



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 28, 2023

MSAA Professional Development Workshops

MIAA's sister organization, the Massachusetts School Administrators' Association (MSAA), is hosting several tremendous [professional development opportunities](#) this academic year. These PD offerings are geared toward all educators and would benefit your staff. Please forward this link to your staff throughout your district and encourage them to attend.

The MSAA has listened to its members and created a tremendous list of PD offerings for the coming year. Please send this link to your school Community and support their attendance at these great events. Any questions, please call us- hope to see you soon.

A Clear and Direct Message from the Membership

A key action for growth and improvement of the MIAA was to provide clarity to the membership leading to consistent implementation of the rules and regulations set forth by the membership.

The execution of this plan entailed constitutional revisions of the MIAA and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC). The MIAC was created in 1950. Its constitution was separate and independent of the MIAA. The first step in this initiative was that the MIAC needed to vote to approve its own constitutional revision.

On January 25, 2023, an MIAC/MIAA Working Group was convened to discuss how to delineate clear lines of absolute and advisory authority of the association. The proposal was to re-define the roles of the MIAC by validating their role as members of the Eligibility Appeals Board (EAB), and their ability to review, amend or propose new rules pertaining to the regulation and administration of athletics, in an advisory capacity only.

On January 31, 2023, the MIAC voted unanimously (10-0) to replace their current constitution with new language defining their new role. On February 8, 2023, the MIAA Board of Directors voted unanimously to recommend these revisions to the Assembly (the legislative body ultimately responsible for voting constitutional revisions). On April 6, 2023, the Assembly voted unanimously to enact this significant regulatory revision to the MIAA constitution. In doing so, the Board of Directors is now the final regulatory authority in the rule change process.

The successful codification of the organizational structure of the MIAA that provides clear roles and responsibilities leading to consistent implementation of the rules and regulations set forth by the membership was approved unanimously by the collective voice of the membership. A clear and direct message was delivered throughout the association to consistently apply and act upon the rules and regulations set forth by the membership with fidelity.

Fall Individual Tournament Deadlines:

Cross Country – November 6th. No late entries will be accepted after this date.
Mandatory Information Zoom Meeting for the Cross Country Tournament (ADs/Coaches):

- Division 3 – 10/23 @ 5:45pm
- Division 1 – 10/23 @ 6:30pm
- Division 2 – 10/23 @ 7:15pm

Golf - Friday, October 13th (via Formstack application).

Swimming & Diving

- Sectional Meet – Monday, October 30th 4:00pm
- State Meet – Monday, November 6th – 4:00pm

Unified Basketball - September 29th

Fall Team Tournament Intent to Enter Deadline:

Field Hockey, Football, Soccer, Volleyball

- October 26th

Fall Tournament Venues:

Cross Country:

- Division 1 – Gardner Golf Course
- Division 2 - Wrentham Development Center
- Division 3 - Northfield Mountain
- State Championship - Fort Devens

Field Hockey: WPI

Football: Gillette Stadium

Golf:

- Division 1: Greathorse Golf Club
- Division 2: Thorny Lea Golf Club
- Division 3: TBD

Soccer: TBD

Swimming & Diving:

- Sectionals: Boston University Aquatics
- States: MIT Aquatics

Unified Basketball:

- Lowell, Chicopee Comp, Dartmouth, Malden, Lexington, Barnstable, Bellingham, Danvers, Plymouth North, Wahconah, Cambridge High School

Volleyball:

- Worcester State University



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Fall 2023 Power Rankings

The first Power Rankings for Fall 2023 sports – Field Hockey, Football, Boys and Girls Soccer, and Girls Volleyball -- will be released and published on the [Tournament Central](#) section of the MIAA web site on Friday, September 29.

Athletic directors are asked to make sure their schedules and results are accurate and up to date on Arbiter on a nightly basis throughout the school year. The power rankings and tournament seedings depend on complete and accurate data from all MIAA schools.

Beginning in October, updated power rankings will be published on the MIAA web site every Tuesday and Friday throughout the remainder of the Fall 2023 regular season.

Soccer Infraction Reporting

All varsity soccer infractions (yellow cards and red cards) must be submitted via the online [Soccer Infraction Reporting Form](#) following each game. The home school athletic director is required to submit this information. Sub-varsity should not be reported through this online system. Please note – when a red card is issued, the new student/coach disqualification forms referenced in this newsletter must also be emailed to Donna Harrington at dharrington@miaa.net. The MIAA Soccer and Sportsmanship Committee appreciate the assistance and attention to detail of member schools when submitting this required information.

NEW Student and Coach Disqualification Forms

Please make sure that the new [MIAA Student Contest Disqualification Form](#) and [MIAA Coach Contest Disqualification Form](#) are available at each contest site and discard any previous versions of these 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.

National Officials Appreciation Week

Member Schools recently received notice of the National Officials Appreciation Week, October 1-7. MIAA staff members travel around the state to personally thank officials and support their efforts on the local level. We'd like to also recognize the tremendous support shown to officials by our Member Schools.

Statewide Tournament Director Positions

The MIAA is currently looking to fill Tournament Director positions for the following winter sports:

- Wrestling – Division 1
- Wrestling – Division 2

Winter Cooperative Team and Middle Level Waiver Applications

Last year the DAC's placed deadlines for submitting Cooperative Applications and Middle Level Waiver Applications. ML waivers and Coop Applications "... cannot be applied for after the first possible date of competition for each season." The final day of application is December 7. Applications submitted after these dates will not be considered. Link(s) to [Middle Level Waiver](#) and [Cooperative Team](#) guidelines.

Esports

Esports is a great opportunity for students in your school who spend time with competitive gaming. The MIAA has successfully offered esports for 5 years in collaboration with PlayVS, holding state championship events in the fall and spring. The Fall season just started but there will be another season beginning in February 2024. This is the perfect time to investigate starting a team at your school. Please consider beginning this very exciting opportunity! If you would like more information, you can reach out to Richard Pearson at the MIAA office (rpearson@miaa.net), inquiring at the PlayVS website [here](#) or email MA PlayVS representative Parker Duwelius at parker.duwelius@playvs.com. Our schools and students have had a great experience organizing these teams of students to represent their schools!!!!

October 10, 2023-ADL New England's The Good Fight Forum

Join the New England community for a day dedicated to combating antisemitism and hate. This one-day forum will include presentations by leading experts, and skill building workshops for students, parents, and working professionals. A panel session entitled "Best Practices in Addressing Antisemitism and Other Identity-Based Bias in School Sports" will feature MIAA Assistant Director Mike Rubin. This event will take place at the Boston Renaissance Waterfront Hotel. For additional information please [click here](#). Member school administrators and athletic directors can attend at **no cost** by using the code ADLGF2023 with the [online registration](#).

Student Leadership Summit – October 20, 2023

The [MIAA Student Leadership Summit](#) is scheduled for Friday, October 20 at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough. This program is designed for Student Ambassadors, student leaders and adult leaders. The registration fee is \$60 per person and registered MIAA Student Ambassadors can attend for free. The program will feature a keynote presentation by [Betsy Butterick](#), Executive Coach and Communication Specialist, as well as a variety of concurrent workshop sessions. The registration deadline is Tuesday, October 17. To register a group from your school, please [click here](#).



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Sportsmanship Summit – November 9, 2023

The [MIAA Sportsmanship Summit](#) is scheduled for Thursday, November 9 at Gillette Stadium. This program is designed for student and adult leaders. The registration fee is \$75 per person. The program will feature a keynote presentation by Mark Leinweaver entitled "Character Matters." In addition, the agenda will include student and adult breakout sessions, award presentations and much more. The registration deadline is November 2. To register a group from your school, please [click here](#).

Student Sportsmanship Essay/Multimedia Contest

The entry deadline for the Student Sportsmanship Essay/Multimedia Contest is Wednesday, October 11 at 12:00pm. Entries must be submitted as an essay of no more than 500 words or as a public service announcement of 30 or 60 seconds in duration. The theme of this year's contest is "How can you use social media to positively promote sportsmanship in your school?" First place (\$400) and Runner-Up (\$200) prizes will be presented in both contest categories at the annual Sportsmanship Summit on November 9. For additional contest information, please [click here](#).

Student Ambassador Information

Registration for the 2023-2024 MIAA Student Ambassador Program is now open! Principals and Athletic Directors can register students by [clicking here](#). More information about the MIAA Student Ambassador Program can be found on the [Student Ambassador Program Page](#).

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 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. Each recipient will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and be recognized with an award presentation at their school. To submit a nomination for the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award please [CLICK HERE](#).

Upcoming Events

- October 11 – Student Sportsmanship Essay/Multimedia Contest Deadline
- October 20 – MIAA Student Leadership Summit (Doubletree Westborough)
- November 9 – MIAA Sportsmanship Summit (Gillette Stadium)
- December 1 – Becoming a Student of Leadership Workshop at MIAA Office
- January 19 – MIAA/MSAA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Summit at Holy Cross
- January 26 – MIAA Student Ambassador Huddle at MIAA Office

Calendar

- October 3 – District 4 Workshop
- October 4 – District 6 Workshop
- October 4 – Gymnastics Committee
- October 5 – Lacrosse Committee
- October 10 – District 9 Workshop
- October 12 – Wrestling Committee
- October 16 – Game Officials Committee
- October 16 – Urban AD Virtual Meeting
- October 16 – Sports Medicine Committee
- October 17 – Rugby Committee
- October 18 – Track Committee
- October 19 – Basketball Committee
- October 23 – Tennis Committee
- October 25 – Board of Directors Virtual
- October 25 – Baseball Committee

Thanks for your continued support.

Robert Baldwin



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