

MIAA Tournament Management Committee

Meeting Minutes –In Person

June 9, 2026

1. Call to Order – 10:08 AM by Shaun Hart

Attendance –T. Bazyldo, J. Brown, S. Burndrett, E. Dawley, D. Early, J. Forrest, P. Fry, B. Garabedian, S. Hart, A. Linkenhoker, J. Newhall, S. Paine, K. Sheridan, B. Sidwell, T. Tarpey, K. Wolff, staff and members of the media.

Scott Oulette, Athletic Director, Lowell Public Schools was welcomed to make a statement regarding the Football Super 8 / Div 1A proposal being discussed at today's meeting.

2. Motion to Approve Minutes May 20, 2026

Approved 15-0 (T. Bazyldo, K. Wolff)

3. Football Proposal

Members of the Football subcommittee, members of TMC serving on the subcommittee, and Richard Pearson, MIAA Executive Liaison were in attendance to present the MIAA Football Postseason Playoff Proposal for Fall 2027.

Core Objectives:

- Divisional alignments with balanced division containing a minimum of 30 schools
- Reduce frequency of mismatched games, particularly those involving seeds 9-16 which historically have shown significantly lower winning percentages
- Address the frequency of school's representation at the D1 and D2 Finals
- Eliminating multiple consolation games and reducing opt-outs by teams not qualifying for the main bracket
- Focus on the importance of Thanksgiving games for local communities

Key Proposed Changes:

Regular Season & Minimum Wins:

- 9-week regular season and elimination of minimum wins

Post Season Bracket Structure:

- Addition of a new Division 1A using the top 8 teams identified by power rankings after week 9 in Divisions 1 and 2
- Divisions 1 through 8 – top 8 teams in each division plus 1A teams will qualify for the postseason. Total number of teams will be 72
- Consolation Games – 1 game prior to Thanksgiving

Proposed Calendar:

- Week 10 – Round 1 Playoffs and Non-Playoff games
- Week 11 – Round 2 Final Four
- Weeks 12 – Dedicated to traditional Thanksgiving rivalries
- Week 13 – State Finals (9 total games)

TMC thanked those participants serving on the Football Sub-Committee for their dedication and hard work. This was the first read of the proposal, and TMC members are asked to bring this proposal and feedback heard today back to their districts for discussion.

Motion to vote on the Football Proposal as presented prior to next scheduled TMC meeting date (P. Fry, S. Burndrett) Approved 15-0

A vote will be taken virtually on a newly added TMC meeting date of June 18, 2026

4. Tournament Structure

- A. **Fifty percent qualifying criteria discussion** –Jim Clark provided data using approximately 50%, 55%, and 60% qualifying. Committee members voiced that something over 50% would be optimal. Will review at next regularly scheduled meeting. This will be implemented for Fall 2027.
- B. **Number of divisions and qualifiers – Motion to Approve the Number of Divisions by Sport per the Standards for Statewide Tournaments, except for Football (currently shown with 4 divisions).** (J. Newhall, T. Bazyldo) **Approved 14-0**
- C. **Alignments** – Andy Linkenholder updated the committee regarding the ongoing sub-committee efforts. The weight of the components for alignments includes a portion for Competitive Equity and a portion for historical power ranking data, based on four years of prior data. The committee will be looking at Chapter 74 DESE data as a possible added element to the formula to better place vocational and comprehensive high schools. This work is being done to provide for a more objective process and minimize or eliminate appeals.

Sub-committee to present more detailed information at the September meeting.

- 5. **Hybrid Updates** – Steve Burndett updated the committee regarding a new Golf format which moves from current sectional models into a Statewide divisional model.

The committee continues to look at stroke play for all, power rankings, qualifiers and pace of play.

The Golf proposal will be brought forward to the next regularly scheduled TMC meeting.

New Business – none

Next Meeting Dates: June 18, 2026 – Virtual (Football Proposal Only)

August 11, 2026

September 9, 2026

Meeting Adjourned 12:11 PM