



MASSACHUSETTS STATE BASKETBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION  
Board No. 15

Mr. Dick Neal, Executive Director  
MIAA  
33 Forge Parkway  
Franklin, MA 02038

November 28, 2007

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Re: Post-Game Handshake

Dear Mr. Neal:

As you know, the MIAC voted to recommend that basketball officials remain on the court this season to observe the post-game handshake. The Massachusetts State Basketball Official's Association (MSBOA) at our recent meeting, which took place on November 25, 2007, voted unanimously against having any of our officials remain on the court to observe a post-game handshake. Accordingly, the officials of the MSBOA will not be staying to observe any post-game activity. The officials of our organization are being advised that at the conclusion of the game they are to immediately exit the playing area as our custom practice has been. Although we have explained our concerns for safety and the potential of risk to not only the officials, but to the players and fans, the MIAC and Sportsmanship Committee members have disregarded these issues. There remains a serious issue regarding liability to those involved.

Our national organization IAABO, through the Executive Committee under the direction of President Peter Carroll, has advised us that our officials are not to remain on the court to observe any post-game handshake. IAABO does make available insurance for our officials. This insurance covers not only liability, but medical expenses and game fee reimbursement should an official be unable to work games they have been assigned. This insurance policy is based upon NFHS rules and mechanics. Therefore, if an official follows a policy not approved by NFHS or IAABO they have no insurance coverage. In view of today's potential risks associated with officiating a basketball game, you can hopefully appreciate our concern for the safety and welfare of our officials.

We would ask that you kindly forward this information to the appropriate parties at all of your member schools as to our decision. Also, in view of our position we request a response from you as to whether or not the post-game handshake will be required in this years MIAA basketball tournament. Your decision will determine if we choose to enroll with the MIAA this year.

Once we receive a response from you, our organization plans to schedule a meeting to address the MIAA's position. Your timely response will be appreciated in light of the fact that the regular season is fast approaching. Do not hesitate to contact our representative, Bill Miller, or me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Edwards".

Bruce Edwards  
President MSBOA