



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is to serve member schools and the maximum number of their students by providing leadership and support for the conduct of interscholastic athletics which will enrich the educational experiences of all participants. The MIAA will promote activities that provide lifelong and life-quality learning experiences to students while enhancing their achievement of educational goals.

MIAA GOVERNANCE

Members of the Board of Directors are elected by MASC, MASS, MSSAA and MSSADA. The Board has fiscal, legal, and corporate responsibilities for the Organization. It seems both appropriate and necessary for the Board to clarify the basic role and responsibilities of Association standing committees.

On occasion standing committee actions (or inaction) have placed the Corporation in a compromising position. The purpose of this document is to address governance questions that have been raised by school leaders, constitutional committees, and the Board.

Question #1a – What is the role of Standing Committees?

Answer – “The powers and duties of any committee shall be those needed to regulate and control the activity it sponsors; however, these duties and powers may be designated in detail by the Board of Directors or by the Assembly.” *(from the MIAA Constitution)*

– “The Board of Directors delegates” to Standing Committees – “responsibility for specific functions involved in proper administration of the Association’s responsibilities.” *(from the Handbook)*

Question #1b – What is the composition of a MIAA Standing Committee?

Answer – Voting members of standing committees are elected by either the MIAA Assembly (generally one principal and one athletic director from each of eight MIAA Districts), Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), or Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS). The District Athletic Committees serve as the MIAA Nominating Committee to the Assembly (see p. 5 charts).

During its November, 2005 Meeting, the Board of Directors confirmed that all Association committee members must remain in the local school position that originally qualified them for committee membership. Limiting committee work to active school leaders will increase the number of new educational leaders engaged in governance of the Association, which should enhance knowledge of the Association through active participation. Committee members, who retire from their local positions after July 1 of any given year, may retain the privilege of serving as a committee member through the next June 30.

Question #2a – May the Board of Directors or Executive Director review, reverse, or modify decisions made by standing committees or tournament directors?

Answer – Yes, the Board of Directors is ultimately responsible and accountable for the activities of the Corporation. The Board of Directors delegates to the Executive Director responsibility for the daily operations of the Association. Decisions made by the Executive Director under this authority may be reviewed by the Board of Directors.

Question #2b – How does the Board exercise this responsibility?

Answer – The executive director (who is chief executive officer of the Association) along with the President (who is the chief elected officer of the Association) are responsible for developing the agenda for each meeting of the Board of Directors. The President and executive director (ED) would decide whether a standing committee matter should be brought before the Board. The President/ED decision could be reversed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors; i.e. a vote either to place on the agenda an item that the President/ED excluded, or the Board could choose not to consider an item put forward by the President/ED. On occasion, timing requirements may cause this activity to be accomplished electronically.

Question 2c – What role does the Board have regarding Standing Committee actions that affect the MIAA budget?

Answer – From the Management Letter, which the Auditors provided the Board of Directors at the conclusion of the FY05 audit:

“We also recommend that the ability to change budgeted items should be limited to Board votes once the budget has been approved. [Committees] should not have the authority to vote changes which would impact an approved budget.”

Question #3 – What constitutes a quorum for a standing committee?

Answer – With the exception of “at-large gender or diversity appointments”, the voting membership of each Association standing committee is defined. If only 50% (or less) of the maximum allowable number of voting members (excluding “at large” numbers) participate in a committee vote, that action is not valid unless it is endorsed at a future date by the Board of Directors. [For example, the Baseball or Softball committees should include eight athletic directors, eight principals, one school superintendent, one school committee member, one coach, and one contest official. Therefore, each committee should include twenty voting members. In order for valid action to be taken, a minimum of eleven (55%) votes must be recorded – even if vacancies exist among the twenty (20) seats. If the voting membership of the committee is theoretically larger because “at-large members” have been appointed under the requirements of the Constitution, the minimum number of vote’s remains at eleven. If a motion was favorably acted upon, but fewer than eleven votes were recorded, ***then the Board of Directors would be required to consider validating that action.***]

Attendance is important: because committees meet infrequently, but have important roles to fill within the Governance structure, all members of each committee should attend each meeting of their committees. Whenever it is impossible for a member to attend a committee meeting, a call should be made to the Association’s executive liaison as well in advance of the meeting as practical.

Voting: although they often meet with committees, tournament directors do not participate in votes of their committees, and game officials do not vote on matters before the Game Officials’ Committee.

Question #4 – What is the relationship among Association standing committees?

Answer – Tournament formats are the responsibility of each sport committee.

On all occasions, Committee members should consider the effect or influence their actions might have upon the jurisdiction of other committees. For example, if the Baseball or Softball committees voted to increase the number of tournament officials at some level of the tournament, that might compromise the other committee.

Additionally, TMC and possibly the Game Officials’ Committee would decide respectively on whether the number of officials is to be increased (and what fee would be paid).

TMC must approve proposed policies or procedures considered by sport committees that would compromise consistency among tournaments.

In all cases, TMC must act on sport committee recommendations that affect finances and tournament formats.

Question #5 – What is the role of the Assembly?

Answer – The Assembly is the principal (or designee) of each of the MIAA member institutions. The Assembly comes together at least once a year in April when the

Association traditionally conducts its Annual Meeting. The traditional role of the Assembly is to: elect members of Association standing committees; act on Constitutional Amendments; or advise standing committees, the Board of Directors, or the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC) on direction with regard to topics which are traditionally managed by those other entities.

For example:

(A) Although the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAC) has the ultimate authority for modifying Handbook rules; the Assembly is often asked to provide a recommendation with respect to major rule change proposals.

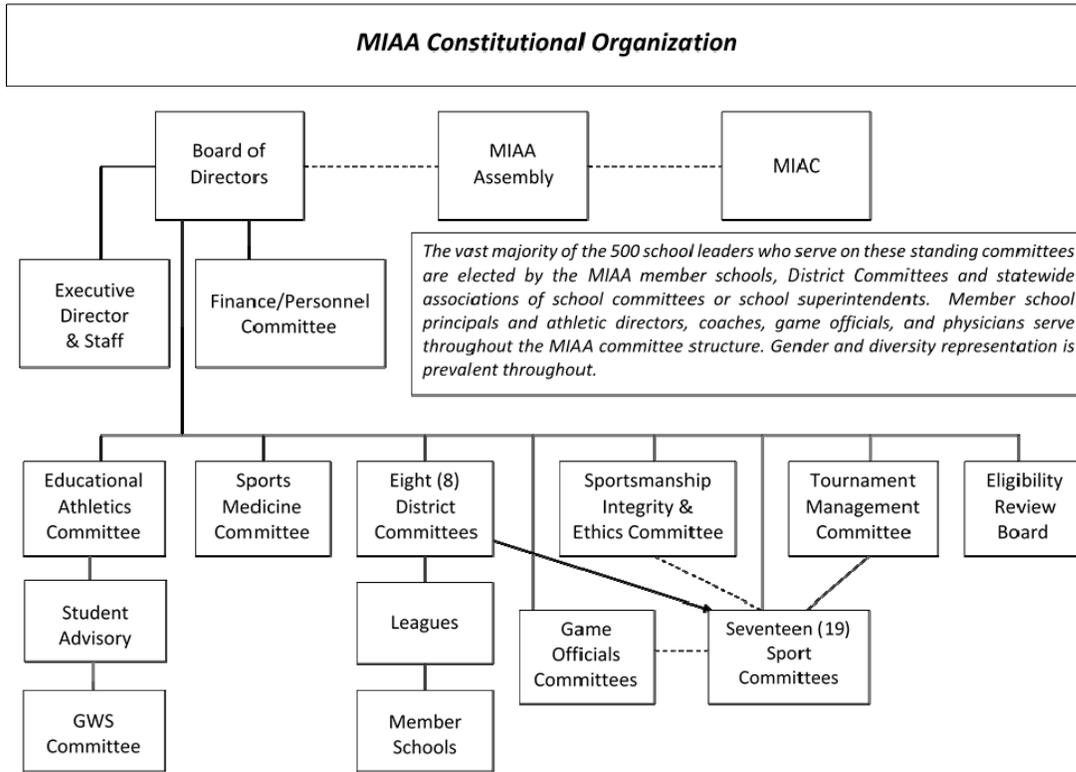
(B) Although the Board of Directors has the authority to waive an Association rule for up to one year, the Assembly has been asked to advise the Board with respect to setting aside a rule (e.g. summer coaching) on an experimental basis.

Question #6 – What is the role of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC)?

Answer – The MIAC was created in 1950. It has a Constitution which is separate and independent of the MIAA Constitution. The MIAC membership, excluding at-large gender or diversity appointments, includes five school committee members, five school superintendents, five MIAA member school principals, two middle level school principals, and one athletic director. The two major functions of the MIAC are to act on all rule change proposals, and to serve as an appellate body to the Eligibility Review Board or the Board of Directors. The Council may not act on any topic that has not been reviewed by the Board of Directors, or in the case of individual student eligibility, that has not already been denied by the Eligibility Review Board.

Conclusion: Because the Board of Directors is most engaged in this notion of Governance as it plays out within our Constitutional committee structure, all questions of committee jurisdiction will be considered and acted upon by the Board as they are presented. Over a period of time, resolution of these questions will lead to an increasingly helpful committee governance document.

Slide 1



Slide 2

