



COVID-19 Task Force

Task Force Charge

- Provide Covid-19 resources related to educational athletics for MIAA school leaders
- Research the impact of Covid-19 on the landscape of high school educational athletics across the United States.
- Provide recommendations to the MIAA Board of Directors regarding educational athletics for the 2020-2021 school year.



COVID-19 Task Force

TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

Co-Chair Dr. Keith Crowley, Ph.D.

Co-Chair Mr. Thomas Holdgate

Mr. Thomas Arria

Dr. Alan Ashare, MD

Mr. Peter Boucher

Ms. Sherry Bryant

Mr. Paul Carroll

Dr. Robert Colandreo, DPT, LAT, ATC

Dr. Steven Dubzinski, Ed.D.

Mr. Avery Esdaile

Mr. Joe Francis

Dr. Paul Funk, Ed.D.

Ms. Annie Gilligan

Dr. Pamela Gould, Ed.D.

Mr. Rick Kates

Ms. Carol Kruser

Mr. Philip Napolitano

Ms. Carolyn O'Donnell

Mr. Scott Paine

Mr. Jim Quatromoni

Mr. Jared Shannon

Mr. Daniel Shine

Ms. Stephanie Sibley

Ms. Karen Veronesi

Principal/Associate Head of School, St. John's Preparatory School

Athletic Director, Duxbury High School

Athletic Director, Cambridge Rindge & Latin School

Physician

Athletic Director, Milford High School

MIAA Associate Director

School Committee, Foxborough Public Schools

Associate Professor, Bridgewater State University

Principal, Leominster High School

Athletic Director, Boston Public Schools

Athletic Director, Somerset-Berkley Regional High School

Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Superintendent, Sandwich Public Schools

Coaches Representative, Notre Dame Academy - Hingham

Principal, Chicopee High School

MIAA Assistant Director

Game Officials' Representative

Athletic Director, Hull High School

Athletic Director, Hingham High School

Dean of Students/Athletic Director, Wahconah Regional High School

Athletic Director, Arlington Catholic High School

House Principal, Malden High School

Game Officials' Representative



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TASK FORCE WORK

- **The MIAA COVID-19 Task Force began meeting on May 21st and has met weekly for the past 12 weeks.**
- **Engaged in discussions around what educational athletics would look like in remote, hybrid and traditional educational delivery models.**
- **Surveyed schools on reopening priorities and considerations for interscholastic athletics.**
- **Discussed season models, sport guidance/modification process and operational implications for educational based athletics during Covid-19 pandemic**
- **Represented MIAA on EEA working group.**
- **Engaged in conversations with Commissioner Riley and other members of the DESE staff.**



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MIAA Covid-19 Recommendation

The MIAA Covid-19 Task Force recommends the MIAA Board of Directors adopt September 18, 2020 as the start date to the fall athletic season.



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MIAA Covid-19 Recommendation

The MIAA Covid-19 Task Force recommends the MIAA Board of Directors endorse the general health and safety protocols and practices developed by the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee.



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MIAA Covid-19 Recommendation

The MIAA Covid-19 Task Force recommends the MIAA Board of Directors endorses the following season structure for the 2020-2021 academic year:

- **Sept 18th – Nov. 20th - Fall Sports-** B/G Soccer, Fall Gymnastics, B/G Cross Country, Field Hockey, Girls Volleyball, Swim & Dive, Golf, Dance
- **Nov. 30th - Feb. 21st - Winter Sports-** B/G Basketball, B/G Hockey, Wrestling, Winter Gymnastics, B/G Indoor Track & Field; Alpine Ski, Nordic Ski, Winter Cheer, Dance, Swim & Dive, Dance
- **Feb. 22nd - April 25th - Fall Sports II (“Floating Season”)-** Football, Fall Cheer, Unified Basketball, sports not played in fall season because of remote learning model/other
- **April 26th - July 3rd - Spring Sports-** Baseball, Softball, B/G Lacrosse, B/G Tennis; Boys Volleyball, B/G/U Outdoor Track & Field, Rugby, Sailing, Girls’ Golf, Crew

Regions have the ability to adjust dates with the approval of their District Athletic Committee (DAC).



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MIAA Covid-19 Recommendation

The MIAA Covid-19 Task Force recommends the MIAA Board of Directors endorse the following process to arrive at the modifications necessary for B/G Soccer, Fall Gymnastics, B/G Cross Country, Field Hockey, Girls Volleyball, Swim & Dive, and Golf to be played this fall:

- Respective Sport Committees and the Sports Medicine Committee collaborate to arrive at guidelines/modifications for respective fall sports to meet level 3 play requirements outlined in EEA guidelines by Tuesday, August 25.*
- MIAA Covid-19 Task Force reviews work by Sport Committees and Sports Medicine on Thursday, August 27.*
- MIAA Covid-19 Task Force shares finalized fall sport modifications by Friday, August 28 with MIAA President and Executive Director for final consideration and action by Tuesday, September 1.*



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MIAA Covid-19 Recommendation

The MIAA Covid-19 Task Force recommends the MIAA Board of Directors encourage schools to create a fall season schedule within leagues, or geographic regions to limit travel and number of opponents.



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MIAA Covid-19 Recommendation

The MIAA Covid-19 Task Force recommends the MIAA Board of Directors eliminate MIAA sponsored post season tournaments for the fall 2020 season.



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MIAA Covid-19 Recommendation

The MIAA Covid-19 Task Force recommends the MIAA Board of Directors allow out of season coaching from September 18th, 2020 through July 3rd, 2021, as approved by the member school principal.

**MIAA BOD amended this recommendation with, “as approved by the member school principal.”*



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MIAA Covid-19 Recommendation

The MIAA Covid-19 Task Force recommends the MIAA Board of Directors notifies member schools that if schools opt to engage in out of season sport activities that the MIAA has not attested to sport specific guidance and modifications per EEA guidelines that it is the school/district's responsibility to comply with all EEA and DESE guidance regarding levels of play.



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MIAA Covid-19 Recommendation

The MIAA Covid-19 Task Force recommends the MIAA Board of Directors requires member schools to report to the MIAA and their scheduled opponents if their designation according to public health metrics requires them to cease play.



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MIAA Covid-19 Recommendation

The MIAA Covid-19 Task Force recommends the MIAA Board of Directors charge the Executive Staff with the task of creating professional learning opportunities for school staff and game officials related to return to play modifications, health and safety protocols, planning and implementing practices, facilities usage and management and event management. In addition, the MIAA Covid-19 Task Force recommends the Executive Staff develop and implement a communication strategy to educate student-athletes and their parents on what sports will look like this fall and the general public health and safety guidelines related to Covid-19 and athletic participation.



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MIAA Covid-19 Recommendation

The MIAA Covid-19 Task Force recommends the MIAA Board of Directors set aside time on their October 29, 2020 meeting agenda to consider the recommendations from the MIAA Covid-19 Task Force regarding the next season of play.



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Additional Motions made by the Board after formal Task Force presentation

- **Motion:** *Any school that has their fall 1 season cut short due to COVID-19 designation may bring a request to their District Athletic Committee (DAC) to allow for that sport to take place during the fall 1 season.*
- **Motion:** *Allow for student-athletes to participate in all four sport seasons during the 2020-2021 school year.*



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Remaining Task Force work . . .

- Review sport specific guidance and modifications submitted by respective MIAA Sport Committees and the Sports Medicine Committee.
- Continue to communicate with EEA and DESE to prepare winter season recommendations for the MIAA Board of Directors to consider at the October 29, 2020 meeting.