

MIAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MIAA aligns rulebooks with NFHS standards

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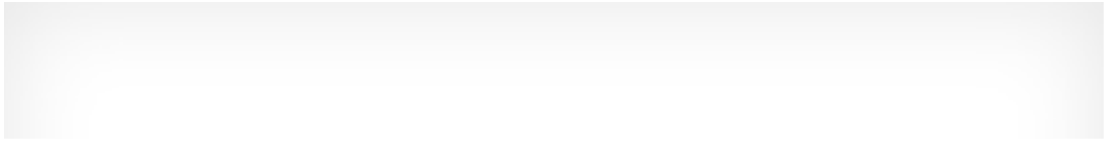
FRANKLIN — In less than a minute Tuesday afternoon, the MIAA’s Board of Directors approved to adopt National Federation rules for football, girls’ and boys’ volleyball, and baseball for the 2019-20 school year.

The 10-1 vote, with one abstention, followed a 19-0 decision by the association’s Tournament Management Committee in March to use NFHS rules for all eligible sports, eliminating any inconsistencies — and risk of possible litigation.

“Change is hard,” acknowledged Bill Gaine, executive director of the MIAA. “Under the association, individually, this [change] has happened with half the sports. There has been backlash. But slowly, slowly, it has evolved . . . The unanimous vote by the TMC was significant.”

The opinions, inside and outside the Neal Room, and before and after the board’s first monthly meeting for 2018-19, were hardly unanimous.

ADVERTISING



Currently, only Massachusetts and non-parochial schools in New York utilize NCAA (women's) volleyball rules. In football, the Bay State and Texas stand alone with the NCAA.