



# NEWS



*Building the Future Through Athletics*

## MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dick Neal

#### 5-1 COME TO LUNCH

I am considering providing an MIAA eligibility rules clinic before the first spring competition. Schools are forfeiting contests because an ineligible student has escaped the local preseason eligibility process. The clinic will allow us to meet under circumstances that are not in a crisis mode. My plan is to host a luncheon for those interested on Tuesday, March 20 at 12:30 p.m. here at the Association offices. Our rules clinic and discussion will follow between 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. To make registration as easy as possible for you, there will be no charge and you may register by e-mail or phone by contacting my administrative assistant, Jean Ciliberto, at her direct line 508-541-9802 or by e-mailing Jean at [jciliberto@miaa.net](mailto:jciliberto@miaa.net). We will accept the first 35 registrants. When the class is full, we will post that fact on our website.

I would be very pleased to take this clinic “on the road”. If leagues, districts, or groups of schools would like me to speak with administrators, coaches, guidance personnel, etc., please give me a call so that we might arrange such a session. I am thinking the ideal number of participants might be 25-35.

#### 5-2 SPRING ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATION

Certify as early as practical the eligibility of boys and girls who are planning to participate in your spring sports program. Ineligible students who, in your judgment, should be considered for an eligibility waiver request will thereby be identified early. You can begin the waiver process as soon as an ineligible student is identified. Requests are acted upon in the order in which they are received. Therefore there is an advantage to submitting such requests early.

#### 5-3 BOARD CREATES DIVERSITY TASK FORCE

During the January 30 meeting the Board of Directors by unanimous vote authorized the President to appoint a task force on diversity. The group will begin to address its charges on March 19, and is scheduled to report to the Board next winter. The Task Force will recommend a provision and *(continued on next page)*

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process for ensuring minority representation on the MIAA Board of Directors. It also will recommend goals and related timelines which the Association might adopt as a strategic plan for addressing leadership and governance diversity which is reflective of the diversity that exists among student-athletes within MIAA member institutions.

#### **5-4 BOARD ADOPTS "CHAT-ROOM" POLICY**

By unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, the MIAA will preclude chat rooms on any website under the jurisdiction of the Association.

#### **5-5 FUTURE OF CO-OP TEAMS**

The District Athletic Committee (DAC) leadership met on February 8. During the meeting it was agreed that the DACs would assume responsibility from the Board of Directors for cooperative team decisions, effective this July 1. The DAC decision on all cooperative team applications will be final. The DAC of the host school will be the decision maker. The traditional criteria and policies of the Board will be retained, although it was decided that each DAC will set its own deadlines for applications. No approval may be granted for grades which are not included within the host high school principal's jurisdiction, and eligible cooperative school grades are further limited to those under the high school principal's jurisdiction. Related information will soon be posted on our website ([www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net)). The application form is being revised.

#### **5-6 FOREIGN ATHLETE SURVEY**

To athletic directors alone is enclosed a survey developed by the National Federation. The Federation has appointed a task force on international athletes. This survey is designed to provide that task force with grassroots data. Kindly complete the survey and forward it to the MIAA office at your earliest convenience.

#### **5-7 KUDOS**

Mansfield Athletic Director Margaret Conaty has announced that this year's National Federation Section I (the New England States along with New York and New Jersey) Coach of the Year awards include recognition of James Rendell, Girls Volleyball Coach at North Quincy High School; David W. Yelle, Girls Basketball Coach at Minnechaug Regional High School; and Kenneth Feit, Girls Track Coach at Reading Memorial High School. MIAA congratulations are extended to our three high school coaches.

#### **5-8 RECENT FORFEITURES**

The following forfeited contests have been self-reported by the principals or athletic directors of the forfeiting schools.

- Haverhill High School forfeits its January 9 Boys Swim Meet to Nashua High School.
- Peabody High School forfeits its October 24, Girls' Cross Country meet to Everett High School.
- Holyoke Catholic High School forfeits its September 23 varsity football game to Westfield Voc.
- Milton High School forfeits its December 12 Boys Ice Hockey Game to New Bedford High School.
- Belchertown High School forfeits its January 27 wrestling match to Gateway Regional HS.
- Methuen forfeits varsity ice hockey games to North Middlesex on February 10 and to Lowell on February 14.
- Smith Vocational forfeits the February 12 varsity boys' basketball game to Pathfinder RVTHS.

#### **5-9 JAMES MULLOY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

Athletic Directors and Ice Hockey Coaches are reminded to review application procedures for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual James F. Mulloy III Hockey Sportsmanship Award. Complete details are on the MIAA website. Deadline for submission is February 28.

*End of Director's Column*

#### **5-10 MIAA TOURNAMENT PROGRAM VENDORS**

For the information of our members the following vendors have been authorized by the MIAA to sell advertisements in MIAA Tournament Programs:

Royal Publishing  
MIAA Tournament Publications

#### **5-11 CHEERLEADING**

A reminder that all leagues should be sponsoring a tournament to qualify teams for the MSSAA regionals. Independent teams may qualify by placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in their division at any approved "Invitational" which are listed at [www.mssaa.org](http://www.mssaa.org). If you have any questions, contact Barbara (508-541-9818) at the MIAA/MSSAA office.

If any league has questions concerning eligibility after their League Tournament, call Jerry Silverman (508-541-9813) at the MIAA/MSSAA office.

#### **5-12 POLE VAULT COACHES CERTIFICATION**

A reminder that all schools entering a contestant in the pole vault are required to have a minimum of one coach certified in the areas of teaching procedures, rules as well as safety and legal  
*(continued on next page)*

requirements associated with coaching the pole vault event. Only coaches who have not been certified must attend a pole vault clinic in order to become certified. Coaches who have already received certification do not have to be re-certified.

As of this date the following clinic is available: Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. – to be held at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlboro, MA. To enroll, contact Rick Cates (781) 829-4274 or e-mail [ndatrackxc@yahoo.com](mailto:ndatrackxc@yahoo.com). This clinic is sponsored by the Massachusetts State Track Coaches Association.

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### 5-13 POLE VAULT SAFETY

The Cross Country and Track Committee emphasizes the following for pole vault safety. It is important that:

1. Proper equipment is utilized.
2. The coach is qualified and certified.
3. The official is qualified and certified.

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### 5-14 TRACK FORMS

For track you need not file a "Season Schedule and Commitment Form" as you do for most other sports.

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### 5-15 ELIGIBILITY WAIVER DEADLINE

Waiver requests for spring sports must be received in the MIAA office by April 1. Waiver requests received after April 1 **cannot** be considered.

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### 5-16 GIRLS LACROSSE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

The Girls Lacrosse Committee invites applications for the South Sectional Tournament Director. Please submit letters of application to the attention of Tass Filledes at the MIAA office. Application deadline is March 1, 2001.

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### 5-17 CROSS COUNTRY AND OUTDOOR TRACK TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

The MIAA Cross Country and Track Committee invites applicants for a Western Massachusetts Cross Country Tournament Director and a Western Massachusetts Outdoor Track Tournament Director. Please submit letters of application to the attention of Tass Filledes at the MIAA office. Application deadline is March 1, 2001.

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### 5-18 EASTERN MASS. & CENTRAL MASS. FOOTBALL REALIGNMENTS

The football Committee during the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting ratified the Eastern and Central realignments for academic years 2001-02 through 2004-05. Several changes were made following the review of several league appeals. Please see the enclosed for the final alignments. An asterisk indicate a change was made by the Football Committee during the February meeting.

### 5-19 MIAA 2001 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The MIAA 2001 Membership Directory is now available online in our "Members Only" section. Putting the directory online allows us to continually update the information so that the most current information is available to you. We will not be mass mailing printed copies this year. Any corrections or updates to the directory information should be e-mailed to Wendy at [wberg@miaa.net](mailto:wberg@miaa.net).

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### 5-20 SPRING ALIGNMENTS FOR ACADEMIC YEARS 2001-02 THROUGH 2004-05

Spring alignments for the next four-year cycle have been added to the MIAA website ([www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net)) as of February 9<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for appeals of the Spring alignments is June 21. Appeals will be heard by each MIAA sport committee prior to November 21 with final alignments posted to the website by December 21, 2001.

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### 5-21 SPRING 2001 TOURNAMENT FORMATS

Tournament Formats for the Spring 2001 season will be posted on the website ([www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net)) on March 13. Interactive forms will be available in the "Members Only" section of the website for Baseball and Softball.y

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### 5-22 "GUIDELINES FOR RETROFITTING BLEACHERS"

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued "Guidelines for Retrofitting Bleachers" (Publication Number: 330). The guidelines are available from their website, [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov). Upon entering the site, select the "Search" button and then enter the title of the document, where it will then access the complete report (that can then be downloaded).

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### 5-23 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE CERTIFICATES

The National Federation and MIAA have partnered in the Award of Excellence certificate program which is being made available to member schools. Member schools may set their own criteria for the award. The intent of the certificate is to recognize outstanding sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. Certificates are available upon request from the Association (see enclosed sample).

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### 5-24 BOYS LACROSSE RULES

At the request of the Boys' Lacrosse Committee, the MIAA Board of Directors voted to adopt the National Federation rules, effective with the 2001 Spring season.

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**5-25 SCHOOL DIRECTIONS**

We have had many requests for directions to member high schools that are hosting tournament contests. When this occurs, we refer requests to the school website for directions. However, we have found that this valuable information is not available on many school web pages. If your school website does not contain this information, you may want to have it added. This simple addition will save many phone calls.

**5-26 GIRLS LACROSSE ALIGNMENT**

At the September 25, 2000 Girls' Lacrosse Committee meeting, a new sectional tournament alignment structure was recommended. The Tournament Management Committee recently approved the implementation of this structure with the Spring of 2001. This new format divides Eastern Mass into a North and South Sectional structure while maintaining the West section. Central Mass teams will continue to be aligned in the East placed in the section corresponding to their geographic location to the Mass Pike. Schools located to the North of the Pike are placed in the North section while those located to the South of the Pike are placed in the South section. This new format was created as a result of the continued growth of the sport. The new alignment listing may be found on the MIAA website at [www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net)

**\*\*\* OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALLS \*\*\***

		Through
Football	Rawlings	2003
Soccer	Spalding	2002
Volleyball	Wilson	2001-02
Basketball	Wilson	2001-02
Baseball	Wilson	2002
Softball	Wilson	2004

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Girls Ice Hockey Finals	March 11
Basketball Tournament Finals	March 17
Boys Ice Hockey Finals	March 18
MIAA Annual Meeting	April 5
Spring Schedule & Commitment Forms	April 15
Spring Tournament Directors Mtg	May 3
Wellness Summit	May 10

**CHECK OUT:**

**[www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net)**

**"NEED TO KNOW"**  
**Late Filing Fees for Missed Deadlines**

	<u>Due</u>	<u>Fine</u>
Annual Enrollment Report	Oct. 13	\$200
Annual Participation Survey	May 8	\$200
Cooperative Teams (DACs will set deadlines after 7/1/01)	Winter May 1	\$300
Tournament Schedule/Commitment Form	Sept.30, Jan.15, Apr.15	\$200
End-of-Season Tournament Application	See Formats	\$300
Four-Year Alignment Appeals	Spring June 21, 2001	\$200
MIAA Membership Process (\$200 per step beginning with 9/1 deadline)		\$200
Middle-Level Participation Waivers	60 days before start of each season	\$300
Multi-School/Interstate/Int'l Events	Nov. 1 - Winter Sports	\$200

MIAA expresses gratitude for the unique support of the following organizations

Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Massachusetts Department of Education  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Red Auerbach Youth Foundation  
United States Marine Corp.

**Marines**

- ◆ Members Only Section
- ◆ Tournament Alignments
- ◆ Tournament Formats
- ◆ Monthly Calendar
- ◆ List of 2001-02 "League Meeting Dates"  
*(Monthly dates that may be utilized for planning league meetings without conflicting with a scheduled MIAA meeting.)*
- ◆ 2001 Fall Workshop Dates
- ◆ News Releases
- ◆ Coaching Vacancies
- ◆ Open Dates
- ◆ Coaches Ed Clinic Dates
- ◆ Certified Coaches
- ◆ Sportsmanship Commendations