

## MIAA RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS FOR 2015-2017

The following reflects Rule Change Proposals that have been submitted as permitted in the Procedure for Requesting A Rule Change, Rule 87, page 98 of the current MIAA Handbook. **Please note: Rule Change Proposals list Current Rule (as in handbook now), Proposal, and Rationale.** All responding groups should review the proposals and forward their recommendations, using the attached form, to MIAA Assistant Director, Dick Baker. Although changes should not be made on the original proposals, any group may make amendments, which will be included in the report passed on to the next group in the process.

The MSSADA and all MIAA Administrative Committees are welcome to act on each rule change proposal. In the section on Sport Specific Rules (rule change proposals 23-34 within this packet) MIAA sport committees and coaches' associations should only act on general rules (rules 1-22 and 35-39) and rules for their own sport.

Each of the below named groups, when reviewing a rule change proposal may take one of the two following actions:

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

### **REVIEWING BODY ACTIONS MUST REFLECT THE ACTUAL VOTE**

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, 2014.
2. The Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors Association (MSSADA) votes are due to the MIAA by February 1, 2015. The MSSADA should not act until they have the packet that includes all earlier votes.
3. The MIAA District Athletic Committees (DAC) votes are due to the MIAA by March 1, 2015. The DAC's should not act until they have the packet that includes all earlier votes.
4. The MIAA Board of Directors will act upon proposals by May 15, 2015.
5. The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council will act upon all proposals by June 1, 2015.

1. **Page 31**  
**Part III, Rule 32.8: Application of Rules**  
**By: Thom Holdgate, Director of Athletics, Duxbury High School**

**Current Rule:**

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 is prohibited.

**Proposal:**

Allow students that are under chemical health suspensions to participate in interscholastic scrimmages.

**Rationale:**

A student that begins a season with a chemical health suspension cannot participate in scrimmages by Rule 32.8

The two reasons that I believe this rule should be changed:

1. Different sports traditionally have different scrimmage opportunities. A student on a sport (such as basketball) may be far more likely to have multiple scrimmages before their first official game than many other sports that traditionally do not hold pre-season interscholastic scrimmages. For this reason, some students involved with certain sports are penalized harsher than their peers.
2. A student found guilty of a chemical health violation mid-season who would only miss their allotted games in season and not the possible "double penalty" of interscholastic scrimmages.

The rule as written has a harsher penalty for some students compared to their peers.

The MIAA rule allows for a student to practice while serving a chemical health violation penalty as it is believed that is part of the rehabilitation process. I believe that an interscholastic scrimmage is a practice. A student serving a chemical health violation should have the ability to participate in interscholastic scrimmages before sitting out their allotted penalty during official games. This rule change would allow for penalties to be equitable across all sports.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

2. **Page 32**  
**Part III, Rule 34: Recognized Sports, And Scheduling Limits for Schools**  
**By: Bill Good, President, Mass Youth Rugby Organization**

**Proposal:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Under Boys' Sport insert: Rugby (spring sport)  | Maximum # of competitions:<br>10 per season/2 per week (see note #1) |
| Under Girls' Sport insert: Rugby (spring sport) | Maximum # of competitions:<br>10 per season/2 per week (see note #1) |

**Rational:**

**Note #1:** The maximum number of competitions is based on the following current practices:

- not less than ten sessions of training prior to the first match of the season
- a minimum of three days between any two full-length (70 minute) scheduled matches
- playoff matches (quarter-final semi-final, final) are included in the 10 matches

It is possible to have two matches in a week but that would not be the norm.

The sport of Rugby has been growing steadily in the United States. In the five years from 2008 to 2012 the number of participants increased at a rate of 13% per year. A substantial segment of the new participants is made up of youth between the ages of 8 and 14. They have already

begun to impact High School Rugby in Massachusetts, with an increase in the number of high school age players and an increase in the number of schools sponsoring club (and in some cases varsity) Rugby teams. We are proposing that the MIAA establish jurisdiction over the sport now to allow for well-managed growth of the increasing demand.

#### GROWTH AND DEMAND:

Since the organization of the Massachusetts Youth Rugby Organization [MYRO] in 2010, there has been a steady increase in the number of players. Membership figures available from 2010-2012 show an increase of 31% in high school Rugby players in Massachusetts. There are now 26 high schools with Rugby teams. Twenty-three are boys' teams; three are girls' teams. There are also six community based teams (four boys' teams, two girls' teams) made up of high school athletes in areas where individual schools do not offer Rugby.

Two factors will contribute to continued growth: the return of Rugby to the Olympics beginning in 2016 and the introduction of Rugby into school physical education and wellness curricula. Two years ahead of the games in Brazil, collegiate and international Rugby tournaments are being shown regularly on network television. This exposure will inevitably increase awareness and generate interest among young athletes.

Physical Education and Wellness departments are recognizing the benefits of Rugby for their students and are introducing non-contact versions to elementary and middle school grades. In the past two years Auburn, Bedford, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Newton, Whitman and Worcester have provided "Rookie Rugby" training to their teachers as part of Professional Development Programs. These school initiatives are complemented by similar programming through municipal recreation departments and in community based organizations (e.g. Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA's). The end result will be a large pool of students who have experienced and enjoyed Rugby and will be looking for the opportunity to continue to play in high school.

#### BENEFITS TO THE STUDENTS

Beyond the individual benefits of playing Rugby: the increased fitness, recognition of teamwork as essential to success and a culture of respect for the opponents, officials and laws of the game there are other advantages to be gained from a scholastic Rugby program.

- It expands the opportunity to compete at a high level and represent their school to students who are not participating in "traditional" high school sports. Rugby has a well-deserved reputation as a "game for all." Students with a wide variety of skills, size and body types can compete in and excel at Rugby. Therefore, schools can easily add this to their menu as a "no-cut" sport, allowing all who are interested a place to belong.
- It is a sport that does not distinguish between male and female players. There is no "women's version" of Rugby. The laws of the game are identical for boys and girls high school teams, similar to soccer and basketball. This provides an opportunity to meet and excel at challenges which are not there in other girls' sports.
- This expanded participation allows more students to afford themselves of the still growing opportunities for Rugby as an asset for college admission and even financial aid. Rugby is now played at hundreds of colleges across the country. It is considered in the admission process in a growing number of schools. For girls, Rugby is on the NCAA list of Emerging Sports and colleges are given assistance in setting up varsity intercollegiate Rugby programs. Among New England schools with varsity women's programs are Bowdoin, Brown, Harvard, Norwich and Quinnipiac.
- All of the above points reinforce the continuing commitment to increase the opportunities for girls to be introduced to Rugby and to increase the number of girls' teams in high schools to a number comparable with boy's teams.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE/ISSUES

The introduction of an interscholastic Rugby program does not impose an undue burden on a high school or school system. The issues which must be dealt with are minimal and there are models for dealing with them which have been tested in Massachusetts over the past five years.

- **Player Safety:** The first focus of youth Rugby is player safety. It is an inherent part of coaching courses and certification. Athletic trainers (or EMT's) are required at all matches.
- **Cost:** Rugby has minimal costs for equipment, uniforms and supplies. There is no specialized equipment for players, as in football or hockey. Costs for a new Rugby program will be comparable to those for soccer.
- **Fields/Facilities:** Like hockey, Rugby has maximum and minimum field dimensions. It can be and is regularly played on a soccer or football fields by current Massachusetts high school teams, using the posts available from those other sports. No new fields/facilities are required.
- **Coaches:** USA Rugby has a multi-level coach certification program which can provide qualified coaches for high school programs. It also requires coaches to earn ten hours of in-service coaching credits annually to maintain their certification. New England has one of the highest concentrations of Rugby clubs and players, current and former, in the country, so there is a large pool of potential coaches as the game grows.
- **Referees:** There have been problems with availability of referees but just the establishment of Rugby as an interscholastic high school sport will have a significant impact on the number of interested referees. It also has the potential to create a "crossover" pool of referees from basketball and hockey, both of which are fluid, fast paced and have quick transitions from offense to defense.
- **Organization and Administration:** Although it will be a new interscholastic sport in Massachusetts, Rugby has a long history in schools in other countries and there are well-developed policies and procedures which can complement those of the MIAA where Rugby is concerned.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**3. Page 33**

**Part III, Rule 34: Recognized Sports, And Scheduling Limits for Schools**

**By: Peter Foley, Sectional & State Swim Meet Director**

**Current Rule:**

|                     |                                  |                 |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Boy's Sport</u>  | <i>Maximum # of Competitions</i> |                 |
| Swimming            | <u>Per Season</u>                | <u>Per Week</u> |
|                     | 18                               | 2               |
|                     | <br>                             |                 |
|                     | <i>Maximum # of Competitions</i> |                 |
| <u>Girls' Sport</u> | <u>Per Season</u>                | <u>Per Week</u> |
| Swimming            | 18                               | 2               |

**Proposal:**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Change Boys' Swim to 3 meets per week  | Maximum # of competitions:<br>18 per season/3 per week |
| Change Girls' Swim to 3 meets per week | Maximum # of competitions:<br>18 per season/3 per week |

**Rational:**

Would allow teams more flexibility to complete both league schedule and keep meets with traditional non league rivals. The 2013-14 season was cut short one week due to complications with finding a state meet site. This scenario appears to be the rule, rather than exception going forward.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

4. **Page 33**  
**Part III, Rule 34: Recognized Sports, And Scheduling Limits for Schools**  
**By: Paul Spear, MSHCA Rep**

**Current Rule:**

| <u>Boys' &amp; Girls' Sport</u> | <u>Maximum # of Competitions</u><br><u>Per Season</u> | <u>Per Week</u> |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Ice Hockey                      | 20  | 3               |

**Proposal:**

All ice hockey teams are allowed to play a maximum of 22 games per season.

**Rational:**

Teams accepting exclusion games are allowed to play 22 and Coaches Association feels it should be allowed for all teams.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

5. **Page 35**  
**Part III, Rule 35. 3: Starting & Closing Dates for Tryouts, Practices & Contests**  
**By: Frank Carey, M.B.C.A. Representative**

**Current:**

35.3 The Spring season must not begin before the third Monday in March. Spring sports include baseball, girls' wrestling, 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.

**Proposal:**

Exception baseball: All baseball players will be allowed to condition arms under the direction of their high school coach for the length of 1 1/2 hours each day. Gloves and baseballs only. No bats allowed. This arm injury prevention will begin on the 2nd Wednesday of March.

**Rationale:**

Due to the harsh winter conditions in the Northeast as well as an epidemic of arm injuries, the MBCA supports this proposal. According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission more than 627,000 reportable baseball injuries occur each year; most occur in the shoulder and elbow area. Also, in another study conducted 58% of high school pitchers experienced pain in the elbow and 38% experienced pain in the shoulder<sup>1</sup>.

Bill Thurston, former pitching expert of Amherst College testified that "preseason is the most dangerous times for throwing injuries to occur." The MBCA is looking to protect our young athletes strictly from a safety standpoint and not merely to extend our season. Many of our Northern States have adopted such safety measures most notably, Connecticut.

<sup>1</sup>Lyman S. Fleisig "Med. Sci. Sports Exerc. 2001 33(11): 1803-1810

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

6. **Page 36**  
**Part III, Rule 36: Multiple School Events: Involving Only MIAA Member Schools**  
**By: Peter Foley, Sectional & State Swim Meet Director**

**Current:**

36.2 Sub-varsity multi-school events are not allowed. Exception: Track, *Volleyball*, 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, *volleyball* or wrestling, or 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.

**Proposal:**

Add swimming to the sports that would be able to participate in non-scoring multiple school events. All other aspects of the rule would remain the same.

**Rational:**

Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of schools carrying large teams. This would allow more opportunities to participate for less skilled swimmers and might allow an end of season non scoring championship style experience for athletes not qualifying for their league meet. Three of the four sports allowed under this rule are individual sports similar to swimming.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

7. **Page 38**

**Part III, Rule 39: Competition with Non-Member Schools (includes “Approved” Schools that are not Members, but are approved by their own High School State Association as recognized by the National Federation).**

**By: Stephen Cass, Athletic Director, Wayland High School**

**Proposal:**

MIAA member schools are not required to submit any documents to the MIAA or receive MIAA approval to **compete or scrimmage against** any member of the New England Prep School Athletic Conference (NEPSAC), without exception.

**Rational:**

NEPSAC schools are well-governed and have reasonable standards pertaining to athletics. NEOSAC schools often provide terrific, cost-effective scheduling options for MIAA schools.

At present, a great deal of athletic director time and effort is expended just to scrimmage or play games against a team right down the street. This policy would eliminate lots of wasted time and effort, both on the part of the schools and the MIAA.

In addition, MIAA schools are not particularly vigilant about submitting this paperwork. We played several ISL schools this year. When I asked the opposing AD to sign a form for me, they all said they've been playing public schools for years and have never signed anything.

Also, the MIAA allows 7th graders to compete against 12th graders (13 year olds vs. 18 year olds - via District waiver or if under 1 Principal), but does not allow its members to compete against 19 year olds. This is a terrific inconsistency.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

8. **Page 40**

**Part III, Rule 40.7 : Out of Season Coach/Athlete Contact Limitations**

**By: Phil Sheridan, Director of Health, PE and Athletics, Peabody Veterans Memorial High School**

**Current:** Fall coaches may address eighth grade students once after *May 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.

**Proposal:**

I recommend the following addition to Rule 40.7:

Public High Schools can host an open house to introduce their schools, academic, extracurricular activities and facilities in the month of February including athletic department presentations (that will include coaches) talking about their sport, facility and philosophy as happens during Catholic School Week. Organizational meetings for fall sports including collecting names, physical documentation and practice schedules for the fall would be not allowable until the current May 1 date.

**Rational:**

The reason I am suggesting this is that currently catholic schools in Massachusetts host “Catholic School Week” in February each year. During the time that public school students visit catholic high schools to explore their academic options and there is no question that they are introduced to the catholic school athletic departments, including coaches, tours of turf fields, other athletic facilities, see videos of how successful specific teams are and more.

Students and their parents must make the decision to attend a catholic or private school sometimes as early as March without having had the opportunity of seeing their own public high school and its outstanding extracurricular activities, athletic teams, coaches and facilities. This is in my mind patently unfair to the public school sector.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

9. **Page 42**  
**Part III, Rule 43.2.1: Boys & Girls on the Same Team**  
**By: District A Committee**

**Current Rule:**

43.2.1 ...must report to opponents the mixed gender status of their team(s) at least 72 hours prior to each scheduled competition.

**Proposal:**

Would change to read,....must report to MIAA the mixed gender status of their team(s) prior to the first allowable date for competition in that sport.

MIAA would then post on web-site a list of all mixed gender teams prior to the start of each season.

**Rational:**

Would be consistent with wording for reporting of Game Exclusions.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

10. **Page 46**  
**Part IV Rule 45 & 96: Loyalty to the High School Team: Bona Fide Team Members**  
**By: Stephen Cass, Athletic Director, Wayland High School**

**Current:** 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. *Students cannot be given special treatment (late arrival, early dismissal, etc.) for non-school athletic programs.*

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.

*45.1 A student-athlete must be a Team Member for 50% of the regular season schedule for that sport to participate in any MIAA Tournament competition (team member: any student athlete who attends practices or games for his/her sport teams – e.g. Freshman basketball player moved to JV and then Varsity).*

**Proposal:**

To receive a Bona Fide Team Rule waiver, a student's name must be submitted electronically on the MIAA website. All corresponding information pertaining to the waiver must also be submitted electronically. Schools do not need to receive permission from the MIAA to receive waivers except in the following circumstances:

The student requesting the waiver....

1. Is not missing more than one week(7 consecutive days) of school athletic participation.
2. Is not missing an MIAA Tournament game.

If either of these two standards is violated, students would be required to get approval from the MIAA through the current "Application for Bona-Fide Team Rule 45 (and 96)".

**Rationale:**

Athletic Directors spend countless hours gathering signatures and submitting forms pertaining to the Bona Fide Rule. Most of these instances are some Saturday practice or other insignificant event. On almost every situation, the waiver is approved. This change would....

1. Give schools the final say on approval, except in significant situations (see the two exceptions listed above).
2. Eliminate hours and hours of paperwork for athletic directors
3. Eliminate hours of work for MIAA personnel.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**11. Page 46 & 58**

**Part IV Rule 46: Only One School Sport Per Season is Permitted and**

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

**By: Megan Therrien, Girls Varsity Lacrosse Head Coach**

**Current: Student Eligibility:** 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.

**Proposal:**

Time allowed for participation.

Any student-athlete that participates in a sport may only play an equivalent of one game in a day. If the student athlete is a swing player (plays both Varsity and JV), he/she may play half of what is considered a full game/match at each level. If the sporting event is a timed event (for example, basketball, lacrosse, soccer, field hockey or ice hockey) a player whom enters the game for any amount of time in the quarter/period/half will count as playing that full quarter/period/half.

**Rationale:**

First, a student may play more games in a week than recommended. As of now there is no written rule in the MIAA about playing time. The more a player plays he/she will experience more repetition and wear on the muscles. More time in a high intensity or competitive sport makes the student athlete more prone to injury.

Second, allowing a student to play extra time is an unfair advantage. It allows a team to gain substitutions, which results in allowing the team to get “fresh legs” in the game. Also, within their own organization it is not fair for other student athletes. Those who attend the games and practices at their JV level are denied playing time by not having limits set forth.

There used to be a rule in the handbook about playing time. I remember the old MIAA rule discussing student athletes’ safety. When I went to look for the rule this year I could not find the rule. I strongly believe this rule should be implemented. Unfortunately unspoken rules are no longer adhered to, and, sportsmanship is open to interpretation. This rule should be written to keep both coaches and athletes aware of what is considered fair and safe for all parties.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**12. Page 50-51**

**Part IV Rule: New Rule 49.11.2**

**By: Phil Napolitano, MIAA Executive Assistant on behalf of MIAA Sportsmanship Committee**

**Proposal:**

Any third and subsequent coach contest disqualification will result in the school principal, athletic director and coach being required to meet with the MIAA Sportsmanship Committee on the coach's eligibility.

**Rationale:**

MIAA currently has consequences spelled out for a coach's first and second offense:

*49.5 A student or coach ruled out of a contest (pre-season, scrimmage, jamboree/play-day, regular season or MIAA Tournament) 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...*

*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.*

The Sportsmanship Committee strongly believes a third and subsequent violation consequence should be incorporated into the MIAA Handbook.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**13. Page 51**  
**Part IV Rule: 51. Student Eligibility: Baseline Eligibility Requirements**  
**By: Ron McCarthy, Principal, Dedham High School**

**Current Rule:**

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.

**Proposal:**

Delete the words "student eligibility" from Rule 51

**Rationale:**

A student can't attend one school and play a sport for another.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**14. Page 51**  
**Part IV Rule: 51. Student Eligibility: Baseline Eligibility Requirements**  
**By: Terry Plotkin, Athletic Director, Four Rivers Charter School**

**Current Rule:**

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.

**Proposal:**

A student who attends a school that is not a member of the MIAA and whose school does not offer a specific sport can play that sport for their home district from where he/she resides if both schools are willing. The non-MIAA school would pay a fee to the MIAA for this privilege. They would not have any voting rights.

**Rationale:**

There are small schools in the state that cannot field teams, but have students who want to play. There are MIAA schools that need players. This is a chance for everyone to win and gets more students playing.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**15. Page 51**  
**Part IV Rule: 51. Student Eligibility: Baseline Eligibility Requirements**  
**By: Charlie Olchowski, Parent, Coach**

**Current Rule:**

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.

**Proposal:**

A Charter School student is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for a school located in the District where the Charter School student lives, only on a team for a sport that is not offered at said Charter School, if the following conditions are met:

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

The student is formally enrolled in a Charter School that serves the middle or high school, and is living with his/her parents or legal guardian(s) in the family residence.

The Charter School need not be a member of the MIAA. The Charter School would not have voting rights, would not field any teams in the MIAA, would have secured internal approval and is also approved by the host school for such participation, and would pay a fair fee per sport to be determined by, and paid to, the MIAA for the right for its students to participate on teams of the hosted school.

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 ability beyond grade eight.

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

The Principal of the Charter School shall communicate with and fully cooperate to provide all records and documentation to the Principal to effectuate and comply with the aforementioned requirements for eligibility.

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 Charter School students who have satisfied the requirements above.

**Rationale:**

Many schools are experiencing difficulty in fielding enough players for teams of certain sports. This is true with existing (ex: ice hockey) and newer, growing (ex: lacrosse) sports. Especially in a rural settings there are few teams for such sports offered to students older than eighth grade. Therefore in

conclusion, it would help schools with dwindling rosters to compete and extend careers of a group of dedicated athletes.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

16. **Page 52**  
**Part IV Rule: 53. Student Eligibility: Middle School Students on Senior High Teams**  
**By: David Reid, Athletic Director, Montachusett RVTHS**

**Current Rule:**

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).

**Proposal:**

Middle Schools, whether under the same Principal or who have been granted a waiver to participate on the High School teams, will have their enrollments used for tournament participation. If students are used for a varsity team, 100% of the gender used will be added to the schools enrollment for tournament participation. If students are used on sub-varsity teams only, 50% of the gender used will be added to the schools enrollment for tournament participation.

**Rationale:**

This will give each school a true number of possible students used for athletic teams at their schools. This will even out the "field" for eligible students at every school.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

17. **Page 52**  
**Part IV Rule: 53. Student Eligibility: Middle School Students on Senior High Teams**  
**By: Dick Baker, Assistant Director, MIAA**

**Current Rule:**

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).

**Proposal:**

Eliminate present wording and rewrite: A Middle School student is eligible to represent a senior high school on its athletic teams only if the school receives a waiver from the District Committee. High School interscholastics is for Grade 9 thru 12 students only.

**Rationale:**

With the many school configurations of grades, we need to be consistent throughout the state and school eligibility should not be determined by the number of grades under the direct jurisdiction & supervision of the high school principal.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

18. **Page 52**  
**Part IV Rule: 57. Student Eligibility: Transfer Students**  
**By: John C.Clifford**

**Current Rule:**

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.)

**Proposal:**

Change of residence of a student's parents 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 when the student could continue to attend the former school).

**Rationale:**

The rule should be amended to remove "does not apply to a change in custody, guardianship, or to a student's change in residence from one parent to another, "as this is inherently discriminatory against both the student-athlete and his/her legal guardian(s). Without amendment, the rule fails in the spirit and letter of rights afforded under Title IX, etc. without consideration for the circumstances, including, but not limited to changes/modifications under custody agreements in the interest of children among separated parent(s), extended family, and/or legally appointed guardians.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**19. Page 57-62 - New Rule**

**Part IV Rule: 57: Student Eligibility: Transfer Students:**

**Rule: 59: Student Eligibility: Time Allowed for Participation After First Entering Grade 9**

**Rule: 60: Student Eligibility: Age**

**By: Bob Rodgers, Athletic Director, Whitman-Hanson Regional HS**

**Proposal:**

On all waiver requests (age, 5th year, transfer, etc.), the student receiving the waiver is only eligible for regular season play. In order for a student to also be eligible for post season play, the waiver granting authority (the MIAA, ERB, MIAC) must specifically grant an additional waiver indicating the student may participate in post season play. This rule does not apply to students gaining eligibility through Form 200. Form 200 students are automatically completely eligible for all competition.

**Rationale:**

Very often, the ERB and MIAC are presented with compelling cases of students who are seeking waivers. At the same time, both boards try to balance the competitive fairness issue. By allowing the student a waiver to compete during the regular season, we give that student the chance to be a part of a team and support system that is often imperative to their academic and personal success. By limiting the eligibility to just the regular season, we preserve the fairness of the tournaments.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**20. Page 59**

**Part IV Rule:62: Student (and Coach) Eligibility: Chemical Health/Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco**

**By: Jennifer C. Rowe, Director, Crime Prevention Unit, Norfolk District Attorney's Office**

**Current Rule:**

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 (regular season and tournament) 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. During the suspension the disqualified student may not be in uniform and his/her attendance at the

competition site is determined by the high school principal. 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.

**Proposal:**

A student who, in good faith, seeks medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug-related overdose shall not be found in violation of a Chemical Health Policy if the evidence for the violation was gained as a result of seeking medical assistance.

**Rationale:**

Proposed language is consistent with M.G.L.c.192: Acts of 2012 section 34(A) passed in Massachusetts in 2012. This legislation was passed to prevent fatal overdoses by encouraging witnesses to overdose to seek medical assistance and reward them with protection from prosecution as a Good Samaritan. The same provision in Chemical Health Policies encourages leadership, good decision making and will save lives.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

21. **Page 59**  
**Part IV Rule:62: Student (and Coach) Eligibility: Chemical Health/Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco**  
**By: Jennifer C. Rowe, Director, Crime Prevention Unit, Norfolk District Attorney's Office**

**Current Rule:**

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 (regular season and tournament) 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. During the suspension the disqualified student may not be in uniform and his/her attendance at the competition site is determined by the high school principal. 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.

**Proposal:**

A student's request for substance abuse treatment shall not constitute a violation of the Chemical Health/Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco Rule 62.

**Rationale:**

Students may be more inclined to seek assistance for addiction or substance abuse related problems from a trusted coach or teacher, thereby allowing for earlier intervention and treatment and minimizing risk of harm to self or others. As written, the Chemical Health Rule does not provide an exception for student disclosure without penalty.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

22. **Page 59 - New Rule**  
**Part IV Rule:62: Student (and Coach) Eligibility: Chemical Health/Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco**  
**By: Stephanie Patton, Prevention Coordinator, OASIS Coalition**

**Proposal:**

Student athletes may not participate in practices or competition while under the influence of any intoxicant or psychoactive drug. This includes, but is not limited to: "medical" marijuana; prescription opioid medications; and benzodiazepines. It is not a violation for a student to use a legally defined drug specifically prescribed or recommended for the student's own use by his/her doctor. However, drugs and medications that have impairment of judgment, reaction time and coordination as possible side effects can pose potential risks to the student athlete and/or their peers during a practice or competition. Student athletes may not return to practice or competition until such a time that they are no longer under the influence of said medications.

**Rationale:**

Due to new state law, it is possible for a student to obtain a recommendation from a doctor for "medical marijuana". We are concerned that impairment due to this drug could be harmful to student athletes due to impaired judgment and reaction time. Other medications that may pose similar risks were included in this rule change.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**23. Page 64**

**Part V Rule:65: Baseball - new subsection**

**By: Pete Afanasiw, Baseball Head Coach, Cohasset High School**

**Proposal:**

Adult coaches/managers may serve as base coaches as long as they are in coordinating and matching school colors with those of their uniformed players

**Rationale:**

The question at hand is the necessity of adults dressing in a players' uniform at the high school level. This tradition seems rather outdated and archaic. While it may be an 'unwritten' rule for the MLB baseball, it is the only MIAA sanctioned sport in which adults are required to dress like their teenage players. Parity in the treatment of coaches at the high school level is really the impetus of this request. In the setting of high school athletics, coaches are expected to serve not just as coaches, but also as mentors, teachers and more importantly role models. Arguably, most of the young men playing high school baseball played little league at some point with either their father or friend's father coaching, and those parents were not mandated to dress like their 7, 8 or 9 year olds, while coaching. The Little League World Series televised on ESPN annually depicts highly respected and professional coaches dressed in team colors doing their job at the highest level, and maintaining a healthy respect for the game, all the while more than adequately serving their charges. To dress like a teenager, while trying to inspire, motivate and coach players is made more difficult because of the dress, and is demeaning to the coaches.

Another issue regarding the legality of high school coaches being forced to wear a uniform, is in the definition of said position. Is the coach of a high school team a manager or is he a designated coach. I beg to argue he is much more than a coach, he is the manager. He schedules games, designs practices, deals with logistics, etc. Thus if agreed that he is a manager, then he is exempt from wearing a uniform, because, according to the MLB rule book there is absolutely no mention of a manager needing to be in uniform.

MLB Rule 1.11(a) (1) says that "players on a team shall wear uniforms identical in color, trim and style, and all players uniforms shall include minimal six-inch numbers on their backs" and rule 2.00 states that base coaches and coaches are "team members in uniform." While Rule 2.00 gives a rundown of the manager's role and some rules that apply to them, it doesn't specify that they're uniformed. Further down, Rule 3.15 says that no one is allowed on the field during the game except "players and coaches in uniform, managers, news photographers authorized by the home team" and a few select others. Again, there is nothing written about the managers being uniformed.

Some believe that managers wear uniforms because they routinely appear on the field: during pitching changes, and during arguments with the umpires. But the managers, unlike the players, aren't on the diamond when the ball is actually in play. So, like their football, hockey, soccer, basketball and lacrosse brethren high school baseball coaches should be given the freedom to wear age-appropriate clothing and do the job to the best of their ability while doing their best to maintain a healthy respect for the game and inspire young men to succeed.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**24. Page 64**  
**Part V Rule: 65.4 - Baseball**  
**By: Richard A. Carey, Retired H.S. Coach**

**Current:**

65.4 Metal bats may be used, but they must meet the safety specifications adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations (reference NFHS Rules 1-3-2 through 1-3-5). Click icon for more information.

**Proposal:**

Effective for the 2016 season on, only wooden bats will be permitted in high school baseball.

**Rationale:**

Metal bats hit baseballs faster and harder than wooden bats do and therefore are more dangerous because they give pitchers, especially, less time to react. Consequently, pitchers are more at risk of suffering serious and life-threatening injuries when metal bats are used.

The rationale expressed in the first paragraph is essentially the same as that expressed over the past ten years in an attempt to persuade you to get rid of the artificial performance-enhancing, dangerous metal bats you had been using (most recently, the BESR bats). Now, after a decade of denying the statements made in the first paragraph, you decided, as of last season (2012), to drop the BESR bats that, you claimed, performed "almost like" wood (they didn't). In their place you have chosen to use other less offensive and less dangerous bats (BBCOR) that, you claim, perform "just like" wood (they don't).

You have been sold another bill of goods - and you have bought it without sufficient reflection. It reminds me of the old saying, "fool me once - shame on you. Fool me twice - shame on me." While the lesser-of-the-evil BBCOR bat is less dangerous than the BESR bat, it does not perform just like a wooden bat, which is the least dangerous and most legitimate bat. Why settle for the less dangerous when you can mandate the least dangerous?

For these reasons, then (safety, legitimacy, consistency, integrity), and/or for any other reasons of your own (for example, the 14.5 million-dollar law suit won by the family of a New Jersey boy, who was brain damaged by a metal bat-launched line drive). I urge you to require that only wooden bats be used in all your high school baseball games.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**25. Page 71**  
**Part V Rule 69.5.5 : Football - new subsection**  
**By: Phil Vaccaro, Assistant Director, MIAA**

**Proposal:**

Beginning the first Monday after Labor Day, No football team shall conduct more than 2 practices of full contact per week.

For the purposes of the rule "full contact" is contact at game speed where players execute full tackles at a competitive pace taking players to the ground. A team may continue to dress in full pads for practice, but may only participate in live action drills and game time simulations no more than 2 practices per week.

**Rationale:**

NFL has 14 days of contact per season. Ivy League has above rule. This will minimize concussions & other potential injuries.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**26. Page 73**  
**Part V, Rule 72: Ice Hockey - new rule**  
**By: Paul Spear, MSHCA Rep**

**Proposal:**

The MA State Hockey Coaches Association (MSHCA) proposes the MIAA allow member leagues that wish to increase the length of ice hockey periods to 17 minutes. Seventeen-minute periods are acceptable under NFHS rules and the change would increase participation for student athletes. Other State Associations, such as Minnesota and Wisconsin successfully use the 17-minute periods.

**Rational:**

The key reasons for the MSHCA wanting this change is to increase participation for the players and to fully use what we currently pay for. With school districts forced to assess user fees for athletics, and Principals and Athletic Directors looking at athletics through a cost per student athlete paradigm, the Coaches Association feels it would be in everyone's best interest to allow an increase in game time, which would increase student participation. Coaches would be forced to use additional players through the course of the game to remain competitive. It would increase the amount of playing time for each player and would lower the per pupil cost for the sport of ice hockey.

One of the main concerns of school district administrators and the MIAA Board would be the perceived additional cost. The MSHCA views this as a problem of perception versus reality because it would require no extra ice time. Under the current format of 15-minute periods, schools are required by the arena's to purchase ice time in two-hour blocks. Barring any unforeseen disruptions, games only take about one hour and forty-five minutes, which has schools leaving the ice early and seeing no return of funds from the arenas. School districts and Municipalities would actually be getting a better value by simply utilizing what they are required to purchase. There are no others fees; such as police details or EMT costs, which would increase as a result of the extension of the game.

The MSHCA Executive Board and its Membership is in full support of increasing the length of periods in MIAA sanctioned ice hockey games.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**27. Page 75 and 77**  
**Part V Rules: 73 & 75 - Indoor Track and Outdoor Track**  
**By: Dick Baker, Assistant Director, MIAA**

**Current:**

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).

**Proposal:**

Rewrite 73.2.1 and 75.2.2 to read: A competitor shall not compete in more than four events, including relays.

**Rationale:**

The MIAA Track Committee has approved 3 events for Indoor & Outdoor Track Divisional Meets. This change if approved is for the regular season only.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**28. Page 76**  
**Part V Rules: 74 - Lacrosse - new subsection**

**By: Thom Holdgate, Director of Athletics, Duxbury High School**

**Proposal:**

In Girls' Lacrosse: If teams remain tied at the end of regulation, an overtime period of 5 minutes will be played. Play will continue until one team scores and can be declared a winner.

**Rationale:**

Boys' lacrosse currently has overtime, while girls' lacrosse does not. I would like to see equality between the 2 sports.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**29. Page 76**

**Part V Rules: 74.5 - Lacrosse**

**By: Rich Riley, Assistant Director, MIAA, MIAA Lacrosse Liaison**

**Current:**

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.

**Proposal:**

Eliminate rule from MIAA Handbook

**Rationale:**

To follow NFHS Rules.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**30. Page 77**

**Part V Rules: 74.9 - Lacrosse**

**By: Rich Riley, Assistant Director, MIAA, MIAA Lacrosse Liaison**

**Current:**

In Boys' Lacrosse (Facing-Off): The official will say "down" and then blow the whistle.

**Proposal:**

Eliminate rule from MIAA Handbook

**Rationale:**

To follow NFHS Rules.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**31. Page 79**

**Part V Rules: 77.2.21- Soccer**

**By: Calvin G. Perry, MISOA Interpreter**

**Current:**

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.

**Proposal:**

I propose that a requirement be added for a Game Manager be assigned for all ladies' varsity games starting after 4:00 p.m. This to be accomplished by adding to Rule 77.2.21 after the word "contests" in the first line, the following: "and all ladies" contests starting after 4:00 p.m.

**Rationale:**

This adds the same home team management supervision and safety oversight that is already afforded the boys' games. Title IX has added an entirely new and higher level of competition to girls' athletics. A higher level of concern is warranted for their games.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**32. Page 83**

**Part V Rule: 80 - Tennis - new subsection**

**By: Michael Mowatt, Tennis Coach, Xaverian Brothers High School**

**Current:**

There is no rule that specifically deals with temperature and wind cancellation.

**Proposal:**

High School tennis is an outdoor sport. All matches shall be played outdoors unless weather or court conditions threaten the health and safety of student athletes. In the event of inclement weather, if a team match has not yet begun, the match must be rescheduled.

Determining playable outdoor weather conditions:

1. The projected weather forecast, for a minimum of two hours out of a four-hour time period from the start of the match, according to [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) shall be:
  - A high if at least 40 degrees; or
  - sustained winds (not including wind gusts) of 20 miles per hour or less.

**Rationale:**

This rule proposal is based on the ITA Rules for College Tennis. Their rule is "a high if at least 50 degrees", but everything else is the same. They do, for the most part, also have the option of going inside to play their matches.

My team played a match against a team that is right on the water on April 2, 2013. The winds were 27-38 mph according to [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com). The high temperature for the day was 40 degrees at 3:05 pm and the low was 31 degrees at 6:05 pm. We started the match around 4:30 pm. At 5:02 pm, [weather.com](http://www.weather.com) had the temperature at 40 degrees, the wind at 21 mph and said it "felt like 29 degrees." At 6:30 it "felt like 26." I think this weather threatened the health and safety of the student athletes and I think we should take the ITA rule, adapt it to high school tennis. Even the opposing coach said, "I wouldn't have even had a practice in these conditions."

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**33. Page 83**

**Part V Rule: 80 - Tennis - new subsection**

**By: Art Reilly, Athletic Director, Lee Middle/High School**

**Proposal:**

Girls' tennis teams that are playing league or non-league games/matches against co-ed teams have the option of not counting those games toward tournament qualification.

**Rational:**

We have girls teams that are being denied the opportunity to play in the girls tournament due to losses to co-ed teams. The co-ed teams are not eligible to compete in the girls tennis tournament as a co-ed team, but they are eliminating some teams from being eligible for the girls teams.

Co-ed teams can currently qualify, during the regular season, as a girls' team. They then must decide to either enter the tournament as a co-ed team in the boys' tournament or play without the boys and participate as a girls team in the tournament. This rule would not change their opportunity to participate in the tournament.

We have girls teams that are playing one, two or more games against co-ed teams during the regular season and losses to these teams are denying the girls teams the opportunity to participate in the girls tournament. If they were offered the opportunity to not count these games/matches it would increase participation in the tournament by a handful of teams each year.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**34. Page 89**

**Part V Rule: 82.4.6- Wrestling**

**By: Manny Costa, President, Wrestling Coaches Association**

**Current:**

To qualify at a certain weight for the MIAA Individual 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 *January 1<sup>st</sup> each year*. 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. Rule book weight class allowances count toward certification.

**Proposal:**

Change to read:

To qualify at a certain weight for the MIAA Individual Sectional & State Tournaments, a wrestler must weigh-in at his certified weight class at scratch weight at least once during the season, shoulder to shoulder in front of an opposing coach. The opposing coach must sign the weigh-in sheet verifying the scratch weight. Wrestler must achieve scratch weight if the first weigh-in occurs after the 2 lb. allowance is granted on January 1st each year.

Wrestler must also weigh-in at the base weight (scratch weight plus any rule book allowances) 60% if the varsity days of competition on which the wrestler competes. Rule book weight class allowances count toward the 60% certification.

With this proposal there is a change in the language as well as a separation with-in the language to show that they are separate weigh-in procedural rules.

**Rationale:**

Rule book allowances and morning weigh-ins are allowed toward the 60% rule, but should not be allowed to certify a weight class. Each wrestler must achieve the federation weight class (i.e. 106) once to be allowed to certify the weight class for the post season individual tournaments.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**35. Page 99**

**Part VII Rule: 88 - Hearings & Appeals - new subsection**

**By: Ron McCarthy, Principal, Dedham High School**

**Proposal:**

Any appeal that is made must be heard by different individuals. Individuals who sit on the board/committee that made a decision may not sit on the appellate committee/board.

**Rationale:**

This follows the legal appeal process as established by the United States Constitution (and common sense).

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**36. Page 110**  
**Part IX Rule: 93 - Tournament Cut-off Dates**  
**By: Eric Nazar, Cross Country Coach**

**Proposal:**

I propose to move the Cross Country Tournament cut-off date to the Monday prior to the State Regional Qualifying Meets (i.e. Monday, 11/3/14 instead of Wednesday, 10/29/14).

**Rationale:**

This will allow coaches in the PVIAC League and other leagues with league meets on the first weekend in November, to decide their tournament rosters AFTER their league meet. Tournament Directors will still have five days to make sure everything is correct.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**37. Page 111**  
**Part IX Rule: 94 - Divisional Enrollment: Cooperative & Mixed Gender Teams - new subsection**  
**By: Martha Jamieson, Athletic Director, Silver Lake Regional School District**

**Current:**

For all sports that establish divisions by enrollment, all cooperative teams and mixed gender teams (see Rule 43.2.1 for golf exception) 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.

**Proposal:**

Allow for Chapter 74 schools to declare a portion of their vocational population for alignment purposes. The MIAA Institutional registration form will include a check off box identifying Chapter 74 Schools (comprehensive schools with both regular & vocational education students) and in turn identify this designation on all enrollment sheets & tournament alignment reports.

The MIAA Institutional registration form will include a formula for Chapter 74 schools to use when determining a for boy/girl count enrollment. Chapter 74 schools will count only one third of the number of vocational boys or girls x .33 when listing enrollment report to MIAA.

For example: Silver Lake has 626 boys but 150 of them are involved in the vocational program.  $150 \times .33 = 50$  which would place our boys' enrollment at 526 and have potential divisional placement implications.

**Rationale:**

Vocational Schools have always been given consideration as unique institutions when tournament alignments are structured. Most committees will automatically drop vocational schools down a division or have a special formula (football playoff system) to accommodate these schools. Comprehensive High Schools (designated Chapter 74) have a combined regular and vocational education enrollment. For example, Silver Lake has 626 boys but 150 of them are involved in the vocational program. If we did not count the vocational students we would have 475 boys which is a significant drop and has divisional placement implications. It is recommended that Chapter 74 schools may count only a third (33%) of their vocational students into gender enrollment calculations.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**38. Page 112**  
**Part IX Rules: 95.3 - Tournament Eligibility**  
**By: Paul Pontes, Retired Coach, Bishop Feehan High School**

**Current:**

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.

**Proposal:**

Change minimum winning percentage to 65%.

**Rationale:**

I just wanted to take a little time to express my opinion on the qualification requirement for boys and girls to participate in the season ending tournament. I'm a retired high school soccer coach with over 20 years experience.

When I started coaching, the requirement was that teams needed to win 80% of their games to qualify. It was tough but it made coaches and players alike work extremely hard to reach that goal. I applaud the MIAA for changing the qualification requirement to 50% several years ago. However, I feel that 65% is the way to go and I strongly urge the MIAA to consider this change for many logical reasons.

In some brackets, there are 23, 24, or more teams that qualify for tournament play under the current guidelines. To me personally, a team that concludes their season at .500 really has no place participating in the tournament. Teams have to win 6 or 7 games in a row to reach the final. In most cases, the early round games are one sided in favor of the higher seed. In addition, the tournament as it is drags out too long and the kid's are playing in mid November when the weather conditions are poor at best. These are high school kid's that are being put under enormous pressure after enduring a long season of 16 to 20 games.

I've been through this experience and I can honestly say it's no cup of tea. I really don't know if it's all about making money, but you do. In any event, high school athletics is about the student athletes and I'm sure we both agree on that. I'm just asking you to consider my concerns and hopefully you will see that a change needs to be made.

I'm also the coach that requested and pushed for what I feel were two significant changes in high school soccer. The time out in soccer was needed badly for many reasons. In addition, the decision to allow a coach be present during pre-season, (Captain's Practice) was a huge step by the MIAA for the safety of the kid's.

In closing, I strongly urge you to consider changing the tournament qualification requirement to 65% for the reasons I stated above.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

**39. Page 123**  
**Part X - MIAA Constitution - Article IV, E. 3**  
**By: Ron McCarthy, Principal, Dedham High School**

**Current:**

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.

**Proposal:**

The MIAA and District Committees need to identify the length of terms. Some committees have had the same members for beyond three years.

**REVIEWING BODY ACTION:**

# OFFICIAL RULES CHANGE BALLOT

Date of Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Reviewing Body: \_\_\_\_\_

| Rule # | Yes   | No    | Abstentions |
|--------|-------|-------|-------------|
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**COMPLETED BALLOT & AMENDMENTS ARE TO BE RETURNED TO DICK BAKER @ THE MIAA**

Name of Reviewing Body: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**AMENDMENT VOTED**  
(Make copies as needed)

1. Rule proposal number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Amendment voted:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

3. Rationale:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Committee vote on amendment:

Number **Yes**: \_\_\_\_\_

Number **No**: \_\_\_\_\_

Number abstentions: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLETED BALLOT & AMENDMENTS ARE TO BE RETURNED TO DICK BAKER @ THE MIAA**