



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

September 24, 2026

Student Eligibility Waiver Deadlines

As a reminder, below are the seasonal deadlines for student eligibility waiver submissions as outlined in MIAA rule 87.1. These are firm deadlines and late waivers will not be accepted.

- Winter – December 15, 2026
- Spring – April 1, 2027

Winter Coop & Middle Level Waiver Applications

Middle Level waivers and Coop Applications cannot be applied for after the Schedule and Commitment Deadline:

- Winter – December 18, 2026
- Spring – April 2, 2027

Tournament Director Vacancy

The MIAA is currently looking to fill a Tournament Director position for Division 1 Wrestling.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Fall 2026 Power Rankings

The first Power Rankings for Fall 2026 sports – Field Hockey, Football, Boys and Girls Soccer, and Fall Volleyball -- will be released and published on the MIAA website on Tuesday, September 29. Athletic directors are asked to make sure their schedules and results are accurate and up to date on Arbiter on a nightly basis throughout the school year. The power rankings and tournament seedings depend on complete and accurate data from all MIAA schools. Beginning in October, updated power rankings will be published on the MIAA web site every Tuesday and Friday throughout the remainder of the Fall 2026 regular season.

Tournament Entry – Opt-in vs Opt-out

Schools are not required to submit a tournament entry. Schools must submit communication if choosing to opt out of tournament play. This process is only for sports that utilize the MIAA power ranking system. Hybrid sports will continue to require a tournament entry process.

Student and Coach Contest Disqualification Forms

[Student](#) and [Coach](#) Contest Disqualification Forms are available in the "Members Only" and "Officials" sections of the MIAA website. Please share these forms with your league assigners and have the forms available at all competition sites. When a student or coach is disqualified from a contest, the respective forms must be completed by the game official and submitted to the athletic director in charge of the contest before leaving the site. For additional information, please reference [MIAA Handbook Rule 49](#).

Game Officials Newsletter

The Fall edition of the Game Officials Newsletter is now available. [Click here](#) for more information.

Un-Played Contests: Forfeit and No-Contest Determinations

In the event a contest is unable to be played on the scheduled date, for any reason, every attempt should be made to reschedule the contest on the next available date for both schools. If the competing schools are unable to find a makeup date, both schools must use the [FORM](#) to request a determination of a "Forfeit" or "No Contest" for an un-played contest. All sections must be completed thoroughly. This information will be reviewed by the Fall Seeding Committee consisting of the chair or designee from each fall sport and TMC representatives. Tournament Directors and Executive Liaisons may be present but are non-voting members. All decisions made by the Seasonal Seeding Committee are final. Once a determination is made, it will be shared with the schools. Schools do not need to use the Forfeit/No-Contest form in the following circumstances: Canceled season (Rule 18); Overscheduling (Rule 34.6); Ineligible player (Rule 86). Please **DO NOT** enter a score into Arbiter for any contest in question until a determination has been made by the Seasonal Seeding Committee. Any unverified score can affect the power rankings in that sport.

Soccer Infractions Reporting

As the Soccer Season gets underway, please remember to complete the Infraction Forms completely and accurately. It is imperative that players' names, numbers, and type of card (red/yellow) be accurate. Any questions, please email Donna Harrington at dharrington@miaa.net.

Team Sportsmanship Awards

Nominated teams should exemplify the tenets of good sportsmanship to the highest degree and are not required to qualify for the state tournament for consideration. Award criteria include Teamwork, Fair play/respect for opponents, Ethics, and Citizenship. Self-nominations are acceptable. [Click here](#) for nomination form and deadlines.

Student Sportsmanship Essay Contest

Students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to submit an entry in the 26th Annual MIAA Sportsmanship Essay Contest. The theme of this year's contest is The Stands Standards: Honoring the Game as a Spectator. Additional information can be found in the [essay contest flyer](#). Entries are due by 12:00pm on Thursday, October 15.

Student Ambassador Information

Registration for the 2026-2027 MIAA Student Ambassador Program is now open! Principals and Athletic Directors can register students by [clicking here](#). More information about the MIAA Student Ambassador Program can be found on the [Student Ambassador Program Page](#).

Pre-Event Medical Meeting Resources

The Sports Medicine committee has recorded 11 video examples of Pre-Event Medical Meetings for different sports. Additional resources have also been developed and placed on the Sports Medicine page. You can view the videos and other resources on the [Sports Medicine page](#).



Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

33 Forge Parkway Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997 | miaa.net

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](#).

InsideOut Initiative Kickoff

In partnership with the New England Patriots and the NFL Foundation, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and [InSideOut](#) invite school principals and athletic directors to attend the launch of the InSideOut Initiative in Massachusetts. This initial event will take place on Thursday, October 8 at Gillette Stadium from 9:30am-12:00pm. [Click here](#) to register for this free event.

InSideOut Leadership is the foundational InSide work of transformational leadership. Through intentional reflection, participants examine the people, experiences and values that have shaped who they are and how they lead. Participants will develop:

- Four Questions of InSideOut Leadership
- Transformational Purpose Statement
- Leadership Story
- Personal Definition of Success
- Core Character Skills

InSideOut Leadership builds the personal foundation leaders need to lead with greater purpose, authenticity, and intentionality - creating the conditions for more meaningful experiences for students, coaches, and the entire school community.

Coach Perspectives on Student-Athlete Mental Health Survey

The study aims to better understand coaches' experiences observing student-athlete mental health, their access to mental health resources, mental health training needs, and how student-athlete substance or alcohol use is managed. Insights from this work will help inform future efforts to support athlete well-being in school settings.

Survey details:

- Takes approximately 15 minutes to complete
- Open to middle and high school coaches currently working with student athletes (or who have coached within the past year) in Massachusetts
- Confidential and voluntary
- Optional chance to win an e-gift card (information for chance to win collected and stored separately from responses)

[Click here](#) to access the survey.

NFHS Nominations for 2027 Class

If you know of a deserving athlete, coach, official, administrator or performing arts individual, please forward their information to Bonnie at blemote@miaa.net by November 1, 2026. To find out more information regarding this award, please [click here](#).

Call for Nominations: MIAA Massachusetts Women in Athletics Distinguished Service Award

The MIAA yearly recognizes women who have worked with distinction on behalf of the girls' sports in their communities with the Massachusetts Women in Athletics Distinguished Service Award (MWADSA). This award celebrates the efforts of those whose contributions have had a lasting and profound effect on female student athletes. [Click here](#) to nominate - deadline Friday, October 9, 2026.

MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors – November 18, 2026

The MIAA is excited to announce that the next MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors will be offered on **Wednesday, November 18, 2026** from 9:00 1:00PM at the MIAA office. 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](#).

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

- October 8 – Inside Out Initiative
- November 20 – Sportsmanship Summit
- December 7 – MIAA Awards Banquet

September & October Calendar

- September 30 – Volleyball Committee
- September 30 – Ice Hockey Committee
- September 30 – Unified Sports Advisory
- October 1 – Field Hockey Committee
- October 1 – TMC
- October 1 – Wrestling Committee
- October 5 – Gymnastics Committee
- October 6 – Boys & Girls Lacrosse Committee
- October 13 – MIAA Board of Directors
- October 14 – Rugby Committee
- October 15 – Basketball Committee
- October 15 – Game Officials Committee
- October 20 – Soccer Committee
- October 21 – Baseball Committee
- October 22 – Cross Country & Track Committee
- October 26 – Tennis Committee
- October 30 – Student Advisory Committee

Thanks for your continued support.

Robert Baldwin