



Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

33 Forge Parkway Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997 | miaa.net

May 23, 2024

An Update from Executive Director Robert Baldwin
Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

MIAA 2024 Annual Report

The Annual Report is a compilation of what has occurred throughout the last calendar year. It continues to build off of our initial premise that the "status quo was not an option." It provides tangible evidence that collectively we are taking significant actions on behalf of the membership that substantiate the *Executive Director's Plan for Growth and Improvement* and our *Moving Forward* documents from prior years. It clearly defines the actions taken in our Governance Initiative and Constitutional Revision that took place one year ago and all of the ramifications as a result of this action.

In the spring of 2023, the collective voice of the membership unanimously approved a constitutional revision of the organizational structure of the Association in order to provide clarity and consistency to the membership. A successful codification (a "backbone in writing") and recommendation to the Board of Directors and to the Assembly (when applicable) of the systems and processes that provide clear roles and responsibilities that lead to consistent implementation for the membership was accomplished. Clear lines of authority defining the specific powers and duties of the Board of Directors/Finance Committee, Assembly, Executive Director, and the Eligibility Appeals Board were revised and adopted. [Click here](#) to view.

The Respectful Treatment of all Members of a School Community

Before we speak of organizational charts and roles and responsibilities, the foundation that supports all that we stand for must be driven by Core Values and Beliefs. Collectively we must strive to provide a welcoming and respectful experience for all young people who choose to participate in interscholastic athletics. No one engaged in interscholastic athletics feels disrespected, unsafe, or unwelcome -- on or off the playing fields. Collectively we must seize the opportunity that interscholastic athletics provides and utilize this platform to promotes behavior change that supports the respectful treatment of all members of a school community.

Organization of Committees

Our Constitutional Revision purposefully concluded with the Organization of Committees. It is stated that the Board of Directors have oversight on the powers and duties of our committees. The Association provides a platform for over 550 voluntary members to voice concerns related to interscholastic athletics by providing representative opportunities to address issues collectively, promoting open dialogue and collaboration across the State through

committee work. [Organization of Committees' Organizational Structure, Powers and Duties and Membership Composition](#). We are truly a Membership Driven Association.

Calendarization and Communication Recommendations

In our on-going attempt to serve the membership, it is imperative that we provide clarity regarding the adopted systems and processes needed to carry out our collective purpose. As a result, the executive leadership team at the MIAA provided recommendations to the Board of Directors to better communicate consistent timelines and deadlines to our membership. The intent of these recommendations is to reduce many of the problems and conflicts that have arisen due to late and/or incomplete submissions at the local level by AD's. The implications of not meeting deadlines and following protocols in the past led to local ramifications that effected student athletes and other schools. Each of these initiatives have been vetted and are a result of our on-going meetings at District and League meetings with the membership. [Calendarization and Communication Recommendations including:](#)

- Tournament Rule 93 – Philosophy
- Tournament Cut-off Dates
- Tournament Participation – Opt-in vs Opt-out
- Formats
- Schedule and Commitment Dates
- Alignment Process

MIAA Institutional Dues Reminder

The 2024-2025 Institutional Registration form is available in the members area of the MIAA Website - access the Members Area by clicking on the "About Us" drop-down menu from our main website and then choosing "For Members". Due date: No later than July 26, 2024.

Endowment Games

On February 7, 2024, The MIAA Board of Directors voted to discontinue Endowment Games as of July 1, 2025.

MIAA Rule Change Proposals

The membership approves, agrees to abide by, and revises and proposed new rules and regulations for their handbook. Reminder! MIAA Rule Change Proposals must be submitted to Phil Napolitano (pnapolitano@miaa.net) by June 1, 2024. The form can be found by [clicking here](#).

Suspended Game and Overtime Procedures

In an effort to support our athletic directors, linked below is a document that outlines all MIAA suspended game and overtime procedures. This document is intended to assist athletic directors and game officials with the suspended game policies and overtime procedures of the MIAA and NFHS. [Click here](#) to access the document.



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Spring Tournament Seeding Process

Here is the schedule for each of the Spring 2024 power ranked sports, as published in the tournament formats and MIAA handbook:

| | CUTOFF DATE | WORKING DAY | BRACKET RELEASE |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| BOYS TENNIS | Thursday, May 23 | Friday, May 24 | Sat, May 25... 11 am* |
| GIRLS TENNIS | Thursday, May 23 | Friday, May 24 | Sat, May 25... 11 am* |
| SPRING VOLLEYBALL | Friday, May 24 | Saturday, May 25 | Tues, May 28... 11 am |
| BOYS RUGBY | Monday, May 27 | none | Tues, May 28... 11 am |
| GIRLS RUGBY | Monday, May 27 | none | Tues, May 28... 11 am |
| BASEBALL | Monday, May 27 | Tuesday, May 28 | Wed, May 29... 11 am |
| SOFTBALL | Monday, May 27 | Tuesday, May 28 | Wed, May 29... 11 am |
| BOYS LACROSSE | Monday, May 27 | Tuesday, May 28 | Wed, May 29... 2 pm |
| GIRLS LACROSSE | Monday, May 27 | Tuesday, May 28 | Wed, May 29... 2 pm |

* **CRITICAL:** Communication access with tennis athletic directors and/or coaches is **VITAL** over the Memorial Day weekend following the release of brackets

MIAA Coach of the Year Award

Coach of the Year Award Nominations – Due June 30

This award seeks to recognize and honor “teacher coaches” from each MIAA sponsored sport. Nominations will be accepted through June 30 and must be submitted via [this link](#). Anyone may submit a Coach of the Year Award nomination and follow up communication will be sent to nominees to help provide any missing or additional details. There are many outstanding role models serving as coaches across Massachusetts. Please consider nominating a coach that has positively impacted students.

Student-Athlete of the Month Award

Nominations are being accepted for the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award. This award recognizes two student-athletes on a monthly basis (from September through May) who display excellence in the areas of academics, athletics and community service. Students in grades 9-12 who attend MIAA member schools are eligible to receive the award. To nominate a Student-Athlete of the Month please [click here](#).

MIAA Committee Meeting Highlights

In adhering to committee protocols, it is stated that the secretary of each committee shall keep the records of the meeting and shall send copies of these records to the Executive Director. [Click here](#) to view the records of the meetings that were received by the Executive Director.

Calendar

June 4 – Football Committee
June 12 – Golf Committee
June 12 – TMC

Thanks for your continued support!

Robert Baldwin



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