

Wrestling Committee  
October 6, 2025  
minutes

1. **Call to Order** - Introductions/Attendance
  - a. **Members:** Keith Poloskey, Ann Palumbo, Zach Blaszak, Nate Monteiro, Paul Shvartsman. Glenn Doucette, Patrick Danby, Brian Brewer, Chris Jones, Keith Crowley, Jon Logley, John Kanavitch, Eric Conti, Joel McKenna.
  - b. **MIAA Staff and Tournament Personnel:** Phil Napolitano, JJ Alberts, Desi Kaplan, Scott Tremlett, Andy Meier.
2. **Election of Officers**
  - Chair- Keith Poloskey (motion by Ann, Eric second) – **APPROVED 13-0**
  - Vice Chair – Ann Palumbo (motion by Keith P, Paul second)- **APPROVED 13-0**
  - Secretary- Zach Blaszak (motion by Ann, Nate second)- **APPROVED 13-0**
3. [Minutes of April 16, 2025](#) – (motion by Ann, Keith second). **APPROVED 17-0-1**
4. **New Business**
  - a. [MIAA approved rule changes](#) - #5, #24 and #25 are wrestling specific. No further discussions regarding new rule changes.
  - b. [NFHS Rule Changes](#) – Nate Monteiro
    - Starting weight class does not have to be a random draw. All matches can start at 106.
    - Leg sleeves (single or double) are accepted.
    - Tech fall - Match ends when the criteria is earned.
    - Cutback - Move was already illegal but language was added to ensure that the move is not attempted due to significant risk of injury.
  - c. FloArena – Desi Kaplan
    - Significant change on the front end as Flo and Track wrestling are being combined and revamped interface.
    - Backend with entering weights, schedules, results remain the same.
    - Developing new software to run tournaments, in which Desi is actively involved.
    - All ADs are ultimately responsible for their school's FloWrestling platform. Coaches, ATs, and ADs should watch the refresher seminars.
    - Phil and Desi to host a FloArena training on November 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Other
5. **2025-26 Wrestling Tournament**
  - a. [Wrestling Tournament Format](#)
    - Reminder: **16 All-State Qualifiers:** Top 5 finishers in each divisional state tournament, plus the highest-ranked 6th-place finisher.

- **Girls All-State Tournament Venue:** To be held at a separate location if a single large venue is not available.
  - Larger girls programs would probably prefer to have the girls-only tournament on a separate day which would be Sunday (unless the tournament falls on the school vacation week). Some coaches did express concern about burnout with the girls tourney on Sunday so would be in favor if it could be the day before.
- **MIAA Rule 84.4.6:** Applies to qualification for both Mixed Gender and Girls' postseason tournaments.
  - **Scratch Weight Requirement:** All athletes must meet scratch weight guidelines.
  - **50% Weigh-In Requirement:** Applies to both Mixed Gender and Girls' tournaments.
  - New rule will that allows teams to schedule 4 additional girls only events, will allow for girls more opportunities to meet scratch weight and 50% weigh-in rule.
- **Roster Limitations:** Beginning this year, only one girl per team may compete in each weight class for the girl's tournament.
  - This rule officially puts the mixed gender and girls-tournament at the same level or guidelines with their tournaments.

**b. Update on sites**

	North	South	Central/Metro	West/Central	Divisional States	All-States	Girls All-States
D1	Methuen	Weymouth	Malden	Hopkinton	North Andover		
D2			Wayland	West Springfield	Whitman-Hanson		
D3	Dracut	Scituate	Holliston		Gloucester		

- D2 South will be at Whitman-Hanson H.S.
- D3 West will be at Taconic.
- Continued search for larger venues
  - The MIAA has reached out to several large venues without success to date. A group recently toured the MassMutual Center in Springfield and had a productive visit. The facility is currently in the discussion and review phase, with some promising potential.
  - There are scheduling concerns related to a hockey game in the main arena, which could require the tournament to shift to a Sunday–Monday schedule rather than the traditional Friday–Saturday format. Setup for Desi requires approximately 5–6 hours to install eight mats, which would necessitate a rapid turnover between the MassMutual event and the MIAA tournament.
  - An alternative option would be the MassMutual Convention Center. While this space lacks stadium seating, it would allow the tournament to remain on the same dates—or at least the same weekend.

Additionally, this option would allow the mixed-gender and girls' tournaments to be held on the same days at the same venue.

- If either option proves viable, the goal would be to secure the MassMutual venue for future years, enabling the facility to schedule other events around the MIAA tournament.

### c. Topics for discussion

- Balancing byes
  - Massachusetts is one of the few, if not the only, state(s) that balance byes. One strategy to not balance byes would be to not score the first round. Balancing byes takes a lot of manual scoring and can lead to an increased amount of work and inconsistency among clerks and workers. It is not an easy process and can add 15-60 minutes post coaches meeting and lead to a double bye and have significant impact on outcome. Easiest and cleanest strategy is to force the byes to top seeds and no scoring in the first round.
  - There should be a set process as there can, and was, instances of where the byes can affect team results.
  - Andy - Its written in the NFHS rule book about tournament bracketing so why is MA doing something different?
  - **Consensus is that MIAA would eliminate balancing of byes and follow NFHS rules regarding tournament bracketing.**
- TMC – Statewide discussion
  - The subcommittee will meet within the next month or so to discuss prior to the January meeting.
  - Paul - Rank teams 1-53 based on dual meet results then break up ranked teams into four sections, in each of the three divisions. (D1A, D1B, D1C, D1D, etc).
    - Desi - dual meets should not be the only criteria as some teams do more tournaments or non-duals. Look at overall matches (duals and tournaments) then combine individuals on the teams to create state-wide team brackets.
    - Paul suggested the dual meet criteria to start and then as the tournament progresses, we can look at involving new, individual criteria.
  - Concerns about securing sites and officials assignments well in advance of when final rankings would be released.
    - Possibility to set sites in advance and assign them to a section, while removing them from the rankings?
    - Suggestion to shorten the season by a week to allow time for the rankings to be released, sites secured and officials assigned.

**6. Association Business – Standardized Athletic Calendar**

- 4 specific proposed changes from District 7 Athletic Directors:
  - All fall sports begin 2 Mondays prior to Labor Day
  - All Spring sports end 3rd Sunday in June
  - All Winter sports begin on Tuesday following Thanksgiving.
    - ADs have an extra day for paperwork; FB kids have an extra day to rest.
    - The move to Tuesday still allows for the Saturday meet.
    - John - We should make a decision based on the best interest of the student-athletes, not what makes our jobs easier.
    - Chris - Rather have a safe sanctioned practice on Monday, rather than an unorganized “open gym”.

**7. Coaches Input**

- Nothing major from the coaches’ input. Some concerns regarding private schools and pulling from multiple states.

**8. Officials Input**

- Currently 72 officials (down 3 from last year). Trying to recruit new officials but it has been tough. It will be a struggle to fill some events.
- Divisional state information will be received from the Host Site surveys.
- Officials’ pay rate questions regarding the postseason tournaments especially if the girls tournament is a separate day.
- Each year, the officials give out an award to a coach. The officials will notify the award winners BEFORE the tournament which was not done in the past.
- Desi suggests that schools should encourage officiating to students who love the sport but aren’t continuing their careers to look at officiating.
- Andy - Single arbiter system across the state so the officials are able to move across the state to help out and cover matches especially when veteran officials are needed for competitive matches.

**9. Educational Athletics Initiatives**

- a. [MIAA Educational Athletic Summit](#)- October 9, 2025

**10. Meeting Dates to Remember: *January 15, 2026 & April 16, 2026***

**11. Adjournment**