



Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

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

May 29, 2025

An Update from Executive Director Robert Baldwin

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

Summer Office Hours

The MIAA offices will close at noon on Fridays beginning June 27th through August 29th. The office will also be closed July 28 through August 1.

"Make It Even Better" Initiatives

The MIAA is exploring several potential initiatives to "Make it Even Better," with any changes not being implemented before Fall 2026. These initiatives, stemming from member input, will be thoroughly vetted through the MIAA's established organizational structure, ensuring input from Leagues, District Athletic Committees (DACs), Sport Committees, and the Tournament Management Committee (TMC) before the Board of Directors makes final decisions. Here's a synopsis of the proposed initiatives:

- **Standardized Annual Calendar for Interscholastic Athletics:** A proposal from District 7 Athletic Directors aims to establish clear start and end dates for the athletic year, including defining dates for the first contest, cutoff dates, bracket release, tournaments, and state finals. Leagues, DACs, Sport Committees, and the TMC will be provided with ample opportunities to provide input on these specific areas.
- **Objective Process to Adopt and/or Remove a Sport:** The MIAA is considering developing a quantifiable process, based on the number of school-sponsored teams relative to the total membership, to determine when a sport attains Championship Status or reverts to a School Sponsored Status. The Board of Directors will be responsible for developing this objective process based on input from the Executive Leadership Personnel at the MIAA.
- **Standards for the Number of Championship Divisions:** The TMC is analyzing the number of school-sponsored teams in each sport to ensure that the number of championship divisions aligns with established standards. If a sport meets the criteria for Championship Status based on team numbers, it must adhere to the existing standards for the number of divisions, unless the TMC determines otherwise.
- **Establishment of a Division 1A Component in Statewide Tournaments:** Beginning after July 1, 2025, the MIAA may create a Division 1A in any sport's statewide tournament if specific criteria are met. The aim is to improve competitive equity across all divisions. The TMC will formulate a comprehensive proposal for the Board regarding the implementation of this tournament structure. This includes defining eligibility and selection criteria (using the State Power Ranking System), determining tournament formats (considering single or double elimination, or pool play), ensuring game limits and safety, and guaranteeing

equitable resources and officiating. The TMC is also tasked with outlining procedural guardrails for proposal submission, review, and Board oversight.

All these initiatives emphasize the MIAA's commitment to a member-driven process, where various committees play a vital role in providing input and expertise to inform the Board of Directors' final decisions. The organizational structure ensures open dialogue and collaboration throughout the vetting process before any potential implementation.

State Spring Tournament Schedule

Baseball-June 13 & 14-Polar Park

Golf-June 4-Sandy Burr Country Club

Lacrosse Boys-June 14

Lacrosse Girls-June 12 & 13-Babson College

Outdoor Track-June 5 & 7-Fitchburg State

Rugby-June 14-Curry College

Softball-June 13 & 14-Worcester State & UMASS Amherst

Volleyball-June 12 & 13

[Click here](#) to view MIAA Statewide Tournament Brackets

Student and Coach Contest Disqualification Forms

Please make sure to use the most up-to-date version of the MIAA [Student](#) and [Coach](#) Contest Disqualification Forms. The forms are available in the "Officials" section of the MIAA website. When a student or coach is disqualified from a contest, the required form must be completed by the game official and submitted to the athletic director in charge of the contest before leaving the site. Below are links to each form: [Student Contest Disqualification Form](#) [Coach Contest Disqualification Form](#) Please note - All fields within the form are required to be completed by the game official with a description of the disqualification including the violation called.

"Extra Week" - Fall 2025 Football

Although most fall football schedules are probably completed, please accept this as a reminder of the football "extra week" in the Fall of 2025. Labor Day is early, 9/1/25 and Thanksgiving is late, 11/27/25 (this is the second year in a row of this occurrence). As has been the case in the past, this creates an extra weekend in the qualifying period before the beginning of the state tournament. The extra week is labeled "1A". Schools can schedule a maximum of 8 games in the 9-week period between Labor Day and the cutoff date of Saturday, 11/1/25. More detailed information can be found at this [link](#).



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NFHS Rulebooks for Schools and Coaches – Discounted!

Last year we offered our school leaders the opportunity to purchase NFHS rulebooks and casebooks for themselves and their coaches. Many schools took advantage of this offer and so we are once again reaching out to see if you would like to order books for the 2025-2026 school year.

Linked below is a Formstack form to be used for the purchase of NFHS rulebooks for the 2025-26 school year. Each book is offered at the discounted price of \$6.00 per book for paper copies only. **Please complete the order form no later than July 15th so we can plan for the Fall books to arrive before the start of the season as well as planning for the entire year's order.**

Link for rulebook order form:

<https://www.formstack.com/forms/?6203817-TWumwOID3Q>

The Formstack information will collect all requested books for the entire year, and you can order as few or as many as you like. We are asking you to order for the entire school year. We will send the appropriate books to you when they arrive at the MIAA office. There is no shipping cost added so if you are using a purchase order, it will be the exact cost of \$6.00 x total books ordered.

The books will arrive at the MIAA office at different times so some shipping may take place earlier than listed but will begin no later than stated below. Given the July 15th deadline listed above, the Fall rulebook shipping date listed below is approximate.

Shipping information dates are as follows:

- August 15 – Fall sport rulebooks
- October 1 – Winter sport rulebooks
- December 1 – Spring sport rulebooks

MIAA Institutional Dues Reminder

The 2025-2026 Institutional Registration form is available in the members area of the MIAA Website - access the members area by clicking on the "User Login" link in the upper right-hand corner. Due date: No later than July 25, 2025. [Click here](#) for Helpful information on completing the form. [Click here](#) for fee detail and payment information.

Updated Middle Level Waiver and Cooperative Team Guidelines

The District Athletic Committee presented to the MIAA Board of Directors at their May 14th meeting, updated MLW and Cooperative Guidelines. Please review these guidelines in preparation for the upcoming school year.

- [Cooperative Team Guide – Background, Policies, "Grandfathering"](#)
- [Cooperative Team Maximum Numbers](#)
- [Middle Level Waiver Policy](#)
- [Middle Level Team Maximum Numbers](#)

Call for Nominations: 2025 MIAA Distinguished Service Awards

The Distinguished Service Award is one of the most important awards given by the Association. The Distinguished Service Award Committee is looking for recommendations for this prestigious award. When considering nominees, please weigh longevity, contributions, and distinguished service as important factors. [Click here](#) to nominate. Nominations are due by Monday, June 30th.

MIAA 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 request any missing or incomplete details. There are many outstanding role models serving as coaches across Massachusetts. Please consider nominating a coach that has positively impacted students.

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 10 – Sportsmanship Committee
June 11 – Golf Committee
June 12 – TMC - Virtual

Thanks for your continued support!

Robert Baldwin