



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

February 27, 2026

Court Storming

The MIAA Basketball Committee wishes to thank the Tournament Directors, tournament staff, school supervision staff and participating schools for their enhanced efforts in maintaining the safest possible environment at tournament venues. To that end, court storming has become a concerning trend at the national level that poses a significant safety risk to all participants and requires the attention of member school leadership. In addition to the Participating School Supervision Protocol (page 5 of the [MIAA Basketball Tournament Format](#)), the committee shares the following guidance in their continuing efforts to monitor this topic:

- *Spectator behavior expectations (and consequences) should be consistently communicated and applied throughout the season, beginning with the first regular season games and extending through tournament play. Student sections are ultimately the responsibility of each individual member school administration. Whether at a home or predetermined site, "Court Storming" is strictly prohibited. At no time, whether it is before, during, or post game, are spectators allowed on the playing court.*
- *Recommendations include 1.) The distribution of spectator expectations prior to the start of regular season and tournament play. 2.) Reinforcement of stated expectations throughout the tournament. 3.) Reminders through the school's written communications (school/athletic handbooks, newsletters, etc.) and PA announcements at strategically determined times. 4.) Through placement of designated school supervisors at the game site, school leader visibility will prove to be the most effective deterrent.*
- *Prior to any level of tournament play, school leaders with any concern over potential spectator issues should address these topics with tournament/site staff as soon as possible. These concerns can also be addressed during a pre-game meeting between the site director and the designated school leaders.*
- *Incidents of court storming during tournament games may be subject to a hearing with the MIAA Basketball Committee per MIAA Handbook Rule 89.*

Middle Level and Coop Application Deadlines

The spring 2026 middle level waiver and cooperative application deadline is April 3, 2026.

Student Eligibility–Spring Waiver Deadline

As a reminder, the deadline for spring student eligibility waiver submissions is April 1, 2026. This is a firm deadline and late waivers will not be accepted.

Postgame Handshake Tool-Kit

The MIAA Sportsmanship Committee recently updated the [Postgame Handshake Tool-Kit](#). This document is posted on the [sportsmanship](#) page of the MIAA website. In conjunction with [MIAA Handbook Rule 91.15](#), this document contains helpful information to assist in the postgame handshake process including host site manager responsibilities, expectations of game officials, pregame meeting with captains and a sample public address announcement. If a game official or game site administrator feels that this initiative should not be followed due to concerns which arise during the contest, or with crowd control issues, the handshake protocol may be suspended. If the responsible parties (site manager and/or game officials) decide to suspend the postgame handshake, the Sportsmanship Handshake Report Form (page 5 of the tool-kit document) must be completed by the site manager and forwarded to the MIAA Office within 24 hours.

The Massachusetts Council on Gaming and Health Training Opportunity

Not Just a Game: Youth Sports Betting Prevention & Curriculum Program. The legalization of sports betting and daily fantasy sports in Massachusetts and across the U.S. has intensified youth exposure to gambling through apps, advertising, and pervasive sports culture. Launched in 2025 and supported by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, Not Just a Game is the first youth sports betting prevention curriculum and program in the U.S. Not Just A Game is an evidence-based, culturally responsive youth prevention curriculum that can meaningfully shift young people's knowledge and attitudes toward sports betting, interrupt early pathways to risky gambling behaviors, and support the long-term health and well-being of youth with diverse experiences and backgrounds. It delivers interactive lessons on financial literacy, media literacy, cognitive distortions, and gambling-related risks and harms. In its first year alone, the program reached over 400 youth, aged 12-20, across schools and community-based organizations in Massachusetts.

Train-the-Trainer: In our second year, we are excited to expand our outreach through a Train-the-Trainer model. This spring, we are looking for qualified teachers and school staff from 10 high schools to deliver our 4-session program in their classrooms. Educators with experience teaching health and/or wellness at any high school grade level are especially well-suited for this role. Participants will receive 5 hours of comprehensive training, including how to effectively deliver the program, access to all materials and resources, and insights from past trainers on best practices. Trainers will also have access to ongoing support from MACGH throughout program implementation. Training will be held on March 13, 2026, 10 AM - 3 PM at Workbar Needham in Needham, MA. Trainers will receive a \$100 Amazon card for participating in the training, and each participating school will receive a \$1,000 stipend. [Click here](#) to register



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Statewide Tournament Director Positions

The MIAA is currently looking to fill the Tournament Director position for the following fall sport:

Golf - Division 3 Central

[Click here](#) for more information.

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 (*updated 6/16/25*). The forms are available in the ["Officials" section](#) 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:

[Student Contest Disqualification Form](#)

[Coach Contest Disqualification Form](#)

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.

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 – March 24, 2026

The MIAA is excited to announce that the next MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors will be offered on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 from 11:00 AM 3:00 PM in conjunction with the MSSADA Conference in Hyannis. 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](#).

Becoming a Student of Leadership March 13, 2026

Students who aspire to take on the responsibility of leadership within their teams, school and community need formal training in order to make their leadership roles both meaningful and effective. This workshop will provide an in person forum, where students will receive a customized and intensive training that introduces and reinforces basic leadership and life skills. 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.

Upcoming Events

- March 6 – Girls and Women in Sports Day – Faneuil Hall
- March 13 – Becoming a Student of Leadership Workshop
- April 2 – MIAA Annual Meeting

February/March Calendar

- February 27 – Softball Committee (virtual)
- March 3 – Football Committee
- March 4 – Track Committee
- March 10 – Golf Committee (virtual)
- March 11 – Board of Directors (virtual)
- March 17 – TMC (virtual)
- March 18 – Rugby Committee (virtual)
- March 19 – Game Officials Committee (virtual)
- March 31 – Swim & Diving Committee

Thank you for your continued support!

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 Sprains & Strains		 Head or Spine Trauma
 Fractures		 Open Fractures
 Ligament Injuries		 Severe Bleeding
 Dislocations		 Abdominal Pain
 Sports Concussions		 Stroke or Cardiac Arrest

For Life-Threatening Emergencies, Call 9-1-1 Immediately

