

# ***MIAA Tournament Management Committee***

## ***Meeting Minutes –Virtual***

**March 17, 2026**

### **1. Call to Order – 10:03 AM by Shaun Hart**

**Attendance** –T. Bazydlo, P. Brangiforte, J. Brown, S. Burndrett, E. Dawley, M. Denise, D. Early, J. Forrest, P. Fry, B. Garabedian, S. Hart, E. Maguire, C.Mastrangelo, J. Newhall, S. Paine, J. Pynchon, K. Sheridan, T. Tarpey, D. Vega, K. Wolff, S. Bryant (TMC liaison), K. Brouillard (MIAA), J. Clark (MIAA), P. Smith, Dr. Robert Baldwin (MIAA Executive Director), members of Cross Country, Baseball, and Ice Hockey committees, and members of the media.

**Welcome and Introduction** – Shaun welcomed and introduced two new members, Bridget Garabedian (MASC Rep) and John Pynchon (Coaches Rep).

**Dr. Robert Baldwin, MIAA Executive Director**, began the meeting by thanking members for all their work supporting another successful winter tournament season.

He provided an overview for establishing a Division 1A (All State) component of the Statewide Tournament as previously determined that after July 1, 2025, the MIAA may establish a Division 1A tournament in any power ranked sport as long as specific criteria are met. All power-ranked sport committees will be provided with equal access to the opportunities and resources to establish an All-State division component to the statewide tournament. A sport committee that chooses to conduct an All-State division tournament shall conduct the tournament for both genders. The objective criteria utilized to determine the All-State tournament field is the same power ranking system for scheduling and seeding (Margin of Victory). The road to a championship in the All-State tournament is a minimum of 4-5 games. Every attempt should be made to ensure that the venues utilized would be the same or similar for the divisional and All-State Division Championships.

### **2. Motion to Approve Minutes January 20, 2026**

**Approved 18-0-2**

### **3. Cross Country Divisional Expansion Proposal** – MIAA Cross Country/Track committee representatives Scott Ouellet, John Monz and Keith Brouillard, MIAA Cross Country/Track liaison returned to the committee to answer any questions about the proposal to add a fourth division (currently three) in cross country. This proposal was brought forward to TMC in the January meeting with a unanimous vote by the track committee.

The intent of the additional division is to address the increase in number of teams and participants since the pandemic. The proposed numbers would allow the ability to balance like-sized schools within the middle of the current divisional structure. Overall number of schools entering during the last two seasons: 244 boys, 215 girls. The proposal intends to put cross country into number of divisions per statewide model reflective of current team sports.

**MOTION to Approve the Cross-Country move to four divisions beginning Fall of 2027 (J. Newhall, E. Dawley) Approved 18-2-0. The proposal will now move forward to the MIAA Finance Committee and Board of Directors**

- 4. Baseball Division 1A Proposal** –MIAA Baseball committee members Justin Richards, Tom O’Brien along with Keith Brouillard, MIAA Baseball liaison returned to the TMC for follow up on a Baseball Division 1A proposal initially presented to TMC at the January 20, 2026 meeting.

The proposal for a new Division 1A would take the top 8 schools based on power rankings regardless of division. The intent of the proposal is to provide more equitable and competitive play to all divisions. There would be no Opt-Outs unless the school is opting out of the entire tournament. If a team opts out, the next highest power ranked team would get in. First Round is best of 3 – and all teams get at least one home game. The tournament dates being used for rounds of play and number of games are consistent with the current statewide model for all divisions.

**MOTION to Approve Baseball Division 1A proposal beginning in Spring of 2027 (J. Newhall, S. Paine) Roll Call vote taken: T. Bazydlo, P. Brangiforte, J. Brown, S. Burndrett, E. Dawley, M. Denise, D. Early, J. Forrest, P. Fry, B. Garabedian, S. Hart, E. Maguire, C. Mastrangelo, J. Newhall, S. Paine, J. Pynchon, K. Sheridan, T. Tarpey, D. Vega, K. Wolff**

**Approved 15-5-0. This proposal will now move forward to the MIAA Finance Committee and Board of Directors.**

- 5. Baseball & Softball MOV Change for extra innings**

Both Baseball and Softball committees requested the Margin of Victory (MOV) to be reduced to 1 for games that go into extra innings.

**Motion to Approve Baseball and Softball MOV changed to 1 for extra inning games (J. Newhall, K. Wolff) Approved 19-1-0**

- 6. Ice Hockey Division 1A Proposal** – members of Ice Hockey committee, Jack Owens and Dan Shine, Phil Napolitano, MIAA Liaison presented their proposal for Division 1A for both boys and girls ice hockey beginning Winter 2028.

Upon approval, the Tournament would be implemented for the 2027-2028 season. This timeline coincides with the next divisional alignment cycle.

Tournament Structure: Total Teams, 8 Team Selection: Based solely on Power Rankings. Divisional placement is irrelevant. No option to opt-out. The only opt out option will be to opt out of the entire postseason in alignment with the current rule.

Format: Pool Play, (2) 4 team bracket, Current Statewide Format. There will be no change to the existing divisional tournaments. The best 8 teams will comprise this tournament and all other tournaments will consist of remaining top 32 and .500+ outside of 32.

Proposed Format: This format is designed to align with the current structure that establishes a 5-game path to a state final while guaranteeing 3 games to the top 8 teams in the state.

It was also noted that both boys' and girls' hockey are expected to decrease by one division each at time alignments are updated due to decreasing number of teams. Adding a proposed Division 1A both will also allow these sports to maintain same number of total divisions overall. However, Phil Napolitano pointed out this proposal is not contingent on the decreased divisional alignments.

TMC thanked the Ice Hockey committee members for their presentation. TMC members are asked to review information with their districts and be prepared to vote on this proposal at the April 16th meeting.

- 7. Ice Hockey MOV Change** - Mike Flaherty, Coaches Rep for Ice Hockey Committee presented the results of a coaches' survey taken regarding MOV. Those findings were presented to the Ice Hockey committee for support and the Ice Hockey committee 15-1 to propose a change from the current MOV of 3 to MOV of 2 for Winter 2027.

TMC members are asked to review information with their districts and be prepared to vote on this proposal at the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **8. Sub-Committee Updates**

### **Hybrid Sports** – Steve Burndrett

Currently focused on golf for FY2028 –The committee is looking at removing sectionals but adding divisions. Scoring, length of play, rankings, and number of divisions are still being determined.

## **9. Other Business**

2026-2027 Formats with a new Format Change coversheet highlighting changes from prior year have been forwarded to committee members. Advised reviewing and prepare to vote on during a special virtual meeting, to be held on April 7, 2026 10AM.

**Next Meeting Dates:** April 7, 2026 – Virtual 10AM (Format review only)  
April 16, 2026 – In Person Meeting 10AM  
May 20, 2026 – Virtual Meeting 10 AM

Meeting Adjourned 12:09PM