

MIAA Tournament Management Committee

Meeting Minutes –In Person

April 16, 2026

1. Call to Order – 10:12 AM by Shaun Hart

Attendance –T. Bazyldo, J. Brown, S. Burndrett, E. Dawley, M. Denise, B. Garabedian, S. Hart, S. Paine, B. Sidwell, T. Tarpey, D. Vega, staff and members of the media.

Welcomed new Coaches' Representative, Brad Sidwell, Wellness Coordinator at Taunton High School and Taunton HS Football Coach.

2. Motion to Approve Minutes March 17, 2026 and April 7, 2026

Approved 10-0 (J. Brown, T. Bazyldo)

3. Motion to Approve Fall 2026 Swimming & Diving Format

The tournament structure will change from a two-division State Tournament to a single division State Tournament. The North and South sectional meets will remain in place, however, those athletes moving on to the final round will compete for a single State Championship title.

Approved 11-0 (J. Brown, S. Paine)

4. Motion to Approve Winter 2027 Gymnastics Format

The tournament structure will change from two sectionals to two qualifier meets. Teams ranked in the top 24 will participate in a qualifier meet, separated into two groups (1A & 1B using odd numbered scores in one group, and even numbered scores in one group). The top 8 scores from the combined qualifier groups will advance to the State Championship rather than the top 12 from each North and South section.

Approved 11-0 (J. Brown, S. Paine)

5. Formats Updates

A. 2026-2027 Soccer Format – will move forward as approved at the prior meeting

B. 2026-2027 Girls Lacrosse –The Girls Lacrosse Committee has not yet met to discuss our request for cut-off date reconsideration.

C. TMC Site Policy –The committee was provided a copy of the current TMC site policy language and asked to review and bring back recommendations and feedback to the next meeting.

6. Ice Hockey – approval of items presented on March 17, 2026

A. **Motion to Approve Ice Hockey Margin of Victory (MOV) from 3 to 2 beginning Winter 2026-2027** **Approved 9-2** (S. Paine, S. Burndrett)

B. **Motion to Approve Ice Hockey request for Division 1A for Boys and Girls beginning Winter 2027-2028** **Approved 10-1** (J. Brown, D. Vega)

If supported by the Finance Committee and Board of Directors, the Tournament will 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 brackets
- 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. The ice hockey format document was discussed and a request for added clarity on a few items was made. The Ice Hockey committee representatives agreed that the noted items would be addressed, including clarity regarding games with no pathway forward. (possible third game between two 0-2 teams will not be played).

Motion to approve the Ice Hockey format contingent on updates as discussed was approved 11-0. (S. Paine, D. Vega)

7. **Tournament Structure**

- A. Committee was asked to speak to their leagues and districts for feedback regarding 50% tournament qualifying criteria. Does membership support keeping this qualification criteria as is, adjusting the number or eliminating this qualifying option. Change will be discussed over upcoming months. Any change would not be effective until Fall of 2027. The committee will also discuss number of automatic qualifiers related to number of schools in a division in future meetings.
 - B. Committee was provided a grid of potential new divisional tiers based on a new minimum base of 76 teams for one division tournaments (per BOD approved Emerging Sports document). The committee was asked to review and discuss with those they represent and bring feedback to the next meeting. Goal to finalize this for Board approval in May or June to allow for alignment process to move forward on schedule.
 - C. Shaun Hart shared an update from the Alignment Committee in Andy Linkenholker's absence. The sub-committee will be sharing data being considered for incorporating power ranking data into the alignment formula. Request committee suggestions for any other data driven factors that should be added to formula to improve the process, enhance objectivity, and decrease subjectivity. J. Brown suggested revisiting enrollment numbers utilized for placing Co-Op teams. John suggested combining enrollments vs. utilizing enrollment figures of just the largest school in the Co-Op. John also suggested the committee look at breaking out girls and boys enrollment for alignments vs the current combined enrollment methodology.
- 8. Hybrid Update** –Steve Burndrett reported- Golf currently focused on for FY2028. The committee has 4 proposals being considered. Scoring, length of play, rankings, and number of divisions are still being determined.
- 9. Tournament Dates Calendarization** – Shaun Hart suggested a sub-committee be formed to set up a grid with important dates by sport, including cut-off and tournament dates by round.

Sherry found some data put out by other states and will send to committee members for reference. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

- 10. New Business** – Please review the Sportsmanship draft document and offer any feedback before it goes to the Board of Directors. Sherry will share the document for those that do not have it.

Next Meeting Dates: May 20, 2026 – Virtual Meeting (may change)
Meeting Adjourned 11:43 AM