off at the nearest faceoff spot in the zone where the puck was last fairly played, which is where the puck was last fairly in contact with a player or that player's stick, unless otherwise provided for in these rules when:

e. **any player causes the puck to leave the rink, or that player or player's stick was last to touch the puck before it left the rink from this zone;** or

### 9-8-4: Change: ART. 4...If at any time while play is in progress a puck other than the one officially in play shall appear on the playing surface and interferes with the progress of the game, play shall be stopped immediately and the puck shall be faced off at the nearest faceoff spot in the zone where play is stopped.

[Ice Hockey Rule Changes 2022-23.](#)

[Ice Hockey Points of Emphasis 2022-23.](#)

Click here to view the [MIAA Ice Hockey page](#), which includes important information, dates, etc.



# 2022 WINTER SPORT RULE HIGHLIGHTS



## 2022-23 Track & Field/Cross Country

### 2023 Points of Emphasis

1. Sportsmanship
2. Protest/ Appeal Process
3. Cross Country Safety
4. **Enforcing Prompt Re-start of Play**

### Rule Changes:

1. **Rule 9 (NEW)**: Creates new indoor track and field rules section.  
Rationale: There are 17 states that conduct state championships in indoor track and field, over 150,000 participants, and 21 states that sanction the activity. With recent changes to the outdoor rules, it became clearer that it was necessary to create a section specifically for indoor track and field rules. Move Records Section to New Rule 10.

Other Track & Field Rule Changes can be found [here](#).



## 2022-23 Wrestling

### [Wrestling 2022-23 Points of emphasis.](#)

1. Sportsmanship
2. Illegal, Harmful Holds and Maneuvers
3. Uniforms

### [Wrestling Rule Changes 2022-23](#)

#### Wrestling Rules Revisions

1. Clarity has been provided regarding what a female wrestler shall wear under one-piece singlet.
2. Wrestlers wearing a form-fitted compression shirts.
3. If a wrestler's shoelace become untied or the shoe comes off during a match, a wrestler will now be penalized with a stalling call.
4. New and additional facial hair guidance.

Click [here](#) to view the **MIAA Wrestling page**, which includes important information, dates, etc.



# CONCUSSION INFORMATION



Massachusetts Concussion Law  
[105 CMR 201](#): Head Injuries  
and Concussions in  
Extracurricular Athletic Activities

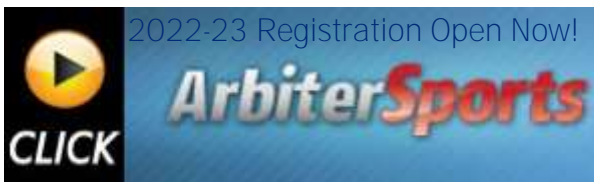
## Concussion Training

Game officials shall complete one of the training programs approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health annually and shall provide independent verification of completion of the training program to schools or school districts upon request.

Department of Public Health training program information:  
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/concussion-trainings>

NFHS training course information:  
[Concussions in Sports: What You Need to Know](#)

# MIAA BACKGROUND CHECK & REGISTRATION INFORMATION



## MIAA Tournament Officiating Registration Deadline

In order to officiate in a MIAA Winter Tournament contest, all officials must have an approved MIAA registration sport icon. Higher seed assignors for early round games, prior to the round of 4/state semi-finals, must be sure to link to the MIAA approved database, Arbiter #110185, to insure assigned officials have been registered and have an approved background check.

Additionally, *any official being assigned a round of 4 or state final game must be completely registered and background checked with the MIAA by Feb. 1, 2023.*

The MIAA post-season database, Arbiter #113128, will be loaded by Feb. 1. No additional officials can be added after that date. If you receive a request for 113128, it is for the purposes of loading the database and does not guarantee a post-season assignment.

## Background check and/or Seasonal Registration

- Fall Officials should register by Aug. 1.
- Winter Officials should register by Nov. 1
- Spring Officials should register by Feb. 1
- All officials can register for the year beginning on July Register one time for the entire year!
- Approved background checks are valid for three years.
- New background checks this year will expire on **June 30, 2025**

## Game Officials Fees

The list of recommended Game Officials' regular season fees for 2022-2023 is found under MIAA Rule 93 (pages 104-106) of the [MIAA Handbook](#).



# #BecomeAnOfficial



Did you know we could use more high school officials? It's true! In fact, every sport needs more officials. Here's how you can help: Sign up today to become an official and ensure students always get to play high school sports!

[#BecomeAnOfficial](#)

## Officials Appreciation Week(s)

This fall MIAA staff members and our school athletic directors worked to recognize officials during national Officials Appreciation Week from October 17 -21. This was a great opportunity to celebrate all of the hard work officials do during the games and in preparation for their professional approach to officiating. During the last week of January, Jan. 30 – Feb. 3 we will celebrate winter Officials Appreciation Week across the state of Massachusetts and the nation. Thank you for all that you do each and every day to allow our students to participate in interscholastic athletics.

## NFHS Winter Sports Officiating Legends Videos Now Available!

Happy Holidays! The NFHS Winter Sports Officiating Legends Videos are now available and can be found at the links below. Please feel free to share with anyone who might be interested in hearing the stories of legends in the officiating industry.

Basketball – Joe Crawford & Steve Javie

<https://youtu.be/kbGPykNZ8jA>

Gymnastics - Kathy Krebs

<https://youtu.be/5GbZ1KNtskk>

Ice Hockey - Terry Gregson

<https://youtu.be/afnWEJBcS1M>

Ice Hockey - Terry Gregson

<https://youtu.be/5GbZ1KNtskk>

Swimming - Jay Thomas

<https://youtu.be/Ci1wodTuyCY>

Wrestling - Rusty Davidson

<https://youtu.be/6f0ZcldxPqs>



# SPORTSMANSHIP



## MIAA Team Sportsmanship Award

Game officials are encouraged to nominate teams for the MIAA Team Sportsmanship Award. These awards will be presented during the MIAA State Tournament. Nominated teams should exemplify the tenets of good sportsmanship to the highest degree and are not required to qualify for the state tournament for consideration. To access the nomination form and sport specific deadlines, please [click here](#).

## Student and Coach Disqualifications

It is recommended that all game officials carry coach and student disqualification forms to each contest. Updated forms can be found on the [Game Officials page](#) on the MIAA website. All game officials are required to know all procedures related to disqualifications including [MIAA Handbook](#) Rule 49.1 (pg. 47).

[Student Contest Disqualification Form](#)  
[Coach Contest Disqualification Form](#)



## Shift to Positive Behavior by Fans in High School Sports Must Occur to Retain Officials (from NFHS.org)

**“A shift to positive behavior by fans in high school sports must occur if officials are going to be retained. Parents and other fans must come to high school games to cheer for their team’s players – not against the officials or opponents.”**

[Click here](#) for the NFHS Voice discussing improved positive behavior by fans.



# MIAA GAME OFFICIALS Official of the Year Recipients

Congratulations to the 2021-2022 MIAA Game Officials of the Year!

These game officials were selected to receive the 2021-2022 MIAA Official of the Year Award. Click [HERE](#) to see the MIAA announcement for Game Officials' of the year. Not only are these officials being recognized for their outstanding service to all student-athletes, but also for being an integral part of the MIAA Educational Athletics opportunity.



2022-23 MIAA Game Official of the Year: *Deadline June 30, 2023*

Seeking to recognize and honor officials!

Please read the application linked below to better understand the nomination process and criteria. Complete and submit the MIAA Game Official of the Year Nomination Form [HERE](#) with supporting documentation as requested by June 30, 2023

