



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

September 8, 2022

Supreme Judicial Court Decision

On Monday August 29, 2022, the Supreme Judicial Court ("SJC") upheld the MIAA's decision denying a waiver to a student-athlete for a fifth year of play, and vacated a Superior Court order that had allowed the student-athlete to play. The SJC held that courts reviewing MIAA student eligibility decisions must use the "arbitrary and capricious" standard of review, which allows courts to overrule MIAA decisions only when they lack any rational basis. Concluding that MIAA's [Eligibility Appeal Board \(EAB\)](#) fully considered all the evidence presented in light of all the factors necessary for a waiver, the SJC ruled that the Board's decision was plainly not arbitrary and capricious and should have been upheld.

Board of Directors Actions

Required MIAA Form Acknowledging MIAA

Rules 57 & 59 - On August 17th, the MIAA Board of Directors adopted a new form that will be required for any students transferring to or reclassifying at an MIAA Member School. This required form is intended to serve as a supportive document for MIAA Member School leaders, the student-athletes and their families to ensure they are educated on MIAA rules and the future impact they may have on one's eligibility. This form must be implemented in schools beginning on October 1st. The form will be added as page two of the MIAA Form 200, as well as a standalone [Form #9, titled "Acknowledgement of MIAA rules 57 and 59."](#)

District Athletic Committees (DAC)

The Board of Directors delegates to the [District Athletic Committees \(DAC\)](#) the supervision of athletics and the adjudication of protests, disputes, conflicts or controversies within their districts. They also serve as the Nominating Committee of the Association, and directly appoint a principal and athletic director to each MIAA Sport Committee. They control the alignment or realignment of Leagues, approve all co-operative (click icons) and middle school on high school team's requests within their districts, and play an important role in the Rules Change Process, given that they have the opportunity to review all input on each rule before recommending a position to the Board of Directors. District Committees will also have the responsibility of approving requests within their districts of co-operative teams looking to add Middle School participation in one or more of their co-operative teams. The Board of Directors or Executive Director may request them to "fact find" or to conduct hearings with regard to alleged rule violations. That authority also permits District Athletic Committees to determine and enforce appropriate penalties.

Measures to Eradicate Hate and Bias Through the Platform of Sports

The MIAA will continue to take a visible role in helping our member schools address incidents of bullying and inequity among athletes and fans. A collaboration with the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, the Northeastern University Center for the Study of Sport in Society, the Anti-Defamation League and other key stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth unveiled a forum on addressing hate and bias in schools on April 5, 2022. Next steps will be a statewide convening targeting the week of Sept 26 or Oct 3 to begin proactive measures to eradicate hate and bias through the platform of sports.

NFHS Launches Free National Book Study Supporting DEI Initiatives

A four-week national book study discussing diversity, equity and inclusion will be conducted via a virtual webinar series by the NFHS from October 19 to November 9. The study will feature the book entitled "From Athletics to Engineering: 8 Ways to Support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for All," co-authored by Johnnie Johnson and Dr. Michael E. Webber. Registration for this first-ever free national initiative is open through September 15 at meetings.nfhs.org/NFHSNationalBookStudy.

Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) Update

Some athletic directors have started to receive inquiries and/or contracts for MIAA student athletes. As initial advice, it is important that the student and family carefully read MIAA Rule 47, Amateurism -- (Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) - Definitions - Loss of Amateur Standing) to thoroughly understand all permitted activities. The MIAA staff, in collaboration with MSSADA, is working to develop resources and support for school leaders to help navigate and better understand the current landscape of NIL.

Student-Athlete of the Month Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award. This award recognizes two student-athletes on a monthly basis (from September through April) 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. Nominations must be received by the last day of each month in order to qualify for that month's award. To submit a nomination for the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award please [CLICK HERE](#).



Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

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

Principals Needed for Unified Sports Advisory Committee

The MIAA and Special Olympics Massachusetts are currently looking for member school principals to serve on the Unified Sports Advisory Committee. This committee meets 3-4 times per year and provides feedback regarding the Unified Basketball and Unified Track and Field offerings sponsored by both organizations. If you are interested in serving on this committee for the 2022-23 school year, please contact Peter Smith at psmith@miaa.net or 508-541-9834.

Fall Game Officials Newsletter

The [Game Officials Newsletter](#) was created for and sent to all MIAA enrolled game officials on August 30th.

Student and Coach Contest Disqualification Forms

As fall contests begin, please make sure that the updated [Student Contest Disqualification Form](#) and [Coach Contest Disqualification Form](#) are submitted to the MIAA office in the event of a disqualification in any sport. These forms must be completed by the game official and emailed to Donna Harrington at dharrington@miaa.net, as well as the principal and athletic director of each school involved.

Soccer Infraction Reporting

All soccer infractions (yellow cards and red cards) must be submitted via the online [Soccer Infraction Reporting Form](#) following each game. Please note - when a red card is issued, the student/coach contest disqualification forms referenced above must also be emailed to Donna Harrington at dharrington@miaa.net. The MIAA Soccer and Sportsmanship Committees appreciate the assistance and attention to detail of member schools when submitting this required information.

In case you missed it...

[Executive Director's Update August 25, 2022](#)

- Name, Image, and Likeness
- Franklin Unified Basketball Team
- Fall 2022 Pre-season Sports Medicine Update – Heat Modifications and Varsity Football Medical Personnel Requirements
- MIAA Restructuring Plan Announcement
- Rule Change Proposal Packet
- Student Advisory Committee
- Basketball Shot Clock

Calendar

- MSSADA September 12, 2022 10:00 a.m.
- Arbiter Training September 19, 2022 9:00 a.m.
- Student Advisory Committee September 21, 2022
- Board of Director's Meeting September 22, 2022 (Virtual)
- September 22, 2022 10:00 a.m. DEIC
- NFHS Section I Meeting – September 28 – 30, 2022
- MSSADA October 3, 2022 10:00 a.m.
- Ice Hockey Summit October 11, 2022 6:00 p.m.
- Educational Athletics Summit October 21, 2022 DoubleTree Westborough
- Game Officials Banquet October 25, 2022 5:30 p.m.
- Board of Director's Meeting October 26, 2022
- Sportsmanship Summit November 10, 2022 Gillette Stadium
- Rules Workshop November 17, 2022
- National Athletic Director's Conference December 9 – 13, 2022 Nashville, TN
- Annual Meeting Thursday April 6, 2023 DoubleTree Westborough

Sports/Standing Committee Meetings-

- September 13, 2022 10:00 a.m. Golf Committee
- September 14, 2022 10:00 a.m. TMC
- September 15, 2022 9:30 a.m. Soccer Committee
- September 15, 2022 10:00 a.m. Football Committee
- September 16, 2022 10:00 a.m. Swim Committee
- September 21, 2022 10:00 a.m. Ice Hockey Committee
- September 21, 2022 10:00 a.m. Lacrosse Committee
- September 21, 2022 10:00 a.m. Track & Field Committee
- September 21, 2022 10:00 a.m. Sportsmanship Committee
- September 28, 2022 10:00 a.m. Volleyball Committee
- September 29, 2022 10:00 a.m. Ski Committee
- October 5, 2022 10:00 a.m. Gymnastics Committee
- October 12, 2022 10:00 a.m. Basketball Committee
- October 12, 2022 10:00 a.m. Game Officials Committee
- October 13, 2022 10:00 a.m. Wrestling Committee
- October 17, 2022 4:00 p.m. Sports Medicine Committee
- October 18, 2022 10:00 a.m. Tennis Committee
- October 27, 2022 10:00 a.m. Baseball Committee

District Workshops/District Athletic Committee Meetings-

- District 9 Workshop September 19, 2022 9:30 a.m.
- District 1 Workshop September 23, 2022
- District 2&3 Workshop September 27, 2022
- District 6 Workshop September 27, 2022 virtual

Thanks for your continued support.

Robert Baldwin



Massachusetts Interscholastic
Athletic Association

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