



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding MIAA Athletics in 2020-2021

MEDICAL

What is the status of physicals?

All physicals must be within the last 13 months. The Sports Medicine Committee (SMC) petitioned the MA Department of Public Health to allow physicals to extend to 18 months, however this request was not approved.

Will the MIAA set rules on what to do if a student, team, opposing team, etc. tests positive for COVID-19?

No. Every school district will need to establish their own quarantine protocol. This document should also be included in each individual district's Emergency Action Plan (EAP).

Who is responsible for tracking doctors' notes regarding face covering waivers?

For individuals that are unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability, the coach must possess a copy of the medical note/documentation excusing the player from wearing a mask.

What is the status of CPR certifications for coaches?

The American Heart Association has provided card extensions:

https://cpr.heart.org/-/media/cpr-files/resources/covid-19-resources-for-cpr-training/updated-interim-guidance-on-card-extensions-72320_final.pdf?la=en

As well as blended and virtual training:

<https://cpr.heart.org/en/resources/coronavirus-covid19-resources-for-cpr-training/how-the-aha-is-taking-care-of-the-training-network-and-healthcare-providers>

Coaches should check in with their regular provider of training about their options.

SEASONS

How are out of season sport and non-MIAA sport activities best addressed by schools? (i.e. 7 v 7 Football this Fall? Unified Basketball, Cheer etc.)

These sports would need to be run through the [EEA guidelines](#) for safety and playing conditions. School districts would need to manage this through their local DPH and school system. Schools/districts choosing to engage in activities for these sports must complete the [Sport Attestation Compliance form](#) and keep it on file.

If a team is moving sports to Fall Season II, can they scrimmage in Fall season I?

No, the out of season coaching is not meant to be interscholastic. If you are declaring your Fall sports, such as soccer, to be played in Fall Season II, that is your new "soccer season". The simplest way to understand the rationale is understanding that schools playing soccer this Fall, will not be allowed to scrimmage in Fall Season II. Same applies for schools playing in Fall Season II, they cannot scrimmage in Fall Season I.

If my league votes to play in Fall Season I, but our school feels it is best to move our fall sports to Fall Season II, what are my options?

Your school would have to appeal to your District Athletic Committee and request approval to play in Fall Season II.



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What happens if our Fall Season I is cut short due to the health pandemic and we are unable to complete the season? Are we allowed to still play in Fall Season II?

Your school would have to appeal to your District Athletic Committee and request approval to play in Fall Season II. DAC chairs approved the following guidance, “If a school or league has completed 50% of interscholastic competitions the DAC will only consider extenuating circumstances to move from Fall I and repeat the sport season of play. If a school or league cannot schedule/complete 50% of interscholastic competitions a request to move the Fall I season of play in another season may be forwarded to the DAC for their action.”

Can a school cancel a sports season?

Yes, sport participation is a local decision.

Can teams move golf to the spring?

Yes, with approval from the DAC. Any sports being moved from their “designated season” would eliminate that team from any MIAA postseason tournaments in that sport, if tournaments even take place. For example, if a school decides to play baseball this fall, they would not compete in the Spring or qualify for any Spring baseball tournament.

When can we play our first game in the fall?

For the fall season only, the first team competition may not occur before the 14th calendar day after and including the first day of practice except golf, which may not occur until after seven calendar days from the first practice.

Do teams need to practice in “cohorts” all of the time if modifications have been approved?

All Fall I modifications have the statement that workouts “should” be conducted in pods. This is stated as wise practice to help allow for effective tracking and monitoring BUT does not take away some limited full team drills as long as there are consistent protocols as detailed in MIAA Sport Modifications.

When will winter sport modifications be available?

EEA will be reassessing guidelines prior to each season. EEA has indicated they expect to release updated winter guidelines the first week of November. The Association will then move forward through the leadership of the COVID-19 Task Force to engage sport committees and the Sports Medicine Committee in a process similar to that utilized in the fall season. This process will be used to determine which sports are viable for level 3 play and any sport modifications required. This information will be finalized as soon as possible.

COACHING

Out-of-Season Coaching:

Out-of-season coaching will be allowed from September 18, 2020 through July 3, 2021 as approved by the member school principal. If schools opt to engage in out of season sport activities that the MIAA has not attested to sport specific guidance and modifications per EEA guidelines, it is the school/district’s responsibility to comply with all EEA and DESE guidance regarding levels of play. Schools/districts choosing to engage in activities for these sports must complete the [Sport Attestation Compliance form](#) and keep it on file.



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STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Can a student athlete who transfers from out-of-state after the fall season, and who played football, play football in MA in Fall II?

No. It is clear in Rule 46 that “A student-athlete is not allowed to play more than one season of the same sport in a school year.” Additionally, transfer rules may apply as well.

With the addition of the floating season (Fall II), could a student conceivably play in four (4) seasons during the 2020-2021 school year?

Yes. The Board of Directors approved the opportunity to participate in four (4) seasons at their August 19, 2020 meeting.

TOURNAMENTS

Will there be MIAA Fall Tournaments?

There will be no MIAA sponsored tournaments in Fall Season I. Regions or leagues may choose to run a post-season as they see fit providing it is completed by the final date of the fall season, November 21, 2020.

Will there be MIAA sponsored tournaments in Fall Season II?

There will not be any sponsored MIAA tournaments in Fall Season II, with the possible exception of football. The reason for this is that no team in the state can play football in Fall Season I, whereas the other fall sports will be split between some schools playing in Fall I and others in Fall II.

LOGISTICS

Are spectators allowed at games?

All MIAA member schools must follow EEA & Commonwealth regulations for spectators. EEA information can be found on pp. 6-7 of this document: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/safety-standards-for-youth-and-adult-amateur-sports-activities-phase-iii-step-1-amended-10220/download>

What are the DESE guidelines for transportation?

Please view transportation guidelines here: <https://htv-prod-media.s3.amazonaws.com/files/fall-reopening-k-12-transportation-guidance-vf-1595511059.pdf>

MIAA member schools may decide on their own if they wish to allow alternative forms of transportation, such as allowing parents/guardians to drive students to competitions.

Are locker rooms and showers available?

Locker rooms are available with 50% capacity limit, per school decision. There is no shower use. Please refer to pg. 8 of the EEA document for details.

How can a parochial school plan for a color designation assigned to a community?

Parochial schools should communicate with each town or city's local Department of Health for guidance.

In school districts that have designated a full remote learning model, are students allowed to participate in athletics?

Recent guidance has emphasized a need for metrics from multiple weeks in order to best address full-time remote learning color designations. The local Department of Health would have final authority for safe athletic participation in their community.