

Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

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

April 10, 2025

An Update from Executive Director Robert Baldwin Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

MIAA Hosts 46th Annual Meeting - "A Celebration of Leadership and Service in Support of Educational Athletics" Click here for article

What's Next – Initiatives to "Make it Even Better"

Beginning in March 2025, the membership was introduced to What's Next – Initiatives to "Make it Even Better." First presented before the MIAA Board of Directors, then to attendees of the 50th MSSADA Conference, and again on April 2, 2025 at the MIAA 46th Annual Meeting, it was reiterated that these ideas are a result of input received from members. We will take a measured approach to each of these potential initiatives, and none of these ideas would be implemented before Fall 2026. It is imperative that the membership are integral in vetting each of these potential decisions in accordance with the Organizational Structure that exists in the Association. <u>Click here</u> to read about the initiatives

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 <u>"Officials" section</u> 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:

<u>Student Contest Disqualification Form</u> <u>Coach Contest Disqualification Form</u>

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.** Forms submitted with incomplete information may be returned to the host school/game official to provide missing information.

Statewide Tournament Director Positions

The MIAA is currently looking to fill Tournament
Director positions for the following fall sports:
Golf - Division 1 & 2 North and Division 3 West

<u>Click here</u> for more information.

REMINDER: Endowment Games

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

MIAA Alignment Process

TMC alignment process calendar for spring 2025:

*Spring Alignments for 2025-26 & 2026-27	
Proposed alignments released	April 1, 2025
Deadline to appeal	May 1, 2025
Appeal hearings	Throughout May 2025
Final alignments released	June 1, 2025

*Using October 2023 enrollment numbers

Game Officials Appreciation Week (April 6-12)

The MIAA, in conjunction with the National Federation of State High School Associations, once again is looking to collectively recognize the efforts of our MIAA Game Officials during Spring 2025 National Officials Appreciation Week from April 6-12. MIAA staff members will travel around the state to personally thank officials and support their efforts on the local level. We hope that MIAA member schools will consider recognizing them in some manner, including:

- Officials' appreciation week banners and signage on the fence, wall, etc., surrounding the contest playing area
- Gift cards/cookies/donuts/other items presented to the crew by both the home and visiting team
- Photos of the officiating crew with both teams and coaches prior to the start of the game (or at the end, depending on timing)
- Read a PSA at the start of the game, thanking the crew for working the contest
- Student escorts of the crew onto the field/court/pitch
- "Thank you" cards, signed by the team and coaching staff
- Appreciation signage in the officials' locker room
- Recorded "thank you" messages from studentathletes and coaches to officials, posted on social media

Schools are recommended to post any photos/videos of these events/recognitions on social media, with appropriate tags for the MIAA and NFHS:

- Twitter/X: <u>@MIAA033</u> @NFHS Org
- Instagram: <u>@MIAA033</u> @nfhs_org
- Facebook: <u>MIAA</u> @NFHS1920

Spring 2025 Power Rankings

The first power rankings for spring 2025 sports will be released and published on the Tournament Central section of the MIAA website on Tuesday, April 29. 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. After April 29, updated power rankings will be published on the MIAA website every Tuesday and Friday throughout the remainder of the spring 2025 regular season.



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Recognition for Graduating Seniors Entering the Armed Forces

In partnership again this year, the Massachusetts School Administrators' Association (MSAA) and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) would like to offer you an opportunity to recognize your graduating seniors who have chosen to enter the Armed Forces. This recognition will be in the form of a specialized certificate and a presence on both association websites during the week of Memorial Day (May 26, 2025). If you would like to participate in this recognition, please click on the link below and provide the requested information for each student to be recognized. Click here to submit Student Information - Deadline: May 2, 2025. Certificates will be sent to individual schools by the third week of May. In addition, the MSAA and MIAA website recognition during the week of May 26th will include the student's name, school, and selected branch of service. Both the MSAA and the MIAA memberships send their best wishes to you and the Class of 2025 for a wonderful, successful, meaningful, and truly special Commencement Week.

Massachusetts Celebration of Girls and Women in Sports Day

We gather each year to celebrate the many opportunities girls and women have to compete in sports throughout the Commonwealth and the Nation. The Massachusetts Celebration of National Girls and Women in Sport Day is fast approaching. We will gather at the Cross Insurance Club Atrium at Gillette Stadium on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. for this inspiring and affirming celebration.

Consider registering two deserving female athletes from your school for this important event using the link below. If your school has a Unified Sports program, you may register a third student-athlete who participates in your Unified Sport Program. <u>MIAA Girls and Women in Sports registration form</u>.

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. <u>Click here</u> to nominate. Nominations are due by Monday, June 30th.

MIAA Student Athlete of the Month

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 <u>click here</u>.

2025-26 MIAA Student Advisory Committee Application

Please <u>click here</u> to access the 2025-26 MIAA Student Advisory Committee Application. We kindly ask that you share this with your 2025-26 rising junior and senior MIAA Student Ambassadors and those students that you consider to be exceptional leaders. The application deadline is April 25, 2025, and each school is limited to submitting a maximum of two (2) applications for consideration.

Spring Game Officials Newsletter

<u>Click here</u> to access the latest edition, featuring important NFHS rules updates and other valuable information.

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. <u>Click here</u> to view the records of the meetings that were received by the Executive Director.

Upcoming Events

• May 2 – <u>Respect & Civility Workshop</u>

March/April Calendar

- April 15 Softball Committee (Virtual)
- April 16 Wrestling Committee
- April 30 Gymnastics Committee
- April 30 Unified Sport Advisory Committee
- May 6 Ice Hockey Committee
- May 7 Lacrosse Committee
- May 8 Track Committee
- May 13 Game Officials Committee
- May 14 Board of Directors Meeting
- May 21 Basketball Committee
- May 21 TMC
- June 10 Sportsmanship Committee
- June 11 Golf Committee
- June 12 TMC (Virtual)

Thanks for your continued support!

Robert Baldwin