

# MIAA Rugby Committee

Tue, October 28, 2025 Virtual  
Agenda & Minutes

- I. **Call to Order** (1:05pm)
- II. **Introductions/Attendance**
  - A. [Conflict of Interest](#) - please sign and return if you have not done so yet
  - B. Jeff Sperling continues as Chair
  - C. Kate McCabe continues as Vice Chair
  - D. Ryan Madden continues as Secretary
- III. **Approval of March 18 Minutes**
  - A. Motion to approve minutes. Approved.
- IV. **New Business**
- V. **Review of the 2025 MIAA Rugby Tournaments**
  - A. Amy Daniels - Curry has been great, great to work with
  - B. Feedback from the committee... possibly work with the FreeJacks to bring Championship site to Memorial Stadium in Quincy... discussion regarding live National Anthem if possible
- VI. **Regular Season update**
  - A. Update from league representatives...update from Tom Arria... Scott H from Hanover may take over as pseudo president of Commonwealth Rugby Conference, already sent draft schedules... flipping home and always from last year... using data from last year to help schedule contests...
  - B. [MIAA Sport Limitations Information Sheet](#)
  - C. First allowable practice date - March 11, 2026
  - D. Cut-off date - Saturday, May 23, 2026
- VII. **Growth of Rugby**
  - A. Prospective schools adding rugby... Phil ran a report to see if any new schools can add Rugby... Needham and CC both listed teams, but unsure of numbers, Needham possibly co-op with Westwood... Girls growth hindered by growth of Girls Flag Football...Monty Tech might have enough to join MIAA with Boys and Girls programs... Canton possibly with Norwood or OA
- VIII. **Other**
  - A. When a game is considered 'official' - need some guidance regarding when a game becomes official, DJ will check... Tom asking about point differential and if that would declare a game official... Greg Bruce says tournament games should finish when possible

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- B. Discussion around growing numbers, not even for A and B sides, finding play dates... schools with numbers hovering around survival, what does that look like for playing other teams' b sides without impacting rankings or limitations.

### IX. **2026 Rugby Tournament**

- A. [2026 Rugby Tournament Format](#)
- B. Championship site discussion – Veteran's Memorial Stadium - possibly host on Thursday with reasonable times... 3/5/7 or maybe 4/6/8... Saturdays possibly allow for more spectators.

### X. **Association Business**

- A. Standardized Athletic Calendar... discussion of the 4 points of emphasis, start dates, etc. shouldn't impact Rugby in the near future
- B. Standards for Number of Championship Divisions... could impact Rugby as there are 2 divisions, but with these tiers, could necessitate 1 division, would require appeal, separate vote. We could tie ourselves to Football again.
- C. Division 1A Component of the Statewide Tournament... doesn't impact Rugby
- D. Alignments... discussed
- E. Reviewing clear and objective processes for adding and removing sports. Currently you go through a rule change proposal process. This would require certain number of schools in the state to offer the sport to be considered an MIAA sport. This could have a significant impact on rugby.

### XI. **Coaches Input**

- A. Kate... nothing pressing, great season last year... The schools with programs have seen their numbers increase, lots of excitement... concern regarding substitution limitations...
- B. Greg... would love for input from coaches and to look at data regarding substitutions... coaches always ask if they can do rolling subs... relegation/promotion models... separate Catholic Conference tournament... margin of victory discussion...any discussion regarding changing MOV would start in this room, we would suggest a new number and TMC would vote... RM would be opposed to any MOV... GN discussed the sportsmanship piece regarding numbers... other sport committees discussing where their numbers are

### XII. **Officials Input/Rule Changes**

- A. DJ... make sure we communicate any difference in rules with officials, they need to be aware of changes...
- B. Conversions must be done in 60 seconds
- C. Scrums will be quicker
- D. Ball carriers shouldn't lead with their head

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- E. To follow up, an official match is 60 minutes per USA Rugby
  - F. Will attach the rules here
    - 1. Law Changes Explained in Five Minutes for 2025/2026:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EcEJMcMV68>
    - 2. USA Rugby on When Matches are Final - <https://usaclub.rugby/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/USAR-Weather-Policy.pdf>
- XIII. **Next Meeting- March 18, 2026**
- A. Adjourned 2:28pm