

**The committee is made up of:**

Three District F Principals

Three District F Athletic Directors

# Present committee Principals

- Chairperson: Christine Vigneux  
Principal Belchertown High School  
Principal Lisa Nemeth  
Principal Ludlow High School  
Principal Jim Blain  
Principal Chicopee High School  
  
Ann Trytko MIAA representative

# Athletic Directors

Mike Martin

Athletic Director Springfield Public Schools

Marty Sanderson

Athletic Director Frontier Regional High School

Glenn Doulette

Athletic Director West Springfield High School

Tim Brillo

Athletic Director Ludlow High Non-voting member

# Contact Information

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- Glenn Doulette (413-237-7046) [doulette@wsps.org](mailto:doulette@wsps.org)
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- Ann Trytko ( MIAA Liaison) [atrytko@miaa.net](mailto:atrytko@miaa.net)
  
- Sherry Webb (413-522-3155) [smith34saw@hotmail.com](mailto:smith34saw@hotmail.com)
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# Waiver Co-ordinator

- Sherry Webb

- Non voting member.

- Duties:

- Review all waiver requests

- Incomplete request, contact the petitioning school

- Take minutes of MIAA District F Committee meetings

- Maintain Records

- Notify PVIAC Administrative Assistant of dates and times of meetings (Posted on PVIAC website)

- Send written confirmation of committee's decision to the petitioning school via email.

- Notify the MIAA of decisions regarding MS/Co-op teams. (Jan Martin)

- Act as liaison between the PVIAC and the District F Athletic Committee.

# DAC Duties

- The committee schedules 3 meetings each athletic season to consider the following issues:
  - Co-op and MS team waiver requests
    - This follows the Athletic Directors' and PVIAC Executive Board vote.
    - The DAC does not rule on MS/Co-op requests until after the AD's and PVIAC Executive Board have voted.

# DAC Duties

- The DAC addresses the following MIAA Handbook rules
  - Rule # 55 Membership in School
  - Rule # 57 Transfer Student
  - Rule # 58 Academic Eligibility
  - Rule # 59 Time allowed for participation
  - Rule #60 Age limit
  - Rule #96 Bona Fide team rule (large changes to this rule)
    - Take a look at Rule #86 for BF waiver guidelines

# Waiver Denial Procedures

- If an individual student waiver is denied by the Chair, the presenting school can choose to appeal the denial and appear before the DAC.
- At the appeal hearing the **Principal, Athletic Director and affected student must appear** before the committee to have the appeal considered. Also, others who may wish to speak on student's behalf are welcome.
- There is no further appeal.



# Areas of Concern

- Importance of Form 200 for transferring student:
  - The committee will closely consider the form if the sending school does not sign off on all portions of the form.
  - This will almost always result in a hearing for the transferring student.
  - Recently there has been more and more attention paid to the form 200 procedure.

# Areas of Concern

- Bona Fide team member rule
  - The committee recognizes that the Athletic Directors are sometimes the “last to know” regarding events away from the school team
  - Every effort should be made to inform the athletes, their parents and the coaching staff regarding this rule
  - And then notify the DAC in a timely fashion regarding the waiver request
  - Please take to time read the new BF rule.

# District F Bona Fide

- In District F we have some annual events that receive a “blanket waiver”.
- There are swimming and track events that fall into this category.
- Keep in mind that students are limited in the number of BF waivers they receive.
- A student is allowed ONE BF waiver per season.

# Requests for Specific Rules

Please note the following deadlines for waiver requests.

Fall Sept. 22

Winter December 15

Spring April 1

# Rule # 55

Membership in School

# Membership in School

- Student must be a member of the MIAA school for a minimum of 2 months UNLESS entering from an elementary or Middle school
- After dropping out a student is not eligible until a report card is issued AND expiration of a minimum of two calendar months from the date of return
- Must be a resident of community unless “school choice” is involved

# Rule # 57

Transfer Student

# Transfer Students

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



# Rule 57.1

- A student who transfers from any school to an MIAA member high school is ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic contest at any level for a period of one year in all sports in which that student participated at the varsity level or its equivalent during the one year period immediately preceding the transfer. (Note form 200)

## Rule 57.2

- Varsity Participation is defined as any appearance, as a competitor, in a varsity inter-school contest other than a scrimmage. The “equivalent” will be judged by the MIAA executive staff on the basis of the quality of non school sport program participation

## Rule 57.3

- Before a transfer student can be certified as eligible in a specific sport within the year of his/her transfer, the sending school principal and athletic director must certify on the FORM 200 by signature what the student participated in sport and level (sub-varsity, varsity or non-school team) during the year prior to actual transfer

# Rule 57.3.1

- If it is later determined that the sending school falsely or erroneously certified eligibility, then the sending school will be subject to minimally a letter of censure, copies of which will be mailed to the school committee, superintendent, principal athletic directory and reported on the MIAA website

## Rule 57.3.2

- MIAA Form 200 must be dated and filed at the receiving school before the student is declared eligible (as to the transfer rule only) by the receiving school principal. Note that Form 200 will not yield eligibility for a student who transfers after the opening date of the practice season. Form 200 is found in the White Book of Forms at the MIAA website.

# Rule 57.4

Form 200 certifies the following:

- a. Recruitment was not involved in any way
- b. At the time of transfer, the student was in good standing.
- c. The student would be academically eligible at the sending school.
- d. Transfer was in no way motivated by athletics
- e. The student would have been eligible by MIAA and local rules at the sending school.

Sending school Principal AND Athletic Director must both sign off on the form 200.

# Rule 57.5

A student who transfers after the start of the practice season is ineligible in all sports during that sports season.

# Rule 57.6 Foreign Students

- A student who transfers from a foreign country without parental change of residence accompanying the transfer will be ineligible unless such transfer is sponsored by a CSIET approved foreign exchange program. Schools must apply for a waiver for students who are not a part of the CSIET program.



# Rule 57.7

## Exemptions to the Transfer Rule

- 57.7.1 Change of residence of a student's parents: this does not apply to change of custody, guardianship or student's change of residence from one parent to another, nor does it apply when the student could continue to attend the former school.
- 57.7.2 Middle school transfer
- 57.7.3 Elementary/MS graduate
- 57.7.4 Closed school

## More about 57.7.4

- Please take a moment to review this rule closely
- If a school no longer exists, a student may be eligible at the school of his/her choice immediately **after the closing** of that school

# Rule 57.7.4

- Please be sure that incoming students from a closed school, entered your school AFTER the school closed. Students who transferred BEFORE the school closing are under the guidelines of all other transfer rules.

## Rule 58

- Academic Eligibility
- 58.1 A student must secure during the last marking period preceding the contest a passing grade , and full credit in the equivalent of four traditional year long major English courses. A transfer student may not gain academic eligibility if he/she was not, or would not be, eligible at the sending school.

# Academic Eligibility 58.2

- 58.2 A student cannot at any time represent a school unless that student is taking courses which would provide Carnegie Units equivalent to four traditional year long major English courses

# Academic eligibility 58.3

- To be eligible for the fall marking period students are required to have passed and received full credits for the previous academic year the equivalent of four traditional year long major English Courses.

# Academic eligibility 58.4

- 58.4 Academic eligibility of all students shall be considered as official and determined on the published date when the report cards for that ranking period are to be issued to the parents of all students within a particular class.

# Academic Eligibility

- 58.5 Incomplete grades may not be counted towards eligibility until they are made up following school committee policy.
- 58.6 A student who repeats work upon which he/she has once received credit cannot count that subject a second time for eligibility



# Academic Eligibility

- 58.7 A student cannot count for eligibility any subject taken during the summer, unless that subject was pursued and failed during the immediately preceding academic year.
- 58.8 All cooperative team athletes must meet the eligibility standards of their own school as well as the host school.

# Questions You should ask

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

# Rules #59 and #60

- These rules are the ones we most see as a waiver request and appeals.
- Almost universally when the committee sees an AGE waiver request (Rule #60), the waiver request is denied and an appeal hearing is set.

## Rule # 59

### Time allowed for participation

- A student shall be eligible for interscholastic competition for no more than 4 consecutive years after initially entering Grade 9. This limitation shall apply without regard to actual participation or attempt to participate
- In no case may a student be eligible to participate in more than 4 of each of the three annual athletic seasons.

Rule # 60

Age

- A student shall be under 19 years of age, but may compete during the remainder of the school year, provided that his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday occurs on or after September 1 of that year. For Freshman competition only, a student shall be under 16 years of age but may compete during the remainder of the school year provided that the sixteenth birthday occurs on or after 9/1.

# How the appeal process works

- First the school submits the waiver request using the appropriate form from the White Book of forms. Please complete the form in it's entirety
- The waiver co-ordinator will review the form to determine that it is complete, and to guide the sending AD should there be more information necessary for a complete review by the DAC.

# DAC meeting

- At the next appropriate meeting, the DAC will consider the application for waiver.
- The committee will consider documented circumstances presented and determine if the waiver request is merited on its face OR the Chair of the committee will deny the waiver.
- At this point the Waiver Co-ordinator will contact the requesting school of the decision.
- The school must then decide whether to go forward with an appeal.

# Appeal Hearings

- If the school decides to go forward with an appeal, the appeal will be scheduled at the next appropriate DAC meeting.
- The school **must** be represented by the Principal and the Athletic Director. The appealing student should also be present.
- If there are other individuals who have relevant information regarding the case they are encouraged to attend and will be allowed to speak.



# Advice about Appeals hearings

- The DAC needs to hear information that is compelling, that sets this student and his/her case beyond the usual circumstances.
- Information presented at the hearing is confidential and is respected by the committee as such.
- Medical issues, family issues, other social difficulties that might have lead to the student being in this situation is very helpful to the student's case.

## Rule # 96

### Bona Fide team member

- Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non school activity/event in any sport recognized by the MIAA. Any student who violates this standard twice becomes ineligible for the MIAA tournaments.

## Notes regarding Bona Fide team member rule

- Check Rule #45 for consequences for violation of rule. 25% of season is lost for first violation.
- Also, check rule #86 to help AD and Principals to determine if a waiver of this rule is warranted.
- The specific form for a waiver request is found in the White Book of Forms at the MIAA website.
- There is NO optional practice.

# Keep in MIND

- The DAC rules on the specific rules mentioned earlier.
- If you have a waiver request for these rules you need only to send them to the DAC for District F, NOT to the MIAA office.
- Please contact the Waiver Co-ordinator if you have questions, general or specific, regarding your situation.

# MIAA recommended numbers

[http://www.miaa.net/contentm/easy\\_pages/view.php?sid=38&page\\_id=61](http://www.miaa.net/contentm/easy_pages/view.php?sid=38&page_id=61)

Please refer to this link when considering application for a Co-op or Middle School waiver.