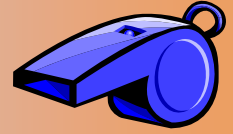




MIAA GAME OFFICIALS FALL 2008 NEWSLETTER



From the Assistant Director...

"Interscholastic athletics are inherently educational, and support the academic mission of schools" (MIAA Post-Game Handshake 'Tool Kit')

Call it the fundamental concept, the underlying philosophy, or the bottom line; they all capture the essence of the above quote from the MIAA Post-Game Handshake 'Tool Kit' which was recently mailed to all enrolled game officials and is featured in this edition of the Game Officials' Newsletter.

It has been a busy summer at the MIAA preparing for this 2008-2009 school year. At or near the top of the list of projects have been the development of the aforementioned PGHS 'Tool Kit' and the crafting of a summary document describing the often-misunderstood MIAA Game Officials' Enrollment process and protocols, also featured in this newsletter and sent to all local officials' board leaders.

I hope you will take the time to carefully review both articles, especially as they relate to the valuable roles game officials play in assisting our school leaders and the Association in teaching our student athletes the life-lessons which are so important to their future successes as positive contributors in our global society.

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 continued commitment to our student athletes as they compete in "the game of life".

-Bill McGuirk

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

Nate Bonneau: nbonneau@miaa.net
(508) 541-9807

Bill McGuirk: bmcguirk@miaa.net
(508) 541-9810

MIAA SPORTSMANSHIP POST-GAME HANDSHAKE TOOL-KIT

POST-GAME HANDSHAKE RULE

“Officials will be required to remain at the TEAM competition site until the handshake ceremony has concluded”. ([Ref. Rule 90.19, Page 96](#))

POST-GAME HANDSHAKE RATIONALE

WHEREAS:

“The Mission of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) is to enrich the educational experience of student-athletes by providing leadership and support for the conduct of interscholastic athletics.”

AND...

“The MIAA is committed to encouraging and promoting the high ideals of sportsmanship, integrity and ethics at all levels of interscholastic competition.”

AND...

The MIAA has a mission “to promote a culture of fairness, respect, responsibility, and civility in sports and to foster initiatives which encourage positive attitudes and behaviors in athletes, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators of all ages in Massachusetts.”

The MIAA Board of Directors has consistently supported the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC) rule adoption that beginning with the fall season of 2008, game officials in the team sports of volleyball, soccer, football, field hockey, basketball, ice hockey, baseball, gymnastics, softball and lacrosse are required to remain at the team competition site until the “handshake” ceremony has concluded.

This strategy is an opportunity to utilize the partnership of coach and official as teachers for the expected and programmed outcome of respect for opponent. It adds to providing a positive environment, which has a modeling impact on fans.

Protocols for each team sport may differ but should serve to meet the expectations that all game participants (site managers, coaches, officials, student-athletes), in full view of the spectators, conclude the contest experience with an appropriate and structured “handshake” ceremony. These protocols will also include “opt-out” procedures for game officials should circumstances so warrant.

HOST SITE MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

By MIAA Constitution ([ref. Article VI, A.1.](#)), the home team's Principal or designee must be present at all interscholastic contests. This individual shall serve as the "Site Manager". The Site Managers are supervisors who are seeking desired objectives, be they spectator behavior, team sportsmanship or facility conditions and environment. In some sports and at different levels of play the home coach may be the Site Manager.

The Site Manager, working with, at times, other school personnel, game officials, security and the coaching staff, will:

- Oversee enforcement of rules for spectators consistent with the mission of the host school and of MIAA.
- Ensure that game officials, proper medical personnel and other site-related conditions are in order before authorizing the start of the game.
- Be in possession of game rules, player/coach disqualification forms, Handshake Report Form, and other sport-specific reporting forms. (Reminder, the home team is responsible for initiating the reporting of game disqualifications.)
- Ensure that all functions and activities associated with the contest (e.g. Pre-Game Captains/Game Officials Conference, Post-Game Handshake ceremony, etc.) are executed properly.
- Forward to appropriate home and away school personnel the game score sheet and other game reports as required. (The MIAA Game Sheet facilitates this process.)

In some sports, the Site Manager has the responsibility to complete and sign the MIAA Game Sheet. Host schools are encouraged to keep one copy of this form on file with the principal and/or athletic director and to present one copy to the "opponent's" principal and/or athletic director. Some leagues may require that the third copy be filed with the appropriate party. A ceremonial post-game handshake, including players, coaches and game officials will take place at the conclusion of each interscholastic athletic team event. On rare occasions the Site Manager or Game Official may decide to suspend the handshake if circumstances so warrant. In the event the handshake ceremony doesn't take place, the required post-game handshake form must be completed and filed with the MIAA (ref. [Sportsmanship Handshake Report Form](#)).

EXPECTATIONS OF GAME OFFICIALS

Beginning with the fall season of 2008, Officials will be required to remain at the team competition site until the handshake ceremony has concluded. Such an initiative was adopted many years ago in the sports of Ice Hockey and Soccer and this procedure has elevated the educational culture and climate of these sports.

PRE-GAME:

Welcome team captains followed by required message (ref. [Official's Pre-Game Meeting with Captains](#))

POST-GAME:

Minimum requirement: Presence of Game Officials in close proximity to handshake line

Enhanced Participation (optional): Presence and participation in handshake with coaches and student-athletes

Contest officials have no additional responsibility for any activity resulting from the handshake ceremony, but rather are observes of that ceremony:

Head Coaches (and not game officials) are responsible for their teams and student-athletes during the handshake ceremony.

The Contest Site Manager (most often the home team Athletic Director) and School Administration are responsible for spectator decorum at the venue.

Any unsportsmanlike behavior following the conclusion of the game may be penalized consistent only with MIAA Sportsmanship [Rule 49.8, Page 45](#): *“Fighting and unsportsmanlike conduct penalties will be within the authority of the officials at all times at the contest site. The official’s authority extends to pre and post-game oversight.”*

As always, common sense prevails. If a game official or game site administrator feels that this initiative should not be followed due to concerns which arise during the contest, or with crowd control issues, the handshake protocol may be suspended. The form developed for this circumstance must be completed (ref. [Sportsmanship Handshake Report Form](#).)

A Review Committee, under the jurisdiction of the Sportsmanship Committee will be charged to follow up on post-game handshake suspension reports.

REVIEW PROCESS FOR HANDSHAKE CEREMONY SUSPENSION

As per Post Game Handshake Rule, should the appropriate responsible party (Site Manager and/or Game Officials) decide to suspend the post game handshake the Sportsmanship Handshake Report Form must be completed by the Site Manager and forwarded to the Sportsmanship Committee (via MIAA within 24 hours).

The Sportsmanship Committee, in concert with the relevant MIAA Sport Committee, will then determine if the extenuating circumstances indentified warrant a **review hearing**.

The process for a review hearing is identified, in the MIAA Handbook, [Rule 88, Pages 91-93](#).

MIAA SUPPORT / RESOURCES

The Sportsmanship Committee, in partnership with the Game Officials Committee, will assist any league and/or district with relevant workshop presentations to assist in the implementation of this rule. Please consider contacting a MIAA Executive Liaison for availability:

- Bill Gaine, Sportsmanship Liaison – 508-541-9803
- Bill McGuirk, Game Official’s Liaison – 508-541-9810

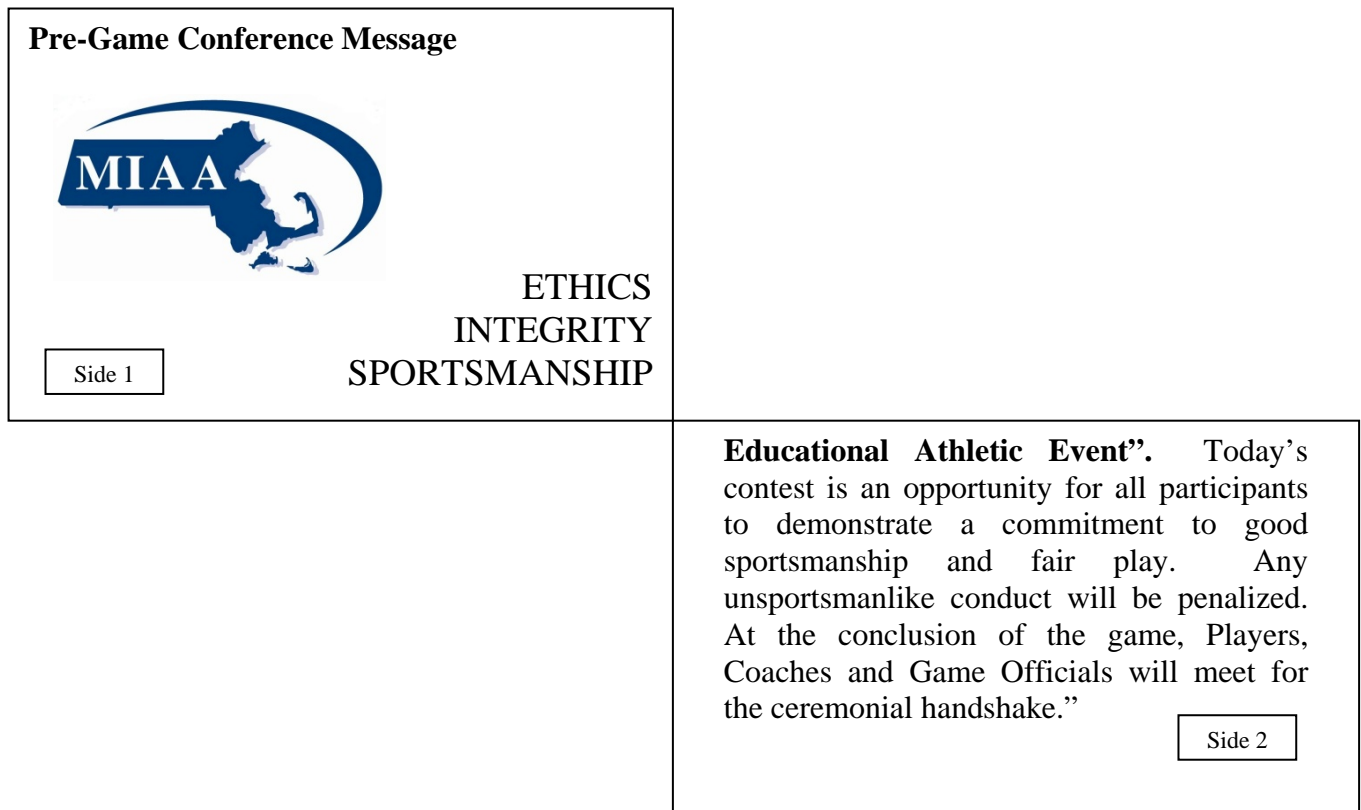
SAMPLE ANNOUNCEMENT

The following announcement is recommended to be made prior to the conclusion of athletic events at all venues where a public address system is utilized.

Ladies and Gentlemen. At the conclusion of this contest both teams will participate in the ceremonial handshake demonstrating respect for opponent. All fans must remain off the playing field/court and exit on the end lines or wait until the ceremony is completed and game officials exit.

OFFICIAL'S PRE-GAME MEETING WITH CAPTAINS

The illustration below represents a double sided credit card like tool for Game Officials to utilize in all pre-game meetings with captains



* All Game Officials are required to conduct a pre-game conference to provide the above pre-game message, ref., [MIAA Rule 48.3, page 44](#), including a review of the MIAA Taunting Policy.

*SPORTSMANSHIP HANDSHAKE REPORT FORM

SPORT: _____ Boys Girls Varsity

1. Regular Season MIAA Tournament

Section: North South Central West State

2.Site: _____ Date: _____

School (Visitors)	Vs.	School (Home)
EX <input type="checkbox"/> GD <input type="checkbox"/> FR <input type="checkbox"/> PR <input type="checkbox"/>	Sportsmanship of Players	EX <input type="checkbox"/> GD <input type="checkbox"/> FR <input type="checkbox"/> PR <input type="checkbox"/>
EX <input type="checkbox"/> GD <input type="checkbox"/> FR <input type="checkbox"/> PR <input type="checkbox"/>	Sportsmanship of Coaches	EX <input type="checkbox"/> GD <input type="checkbox"/> FR <input type="checkbox"/> PR <input type="checkbox"/>
EX <input type="checkbox"/> GD <input type="checkbox"/> FR <input type="checkbox"/> PR <input type="checkbox"/>	Sportsmanship of Cheerleaders	EX <input type="checkbox"/> GD <input type="checkbox"/> FR <input type="checkbox"/> PR <input type="checkbox"/>
EX <input type="checkbox"/> GD <input type="checkbox"/> FR <input type="checkbox"/> PR <input type="checkbox"/>	Sportsmanship of Fans	EX <input type="checkbox"/> GD <input type="checkbox"/> FR <input type="checkbox"/> PR <input type="checkbox"/>

Post-Game Handshake

Rationale for suspending Handshake: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____ Date: _____

Email

Adress: _____

***Report Form completion is necessary only in event handshake is suspended. To be completed either by Site Manager or Contest Official responsible for the decision to suspend the handshake ceremony. This form should be submitted by the Site Manager within 24 hours to:**

MIAA Sportsmanship Committee
 33 Forge Parkway
 Franklin, MA 02038
 Fax: 508-541-9888

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** -- September 1st in 2008 (**August 1st beginning in 2009**)
 - **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.

Board of Directors Rule Modifications

69. Football

- 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 Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors for 2008 season)

77. Soccer

- 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.

81. Volleyball

- 81.7** 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 games allowed in this format is not to exceed 15. (MIAA Board approved as a one-year trial basis for ‘08-’09)
- 81.7.1** An “Open Date” can only take place on a non-school day.
- 81.7.2** Each “Open Date” played would result in one fewer contest opportunity from the current 20 contest limit.
- 81.7.3** “Open Dates” will not count toward the win-loss record for MIAA Tournament qualification.

82. Wrestling

- 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).



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 Student Services Overview**
- **MIAA Technology Resources - Present and Future**
- **Rule Change Proposals**
- **MIAA Sport-Specific Rules Modifications**
- **Q & A**

Meeting Dates: (only need to attend ONE meeting)

Fall: Tuesday, August 26th, 2008

Winter: Tuesday, November 25th, 2008

Spring: Wednesday, March 25th, 2009

[\(Click here to register on-line\)](#)

[\(Click here to register on-line\)](#)

Select Fall Sport Rule Changes

Football

(click for all Football rule changes)

NCAA Rule 3-2-4 – 40 Second Play Clock

MIAA recommended modification: “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.”

NCAA Rule 3-2-5-a-12 - Clock stops when ball carrier, fumble or backward pass goes out of bounds and starts on the referee’s signal, except that in the last two minutes of each half, the clock starts on the snap.

MIAA recommended modification: “Clock stops when a ball carrier fumbles or the backward pass goes out of bounds. The game clock will next start on the snap.”

NCAA Rule 9-1-6 - Sideline infractions (formerly warnings): First two – fouls for delay of game (5-yard penalty). Third and subsequent – foul for sideline interference (15-yard penalty)

MIAA recommended modification: “There shall be 2 warnings before any sideline infraction will be penalized”.

Soccer

(click for all Soccer rule changes)

4-3: Each head coach shall be responsible for ensuring that each of his/her players is properly and legally equipped.

Add: PENALTY:

Improperly Equipped Players (18-1-1-s)

Cautions will not be issued for **IMPROPERLY** equipped player(s).

Improperly equipped player(s) shall be instructed to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play. Play shall not be stopped for an infringement of this rule except that the referee may stop play immediately where there is a dangerous situation.

In all situations, the removed player(s) may re-enter only after reporting to an official who shall be satisfied the player's equipment and uniform are in order. There shall be no replacement until the next opportunity to substitute. However, the removed player may re-enter during the dead ball after reporting to an official who shall be satisfied the player's equipment and uniform are in order.

*Upon request by the MIAA Soccer Committee, the MIAA Board of Directors voted to defer, for the 2008 season, implementation of the penalty portion of the new National Federation Rule 4; Section 3, requiring the first caution (yellow card) for any player who is **ILLEGALLY** equipped, to be issued to the head coach.*

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

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.

**MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**
33 Forge Parkway
Franklin, MA 02038

Phone: 508-541-7997

Fax: 508-541-9888

email: miaa@miaa.net

www.miaa.net