



Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

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

An Update from Executive Director Robert Baldwin

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

May 25, 2023

Tournament Pairings

During the Fall 2022 season and continuing into Winter 2023, the MIAA launched an effort to streamline the production of the final power rankings, and create a smoother process of building and releasing the tournament brackets. These new guidelines once again will be used by sport tournament directors, seeding committee, and MIAA staff for the Spring 2023 postseason in Baseball, Softball, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Rugby, Girls Rugby, Boys Tennis, Girls Tennis, and Boys Volleyball.

[CLICK HERE](#) for additional information.

Addressing Hate in School Sports



We would like to express sincere gratitude to those schools for their time and effort during the training attended in our quest to eradicate hate and bias through the

platform of interscholastic athletics. The program, supported and sponsored by the MIAA, Andrea Campbell, the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, the Anti-Defamation League, DESE, and the MSAA provided a terrific forum for school leaders to share, move beyond silos, and achieve individual and collective voices to move the Commonwealth in the direction of positive normative change. Member school participation as inaugural members did not go unnoticed and you should be commended for your leadership and commitment to this worthwhile initiative.

As a former superintendent, I understand and appreciate the time and events that consume your calendar. However, your comments at the end of the training were proof that, in your words, the Center for Sport and Society at Northeastern University "over delivered". The powerful two-day training allowed for all participants to be reflective in their practices and share in a safe space. You have set a high standard and firm foundation for the remaining twelve trainings around the state. I truly believe that together we can inspire social change and empower our adult and student role models to promote a

sustainable culture of respect in our schools, on our playing fields, and in our communities.

I cannot thank you enough for your continued dedication to, not only your district and community, but our organization and the Commonwealth, as we continue to grow courageous leaders in their pursuit of eradicating hate and bias.

MIAA Transfer Students Reminder

We are saddened to learn that several MIAA schools will be closing their doors at the conclusion of this school year. As these students begin to find a new educational home, please be reminded to thoroughly check the eligibility of any new student transferring into your building for the 2023-24 school year. Each Principal and Athletic Director should closely review MIAA Rules 57, 58, 59 and 60. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact your MIAA staff.

7-on-7 Flag Football and Out-of-Season Coaching

As stated in the Oct. 26, 2022 MIAA Board of Directors meeting, it was clarified that 7-on-7 flag football falls under the sport of football, meaning that all out-of-season coaching restrictions apply. Principals and Athletic Directors should remind coaches that if they participate in out-of-season football activities, to be attentive to MIAA Rule 40: Out-of-Season Coach-Athlete Contact Limitations.

RefReps Officiating Curriculum – Students & Adults

This spring, RefReps was introduced to membership schools and officiating boards across the state. The MIAA has become an official partner with RefReps as a comprehensive resource for virtual instruction and training on NFHS rules. The virtual instruction model is available for students, via curricular integration in the classroom where districts choose. Outside of the classroom/school day, RefReps can be utilized for students as well as adults. During this spring, various webinars have been held to introduce the RefReps curriculum to school leaders as well board leaders across the state. As a part of the partnership with RefReps, every officiating board with a RefReps sport curriculum, will be afforded one product license for a board member to complete the learning modules and better understand the curricular expectations. Schools utilizing the RefReps curriculum will be offered a 10% discount on the per student cost as well as free "in-game" video modules to supplement learning. If you wish to learn more about RefReps and this exciting learning opportunity for your school, please contact Richard Pearson (rpearson@miaa.net) or Nathan Bonneau (nbonneau@miaa.net).

2023-2024 MIAA Student Advisory Committee Application

This committee is typically comprised of student leaders entering their junior or senior year, who participated in the MIAA Student Ambassador program or have shown strong leadership qualities within their school and community. Throughout the year, Student Advisory Committee members



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meet as a group approximately once a month. They are tasked with facilitating student leadership workshops, meeting as a committee to discuss student related topics and participating in various association activities throughout the year. The student voice is critical in how we continue to improve the Educational Athletic offerings of the MIAA.

The application must be completed and submitted to me by Friday, June 30, 2023. Finalist interviews will be scheduled during the month of July. Additionally, those students who are selected to join the committee will be required to participate in a mandatory orientation on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 from 9:00am-2:00pm. The orientation will be held in-person at the MIAA Office in Franklin, MA. [Click here](#) to complete the application.

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 additional details. There are many outstanding role models serving as coaches across Massachusetts. Please consider nominating a coach that has positively impacted students.

Make your nomination for Game Official of the Year

Each year we select one game official from all sports to be the MIAA Game Official of the Year. Nominations will be accepted through June 30th by [CLICKING HERE](#). Anyone can nominate an official using our streamlined process. Simply fill in some basic information using the link above and then we will contact the recommended official for greater detail. Please consider nominating an official who you know exemplifies the best in the officiating ranks.

Q-Collar Approved by FDA and NFHS for Interscholastic Use – Intended to Reduce Potential Head Injuries

As this spring season unfolded, we received some questions from schools and game officials about a device called the Q30 Collar. We previously communicated with spring game officials that the device was evaluated and approved by the NFHS for several spring sports. The Q-Collar has been approved for all of the NFHS sponsored sports listed below, spanning beyond just this spring season:

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Field Hockey
- Football
- Gymnastics
- Ice Hockey
- Lacrosse (Boys & Girls)
- Soccer
- Softball
- Track and Field
- Volleyball

Game Officials Spring 2023 Newsletter

Thank you for your continued support of high school athletics across the state of Massachusetts. Your efforts are noticed and appreciated!

Please click the link to read the [Spring 2023 Game Officials Newsletter](#).

Upcoming Coaches Education Courses

The Fundamentals of Coaching Course is currently being offered in both virtual and in-person formats. There are openings available in these programs for any coaches that need to complete the MIAA Handbook requirements. Please [click here](#) for the list of upcoming courses and dates. Additional courses will be added during the summer months.

Calendar

Start time 10:00am unless otherwise noted:

- June 8 – Game Officials Committee
- June 13 – Football Committee
- June 13 – Golf Committee
- June 22 – Arbiter Training

In case you missed it...

[Executive Director's Update February 16, 2023](#)

Thanks for your continued support.

Robert Baldwin



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