



SPORTSMANSHIP — 2008 Game Infraction Results

The Massachusetts high school soccer community--school administrators, coaches, players, game officials, and the MIAA State Soccer Committee--has worked diligently over the past decade to improve the quality of interscholastic soccer, with a strong emphasis on sportsmanship. Through a unified effort and with a balance of educational programs and strict accountability measures, the goal has been to significantly reduce the negative behaviors exhibited by some soccer players, coaches, and spectators.

The MIAA Soccer Committee would like to recognize those schools, whose soccer teams, during the 2007 season, distinguished themselves in the area of good sportsmanship, which earned them an MIAA Soccer Team Sportsmanship Award presented at the 2007 State Soccer Finals. These are teams which, through the collective efforts of their coaches, players, fans, and administrators, demonstrated their unique commitment to sportsmanship, integrity, and ethics.

Congratulations to:

MIAA Soccer Team Sportsmanship Award Winners 2007

Boys - Nashoba Regional High School

Girls - Hampshire Regional High School

2008 Tournament News

- **August 21st**
Pre-Season Dinner/Clinic
- **August 21st**
First Practice Date
- **August 31st**
First Contest Date
- **September 30th**
Schedule & Commitment Form Due
- **November 4th**
Cutoff Date
- **November 5th**
Tournament Seeding
- **November 17-19**
State Semi-Finals
- **November 22nd**
State Finals

Soccer Rules Clinic

What: Annual Clinic to review Rules & Policies for the 2008 Soccer Season

When: August 21, 2008

Where: MIAA Office

Time: 5:00pm Light Buffet, 5:30 pm Clinic

For: Commissioners, Athletic Directors, Game Officials & Coaches

RSVP to Nathan Bonneau

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From the State Interpreter

Officials' Challenge

The "Soccer Rules Gods" are, again, happy with the game as we know it. They have dictated very little change for the up-coming season. That makes for some ease on the part of officials, coaches and players; no new stuff to learn and incorporate into Fall practice. That's the good news for coaches and players. What it means for officials is different. It means that we must re-view, re-learn – hopefully it is RE-learn - the rules we have been presented with. The players are improving every year; the skills at youth level (13-18 years old) are amazing! These are the players we will be seeing this year on MIAA school fields.

Since we, the officials, have no NEW rules to apply we must develop an appreciation of the nuances within the rules and mechanics, such that we all apply them in a consistent fashion, whether in Eastern, Central or Western Massachusetts. We will not all call a game the same way – that's not going to happen! We make calls based on the "opinion of the official". Several hundred officials will never be of the same "opinion" AND each of us will opine differently as we gain experience. Differences are why we have elections. We must, however, all be professionally knowledgeable of the rules we are given to manage MIAA soccer games, the nuances/intentions of those rules and rule CONSISTENTLY! A "hand" ball is no more a call in Pittsfield than it is in Provincetown! A "handled" ball must be despite the geographic contra-positions! Coaches and players expect that we are all on the same page and make calls consistently (that presumes, too, correctly).

Better we had new rules; it might prove easier than learning new applications of the existing rules. I urge the chapter officers/interpreters to develop meeting curricula to that end and I challenge officials to "get their heads into the game". We have the rules, a template, to help us manage the players; to manage them safely while maintaining a level playing field. Let's do it!

Calvin G. Perry---MA State Soccer Interpreter

Handling

"Hand Ball, ref! Didn't you see that? The ball touched his hand!" How many of us have heard – best asked as how many have not heard that?? The stands are full of officials (the kind without whistles), all more than willing to help us call our game.

Hand Ball is NOT an offense, as a matter of fact, it is NOT mentioned in any set of rules I know of; FIFA, NCAA or Federation. Those rules/laws, all of them, do, however, have a strict prohibition about "handling the ball". The rule about "handling the ball" is simple, too! To paraphrase, it says that "Thou shalt not handle the ball intentionally". It's the interpretation wherein it becomes fuzzy and difficult to call.

First and most important, it is only a call (whistle) when YOU think it was intentional; other fouls can and should be whistled when they were simply "careless" and WITHOUT intention. Handling is a rule alone in that it does require the official to decide that the player "INTENDED" to handle. The results of UN-intentional handling is NOT part of the official's decision process, even if it gives a significant advantage to the player. Secondly, the "hand" in our game is not the same anatomic hand as described in Grey's. The "soccer hand" starts at the outside of the shoulder (Grey's might say at the deltoid). Knowledgeable of these two concepts, it becomes the judgment of the official to make the call correctly. Did the ball play i.e. go to the hand (NO intention) or did the hand go to the ball (intention)? There is further help furnished in the discussion of position of the hands/arms at the time of a potential call. Were the hands/arms in an expected, normal, usual position? If so it limits the liability of a call, but certainly does not negate, in any way, intention. Conversely, if the hands/arms are in an unexpected, abnormal, unusual position, it may suggest intention.

Easy call – right? It's no wonder that the Officials in the stands get it right so many times and the Official on the field does not!

Calvin G. Perry---MA State Soccer Interpreter

NFHS Points of Emphasis

SHINGUARDS

Shin guards need to be placed no higher than two inches above the ankle for safety purposes. Beginning in the fall of 2008, all shin guards must be NOCSAE-approved.

MIAA Note: Shin guards must be professionally manufactured, age- and size- appropriate, not altered to decrease protection, worn under the stockings, and have the NOCSAE-approved tag attached.

TEAM AREAS

The team areas shall be at least ten feet from the touchline and extend ten yards on each side of the halfway line, for a distance of twenty yards. When placed on opposite sides, each team area shall be placed diagonally across from each other.

MIAA Note: It is important to ensure that team areas are not accessible to non-participants by roping them off or using other appropriate security measures. Unless there are bleachers on the same side of the field as the team areas, spectators should only be allowed on the side of the field opposite the team areas. NFHS Rule 1, Section 6, requires that spectators be confined to areas at least ten feet from the touchline.

KNEE BRACES

Technological advances in “joint” braces have made them safer over the past decade. A commercially manufactured knee brace does NOT need a protective sleeve as long as there is no exposed metal.

GAME MANAGEMENT

Host schools should develop a game management plan. Game managers should meet with the referees prior to the game and discuss the following matters, which include but are not limited to: field conditions, unusual situations, security, end-of-game procedures, game fees and officials' area.

MIAA Note: by MIAA Rule 77.2.21, for all boys' varsity contests, the home team is required to assign an adult contest manager, other than a member of the coaching staff, to be responsible for all aspects of administration of the contest.

Especially for soccer contests played at night under the lights, safety and security for all participants, including referees, remains a priority. While Rule 77.2.21 mandates the presence of a game manager for boys' varsity games, it is imperative that the same game management is also provided at girls' varsity games played at night, and that pre-game communications with the referees include discussion of “exit strategies” to ensure that game officials have “safe passage” to their automobiles after the contest.

PREGAME RESPONSIBILITIES

Officials' jurisdiction shall begin fifteen minutes before scheduled time, or as required by the respective league, conference, or state association. Referees shall hold a pregame conference (with each other) to review duties of all officials. A second conference with head coaches and captains is required. Sportsmanship shall be emphasized in this second conference.

MIAA Note: It is expected that the MIAA Taunting Rule 48, be included in the pregame contest with head coaches and captains. Specifically, MIAA Rule 48.3, requires that the act of taunting requires is to be considered by game officials as a flagrant unsportsmanlike offense requiring the disqualification of the offender, and also requires that officials issue a pregame taunting warning to both teams.

HANDLING

A player shall be penalized for deliberately playing, carrying, striking or propelling the ball with hand or arm. It is not handling if the ball makes contact with the hand in a natural position.

MIAA Note: Related to this point of emphasis, NFHS Rule 12.8.3d.1 clearly specifies that, if a player anywhere on the field (other than a goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area) deliberately handles a ball to prevent it from going in the goal (and the ball does not end up in the back of the net), the penalty is a RED card and disqualification. When the ball does go into the net during the deliberate handling violation described above, NFHS Rule 12.8.1f.6&7 suggests that a deliberate tactical foul, requiring only a YELLOW card, is the appropriate call.

NFHS Soccer Rule Changes

1-1-1: The field of play shall be rectangular, 100 to 120 yards long and 55 to 80 yards wide. The following minimal dimensions are recommended:

- a. High Schools -110 yards by 65 yards;
- b. Junior High Schools - 100 yards by 55 yards.

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.

Illegally Equipped Players (18-1-1-r)

The head coach shall receive the first caution issued (yellow card) for an illegally equipped player(s)***DEFERRED – see explanation below***. All subsequent cautions (yellow cards) issued for illegally equipped player(s) shall be issued directly to the player(s) and not to the head coach.

Illegally 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.

The removed player(s) who has not been cautioned may re-enter during a dead ball. Player(s) who have been cautioned can only re-enter at the next legal substitution opportunity. There shall be no replacement for non-cautioned players until the next opportunity to substitute.

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.

5-2-2-d-2: Address good sportsmanship.

5-2-2-d-4 New: Inquire of each head coach whether each of his/her players is properly and legally equipped. Any questions regarding legality of a player's equipment shall be determined by the head referee, or the center referee in a game officiated using the double-dual system of officiating.

Delete 5-2-2-e: Address coaches and players concerning good sportsmanship.

Coaches' Penalty for Illegally Equipped Player Deferred - Again

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.

The MIAA Soccer Committee was concerned that a literal enforcement by game officials, especially given the mandatory mouth guard rule, the ongoing shin guard rule implementation, and the fact that a "subsequent caution" to a coach (or player) warrants a red card, could actually result in a number of undesirable game forfeits.

The MIAA Soccer Committee endorses the intent of the new rule which is to emphasize that it is the head coach who is responsible for ensuring that all players under his/her jurisdiction are properly equipped. This expectation has not been deferred, and it will be incumbent upon all head coaches to reinforce all equipment rules. It is only the mandatory issuing of a yellow card to the head coach upon the first offense, for an illegally equipped player, that has been deferred through the 2008 season.

MIAA Soccer Committee – “In Motion”

The following motions were discussed and voted upon by the MIAA Soccer Committee during the 2007-2008 school year:

- Move the Soccer Tournament Cut-off date from October 29th, 2008 to Tuesday, November 4th, 2008. (North/South/Central Seeding would be Wednesday, November 5th, 2008; West Seeding Thursday, November 6th, 2008; First play-date for North/South/Central would be Friday, November 7th, 2008; First play-date for West Saturday, November 8th, 2008.) **(Motion passed 10-0-0)**
- MIAA Soccer Roster and Score Sheets are to continue to be completed at all games (all levels and both genders), but only submitted to the MIAA for VARSITY level games. **(Motion passed 12-0-0)**
- To be eligible to be assigned to an MIAA Soccer Tournament contest, a soccer official must have worked a minimum of ten (10) high school games during the current season. **(Motion passed 8-0-4)**
- To retain the current alignment configuration, 3 divisions in four sections, for the 2009-2013 alignment cycle. **(motion passed 10-0-0)**
- To endorse the MISOA rule change proposal related to the NFHS Rule 14—Penalty Kicks, to be submitted to the NFHS for adoption. **(motion passed 9-0-0)**
- To endorse the EMSCA rule change proposal to make use of mouth guards in soccer “highly recommended”, to be submitted to the MIAA for adoption. **(motion passed 9-0-0)**
- To request, from the MIAA Board of Directors, a one-year extension to the current BOD deferral of the penalty portion of NFHS Rule 4.3 (Coaches’ Responsibility for ensuring properly equipped players). **(motion passed 9-0-0)**
- To endorse the EMSCA rule change proposal to permanently defer the penalty portion of NFHS Rule 4.3 (Coaches’ Responsibility for ensuring properly equipped players) for the state of Massachusetts, to be submitted to the MIAA for adoption. **(motion passed 7-2-0)**

NFHS, NSCAA Partner to Create Soccer Coaching Course

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Tim Flannery

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (August 5, 2008) — The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) have formed a partnership to create a soccer-specific coach education course.

The course, titled **Fundamentals of Coaching Soccer**, is an online, interactive course designed to train coaches how to teach the specific skills of soccer. It will use videos and graphics to demonstrate the proper techniques players use to become better soccer competitors.

The course will include an online center that offers access to many resources that are beneficial to teacher/coaches as they prepare for practices and contests.

“The National Soccer Coaches Association of America is proud to be working with the NFHS in the development of this dynamic online learning opportunity for high school soccer coaches,” said Jim Sheldon, NSCAA executive director. “It will undoubtedly be a huge benefit to the high school coaching community, a key component of soccer’s future in this country.”

The course is planned to launch in fall 2009 and will cost \$50. Fundamentals of Coaching Soccer will be easily accessible on www.nfhslearn.com, on the home page and under “Available Courses.”

“This partnership with the NSCAA ensures that interscholastic coaches will be properly trained in coaching soccer fundamentals,” said Robert F. Kanaby, NFHS executive director. “It also sends an important message to the soccer community that the NSCAA and the NFHS are united in providing training to coaches in education-based athletics.”

The NFHS will be developing other sport-specific courses as a part of the NFHS Coach Education Program to complement its signature course, **Fundamentals of Coaching**. More than 25,000 courses have been delivered in two formats – online and blended – since the program’s inception in January 2007.

Sportsmanship: Athlete & Coach Contest Disqualifications/Suspensions

- 49.1 The contest official who excludes 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 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. 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 suspension 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.

2008 Selected MIAA Soccer Rules

77.2 Sportsmanship:

- 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 match of the season.
- 77.2.12 A coach who receives a third yellow card in a season shall be suspended from coaching for a period of two matches. A fourth yellow card in a season shall result in a one year suspension.
- 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 matches (as required by Rule 75.2.21). This rule pertains to both boys' and girls' soccer and to matches played at all levels.
- 77.2.16 For purposes of obtaining tournament eligibility, no team may exceed 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 match will result in immediate termination of the match 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. Infraction reports must be submitted by October 30th.

Soccer Mouth Guard Rule 77.1.5 and Interpretation

- All players shall wear a solid color (not clear) mouth guard that must cover all molars as well as front teeth.
- Mouth guards must be worn in all practices and competitions.
- Mouth guards are required of all participants at all levels of interscholastic competition (Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity), both boys and girls.
- Coaches shall assume the responsibility to make certain each player is wearing a mouth guard.
- In the event a player is participating without a mouth guard the game official shall remove the player from the match and cannot return until the next dead ball whistle. The removed player may re-enter during a dead ball after reporting to an official who shall be satisfied the player's mouth guard is in place. There will be no substitution for the removed player.
- If a player is found to (1) have cut down the mouth guard (2) hides the mouth guard in a part of the uniform (e.g. socks) or (3) discards the mouth guards on the field of play-**A YELLOW CARD WILL BE ADMINISTERED.**

Summary Rule Infraction Reporting System

<u>Infraction</u> <u>Code and Name</u>	<u>Total Cards</u>		<u>No. of Red</u>		<u>No. of Yellow</u>	
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
1. Delay of game	58	52	0	0	58	52
2. Encroachment	27	32	0	0	27	32
3. Tactical handball foul	17	14	0	0	17	14
4. Equipment violation	19	20	0	0	19	20
5. Persistent infringement	90	85	1	0	89	85
6. Dissent	213	244	2	1	211	243
7. Incidental language	72	80	0	0	72	80
8. Holding, kicking, tripping	608	577	0	0	608	577
9. Faking injury or foul	5	9	0	0	5	9
10. Subsequent caution	15	22	15	22	0	0
11. Excessive celebration	1	1	0	0	1	1
12. Violent conduct	20	24	20	24	0	0
13. Serious foul play	17	13	17	13	0	0
14. Insulting, abusive language	23	20	23	20	0	0
15. Taunting	12	2	12	2	0	0
16. Other	148	143	25	28	123	115
TOTALS	1345	1338	115	109	1230	1229

November 2008/MIAA Soccer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	O27	O28	O29	O30	O31	N1
First Practice August 21st						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
First Contest Sun. Aug. 31st		Cutoff Date	Seeding (N/S/C)	Seeding (W)	Sectional Games Begin (N/S/C)	Sectional Games Begin (W)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
						Sectional Finals
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Sectional Finals		State Semi-Finals	State Semi-Finals			State Finals
23	24	25	26	27	28	
State Finals (Rain/Snow Date)				Thanksgiving		