



# Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

33 Forge Parkway Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997 | [miaa.net](http://miaa.net)

June 13, 2024

## **An Update from Executive Director Robert Baldwin**

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

### **Summer Office Hours**

The MIAA offices will close at noon on Fridays beginning June 28<sup>th</sup> through September 6<sup>th</sup>. The offices will also be closed July 29 through August 2.

### **NEW–NFHS Rulebooks for Schools**

During the past year, some of your colleagues have asked about access to NFHS rulebooks for themselves and/or their coaches. Linked below is a Formstack form to be used for the purchase of NFHS rulebooks for you and your coaches for the 2024-25 school year. Each book is offered at the discounted price of \$6.00 per book for paper copies only. **Please complete the order form no later than July 15<sup>th</sup> so we can plan for the Fall books to arrive before the start of the season as well as planning for the entire year's order. Link for rulebook order form: <https://www.formstack.com/forms/?5807289-TWumwOID3Q>**

The Formstack information will collect all requested books for the entire year, and you can order as few or as many as you like. We are asking you to order for the entire school year. The books will arrive at the MIAA office at different times so some shipping may take place earlier than listed but will begin no later than stated below. Given the July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline listed above, the Fall rulebook shipping date listed below is approximate. If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out to Nathan Bonneau ([nbonneau@miaa.net](mailto:nbonneau@miaa.net)).

Shipping information dates are as follows:

August 15 – Fall sport rulebooks

October 1 -Winter sport rulebooks

December 1 – Spring sport rulebooks

### **Medical Timeout Protocol for 2024-25**

The MIAA Sports Medicine Committee developed a pre-activity Medical Timeout checklist to be used for all contests beginning in the 2024-25 school year. On Weds. June 12, the MIAA BOD supported the effort by recommending the implementation for next year. The Medical Timeout is designed to be used at the beginning of all contests to review the basic medical response information that schools have already established with your developed EAP's. The links below can be used to access a full-page Medical Timeout planning document and smaller "card" size document that could be laminated and carried with coaches and site administrators for all games. These documents are also linked on the Sports Medicine page.

[Medical Timeout Protocol](#)

[Medical Timeout Card \(printable\)](#)

### **MIAA Exclusionary School Status Update**

On June 12, 2024, the MIAA Board of Directors held hearings for all schools that applied for MIAA Exclusionary School status. Please note that all schools with current Exclusionary School status will maintain it through the 2024-25 school year, except for the Greater Boston League schools, which requested removal starting July 1, 2024. The following schools were approved to extend their Exclusionary School status through the 2026-27 school year. All schools will need to reapply in the spring of 2026.

*Boston College HS, Bridgewater-Raynham RHS, Brockton HS, Catholic Memorial HS, Dartmouth HS, Durfee HS, Fontbonne HS, Malden Catholic HS, Martha's Vineyard HS, Nantucket HS, Nauset Regional HS, New Bedford HS, Notre Dame Academy (H), St. John's HS, St. John's Prep, Ursuline HS and Xaverian HS.*

### **MIAA 2024 Annual Report**

The Annual Report is a compilation of what has occurred throughout the last calendar year. It continues to build off of our initial premise that the "status quo was not an option." It provides tangible evidence that collectively we are taking significant actions on behalf of the membership that substantiate the *Executive Director's Plan for Growth and Improvement* and our *Moving Forward* documents from prior years. It clearly defines the actions taken in our Governance Initiative and Constitutional Revision that took place one year ago and all of the ramifications as a result of this action.

In the spring of 2023, the collective voice of the membership unanimously approved a constitutional revision of the organizational structure of the Association in order to provide clarity and consistency to the membership. A successful codification (a "backbone in writing") and recommendation to the Board of Directors and to the Assembly (when applicable) of the systems and processes that provide clear roles and responsibilities that lead to consistent implementation for the membership was accomplished. Clear lines of authority defining the specific powers and duties of the Board of Directors/Finance Committee, Assembly, Executive Director, and the Eligibility Appeals Board were revised and adopted. [Click here](#) to view.

### **Calendarization and Communication Recommendations**

In our on-going attempt to serve the membership, it is imperative that we provide clarity regarding the adopted systems and processes needed to carry out our collective purpose. As a result, the executive leadership team at the MIAA provided recommendations to the Board of Directors to better communicate consistent timelines and deadlines to our membership. The intent of these recommendations is to reduce many of the problems and conflicts that have arisen due to late and/or incomplete submissions at the local level by AD's. The implications of not meeting deadlines and



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following protocols in the past led to local ramifications that effected student athletes and other schools. Each of these initiatives have been vetted and are a result of our on-going meetings at District and League meetings with the membership. [Calendarization and Communication Recommendations including:](#)

- Tournament Rule 93 – Philosophy
- Tournament Cut-off Dates
- Tournament Participation – Opt-in vs Opt-out
- Formats
- Schedule and Commitment Dates
- Alignment Process

## MIAA Institutional Dues Reminder

The 2024-2025 Institutional Registration form is available in the members area of the MIAA Website - access the Members Area by clicking on the "About Us" drop-down menu from our main website and then choosing "For Members". Due date: No later than July 26, 2024.

## MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors – August 28, 2024

The MIAA is excited to announce that the next MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors will be offered on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM 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. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

## MIAA Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award is one of the most important awards given by the Association. The Distinguished Service Award Committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, is looking for recommendations for this prestigious award. When considering nominees, please weigh longevity, contributions, and distinguished service as important factors. The Committee wishes to recognize members with outstanding service to Educational Athletics and impressive contributions to the MIAA. Link to the summary nomination form: [MIAA Distinguished Service Award Nomination Form \(2024\)](#). It is particularly important that you provide us with some background information on the person(s) you are nominating. **Please submit nominations by June 30.**

## Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse

The Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse provides free health promotion materials for Massachusetts residents and health and social service providers in the Commonwealth. Funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Clearinghouse develops and distributes health promotion materials on a wide variety of topics. To learn more about the Clearinghouse please visit: <https://massclearinghouse.ehs.state.ma.us>. A sample resource available through the Clearinghouse is "A Quick Guide to Substance Use Services for Young People"

that downloaded directly from the website or ordered in larger quantities.

## Sportsmanship Honor Roll (2023-24)

Please [click here](#) to view the rough draft of the MIAA Sportsmanship Honor Roll for the 2023-24 school year. If your school is included on this list, please ensure that you did not have any student or coach disqualifications, at any level, during the past school year. If your school did have a disqualification, or conversely if your school is not on the list and did not have any disqualifications, please contact Donna Harrington at [dharrington@miaa.net](mailto:dharrington@miaa.net) by Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> so the final version of the Sportsmanship Honor Roll can be published.

## MIAA Coach of the Year Award Nominations – Due June 30

This award seeks to recognize and honor "teacher coaches" from each MIAA sponsored sport. Nominations will be accepted through June 30 and must be submitted via [this link](#). Anyone may submit a Coach of the Year Award nomination and follow up communication will be sent to nominees to request any missing or incomplete details. There are many outstanding role models serving as coaches across Massachusetts. Please consider nominating a coach that has positively impacted students.

## MIAA Student Advisory Committee

The 2024-25 MIAA Student Advisory Committee has been chosen following a rigorous selection process, which saw over 100 applications and 68 interviews conducted in early May. Twenty-seven student leaders from across the Commonwealth have been selected to represent the 230,000 student-athletes in the MIAA. We extend our congratulations to them and eagerly anticipate collaborating with them at their orientation on August 22, 2024. [Click here](#) to view the list of 2024-25 MIAA Student Advisory Committee members.

## Agganis Student Athletes of the Month

Each year, the MIAA, with the support of the Agganis Family, selects two recipients of the Harry Agganis Student Athlete of the Year. Obviously the competition is fierce as we receive numerous nominations from across the state each month. This year, we are proud to announce Abigail Bettencourt of Peabody Veterans Memorial High School and Vasili Tsiotos of Winthrop High School as our recipients of this great award. Not only are Abigail and Vasili great athletes, they are tremendous students and have made significant contributions in their community.

In addition to the congratulatory plaque, Abigail and Vasili will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$1500 for their college expenses. Congratulations to Abigail and Vasili.



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## Opioid Misuse Prevention Resources

In collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and MasTAPP, the MIAA has developed opioid misuse prevention resources for schools including:

- [Guidance on Communications After a Non-Concussion Sports Injury](#)
- [Injury Management - A Key Component of Prescription Opioid Misuse Prevention](#)
- [Preventing Prescription Opioid Misuse Among Student-Athletes](#)
- [Opioid Misuse Prevention: Student Athletes](#)
- [What To Know About Prescription Opioids](#)

These resources are located under the "Wellness" link at [www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net) and can be utilized for preseason meetings, health/wellness classes, pre-prom programs, parent forums and other school functions. The resources can also be ordered from the [Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse](#).

## MIAA Committee Meeting 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.

## Thanks for your continued support!

Robert Baldwin