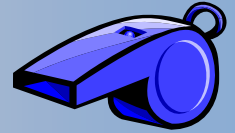




MIAA GAME OFFICIALS FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER



From the Assistant Director...

“Fair wages are a sign of respect and an acknowledgment of expertise.”

(Anonymous game official participating in Referee Magazine’s recent survey)

MIAA Recommended Regular Season Game Fees was the “hot” agenda item during the Spring 2009 Game Officials’ Committee meeting. The original task was to recommend fees for the 2010-2011 school year.

However, due to the rapidly deteriorating state fiscal “crisis” impacting virtually all of our 373 high schools, a vote to reconsider the 3/31/08 vote of the GOC to raise regular season fees by 3% for 2009-2010, passed by a very narrow margin.

After what seemed like hours of passionate dialogue and debate, multiple motions, including “freezing” the 2009-2010 fees at the previous year’s rate and reducing the increase from 3% to 1%, did not garner a majority vote from committee members. Back to square one! Here we were, having intended to discuss 2010-2011 fees, but now without recommended fees for two years.

When the smoke cleared and the hour drew late, a motion to restore the previously voted 3% raise for 2009-2010 and to “freeze” fees for the 2010-2011 school year was voted.

Does this mean that the GOC members were not sensitive to the fiscal pressures being placed on our cities and towns? An emphatic, “No”. Does the recommended “freeze” for 2010-2011 reflect disrespect of our game officials? An equally emphatic, “No”.

It does represent the “between a rock and hard place” reality that school administrators are facing. Decisions are being made every day as communities look for the “best case” scenario in reducing staff and/or programs/salaries.

The GOC final vote on the fee issue was a painful one, but a decision made in good faith with the intent of making the best of a bad situation. (See recommended officials’ fees below)

In closing, the MIAA and our member schools value good officials. The importance of the role of the game official in establishing the proper contest environment, in setting the standards of sportsmanship and “fair play” cannot ever be overestimated.

We thank you for your renewed commitment to our student athletes as they compete in “the game of life”.

-Bill McGuirk

Fall Officials’ Fees – Recommended

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Cross Country	\$68	\$68
Football		
Varsity	\$82	\$82
JV/Freshman	\$59	\$59
Thanksgiving Day	\$98	\$98
Field Hockey		
Varsity	\$75	\$75
JV/Freshman	\$53	\$53
Soccer		
Varsity	\$75	\$75
JV/Freshman	\$53	\$53
Swimming & Diving		
Varsity	\$68	\$68
Volleyball		
Varsity	\$75	\$75
JV/Freshman	\$53	\$53

If you would like to communicate with us, please use the following means:

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MIAA Approved Rule Modifications

Field Hockey

MIAA Rule 68.4 - During the regular season and up to and including the quarter finals if there is a goal differential of 5 or more goals by half time the clock will run during the second half on everything but injury stoppage. If the goal differential is less than 5 in the second half then the regular rules apply.

Football

Previous Rule:

69.1.9 Clock does not start until touched on free kick.

69.1.10 Clock does not start until after first down ball is snapped.

New Rule: Delete above rules (no longer needed as they are NCAA Rules) and add the following three modifications:

- to NCAA Rule 3-2-4 (40 second play clock): ***After any dead ball and the placement of the ball according to rule - the referee shall declare the ball ready for play and offensive team will have 25 seconds to snap the ball.***
- to NCAA Rule 3-2-5-a-12 (Clock stops): ***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.***
- NCAA Rule 9-1-6 (Sideline Infractions): ***There shall be 2 warnings before any sideline infraction will be penalized.***

Soccer

Previous Rule:

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

New Rule: Mouth guards are ***highly recommended*** for all soccer players while on the field.

COACHES PENALTY for ILLEGALLY EQUIPPED player--first offense, per NFHS Rule 4.3 has been RE-INSTATED:

The yellow card caution, to be assessed to the head coach upon the first instance of an *illegally* equipped player, previously deferred by the MIAA Board of Directors because mouthguards were mandatory, has been re-instated as a result of the change in the mouthguard rule noted above.

NFHS Rule 4.3: "...The head coach shall receive the first caution issued (yellow card) for an illegally equipped player. Any subsequent cautions (yellow cards) for illegally equipped player(s) shall be issued directly to the player(s) and not to the head coach.

Volleyball

New Rule: By: MIAA Volleyball Committee (currently Board approved as a one-year trial basis for '08-09)

Volleyball teams will be allowed to compete in a maximum of two "Open Dates" (as opposed to scrimmages or jamborees), where teams can compete in a pool play format with a number of different teams on one day. The maximum number of 25 point games allowed in this format is not to exceed 15.

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

For full list of Fall sport rule revisions, please [CLICK HERE](http://www.miaa.net/sport-rule-revisions.htm)
(<http://www.miaa.net/sport-rule-revisions.htm>)



Assignors/Commissioners of Game Officials Pre-Season Mandatory Meeting



PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED (see below)

Rule 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.

Purpose:

To promote the concept of education-based athletics with an emphasis on consistent enforcement of MIAA and sport rules, to develop a better understanding of the game official's role in promoting sportsmanship, and to improve the communication between game official assignors/commissioners and the MIAA.

Format:

The MIAA will conduct an evening pre-season meeting prior to each sport season at the MIAA office in Franklin, MA. Assignors/Commissioners will be expected to pre-register with the MIAA. A capacity enrollment figure will be determined and when reached, registrations will be closed. A light buffet dinner will be served at 6:00 PM and the general session will start at 6:30 PM.

Agenda Items:

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **MIAA Technology Update**
- **New Rules for 2009-2011**
- **Assignor/Commissioner's Sport-Specific Breakout Sessions**
- **Wrap-Up/General Session**

Meeting Dates: (only need to attend ONE meeting)

Fall:	Thursday, August 27 th , 2009	(Click here to register on-line)
Winter:	Tuesday, November 24 th , 2009	(Click here to register on-line)
Spring:	Wednesday, March 24 th , 2010	(Click here to register on-line)

Game Officials Enrollment Process

MIAA MEMORANDUM

TO: GAME OFFICIALS' BOARD SECRETARIES
FROM: BILL MCGUIRK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: MIAA GAME OFFICIALS ENROLLMENT PROTOCOLS

The purpose of this memo is to provide all our state officials' boards with a summary and clarification of the MIAA Game Officials enrollment process to ensure consistent compliance by all Massachusetts game officials boards in all sports.

In my relatively short tenure as liaison to the MIAA Game Officials Committee and the MIAA executive responsible for the oversight of the enrollment process, it has become clear that there are almost as many interpretations of the enrollment process and procedures as there are officials' boards. This past spring, a sub-committee of the Game Officials Committee was convened, in an advisory capacity, to discuss this issue. Their input was appreciated and helpful to me in formulating the summary document of MIAA philosophy and expectations regarding the enrollment of game officials which follows.

In the near future, the MIAA website (www.miaa.net), will be enhanced to include login access to the entire Game Officials information site by assigned passwords issued only to enrolled officials. Also, at the suggestion of game officials and assignors/commissioners, the MIAA is currently negotiating an agreement with a vendor of an online official's assignment tool to provide an additional resource for our game officials across the state.

After 37 years as an active game official in three sports, soccer, basketball, and baseball, and currently with retired membership in IAABO 95, I fully recognize and appreciate the hard work and dedication of the leadership of game officials' boards which strive to provide their membership with quality professional development and mentoring in sport rules and mechanics, to enable their members to be successful game officials at all levels. I applaud and thank you for your efforts and ensure you that the MIAA and its member schools place great value upon knowledgeable and competent game officials.

The MIAA is committed to the concept of education-based athletics, where the final score of the contest is secondary to the life-lessons for our student athletes, of commitment, teamwork, respect, and sportsmanship, which are learned during the "journey". Your continued contributions to the attainment of these goals are paramount to our collective success!

MIAA Game Officials Enrollment Protocols

FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS

- The partnership between and among game officials, the MIAA and member school administrators, coaches, and student athletes, especially the shared responsibility to promote sportsmanship and respect, is the fundamental component of a successful interscholastic athletic program.
- Enrollment with the MIAA is NOT solely for the purpose of eligibility to officiate MIAA sponsored tournament contests. The primary purpose of enrollment IS to establish the aforementioned partnership with the organization whose member schools, either individually or through their league assignors/commissioners, independently contract with game officials for individual services during regular season contests.
- Enrollment with the MIAA provides individual officials with access to MIAA sponsored programs, including but not limited to, pre-season sport-specific dinner meetings, seasonal assignors/commissioners dinner meetings, a seasonal Game Officials' Newsletter, eligibility to be nominated to serve as a voting member of a specific statewide MIAA sport committee, seasonal updates on rule changes and MIAA individual sport rule modifications, and eligibility for assignment to officiate MIAA sponsored tournament contests.

ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY

- To be eligible to enroll, a game official MUST be a member in good standing of an MIAA recognized board/chapter of officials. A member in good standing is defined as an individual who has satisfied his/her local board membership requirements, which may include attendance criteria, professional development participation (e.g. interpretation meetings, rule refresher exams/clinics, etc.), and ethics standards.

TYPES of ENROLLMENT

Board Enrollment

- An officials' board may choose to enroll their members with the MIAA as an entire group at a reduced cost of six dollars (\$6) per member.
- In choosing this option, to be eligible for the reduced enrollment fee of six dollars (\$6) per member, the officials' board agrees to enroll one-hundred percent (100%) of their members who officiate high school contests AT ANY/ALL LEVELS, varsity and sub-varsity.
- A board which enrolls any less than one-hundred percent of their members who officiate high school contests at any/all levels, (e.g. selectively enrolling only those who officiate varsity contests, or those with a minimum of three (3) to five (5) years of experience, etc.), must pay the full twelve dollar (\$12) per individual enrollment fee.
- Board seasonal enrollment deadlines, established to ensure the enrollment process is completed prior to the beginning of each sport season, are as follows:
 - **FALL** -- August 1st
 - **WINTER** -- November 1st
 - **SPRING** -- March 1st

**Enrollments submitted after the deadline without prior MIAA approval will be assessed a one dollar (\$1) per official late fee.*

Individual Enrollment

- A game official whose board does not enroll their membership as a group under the conditions stated above, is eligible to enroll as an individual at the cost of twelve dollars (\$12) per sport.
- An individual game official who is a member in good standing of an out-of-state board (e.g. New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New York, etc.), may enroll with the MIAA and be eligible for assignment for MIAA tournament contests provided he/she will have officiated a minimum of ten (10) Massachusetts regular season high school varsity contests, and/or, who satisfies the requirements established by the respective MIAA sport committee.

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.

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A Gentleman, Friend of Massachusetts HS Soccer

R.I.P. Tom Ford



Thomas E. Ford
1942-2009

On July 22, 2009, Tom Ford passed away surrounded by his loving family. Born in Palmer, MA on October 19, 1942, he was the son of the late John and Eva (Bonci) Ford. Tom has lived in Belchertown for the past five years, and was a former longtime resident of Monson.

In 1966, he graduated from Northeastern University and from 1967-1981 was a teacher of Physical Education, basketball coach, and Director of Athletics at Monson Jr. Sr. High School. During that time, he also coached basketball at Cathedral High from 1974-1978.

Most recently Tom had been the Athletic Director at the Granby Jr. Sr. High School. For many years, he was the West Boys and Girls Tournament Director for the sports of soccer, basketball and baseball and also served as the State Tournament Director for the MIAA in soccer and basketball.