



Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

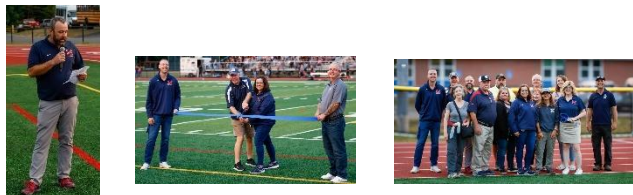
33 Forge Parkway Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997 | miaa.net

An Update from Executive Director Robert Baldwin

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

September 25, 2025

Mahar Regional High School Ribbon Cutting



When district and school leadership, and athletic and activities directors are aligned as one, special initiatives can be accomplished. This was never more evident than on September 5, 2025, when Deputy Director Sherry Bryant and I were invited to Ralph C. Mahar Regional School for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at its renovated athletic complex. As a 30-plus year educator and a parent of 5 student athletes, I have learned a clear truth. A very strong factor for parents and students in choosing their high school experience is the opportunities and facilities provided by co-curricular activities. It behooves school communities to invest in the whole child and what occurs after school in the "grass classroom." Investments enhance the pride and culture of a school community and those that neglect this investment pay the price of lower enrollment and fewer opportunities for the students they serve. Kudos to Mahar Regional School and the entire School Union 73 community! Please take the time to read [Kyle Magoffin's remarks](#) where he refers to former coach Jim Woodward's words that "tradition never graduates."

Student Eligibility Waiver Deadlines

As a reminder, below are the seasonal deadlines for student eligibility waiver submissions as outlined in MIAA rule 87.1. These are firm deadlines and late waivers will not be accepted.

- Winter – December 15, 2025
- Spring – April 1, 2026

Winter Coop & Middle Level Waiver Applications

Middle Level and Coop Applications cannot be applied for after the Schedule and Commitment Deadline. Application date for Winter sports is December 19, 2025.

Fall 2025 Power Rankings

The first Power Rankings for Fall 2025 sports – Field Hockey, Football, Boys and Girls Soccer, and Fall Volleyball -- will be released and published on the MIAA website on Friday, September 26. Athletic directors are asked to make sure their schedules and results are accurate and up to date on Arbiter on a nightly basis throughout the school year. The power rankings and tournament seedings depend on complete and accurate data from all MIAA schools. Beginning in October, updated power rankings will be published on the MIAA web site every Tuesday and Friday throughout the remainder of the Fall 2025 regular season.

MIAA Statewide Tournament Host Fee Update Baseball, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball:

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, the Round of 16 games for Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, and Volleyball, expenses and revenue will remain with the host school. As a reminder, the Round of 16 games for Baseball, Rugby, and Softball were previously being managed under this same policy.

MIAA tickets will be sold beginning with the Round of 8 through the State Finals. The host school will be paid a set tournament hosting fee for each event.

Football, Basketball and Ice Hockey:

MIAA tickets will be sold beginning with the Round of 16 through the State Finals. The host school will be paid a set tournament hosting fee for each event.

For rounds in which the MIAA sells tickets, custodial and police details will be paid separately by MIAA and must be included on the Tournament Host Site Form. This form is required to be submitted by the host school upon completion of the event.

Fall State Tournament Dates/Locations:

Cross Country – Divisionals – November 8

Northfield Mountain

Devens

Wrentham Development Center

Cross Country – State – November 15

Devens

Field Hockey – November 14-15

Burlington HS & TBD

Football – December 4, 5 & 6

Gillette Stadium

Golf – State ([click here](#) for more details)

D1- The Ridge Club – October 21

D2 – Foxborough County Club – October 20

D3 – Blissful Meadows Golf Club – October 20

Soccer – State – November 22

Swim & Dive – Sectional – November 2

MIT

Swim & Dive – State – November 9

Boston University

Volleyball – State – November 14-15

Billerica HS & Worcester North HS

Fall Individual Tournament Deadlines:

- **Cross Country** – Monday, November 3rd. No late entries will be accepted after this date.
- **Golf** – Friday, October 3rd ([via Formstack application](#)).
- **Swimming & Diving**
 - Sectional Meet – Monday, October 27th 5:00pm
 - State Meet – Monday, November 3rd – 5:00pm
- **Unified Basketball** – Friday, October 3rd



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Tournament Entry – Opt-in vs Opt-out

Schools will not be required to submit a tournament entry. Schools will be required to submit communication if choosing to opt out of tournament play. This new process is only for sports that utilize the MIAA power ranking system. Hybrid sports will continue to require a tournament entry process.

Un-Played Contests: Forfeit and No-Contest Determinations

In the event a contest is unable to be played on the scheduled date, for any reason, every attempt should be made to reschedule the contest on the next available date for both schools. If the competing schools are unable to find a makeup date, both schools must use this [FORM](#) to request a determination of a "Forfeit" or "No Contest" for an un-played contest. All sections must be completed thoroughly. This information will be reviewed by the Fall Seeding Committee consisting of the chair or designee from each fall sport and TMC representatives. Tournament Directors and Executive Liaisons may be present but are non-voting members. All decisions made by the Seasonal Seeding Committee are final. Once a determination is made, it will be shared with the schools. Schools do not need to use the Forfeit/No-Contest form in the following circumstances: Canceled season (Rule 18); Overscheduling (Rule 34.6); Ineligible player (Rule 86). Please **DO NOT** enter a score into Arbiter for any contest in question until a determination has been made by the Seasonal Seeding Committee. Any unverified score can affect the power rankings in that sport.

Student and Coach Contest Disqualification Forms

Updated [Student](#) and [Coach](#) Contest Disqualification Forms are available in the "Members Only" and "Officials" sections of the MIAA website. Please share these updated forms with your league assigners and have the forms available at all competition sites. When a student or coach is disqualified from a contest, the respective forms must be completed by the game official and submitted to the athletic director in charge of the contest before leaving the site. For additional information, please reference [MIAA Handbook Rule 49](#).

Soccer Infractions Reporting

Please remember to complete the Infraction Forms completely and accurately. It is imperative that players' names, numbers, and type of card (red/yellow) be accurate. Any questions, please email Donna Harrington at dharrington@miaa.net.

Ski Committee Request

As our Winter Season is on the horizon and it is an Olympic year, please submit any former Ski Olympians with MIAA ties to Steve Dubzinski (sdubzinski@miaa.net). We are hoping to promote former MIAA athletes that competed in the Olympics.

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/NFHS National Officials Appreciation Week October 5 -11, 2025

The NFHS in partnership with member states is once again promoting a National Officials Appreciation week in each of the three seasons of play. Appreciating officials may seem like a "little thing" but it goes a long way! [Click here](#) for more information.

MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors – November 19, 2025

The MIAA is excited to announce that the next MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors will be offered on **Wednesday, November 19, 2025** from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM at the MIAA office. This is an in-person workshop with no virtual option. This workshop fulfills the MIAA mandatory attendance requirement for new Principals and Athletic Directors per MIAA Handbook Rule 32.1. For more information and to register, [Click here](#).

MIAA Committee 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.

Student Ambassador Information

Registration for the 2025-2026 MIAA Student Ambassador Program is now open! Principals and Athletic Directors can register students by [clicking here](#). More information about the MIAA Student Ambassador Program can be found on the [Student Ambassador Program Page](#).

NFHS Rulebooks for Schools

Opportunity to purchase NFHS rulebooks for you and your coaches 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](#) as soon as possible since the Fall season is already here! Once the ordered rulebooks arrive in our office, we will ship them to your school at no additional cost. The NFHS shipping timeline is outlined below:

- October 1 -Winter sport rulebooks
- December 1 – Spring sport rulebooks

MIAA Student Sportsmanship Essay Contest

The deadline to submit entries for this year's Sportsmanship Essay Contest is October 7 at 12:00pm. Students in grades 9-12 are invited to submit entries focusing on the theme "What Does Good Sportsmanship Look Like From The Stands?" For additional information about the contest, please [click here](#).



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MIAA Student Leadership Summit – October 9

The annual MIAA Student Leadership Summit will take place the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough on Thursday, October 9. To register please [click here](#) (deadline October 1). The program will include a keynote presentation by magician/motivational speaker Jason Michaels entitled "#DoTheImpossible: Resilience".

Concurrent workshop sessions will be presented by:

- Ashley Gustafson, Navigating Through Quicksand
- Dr. Jonathan Jenkins, Psy.D, CMPC
- MIAA Student Advisory Committee
- Massachusetts Army National Guard
- Team Up 4 Community

Upcoming Events

- October 9 [Student Leadership Summit](#) at DoubleTree Hotel, Westboro
- October 16 - Student Sportsmanship Essay/Multimedia Contest Deadline
- November 6 – Sportsmanship Summit at Gillette
- December 5 & 6 – Hate & Bias Training
- December 8 – MIAA Awards Banquet at DoubleTree Hotel, Milford
- December 12 – Becoming a Student of Leadership Workshop

September & October Calendar

- September 26 – Student Advisory Committee
- September 26 – TMC – Virtual
- September 29 – Districts 2 & 3 Meeting
- October 1 – Ice Hockey Committee
- October 6 – Gymnastics Committee
- October 6 – Wrestling Committee
- October 8 – MIAA Board of Directors
- October 14 – Field Hockey Committee
- October 14 – Lacrosse Committee
- October 15 – Game Officials Committee
- October 15 – Basketball Committee
- October 16 – Softball Committee
- October 20 Tennis Committee
- October 21 – TMC
- October 21 – Unified Sports Advisory Committee
- October 22 – Baseball Committee
- October 23 – Media Day
- October 28 – Rugby Committee
- October 29 – Track Committee

Girls & Boys Lacrosse Cutoff Dates - Spring 2026

The lacrosse cutoff dates for Spring 2026 are different for girls and boys:

- Girls Lacrosse Cutoff - Wednesday, May 20, 2026
- Boys Lacrosse Cutoff - Monday, May 25, 2026

Formats can be found on the Lacrosse page or at these links: [Girls Lacrosse](#), [Boys Lacrosse](#)

Attention Cape Cod Coaches & Athletes

CAPE COD HIGH SCHOOL COACHES & ATHLETES



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025
8:30AM - 3:30PM
@ Cape Cod Regional Technical School

SHUT OUT HATE

Join us for a powerful workshop designed to create inclusive and respectful environments in high school sports. This initiative empowers student-athletes and coaches to combat discrimination and harmful speech, fostering a culture where "Allies" win.

A one-day regional training focusing on bystander empowerment, confronting harmful speech, and developing intervention strategies to address hate in school sports.



REGISTER HERE

For more information, contact: Billy Terranova
btterranova@capetech.us
508-432-4500 ext 2000

OUR SPONSORS:



Thanks for your continued support.

Robert Baldwin