



2025-26 MIAA Ice Hockey Season Reminders & Resources

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the upcoming season. This year, I have the privilege of overseeing the MIAA Ice Hockey Committee and Tournament, alongside my colleague, Jim Clark. As a former collegiate player, I am truly excited and passionate about supporting our schools, coaches, and student-athletes. Jim brings more than three decades of experience working with MIAA Ice Hockey, first as a media member and now as part of the MIAA staff.

Please review the seasonal reminders and updates below as you prepare for the start of the season. If you have any questions, feel free to contact any MIAA Ice Hockey Committee Member or me directly.

1. [Ice Hockey Tournament Format \(2025-26 Season\)](#)

Please review the format, including two notable reminders:

- **Video Replay (VR)** – *State Finals only* (page 4)
- **Overtime Procedure** – Applies to *all* State Tournament games, including Finals (page 5)

2. MIAA Rule Reminders

- **Cutoff and Deadlines**
 - **Cutoff Date:** February 19, 2026
 - **Bracket Release:** February 21, 2026
- **Tournament Scheduling & Committed Schedules**
 - Ensure all team games are accurately listed on the committed schedule.
 - Multi-team tournaments may be scheduled via the Arbiter tournament feature or by listing games as TBA.
 - **Final schedule commitment deadline:** December 19, 2025.
- **MIAA Ice Hockey Score Sheets**
 - Per MIAA Rule **72.4**, all games must use the official **MIAA Ice Hockey Score Sheet**. Score sheets were mailed to all school ADs in November.
- **Players on the Bench**
 - Please adhere to **Rule 72.3**, which will be strictly enforced during the tournament:
 - A maximum of **22 players** may be dressed and on the bench during both the regular season and tournament.
 - During the tournament, **two of the 22 must be dressed goaltenders**.
- **Running Clock Clarification** - Under **MIAA Rule 72.1.2**:
 - Running time begins with a **10-goal differential in the 2nd period** or **6-goal differential in the 3rd**.
 - Once initiated, **running time continues for the remainder of the game**, regardless of goal differential changes.

- **Penalty time also continues to run** during all stoppages, as the rule does not provide for stopping the penalty clock.

3. MIAA Tournament Sites

- We are pleased to announce the rinks secured for potential use during the MIAA Ice Hockey **Round of 8**, **Final Four**, and **State Championships**. These events would not be possible without the continued partnership and support of our rink managers and staff. We are sincerely grateful for their contributions.
 - **Round of 8** – *Tentatively March 4-5*
 - Chelmsford, Gallo, Loring, Stoneham, The Bog, Watertown, Woburn
 - **Final Four** – *Tentatively March 7-8*
 - Chelmsford, Conte Forum, Gallo, Loring
 - **State Championships** – *Sunday, March 15*
 - TD Garden

4. NFHS Rule Changes - Click the link provided for a visual summary of rule updates.

- **Rule 9-8-4:** *“A puck on the outside of the goal netting below the crossbar shall be considered in play by both teams. A puck resting on top of the goal netting between the crossbar and goal frame shall be considered unplayable, resulting in an immediate stoppage.”*
- **Rule 3-8: Electronic Devices** - *“Electronic devices shall not be used by team personnel or spectators to communicate with on-ice players or goalkeepers during play. No player or goalkeeper shall wear any audio (microphone) or video (camera) device during the game.”*
 - **Penalty:**
 - First offense: *Misconduct*
 - Returning with illegal equipment: *Game misconduct*
- **Neck Laceration Protectors (NFHS Rule 3-4-4):**
“All players shall properly wear a neck laceration protector that shall not be modified from its original manufactured state and shall be worn as intended by the manufacturer. If a player's neck laceration protector is not being worn, or comes off while play is in progress, an official shall order the player to return to the player's bench and play may continue. If the player does not comply, play shall be stopped, and that player shall be penalized.”
 - **Penalty for noncompliance:** *Minor penalty*

5. Mulloy Sportsmanship Award

- Each year, the MIAA Ice Hockey Committee presents the **Mulloy Sportsmanship Award** during the State Finals at TD Garden. This award recognizes programs that exemplify outstanding sportsmanship. Please consider submitting nominations. Additional information is available [here](#).

Best of luck to your players and coaches as we begin another exciting season!

Phil Napolitano
MIAA Assistant Executive Director

EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS

MIAA | 33 Forge Pkwy | Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997



