



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

October 30, 2025

Addressing Hate in Schools & Sports



If your district has not yet attended a prior Regional Training, you have a new leadership team, or need a refresher with your leadership team, we encourage you to register to attend the following training being offered by the Office of the Attorney General. We recommend participation by each district's superintendent, high school principal, and athletic director.

Regional Training December 5th and 6th, 2025, at MIAA (Franklin, MA) [Registration Link](#)

Join school administrators and athletic directors from across the region for a training designed to address and prevent incidents of hate and bias in schools and school sports. The trainings are led by Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society. For any questions, please contact addresshate@mass.gov.

Fall Individual Tournament Deadlines:

Cross Country – November 3rd. No late entries will be accepted after this date.

State Swimming & Diving - November 3rd – 5:00pm

Fall Tournament Dates/Locations:

Cross Country – Divisionals – November 8

Northfield Mountain
Devens
Wrentham Development Center

Cross County – State – November 15

Devens

Field Hockey – November 15

Burlington HS

Football – December 4, 5 & 6

Gillette Stadium

Soccer – State – November 22

Doyle Field & Curry College

Swim & Diving – Sectional – November 2

MIT

Swim & Diving – State – November 9

Boston University

Unified Basketball – November 5-21

Various Locations

Volleyball – State – November 14-15

Billerica HS & Worcester North HS

Winter Coop & Middle Level Waiver Applications

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

Fall Tournament Seeding Guidelines and Schedule

As we enter Year 5 of the Statewide Tournament format, the MIAA – including tournament directors and seeding committees -- will continue to follow the guidelines developed in Fall 2022 in an effort to streamline the process of producing the final power rankings, and building and releasing the tournament brackets. [Click here](#) for the guidelines and seeding/bracketing schedule for each of the five Fall 2025 power ranked sports, as published in the tournament formats.

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

2025 Schedule Commitment Deadline & Process

Reminder that the MIAA winter schedule commitment deadline is Friday, December 19 for basketball and ice hockey. After that point, no changes can be made to your opponents or the number of games/matches that can be played. After the December 19 commitment deadline, all schedules will be considered **FINAL**. Three days before the Schedule Commitment deadline, MIAA staff will produce and publish schedules for each sport based on the available data for review and verification by member schools. Below is the breakdown for 2025-26 school year:

- WINTER 2025-2026
 - First contest date: Thursday, December 11
 - Schedule data published for review: Tuesday, December 16
 - Schedule Commitment deadline: Friday, December 19
- SPRING 2026
 - First contest date: Thursday, March 26 (Monday, March 23 for Spring Golf)
 - Schedule data published for review: Tuesday, March 31
 - Schedule Commitment deadline: Friday, April 3

Check the [MIAA Sport Limitations Information Sheet](#) for the maximum number of competitions allowed per week and per season in each sport.

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.



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Thank you Joe Miller

The MIAA Ski Community would like to extend our sincere thank you to Joe Miller who has been the Tournament Director for Nordic Ski for the past 30 years. Joe has announced his retirement from this position. Joe's commitment to the Association and specifically the Ski Committee is unmatched. The Nordic Ski Championships are better because of Joe; a legend and a gentleman. Thank you, Joe.

Nordic Ski Tournament Director Opening

Anyone interested in serving as the Nordic Ski Tournament Director, please contact Steve Dubzinski at sdubzinski@miaa.net

Team Sportsmanship Awards

The MIAA Tournament Management Committee has approved an Annual Team Sportsmanship Award to be presented in every sport. The award(s) will be presented during the MIAA State Tournament. Nominated teams should exemplify the tenets of good sportsmanship to the highest degree and are not required to qualify for the state tournament for consideration. Award criteria include: Teamwork, Fair play/respect for opponents, Ethics, and Citizenship. Self-nominations are acceptable. [2025-2026 Team Sportsmanship Nomination Form](#)

MIAA Fall Swimming & Diving Tournament Planning
[Click here](#) to view pertinent tournament information.

MIAA Cross Country Tournament Information
[Click here](#) to view pertinent tournament information including sites & directions, wave start times, tournament director information and informational virtual meetings.

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.

Officiating Classes for students – RefReps

Would you like to help teach new officials for your school sports? Would you like this organized through an in-school curriculum? Many schools across MA are offering classes during the school day to bring in new and younger people to the ranks of MA officials. This is the time to consider planning as you build your budget and classes for next year. RefReps has developed a virtual curriculum to support instruction. If you would like more information, please think about attending an informational webinar on Monday, Nov. 10 at 1:00. [Click on this link](#) to register for this webinar. If you seek additional information please do not hesitate to contact Richard Pearson, rpearson@miaa.net at the MIAA office.

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 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](#).



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Call for Nominations:

MIAA Massachusetts Women in Athletics Distinguished Service Award 2025-2026

The MIAA Women in Leadership Committee yearly recognizes women who have worked with distinction on behalf of the girls' sports in their communities with the Massachusetts Women in Athletics Distinguished Service Award (MWADSA). This award celebrates the efforts of those whose contributions have had a lasting and profound effect on female student athletes. [Click here](#) to nominate – deadline Friday, November 7, 2025.

Congratulations to the 2024-2025 MIAA Distinguished Award Recipients

- Keith Crowley, Principal, St. John's Prep.
- Patricia Rowe, Game Official & Assignor
- Matthew Trahan, AD, Old Colony RVTHS
- John Young Award: Melanie Martin, AD, Holyoke HS

These recipients will be recognized at the MIAA Awards Banquet on December 8th.

NFHS Voice

Focus on Sportsmanship Needed as State Championship Season Begins. [Click here](#) for more information.

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](#).

Esports

Esports continue to grow in our MSAA high schools. The best way to get started is to pass along the flyer linked below to a staff member, often times a teacher, to help start an esports club and eventual team. Please pass along and see what your school can offer to excited and motivated esports students!

[Esports Flyer](#)

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.

Upcoming Events

- November 6 – Sportsmanship Summit at Gillette
- November 7 – [Feel Happier! Small Shirts, Big Impact](#)
- November 12 – [A Realistic Look at Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plans, Reducing Bullying and Social Conflicts in Schools](#)
- December 5 & 6 – [Hate & Bias Training](#)
- December 8 – MIAA Awards Banquet at DoubleTree Hotel, Milford
- December 12 – Becoming a Student of Leadership Workshop

November Calendar

- November 11 – Veterans Day Office Closed
- November 12 – MIAA Board of Directors
- November 17 – Sports Medicine Committee (virtual)
- November 19 – Rules Orientation
- November 20 – TMC (virtual)
- November 27 & 28 – Office Closed

stay healthy during the
Holiday Season

- Sleep**
Prioritize getting a full nights sleep as often as you can. Gift wrapping and travel during the holidays can increase stress and impact your immune system.
- Wash Hands**
The holidays often bring larger gatherings, making regular handwashing essential. Keeping your hands clean helps reduce the spread of germs and supports your immune system during this festive season.
- Eat Healthy**
Maintaining a healthy diet during the holidays provides the energy you need and supports your immune system, helping you stay resilient through the season's demands.
- Exercise**
Choose active excursions or activities during the holidays to keep moving and support your immune health. Planning ahead can make it both enjoyable and beneficial for your well-being.

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Click on the image for more information

Thanks for your continued support.

Robert Baldwin