

## 2026 Major Rule Changes

Details on page 98 of the 2026 NFHS Rulebook

- **1-1-12d** – Requires a cone to be placed at the corner of the coaches' area and the team area to clearly mark the team area.
- **1-9-1b (4&5)** – Eliminates the restriction on color & prohibits items attached to the tooth and mouth protector that do not support the function of protecting the teeth and/or mouth.
- **1-9-1h (3)** – Modifies uniform number size on the back of the jersey by decreasing the minimum height to 8 inches – matching the minimum height requirement on the front of the jersey.
- **1-12** – Requires a working horn to be accessible at the sideline table.
- **3-1-2 – (NEW)** – MIAA now uses NFHS rule. Once the score reaches a 12-goal differential any time in the second half, running time is used for the remainder of the game, even if the differential drops below 12 goals. The clock only stops for timeouts or injuries.
- **3-5-1 & 2 (NEW)** – Establishes that an interrupted game that cannot be resumed on the same day is considered complete if three quarters have elapsed while maintaining that state associations may modify game-ending procedures.
- **4-3-3e** – Allows an official to assess a delay-of-game penalty if player positioning on the faceoff must be adjusted repeatedly.
- **4-8** – Clarifies that a goal is scored if the ball is or becomes loose behind the plane regardless of who caused the ball to cross the line.
- **4-18-4 PENALTY; 5-6-2 (NEW)** – Reclassifies the foul for a player, other than the properly equipped goalkeeper, that enters the crease with the intent to block a shot as a personal foul for illegal equipment.
- **4-22-1c** – Eliminates the five seconds awarded to a goalkeeper to re-enter the crease on any restart.
- **6-3-2c** – Adds hooking, lifting, or pinning an opponent's body with the crosse in describing illegal actions related to holding.
- **6-5-2y** – Establishes that the loss of a helmet is an illegal procedure unless it is due to direct contact to the head by an opponent.
- **7-3** – Establishes consistency in penalty administration by moving the restart to laterally outside the goal area when the ball crosses the end line before or after the penalty occurs.

### Points of Emphasis

- **Properly Wearing Equipment:** It is the job of both coaches and officials to enforce the proper use of protective equipment for players on the field.
- **Personal Foul – Contact with the Head/Neck:** There is an inherent risk to participating in any sport. One role of the playing rules is to minimize risk while maintaining the sound traditions of the sport. Personal fouls and the penalties associated with them are meant to help regulate fair play and minimize risk.
- **Sportsmanship and Role of Head Coach:** Sportsmanship starts with team leadership. Coaches can set the tone for their programs by encouraging respect by players, coaches and spectators toward officials and opponents. Coaches lead by both words and actions. It is important to not just talk about good sportsmanship, but to demonstrate it in every interaction before, during and after the contest.
- **Pregame Responsibilities:** Pregame preparations by coaches, officials and game personnel are crucial to a successful game.

Note: Complete, unabridged listing of 2026 NFHS rule and editorial changes: <https://nfhs.org/stories/12-rules->

# EMLOA

## 2026 Annual Meeting



**March 1, 2026 – Xaverian Brothers High School**  
**Regular Season Regional Meeting Locations – 7:30 PM start**

Mondays – Fore Kicks, Marlborough, MA

Tuesdays - Upper Cape RVT High School, Bourne, MA

Wednesdays - American Legion Post 18, Dedham, MA\*

Thursdays - Woburn High School, Woburn, MA

\* See EMLOA website's Meetings page for meeting date change details and updates.

### 2026 Meeting dates:

Meeting #1 - Week of March 15 – 20, 2026

Newbie Meetings (1-5 years) – Week of March 29 – April 3, 2026

Meeting #2 - Week of April 5 – 10, 2025

Meeting #3 – **GoToMeeting, online ONLY – April 27, 2026**

Meeting #4 – Week of May 10 – 15, 2026

**Regional Socials** - **June 15:** Dragon 88, Boylston; **June 16:** Trading Post Lounge, Bourne; **June 17:** Conrads, Norwooc; **June 18:** Polcari's, Woburn



# Agenda

## Breakout Sessions (2-year+ officials)

Time	Auditorium	Room 1	Room 2
10:10 – 10:50	<b>Opposite Officiating Styles</b> Working with different style partners.  <b>Campbell / Franzen</b>	<b>2-Man Mechanics</b> Be in position to make the calls you have to make.  <b>Tarpey / McCarthy</b>	<b>NCAA &amp; 3-Man Mechanics</b> What the heck is a single side official & a shot clock?  <b>Cordani / Maguire</b>
10:55 – 11:35	<b>Multiple Fouls &amp; Unusual Situations</b> Keeping track of foul situations when the bizarre happens.  <b>Arouca / Doherty</b>	<b>Youth Officiating</b> Get all the latest on youth leagues, rules, and regions from our youth gurus.  <b>Catalano / Izzo</b>	<b>Crease Talk</b> Get the low down on where all the action is and make the calls with confidence.  <b>Genecco / Dubinzski</b>
11:40 – 12:20	<b>Billerician Communication Tips</b> They may have their own lingo, so learn how to communicate.  <b>McCaffrey / Murphy</b>	<b>Prevent Problems Before They're Problems</b> Game management at all levels.  <b>McKee / Wong</b>	<b>Faceoffs</b> How to conduct them properly, what to look for, and how they cheat!  <b>Carboneau</b>

## Field Training – Gymnasium (1<sup>st</sup> yr officials, 2<sup>nd</sup> yr optional)

- Introduction (Hill)
- Conducting your pre-game
  - Coaches' certification
- Coin flip
- Face-offs
  - Hands-on live face-offs
- Live ½ field scrimmage situations
  - 2-man mechanics
  - Penalty relay
  - Communicating with your partner
- Return to auditorium

## Auditorium

- 7:00 – 8:15 Registration, refreshments, swag, gear
- 8:20 – 10:00 Welcome to the 2026 season!
- Business Updates (Tarpey / Wong)
  - Rule Changes / Points of Emphasis (Carboneau)
  - Keynote – Bobby Benson, Providence Collage/US Nat. Coach
  - Compliance, recruiting, mentoring (Davenport)
  - Recognition, Awards & Scholarships (Tarpey / Cinquegrano)
  - You Make the Call (Doherty)

## Breakout sessions – Classrooms (Veteran Official Track)

10:10 – 12:20 Breakout sessions (details on opposite page)

## Field Training – Gymnasium (New Officials Track, 1-2 yrs.)

10:10 – 10:40 Arbiter training (Room 4)  
10:45 – 12:20 Field training (details on opposite page)

## Auditorium

12:25 – 12:45 Q & A, Wrap Up, Raffle (must be present to win!)

## Gifts & Raffle (Must be present to win!)

### EMLOA Gift



- \$25 coupon from EMLOA at registration to members in good standing for on-site redemption with Blow Your Whistles (<http://www.blowyourwhistles.com/>) or EMLOA swag. **Must be redeemed the day of the meeting.**

### Raffles

- Blue tickets - 1 ticket to each attendee of classroom breakout sessions to a max of 3 per person for all attended sessions. 3 winners of a \$50 EMLOA swag voucher. Must be present to win!
- Red tickets - 3 tickets to each attendee of the gymnasium field training. 3 winners of a \$50 EMLOA swag voucher. Must be present to win!
- Grand Prize – Remaining red and blue tickets are combined (after swag prizes) for the grand prize drawing of an Amazon \$100 gift card! Must be present to win!

