

MIAA Wrestling Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2026 @ 9:30 AM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

- Attendance- Keith Poloskey, Patrick Danby, Glenn Doulette, James Largo, Brian Brewer, Joel McKenna, Phil Mombeleur, Brendan Case, Adilson Galvao, Nate Monteiro, Paul Shvartsman, John Speek, Ryan Madden, Desi Kaplan, Phil Napolitano

2. [Minutes from January 15, 2026](#)

- Motion to approve (Keith, 2nd Paul) – Approved 12-0

3. New Business

a. Review of the 2026 Individual Wrestling Tournaments

- Thank you to our host schools, their staff, the officials and clerks.
- Tournament Director's Reports
 - **Ryan Madden (D1)**
 - This was my third year, and it was the best-run tournament during my time as TD and AD. North Andover successfully hosted back-to-back events. Having alternates set earlier was very helpful. The clerks were outstanding and kept the tournament running smoothly. Not balancing byes also helped ensure an on-time start.
 - Some coaches suggested holding mixed-gender matches on one day and girls' matches on a separate day.
 - Officials ensuring only two coaches in the corners continues to be an issue.
 - There were concerns about too many individuals acting as photographers. Media pass policies should be stricter. Possibly limiting each school to one pass.
 - Conducting MIAA awards during the finals has been very effective.
 - Coaches' awards still feel somewhat awkward and need adjustment.
 - Desi suggested eliminating the "most pins in the least time" award, as it typically goes to a champion who is already receiving multiple accolades.
 - Outstanding Wrestler (OW) is a scramble at the end as well.
 - Nate worked with Ryan, and they collaborated effectively at D1 States.
 - One issue that came up was concerns about mat spacing with the middle mats; consider working with North Andover to reduce gaps between mats.
 - **Andy Meier (D2) – Report provided by Paul in Andy's absence.**
 - Paul noted that at D2 North sectionals, all awards were presented at the end, which worked well and was not an issue. Although is not what format calls for.
 - At the state tournament, Whitman-Hanson Regional High School did an excellent job, with the limited bleacher seating but placed chairs around the mats for families to watch their athletes. This approach worked very well. An auditorium was also open for additional viewing.
 - Glenn gave a positive report for D2 West and emphasized the importance of using stanchions for crowd control.
 - **Scott T (D3 and All-States)**
 - Phil read the tournament report provide by Scott.
 - Keith – At D3 States, locating concessions away from the gym was helpful and improved traffic flow.
 - Keith- Coaches' awards continued to be an issue.
 - John Speek described it as the best experience he has had at D3 states, though noted the added expense for western MA schools, including two nights of hotel stays.

- **MassMutual feedback**

- Paul noted that the venue did not feel empty, especially compared to Tsongas Center, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive from coaches.
- One challenge was the Sunday/Monday schedule, particularly with limited restaurant availability on Sunday night.
- Keith commented that this is what the sport has been missing since he began coaching 15–20 years ago, citing very positive feedback from both coaches and parents.
 - Echoed Paul's feedback on the restaurants.
- Desi expects increased attendance in year two, along with an overall smoother tournament operation, since people have gone through it once and are now aware of how good of an experience it was.
- Phil will continue to work with MassMutual to secure a multi-year deal. While next year is likely Sunday/Monday again due to their ice hockey schedule, the goal will be to have this event on a Sat/Sun.

b. Tournament related topics for discussion

- **All-States alternate policy**

- The current policy follows the New England model, which locks in alternates prior to the tournament. This was originally adopted when All-States was held at high school venues where space was limited.
- Paul suggested that, given the capacity of MassMutual Center, the tournament could allow 6th- and 7th-place finishers from Divisional States to weigh in at All-States and serve as alternates. This would help ensure full 16-wrestler brackets, addressing the issue of reduced brackets seen in four weight classes this year.
- Keith agreed with this approach, noting it is feasible with a larger venue.
- In total, this change would allow approximately 70 additional athletes to weigh in while still maintaining 16-person brackets.
- **Motion:**
 - **Motion by Paul S (seconded by Keith P) to update the tournament format to allow 6th- and 7th-place Divisional State placers to weigh in at All-States and serve as alternates. Approved (12–0).**
 - Post-meeting discussion indicated committee support for including both policies, depending on the venue, to avoid complications if the MassMutual Center or a similar large venue is unavailable in a given year and the tournament must return to a high school site.
 - Format will read as follows:
 - Alternate policy for All-States Only,
 - When hosted at a large venue such as the Mass Mutual Center, the remaining 6th and 7th-place finishers will be permitted to weigh-in at All-States and serve as alternates.
 - When hosted at a high school venue, alternates will be made aware if they are in by the Wednesday at 8:00pm before All-States. No additional alternates will enter the tournament after the final 8:00pm deadline.

- **Value of wrestling for 7th and 8th place at Divisional States**

- No further action required following the approval of the updated All-States alternate policy.

- **Girls Divisional States – inclusion of 5th and 6th place matches**

- John noted that while match quality may be weak in earlier rounds, the larger concern is occasional outlier situations with larger fields in the weight class. However, there have been instances where athletes advanced to All-States by default.
- Consensus is that the numbers are insufficient at this time to support adding 5th and 6th place matches. With the continued growth of girls wrestling, that would be the next step.

- [Criteria 2 document](#)

- Phil will work with Paul to review the current document and determine if any revisions are needed; to be placed on the fall agenda.
 - Paul suggested that girls' seeding should be based solely on girls-only matches.

- A key challenge will be how to effectively manage and track the data.
- John noted this approach would place greater responsibility on coaches to enter athletes in girls-specific tournaments.
- Keith shared that his team sent athletes to four girls' tournaments this season.

c. Other

- Paul shared a bracketing question - In four weight classes, Division 1 wrestlers were matched against other Division 1 wrestlers to open the tournament, something that had not occurred previously.
- Desi will review this issue further with a decision to be made at the fall meeting.

4. 2026-27 Wrestling Tournaments

- Update on sites
- [Division 1 Tournament Director Vacancy](#)
 - Ryan Madden has served as wrestling TD for three years. Is stepping down due to the demands of his job as an Athletic Director. Ryan was a great addition to the team and did tremendous work over the years.

5. Tournament Management Committee (TMC)

- Continued discussion on how to bring the wrestling postseason to a statewide format
 - Phil reported receiving significant concerns from coaches regarding the proposal.
 - Paul will organize a formal forum with coaches to gather additional feedback.

6. Coaches Input

- John noted an increase in girls' participation and the number of tournament opportunities.
 - Desi emphasized that continued growth will depend on girls feeling valued and receiving proper attention within the sport.
- Paul shared concerns about the statewide proposal, particularly feedback coming from the southern region.
- Adilson shared concerns over Coaches Education and Compliance:
 - Concerns that newer coaches are often unfamiliar with required paperwork and questioned whether there should be consequences for non-compliance.
 - Phil suggested calling non-compliant programs before the committee.
 - Paul noted that a subcommittee has been formed at the coaches' association level to address these issues.
 - Phil will request an updated list of coaches from Paul and plans to strongly recommend attendance at FLO training sessions.

7. Officials Input

- Nate Monteiro
 - There are currently 95 total officials in the state, which is an increase from previous years.
 - The MIAA postseason remains a challenge due to a limited number of officials, particularly at sectional tournaments.
 - At Divisional States, 9 officials were used on 6 mats, which worked well.
 - At the All-State tournament:
 - On Day 1, 10 officials were used across 8 mats; on Day 2, 10 officials were used on 6 mats. An 11th official (Andy, MWIOA) was paid separately by the officials association.
 - At events such as the Lowell Holidays, 12 officials are typically used on 8 mats.
 - Nate expressed a desire to move toward assigning 11 officials in future All-State tournaments to better support coverage.
 - Phil will work to ensure budgeting accommodates 11 officials.
 - In-Season Dual Meets:
 - Nate noted that if girls' teams compete in separate dual meets, they are treated as separate dual meet charges.
 - This has only occurred with Springfield Central High School and Lowell High School, which have distinct girls' teams.

8. Informational Items

- Highlighted Boston Globe article on Desi Kaplan
- Review Sportsmanship Expectations: [Sportsmanship Committee draft of update expectations](#)
- [MIAA Rule Change Proposal Form](#) – due June 1, 2026
 - Nate submitted one on starting weight classes at multi-team meets
 - Adilson will submit a rule to increase number of allowable girls dates from 4 to 8

9. Adjournment 11:20 AM