



Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

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

March 7, 2024

An Update from Executive Director Robert Baldwin
Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

Underage Sports Gambling and Its Impact on Young Adults

With the legalization of sports wagering in Massachusetts, underage gambling has grown at an alarming rate. Easy accessibility and celebrity promotion of various gambling platforms has made it irresistible for many young adults. The topic has become daily chatter within schools and addiction has become a very real problem. This workshop provides an opportunity for educators to learn of the harms associated with underage gambling. This workshop is open to school administration, guidance counselors, athletic directors, coaches, faculty, and staff. [Click here](#) to register for this free in-person workshop on March 11, 2024 at the Franklin office.

Alpine Ski Championship

The Alpine Ski Championships were held at Wachusett Mountain. Masconomet Regional High School placed first in the girls race and Mohawk Trail Regional High School placed second. The boys champion was St. John's Prep of Danvers and the second place team was St. John's of Shrewsbury.



Middle Level Waiver and Coop Application Deadlines

The spring 2024 middle level waiver and cooperative application deadline is March 28, 2024.

Student Eligibility–Spring Waiver Deadline

Deadline for spring student eligibility waiver submissions is Monday, April 1, 2024. This is a firm deadline and late waivers will not be accepted.

Endowment Games

On February 7, 2024, The MIAA Board of Directors voted to discontinue Endowment Games as of July 1, 2025.

2024 MIAA Annual Meeting Registration

The 2024 MIAA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at Gillette Stadium. [Click here](#) to register.

MIAA Rule Change Proposals

Reminder! MIAA Rule Change Proposals must be submitted to Phil Napolitano (pnapolitano@miaa.net) by June 1, 2024. The form can be found by [clicking here](#).

ArbiterGame Virtual Training

A virtual ArbiterGame training is being offered to Athletic Directors, Administrative Assistants, Assistant Athletic Directors or others who work with sport scheduling. This virtual training will be held Tuesday, March 19th beginning at 10 a.m.. Anyone wishing can stay on the virtual call following the training. MIAA staff and members of the Ad Hoc Tech committee (fellow athletic directors) will be available to answer questions. Feel free to email any questions you may have in advance of the meeting.

To join the meeting, follow [this link](#).

Spring 2024 Schedule Commitment Deadline

The MIAA schedule commitment deadline for Spring 2024 sports is Friday, March 22. All schedules for **Baseball, Spring Golf, Lacrosse, Rugby, Softball, Tennis, and Spring Volleyball** must be entered into Arbiter by the end of the day on March 22. After that point, no changes can be made to opponents or the number of games/matches that can be played. For any tournament contests without a predetermined opponent, placeholder games **MUST** be entered with the opponent listed as **TBA**. Please be sure to check the [MIAA Sport Limitations Information Sheet](#) for the maximum number of competitions allowed per week and per season in each sport. After the March 22 commitment deadline, all schedules will be considered **FINAL**.

Power rankings change – Forfeits

The MIAA Tournament Management Committee, by a 15-0-0 vote, recently approved a change to the Power Rankings formula as it pertains to Forfeited Contests. With the change, any forfeited contest – whether a result of a canceled season, rule violation, or forfeit awarded for an unplayed contest – will be removed from the initial calculation of the power rankings. By doing so, a forfeited game will not have a “ripple” effect on all teams across the state. The Margin of Victory component of the formula will be adjusted after the initial calculation for only the teams involved in the forfeited contest, with the final score equivalent to the Margin of Victory cap for that sport.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a more detailed explanation. This change will go into effect beginning with all power-ranked Spring 2024 sports.

Addressing Hate in School Sports

Although an overwhelming number of schools and districts participated, there are a few districts that could not attend for various reasons. This is a second opportunity for you to take advantage of this state-wide initiative.

Previously attended a Regional Training? Contact your superintendent and other district leaders if you are interested in scheduling a **follow-up, onsite training** for coaches, teachers, students, or a combination for your individual school. Review the [Local School Trainings flyer](#) for



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more information on how to schedule these trainings and the opportunity for financial assistance.

For more information on Addressing Hate in Sports, see the following links.

- [Regional Trainings](#)
- [Local School Trainings](#)

Suspended Game and Overtime Procedures

In an effort to support our Athletic Directors, linked below is a document that outlines all MIAA suspended game and overtime procedures. This document is intended to assist Athletic Directors and Game Officials with the suspended game policies and overtime procedures of the MIAA and NFHS. [Click here](#) to access the document.

ATOM Statement

[Click here](#) for a message from ATOM - Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts, related to an inquiry about concussion data for your school and/or athletic trainer.



2023-2024 MIAA Community Service Challenge

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) is excited to announce Emily Lucien of Melrose High School as the winner of the first half of the 2023-2024 MIAA Community Service Challenge! Members of the MIAA Student Advisory

Committee reviewed 160 incredible submissions before selecting the winner. Please be reminded to continue to submit your projects on the website. The second half of this challenge will run from January 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024! Winners will be selected shortly after May 15th! Thank you to all MIAA member schools and student-athletes who participated in this year's service challenge. To view all projects submitted, [click here](#).

MIAA Coach of the Year Award

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 can submit a Coach of the Year Award nomination and follow up communication will be sent to nominees to help provide any missing or additional details. There are many outstanding role models serving as coaches across Massachusetts. Please consider nominating a coach that has positively impacted students.

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.

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

The MIAA Women in Leadership Committee 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](#) for nomination form.

Student and Coach Disqualification Forms

The [MIAA Student Contest Disqualification Form](#) and [MIAA Coach Contest Disqualification Form](#) were updated for the 2023-24 school year. Please make sure to have these new forms available at all interscholastic contests and discard any previous versions of the forms. When a student or coach is disqualified from a contest, these forms must be completed by the game official and submitted to the athletic director in charge of the contest, or designee, **before leaving the site**. Please reference MIAA Handbook Rule 49 for additional school requirements when a student or coach is disqualified from a contest.

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](#).

MIAA Orientation/Induction Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors

The MIAA is excited to announce that the next MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors will be offered on **Tuesday, March 26, 2024** in conjunction with the MSSADA Conference in Hyannis. [Click here](#) to view the flyer.

Upcoming Events

- March 8-9 – Addressing Hate in Sports
- March 11 – Underage Sports Gambling
- March 15-16 – Addressing Hate in Sports
- March 19 – Arbiter Training

Calendar

- March 13 – MIAA Board of Directors
- March 14 – Golf Committee – Virtual
- March 21 – Game Official Committee – Virtual

Thanks for your continued support!

Robert Baldwin

