

**July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009**



**Rules and Regulations  
Governing Athletics**

*A Handbook for Principals and Athletic Directors*

*of schools that  
are members of the*

**MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

## **Suggested for Regular Review “Points of Emphasis”**

*In addition to bold face language within the Handbook text representing current approved rule changes, the following should be well known by all principals and athletic directors:*

Page 28	#32.1	Association rules may only be interpreted or clarified by the Board (or staff)
Page 29	#33	Coaches Education
Page 30	#34	Scheduling Limits for Schools
Page 35	#40	Coach-Athletes Out of Season Limitations
Pages 42 & 103	#45 & #96	Bona Fide Team Member – Violation Consequences
Pages 47-56	#51-62	Primary body of athlete eligibility requirements
Page 47	#52	Clarifying description of eligibility status for students in “non-traditional” education programs
Page 54	#62	Chemical Health-now in effect from the earliest fall practice date to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic events (whichever is latest).

## ***A message to Principals and Athletic Directors***

Dear Association Member School Leaders,

The value of this Handbook has been enhanced in recent years by our ability to provide clarifications, edits, etc. within the electronic version of the Handbook posted on [www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net). This function allows us to modify language when we think that would be helpful to you. The on-line handbook includes icons that, when opened, provide additional information related to that rule.

The content of this Handbook is designed to support your leadership of an athletic program that is consistent with the mission and values of *educational athletics*.

The knowledge and application of the standards within this text are becoming increasingly complex. With this in mind, do know that the priority of your staff in Franklin is to be available to assist and support you at the moment that you judge we might be helpful. Every MIAA member school Principal and Athletic Director has access to the direct phone line and e-mail addresses of each staff member. Please use this contact information whenever you find yourself in a situation with which you are not entirely familiar or comfortable. Additionally, since the Board of Directors has delegated only to staff the responsibility of interpreting or applying rules, you should not risk the possible consequences of a mistake.

With all best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Dick Neal  
MIAA Executive Director  
June, 2007

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## ***MIAA MISSION***

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The mission of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is to serve member schools and the maximum number of their students by providing leadership and support for the conduct of interscholastic athletics which will enrich the educational experiences of all participants. The MIAA will promote interschool athletics that provide *lifelong* and *life-quality* learning experiences to students while enhancing their achievement of educational goals.



## ***MIAA PHILOSOPHY***

Within high school sport programs, young people learn the values associated with discipline, performing under stress, teamwork, sacrifice, commitment, effort, accountability, citizenship, sportsmanship, confidence, leadership and organizational skills, participating within rules, physical well-being and healthy lifestyles, striving towards excellence, and many other characteristics that come quickly to the mind of any educator. If interscholastic athletics are to be justified as school activities, then values such as these must be the priorities of every program. Ethics, playing within the spirit of the rules, and good sportsmanship (which is good citizenship) must be woven into the fabric of the high school athletic program.

In the education of 65% of the young people attending MIAA member schools, athletic participation is a critical component. What should drive those responsible for student-athletes and their programs is the educational mission of school activities. For many students, the most stable environment in their lives is that provided by high school activity programs. Often the best opportunities for crisis intervention, drug prevention, "day care" programs, and the like are school activity programs. The cost is minimal, while the worth is maximal.

While winning contests, rather than losing them, is a laudable goal, it should not supersede the primary priorities of high school sport programs. What should be the rationale behind high school activities is preparing students to succeed rather than merely to win games. Win or lose, students should learn lessons of a lasting and positive nature.

If the success of any high school athletic program is measured by an undefeated season, then 99% of the thousands of high school teams, which participate annually in Massachusetts, have failed. If a league championship is the measure of success, then 85% of our programs are failures. Even if success is measured merely by qualification for MIAA end-of-season tournaments, then 50% of our students are "losers."

What should be encouraged is participation in varied activities under different teacher/coach role models. The percentage of student-athletes who complete their formal athletic experiences at the high school level is overwhelming (well in excess of 90%). Schools should focus their attention upon goals other than championships or the development of "blue chip" athletes. Young people need varied activities: time at the beach, time to study and, in fact, time just to be kids.

Young people need to learn, to think, and simply to grow up. Schools should guide them, through athletics, to allow that to happen as comfortably as possibly.

## ***WORTH REMEMBERING***

- The MIAA is an organization of public and private high schools.
- MIAA approves and sponsors athletic activities in 33 sports, involving more than 200,000 young men and women who compete in approximately 100,000 competitions annually.
- Governance and administration of MIAA is shared among members of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, high school administrators, athletic directors, coaches, game officials, and physicians; all of whom serve without compensation on more than thirty-five MIAA standing committees.
- MIAA student services programs are at the cutting edge of national efforts in these critically important areas to young people.
- High school activity programs are an integral part of the total education process. Successful interscholastic athletic programs teach young people values such as:

Accepting success graciously  
Accountability  
Citizenship and Sportsmanship  
Confidence  
Handling disappointment  
Leadership skills  
Organizational skills  
Participating within rules  
Performing under pressure  
Persistence

Physical well-being and Chemical Health  
Respect  
Responsibility  
Sacrificing for the common good  
Self-discipline  
Social skills  
Striving towards excellence  
Taking instruction  
Teamwork  
Work ethic

- Grade point averages (GPA) of students improve during seasons in which they are participating in athletics.
- Approximately 65% of all students are participants in MIAA interscholastic athletic programs.
- Student-athletes have higher attendance and graduation rates than non-athletes.
- 95% of corporate officers report that they had participated in high school athletics.
- High school athletic programs are cost effective. They typically make up one to three percent of the local school budget.

- High school activity programs often represent the best drop-out prevention, crisis intervention, day care, and drug prevention programs which a community can offer, and the cost per student is minimal.
- Students participate in high school athletics because they want to! This motivation should be utilized to teach "life lessons."
- School activities are "the other half of education" and "an extension of the classroom." Athletic programs have no justification within a school if the young people participating are not learning how to "win in life." Contests won or lost are not nearly as important as the life lessons learned by the student participants.

## ***COACHES' CODE OF ETHICS***

Each high school coach is first a TEACHER. The student-athlete is participating within the school's activity program because he or she desires to do so. Consequently, that student is often more attentive to a coach's lessons than to those offered by teachers in required courses.

The function of an interscholastic coach is to educate students in "LIFE LESSONS," through their participation in educational athletics. Every student athlete should be treated as though they were the coach's own children. Their welfare must be uppermost at all times. The following abridged guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFICA Board of Directors.

1. The coach must be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, either for good or bad, in the education of the student athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideals of character.
2. In all personal contact with student athletes, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
3. The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse, and under no circumstances should authorize their use.
4. The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.
5. The coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with the contest rules and is responsible for their interpretation to team members. The spirit and letter of rules should be regarded as mutual agreements. The coach shall not try to seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
6. Coaches shall actively use their influence to enhance sportsmanship in the broadest possible manner.
7. Contest officials shall have the respect and support of the coach. The coach shall not indulge in conduct, which will incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.
8. A coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student athletes special consideration.

## ***CONTEST OFFICIALS' CODE OF ETHICS***

In 2001, the Officiating Development Alliance, a group of individuals representing various officiating organizations, such as the NFHS, NCAA, ASA, USSF, the NFL, NBA, MLB and NASO, developed the *Code of Conduct for Sports Officials*. The *Code* outlines the personal responsibilities officials have to the game.

1. Officials shall bear a great responsibility for engendering public confidence in sports.
2. Officials shall be free of obligation to any interest other than the impartial and fair judging of sports competitions.
3. Officials shall hold and maintain the basic tenets of officiating which include history, integrity, neutrality, respect, sensitivity professionalism, discretion and tactfulness.
4. Officials shall master both rules of the game and mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.
5. Officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interactions with student-athletes, coaches, school administrators, colleagues and the public.
6. Officials shall display and execute superior communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal.
7. Officials shall recognize that anything, which may lead to a conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Gifts, favors, special treatment, privileges, employment or a personal relationship with a school or team, which can compromise the perceived impartiality of officiating, must be avoided.
8. Officials shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.
9. Officials shall not be party to actions designed to unfairly limit or restrain access to officiating, officiating assignments or to association membership. This includes selection for positions of leadership based upon economic factors, race, creed, color, age, sex, physical handicap, country or national origin.
10. Officials shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.
11. Officials shall work with each other and their governing bodies in a constructive and cooperative manner.
12. Officials shall resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself.
13. Officials shall never participate in any form of illegal gambling on a sports contest, may never gamble on any sporting event in which they have either a direct or indirect involvement, and may never gamble on events involving high school athletics.
14. Officials shall not make false or misleading statements regarding their qualifications, rating, credentials, experience, training or competence.
15. Officials shall accept responsibility for all actions taken.

# ***Part I - Governance of Interscholastic Athletics***

*This section provides information dealing with the manner in which the MIAA is regulated. Definitions and explanations of the important groups within the MIAA structure are explained in this section.*



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# **PART I: GOVERNANCE OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

## **A. Legend**

MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
MASS	Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents
MIAA	Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
MIAC	Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council
MSSAA	Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association
MSSADA	Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors' Association
PRINCIPAL	A principal or assistant principal of a member school

## **B. Overview**

For the governance of interscholastic athletics in the Commonwealth, the MSSPA was the policy-making body from 1942 to 1950, and the regulatory body from 1942 to 1978.

Since 1950 the MIAC has been the high school athletic rules-making and final appellate body of the MIAA. Since July 1, 1978, the MIAA Board of Directors has been the administrative and regulatory body for conducting athletic events, contests, and tournaments, for enforcing rules, and for recommending changes in rules to the MIAC. The ASSEMBLY of principals is the legislative body of the MIAA.

## **C. The Assembly**

The ASSEMBLY consists of the principal or designee of the principal of each member institution.

## **D. The Board of Directors**

The 16 regular voting members of the Board of Directors consists of eight members elected by the MSSAA (one from each athletic district), two elected by the MASC, two by the MASS, and four by the MSSADA. Four athletic directors, representing either district A or B, C or H, D or E, F or G, must be members of the Board at all times. The term of each member is three years. A minimum of four women, and at least one minority, must be members of the Board at all times.

## **E. The Officers**

The President and Vice President of the Board of Directors are elected by the Assembly from members of the Board. The President presides at Board meetings, the Annual Meeting, and all special meetings of the Association. The term of each office is one year, with the possibility of only one re-election.

## F. The Executive Director

The Board appoints the Executive Director. The Executive Director is the chief executive officer of the Association and has charge and direction of the day-to-day operation of the Association, acting at all times in accordance with the established policies of the Association as interpreted by the Board of Directors.

The Executive Director is a non-voting member of the MIAC and of the Board of Directors, serves as an ex-officio member of each committee, and is elected for a continuous term with regular review.

## G. Eligibility Review Board, Standing, and District Athletic Committees

The Board of Directors delegates:

- \* to the MIAA ELIGIBILITY REVIEW BOARD (ERB) all appeals from executive decisions on requests for individual student waivers of eligibility rules, as well as for individual one year student contest disqualifications. Each appeal hearing is presented before a three-member subcommittee of the ERB.
- \* to 25 plus statewide STANDING COMMITTEES responsibility for specific functions involved in the proper administration of the Association's responsibilities.
- \* to the DISTRICT ATHLETIC COMMITTEES (DAC) the supervision of athletics and the adjudication of protests, disputes, conflicts or controversies within their districts. They also serve as the Nominating Committee of the Association, and directly appoint a principal and athletic director to each MIAA Sport Committee. They control the alignment or realignment of Leagues, approve all co-operative (**click icons**) requests within their districts, and play an important role in the Rules Change Process, given that they have the opportunity to review all input on each rule before recommending a position to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors or Executive Director may request them to "fact find" or to conduct hearings with regard to alleged rule violations. That authority also permits District Athletic Committees to determine and enforce appropriate penalties.

District Athletic Committees will be comprised of either a principal or athletic director, annually nominated by each league in that district, and elected by the Board of Directors. Membership on each district athletic committee must be evenly divided between principals and athletic directors. On district committees with an uneven number of members, principals whenever possible shall sit in the majority. Each DAC shall elect its chair annually. In districts of fewer than five leagues, the district committee will consist of five members, with each "division" being represented by at least one member.

## H. Sportsmanship, Integrity & Ethics Committee

Membership of the Sportsmanship, Integrity & Ethics Committee elected by the Assembly consists of one principal and one athletic director from each of the eight athletic districts **except District E which has two principals and two athletic directors**; two

coaches, and two enrolled game officials representing boys and girls activities, in addition to one school committee member and one superintendent elected or appointed by their respective associations.

#### **I. Game Officials' Committee**

Membership of the Game Officials Committee (GOC) consists of five school committee members, five school superintendents, five principals, and five athletic directors. Game officials representing each sport which has elected to enroll with the MIAA serve as non-voting advisors to the GOC.

#### **J. Sports Medicine Committee**

Membership of the Sports Medicine Committee (SMC) consists of at least one principal or athletic director from each of the eight MIAA districts, one school committee member, one school superintendent, and a number of sports specialists who are physicians or certified athletic trainers. Two game officials and two coaches (in each case one representing boys' sports and one representing girls' sports) may serve on the SMC.

#### **K. Student Services Advisory Committee**

This broad-based committee supports student program initiatives through both the MIAA and the MSSAA.

#### **L. Tournament Management Committee**

Membership of the Tournament Management Committee (TMC) consists of one principal and one athletic director from each of the eight athletic districts, ***except District E which has two principals and two athletic directors***; one school committee member; one school superintendent; and one coach.

#### **M. Voting Committee Members**

All voting members of committees, boards, and the Council must be affiliated with a MIAA member school except for physicians and game officials (who must be enrolled with the MIAA).

The voting membership of the 20 standing sport committees is one principal ("principal" may be either a principal or assistant principal who spends at least 50% of his/her time in duties related to the general administration of the school) and one athletic director from each athletic district, ***except District E which has two principals and two athletic directors appointed to each committee***; one school superintendent; one school committee member; as well as one or two coaches and enrolled game officials.

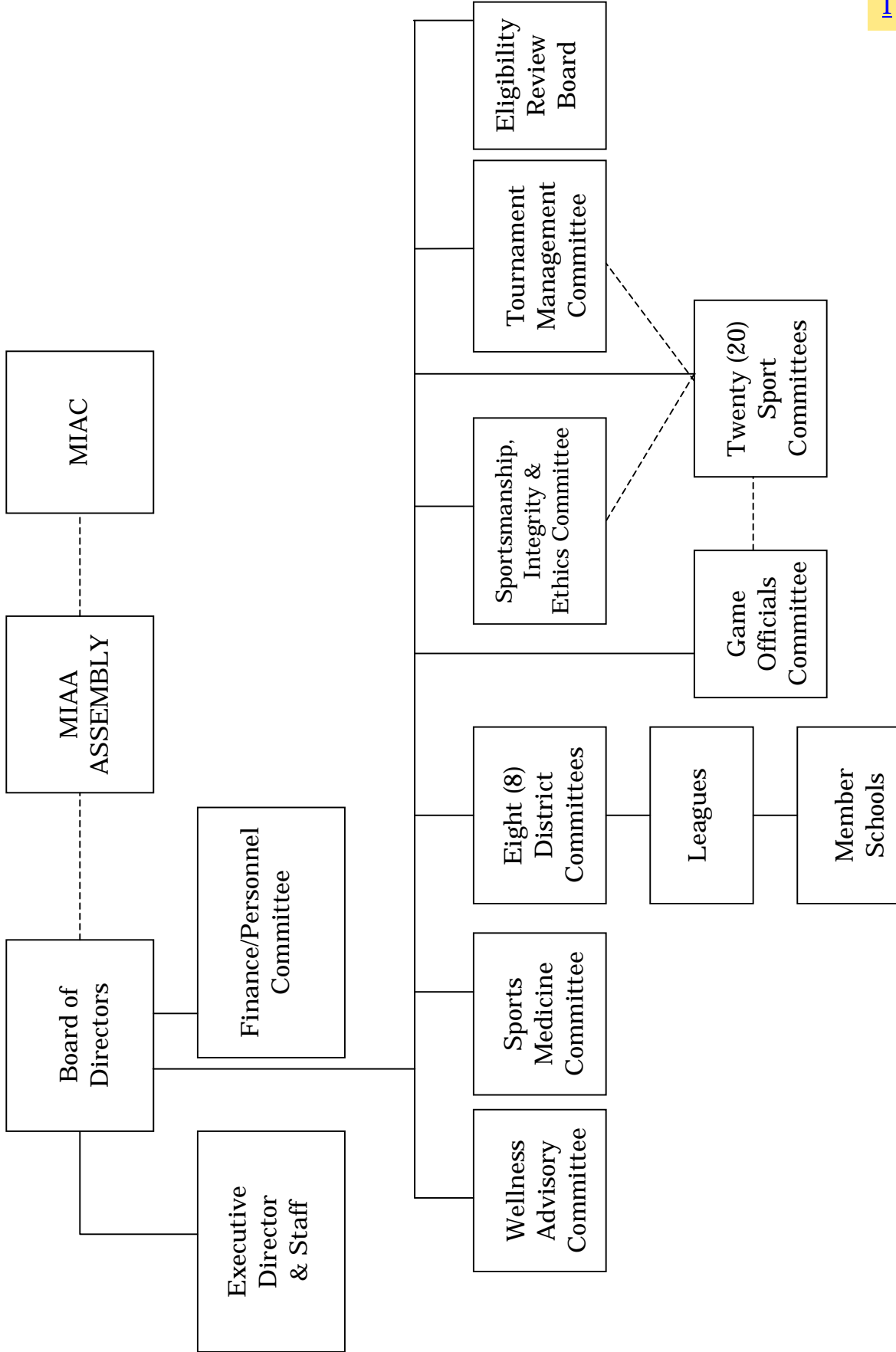
#### **N. Member School**

Any public or private high school (defined as a school which includes grade 12 and which has a single principal, graduation, valedictorian, class rank, yearbook, etc.) in Massachusetts approved by the MIAA Board of Directors and fulfilling the conditions for membership receives all the rights, privileges, and benefits of the Association.

# O. Constitutional Organization Chart



## Constitutional Organization



**P. The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC)**

The 18 voting members of the MIAC consist of five members from the MASC, five from the MASS, one from the MSSADA, two from the middle level, and five MIAA member school principals. The term of each member is three years. A member from the MASC serves as chair. The Executive Director of the MIAA serves as secretary.

Before any question of policy is presented to the MIAC for its action, it is carefully considered by the Board of Directors. Rule changes are not final until approved by the MIAC.

Meetings of the MIAC are held in the Fall and Spring each year. In addition, meetings are called when necessary to consider urgent matters of business. Appeals on eligibility rulings for individual athletes are heard by a three member subcommittee of the MIAC which serves as the MIAC Appeals Committee. Appeals affecting more than one athlete are heard by the entire MIAC.

**Q. The National Federation of State High School Associations**

The National Federation consists of the state high school associations of all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The objectives of the Federation are to:

- \* serve, protect, and enhance the interstate activity interests of the high schools belonging to state associations;
- \* sponsor meetings, publications, and activities which will permit each state association to profit by the experience of all other member associations;
- \* formulate, copyright, and publish rules of play or event conduct pertaining to interscholastic activities;
- \* preserve interscholastic athletic records, and the tradition and heritage of interscholastic sports;
- \* provide programs, services, material, and assistance to state associations, high schools, and individual professionals involved in the conduct and administration of interscholastic activities;
- \* study in general all phases of interscholastic activities and serve as a national resource for information pertaining thereto;
- \* identify needs and problems related to interscholastic activities and where practical provide solutions thereto; and
- \* promote the educational values of interscholastic activities to the nation's public.

## ***Part II Definitions and Policies***

*In this section the reader can find definitions and/or policy statements pertaining to the following items:*

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## **PART II: DEFINITIONS AND POLICIES**

### **1. Every Participant must be a School Team Member**

"Each participant in an MIAA - sponsored interscholastic athletic event must be a member of his/her recognized high school team in that sport." "Member" shall be defined as a student who meets the standards of Rule 45, 51, 85 and 94.

### **2. School Team**

2.1 A school team must be sponsored by and under the control of the school committee and registered with the MIAA through the annual Summer membership process. A school team must have: a coach(es) appointed by the principal; a regular practice schedule through the season defined for that sport; a meaningful schedule of contests through the season defined for that sport; and school uniforms.

2.2 Teams not registered with the Association are not eligible for tournament participation. All school teams must be registered with the Association during the annual Summer membership renewal process.

### **3. Adult Representation**

The principal, headmaster, or director of the school in all cases is responsible to the Association for the acts of school teams and other school organizations. All teams and individual participants must have adult representation present and responsible for them at all times. Such adult representation must be an employee or a designated representative of the school district. If the representative is not the coach of record, then the designee must provide written introduction on school letterhead, signed by the principal, or the student(s) will not be permitted to participate.

### **4. Addressing the MIAC, Board of Directors, and Association Standing Committees**

The MIAC, Board of Directors, and Association standing committees will provide time at the start of each meeting for statements from the audience. Individuals must notify the MIAA Office a week in advance of their wish to speak. Speakers are to limit their remarks to three minutes.

### **5. Medical Coverage**

Each member school should employ a licensed certified athletic trainer. Physicians, trainers, and coaches should receive sport medicine training.

### **6. Parental Permission**

Principals should secure from each athlete's parent written consent to participate in interscholastic sports. Eligibility rules and an assumption of risk statement should be part of this form. Some sports may require individual waivers.

**7. Missing or Diseased Paired Organ**

To participate in interscholastic athletics, an athlete with a missing or diseased paired organ must provide his/her principal with a parental permission form and a medical specialist's written permission to participate. Such an athlete must wear during all practices and competitions the protective equipment recommended by the specialist. Copies of permission and authorization should be filed with the MIAA Sports Medical Committee.

**8. Return to Athletic Participation**

Subsequent to any serious injury and prior to further participation in that sport, an athlete should receive a medical release from a physician. Schools should use the MIAA Return to Athletic Participation Form for this purpose.

**9. Athletes' Assembly**

Prior to each season, every school should hold an Athletes' Assembly planned by the principal, athletic director, head coaches, and medical personnel to discuss policies, liability, sportsmanship, safety, and wellness. One parent or guardian should attend with each athlete.

**10. Academic Awards**

The Association provides Certificates of Achievement to all student-athletes and to the school for each team that achieves a minimum combined GPA of 3.00 (gold) or 2.50 (silver). Principal or Athletic Director should determine and request via MIAA.

**11. Sportsmanship Awards**

The Association provides Certificates of Achievement to individuals, teams and schools that demonstrate notable qualities of exemplary citizenship or leadership. Principal or Athletic Director should determine and request via MIAA.

**12. School Attendance Policies**

Each school should establish school/class attendance requirements for participation in athletic practices and competitions provided that such requirements are not in conflict with MIAA rules and regulations.

**13. Equipment**

Schools should ascertain that all athletic equipment is in first-class condition and that no defective equipment is used.

**14. Private Promoters and Sponsors**

In any activity involving one or more MIAA members, schools should not endorse any private promotion and/or sponsorship, which might result in the exploitation of students or direct financial gain to the promoter or sponsor.

Schools should refer to the MIAA Office -- and when appropriate to the Board of Directors -- all outside financial offers for supporting athletic programs among several school districts.

**15. Transportation**

Schools should transport teams by such common carriers as bus lines, vans, or taxi cabs. They should discourage the use of private cars.

**16. Medical Emergency Evacuation**

Each school should develop and disseminate a procedure for treating and transporting an injured athlete.

**17. Protested Contests**

Protests during contests will be addressed according to the national code adopted for play in each MIAA sponsored interscholastic activity. All results shall be final when the contest has been concluded by the game officials.

**18. Canceled Season Policy**

A school which cancels a sport prior to an official contest being conducted will not forfeit any wins to its anticipated opponents. (Opponents in this case may request MIAA extensions for finalizing that sport's scheduling.) A school which cancels a sport after completing at least one official contest must forfeit wins to its remaining scheduled opponents. (Schools do not have the option of rescheduling other opponents in this case.)

**19. Complimentary Tournament Passes**

*19.1* Complimentary tournament passes will be issued by the Association to each member school in numbers approved by the Board of Directors.

*19.2* MIAA gold lifetime passes are to be honored at all activities.

**20. Statewide Coaches' Organizations**

To be eligible to serve on MIAA committees and to act on rule changes, each state coaches' organization must submit a list of their officers to the MIAA Executive Director by June 1st of each year.

**21. Definition of a Jamboree**

A jamboree is a sport competition involving any number of schools in which students participate as a unit representing their own school. Game-day uniforms may be worn. Only one jamboree may be conducted per season. Competition may be no more than one-half of the length of a regular season contest, and the jamboree must be conducted within three weeks of the first day of practice and not before the 12<sup>th</sup> calendar day (or 9<sup>th</sup> day for sports requiring only 11 days of practice) after and including the starting date for practice. PLAY-DAYS must conform to all criteria of either a scrimmage or jamboree.

## **22. Definition of Scrimmage**

A team is not allowed to have an interscholastic scrimmage which will not count against the game limitation rules unless the scrimmage meets the following conditions:

- 22.1 A scrimmage is competition among any number of schools where no admission is charged; no game-day uniform is worn; score is kept only by segments; and the event is intended to be a practice, with instruction occurring during competition. PLAY-DAYS must conform to all criteria of either a scrimmage or jamboree.
- 22.2 If any of these restrictions are violated, the meeting must be counted as a game and will count toward the total number of interscholastic contests for that sport.
- 22.3 An "exhibition game" must be counted in the season limitation for the sport, except for an alumni or faculty-student game.

## **23. Definition of Practice**

A practice is a reporting of a group of potential athletes who are under the direct or indirect supervision of a member of the high school coaching staff, and who are receiving instruction in game skills or techniques.

## **24. Captain's Practice**

The term "Captain's Practice" usually means the team's captain(s) organizing and conducting, *without adult supervision*, out-of-season practice for that sport.

The MIAA does not in any way sanction, encourage, or condone "Captain's Practice" in any sport. "Captain's Practice", depending on the member school's involvement, may be a clear violation of the rule defining season limitations.

There is also a serious practical consideration. If it can be demonstrated that a school is allowing "Captain's Practice", the liability responsibility for an injured athlete may be quite serious.

## **25. Victory Celebrations**

Student-athletes should be apprised of the potential for injury associated with activities such as "piling on."

## **26. Club Teams**

Confusion and problems are always associated with club teams. The term "club team" would be best not used due to the confusion it creates (See Rule 32.12). All teams which represent the school or compete with other school teams must comply with all Association rules.

## **27. Conflict Of Interest Statement**

The Board of Directors requires that each person serving as a committee member, agent, or employee of the MIAA perform his or her duties without influence, or the appearance of influence, by any other business or financial interest.

Potential conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to, a person's financial or personal interest being affected by a decision of a committee on which the person serves. The MIAA is not critical of such interests. It merely requests that persons disqualify themselves from service to the MIAA on matters relating to such interests.

If a member of the Board of Directors or of any MIAA Committee, or any agent or employee of the MIAA, should have or develop a conflict of interest, such person shall immediately identify the conflict and remove himself or herself from any discussion or decisions involving the matter in conflict.

## **28. Gender Equity and Leadership**

*28.1* The values of female role models and future opportunities for women are important to high school athletic programs and their governance. This role modeling will demonstrate to girls that they can become leaders who will have impact upon the lives of others. Adult women should inspire female student athletes in a manner that will ensure broadened participation of women in future programs. Female student-athletes should have female role models in leadership and decision-making positions.

*28.2* It has been resolved by the MIAA Assembly that coaches' and game officials' organizations encourage and recruit women with leadership interests or abilities. The names of such women should be forwarded to the MIAA Nominating Committee as potential committee members for service on MIAA administrative and standing committees with responsibilities for female student-athletes.

## **29. Resolutions Regarding Litigation**

*29.1* (This Resolution was adopted by a vote of 155-7 during the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the MIAA on April 9, 1993.)

The administration and management of interscholastic athletics should not be a function of the courts. Legal costs associated with litigation against the MIAA impact every high school that is a member of MIAA. Therefore, the Board of Directors is empowered to seek legal fees and associated costs from any member school that has unsuccessfully brought litigation against the Association. The Board of Directors is also empowered to seek reimbursement of legal fees and associated costs from any institution seeking membership that has unsuccessfully brought litigation against the Association.

## 29.2 Court Orders and Resultant Forfeitures

(This Resolution was approved by a vote of 143-17 during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the MIAA on April 6, 2000).

In the interest of fairness to all students, any contest in which an ineligible student or coach participates under court order will be forfeited if the order is dissolved or the plaintiff ultimately fails to prevail.

## 29.3 Court Orders and Tournament Seeding

Student or teams that have gained court injunctions forcing their entry into MIAA tournaments will be seeded last.

# 30. Unattached Athletes

Unattached athletes may not participate in any MIAA-sponsored or MIAA-sanctioned event. Those who know the values associated with school activities recognize that complete participation is a primary goal. Season-long participation provides young people with exposure to wellness strategies and education, sportsmanship and citizenship, leadership, and other significant lessons or values that are best taught in the "laboratory" of school activities over a period of days, weeks, and months.

An unattached athlete is not a school activity participant, but rather is an individual single event athlete. Association tournaments were developed for season-long school participants who practice and compete season long with their own high school teams. The adoption of, and subsequent strong support for, the bona fide team member placed emphasis on keeping student athletes involved daily in "the other half of education."

To quote from the MIAA tournament philosophy: ". . .The purpose of tournaments is to permit qualifying schools and individuals who have achieved an established standard of excellence during that sport season to compete in championship tournaments. . . Care always must be taken to maintain the integrity and importance of regular season activity so that the tournament will serve only as a culminating athletic activity for those who have demonstrated a level of excellence during their regular season."

The MIAA should not be providing the ultimate spotlight for young people who have not been part of their school program. These individuals often have prepared themselves outside of the parameters, limitations, rules, and regulations of high school activities. Previous to the adoption of this policy, unattached athletes dominated high school tournament events, which were designed as a conclusion to the high school season for season-long participants.

A disproportionate amount of confusion, misunderstandings, hurt feelings, and anger have resulted from improper procedures, representation, or supervision of unattached tournament athletes. The potential liability issues raised by unattached regular and tournament season involvement are significant. Past experiences established that it was difficult to monitor rules evenly among all student athletes.

Local energies should be focused in ways that cause support for programs of interest to the young people in that school, thereby truly increasing participation opportunities.

To allow for unattached tournament participation may subtly set up a scenario for fewer opportunities. Furthermore, unattached tournament participation is not possible in many Association-sponsored sports, thereby creating an inconsistency affecting many students, were some form of unattached participation to be permitted.

A school community determines the nature of its schoolhouse which includes co-curricula offerings desired and to be provided. This process identifies each school's athletic program. The school joins the MIAA and submits this identification of its program. The MIAA then provides support and services to that school in all of, but only in, the program areas which the school chooses to sponsor. (At this time approximately 197,000 students annually are participating in sport programs sponsored within their own high schools and approved by MIAA.) The MIAA respects this local autonomy which defines the boundaries of a school's athletic program for all of its students. Opportunities exist in non-school sport programs for students who wish to pursue an activity not sponsored at his/her high school.

### **31. Precautions Against the Transmission of Blood-Borne Pathogens**

- 31.1* Before competing, cover any open wound.
- 31.2* Whenever possible, athletes should treat and cover their own wounds.
- 31.3* When rendering first aid to others, wear protective gloves at any time blood, body fluid containing visible blood, open wounds, or mucous membranes are involved.
- 31.4* If an individual gets someone else's blood or other body fluid containing visible blood on his/her skin, the area should be washed with a solution known to inactivate blood-borne pathogens.
- 31.5* If blood or other body fluids containing visible blood are present during practice or competition, activity should be halted, and the injured athlete(s) given proper attention. Any contaminated surfaces should be cleaned.
- 31.6* Wash your hands with soap and water immediately after exposure to blood or other body fluid.
- 31.7* Do not use common towels to clean surfaces contaminated with blood or other body fluid containing blood.
- 31.8* Wash all soiled uniforms, towels, etc. in warm or hot, soapy, water.
- 31.9* In general, use good hygienic practices.

## ***Part III - General Rules***

*This section includes rules of a general nature that affect all schools and all athletic contests that are played under MIAA rules.*

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## PART III: GENERAL RULES

### 32. Application of Rules

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*32.1* As a condition of a high school's participation in interscholastic athletics under MIAA Rules and Regulations, prior to the first fall season contest, each principal and athletic director must read entirely, understand, abide by, and be prepared to enforce all rules, regulations, and policies contained within this Handbook. Only the Board of Directors (or executive staff) or their designees may interpret or clarify rules of the Association. All disputes will be resolved by the executive staff or Board of Directors. The principal and athletic director must assure that each member of the school's coaching staff is knowledgeable of, and will enforce, all requirements contained therein. (It also is helpful to have the guidance staff familiar with student eligibility rules.)

By MIAA Board of Directors policy Principals and Athletic Directors new to the position or new to position in Massachusetts must attend an MIAA Workshop within a year of their appointment.

*32.2* Association rules apply to all teams and individuals, in all interscholastic contests, at all levels of competition.

*32.3* In order to be eligible to represent a MIAA member school in athletic contests, teams and contestants must conform to all Association rules.

*32.4* Postponed contests should be immediately re-scheduled on the first day that the teams do not have a scheduled competition.

*32.5* In the case of a postponed contest or one which results in a tie, the eligibility of participants does not hold over until the contest is actually played. The students who participate in any contest must be eligible by all rules on the date when the contest is held.

*32.6* No special privileges such as extra examinations, delayed marks, makeup opportunities, or other opportunities not granted to every student in the school are to be granted to athletes.

*32.7* Whether or not their opponents are MIAA members, all member schools must conform in each contest to all Association rules. MIAA member school teams may not compete against teams that do not represent a school.

*32.8* A principal may not make a private agreement with another school or any other party to evade MIAA rules. Regarding the participation of ineligible students, no ineligible individual may participate in any inter-school competition (including scrimmages) regardless of any proposed agreement

between competing schools that his/her results would not be counted. "Exhibition" or "unattached" participation are prohibited.

- 32.9* The Board of Directors or executive staff must approve all experimental rules or exceptions. Experimental rules shall have an effective limit of one year.
- 32.10* Neither member schools nor school committees may make rules that are in any way less restrictive than those of the MIAA. More stringent rules may be adopted locally.
- 32.11* A member school must report suspected rule violations to: the principal(s) of the school(s) involved; the president of the league; the District Athletic Chair; and the MIAA Executive Director.
- 32.12* In all interscholastic contests any team organized in the name of the school or funded in whole or in part by the school must represent the school in accordance with all MIAA rules. "Club teams" may not operate outside Association rules. See Rule 26.

### **33. Coaches' Education**



All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete an MIAA sponsored or approved coaches' education course of study. The approved course will consist of the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Coaches' Principles Course (must be passed prior to coaching a second year) and the NFHS Sports First Aid course (must be passed prior to coaching a third year).

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2007 must complete the NFHS Coaches' Principles Course, the NFHS Sports First Aid course and the NFHS Sport Specific Technical and Tactical Skills Course in the sport they are coaching (must be completed prior to coaching a third year). Note: The sport-specific requirement will begin on July 1, 2007 or when the particular sport-specific course becomes available, if after this date.

The NFHS Coaching Principles Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Coaching Principles Clinic.

The NFHS Sports First Aid and Sport Specific requirement may be met by completing on-line courses.

**34. Recognized Sports, And Scheduling Limits for Schools**

<u><b>Boy's Sport</b></u>	<u><b>Maximum # of Competitions</b></u>	
	<u><b>Per Season</b></u>	<u><b>Per Week</b></u>
<i>Alpine Skiing</i>	16	3
<i>Baseball</i>	20	3
<i>Basketball</i>	20	3
<i>Cross Country</i>	16	3
<i>Football</i>	11	1
<i>Golf</i>	20	3
<i>Gymnastics</i>	18	2
<i>Ice Hockey</i>	20	3
<i>Indoor Track</i>	16	3
<i>Lacrosse</i>	20	3
<i>Nordic Skiing</i>	16	3
<i>Outdoor Track</i>	16	3
<i>Soccer</i>	18	3
<i>Swimming</i>	18	2
<i>Tennis</i>	20	3
<i>Volleyball</i>	20	3
<i>Wrestling</i>	20	2

<u><b>Girls' Sport</b></u>	<u><b>Maximum # of Competitions</b></u>	
	<u><b>Per Season</b></u>	<u><b>Per Week</b></u>
<i>Alpine Skiing</i>	16	3
<i>Basketball</i>	20	3
<i>Cross Country</i>	16	3
<i>Field Hockey</i>	18	3
<i>Golf</i>	20	3
<i>Gymnastics</i>	18	2
<i>Ice Hockey</i>	20	3
<i>Indoor Track</i>	16	3
<i>Lacrosse</i>	20	3
<i>Nordic Skiing</i>	16	3
<i>Outdoor Track</i>	16	3
<i>Soccer</i>	18	3
<i>Softball</i>	20	3
<i>Swimming</i>	18	2
<i>Tennis</i>	20	3
<i>Volleyball</i>	20	3

34.1 The number of events per season and per week that a school may schedule includes dual, league, multi-school, and interstate competition in which a team or any individual representing a school may compete. Exceptions: In cross country, indoor, and outdoor track, MIAA approved interstate

competitions after the MIAA sponsored state tournaments will not count toward the maximum number of competitions permitted within the season.

Also exempt is approved participation in tournaments sponsored by the Council of New England Secondary School Principals' Associations.

In swim, a multi-school event may be held on a non-school day during a week in which two dual meets have been scheduled.

*34.2* The number of events per week in cross country may be two duals and one multi-school event or two multi-school events and one dual meet; in spring and winter track, two duals and one multi-school event are permitted.

*34.3* Skiing shall be considered a single sport with two recognized disciplines (Nordic and Alpine). The maximum number of competitions per season and per week remain as listed above. Whether student-athletes remain committed to one discipline or choose to participate in both, they remain limited to no more than three events per week.

*34.4* A week shall run from Sunday through Saturday except in football which runs from Saturday through Friday. Exception: Thanksgiving and Friday evening football games.

*34.5* Member schools may exceed the above designated number of competitions per week when game postponements dictate exceeding the above number.

## **35. Starting and Closing Dates for Tryouts, Practices, and Contests**

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*35.1* Fall practice may begin for all teams as early as the second Thursday preceding Labor Day (i.e., August 21, 2008; August 27, 2009, August 26, 2010). No team may have more than ten single practice sessions (i.e., "double sessions" count as two single practice sessions) through and including the Friday prior to Labor Day. Football teams must precede their initial contact practice day with an additional three days of single non-contact sessions. The Fall season must end with completion of the regular season varsity schedule except for the varsity team or individual students completing their participation in the MIAA tournament. Sub-varsity teams or individual athletes may participate after the completion of the regular season varsity schedule to complete their season schedule (maximum of two weeks beyond varsity schedule completion) or to practice with the varsity team providing it has qualified for the MIAA tournament.

*35.1.1* Fall sports include cross country, field hockey, football, soccer, girls' swimming, and girls' volleyball. A school may offer golf in either Fall or Spring, but not both. Girls' swim may be a Fall or Winter sport, but not both. When schools offer both girls' and boys' swim, students must swim on the team of their gender.

35.2 The Winter season must not begin before the first Monday after Thanksgiving. Winter sports include skiing, basketball, ice hockey, gymnastics, swimming (see Rule 35.1.1), indoor track, and wrestling. The Winter season must end with completion of the regular varsity season schedule, except for the varsity team or individual students completing their participation in the MIAA tournament. Exception: The Nordic ski season must end by the Saturday preceding the third Monday in March. Sub-varsity teams or individual athletes may participate after the completion of the regular season varsity schedule to complete their season schedule (maximum of two weeks beyond varsity schedule completion) or to practice with the varsity team providing it has qualified for the MIAA tournament.

35.3 The Spring season must not begin before the third Monday in March. Spring sports include baseball, golf (See Rule 35.1.1), lacrosse, softball, tennis, boys' volleyball, and outdoor track. The Spring season must end with completion of the regular season varsity schedule except for the varsity team or individual students completing their participation in the MIAA tournament. Sub-varsity teams or individual athletes may participate after the completion of the regular season varsity schedule to complete their season schedule (maximum of two weeks beyond varsity schedule completion) or to practice with the varsity team providing it has qualified for the MIAA tournament.

35.4 Initial date for competition. 

35.4.1 The first team competition may not occur before the 11<sup>th</sup> calendar day after and including the first day of practice except golf, which may not occur until after seven calendar days from the first practice.

35.4.2 In football each participant must have fifteen days of practice, and each wrestler must have ten days of practice, before competing in an interscholastic contest.

## 36. Multiple School Events: Involving Only MIAA Member Schools

36.1 A member school may not participate in any form of inter school competition involving eight or more schools or in all-star games unless the event has been authorized by the Board of Directors through the executive staff. Exception: Multiple-school events which are sponsored by a league or between two leagues, and which include league members only. Any request for approval of an event including eight or more schools must be submitted to the MIAA executive staff at least 45 days prior to the scheduled event date. A listing of approved events is printed on the MIAA Web page.

36.2 Sub-varsity multi-school events are not allowed. Exception: Track, Wrestling, and Cross Country sub-varsity multi-school meets may be considered for approval unless (1) a team champion or winner is determined, or (2) the meet is advertised as a tournament or championship.

No sub-varsity competition in cross country, track, or wrestling, nor any event which combines sub-varsity with varsity level competition, will be approved which seems to establish champions or which provides competitors with any award and/or recognition not provided to all other participants equally.

- 36.3 Multi-school events may only be sponsored by a member school or league. The principal of the host school must sign the application for school or league-sponsored events, and he/she must retain ultimate responsibility for that event.
- 36.4 No MIAA member school may schedule any activity which is a part of a double header or multiple event that includes college or professional involvement unless approved prior to the season by the MIAA Board of Directors or executive staff.
- 36.5 Any event involving non-MIAA member schools (except those covered by Rule 39 and single contests with bordering state association member schools) must be approved by the MIAA.

VIOLATION of this rule may result in the elimination of the violating school from participating in all multi-school events in any and all sports for one year from the date of suspension.

## **37. Interstate Competition**

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- 37.1 The Board of Directors through the MIAA executive staff sanctions along with the National Federation (NF) competition in any of the following contests:
  - 37.1.1 Any interstate event in which four or more schools participate.
  - 37.1.2 Any interstate event which involves schools from three or more state high school associations.

(If all participating schools above are from states which border the host state, only sanction by each state association is necessary.)
- 37.2 The MIAA must approve and receive NF approval for competition by a member school with a school from a foreign country, except for 2-school or 3-school competition with a school or schools from Canada.
- 37.3 Member schools wishing to sponsor an interstate event must file appropriate application forms at least 45 days prior to the scheduled event date.
- 37.4 The MIAA Board of Directors criteria for considering approval of interstate contests are:

- 37.4.1 Participation involves no more than a one-day loss of school time.
- 37.4.2 No more than two consecutive days of competition are permitted.
- 37.4.3 The activity is sponsored by or under the ultimate control of secondary school personnel.
- 37.4.4 The event only involves competition with schools that are members of their state association or schools that have been approved for competition by their state association.

**PENALTY FOR VIOLATION:** A member school which violates rules for interstate competition may not participate in such competition in that sport for one year from the date of the offense.

### **38. All Star Games**

All Star games must be sponsored by a member school principal and directed by a member school employee.

- 38.1 Requests for Approval must be submitted 60 days before the event to the executive staff. Exception: All Star games which include only students from a single league or two leagues as recognized by the MIAA committee for that sport.
- 38.2 Leagues may play one all-star game within a league and one all-star game between two leagues, and these will not count toward the season schedule limit for games.
- 38.3 All Star games must be played before the end of the MIAA Tournament for that sport.

### **39. Competition with Non-Member Schools**

- 39.1 Member schools may scrimmage or compete with non-member Massachusetts schools or out-of-state schools that are not members of their own state high school associations (but only if the school is ineligible for state association membership and complies with that association's conditions of alliance) only if the chief administrator of the non-member school agrees in writing prior to the start of the season that:
  - 39.1.1 The non-member team will not include a player who exceeds the MIAA age limit.
  - 39.1.2 The length of periods will not exceed the maximum length prescribed by the MIAA rules for that sport.

- 39.1.3 The competition adheres to all MIAA rules.
- 39.1.4 The principal of the member school involved sends a copy of this written agreement to the MIAA Executive Director prior to the start of the season.
- 39.1.5 Contests under these criteria do count toward the school's weekly and seasonal limits, but do not count toward tournament qualification.

#### **40. Out-of-Season Coach-Athlete Contact Limitations**



- 40.1 Unless otherwise permitted in this rule, between seasons a coach may conduct a meeting(s) with team candidates only to elect captains, collect equipment, issue equipment, to provide for physical examinations, to conduct legitimate fund-raising events, or to offer wellness workshops or activities.
- 40.2 A coach is defined as any paid or volunteer member of the athletic staff.
- 40.3 The MIAA considers the last coach of record as holding that position until replaced by the principal.
- 40.4 A coach may not directly or indirectly require an athlete to participate in a sport or a training program outside of the MIAA defined sport season.

Voluntary conditioning sessions open equally to all students in a school and which are entirely devoid of sports-specific activity may be conducted between seasons provided no candidate is either required to participate or penalized for not doing so.

A "candidate" is defined as:

- 40.4.1 A varsity or sub-varsity athlete who participated in a high school program at some interscholastic level the previous year and has eligibility remaining; or
- 40.4.2 A middle school student "selected" to participate in an out-of-season program.
- 40.5 A high school coach may be employed by a park or recreation department or other organization or may volunteer for such a group to teach his/her sport out-of-season provided the following conditions exist:
  - 40.5.1 No candidate may either be required to attend or be penalized for not attending.
  - 40.5.2 School funds are not used.

**40.5.3** A coach's high school candidates must constitute the minority of those taking part in any out-of-season sport's program, and competing on any team at any moment (e.g. no more than two basketball candidates could be on the court, on the same team, at any point during a game). In sports that are individual in nature, or where competition involves a series of scoring events, candidates of that high school coach must be fewer than 50% of those participating in the overall competition or program.

**40.5.4** *High School Coaches (paid or volunteer) of one sport may be involved in out-of-season activity of another sport during the summer only.*

**40.6** A program is deemed to be an intramural rather than an out-of season program provided that:

**40.6.1** The program is available to all high school students on an indiscriminate basis, and a representative number of non candidates are regular participants.

**40.6.2** No participants may receive any attention not offered to all other participants.

**40.6.3** Candidates in that intramural sport must constitute a minority of those taking part in the program and of any team actually playing or competing at any one time. (Example: Basketball is made up of five members; therefore two would be a minority.)

**40.6.4** The program must be a direct offering of the high school involved.

**40.7** Fall coaches may address eighth grade students once after June 1<sup>st</sup> during an advertised meeting for the singular purpose of providing organizational information about physicals and practice schedules for their fall season.

**PENALTY:** Because these standards are designed to protect young people from unfair and unequitable scenarios, any coach who violates, or does not prevent violations, of these standards will be rendered ineligible to participate or be present at any MIAA approved or sponsored interscholastic competition in that sport for one year from the date of determination of a rule violation. If a violation is inadvertent or relatively minor, this penalty may be reduced by the Board of Directors, or its designee.

## **41. Subsidizing Out-of-Season Activities**



A school or a member of that school's coaching staff may not subsidize or support students who might attend any sports-related activity outside of the authorized seasonal limits for that sport. In addition, a coach may not provide transportation for candidates of his/her team to an out-of-season athletic activity/camp. Student participation in out-of season activities may not be funded in any way by booster clubs or organizations. Schools may issue equipment (but not uniforms) during the out-of-season period, but school districts should review any liability issues that could arise

from such issuance. Students may not wear school uniforms, or be identified as a school team, out of season and/or during non-school events.

## 42. League Organization & Membership Changes

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- 42.1 Every school in the affected league(s), the District Athletic Committee(s) affected, and the Association will be given written notification at least two years in advance of any intent to disband, reorganize, join or leave a league. No school may change from one league to another or withdraw from a league without the approval in advance of the appropriate District Athletic Committee(s). ***(Click icon for necessary forms)***
- 42.2 The "sending league" must first act upon the school's request to depart the league. The recorded vote and rationale are then to be forwarded to that District Athletic Committee Chair. (Because petitions before the District Athletic Committee must include plans for negatively-impacted schools, the petitioning school must address this matter if the sending league vote implies negative impact.)
- 42.3 The "receiving league" acts secondly upon the request of the petitioning school. The recorded vote and rationale are then forwarded to that District Athletic Committee Chair. (Because no league can be required to accept a member, the District Athletic Committee(s) should not meet until after this step.)
- 42.4 The affected District Athletic Committee(s) then meet for the purpose of approving, or not approving, the petition. If a petition involves more than one district, then a joint meeting of those districts must be conducted. This meeting will be chaired by the District Chair of the petitioning school. Each participating District Athletic Committee must have at least 50% of its members present and voting.
- 42.5 Decisions of the District Athletic Committees may be appealed to the Board of Directors.
- 42.6 All leagues must have in their by-laws provisions for disbanding the league, which must include provisions for phasing out of the league over a period of two years.
- 42.7 The chairman or president of a league shall be either a principal or an assistant principal. In all matters of league reorganization, only the principal of each affected school may vote for that member institution.

VIOLATION of this rule will result in suspension from the MIAA until rationale for a new league has been filed with the Executive Director and approved by the Board of Directors. This action would eliminate any violating school from league championship eligibility as well as MIAA tournament competition.

### **43. Boys and Girls on the Same Team**

- 43.1* No student shall be denied in any implied or explicit manner the opportunity to participate in any interscholastic activity because of his or her gender. A school may establish separate teams for males and females for interscholastic competition in a sport provided that teams comprised primarily or solely of persons of one gender shall be granted equal instruction, training, coaching, access to available facilities, equipment, opportunities to practice and compete as teams engaged in a similar activity comprised primarily or solely of persons of the opposite gender.
- 43.2* A girl may play on a boys' team if that sport is not offered in the school for the girl, and a boy may play on a girls' team if that sport is not offered in the school for the boy. When a sport is offered in two different seasons, each individual must participate on the team of his/her gender.
- 43.2.1* Any MIAA member school sponsoring a "mixed gender" sub varsity or varsity team must report to opponents the mixed gender status of their team(s) at least 72 hours prior to each scheduled competition. The "mixed gender" status must also be included on the tournament entry form in the space provided. The combined male & female enrollments will be utilized to determine tournament divisional placement.
- 43.2.1.1* Any school, which does not conform to the notification requirements above, will be ineligible for MIAA tournament competition in that sport.
- 43.2.1.2* Students from mixed gender regular season teams will participate in the regional and state tournaments of their own gender in the sports of cross country, indoor track, outdoor track, skiing, winter swimming and diving, individual golf, and individual tennis.
- 43.2.2* Softball and baseball are competitively equal sports. Therefore, girls shall participate in softball and boys in baseball provided each sport is offered at that school. Length of game is one basic difference (i.e. time required to play baseball and softball differ).
- 43.2.3* Any single gender team may forfeit its competition to a mixed team because of safety reasons without tournament qualifying penalty (e.g. the 50% rule would apply only to games played). Notification of forfeit must be documented with the MIAA Executive Director and the opponent school principal(s), stating the reason for not competing. This notification must be given at least 24 hours prior to the contest.

**43.2.3.1**      **Reasons of Safety:** Generally anything which can be specifically stated that demonstrates a bona fide concern by a player, athletic director, or principal that a potential opponent will pose a threat to safety during an interscholastic athletic competition.

**43.2.3.2**      **Specific Reasons:**

- (a) A bona fide reason of safety will arise when a potential opponent has caused injury during a prior interscholastic athletic contest.
- (b) A bona fide reason of safety will arise when the potential opponent has previously altered the method or manner of play, in a substantial way, by means of the style of play during a prior interscholastic athletic contest.
- (c) A bona fide reason of safety will arise when through the actual knowledge of the person claiming a reason of safety exists, a substantial concern is present that the opponent poses a threat to safety. In such situations, the specific basis or facts relied upon shall be disclosed.

**43.2.3.3**      **Exceptions:**

- (a) It shall not be a reason of safety that a potential opponent may have an advantage due to greater physical skills.
- (b) It shall not be a reason of safety that a potential opponent by reason of gender alone is more likely to cause injury than another player.
- (c) A reason of safety does not include the possibility that a potential opponent may cause a threat to the safety of the potential opponent's teammates.

**43.2.3.4**      **Implementation:** Any team which invokes the application of Rule 43.2.3 shall notify the opponent's principal by telephone and in writing as early as possible. Said notice shall contain a concise statement of the reason(s) of safety that cause the application of the rule. Said notice shall also be concurrently transmitted to the MIAA.

## 44. Recruitment

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- 44.1* To maintain a proper relationship between the academic mission of schools and their athletic programs, all individuals in any way affiliated with a school must refrain from recruitment, inducement, or other forms of persuasion which would encourage an athlete to enroll in, or transfer to, a school.
- 44.2* A school shall be deemed to be in violation of the rule against recruitment if a representative or agent of the school or any group or individual associated with athletic programs of that school approaches an athlete and directly or indirectly attempts to persuade or induce the athlete to enroll in, or transfer to, that school.
- 44.3* Any attempt to place a student in a member school by any person for the purposes of enhancement of that student's athletic development, or for increased exposure, shall be deemed to be recruitment.

**PENALTIES** - Any student who enrolls in a school as a result of direct or indirect recruitment activities shall be ineligible for a period of one calendar year from the date of transfer. A school adjudged to have recruited any student will cause that school to be under probation in that sport or all sports for one calendar year from the date of the adjudication. Such probation will include ineligibility for tournaments and league championships in that sport or all sports during the period of probation.

## ***Part IV - Rules Affecting an Individual Student Athlete or Coach***

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## PART IV: RULES AFFECTING AN INDIVIDUAL STUDENT-ATHLETE OR COACH

### 45. Loyalty to the High School Team: Bona Fide Team Members I

A bona fide member of the school team is a student who is consistently present for, and actively participates in, all high school team sessions (e.g. practices, tryouts, competitions). Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non-school athletic activity/event in any sport recognized by the MIAA. ***First Offense: Student athlete is suspended for 25% of the season (see chart on Rule 62). Second Offense: Student athlete is suspended for an additional 25% of the season, and is ineligible for tournament play immediately upon confirmation of the violation.*** See Rule 96 for additional tournament restriction and Rule 86 for waiver guidelines.

### 46. Only One School Sport Per Season is Permitted

A student-athlete shall participate in only one MIAA interscholastic sport in any defined MIAA sport season (Fall, Winter, or Spring), including tournaments and/or championships in that season. For the purposes of this rule only, a student-athlete officially becomes a member of his/her team for the sport season on the date of that school's first regular season contest in that sport.

***46.1 Exception: If a licensed physician recommends that an athlete terminate participation in a sport for medical reasons after the first contest, the athlete will be permitted to join another team if he/she receives the written approval of a licensed physician.***

***46.2 Exception: A school may approve a varsity or sub varsity request to join a second varsity or sub varsity team after terminating his/her membership with the first varsity or sub varsity team, providing written approval is received from the principal, athletic director, and both coaches involved with the change, and it happens within the first ½ of the season.***

**PENALTIES** - If a student-athlete violates this rule, he/she will be ineligible for that season, and all contests in which he/she participated in both sports must be forfeited.

### 47. Amateurism -- Definitions and Loss of Amateur Standing I

**47.1** A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

**47.1.1** Competing for money or other monetary compensation (MIAA pre-approved travel, meals, and lodging expenses may be accepted);

- 47.1.2 Receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved in advance by the MIAA;
  - 47.1.3 Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are specifically exempted); or
  - 47.1.4 Signing a professional playing contract in that sport.
- 47.2 Accepting a nominal standard fee or salary for instructing or officiating in an organized sports program or recreation, playground or camp activity shall not jeopardize amateur status. "Organized youth sports program" includes both school and non-school programs. Compensation for giving private lessons is permissible if approved in advance by MIAA. A high school student who loses amateur status may apply to the MIAA for reinstatement after a waiting period of one calendar year.
- 47.3 Only awards of no intrinsic value and approved by MIAA may be accepted by a high school student-athlete as a result of participation in school or non-school competition in any sport recognized by the Association. Individual interscholastic athletic awards and similar mementos to athletes shall be limited to those approved and administered by the institutions, league, or MIAA in keeping with traditional school requirements as to what constitutes an acceptable reward.
- 47.4 Participating under an assumed name in any athletic contest shall make the student ineligible for one year.

#### **48. Sportsmanship: *Taunting***

- 48.1 Taunting includes any actions or comments by coaches, players, or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule, or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates, or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs, or personal characteristics.

Examples of taunting include but are not limited to: "trash talk", defined as verbal communication of a personal nature directed by a competitor to an opponent by ridiculing his/her skills, efforts, sexual orientation, or lack of success, which is likely to provoke an altercation or physical response; and physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game, including "in the face" confrontation by one player to another, standing over/straddling a tackled or fallen player, etc.

- 48.2 Athletic participants may wear sun glare black only under their eyes.

48.3 In all sports, officials are to consider taunting a flagrant unsportsmanlike offense that disqualifies the offending bench personnel or contestant from that contest/day of competition. In addition, the offender shall be subject to all existing MIAA Disqualification Rules. A review of the MIAA taunting policy and a warning shall be given to both teams by game officials prior to each contest.

48.4 At all MIAA contest sites and tournament venues, contest management may give spectators one warning for taunting. Thereafter, spectators who taunt players, coaches, game officials, or other spectators should be ejected.

#### 49. Sportsmanship: Athlete and Coach Contest Disqualifications/*Suspensions*

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49.1 The contest official who disqualifies a student or coach under the provision of this rule should immediately inform the coach of each team, official scorer (if any), and state the violation. If the game official fails to file his/her written report, the individual is nevertheless bound by the suspension. An Official who fails to complete the form required as a result of an athlete or coach disqualification shall be suspended from officiating any MIAA contest in that sport for at least two weeks or until the form is completed and received by the principal of the disqualified athlete or coach. Judgments of game officials are not subject to appeal. If the event does not have officials (e.g. golf, tennis) it is the responsibility of the site manager to report any suspension to the Athletic Director who in turn will complete the MIAA suspension form.

49.2 The athletic director in charge of the contest, or his/her designee, is responsible for: (1) having the official disqualification forms available for game officials, and (2) sending copies to the principal of each school involved, the athletic director of each school involved, and the executive director of the MIAA. Contest official(s) should complete the forms before leaving the site of the contest.

49.3 A student who is disqualified from a competition (including a jamboree, scrimmage, etc.) shall not participate in the next (note that **baseball**, ice hockey and soccer require a 2 game suspension) scheduled interscholastic competition **that is part of their regular season schedule** or in tournament play. The disqualified student is ineligible for any contest in that sport until the next contest at the same level has been completed. (Exceptions: field hockey - see rule 68.3, basketball--five personal fouls; ice hockey--six minutes in penalties; wrestling--technical disqualification, girls lacrosse—2 yellow cards, see rule 74.8).

**49.3.1 A two (2) game suspension will be given to any student-athlete who is ejected from any contest for the following reasons:**

- **Fighting**
- **Punching or kicking an opposing player**
- **Spitting at someone**

- 49.4 Any coach disqualified by an official from an inter-school competition (including a jamboree, scrimmage, etc.) is ineligible to coach any competition in that sport until the next contest (but two contests in ice hockey, soccer and baseball) at the same level (e.g. junior varsity, varsity, etc.) has/have been completed. During the suspension the disqualified coach may not be present at the competition site. Whenever a coach is disqualified by an official from an inter-school competition, the official shall file a written report of the incident with the coach's principal. The coach also shall file the completed form designated for that purpose. Both reports should be completed and forwarded by the official and coach within 24 hours of the competition. The principal should immediately forward copies of the reports to the athletic director, superintendent, and MIAA executive director. If the game official fails to file his/her report, the coach is still bound by the suspension. An official who fails to complete the form required as a result of an athlete or coach ejection shall be suspended from officiating any MIAA contest in that sport for at least two weeks or until the form is completed and received by the principal of the disqualified athlete or coach.
- 49.5 A student or coach ruled out of a contest twice in the same season shall be suspended from further participation in that sport and in all sports during that season for a year from the date of his/her second disqualification. (Exception: See soccer rule 77.2.6).
- 49.5.1 A coach who is twice disqualified in a season must officially enroll in the Coaches' Education course or recognized MIAA certified program before returning from suspension. The course must be completed before the start of the next season for that sport. (also see Rule 49.11)
- 49.6 A student or coach who physically assaults an official shall be expelled from the activity immediately and banned from further participation or coaching in all sports for one year from the date of the offense.
- 49.7 Any student in any sport who willfully, flagrantly, or maliciously attempts to injure an opponent shall be removed from the contest immediately and shall be ineligible in all sports for one year from the date of the incident. ("Fighting" does not apply to this section unless warranted in the judgment of the game official.)
- 49.8 Fighting and unsportsmanlike conduct penalties will be within the authority of the official at all times at the contest site. The official's authority extends to pre and post game oversight.
- 49.9 Some of the reasons that an official may disqualify a student or coach from a contest that would lead to a game disqualification are:
- 49.9.1 Fighting

**49.9.2** Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct which is defined but not limited to violent action toward a player, official, or spectator, the use of foul or abusive language, taunting, trash talk, and the like.

**49.10** If a coach or student is ruled out of the last contest of the season, the penalty carries over to the following year in that same sport season. However, if a team is playing in tournament competition, it is considered an extension of the sport season. A senior and/or a student in his/her last year of eligibility who is disqualified from the last contest of the season will be penalized at the start of the next season in which he/she is a participant.

**49.11** Any coach who is disqualified from an MIAA interscholastic athletic contest or had three (3) athletes disqualified during his/her sport season will be required to attend a Sportsmanship Compliance meeting before being eligible to coach interscholastic events the following year in that sport ***or before coaching any other sport at any MIAA member school.***

**49.11.1** Any coach who fulfills the Sportsmanship Compliance meeting requirement stated in rule 49.11 and is then suspended from another MIAA interscholastic athletic contest, either in the same sport or a different sport, will be required to officially enroll in the Coaches' Education course or a recognized MIAA certified program. The course must be completed before the start of the next season for any sport that the coach is eligible.

**49.12** In addition to being in violation of Massachusetts General Laws, hazing is a most flagrant example of lack of respect for both self and others. Massachusetts General Law Chapter 269, section 17-19 was enacted in 1988. The law requires that secondary schools provide all school groups (e.g. athletic teams) a copy of the law. [Click here](#) to access the "hazing law".

## **50. Coach/Media Relations**

**50.1** It is important that communication between coaches and the media reflects and promotes high standards of sportsmanship, integrity and ethics.

**50.1.1** Coaches must not publicly criticize any game official, or permit anyone under their supervision to criticize game officials

**50.1.2** Coaches should cooperate with the media in the interpretation and clarification of rules and/or other aspects of the game, but not make critical comments about specific decisions of game officials.

**50.1.3** Coaches must make an effort, in their communication with the media, to stress positive displays of sportsmanship demonstrated by the student-athletes, coaches, fans, spectators, and the schools involved in the competition.

50.2 Any coach found in non-compliance with the above will be subject to penalties determined by the Committee on Sportsmanship, Integrity, and Ethics.

## 51. Student Eligibility: Baseline Eligibility Requirements



For a student to practice with, or to represent a MIAA member school in athletic competition, the student must be duly enrolled in that school. Additionally, the student must be a candidate for that school's diploma, subject to the jurisdiction of that school's principal (i.e. the principal must have the authority to suspend the student from classes), and under the supervision of that school principal (i.e. the principal must have control and knowledge of the student's daily attendance and achievement).

Ultimately the interpretation and application of Association rules rests with the MIAA executive director/staff and the Board of Directors. Principals (or athletic directors) must contact the Association executive staff to resolve any possible eligibility issues before permitting a student to represent your school. This rule complements Rule 52, 53, 54 and 55.

## 52. Student Eligibility: Alternative, Collaborative, Detached or Other Non-Traditional Educational Programs



Students who are not being educated on the high school campus that will issue their diplomas are not eligible to represent that, or any member high school, unless the criteria within this rule are satisfied. If the student is not eligible at the attending college or the alternative institution does not offer any athletic participation opportunity, a student may participate in the diploma-granting MIAA high school if that principal:

- has the authority to suspend the student from all academic programs; and
- receives daily reports of the student's attendance and achievement; and
- Certifies the student is eligible by all other MIAA and local standards that must be satisfied by the student's teammates.

(The above conditions must be agreed to in writing by the non member-school director prior to any practice or athletic participation by the student at the high school that is awarding the diploma.)

These non-traditional students may not participate if they do not meet all of the eligibility standards that are required of their teammates. Principals, athletic directors, and guidance personnel should counsel students regarding athletic eligibility prior to committing to non-traditional educational pursuits.

*Revised 8/25/08*

**53. Student Eligibility: Middle School Students on Senior High Teams**

A middle school student is eligible to represent a senior high school on its athletic teams only when the MIAA member high school includes those grades and they are under the direct “jurisdiction” and “supervision” of the high school principal (see Rule 51 for definitions).

**54. Student Eligibility: Home Educated Students**

A home-educated student is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics if the following conditions are met:

The local school committee of a MIAA public school member institution has adopted a policy regarding participation of home educated students on the high school teams, and the local building principal has indicated such on the annual MIAA membership form while including all home schoolers in the annual MIAA enrollment report.

The Educational Plan for the home-educated student has been approved by the public school Superintendent or his/her designee.

The Principal has determined appropriate high school grade level placement (9-12) for each home educated student in conjunction with chronological age and educational plan.

The student resides in the school district that serves the high school, and is living with his/her parents or legal guardians in the family residence. In multiple school districts, a home-educated student must be assigned to the school of record in the same manner as other students.

The Principal is satisfied that the student meets the standards for athletic participation required for all other students as defined in the current MIAA Handbook. This includes, but is not limited to, those rules governing transfers, academic eligibility, age requirements, and the number of consecutive seasons of athletic eligibility beyond grade eight.

MIAA requirements relative to academic eligibility must be certified by the Principal at the same times that all other student athletes are to be certified as academically eligible.

If the Principal determines that all eligibility standards detailed above have been met, the Principal may declare the student eligible to participate in interscholastic competition. The rights, privileges, and responsibilities associated with all other student athletes attending MIAA member schools will apply to home educated students who have satisfied the requirements above.

**55. Student Eligibility: Membership in School**

- 55.1* A student shall have been a member of the MIAA member secondary school for a minimum of two months (exclusive of the Summer vacation) and have been issued a report card preceding the contest, unless entering from an elementary or junior high school at the start of the school year or transfers in from another school. A pupil's attendance at school does not start when he/she registers in that school, but rather when he/she begins attending classes.
- 55.2* When a student drops out of school and then decides later to return to the same school, he/she cannot become eligible for athletics until a report card has been issued and until the expiration of a minimum of two calendar months from the date of his/her return to the same school.
- 55.3* Except as may be otherwise specified by statute or state regulation, a student must be a resident of and domiciled in a municipality which normally contributes student population to the school.

**56. Student Eligibility: Physical Examinations/Medical Coverage**

- 56.1* All students must pass a physical examination within thirteen months of the start of each season. Students who meet this criteria at the start of the season will remain eligible for that season. Physical examinations must be performed by a duly registered Physician, Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner. The Sports Medicine Committee recommended physical examination form is in the MIAA White Book.

**PENALTY:** A student in violation shall be suspended for the number of contests in which he/she participated without a proper physical.

- 56.2* Whenever a medical person is on duty at an athletic event, he/she shall be responsible for both teams (unless the other team has its own medical person present). His/her judgment will be final with regard to the condition of a player after injury. Physical disqualification by the medical person renders the student ineligible. The Penalty for playing an ineligible student is forfeiture.
- 56.3* Medical Alert Bracelets/Anklets are approved for wearing in all sports, provided they are taped to the body and marked in red.

**57. Student Eligibility: Transfer Students**



Rules 57.1 through 57.5 deal with school transfers that were not required due to the move of parents or transfers without the move of parents.

- 57.1 A student who transfers from any school to an MIAA member high school is ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic contest at any level for a period of one year in all sports in which that student participated at the varsity level or its equivalent during the one year period immediately preceding the transfer. (see exemptions listed in Rule 57.7) For the purpose of this rule, no transfer will be deemed to have taken place if a student returns to his/her former school on or before the eleventh school day from the date of last attendance there.
- 57.2 "Varsity participation" is defined as any appearance, as a competitor, in a varsity inter-school contest other than a scrimmage. The "equivalent" will be judged by the MIAA executive staff on the basis of the quality of non-school sport program participation.
- 57.3 Before a transfer student can be certified as eligible in a specific sport within the year of his/her transfer, the sending school principal and athletic director must certify on Form 100 or Form 200 by signature that the student did not participate at the varsity level or on a non-school team (see Rule 57.2) during the year prior to the actual transfer.
- 57.3.1 If it is later determined that the sending school falsely or erroneously certified eligibility, then the sending school will be subject to minimally a letter of censure, copies of which will be mailed to the school committee, superintendent, principal, athletic director, and reported on the MIAA website.
- 57.3.2 The MIAA certification Form 100 must be dated and filed at the receiving school before the student is declared eligible (as to the transfer rule only) by the receiving school principal.
- 57.4 The receiving High School Principal may utilize Form 200 to declare a transfer student eligible, providing it is prior to the start of the season and the student did not participate on a non-school team (see Rule 57.2), if the sending school Principal certifies the following:
- a. Recruitment was not involved in any way.
  - b. At the time of transfer, the student was in good standing.
  - c. The student would be academically eligible at the sending school.
  - d. The transfer was in no way motivated by athletics.
  - e. The student would have been eligible by MIAA and local rules at the sending school.
- 57.5 A student who transfers after the start of the practice season is ineligible in all sports during that sport season.
- 57.6 Foreign Students I
- 57.6.1 A student who transfers from a foreign country without parental change of residence accompanying the transfer will be ineligible

unless such transfer is sponsored by a [CSIET](#) (Council on Standards for International Education Travel) approved foreign exchange program. Students who enter a member school under a [CSIET](#) approved program may be declared immediately eligible for athletic participation by the building principal as long as all other MIAA eligibility standards are met **and it is not a direct placement. If a direct placement, according to CSIET Standard 6b, a waiver is necessary.** A [CSIET](#) student who has graduated from a secondary school in his/her own country will be exempt from the MIAA graduation rule (#61) if that student has not completed thirteen (13) years (including kindergarten) – or twelve (12) years (not including kindergarten) – of formal education.

57.6.2 Foreign athletes who are not in this country under the auspices of a [CSIET](#) approved program or attending a MIAA member school as the direct result of the change in residence of the parents, shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics regardless of the length of stay in this Country.

57.7 Exemptions to the transfer rule -- a transfer student may be eligible immediately provided all other eligibility requirements are met:

57.7.1 Change of residence of a student's parents: A student's transfer is necessitated by a change of residence of his/her parent(s) to the area served by the school to which he/she transfers. The academic standard of the receiving school will determine eligibility. Therefore, in such transfer cases, academic ineligibility is not portable. (This exception does not apply to a change in custody, guardianship, or to a student's change in residence from one parent to another, nor does it apply when the student could continue to attend the former school.)

57.7.2 Middle school transfer: A student who enters the ninth grade of a four-year high school and who has not been enrolled previously in the ninth grade.

57.7.3 Elementary/Middle School graduate: A student who has completed the last grade available in the school previously attended.

57.7.4 Closed school: If a school no longer exists, a student may be eligible at the school of his/her choice immediately after the closing of that school.

## 58. Student Eligibility: Academic Requirements

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58.1 A student must secure during the last marking period preceding the contest (e.g. second quarter marks and not semester grades determine third quarter eligibility) a passing grade, and full credit, in the equivalent of four traditional year long major English courses. A transfer student may not

gain academic eligibility if he/she was not, or would not be, eligible at the sending school, unless transfer was necessitated by a move of parents and then eligibility would be determined by receiving schools eligibility standards. (see Rule 57.7.1)

- 58.2 A student cannot at any time represent a school unless that student is taking courses which would provide Carnegie Units equivalent to four traditional year long major English courses.
- 58.3 To be eligible for the fall marking period, students are required to have passed and received full credits for the previous academic year the equivalent of four traditional year long major English courses.
- 58.4 Academic eligibility of all students shall be considered as official and determined on the published date when the report cards for that ranking period are to be issued to the parents of all students within a particular class.

Note: The MIAA academic eligibility standards are designed to ensure that a student is fully enrolled in school and actively engaged in his/her academic life on a consistent basis throughout the school year. When utilizing a 4 x 4 block schedule, a student must pass at least two of the four required 'major' courses (or equivalent) in each academic marking period.

The questions you must ask in determining equivalency are:

- \*How many minutes per day/week/semester does this course meet?
- \*How many credits toward graduation as approved in advance by school committee policy will be offered for this course?
- \*Is this equivalent to past academic requirements?

(If further clarification is necessary, principals and athletic directors are encouraged to contact a member of the MIAA executive staff.)

- 58.5 Incomplete grades may not be counted toward eligibility until they are made up following school policy.
- 58.6 A student who repeats work upon which he/she has once received credit cannot count that subject a second time for eligibility.
- 58.7 A student cannot count for eligibility any subject taken during the summer, unless that subject was pursued and failed during the immediately preceding academic year.

**59. Student Eligibility: Time Allowed for Participation After First Entering Grade Nine**

*59.1* A student shall be eligible for interscholastic competition for no more than four consecutive years after initially entering Grade 9. This limitation shall apply without regard to actual participation or attempt to participate.

*59.2* In no case may a student be eligible to participate in more than four of each of the three annual athletic seasons. In special cases where a student has been absent from school because of an accident or illness, the executive director, or his/her designee, shall have the authority to extend the student's eligibility upon presentation of a doctor's certificate on the student's behalf and a letter from the principal attesting to the inability of the student to attend school during a specific period because of an accident or illness. In instances where an extended eligibility is granted, the student may be declared eligible only for the season(s) that the student's accident/illness prevented participation.

**60. Student Eligibility: Age**

A student shall be under 19 years of age, but may compete during the remainder of the school year, provided that his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday occurs on or after September 1 of that year. For Freshman competition, a student shall be under 16 years of age but may compete during the remainder of the school year provided that the sixteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1 of that year. Principals must exercise great care in determining age of contestants, and in all doubtful cases, must secure birth certificates from the town clerk of the pupil's place of birth.

**61. Student Eligibility: Graduation**

*61.1* A student must be an undergraduate: i.e., he/she shall not be a graduate of any secondary school. Any student who has the credits required for a diploma shall be regarded as a graduate with the following exceptions:

*61.1.1* An early graduate of a high school may represent his/her school in athletics until the end of the sport season in which he/she is participating, if otherwise eligible. The diploma must be withheld until at least the season is completed, and the student may not attend classes outside of that high school during that season.

*61.1.2* A student who earns the credits required for a diploma prior to attending eight semesters in a four-year high school, and who is not granted a diploma may continue to participate if he/she continues to take at least the equivalent of four traditional year long major English courses.

**62. Student (and Coach) Eligibility: Chemical Health/Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco****I**

**62.1** *From the earliest fall practice date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest),* a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. This policy includes products such as “NA or near beer”. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student’s own use by his/her doctor.

This MIAA statewide minimum standard is not intended to render “guilt by association”, e.g. many student athletes might be present at a party where only a few violate this standard. This rule represents only a minimum standard upon which schools may develop more stringent requirements.

If a student in violation of this rule is unable to participate in interscholastic sports due to injury or academics, the penalty will not take effect until that student is able to participate again.

**Minimum PENALTIES:****I**

First violation: When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. It is recommended that the student be allowed to remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 25% of the season.

Second and subsequent violations: When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 60% of the season.

If after the second or subsequent violations the student of his/her own volition becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MIAA activities after a minimum of 40% of events ***provided the student was fully engaged in the program throughout that penalty period. The high school principal in collaboration with a Chemical Dependency Program or Treatment Program*** must certify that student is attending or issue a certificate of completion. If student does not complete program, penalty reverts back to 60% of the season. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 40% of the season.

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Penalties shall be cumulative each academic year, **but serving the penalty could carry over for one year.** Or, if the penalty period is not completed during the season of violation, the penalty shall carry over to the student's next season of actual participation, which may affect the eligibility status of the student during the next academic year. **(e.g. A student plays only football: he violates the rule in winter and/or the spring of same academic year: he would serve the penalty [ies] during the fall season of the next academic year).**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense - 25%</b>	
<b># of Events / Season</b>	<b># of Events / Penalty</b>
1-7	1
8-11	2
12-15	3
16-19	4
20 or over	5
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense - 60%</b>	
<b># of Events / Season</b>	<b># of Events / Penalty</b>
1-3	1
4	2
5-6	3
7-8	4
9	5
10-11	6
12-13	7
14	8
15-16	9
17-18	10
19	11
20 or over	12
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense w/Dependency Program - 40% if in the program throughout the penalty period.</b>	
<b># of Events / Season</b>	<b># of Events / Penalty</b>
1-4	1
5-7	2
8-9	3
10-12	4
13-14	5
15-17	6
18-19	7
20 or over	8

62.2 During practice or competition, a coach shall not use any tobacco product **(penalty: same as students' - see chart above).**

62.3 Steroid Use - Anabolic androgenic steroid use at the high school level is of grave concern. Steroids are used by some athletes, and the seriousness of the problem has been well documented. A recent study indicates that over 3% of high school seniors have tried steroids in their lifetime (NIDA, 2004). High school coaches may not be able to prevent the use of steroids altogether, but they can clearly and forcefully discourage their use. Coaches should take a

proactive role, learning about steroids, and then providing this information to their athletes.

Steroids can, with proper diet and weight training, increase muscle development; however, as is typical with most “get-rich-quick” schemes, steroid use has serious short and long term consequences.

Normal and equal musculature development can occur without steroid use. Although the natural process takes longer, muscle tone will last longer and does not carry the harmful side effects of steroids.

Most coaches would not promote steroid use intentionally. Total silence by coaches however condones use in some young people's minds. Even though steroids may not be mentioned when it is suggested to an athlete that his/her success is limited only by a lack of weight and/or strength, without a disclaimer the statement can be a motivation to use steroids. The pervasiveness of the drugs that allow for development of increased weight under the aforementioned circumstances is a coercive power that is difficult for young athletes to resist without knowing what the side effects of the drugs may be.

The issue goes beyond protecting the integrity of sport. The use of steroids in sports is cheating. We must oppose the use of steroids for both health and ethical reasons.

### **63. Good Citizen Rule**

- 63.1 Student-athletes may not represent their school if they are on in-house or out-of-house disciplinary suspension. A suspended student is ineligible for practice or competition for at least the number of days (or partial days) equal to the number of days of the suspension. Local policies will determine the actual days of ineligibility. (The Board of Directors suggests that policies be included in local Student Handbooks.)

### **64. Protested Student Eligibility**

- 64.1 Upon request a member school principal must provide student eligibility certification for any student-athlete who might be questioned by a principal or the Association.
- 64.2 When the eligibility of a member or members of any team are protested at a contest site, the contest shall be played as scheduled and the protest filed with the MIAA Executive Director for settlement later.

## ***Part V - Sport Rules***

*In this section rules for the individual sports are referenced along with the MIAA modifications to those national rules. Four-year tournament alignments for each sport can be viewed on the MIAA web site ([www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net))*

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## PART V: SPORT RULES

### I

#### 65. Baseball

- 65.1* The rules pertaining to baseball are the same as major league baseball and can be found at [http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official\\_info/official\\_rules/foreword.jsp](http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/official_rules/foreword.jsp)
- 65.2* Leagues may amend a rule, provided such an amendment is not a substantive change to MIAA rules. However, leagues may wish to change such things as the type of ball, free substitutions, or similar acts to speed the game.
- 65.3* Batting helmets of the full-protection type must be worn by all players while at bat or on the bases. These helmets of the full-protection type shall have extended ear flaps which cover both ears and the temples. In addition, the helmet must carry the NOCSAE stamp, indicating it meets the NOCSAE standards, and must have an exterior warning label regarding the risk of injury. Batting helmets of this type shall be required of each batter, base runner, and on-deck batter. After an initial warning to a player and the coach by an umpire, failure to adhere to the rule by any subsequent player shall result in that player being removed from the contest (but for that game only). The penalty is to be enforced when the batter is in the box and the pitcher is in contact with the rubber ready to pitch.
- Defensive players are permitted to wear face/head protection in the field. If a pitcher or any defensive player wears face/head protection, its outer covering shall have a non-glare surface.
- 65.4* Metal bats may be used, but they must meet the safety specifications adopted by the National Federation. All non-wood bats shall meet the Ball Exit Speed Ration (BESR) performance standard and such bats shall be labeled with a silk screen or other permanent certificate mark.
- 65.5* A full-crown helmet must be worn by the catcher while behind the plate.
- 65.6* All catchers during game competition and any player warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask with a throat protector.
- PENALTY: First violation by a team will result in a warning. Second violation by a team will result in the offending player being removed from the contest.
- 65.7* Schools may not schedule five (5) inning baseball games.
- 65.8* Mouth guards are recommended for all baseball players while on the field.
- 65.9* Jewelry may not be worn by baseball players during practice or games.

- 65.10 Safety bases are recommended. The Sports Medical Committee recommends a breakaway or impact base.
- 65.11 The NCAA sliding rule will be in effect.
- 65.12 Any coach ejected from an Interscholastic Baseball game will be suspended for the next 2 games. ***Any player ejected from a game also is ineligible for the next 2 games. (see Rule 49.3)***
- 65.13 A Strike Two Program is in force:
- A baseball umpire at any time will voice "strike one" when a warning for inappropriate comment or actions is warranted, and that "strike one" will be recorded in the scorebook. Upon the need for a "strike two" call, an ejection of the coach would occur. Exception: In the case of a flagrant unsportsmanlike infraction and/or physical assault an immediate ejection will occur.

## 66. Basketball

Boys' and girls' high school basketball shall be played under the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations, as modified by the MIAA.

- I** 66.1 Mouth guards are ***highly recommended*** for all basketball players while on the court.
- I** 66.2 The 30-second shot clock will be utilized at all levels in both boys and girls games.
- 66.3 The ten-second back court count does not apply to girls' games.
- 66.4 All varsity contests shall be played in ***four, 8 minute quarters***. Sub-varsity contests also shall be played in equal ***quarters*** of no more than ***8*** minutes.
- 66.5 ***Three 60-second and two 30-second time-outs may be charged to each team during a regulation game.*** Each team is entitled to one additional ***60-second*** time-out during each extra period. Unused time-outs accumulate and may be used at any time.
- 66.6 A coaching box, as described in current National Federation rules, shall be utilized in all games.
- 66.7 Athlete Participation Limitations
- 66.7.1 A student may practice or play for their high school basketball team only once in any one day.

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*66.7.2* No member of a high school basketball squad shall participate in more than **four quarters** per day. (This does not include official over-time periods.)

*66.7.3* On a given day a student may participate in more than one high school basketball contest only if they are at the site of the same host, one immediately follows the other, and the single contest limit is not exceeded.

## **67. Cross Country**

*67.1* High school cross country shall be governed by the current National Federation of State High School Associations Track and Field Rule Book.

*67.1.1* Competitors representing the same school must wear the same school uniform both in color and design, with the school's name and insignia in sight. Only solid colored T-shirts may be worn under the regular uniform.

*67.2* Scoring of a triangular cross country meet will not count as two competitions for the participation limit for the season.

*67.3* Athlete Participation Limitations:

A competitor may run in a meet on two consecutive days only once during a week. No competitor may run in a meet on three consecutive days.

## **68. Field Hockey**

*68.1* National Federation of State High School Associations Field Hockey rules shall be used.

*68.1.1* All players must wear eye protective goggles approved for field hockey.

*68.1.2* No team shall be allowed to compete without wearing team uniforms displaying identifying numbers with a minimum height of four inches. It is recommended that team uniforms display identifying numbers on front (4") and back (6").

*68.1.3* The goal keepers' uniform top shall be either the same color as teams' uniform top or of a color which contrasts to the uniform tops of both teams.

*68.1.4* If a league elects to play a tie breaker, teams must play two 25-minute halves, and the overtime period must not exceed ten minutes. The overtime period must be played to completion or sudden victory.

**68.2 Match Length**

The maximum length of match is to be 60 minutes including overtime play.

**68.3** A student athlete who receives a red card due to an upgrade (i.e. green card to a yellow card to a red card - third minor offense) should not be suspended from the next game and the official need not fill out the MIAA Student Disqualification Form.

**69. Football**

**69.1** Massachusetts high school football shall be played under the NCAA Rules, with the following modifications:

**69.1.1** Each team is entitled to five time-outs per half, three of which are a full 90 seconds and two of which will be 20 seconds. Teams may not go to the sideline during a 20 second time-out.

**69.1.2** A conference with any number of players and coaches may be held during the one minute intermission between periods.

**69.1.3** Goal post uprights which were legal by the 1985 NCAA code continue to be acceptable.

**69.1.4** The 40 yard line shall be the initial kick-off point.

**69.1.5** Use of kicking tee will be permitted for extra point and field goal attempts.

**69.1.6** Football helmets of the same color are not required.

**69.1.7** It is not required that football jerseys be long enough to reach the top of the pants and be tucked in.

**69.1.8** Allow 2" tee

**69.1.9** *After any dead ball and the placement of the ball according to rule – the referee shall declare the ball ready for play and the offensive team will have 25 seconds to snap the ball.* (voted by MIAA B.O.D. for 2008 season)

**69.1.10** *Clock stops when a ball carrier fumbles backwards out of bounds or the backward pass goes out of bounds. The game clock will next start on the snap.* (voted by MIAA B.O.D. for 2008 season)

**69.1.11** *There will be no instant replay in MIAA contests.*

**69.1.12** *Following TV timeouts the ready for play time will be 25 seconds.*

**69.1.13** *There shall be 2 warnings before any sideline infraction will be penalized.* (voted by MIAA B.O.D. for 2008 season)

**69.2** A doctor, licensed trainer or certified EMT must be in attendance and on duty for all interscholastic football games. The medical person shall be responsible for both teams unless the visiting team has its own medical coverage. His/her judgment will be final with regard to the condition of a player after injury. No

player may continue to play against the medical person's advice. The penalty for violation of this provision is forfeiture of the game.

**69.3 Tie-Breaker Options (Kindly Note: during the regular season leagues and schools also may opt to play no overtime).**

**69.3.1** To eliminate confusion and misunderstanding, coaches must give a written notice to the referee prior to the kick-off stating whether or not a tie-breaker will be used if the game ends in a tie. It also is important that the news media and the public address announcer be notified before kick-off if a tie-breaker rule is to be used.

**69.3.2** The NCAA Football Tie-Breaker Rule, as modified by the MIAA, may be used on an optional basis for high school varsity teams.

**69.3.2.1** Immediately following the conclusion of the fourth quarter, the teams will go to their team areas for two minutes.

**69.3.2.2** The officials will escort the captains to the middle of the field for the coin toss. The winner of the toss shall choose one of the following options: (1) offense or defense; or (2) which end of the field shall be used in both series of the overtime period (ten- yard line).

**69.3.2.3** There shall be only one (1) series per team, during the overtime period. If the score is still tied, the game ends in a tie. The defense may score during the tie-breaker.

**69.3.2.4** Each series shall begin at the ten-yard line unless a penalty overrides. First down chains will not be used. It is always goal-to-go. If penalty enforcement calls for an automatic first down, it will be first and goal.

If there is a change of possession during the last play of overtime, fouls by opponents on the team in possession give the team in possession the option of putting the ball in play, where the penalty leaves the ball, for one down free of penalty. This option is exercised only if the offensive team is free of foul during the down.

**Example:** Second Series - Team B intercepts Team A's pass and, during Team B's run back, Team A commits a personal foul.

**Ruling:** Extend the overtime for one down free of penalty, with Team B putting the ball in play where the penalty

leaves the ball, provided Team B has not fouled during the down.

*69.3.2.5* Each team is allowed one full time-out in the overtime period. Time-outs remaining from the second half do not carry over to the overtime period.

*69.3.3* Conferences or schools also have the option of adopting the following tie breaking modification (which permits more than a single possession by each team in order to insure that no game ends in a tie). For the first and subsequent tie breaking periods, any team that scores a touchdown must attempt a two point conversion by run or pass from scrimmage.

#### *69.4* Scheduling Limitations:

*69.4.1* The season shall end on Thanksgiving Day. When it is necessary to postpone the final scheduled game because of inclement weather, it must be played the weekend following Thanksgiving.

*69.4.2* An intra-squad or interschool scrimmage is not to be allowed before the third day of "contact" practice.

*69.4.3* The maximum length of periods shall be 12 minutes except when a game ends in a tie, in which case the tie-breaker rule may be used only for varsity games, and if adopted by a majority vote of all schools in the league or by mutual consent in advance of non-league games.

#### *69.5* Participation Limitations:

*69.5.1* The first three days of football practice must be non-contact conditioning sessions consistent with the limitations described below. Daily activities shall be limited to a single session of no more than two hours. Non-contact shall mean that there will be no contact by a player with another player, with a machine, or with stationary pads. Sleds are not allowed. Physical activity during these three days of pre-season practice shall be limited to non-contact conditioning drills. Neither football gear nor protective equipment other than head gear, shoes, and porous light-weight jerseys and pants shall be worn by players during the three-non-contact day period.

Violations of these rules will result in a letter of censure by the Board of Directors to the Superintendent of Schools and to the Chairman of the School Committee.

*69.5.2* High school football practices prior to the first day of classes shall not exceed the following:

*69.5.2.1* No more than four physical sessions per day, no more than two of which may involve physical contact.

*69.5.2.2* No physical session shall exceed two hours in length.

*69.5.2.3* No team shall conduct more than a total of four and one half hours of physical sessions in any one day. A physical session includes, but is not limited to, calisthenics, walking through plays, etc.

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*69.5.3* A player must participate in at least 15 football practice days before taking part in a football game.

*69.5.4* Players may not participate in more than equal time (48 minutes) of one game per week. A week will be from Saturday through Friday except for the week of Thanksgiving Day. (The intent of this rule is to limit participation of each student to no more than one game in any six-day period.)

## **70. Golf**

*70.1* Except as modified by the individual leagues, Massachusetts high school golf shall be played under the USGA Rules with the following modifications or exceptions.

*70.1.1* Local club rules shall be in effect.

*70.1.2* No coaching is to take place during a match or tournament.

*70.2* Female golfers on a boy's team or a girl's team must hit from the front tees.

## **71. Gymnastics**

*71.1* Boys' Gymnastics

*71.1.1* Boys' gymnastic meets shall be conducted within the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations except as modified by MIAA.

*71.1.2* Each team may enter up to six gymnasts in each event. The four highest scores in each event count for team score.

*71.1.3* An all-around gymnast is one who enters all six events. An unlimited gymnast may enter any or all of the six events. All other gymnasts may enter no more than three events.

- 71.1.4 One all-around is allowed. If the all-around does not enter a particular event, the team will be limited to five entries in that event.
- 71.1.5 Up to two unlimited gymnasts may each enter up to six events.
- 71.1.6 The all-around and unlimited competitor(s) shall be designated by the coach prior to the start of the meet.
- 71.1.7 Substitutions will be accepted only before the particular event has begun. No substitution for the designated all-around competitor is allowed.
- 71.1.8 In dual and league meets, the top four scores in each event will count for team scores. The bottom scores will be dropped.
- 71.1.9 Exhibition performances are not permitted.

## 71.2 Girls' Gymnastics

- 71.2.1 Girls' gymnastic meets shall be conducted within the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations as modified by MIAA.
- 71.2.2 Each team may enter up to six gymnasts in each event.
- 71.2.3 An all-around gymnast is one who enters all four events. All other gymnasts may enter no more than three events.
- 71.2.4 No more than two all-around competitors are allowed. None is required.
- 71.2.5 The all-around competitor(s) must be designated by the coach prior to the start of the meet.
- 71.2.6 In dual and league meets, the top four scores in each event will count for team scores. The bottom score(s) will be dropped.
- 71.2.7 Substitutes will be accepted only before the particular event has begun.
- 71.2.8 Exhibition performances are not permitted.
- 71.2.9 Warm-up between the first two events and the second two events shall be ten minutes. At least 30 minutes warm-up time must be allowed prior to the meet.
- 71.2.10 Retain the squat, straddle and stoop vaults.

71.3 There may be no exceptions to rules by coaches' agreements, except where expressly allowed by rule.

71.4 Apparatus may be held down (steadied) with no deduction.

## **72. Ice Hockey**

72.1 Ice hockey shall be played under the National Federation Rules, as modified herein.

72.2 A minor penalty shall be 1.5 minutes, a major four minutes, and a misconduct 7.5 minutes.

72.3 A doctor, licensed trainer or certified EMT must be in attendance and on duty for all varsity ice hockey games. (It is strongly recommended that such medical coverage and an emergency transport system be in place for all games.) The medical person shall be responsible for both teams unless each team has its own medical coverage. His/her judgment will be final with regard to the condition of a player after injury. No player may continue to play against the medical person's advice. The penalty for violation of this provision is forfeiture of the game.

72.4 During the regular season and MIAA tournament, the National Federation player limitations will be amended so as to allow a maximum of 22 players to be dressed and on the bench. During the MIAA tournament, two of these 22 players must be dressed as goaltenders.

72.5 The MIAA Score Sheet must be utilized for all games.

72.6 No overtime games are permitted during the regular season, except during MIAA sanctioned multi-school events. Overtime games will be counted as ties for both teams for purposes of MIAA tournament qualification.

72.7 If a player, including the goalkeeper, deliberately removes his helmet and/or full face protector, the nearest official shall assess a minor penalty and a misconduct. If a player loses his helmet and/or full face protector during play within the scrimmage area, an automatic whistle must be blown stopping all action, and the player must replace the helmet and/or full face protector. If a player is sufficiently removed from the scrimmage and he loses his helmet and/or full face protector, a delayed whistle may be used. If a goalkeeper deliberately removes his helmet and/or full face protector during a breakaway during the last two minutes of play, or anytime during overtime, the nearest official shall assess a penalty shot and a misconduct.

- 72.8 Any player or coach ruled out of a game for engaging in a fight, for unsportsmanlike conduct, or a game disqualification or game misconduct penalty shall not participate in the next two succeeding regularly scheduled games to be played with a member of the MIAA or in tournament play.
- 72.9 Any member of a squad who willfully, flagrantly or maliciously attempts to injure an opponent shall be removed from the game immediately and shall be ineligible in all sports for one year from the date of the incident. (Butt-ending is to be interpreted under the NF rule and then, under this rule, if warranted).
- 72.10 Any penalty after a whistle shall include a misconduct on the penalized player(s).
- 72.11 Upon receipt of six total minutes of penalties -- any combination of a major or minors -- a player will be excluded from the remainder of that game.
- 72.12 Any team whose players receive collectively more than three game misconducts and/or disqualification penalties during pre-season competitions and/or regular season games shall not qualify for the MIAA tournament.
- 72.13 Any coaching staff member who receives two game misconducts and/or game disqualification penalties during the pre-season and/or regular season games shall not participate in the MIAA tournament.
- 72.14 After four game misconducts and/or game disqualification penalties, each subsequent game misconduct and/or disqualification penalty received by a team will result in forfeiture of the subsequent MIAA contest. These penalties will carry over to the next season should a violation occur in the final game of the season. A status report relative to such penalties, forfeitures, and local remediation must be immediately filed with the MIAA office.
- 72.15 An Ice Hockey player or coach who is ruled out of an MIAA tournament game for a game misconduct or a game disqualification will be ineligible for the remainder of the tournament. If it is the last game of the tournament for that team, the player or coach will be ineligible for at least the first two hockey games of the next season.
- 72.16 If the opposing team scores a goal while a team is shorthanded by one or more minor or bench-minor penalties, the shorthanded team shall be permitted to immediately replace on the ice the first player whose penalty caused his team to be shorthanded; however, the originally penalized player must remain in the penalty box until the full 1.5 minutes of his penalty has elapsed, after which time he may be released from the penalty box at the next stoppage in play.

- 72.17 All Ice Hockey Officials will be required to meet in locker rooms with players and coaches before all regular season games.

### **73. Indoor Track**

- 73.1 High school Indoor Track shall be conducted under the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations with the following modifications.

73.1.1 Any alteration of these rules must be sent in writing in advance of the event by the league or meet director to the schools involved.

73.1.2 The number and type of events will be determined by the by-laws of league or directors of multi-school events.

73.1.3 No competitor or team will be allowed to compete without wearing a proper uniform that has the school's name and/or insignia and/or colors.

73.1.4 In relay races, each team member shall wear the same color and design school uniform (jersey and shorts). When other visible apparel is worn under the school uniform, it shall be of the same color for all teammates choosing to wear them in conformity with National Federation code.

#### **73.2 Participation Limitations:**

73.2.1 A contestant may not enter more than four events (track and field). The combination of events that a competitor may enter to constitute the total of four shall be not more than two track and two field events. A relay shall be considered a track event. (Leagues or meet directors may set stricter standards).

73.2.2 A student may compete in a meet on two consecutive days only once during a week. No student may compete in a meet on three consecutive days.

73.2.3 Scoring of a triangular track meet will not count as two competitions for the participation limit for the season.

### **74. Lacrosse**

- 74.1 Boys' lacrosse shall be played under the National Federation lacrosse rules, except as modified by the MIAA. Girls' lacrosse shall be played under the US Lacrosse (Women's' Division) rules, except as modified by the MIAA.

- 74.2 Girls will wear protective goggles approved by the Sports Medical Committee.

- 74.3 All participants must wear mouth guards.
- 74.4 Boys' matches may not exceed 15 minute quarters. Girls' matches may not exceed 25-minute halves.
- 74.5 Boys' lacrosse time-outs are limited to two (2) per half, but in a live ball situation may be called only by the team in possession while the ball is in the offensive half of the field.
- 74.6 Gloves worn by a team do not have to be the same color.
- 74.7 In Boys' lacrosse if a team is leading by 12 goals at the end of the third quarter - the fourth quarter will have running time. There will be no resumption of stop time once this rule is started.
- 74.8 In Girls' lacrosse, if a player receives two yellow cards, they are out of the game (similar to fouling out in basketball). When the second yellow occurs, official will show both a yellow and red card, indicating that player must leave the game. However, no paperwork is required and the player may participate in the next game. A red card issued to a player for fighting or unsportsmanlike play, will require player to sit out the next game. This will be written up on the game suspension form.
- 74.9 *In Boys' Lacrosse (Facing-Off): The official will say "down" and then blow the whistle.***
- 74.10 *In Boys' lacrosse: No penalty will be assessed if a school has different colored helmets.***
- 74.11 *In Boys lacrosse: Two stick checks per half may be conducted at random times by the officials.***

## **75. Outdoor Track**

- 75.1 High school outdoor track shall be conducted under the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations with the following modifications.
- 75.1.1 Any alteration of these rules must be sent in writing in advance by the league or meet director to the schools involved.
- 75.1.2 The number and type of events will be determined by the by-laws of leagues or directors of multiple school meets.
- 75.1.3 No competitor or team will be allowed to compete without wearing a proper uniform that has the school's name and/or insignia and/or colors.

- 75.1.4 Track and Field events shall be timed/measured in either metric or English distances.
- 75.1.5 In relay races, each team member shall wear the same color and design school uniform (jersey and shorts). When other visible apparel is worn under the school uniform, it shall be of the same color for all teammates choosing to wear them in conformity with the National Federation code.
- 75.1.6 Schools entering a contestant in the pole vault are required to have a minimum of one member of the school appointed coaching staff certified in the teaching procedures, rules, and the safety and legal requirements associated with coaching the pole vault event.
- 75.1.7 For dual meets a copy of the pole vaulter's weight certification form must be presented to the official responsible for that event on the day of the contest. For state qualifying and all state meets, the form must accompany the entry form. The original weight certification form, signed by the principal, athletic director, and coach must be kept on file in the school office and be available on request.

**75.2 Participation Limitations:**

- 75.2.1 A student may compete in a meet on two consecutive days only once during a week. No student may compete in a meet on three consecutive days.
- 75.2.2 A contestant may not enter more than four events (track and field). The combination of events that a competitor may enter to constitute the total of four shall be not more than two track and two field events. A relay shall be considered a track event. (League and multiple-school meet directors may set stricter standards).
- 75.2.3 Scoring of a triangular track meet will not count as two competitions for the participation limit for the season.

**76. Skiing**

- 76.1 United States Ski Association Rules as conducted under the rules of the Federation International de Ski (FIS) will govern all competition.
- 76.2 A hard-shelled helmet specifically designed for skiing must be worn for alpine skiing. The MIAA Sports Medicine Committee strongly recommends a face guard for slalom skiing.
- 76.3 Nordic course length shall not exceed 7 km.

## 77. Soccer

77.1 Soccer will be played under the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations with the following modifications.

77.1.1 Any card (red/yellow) issued to a high school player/coach must be reported on the MIAA soccer suspension/infraction form.

77.1.2 The official time of the contest may be kept on a scoreboard timer or on a sideline table when competing teams mutually agree, or as directed by a league/conference.

77.1.3 Shin guards must be worn by all players during contests and practices.

77.1.4 Soccer players are not allowed to wear shoes with metal cleats, or any metal on the cleat.

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77.1.5 Mouth guards are **required** for all soccer players while on the field.

77.1.6 ***The penalty of a caution (yellow card) assessed to the head coach for an illegally equipped player (NFHS Rule 4.3) is deferred for the 2008 season.***

77.2 Sportsmanship

77.2.1 All leagues/conferences must conduct a pre-season meeting for all head soccer coaches to review sportsmanship goals and objectives.

77.2.2 Regarding "incidental" use of vulgar or profane language, the referee must caution (yellow card) a player/coach who uses incidental vulgar or profane language.

77.2.3 All yellow cards must be treated consistently.

77.2.4 Any player who receives a yellow card shall be replaced and shall not re-enter the contest until the next opportunity for substitution occurs.

77.2.5 A player committing a second yellow card infraction in the same contest receives a red card. There are no exceptions.

77.2.6 Any player who receives a red card is ejected from the contest and shall be suspended from further participation for the next two contests; if a player receives a second red card within the same season, the player is suspended from further participation in that contest and the next two contests.

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- 77.2.7 The receipt of two red cards for fighting or for flagrant unsportsmanlike behavior in the same season will result in a one-year suspension (from the date of the second offense) in all Fall sports.
- 77.2.8 Any team whose players/coaches receive collectively a total of more than four red cards during the regular season shall not qualify for the MIAA tournament.
- 77.2.9 After a combination of five red cards, subsequent violations will result in a team forfeiture of the next MIAA contest. These penalties will carry over to the next season should the violation occur in the final contest of the season.
- 77.2.10 Any team whose players receive collectively more than three fighting penalties during the regular season shall not qualify for the MIAA tournament.
- 77.2.11 Any player who receives a third yellow card in a season shall be suspended from the next contest; a fourth yellow card and subsequent yellow cards in a season shall result in suspension for two contests.
- 77.2.12 A coach who receives a third yellow card in a season shall be suspended from coaching the next two contests. ***A fourth yellow card in a season shall result in a one year suspension.***
- 77.2.13 A coach who receives a red card shall be suspended from coaching for the next two contests. If a coach receives a second red card in a season, that contest is immediately forfeited in addition to the coach being disqualified for one year.
- 77.2.14 A deliberate (intentional) handball to prevent a ball from entering the goal is a red card offense. However, the offender will be suspended from the remainder of that contest and only the next regularly scheduled contest.
- 77.2.15 Any varsity team exceeding four red or thirteen yellow cards also must assign a contest manager other than a coach to away contests, as well as for all home contests (as required by Rule 77.2.21). This rule pertains to both boys and girls soccer, and to contests played at all levels.
- 77.2.16 For purposes of obtaining tournament eligibility, no team may exceed a four red or thirteen yellow cards during the regular

season. Delay of game encroachment and deliberate (intentional) handball are infractions, which will continue to be enforced and penalized. The impact of these infractions will be assessed and will be considered towards tournament ineligibility.

- 77.2.17* Any team whose players/coaches receive collectively five (5) yellow and/or red cards in a contest will result in immediate termination of the contest, and result in forfeiture by the offending team.
- 77.2.18* Game officials must complete the infraction section of the MIAA score sheet for all infractions. Each school must forward to the MIAA all score sheets where infractions are reported. This rule applies to boys' and girls' teams at all levels.
- 77.2.19* Game officials will not receive compensation unless they remain present at the conclusion of the soccer contest until the student-athlete handshake is completed and the MIAA score sheet is properly executed.
- 77.2.20* After four player/coach fighting or flagrant unsportsmanlike behavior disqualification's, each subsequent disqualification received by a team will result in forfeiture of the next contest.
- 77.2.21* For all boys' varsity soccer contests, the home team must assign an adult contest manager, other than a member of the soccer coaching staff, to be responsible for all aspects of administration of the contest.
- 77.2.22* If any coach (head coach or assistant coach) is ejected from a contest, the contest shall be terminated and forfeiture will result.
- 77.2.23* The MIAA Taunting Policy must be reviewed by game officials with the captains and coaches in a meeting before each soccer contest.
- 77.2.24* Each team will be allowed a one-minute time out per half and each extended time period. The time-out may be called by the coach or any player on the field during an offensive restart.

*77.3* Length of Contests:

- 77.3.1* Contests shall consist of four 18-minute quarters, two 36-minute halves, or two 40-minute halves.

## 78. Softball

78.1 Softball will be played under the rules of the National Federation of High School Associations with the following modifications.

78.1.1 Leagues may amend a rule provided such an amendment is not a substantive change to MIAA rules. However, leagues may wish to change such things as the type of ball, free substitutions, or similar acts to speed the game.

78.2 Safety bases are recommended. The Sports Medical Committee recommends a breakaway or impact base.

78.3 Prior to starting the delivery (pitch) the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot on or partially on the top surface of the pitcher's plate and the non-pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. Both feet must be in contact with the pitcher's plate and on the ground within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.

78.4 ***The distance between the nearer edge of the pitcher's plate and the apex of home plate shall be 43 feet.***

78.5 ***Metal cleats and metal toe plates will NOT be allowed in the upcoming Spring 2008 season (per vote from MIAA Softball Committee).***

## 79. Swimming

The National Federation of State High School Associations Swimming Rules shall govern all dual and championship meets.

## 80. Tennis

80.1 Massachusetts's high school tennis shall be played under the rules of the United States Tennis Association with the following modifications:

80.1.1 All matches are to be decided on the basis of best two out of three sets with the 12-point tie-breaker when a set reaches 6-6 in games. (Local conditions may cause an adjustment of this rule by prior mutual consent).

80.1.2 Team contests will consist of three singles and two doubles matches with seven participants taking part. No player may play more than once in the same team match under any circumstances. (If fewer than seven players are available for a match, line-ups will be determined on the basis of most number of participants, and least number of points forfeited. Any league may have the option of increasing the number of single matches to four or five in league contests only.

- 80.1.3* Players are to be played in order of ability: i.e., the first and second singles players will be the two best players on the team actually engaging in the match, and the best player will play number one and the second best player will play number two. The third singles player will be representative, and the two doubles teams will be played in order of their ability. Written line-ups must be exchanged prior to the warm-up period of each team match. (Violation of this rule will result in match forfeiture of that team's point or points affected by the violation).
- 80.1.4* Coaching, by the high school team coach only, is allowed on side changes during the entire match except during a tie-breaker game. Coaching may not interfere with the USTA rule governing time allowed for side changes.
- 80.1.5* Only participating players are allowed within the playing area while a match is in progress.
- 80.1.6* There will be no more than a five minute time delay for any injury affecting an individual player. If a player is unable to continue a match (a match to be considered as starting with the first serve), that match shall be forfeited in the team score.
- 80.1.7* Preceding a match, the visiting team shall have a 15 minute warm-up period with the courts at their disposal; each player or doubles team will subsequently have a five minute warm-up with their respective opponents before the match commences. All practice serves shall be taken by all players during the warm-up period.
- 80.1.8* The home team shall be responsible for providing at least 15 new USLTA-approved balls for every varsity team match. Low pressure balls are not acceptable.
- 80.1.9* The home coach is responsible for proper spectator department.
- 80.1.10* The home coach should make provisions to have water available within the playing enclosure for all players.
- 80.1.11* If a player becomes incapacitated during the warm-up period, a substitution may be made as long as the substitution conforms to all rules enunciated herein. If not, the point must be forfeited in the team score.
- 80.1.12* Each coach is responsible for his/her own team members, whether they are players or spectators.

**80.2 Clarification of terms:**

- 80.2.1** "Prior consent" means that a coach must inform the opposing coach at least 24 hours in advance of a scheduled match as to the conditions causing a request for an adjustment.
- 80.2.2** "Representative" means that the player is one of the best seven players available for the match.
- 80.2.3** The prescribed arrangement for playing a match when one team has fewer than seven players is:

Number of Players	Points Played	Points Forfeited
3	1 <sup>st</sup> singles	1 <sup>st</sup> doubles
3	2 <sup>nd</sup> singles	2 <sup>nd</sup> doubles
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> singles	
4	1 <sup>st</sup> singles	1 <sup>st</sup> doubles
4	2 <sup>nd</sup> singles	2 <sup>nd</sup> doubles
4	3 <sup>rd</sup> singles	
5	1 <sup>st</sup> singles	2 <sup>nd</sup> doubles
5	2 <sup>nd</sup> singles	
5	3 <sup>rd</sup> singles	
5	1 <sup>st</sup> doubles	
6	1 <sup>st</sup> singles	3 <sup>rd</sup> singles
6	2 <sup>nd</sup> singles	
6	1 <sup>st</sup> doubles	
6	2 <sup>nd</sup> doubles	

**80.3** *No competitor or team in tennis will be allowed to compete without wearing a proper uniform that has the school's name and/or insignia.*

**81. Volleyball**

**81.1** NCAA Women's rules shall be used for both boys and girls with the following modifications.

- 81.1.1** Coaching during the match is permitted as long as it is not distracting to the opponents.
- 81.1.2** The length of a time-out is limited to 60 seconds.
- 81.1.3** The height of the net (measured from the center of the court) is 7'4 1/8" for girls and 7'11 5/8" for boys.
- 81.1.4** Each team is entitled to 18 player substitutions per set in varsity matches. Libero replacements are not counted as player substitutions. Unlimited substitutions are allowed in sub varsity matches.

- 81.2** Schedule of Matches:  
All varsity competitions will be three out of five sets, played to 25 points utilizing rally scoring, and will count toward the season and weekly schedule limit. The fifth varsity set will be played to 15 points. Junior varsity competitions will be two out of three sets, played to 25 points utilizing rally scoring, with the third set ***played to 25 points***, and will count toward the season and weekly schedule limit.
- 81.3** There will be no limit to the number of substitutions of junior varsity players in a junior varsity contest.
- 81.4** Warm-up time will be 15 minutes.
- 81.5** Participation Limitations – (unless agreed upon by both coaches)
- 81.5.1** The number of matches a student is allowed to play per day is two.
- 81.5.2** When competing against only one school on a given day, a student may participate in part of a varsity or junior varsity contest on the same day provided he/she does not appear in more than a total of five sets.
- 81.5.3** When playing a match against each of two schools on the same day, a student is limited to a maximum of 5 sets against each opponent.
- 81.5.4** If a coach wants to request that players on his/her team participate in more than 5 sets, this must be agreed upon by both coaches prior to the match. Prior notification is required if a junior varsity match is going to precede a varsity match.
- 81.6** If either team wishes to use the libero:
- 81.6.1** The home team is responsible for providing a libero tracker.

- 81.6.2** If the home team does not have a libero tracker and the visiting team is willing and able to provide a tracker, the home team must allow that person to sit at the score table and act as the official libero tracker.
- 81.6.3** If the visiting team cannot provide a libero tracker, the home team **MUST** provide someone (other than the official scorer) to track the libero.
- 81.6.4** The libero tracker records all substitutions for the team (s) using a libero.

**81.7 Boys playing on a girls team**

- 81.7.1** *It is a fault for a male player on a mixed gender girls' team to attack a ball, if, on contact, the ball is both completely above the height of the net and in the "front zone". The play becomes illegal when the ball has completely crossed the net untouched or is legally blocked by an opponent.*
- 81.7.2** *Only female front row players are permitted to participate in a completed block.*

**81.8 Volleyball Teams will be allowed to compete in a maximum of two "Open Dates" where teams can compete in a pool play format with a number of different teams on one day. The maximum number of 25 point sets allowed in this format is not to exceed 15.** (MIAA Board approved as a one-year trial basis for '08-'09)

- 81.8.1** *An "Open Date" can only take place on a non-school day.*
- 81.8.2** *Each "Open Date" played would result in one fewer contest opportunity from the current 20 contest limit.*
- 81.8.3** *"Open Dates" will not count toward the win-loss record for MIAA Tournament qualification.*

**82. Wrestling**

- 82.1** The National Federation Wrestling Rules will be the official rules of all wrestling contests, including all tournaments with the following exception: Any regular season dual-meet competition ending in a tie score shall remain a tie. Only tie scores in a dual meet tournament will be decided by the existing National Federation tie-breaker criteria.
- 82.2** Schedule of Matches:
- 82.2.1** Member schools shall not schedule or compete on more than 20 days of competition with 24 minutes (not including overtime), the maximum amount of time that a student may compete on any given day, exclusive of MIAA sponsored tournaments.
- 82.2.2** A triangular meet is a competition involving three teams. A quadrangular meet is a competition involving four teams. In each case a team competes in a dual meet with the other teams.
- 82.2.3** A dual, double dual, triangular, quadrangular or tournament meet may be held on consecutive days.
- 82.2.4** A double dual, triangular, quadrangular or tournament meet must be scheduled on a day preceding a non-school day, i.e., Friday, Saturday, the day before a vacation or holiday, or during school vacation periods.

- 82.2.5 A double dual, triangular, or quadrangular meet or one day individual tournament will count as one day of competition.
- 82.2.6 Approval for a multi-school event must be obtained for any in-season tournament competition. A two day tournament will count as 2 of the 20 days allowed for competition.
- 82.2.7 An in-season team tournament is competition involving a maximum of eight teams in the championship bracket. (Multi-school event approval must be obtained).
- 82.2.8 A team tournament will count as one day of competition. In a team tournament, complete teams, not individuals, advance.
- 82.2.9 Such a tournament must be held on a non-school day.

82.3 Participation Limitations:

- 82.3.1 Participants may only compete in events described above.
- 82.3.2 A wrestler must qualify at the sectional tournament in order to wrestle in the state tournament. No substitutes will be allowed.
- 82.3.3 Twenty-four minutes, not including overtime, shall be the maximum amount of time that any wrestler may participate on any given day during the season.
- 82.3.4 A wrestler must participate in at least ten practice days before competing in a meet or tournament.

82.4 Weight Control and Certification Procedures: *(approved by the MIAA Board of Directors vote on 8/06/08, as a modification of the existing NFHS Wrestling Rule 1; Section 3: Weight Control Program through the 2009-2010 season).*

- 82.4.1 The weight control program applies only to wrestlers competing for MIAA member schools in competition between MIAA member schools and out-of-state schools which are members in good standing of their State high school athletic association.
- 82.4.2 Definition: A wrestler's certified weight class is the lowest weight at which the wrestler may compete anytime during the current season.
- 82.4.3 An MIAA Minimum Weight Control Certificate will be issued to each wrestler at the beginning of the season. This Certificate will contain a statement showing the wrestler's certified minimum weight class. This Certificate must be filled out in ink and signed in ink by the wrestler, the wrestler's parent or guardian, the wrestler's coach, and a certified licensed physician, and must be on

file in the athletic director's office prior to the wrestler's first interscholastic competition.

- 82.4.4** A wrestler not properly certified may not compete in any interscholastic meet or tournament.
- 82.4.5** A MIAA Minimum Weight Control List, including each and every wrestler's name and certified minimum weight class will be filled out in ink and sent to the MIAA office prior to the first allowable interscholastic competition. A copy of this form must be exchanged with the opposing schools at each weigh-in during the season, including tournaments.
- 82.4.6** To qualify at a certain weight for the MIAA Individual & **Team** Sectional and State Tournaments, a wrestler must weigh-in at his certified weight class at scratch weight at least once during the season, even if the first weigh-in occurs after the 2 lb. Allowance is granted on ***the first Monday in January (i.e. 1/7/08, 1/5/09)***. Wrestler must also weigh in at the base weight (scratch weight plus any rule book allowances) 60% of the varsity days of competition on which the wrestler competes. A wrestler **MUST COMPETE** on the day of competition in order to count that weigh-in towards the 60% requirement for certification. Rule book weight class allowances count toward certification.
- 82.4.7** A wrestler may weigh-in for a varsity dual meet and compete at that weight or the next heavier weight. A wrestler may weigh-in for a varsity dual meet or tournament at the next weight heavier than the wrestler's certified weight class. If a wrestler ever weighs in for a varsity dual meet or MIAA sanctioned tournament two weight classes above the wrestler's certified weight class, the wrestler loses his certification at the lower weight class and is then certified at the next heavier weight class. Exception: All wrestlers may weigh in two weight classes above their certified weight prior to December 25<sup>th</sup> without losing their certification. For example, a wrestler who certified at 103 lb., may never, during that current season, weigh in at 119 lb. and keep the 103 lb. certification. The wrestler may weigh in at 112 lb. and wrestle at 119 lb. and keep the 103 lb. certification.
- 82.4.8** Schools may weigh their wrestlers at their home schools on the day of the meet and only during the 60-minute period immediately prior to the beginning of the academic school day. For matches beginning after 3:00 p.m. on a non-school day, a single 60-minute weigh-in period between 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon will be allowed. Any wrestler who makes weight during the earlier weigh-in is allowed an additional three pounds at the match site weigh-in. Any wrestler failing to make weight at the earlier weigh-in must make scratch weight at the match site weigh-in. Actual weights

will be recorded on all dual meet weigh-in sheets. Signatures of the coach and a school administrator (the principal or his designee) must appear in ink on the dual meet weigh-in sheets in order for the weigh-in to be validated. These dual meet weigh-in sheets will be kept by the coaches and one for each and every day of competition must be handed in at the sectional seeding meeting, or the day will not count toward certification or seeding.

*82.4.9* Home management shall, each year prior to the first home meet, have the weigh-in scale certified and the official seal affixed.

## ***Part VI - Penalties***

*This brief section outlines the philosophy, rationale and potential penalties that are a part of the MIAA responsibilities.*

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## **PART VI: PENALTIES**

### **83. Penalties**

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc., Article IV, Section D(1) (j), the Board of Directors has the right to fix and enforce penalties for violations of these Association Rules and Regulations.

Penalties relating to specific rules often are contained within those regulations. In addition to these penalties, the Board of Directors has the authority to determine penalties as set forth below. In some cases, the penalty for violation of a specific rule may exceed the general penalties set forth herein.

- 83.1* The Board of Directors is authorized to warn, censure, fine, place on probation or suspend any player, team, coach, game official, school official, or school, which violates any MIAA rule regarding interscholastic athletics. The Board of Directors shall have authority to delegate to the executive staff, duly constituted committees, subcommittees, or ad hoc committees its power to impose and enforce penalties.
- 83.2* No member school shall be suspended from the Association until a hearing has been held with the representative of that school, or a hearing has been offered to such representatives. In the case of such a hearing, the accused shall be given notice of the nature of the alleged violation and an opportunity to present relevant testimony prior to any decision being rendered by the Board of Directors.
- 83.3* Any penalty imposed under the rules and regulations can be waived or reduced after hearing by the Board of Directors or a subcommittee of the Board. (Game Officials' judgments are not subject to appeal).
- 83.4* The Board of Directors shall have the right to give warning, censure, place on probation, or eliminate any school from MIAA tournaments if said school cannot control the conduct of its spectators.
- 83.5* Violations of the rules which restrict seasons for practice and/or games in any sport may result in the elimination of the violating school from participating in that sport for one year from the date of suspension. Any school team found in violation of the seasonal limitation rule may result in that team being ineligible for its league championship that year and from participating in MIAA sponsored tournaments.
- 83.6* Violations of the rules which limit a student's high school participation in a single day, or a school's participation in multiple school events, or in competition against non-member schools will result minimally in a letter of censure, copies of which will be mailed to the school committee,

superintendent, principal, athletic director, and reported on the MIAA website.

- 83.7 The code for specific sports often includes rules and penalties which apply to that sport.

#### **84. Participation of an Ineligible Student**

The principal of a school which plays a student who is later found to be ineligible, whether because of the student's own misstatement or lack of care on the part of the school authorities, shall notify in writing the principal(s) of the opposing school(s) and the Executive Director of the MIAA, forfeiting every competition in which the ineligible student competed.

- 84.1 Since the principal is personally responsible for attesting to the eligibility of each contestant, and since allowing an ineligible player to participate in a contest is a serious matter, it is strongly advised that the principal give personal attention to this matter.

- 84.2 ***If a school uses an ineligible student in any interscholastic contest, such contest shall be forfeited to the opposing school. In individual sports, the use of an ineligible player would result in the contest being forfeited. However, the performances and outcomes of the other individuals would stand.***

## ***Part VII - Procedures***

*Contained in this section are the procedures for obtaining student eligibility waiver and for requesting a rule change. The procedures for appealing a decision or having a hearing are also outlined.*

<b><u>Rule Number</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<i>85. Student Eligibility Waiver -- The Process .....</i>	<i>86</i>
<i>86. Bona Fide Team Member Waiver Guidelines.....</i>	<i>89</i>
<i>87. Procedure for Requesting a Rule Change .....</i>	<i>89</i>
<i>88. Hearings and Appeals.....</i>	<i>90</i>

## **PART VII: PROCEDURES**

### **85. Student Eligibility Waiver -- The Process (\* see page 87)**

*85.1* Any request for the waiver of any eligibility rule on behalf of an individual student must be made by the principal on the White Book form designated, "Application for Waiver of Athletic Eligibility Rule." This form, together with any background information, additional pertinent facts, extenuating or unusual circumstances, documents required by the rules, doctors' statement or certificate shall be sent to the MIAA office.

Seasonal deadlines are: September 22, December 15, and April 1.

*85.2* The MIAA Executive Director or his/her designee shall have the authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule upon an individual student if (1) the rule works an undue hardship on the student, (2) granting the waiver will not result in an unfair competitive advantage, (3) the waiver approval would not cause displacement of another student-athlete from the appellant's own team, and (4) the waiver would not be in conflict with the general well-being of MIAA interscholastic athletic objectives.

*85.3* Requests for waivers shall be stated on the form described above and must contain sufficient data to make it possible for the Executive Director or his/her designee to reach a decision without further investigation. When presented with unusual circumstances offered as justification for the waiver, the Executive Director or his/her designee may contact the sending school principal or athletic director to obtain further information prior to making a decision on the request.

Whenever a request to waive the transfer rule is acted upon by the Executive Director or his/her designee, a copy of that action will be forwarded to the principal of the sending school at the same time the decision is mailed to the receiving school principal. The sending school principal should phone the MIAA office within two days of receipt of the decision if he/she wishes to appeal the initial positive decision, or wishes to be notified if the negative decision is appealed by the receiving school.

*85.4* An adverse decision by the Executive Director may be appealed before a subcommittee of the Eligibility Review Board (ERB). Three ERB members will constitute a quorum. Requests for an appeal hearing before the ERB must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director within seven school days of notification of the adverse decision. The appeal must include the endorsement in writing of the school principal.

*85.5* Adverse decisions of the ERB may be appealed by the student's principal for a hearing before a subcommittee of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC). All appeals before the ERB or the MIAC must be

presented in person by the high school principal or his/her designee who must be an assistant principal in that high school or the athletic director. Appeals of ERB decisions must be filed in writing with the Executive Director within seven school days of receipt of notification of the adverse decision (See Rule 85.4). The student, parents or guardians or other representatives may appear in person before the ERB and MIAC. The four standards which must be addressed in an appeal before the Board or Council are:

- 85.5.1 The rule works an undue hardship on the student; and
- 85.5.2 Granting the waiver will not result in an unfair competitive advantage; and
- 85.5.3 The waiver approval would not cause displacement of another student-athlete from the appellant's own team; and
- 85.5.4 The waiver would not be in conflict with the general well-being of MIAA interscholastic athletic objectives.

- \*
  - ***Bay State League***
  - ***District F***
  - ***Middlesex League/Merrimack Valley Conference***
  - ***Tri-Valley League***

***The above have been delegated by the MIAA Board of Directors to deal with some student eligibility waivers from their schools and their decisions are final and not reviewable by the MIAA.***

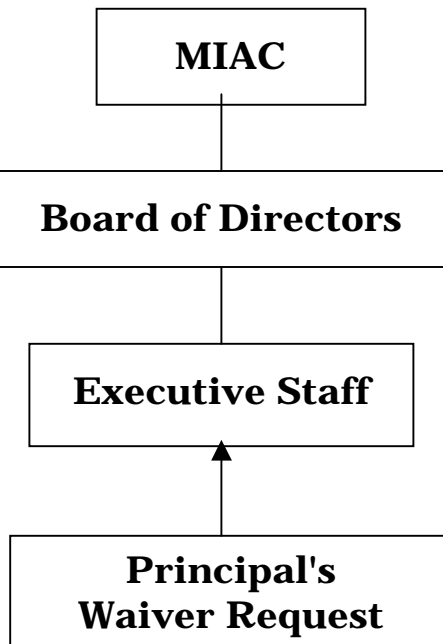
## ***Eligibility Appeals Procedure In Behalf Of An Individual Student-Athlete***

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## ***Eligibility Appeals Procedure Affecting More Than One Student-Athlete***

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## **86. Bona Fide Team Member Waiver Guidelines**

The Bona Fide rule requires that members of a school team actively participate in all team practices and competitions. Members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non school event/activity in any sport recognized by the MIAA.

On occasion, a student might find himself/herself in potential conflict with this rule. This can happen when a student-athlete has an association with an out-of-school team or has an opportunity to participate in some special tournament or on a special team. A waiver of the bona fide team rule excusing the student from the school activity that day and allowing the student to participate in such a non-school event is possible under the guidelines set forth below. Before a waiver request (See White Book for form) is submitted ALL of the following considerations must be present:

- 86.1* The non-school event must be a significant experience -- not one normally available to most anyone.
- 86.2* The invitation must have come from a personalized invitation -- not a form letter that went to a large number of students.
- 86.3* It must be clear that the student is not being exploited and that the student is truly being singled out to participate.
- 86.4* The amount of time being missed from school will definitely be considered.
- 86.5* The number of school team activities being missed will be a factor considered.
- 86.6* There is a limit to the number of times that a student could qualify for a waiver. It would be extremely rare that a student-athlete would be granted more than one waiver.
- 86.7* The request for a waiver must have the written support of the school principal, the athletic director, and the coach.

Waivers will be considered on an individual basis on the merits of each case. Requests for a waiver should be addressed to the MIAA. The above points should be addressed in the waiver request.

## **87. Procedure for Requesting a Rule Change**

- 87.1* Any group or individual may petition for a change in existing rules. All proposals must be submitted on the appropriate Whitebook form and sent to the MIAA before June 1, 2008 if the change is to become effective on July 1, 2009. Any rule proposed after the deadline may be considered only if the Board of Directors deems said proposal an emergency measure that would affect the health and safety of students. In emergencies, the Board of Directors may grant temporary waivers or approval for experimental rules.

**87.2** Rule change proposals will be voted on by each group listed below with vote and recommendations due to the MIAA by listed date. Copies of the proposals will be listed on the MIAA website by September 1, 2008 and will be updated with votes as they are submitted.

**87.2.1** MIAA Sport Committees, MIAA Administrative Committees and Presidents of MIAA recognized State Sport Coaches' Associations. Votes are due to the MIAA by December 1, 2008.

**87.2.2** The Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors Association votes are due to the MIAA by February 1, 2009. The MIAA District Athletic Committees votes are due to the MIAA by March 1, 2009

**87.2.3** The MIAA Board of Directors will act on proposals by May 15, 2009

**87.2.4** The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council will act upon all proposals by June 1, 2009

Each group, when reviewing the rule change proposals may take the following actions:

- Record votes in favor and opposed to each proposal.
- Recommend an amendment to the proposal with recorded votes in favor and opposed.

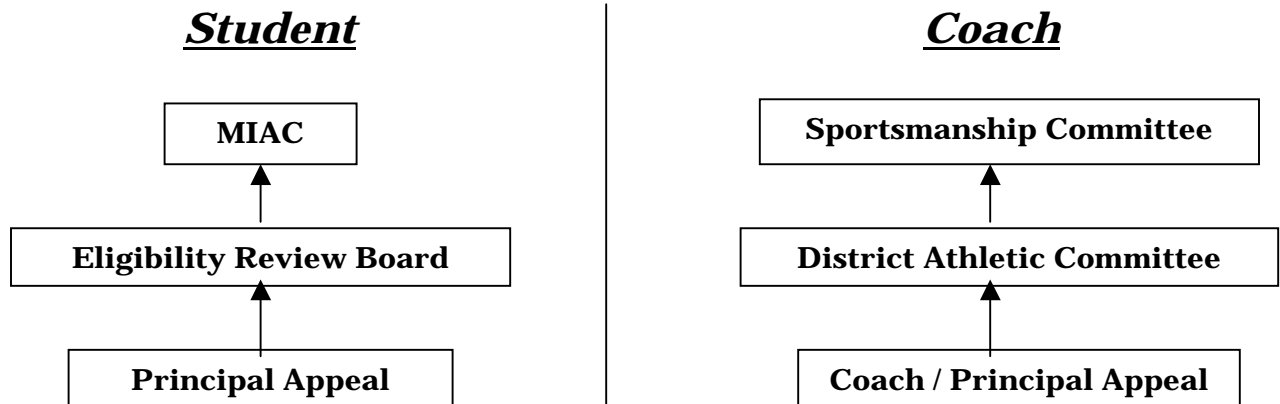
**88. Hearings and Appeals**

**88.1** One year disqualification for sportsmanship violations of an athlete or coach (only with regard to the penalty length, but not the judgment of the official).

**88.1.1** Appeals must be initiated within two school days. Once the original appeal decision has been announced, subsequent appeals must be made within seven school days of notification.

**88.1.2** Student one-year disqualification's go to Eligibility Review Board with the same procedural requirements as all other student eligibility appeals before the ERB.

**88.1.3** Coach one-year disqualification's go to the District Athletic Committee with appeals from District Athletic Committee decisions going to the Sportsmanship Committee at a regularly scheduled full Committee meeting.



## **88.2 *District Athletic Committees***

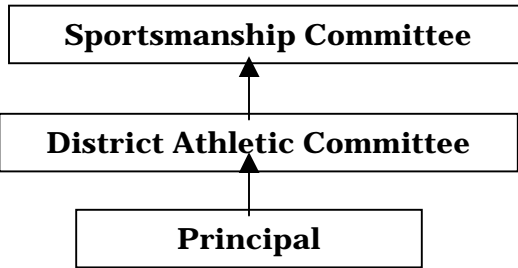
- 88.2.1** A hearing/investigation may be conducted by the District Athletic Committee (DAC) in response to an incident/allegation/controversy involving one or more schools in that district.
- 88.2.2** Contact will be made with the principal(s) of the school(s) identifying the incident or allegation to be reviewed. The principal (assistant principal if principal is unavailable) will be required to attend the forum with all relevant parties (e.g. coach, athletic director) at the specified time and place.
- 88.2.3** Whenever more than one district is affected, at least three representatives from each District Athletic Committee must participate.
- 88.2.4** The presiding District Chair will forward findings and consequences to the principal(s) of the affected school(s) and to the MIAA Executive Director.
- 88.2.5** Any appeal must be filed within seven days of notification of the DAC decision. A member of the original hearing committee should attend the appeal hearing to serve as a resource.

## **88.3 *Hearing Process***

- 88.3.1** The need for a hearing or investigation is determined by either the Executive Director or an Association Chair. Contact will be made with the principal of the school. The principal/assistant principal will be required to attend sessions with all relevant parties (e.g. coach, athletic director, student-athlete) at the specified time and place.
- 88.3.2** A committee quorum consists of a simple majority of the committee voting members devoid of vacancies. Game officials, if appropriate, will be invited to participate. Game officials must submit an incident report whenever appropriate or requested.
- 88.3.3** Prior to the appeal beginning, the Chair should announce the format and time frame for each element of the session. For example, the principal will present his/her position. Committee members may ask clarifying questions. Those representing opposition to the position will be given specific time to present their position. The committee will follow-up with clarifying questions. The appellant will be given specific time to "rebut." The Chair will allow each side to summarize after the Committee has asked its questions of all parties. Upon completion of the

dialogue, the chairman will indicate that the review will be taken under advisement and that the school will be notified in writing of the results.

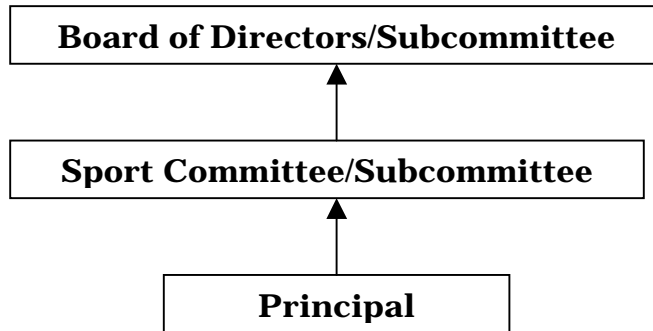
- 88.3.4* The MIAA conducts its business in open session. Whenever possible it is recommended that a single individual act as official spokesperson for the Committee.
- 88.3.5* While MIAA meetings are open to the public and the media, a school and/or committee member may request Executive Session when the issue to be addressed includes potential litigation or the character of an individual.



***Regular Season Incidents (Sportsmanship Related)***

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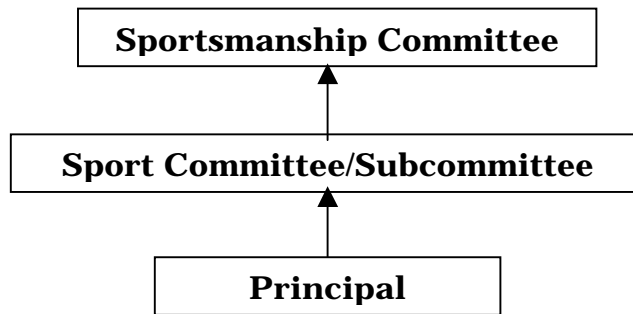
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***Tournament Season Incidents***

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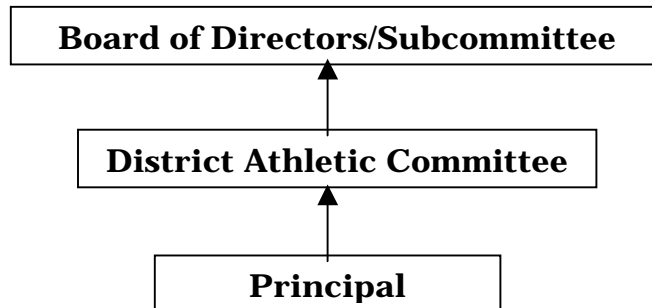
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***Regular Season Soccer or Hockey Tournament Disqualification  
Caused by Excessive Regular Season Penalties***

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***Alleged Rule Violation / Incidents***

*Example: Recruitment, out-of-season activity, season limitation rule, league realignment, etc.*

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## ***Part VIII - Game Officials***

*This section covers policies and procedures for Game Officials.*

<b><u>Rule Number</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
89. <i>Game Officials' Committee – Mission Statement .....</i>	<i>95</i>
90. <i>Game Officials -- Policies and Procedures .....</i>	<i>95</i>
91. <i>Recommended Game Officials' Fee Schedule .....</i>	<i>97</i>

## **89. Game Officials' Committee – Mission Statement**

The MIAA Game Officials' Committee provides leadership and service to MIAA member schools and enrolled game officials. The jurisdiction of the Committee includes recommending fees; promoting sportsmanship, integrity, and ethics; and responding to issues germane to the relationship of game officials and interscholastic athletics.

## **90. Game Officials -- Policies and Procedures**

- 90.1* It is recommended that men and women who officiate high school contests be enrolled annually with the MIAA for each sport which the individual plans to officiate during that academic year. MIAA views Game Officials as independent contractors, and not employees.
- 90.2* It is recommended that boards of officials recognized by the MIAA Game Officials Committee (GOC) annually enroll all individual board members by sport. The annual enrollment fee will be established by the GOC. (The MIAA does make provisions for individuals to enroll if their board chooses not to enroll its officials).
- 90.3* MIAA enrolled Boards and individuals will be posted on the MIAA website each sport season.
- 90.4* The MIAA recommends that enrolled officials be assigned to officiate contests in sports at the levels (e.g. varsity, j.v.) for which fees have been recommended by the Game Officials Committee.
- 90.5* Each enrolled official will have access to a current MIAA Handbook.
- 90.6* The MIAA publishes a seasonal Game Officials' Newsletter.
- 90.7* In cases of an MIAA rule change, interpretation, or clarification, enrolled officials in an affected sport will receive notification.
- 90.8* The president of each enrolled state board of officials shall have the opportunity to nominate, from his/her list of enrolled officials, one official to be a voting representative on the MIAA committee for that sport. If the sport is played by both boys and girls but under different sport codes, then one representative for each gender shall be included.
- In the absence of a statewide board, presidents of each board may recommend, in writing, a single enrolled official to represent all boards on that MIAA sport committee.
- 90.9* Two enrolled game officials may serve on the MIAA Committee on Sportsmanship, Integrity, and Ethics.
- 90.10* It is recommended that member schools provide officials with reasonable measures of safety and security at game sites.

- 90.11 It is recommended that member schools provide for payment of officials within a 90-day period from the date of service.
- 90.12 It is recommended that officials be examined annually by a physician as to their fitness to officiate.
- 90.13 All high school officials must be knowledgeable of the appropriate MIAA general rules and regulations as well as those rules governing the sport(s) which he/she is officiating. Each high school official must be knowledgeable of the MIAA player and coach expulsion rule and be familiar with the expulsion forms. These forms must be completed whenever a player or coach is disqualified. Member schools are expected to ensure that game officials enforce MIAA rules, as well as rules governing each sport.
- 90.14 Officials' fees are recommended by the Game Officials Committee for all member schools. Recommended fees are intended to be inclusive. Travel, lodging or other expenses should not be paid. It is recommended that school committees/non-public school boards adopt the GOC recommended fee schedule.
- 90.15 Postponement and forfeiture plans established by the league or school district of the home team should be conveyed to officials. It is recommended that officials have the telephone numbers of the home school and athletic director.
- 90.16 The Game Officials Committee shall establish official's fees for MIAA sponsored tournament competition.
- 90.17 It is recommended that the number of officials assigned to a regular season varsity contest be as follows:
- |            |   |              |   |               |   |
|------------|---|--------------|---|---------------|---|
| Football   | 4 | Field Hockey | 2 | Softball      | 2 |
| Soccer     | 2 | Gymnastics   | 2 | Wrestling     | 1 |
| Volleyball | 2 | Swimming     | 2 | Cross Country | 1 |
| Baseball   | 2 | Basketball   | 2 | Indoor Track  | 1 |
| Lacrosse   | 2 | Ice Hockey   | 2 | Outdoor Track | 1 |
- 90.18 ***All officials' assignors/commissioners engaged by member schools and/or leagues to assign officials to MIAA contests will be required to attend an annual pre-season meeting with MIAA staff.***
- 90.19 ***Officials will be required to remain at the TEAM competition site until the handshake ceremony has concluded.***



**91. Recommended Game Officials' Fee Schedule**

These fees are recommended in each sport regardless of the length of the periods or the length of the contest. It is recommended that an official who works a contest alone be paid a fee and one-half for the following sports: baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball. Beginning with the 2007-08 school year, if and when three (3) officials are used for regular season contests in the following sports: Soccer (B&G), Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse (B&G), Field Hockey, Basketball (B&G), and Ice Hockey (B&G), it is recommended that officials each be paid 85% of the standard fee.

**FALL**

<b><u>CROSS COUNTRY</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
	\$66	\$68
<b><u>FOOTBALL</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
<b>Varsity</b>	\$80	\$82
<b>Jr. Varsity/Freshman</b>	57	59
<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	95	98
<b><u>FIELD HOCKEY</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
<b>Varsity</b>	\$72	\$75
<b>Jr. Varsity/Freshman</b>	51	53
<b><u>SOCCER</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
<b>Varsity</b>	\$72	\$75
<b>Jr. Varsity/Freshman</b>	51	53
<b><u>SWIMMING</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
<b>Varsity</b>	<b>\$66</b>	\$68
<b><u>VOLLEYBALL</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
<b>Varsity</b>	\$72	\$75
<b>Jr. Varsity/Freshman</b>	51	53

**WINTER**

<b><u>BASKETBALL</u></b>	<b><u>2008-09</u></b>	<b><u>2009-10</u></b>
<i>Varsity</i>	\$72	\$75
<i>Jr. Varsity/Freshman</i>	51	53
<b><u>GYMNASTICS</u></b>	<b><u>2008-09</u></b>	<b><u>2009-10</u></b>
<i>Varsity Dual Meet</i>	\$82	<b>\$82</b>
<i>Varsity Tri-Meet with two judges</i>	86	<b>86</b>
<b><u>ICE HOCKEY</u></b>	<b><u>2008-09</u></b>	<b><u>2009-10</u></b>
<i>Varsity</i>	\$72	\$75
<i>Jr. Varsity/Freshman</i>	51	53
<b><u>INDOOR TRACK</u></b>	<b><u>2008-09</u></b>	<b><u>2009-10</u></b>
	\$66	\$68
<b><u>SWIMMING</u></b>	<b><u>2008-09</u></b>	<b><u>2009-10</u></b>
<i>Varsity</i>	<b>\$66</b>	\$68
<b><u>WRESTLING</u></b>	<b><u>2008-09</u></b>	<b><u>2009-10</u></b>
<i>Varsity - Dual Meets</i>	\$75+(3)	\$77+(3)
<i>Jr. Varsity/Freshman</i>	51+(3)	53+(3)

( ) is paid for each additional bout beyond the regular match.

**SPRING**

<b><u>BASEBALL</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>	<b><u>2010</u></b>
<i>Varsity</i>	\$72	\$75
<i>Jr. Varsity/Freshman</i>	51	53
<b><u>LACROSSE</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>	<b><u>2010</u></b>
<i>Varsity</i>	\$72	\$75
<i>Jr. Varsity/Freshman</i>	51	53
<b><u>OUTDOOR TRACK</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>	<b><u>2010</u></b>
	\$66	\$68
<b><u>SOFTBALL</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>	<b><u>2010</u></b>
<i>Varsity</i>	\$66	\$68
<i>Jr. Varsity/Freshman</i>	44	45
<b><u>VOLLEYBALL</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>	<b><u>2010</u></b>
<i>Varsity</i>	\$72	\$75
<i>Jr. Varsity/Freshman</i>	51	53

## ***Part IX - Tournaments***

*This section provides the philosophy of the MIAA tournaments, tournament cut-off dates, and criteria for tournament qualification. Important points regarding tournament administration and accountability conclude this section. Tournament divisional alignments can be found on the MIAA website ([www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net)).*

<b><u>Rule Number</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
92. <i>MIAA Tournament Philosophy.....</i>	101
93. <i>Tournament Cut-Off Dates.....</i>	102
94. <i>Divisional Enrollment: Cooperative and Mixed Gender Teams.....</i>	103
95. <i>Tournament Eligibility.....</i>	103
96. <i>Each Student Participant Must Be A Bona Fide Team Member.....</i>	104
97. <i>Tournament Administration and Accountability.....</i>	104



## **PART IX: TOURNAMENTS**

### **92. MIAA Tournament Philosophy**

The MIAA strongly supports the commitment to interscholastic athletic programs as an essential educational opportunity for students. Young men and women develop physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially through voluntary participation in properly conducted athletic programs, including tournaments. The development of self image, character, stamina, physical skills, achievement, self discipline, and the desire to excel are all advantages associated with high school sport participation.

The educational value of tournaments has long been recognized by secondary school educators. High school tournaments are conducted in all 50 states in widely different sports for teams and individuals, and for both boys and girls. Enthusiasm for tournaments extends beyond those student-athletes who qualify for these championship activities. Tournament excitement is often a focal point for school-community cohesiveness. For the participants, tournaments provide for an intensity in preparation and a greater level of skill attainment which causes, even beyond the high school years, a better capacity for facing adversity, discouragement, and the vicissitudes of life.

The purpose of tournaments is to permit qualifying schools and individuals who represent that school team and who have achieved an established standard of excellence during that sport season to compete in championship tournaments. Tournaments demonstrate success and should serve as an incentive for others. They should provide students and spectators an opportunity, under competitive conditions, to develop desirable character traits.

Tournaments have the potential to inspire maximum performance, provide quality competition, afford high visibility for all concerned, and foster personal development.

All tournaments must be carefully planned and controlled. A tournament is justifiable only when it produces worthwhile results for all involved. Schools, teams, coaches, and spectators must display good sportsmanship in winning or losing. Negative behavior must not be tolerated.

Care must be taken to maintain the integrity and importance of regular season play so that the tournament will serve only as a culminating athletic activity for those who have demonstrated a specific level of excellence during their regular season.

**93. Tournament Cut-Off Dates**

***Fall Sports***

		<u>2007</u>		<u>2008</u>		<u>2009</u>
<b><i>Cross Country:</i></b>	Wed.	10/31/07	Wed.	10/29/08	Wed.	11/4/09
<b><i>Field Hockey:</i></b>	Sun.	10/28/07	Sun.	10/26/08	Sun.	11/1/09
<b><i>Football: Thanksgiving Day</i></b>	Thur.	11/22/07	Thur.	11/27/08	Thur.	11/26/09
<b><i>Golf:</i></b>	Thur.	10/18/07	Thur.	10/16/08	Thur.	10/22/09
<b><i>Soccer:</i></b>	Wed.	10/31/07	<b>Tue. 11/4/08</b>		Wed.	11/4/09
<b><i>Swimming (Girls):</i></b>	Sun.	11/4/07	<b>Sun. 11/9/08</b>		Sun.	11/8/09
<b><i>Volleyball:</i></b>	Tues.	10/30/07	Tues.	10/28/08	Tues.	11/3/09

***Winter Sports***

		<u>2007-08</u>		<u>2008-09</u>		<u>2009-10</u>
<b><i>Basketball:</i></b>	Thur.	2/21/08	Thur.	2/19/09	Thur.	2/18/10
<b><i>Gymnastics:</i></b>						
<b><i>Boys</i></b>	Mon.	2/11/08	Mon.	2/9/09	Mon.	2/8/10
<b><i>Girls</i></b>	Mon.	2/11/08	Mon.	2/9/09	Mon.	2/8/10
<b><i>Ice Hockey:</i></b>	Fri.	2/22/08	Fri.	2/20/09	Fri.	2/19/10
<b><i>Indoor Track:</i></b>	Sun.	2/10/08	<b>Sun. 2/15/09</b>		<b>Sun. 2/14/10</b>	
<b><i>Ski:</i></b>						
<b><i>Alpine</i></b>	Wed.	2/13/08	Wed.	2/11/09	Wed.	2/10/10
<b><i>Nordic</i></b>	Fri.	1/25/08	Fri.	1/23/09	Fri.	1/22/10
<b><i>Swimming (Boys &amp; Girls)</i></b>	Sun.	2/10/08	Sun.	2/8/09	Sun.	2/7/10
<b><i>Wrestling:</i></b>						
<b><i>Individual</i></b>	Wed.	2/06/08	Wed.	2/11/09	Wed.	2/10/10
<b><i>Team</i></b>	Sat.	2/09/08	Sat.	2/14/09	Sat.	2/13/10

Revised 8/14/08

## *Spring Sports*

		<u>2008</u>		<u>2009</u>		<u>2010</u>
<b>Baseball:</b>	Mon.	5/26/08	Mon.	5/25/09	Mon.	5/31/10
<b>Golf:</b>						
<b>Girls (Individual)</b>	Mon.	4/21/08	Mon.	4/20/09	Mon.	4/19/10
<b>Girls (Team)</b>	Fri.	5/23/08	Fri.	5/22/09	Mon.	5/21/10
<b>Lacrosse:</b>						
<b>Boys</b>						
<b>East</b>	Thur.	5/22/08	Thur.	5/21/09	Thur.	5/20/10
<b>Central</b>	Thur.	5/22/08	Thur.	5/21/09	Thur.	5/20/10
<b>West</b>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>5/28/08</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>5/27/09</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>5/26/10</i>
<b>Girls</b>						
<b>North &amp; South</b>	Thur.	5/22/08	Thur.	5/21/09	Thur.	5/20/10
<b>Central</b>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>5/28/08</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>5/27/09</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>5/26/10</i>
<b>West</b>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>5/28/08</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>5/27/09</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>5/26/10</i>
<b>Outdoor Track:</b>	Sun.	<i>5/25/08</i>	Sun.	<i>5/24/09</i>	Sun.	5/23/10
<b>Softball</b>	Mon.	5/26/08	Mon.	5/25/09	Mon.	5/24/10
<b>Tennis:</b>						
<b>Team</b>	Mon.	5/26/08	Mon.	5/25/09	Mon.	5/24/10
<b>Individual</b>	Mon.	5/05/08	Mon.	5/04/09	Mon.	5/03/10
<b>Volleyball (Boys):</b>	Mon.	5/19/08	Mon.	5/18/09	Mon.	5/17/10

### 94. Divisional Enrollment: Cooperative and Mixed Gender Teams

For all sports that establish divisions by enrollment, all cooperative teams and mixed gender teams must combine enrollments for divisional placement. Each school participating in an approved cooperative program must register that sport by indicating “co-op” on the membership registration form. In combining the enrollments, no school will be required to move up more than one division.

### 95. Tournament Eligibility

*95.1* Only member schools sponsoring that sport may be represented in MIAA tournaments.

*95.2* To be eligible for tournament participation, that sport must be listed the previous summer on the MIAA Institutional Registration Form. If there is

*Revised 10/17/07*

any chance you will sponsor a sport - register it when completing the Registration Form. A refund will be provided if it is later determined not to offer that sport.

**95.3 Qualification:** For all team tournaments utilizing winning percentage

**95.3.1** A team must have a minimum winning percentage of fifty (50%) of games played with any and all MIAA member schools and out of state schools that are members in good standing of their own state high school association.

**95.3.2** In leagues where a team's schedule is comprised of more than seventy percent (70%) of higher division schools, and there is no small and large breakout, all league and non-league contests played against equal and/or lower divisions may solely be considered in the fifty percent (50%) qualifying criteria. Schools may also access the 70% tournament qualifying opportunity if a league is aligned by enrollment BUT the league requires cross-scheduling to the extent that at least 70% of the school's total required opponents are in a higher tournament division.

**95.3.3** All league champions, regardless of winning percentage. This includes co-championships.

**95.3.4** Runner-up or multi-runners-up in leagues of five or more teams, provided the league has a single champion. In the case of multi-champions, no runner-up will automatically qualify.

**96. Each Student Participant Must Be A Bona Fide Team Member**

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**96.1** A bona fide member of the school team is a student who is consistently present for, and actively participates in, all high school team practices and competitions. Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non school activity/event in any sport recognized by the MIAA. Any student who violates this standard *twice* becomes ineligible for the MIAA tournament(s) in that sport for that season. (See also Rule 45, for additional regular season consequence.)

**96.2** Unattached athletes are not eligible for tournament participation. (See Rule 30).

**97. Tournament Administration and Accountability**

It is important that management of Association sponsored tournaments be a collaborative effort by all who assume responsibility for supporting our students, teams, and schools. The following should aid this "team effort." Violations of the provisions of this rule, particularly the ticket financial protocol within 97.10.5, could result in personal liability of site management personnel.

**97.1** Tournament Director Responsibilities

- 97.1.1* Be fully familiar with your tournament format, and all applicable MIAA Handbook standards. The MIAA Handbook, sport rule book, and the Tournament Format should be at each tournament site.
- 97.1.2* Attend seasonal directors' workshops and other meetings required by your executive staff liaison.
- 97.1.3* Receive season schedule/tournament entry forms. Contact schools that appear will miss the filing deadline.
- 97.1.4* Examine tournament awards as soon as they are received to determine their condition and accuracy. Contact MIAA Liaison in charge of Awards if corrections are required. The director is responsible for the awards being at final sites.
- 97.1.5* Tournament personnel should not communicate with coaches, but should speak directly with each participating school principal or athletic director. Intent to Enter forms will include an opportunity for the principal to check off and designate the athletic director as the school contact person. The Principal, or athletic director if so designated, should be provided information following the tournament seeding and after each win as that team progresses through the tournament. This could require the winning principal or athletic director to call the results into the tournament director to acquire information about the next contest for that school team.
- 97.1.6* Unusual incidents and all injuries must be reported to the MIAA staff without delay.
- 97.1.7* Video Taping/Radio/TV - Policy guidelines as outlined in the MIAA Media Guide shall be followed. The MIAA White Book includes related forms.
- 97.1.8* Initiate and execute all MIAA financial reporting requirements as efficiently as possible within 30 days.
- 97.2* Seeding is an MIAA sport committee responsibility with voting committee members being actively involved.

  - 97.2.1* Seeding meetings are open. Participating schools are encouraged to be represented.
  - 97.2.2* Seeding must be done in the MIAA office unless otherwise approved by the executive director or Chair of the TMC.
  - 97.2.3* Seeding must be scheduled to allow sufficient time to:

    - 97.2.3.1* Allow for publication on the day before the tournament is to begin.

### 97.3 Site Selection

97.3.1 The executive staff liaison for that sport must approve all site decisions prior to them being announced.

97.3.2 Sites are to be selected with the following criteria in mind:

- \* Health and safety of the participants.
- \* Comfort and safety of the fans (including adequate seating).
- \* Relative travel requirements for the participating schools.
- \* Ability to collect tickets in a secure manner.
- \* Facility expenses and site budget.

97.3.3 In cases when non-member school sites are used, the executive staff liaison shall approve and sign the appropriate contract.

### 97.4 Tournament Medical Coverage Policy

97.4.1 Golf and Tennis: It is the responsibility of each participating school to provide for the first aid/medical needs of their student athletes.

97.4.2 Football and Ice Hockey: A game will not start unless an MIAA assigned physician, licensed athletic trainer or certified EMT is present. In the event of an accident or injury to a player, that medical person will make the final judgment as to whether a student athlete may continue.

97.4.3 Cross Country, Field Hockey, Soccer Swimming, Volleyball, Gymnastics, Wrestling, Ski, Softball, Baseball, Lacrosse: A licensed athletic trainer, physician, physician's assistant, certified EMT, or nurse practitioner will be available at all contests. This coverage will be provided/compensated by the Host School in tournament rounds at the site of the higher seeded team. The MIAA will compensate for the coverage at MIAA designated neutral sites.

97.4.4 Basketball and Indoor & Outdoor Track: MIAA will compensate a licensed athletic trainer, physician, physician's assistant, certified EMT, or nurse practitioner at all events.

### 97.5 Tickets

97.5.1 Only MIAA tickets will be sold except at those rounds exempted in field hockey, soccer, volleyball, baseball, lacrosse, and softball.

97.5.2 The tournament director is responsible for ticket distribution and reconciliation. All unused tickets and stubs must be returned with the financial report.

*97.6* Awards

*97.6.1* Appropriate, meaningful presentation ceremonies must be planned.

*97.6.2* Only official MIAA awards may be presented publicly.

*97.7* Association Visibility

*97.7.1* Association signage should transform the site into an MIAA venue.

*97.7.2* Welcoming MIAA announcements should start each contest.

*97.7.3* Announcements about upcoming Association activities in that sport and other sports should be made periodically. The acronym "MIAA" should be used frequently to promote positive understanding of the Association.

*97.7.4* PSA's should be announced regularly during timeouts, between periods, etc.

*97.7.5* The MIAA logo should be copied onto tournament programs.

*97.8* Postponements

*97.8.1* The host school administrator or athletic director (not an involved coach) must be depended upon to advise regarding local weather conditions, or to determine if a contest will be postponed.

*97.8.2* The following must be the considerations for postponing a tournament activity: Health and welfare of the student-athletes; comfort and safety of the fans; travel conditions for participants and fans; alternative scheduling options; and financial implications.

*97.8.3* Directors must notify the Association immediately about postponements which will then be reported on the MIAA Web page.

*97.9* Tournament Budgets and Financial Reports

*97.9.1* The Tournament Management Committee is charged by the Board of Directors with responsibility for approving tournament budgets, auditing tournament financial reports, and with the regulation of all financial aspects of tournaments.

- 97.9.2 The financial report should be submitted to the MIAA office signed by the tournament director no more than 30 days from the conclusion of the tournament.
- 97.9.3 Every effort should be made to forward receipts to the MIAA office within one business day.
- 97.9.4 Tournament accounts will be audited by an independent auditor who is a Certified Public Accountant.

97.10 Site Managers

- 97.10.1 Whenever practical the tournament director will be the site manager.
- 97.10.2 If impractical to serve as the site manager, it is the tournament director's responsibility to designate a site manager to supervise and oversee each tournament event unless the facility requires otherwise.
- 97.10.3 The tournament director shall furnish all site managers with appropriate MIAA forms (media contract, incident report, player/coach expulsion, financial, etc.).
- 97.10.4 The site manager must have knowledge of all tournament rules/policies as stated herein as well as those found in the tournament format and appropriate sections of the MIAA Handbook. The MIAA Handbook, sport rule book, and Format should be present at each tournament site.
- 97.10.5 While the nature of a sport may require various responsibilities for a site manager, the following list of duties serves as examples:

The site must have all required contest markings.

The facility must be safe for contestants and spectators (e.g. marked off with ropes).

Hire all game management personnel (e.g. ticket sellers, announcers, public address system, etc.). Fees paid to site personnel must be those established by the Tournament Management Committee.

Tickets must be torn in half at the contest site and returned with all unused tickets to the tournament director with the financial forms for that activity.

Each site managers' financial report must include the completed MIAA Cash Site Payment Form which the tournament director will furnish.

After the required site payments have been made, the site manager must take all remaining cash to a bank no later than the first business day after the contest and obtain a cashiers check for the total amount. It is permissible for a school to deposit the receipts in a school account and draw a school check for the total amount. Mail the check (made out to MIAA) together with the financial reports and tickets/stubs to the tournament director.

Horns, posters, noisemakers, confetti, pompoms, balloons, and banners are not to be permitted at any site. If the site manager feels that something not mentioned above is also creating a nuisance at a contest site, the site manager should have such items removed. The MIAA Sportsmanship Committee has voted to permit bands to be present and to play at tournaments. However, the following restrictions are part of this action.

- 97.10.5.1* A maximum of 12 is permitted. An advisor must be in attendance and sit with the band.
- 97.10.5.2* Permission in advance must be granted by the Tournament Director and Site Director.
- 97.10.5.3* Pep bands are not permitted to play while the game is in play.

A full compliment of high school bands is permitted at all Superbowl football contests.

The site manager is responsible to the tournament director for carrying out all such other duties that are assigned by the tournament director.

## *97.11* Accountability

- 97.11.1* The executive staff will evaluate the performance of each tournament director.
- 97.11.2* A tournament director may not be engaged or renewed who is not recommended by the executive staff.

## ***PART X: MIAA CONSTITUTION***

### **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.

### **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Association shall be to organize, regulate, and promote interscholastic athletics for secondary schools of Massachusetts. In pursuing this commitment the Association shall:

- A. Provide leadership and service designed to improve interschool relations in athletics.
- B. Foster cooperation among voluntary institutional members and the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association, Massachusetts Department of Education, Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors' Association, Coaches, Game Officials, and with other professional organizations interested in attaining common goals.
- C. Secure uniform regulations and control of interscholastic participation in athletics throughout the state to provide equitable competition for students as an integral part of the education of secondary school students.
- D. Promote safety and health of participants in interscholastic athletics.
- E. Provide leadership that ensures interscholastic athletics are conducted within reasonable bounds, encouraging all that is honorable and sportsmanlike.
- F. Provide a forum for concerns related to interscholastic athletics for institutions that are voluntary members of the Association.
- G. Develop uniform standards and procedures for determining championships at the end of the season.

### **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING PROCEDURES**

- A. Any public or private secondary school in Massachusetts approved by the Board of Directors shall receive all the rights, privileges and benefits of the influence of this Association when the following conditions are met: (1) the school committee or comparable governing board votes to designate the MIAA as its authorized representative to determine under what conditions the member(s) may compete with similar organizations in other schools (Ch. 71, Sec. 47 of General Laws); (2) the school principal, headmaster or director signs an agreement annually to abide by the rules of this Association governing athletic activities; (3) the school governing board delegates to the Association the authority to regulate athletics; and (4) the school pays the service fee specified in Article V.
- B. Payment of the institutional service fee entitles that institution to a single vote in business meetings of the Association on all matters.
- C. The administrative head of the school (principal, headmaster, or director) shall represent the school in votes at all Annual or special meetings of the Association. In cases when the principal (headmaster or director) is unable to attend a meeting of the Assembly, he/she shall designate an alternate for voting purposes.
- D. Only persons who are bona fide staff members of member schools may be nominated to serve as voting members of committees of the Association.

### **ARTICLE IV - ADMINISTRATION**

#### **A. OFFICERS**

- 1. The officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice President, and Executive Director. With the exception of the Executive Director, they shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association and shall perform the usual duties of such officers. The President and Executive Director shall be ex-officio members of each committee and shall be informed in advance of the date, time and place of all meetings of each committee. The term of office of each shall begin July 1 each year. The President and Vice President may succeed themselves once only.
- 2. The Executive Director shall be the chief administrative officer of the Association and shall have charge and direction of the day-to-day operation of the Association and shall act at all times in accordance with the established policies of the Association as interpreted by the Board of Directors.
  - a. The Executive Director shall keep records of meetings of the Association, of the Board of Directors and those sent him/her by each standing committee; shall oversee dissemination of information to the member schools and the public; shall keep and make available lists of membership in the Association; shall

fill staff positions and be responsible for personnel matters; shall issue reports, circulars, forms and blanks authorized by the Board of Directors; shall attend all meetings of the Board; shall make an annual report; shall serve as secretary of the Board, Council, and Assembly; shall keep any other records or make any other reports requested by the Association or by the Board; and shall perform such other duties as the Board or a standing committee may request.

- b. The Executive Director shall have charge of the money of this Association and shall keep records according to a system approved by the Board; shall make payments as directed by the Board or authorized by a coordinator or by a standing committee; shall make an annual report which shall include a financial statement audited previous to the annual meeting as directed by the Board.
- c. The Executive Director shall be elected for a continuous term by the Board except that the Board shall review his/her re-election annually and may at that time for good cause declare the position vacant. The salary and allowances for expenses connected with the position shall be determined by the Board.

## B. ASSEMBLY

1. The Assembly shall be the legislative body of the Association. It shall elect officers from among members of the Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting. The Assembly shall have the authority to establish standing committees by majority vote at any annual or special meeting of the Association.
2. The Assembly shall consist of the principal or designee of the principal of each member institution.
3. The Assembly shall meet annually at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors. Special meetings of the Assembly may be called by the President or the Board of Directors.
4. The Assembly may organize administrative committees to be responsible to the Board of Directors between annual meetings. All administrative and official committees shall report to the Assembly at annual meetings and at special meetings of the Assembly as requested.
5. The Assembly shall, when called upon, vote upon any proposed rule change, which shall be referred to it by the Board of Directors of the MSSAA. When such a vote is taken and a majority of the Assembly takes a position for or against that rule change and that position is contrary to the position of the Board of Directors of the MIAA, there shall be dialogue with the Board of Directors of the MIAA and the Board of Directors of the MSSAA. The final action on the change will take place only after the Board of Directors of the

MSSAA has had a chance to review the MIAA Board of Director's position and commented to them on the proposed change.

6. The Assembly shall elect all members of non sport (see IV-E-4 below) standing committees. The term of office of all committees shall begin July 1.
7. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of representatives from one hundred (100) of the member schools.

#### C. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The District Athletic Committees shall serve as the Nominating Committee. The Nominating committee shall present nominations for officers of the Board of Directors and all non sport (see IV-E-4 below) standing committees at the Annual Meeting of the Assembly.

#### D. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Membership - There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of at least 16 voting members to include: eight members elected by the MSSAA; two elected by the MASC; two elected by the MASS; and four elected by the MSSADA. Each of the athletic districts shall be represented by one person elected by the MSSAA. An athletic director representing either District A or B, C or H, D or E, and F or G must be a member of the Board at all times. The term of each member shall be three years beginning July 1 of the year of election. If a minimum of four women are not seated on the Board at any time, then the Board will appoint the balance to ensure a total of four. These appointees will be from different districts and may be selected from the ranks of: principals and assistant principals; athletic directors and assistant athletic directors; coaches; superintendents and assistant superintendents; game officials; or school committee members. When practical, these appointments will reflect the same proportion or representatives groups as reflected in the Constitution. The Board shall appoint one minority member "at large" if such representation does not occur through the traditional elections process. Individuals appointed at large by the Board will serve through June 30 of the fiscal year their appointment becomes effective.
  - a. The President and Vice President shall be elected by the MIAA Assembly from members of the Board of Directors. The President shall be the presiding officer at Board meetings, the Annual Meeting and all special meetings of the Association. The term of office of each shall be one year. Officers may succeed themselves once only.
  - b. The Board of Directors shall carry out the general activities and policies of the Association.
  - c. The Board shall appoint the Executive Director who shall be a non-voting member of the Board of Directors.
  - d. The Board shall set the compensation for employees.

- e. The Board shall decide on the time and place of the meetings of the Association and of the Board.
- f. The Board shall be empowered to appoint until the next Annual Meeting of the Assembly in case of vacancies of officers, Board members, and members of committees.
- g. The Board shall determine the number and composition of each athletic district.
- h. Between Annual Meetings the Board may create and appoint special committees as circumstances may require.
- i. The Board shall hear appeals from decisions of administrative and sport committees after the same shall have been heard by the committee having jurisdiction.
- j. The Board shall have the following powers and specific duties: (1) give interpretations of the eligibility and other rules relating to interscholastic athletics; (2) fix and enforce penalties for violations of these rules; (3) appoint annually district athletic committees from each of the athletic districts of the State; (4) designate the duties of committees; (5) review and be responsible for all decisions and to approve, modify or reverse decisions of these committees. The Board shall have authority to approve the budget of each committee.
- k. The Board shall issue rules and regulations governing interscholastic athletics and may review these from time to time as it deems necessary.

#### E. ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES

- 1. Each standing committee shall choose its own chair. The chair shall call meetings as needed and assume leadership in the work of the committee. Each standing committee shall choose a secretary. A secretary shall keep the records of the meeting and shall send copies of these records to the Executive Director. The chair or his/her designee shall attend meetings of the Board of Directors as requested by the Board.
- I 2. The powers and duties of any committee shall be those needed to regulate and control the activity it sponsors; however, these duties and powers may be designated in detail by the Board of Directors or by the Assembly.
- 3. When any standing committee is first organized, the term of office of the members shall be set for one, two, and three years beginning July 1 to secure a rotation of vacancies. Thereafter vacancies shall be filled so as to maintain this rotation.
- 4. The standing committee for each sport shall consist of:
  - a. One principal and one athletic director from each of the eight athletic districts, ***except district E which has two principals and two athletic directors appointed to each committee.*** Principals and athletic directors are appointed by

their respective District Athletic Committees. ("Principal" may be either a principal or assistant principal who spends at least 50% of his/her time in duties related to the general administration of the school.)

In the event that a district is unable to provide both a principal and an athletic director to serve as representative, the District Chair may appoint a second principal or athletic director to serve for a one-year term only.

- b. One school committee member appointed by MASC from school systems having one or more schools that are institutional members of MIAA.
  - c. One superintendent appointed by MASS from school systems having one or more schools that are institutional members of MIAA.
  - d. One individual appointed by the Assembly who is currently coaching that sport in an MIAA member school to serve in a voting capacity. If the sport is played by both boys and girls, then one coach for each gender shall be included. The state coaches' association for each sport may nominate candidates for these positions.
  - e. One enrolled game official appointed by the Assembly to serve in a voting capacity. If the sport is played by both boys and girls and under different sport codes, then one game official for each gender shall be included. The president of each state officials' board may recommend candidates for each position. In the absence of a statewide board, presidents of each officials' board in that sport must recommend, in writing, agreement on a single enrolled official to represent all boards.
5. Gender Representation: If a minimum of four (4) women are not voting members of the Eligibility Review Board; or the Sports Medicine, Sportsmanship, Tournament Management, Game Officials, Basketball, Field Hockey, Golf, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Girls' Lacrosse, Ski, Soccer, Softball, Swim, Tennis, Track, or Volleyball committees, then the Board of Directors will appoint the balance to ensure a total of four. These appointees will be made from different districts and may be selected from the ranks of: principals and assistant principals; athletic directors and assistant athletic directors; coaches, superintendents and assistant superintendents; game officials; or school committee members. When practical, these appointments will reflect the same proportion of representative groups as reflected in the Constitution, except that at least one appointee must be an active high school coach. Individuals so appointed by the Board will serve through June 30 of the fiscal year their appointment becomes effective.
  6. If at least one minority is not seated on all sport committees, along with the Wellness, Sportsmanship, and Tournament Management committees, then at least one minority member is to be appointed "at large" by the Board, if such diversity representation does not occur through the traditional elections process.

## 7. COMMITTEE ON SPORTSMANSHIP, INTEGRITY, AND ETHICS

### a. Membership

- (1) One principal and one athletic director from each of the eight athletic districts, ***except District E which has two principals and two athletic directors.*** Principals and athletic directors are appointed by the Assembly.

("Principal" may be either a principal or assistant principal who spends at least 50% of his/her time in duties related to the general administration of the school.) Each district athletic committee, through its chair, shall be invited to submit recommendations for these positions to the Nominating Committee.

In the event that a district is unable to provide both a principal and an athletic director to serve as representative, the District Chair may recommend a second principal or athletic director to serve for a one-year term only.

- (2) One school committee member appointed by MASC from school systems having one or more schools that are institutional members of MIAA.
- (3) One superintendent appointed by MASS from school systems having one or more schools that are institutional members of MIAA.
- (4) Two coaches appointed by the Assembly to serve in a voting capacity, one representing boys' sports and one representing girls' sports. The MSCA may nominate candidates for these positions.
- (5) Two enrolled game officials appointed by the Assembly to serve in a voting capacity, one representing boys' sports and one representing girls' sports. The president of each statewide officials' board may recommend candidates for each position. In the absence of a statewide board, presidents of each officials' board may recommend a candidate.
- (6) At least one minority member is to be appointed "at large" by the Board of Directors, if such diversity representation does not occur through the traditional elections process.

### b. Duties and responsibilities.

The Standing committee on Sportsmanship, Integrity, and Ethics shall:

- (1) Prepare and promote strategies designed to improve the attitudinal postures of all constituencies.

- (2) Prepare and update a section to be a part of the MIAA Handbook.
- (3) Provide a clearinghouse for all sportsmanship issues.
- (4) Conduct hearings with regard to sportsmanship problems.
- (5) Assign and/or accept assignments as observers.
- (6) Review observer forms and take appropriate action.
- (7) Prepare articles for the MIAA and Game Officials' newsletters.
- (8) Establish communication with game officials.
- (9) Issue commendations to schools and leagues that are promoting outstanding sportsmanship efforts.
- (10) Warn, censure, place on probation, or suspend up to one calendar year any player, team, coach, game or school official, or school determined to be acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship.
- (11) Develop strategies for dealing with media portrayal of athletic events as they pertain to proper behavior.

## 8. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- a. There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of three or more members to be appointed annually by the Board of Directors, one of whom shall be the vice president. Members shall serve for three years and may be reappointed to successive terms.

- b. Duties

The Finance Committee shall:

- (1) Prepare an annual budget for the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.
- (2) Advise the Board and all committees on financial policies.

## F. MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC COUNCIL (MIAC)

1. The MIAC shall consist of 18 voting members; five elected by the MASC, five by the MASS, five by the MIAA, two by the middle level, and one by the MSSADA. If a minority member is not elected or appointed through the aforementioned, then the MIAC Chair will appoint a minority to serve as an "at-large" MIAC member for the year.
2. The officers shall consist of a Chair and Vice Chair. These officers shall be elected annually by the MIAC. The Executive Director of MIAA shall serve as a non-voting member of the MIAC.

3. Powers and Duties:

- a. The MIAC shall hear and act on appeals and protests from decisions or acts of the Assembly and/or Board of Directors. Such appeals shall be presented according to procedures adopted and published by the MIAC.
- b. The MIAC shall have authority to approve or revise decisions of the Assembly or Board of Directors including rules and regulations issued by the Board.
- c. The MIAC shall not act on appeals or protests which have not first been presented to either the Assembly or Board of Directors.
- d. The MIAC shall meet annually and at other times at the call of the Chair or on request of three or more voting members of the MIAC.

G. ABSENTEES

1. Any appointed or elected member of a committee, board, or Council who is absent without good cause for more than three consecutive meetings or for more than three meetings during any fiscal year shall be removed or requested to resign.

## **ARTICLE V - SERVICE FEES AND FINANCES**

A. ANNUAL SERVICE FEES

1. The annual service fee for members shall be set by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall establish a base fee for all member schools which will be combined with a per sport assessment.
2. Service fees and assessment are payable to the MIAA on July 1 or each year. Any member who is delinquent in the payment of the annual service fee after November 1 of any school year shall, after due notice, thereby cease to be a member.

## **ARTICLE VI - LOCAL MANAGEMENT**

A. THE PRINCIPAL

1. The principal of the school, or his/her authorized staff representative, shall accompany any student or group of students representing his/her school in an interscholastic contest or meeting.
2. The principal of the school, or staff authorized by him/her, shall be the manager of the team or group representing the school.
3. No school shall engage in any interscholastic activity without the sanction of the principal.

## **ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS**

### **A. AMENDMENTS**

1. The Constitution of this Association may be amended by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting at any meeting of the Assembly, provided a quorum is present. Any proposed amendment relative to the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association must be presented to the MIAA Board of Directors at least four (4) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting of the Assembly.
2. Proposed amendments shall be referred to the membership by sending a notice of the proposed amendments to the principal of each institutional member and the executive officer of each association represented on the Board at least 12 days prior to the meeting with a statement of the action recommended by the Board of Directors on each amendment.
3. In the event of an emergency, the Board of Directors, at its discretion may submit an amendment to the MIAA member school principals for approval by mail. A two-thirds vote of the membership shall be required for the passage of such an amendment. If passed, the amendment is effective immediately but only until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Assembly, at which time the amendment shall be re-submitted for the regularly prescribed action of the Assembly.

## **ARTICLE VIII - PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

Meetings of the Association and its subdivisions shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order (latest edition).

## **ARTICLE IX - DISSOLUTION**

Upon dissolution of the MIAA, Inc., all assets will be distributed exclusively for the purposes stated in this Constitution and only to organizations that qualify under 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

# ***PART XI: RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE MIAC***

## **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC).

## **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

The MIAC shall hear and act on appeals and protests from decisions or acts of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), Assembly, and/or Board of Directors. Such appeals shall be presented according to procedures adopted and published by the MIAC. The MIAC shall have authority to approve or revise decisions of the Assembly or Board of Directors including rules and regulations issued by the Board. The MIAC shall not act on appeals or protests which have not first been presented to either the Assembly or Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE III - ADMINISTRATION**

The responsibility for the administration of the athletic policies approved and adopted by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council, shall be vested with the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Before any question of policy is presented to the MIAC for its action, it shall first be carefully considered by the MIAA and recommendations obtained through its Board of Directors and representative committees.

Athletic policies approved and adopted by the MIAC shall be published as a responsibility of MIAA and disseminated to the chief executive officers of affiliated associations.

## **ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP**

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council shall consist of 18 voting members; five members to represent the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), five members to represent the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS), five members to represent the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), two members to represent the middle level, and one member to represent the Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors' Association (MSSADA). If a minority member is not elected or appointed through the aforementioned, then the MIAC Chair will appoint a minority to serve as an "at-large" MIAC member for the year.

The school committee representatives shall be selected by the MASC. The superintendents' representatives shall be selected by the MASS. The secondary school administrators' representatives shall be selected by the MIAA Assembly. The junior high school principals' representatives shall be selected by the middle level. The athletic directors' representative shall be selected by the MSSADA. The term of each appointment shall be for a period of three years.

## **ARTICLE V - OFFICERS**

The officers of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council shall consist of a chairman, vice-chairman, and a secretary.

The chairman shall be elected annually by a majority vote of members in attendance at the spring meeting. The chairman shall always be a school committee representative. It shall be his/her duty to preside at all meetings.

The vice-chairman shall be elected annually by a majority vote of members in attendance at the spring meeting. It shall be his/her duty to preside at all meetings in the absence of the chairman.

The secretary shall always be the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association. It shall be his/her duty to keep minutes of all meetings and to notify all members of regular and special meetings in writing at least two weeks in advance of such regular or special meetings.

## **ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS**

At least two regular meetings of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council shall be held annually; one in the Fall and another during the Spring. Other meetings may be called by the chairman when he/she deems such meetings are essential, or upon the written request of five members of the Council.

## **ARTICLE VII - APPEAL PROCEDURES**

A three member hearing board, comprised of voting members of MIAC, shall represent the MIAC and act on individual student eligibility waiver appeals from Eligibility Review Board decisions. Whenever possible, the MIAC chairman, vice chairman, and one MIAA delegate to the MIAC will constitute this hearing board. The chairman shall be authorized to name alternatives from the voting membership of the Council as circumstances require.

A quorum of MIAC will be required to take action on appeals which affect more than one individual student's athletic eligibility.

## **ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS**

The Rules and Regulations of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council may be amended by a majority vote at any regular meeting. Any proposed amendments must be presented to the secretary at least three weeks previous to the meeting to enable the secretary to refer such proposed amendments to the entire Council membership at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

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