



# Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

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

**An Update from Executive Director Robert Baldwin**  
Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

**October 26, 2023**

## Tournament Pairings

In an effort to streamline the process of producing the final power rankings, and create a smoother process of building and releasing the tournament brackets, [guidelines](#) have been developed to be used by sport tournament directors, seeding committees, and MIAA staff.

## Online Ticketing

Online tickets via GoFan will be sold exclusively for MIAA post-season tournament contests beginning with the "Round of 16". Schools that are unable to comply with the online ticketing policy will not be eligible to host tournament events for those rounds. There will be a GoFan Webinar for November 2, 2023 at 10am. An email invite will be sent shortly. For additional information see the GoFan informational web page by [clicking here](#).

## Fall Individual Tournament Deadlines:

**Cross Country** – November 6<sup>th</sup>. No late entries will be accepted after this date.

## Swimming & Diving

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

## 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 (for more tournament information [click here](#)):

- Division 1: Greathorse Golf Club
- Division 2: Thorny Lea Golf Club
- Division 3: Sterling National Country Club

### 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

## Football Non-Playoff Scheduling Fall 2023

All football schools have been contacted about a league rep to meet with the Non-Playoff Scheduling Committees this coming weekend, Oct. 29. The Non-Playoff committees will work to schedule the final two weeks of games. **Please remember, if a team does not wish to play in week 9 and/or 10, the Scheduling Committee must be notified by the athletic director before Saturday at 10:00 pm on the weekend of week 8 (10/28) and/or week 9 (11/4)**

Please note – Non-Playoff Schedules developed by the Scheduling Committees will be considered final:

- Game considerations are based on league/rivalry games, competitive matchups, and home/away considerations.
- The Scheduling Committee will avoid rematches whenever possible.
- Week 9 will be worked after bracket release of 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 29
- Week 10 will be set on Sunday, November 5; Time: TBD

\*\* In the event of game postponement(s) on Saturday, Oct. 28; brackets will be released approximately one hour after the conclusion of the final game; Non-Playoff seeding committees will communicate procedure, time and plans should this situation present itself.

## Illegal Football Glove – Immediate Attention!

SFIA – one of the organizations that oversees the football glove compliance and certification for the NFHS has brought to our attention a new illegal football glove being marketed.

The *599 Alpha-Tack Glove*, most commonly sold by a major online distributor (perhaps other outlets as well) does not meet the SFIA standard for football glove certification as required by current NFHS Football Rules.

Please know that this football glove is **ILLEGAL** as it does not meet the required SFIA standard or NOCSAE standard for football glove certification as required by current NFHS Football Rules. For any football glove to be **legal** for use by NFHS Football Rules, it must either meet the SFIA standard or the NOCSAE standard and must have either one of those markings on the outside of the glove on the wrist.

## MSAA Professional Development Workshops

MIAA's sister organization, the Massachusetts School Administrators' Association (MSAA), is hosting several tremendous [professional development opportunities](#) this academic year.

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.



# Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

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

## ATLAS Survey for Athletic Trainers

NATA (National Athletic Trainers' Association), KSI (Korey Stringer Institute) and ATOM (Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts) work annually to collect information for ATLAS (Athletic Trainers' Locations and Services) for all MA schools. If you could pass this message along to your athletic trainer it would help ATOM complete all information for all schools. Have your AT email ATLAS at [robert.huggins@uconn.edu](mailto:robert.huggins@uconn.edu) for contact information about your school. Provide the following information in the email message:

- AT Name
- Name of School

## Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) – Parent and Guardian webinar Nov. 15th 7:00 PM

MIAA Partner, *Advance*, will be offering a webinar for parents and guardians about Name, Image and Likeness – NIL. Please pass along the registration link below and mention the opportunity to your parents. The webinar will be a great opportunity for parents to learn more about this new landscape and how it might impact their children. There will be an overview of NIL as well as an opportunity to ask questions.

### MIAA Webinar Registration:

<https://forms.gle/KTvU7MAVYSZWc8Ha7>

**About Advance:** Advance is an unbiased industry leader in Name, Image and Likeness Consulting, Education, Life Skills Development and Due Diligence Technology Solutions. Our team's diversity and real-world experiences provide enhanced relatability and unparalleled engagement. We strategically bring together experts across sports business, athletic administration, education, finance, law, marketing, branding and risk/compliance for the benefit of our partners. Our expertise, network of professional athletes and weekly immersion on college campuses across the country allows our team to collect real-time data and be agile to respond quickly to the rapid changes in collegiate and high school athletics.

## NFHS Rule Change Proposals

Each year the NFHS Rule Change Proposal process begins with submissions of possible rule changes through the NFHS website. The Rule Change Proposal timeline and schedule of deadlines can be found [here](#). If you wish to submit a rule change, that may be submitted [here](#). The success of all NFHS rules for high school athletes depends on the collective work and input from coaches, officials, and administrators from across the country.

## High School RIO – Injury Surveillance with the NFHS; Attn: Certified Athletic Trainers

Each year, high schools across the country collect injury surveillance data to help reduce the rate and severity of sports-related injuries among high school athletes. The collection of this data is called the National High School Sports-Related Injury Surveillance Study, more commonly known as High School RIO. The 2023-24 academic year marks the 19th year of the High School RIO study, which is funded by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and is managed by researchers at the Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention, a 501c(3) non-profit organization. This study uses RIO™ (Reporting Information Online), an internet-based surveillance system, to collect data from a national sample of high school athletes to identify rates and patterns of injury as well as risk and protective factors for sports injuries at the high school level. ATs who participate in High School RIO will receive a virtual gift card to thank them for their participation. While the amount of the incentive varies slightly based on the number of sports reported, last year's participants received \$300 each for reporting ten sports. This year, High School RIO will capture data on 21 sports/activities. You are not expected to report for all 21 sports/activities. Instead, you will be asked to report for 10 randomly selected sports/activities that are offered at your school and that you provide services for. If you and your school would like to participate in the 2023-24 National High School Sports-Related Injury Surveillance Study or would like to learn more about this important study, please click on the following link:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/highschoolrio23\\_24](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/highschoolrio23_24)

## Winter Cooperative Team and Middle Level Waiver Applications

Last year the DACs 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 for the Winter 2023-2024 season is December 7. Applications submitted after these dates will not be considered. Link(s) to [Middle Level Waiver](#) and [Cooperative Team](#) guidelines.

## Statewide Tournament Director Positions

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

- Wrestling – Division 1
- Wrestling – Division 2



# Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

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

## 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 is underway 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](mailto:rpearson@miaa.net)), inquiring at the PlayVS website [here](https://playvs.com) or email MA PlayVS representative Parker Duwelius at [parker.duwelius@playvs.com](mailto:parker.duwelius@playvs.com). Our schools and students have had a great experience organizing these teams of students to represent their schools!!!!

## MIAA Hosted Media Day – October 18, 2023

The MIAA hosted its first Media Day of the 2023-24 school year on Wednesday, October, 18 at the MIAA offices in Franklin. A total of 13 media members attended, representing 9 different newspaper, digital, local television and radio outlets from across the state. MIAA staff also was on hand for the roundtable discussion that covered a variety of topics pertaining to media coverage of tournaments and association business. The next Media Day event is tentatively scheduled for January 2024.

## 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 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.

## 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](#).

## MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors – November 16, 2023

The MIAA is excited to announce that the next MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors will be offered on Thursday, November 16, 2023 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.

## 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

- November 9 – MIAA Sportsmanship Summit (Gillette Stadium)
- December 1 – Becoming a Student of Leadership Workshop at MIAA Office
- December 6 – MIAA Awards Banquet at Doubletree Hotel
- January 19 – MIAA/MSAA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Summit at Holy Cross
- January 26 – MIAA Student Ambassador Huddle at MIAA Office

## Calendar

- November 13 – TMC Committee (Virtual)
- November 16 – MIAA Orientation Workshop
- November 18 – Fundamentals of Coaching
- December 6 – MIAA Board of Directors Meeting
- December 12 – Swim Committee
- December 12 – Unified Committee
- December 13 – Sportsmanship Committee (Virtual)
- December 13 – TMC Committee

## Thanks for your continued support.

Robert Baldwin



Massachusetts Interscholastic  
Athletic Association

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