



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 26, 2024

Webinar for School Leaders: Combatting Hate in Massachusetts Schools

October 22, 2024 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

School leaders: Please join us for a presentation by Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell and her staff on the latest updates to state guidance on preventing and responding to hate and bias incidents in schools. The webinar will review the newly released [Guidance on Schools' Legal Obligations to Prevent and Address Hate and Bias Incidents](#). The audience for this webinar is superintendents, principals, other district and school leaders, and school district attorneys.

Fall 2024 Power Rankings

The first Power Rankings for Fall 2024 sports - Field Hockey, Football, Boys and Girls Soccer, and Fall Volleyball -- will be released and published on the [MIAA website](#) on Friday, September 27. 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 2024 regular season.

Fall Tournament Dates/Locations:

Cross Country - Divisionals - November 9

Northfield Mountain
Fort Devens
Wrentham Development Center

Cross Country - State - November 16

Fort Devens

Field Hockey - November 16

Worcester State University

Football - December 4, 5 & 6

Gillette Stadium

[Golf](#) - State - October 21

D1- The Haven Country Club
D2 - Berkshire Hills Country Club
D3 - Foxboro Country Club

Soccer - State - November 22 & 23

Worcester State & TBD

Swim & Dive - Sectional - November 3

MIT

Swim & Dive - State - November 10

Boston University

Unified Basketball Jamborees - November 7-22

Various Locations

Volleyball - State - November 15-16

Fall Individual Tournament Deadlines:

- **Cross Country** - November 4th. No late entries will be accepted after this date.
- **Golf** - Friday, October 4th ([Formstack application](#))

- **Swimming & Diving**

- Sectional Meet - Monday, October 28th 5:00pm
- State Meet - Monday, November 4th - 5:00pm

- **Unified Basketball** - October 4th

Tournament Entry - Opt-in vs Opt-out

Beginning with the Fall 2024 season schools will not be required to submit a tournament entry. Schools will be required to submit communication if choosing to opt out of tournament play. This new process is only for sports that utilize the MIAA power ranking system. Hybrid sports will continue to require a tournament entry process.

Un-Played Contests: Forfeit and No-Contest Determinations

In the event a contest is unable to be played on the scheduled date, for any reason, every attempt should be made to reschedule the contest on the next available date for both schools. If the competing schools are unable to find a makeup date, both schools must use this [FORM](#) to request a determination of a "Forfeit" or "No Contest" for an un-played contest. All sections must be completed thoroughly.

This information will be reviewed by the Fall Seeding Committee consisting of the chair or designee from each fall sport and TMC representatives. Tournament Directors and Executive Liaisons may be present but are non-voting members. All decisions made by the Seasonal Seeding Committee are final. Once a determination is made, it will be shared with the schools.

Schools do not need to use the Forfeit/No-Contest form in the following circumstances: Canceled season (Rule 18); Overscheduling (Rule 34.6); Ineligible player (Rule 86).

Please **DO NOT** enter a score into Arbiter for any contest in question until a determination has been made by the Seasonal Seeding Committee. Any unverified score can affect the power rankings in that sport.

Swimming Software - Hy-Tek Team Manager

All Swimming programs must use Hy-Tek Team Manager beginning in the 2024-25 school year. Team Manager Lite **cannot** be used anymore. There are three versions of the software which can be accessed at this link: [Team Manager pricing and selection](#). Any version, bronze, silver or gold can be used for MIAA Tournament Entry. Additional information can be found at the links below:

- [Team Manager software overview](#)
- [Hy-Tek support page](#)
- [Hy-Tek Swimming main page](#)

Field Hockey Protective Equipment Reminder

The MIAA follows NFHS Rules for Field Hockey. We would like to remind you of the following rule regarding player equipment:

NFHS Rule 1, Section 6, Article 5 states: "Goggles may be worn by all field players. A face mask may be worn by field



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players throughout the game. The face mask shall be smooth, rounded, preferably transparent or single-colored and fit flush with the face. It shall not be attached to any hard, unyielding headgear (even if padded)."

Additional Important Points:

- Goggles are optional for field players, not mandatory.
- Face masks are permitted for all players during the entire game.
- Face masks must be smooth, follow the contours of the face, and be a single color or transparent.
- Steel or cage-type face masks are not allowed.
- Players wearing face masks must not conduct themselves in a manner that increases risk to other players.

Please ensure that all coaches, players, and officials are aware of these equipment guidelines. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact the MIAA office.

National Officials Appreciation Week

Again, this year, we are looking to collectively recognize the efforts of our MIAA Game Officials. The fall National Officials Appreciation Week will be held October 6-12, 2024. Once again, MIAA staff members will travel around the state to personally thank officials and support their efforts on the local level. We hope that you will consider recognizing them in some manner. The Winter Officials Appreciation Week will be January 13-18, 2025 and the Spring Officials Appreciation Week will be April 6-12, 2025.

Football Helmet Reconditioning Label Notification

The National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association (NAERA) has sent notice to the NFHS addressing issues with the exterior football helmet warning labels that were applied to football helmets that were reconditioned in 2024. [Please reference the notice from NAERA here.](#)

Soccer Game Day Form/Reporting Infractions

Friendly reminder from the MIAA Soccer Committee regarding Soccer Game Day Form/Reporting Infraction process. Athletic Directors must visit the Soccer page on our MIAA website for more information. Good luck with your seasons! <https://www.miaa.net/soccer>

2024-25 Schedule Commitment Deadline & Process

Three days before the Schedule Commitment deadline, MIAA staff will produce and publish schedules for each sport based on the available data for review and verification by member schools. Below is the breakdown for the rest of the 2024-25 school year:

- WINTER 2024-2025
 - First contest date: Thursday, December 12
 - Schedule data published for review: Tuesday, December 17
 - Schedule Commitment deadline: Friday, December 20

- SPRING 2025
 - First contest date: Thursday, March 27
 - Schedule data published for review: Tuesday, April 1
 - Schedule Commitment deadline: Friday, April 4

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. For more information, including scheduling policy for in-season tournaments, refer to the [Schedule Commitment](#) page on the MIAA website.

Statement on Game Official Fees

As many of our members know, there has been much discussion surrounding the fees associated with game officials, specifically ice hockey officials and the upcoming season. All officials are valued and an integral part of every MIAA competition and event. They are vital to the success of interscholastic competition, especially at the high school level.

Each member school has a process for addressing

budgetary needs, many of these processes involve school committee and town voting. Thus, it is unfair to announce or support an increase in fees that impact our members' budgets that does not adhere to a budgetary cycle. The current fees recommended by the Game Officials Committee have been announced and agreed upon to exist in a two-year cycle for that purpose.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a detailed summary of the budgetary process, and the MIAA's position as supported by each of the stakeholder organizations that make up the Association.

MIAA Alignment Process

The TMC alignment process calendar for the 2025-27 alignment cycle is as follows:

| *Fall Alignments for 2025-26 & 2026-27 | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Proposed Fall alignments released | September 1, 2024 |
| Deadline to appeal | October 1, 2024 |
| Appeal hearings | Throughout October 2024 |
| Final Fall alignments released | November 1, 2024 |
| *Winter Alignments for 2025-26 & 2026-27 | |
| Proposed Winter alignments released | December 1, 2024 |
| Deadline to appeal | January 1, 2025 |
| Appeal hearings | Throughout January 2025 |
| Final Winter alignments released | February 1, 2025 |
| *Spring Alignments for 2025-26 & 2026-27 | |
| Proposed Spring alignments released | April 1, 2025 |
| Deadline to appeal | May 1, 2025 |
| Appeal hearings | Throughout May 2025 |
| Final Spring alignments released | June 1, 2025 |

All schools wishing to request to move up or down in the alignments should complete the [appeal form](#).

*Using October 2023 enrollment numbers



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Student Eligibility Waiver Deadlines

As a reminder, below are the seasonal deadlines for student eligibility waiver submissions as outlined in MIAA rule 87.1. These are firm deadlines and late waivers will not be accepted.

- Winter – December 15, 2024
- Spring – April 1, 2025

Middle Level Waiver and Coop Application Deadlines

The winter 2024-25 middle level waiver and cooperative application deadline is December 12, 2024.

Please be aware of fake social media accounts impersonating the MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association). The official MIAA account is @miaa033.

Any other accounts claiming to be the MIAA may contain scam links or misleading information. Always verify the account before clicking on any links or engaging with content.

Student and Coach Contest Disqualification Forms

Please make sure to use the most up-to-date version of the MIAA Student and Coach Contest Disqualification Forms. These forms were updated in August 2023 and are available in the ["Officials" section](#) of the MIAA website. When a student or coach is disqualified from a contest, the required form must be completed by the game official and submitted to the athletic director in charge of the contest **before leaving the site**. Below are links to each form:

[Student Contest Disqualification Form](#) [Coach Contest Disqualification Form](#)

Please note - All fields within the form are required to be completed by the game official, as well as a description of the disqualification **including the violation called**. Forms submitted with incomplete information may be returned to the host school/game official to provide any missing details.

Student and Coach Contest Disqualification Report (2023-24)

Each year, the MIAA Sportsmanship Committee reviews student and coach contest disqualification data for all MIAA sponsored sports. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view this data from the 2023-24 school year. The Sportsmanship Committee wishes to share this information with member schools to raise awareness about the increasing number of disqualifications that took place over the past year. The committee will continue to monitor this information and provide seasonal updates for the membership. For additional information and resources, please visit the [Sportsmanship](#) page of the MIAA website.

MIAA 2025-2027 Handbook Rule Change Proposals

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the 2025-2027 Rule Change Proposals which will be voted on by MIAA Committees by November 1, 2024. The MIAA Board of Directors will act upon all proposals by February 1, 2025.

NFHS Rule Change Proposal Deadlines for 2024-25

Annually the NFHS manages a rule change process. You can propose rule change online submission by [CLICKING HERE](#).

The soonest three sport deadlines are listed below. For a full list of deadlines, [CLICK HERE](#).

- Football – 11/1/2024
- Field Hockey – 11/15/2024
- Volleyball – 11/15/2024

Neck Laceration Protectors for Ice Hockey Required 2024-25

In the spring of 2024, the NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee added neck laceration protectors to the required ice hockey equipment. All high school ice hockey players will now be required to wear a neck laceration protector – in its original manufactured state and as intended by the manufacturer – during all MIAA interscholastic contests, scrimmages and practices.

FY25 MIAA Membership Directory

The FY25 MIAA Membership Directory is now available in the members only area of our website. The Directory contains the names and contact details, as currently contained in our master database, of member school Principals, Assistant Principals, Athletic Directors, Assistant Athletic Directors, Athletic Administrative Assistants, and Principals' Administrative Assistants. We ask that you review your school's information carefully to ensure accuracy. We would like to have a work phone number and email address for every person listed. In addition, the cell phone number of Athletic Directors is requested, if not already included. Please check for any items that may need to be added, modified, or deleted. Changes should be sent to Jan Martin at jmartin@miaa.net. Thank you.

MIAA Student Advisory Committee

Twenty-seven (27) student leaders from across the Commonwealth participated in team building exercises, goal setting activities and community service at the MIAA Office. These students are representing the 200,000 student-athletes across the MIAA. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the list of 2024-25 MIAA Student Advisory Committee members.

Sportsmanship Essay/Multimedia Contest The entry deadline for the Student Sportsmanship Essay/Multimedia Contest is Thursday, October 10 at 12:00pm. The theme of the contest is *"Sportsmanship Beyond the Game: High School Athletes as Positive Role Models"*. 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. First place (\$400) and Runner-Up (\$200) prizes will be presented in both contest categories at the MIAA Sportsmanship Summit on November 7. For additional contest information, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Student Ambassador Information

Registration for the 2024-2025 MIAA Student Ambassador



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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 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](#).

Student Leadership Summit–October 10, 2024

The [MIAA Student Leadership Summit](#) is scheduled for Thursday, October 10 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 Omari Pearson from Passion to Purpose, as well as a variety of concurrent workshop sessions. The registration deadline is Thursday, October 3 at 12:00pm. To register a group from your school, please [CLICK HERE](#).

NFHS Rulebooks for Schools

You may recall reading in the June 13th Executive Director's Update that the MIAA is providing an opportunity to purchase NFHS rulebooks for you and your coaches for the 2024-25 school year. Each book is offered at the discounted price of \$6.00 per book for paper copies only.

Please [complete the order form](#) as soon as possible since the Fall season is already here! Once the ordered rulebooks arrive in our office, we will ship them to your school at no additional cost. The NFHS shipping timeline is outlined below:

- October 1 -Winter sport rulebooks
- December 1 – Spring sport rulebooks

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.

Tennis Resources for Coaches and Players

The USTA has worked to support educational tennis opportunities for our MIAA coaches and players with webinars, seminars, and conferences. Please be sure to visit the [MIAA Tennis page](#) for more information. Fall opportunities and webinars are posted now so don't hesitate to visit the page sooner than later.

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.

Upcoming Events

- October 10 - 2024 [Student Leadership Summit](#) at DoubleTree Hotel, Westboro
- October 10 Deadline - [Student Sportsmanship Essay/Multimedia Contest](#)
- October 25 - Students Leading for Change Workshop, MIAA office
- November 7 – Sportsmanship Summit at Gillette
- November 21 – Rules Orientation Workshop
- December 11 – MIAA Awards Banquet at DoubleTree Hotel, Milford
- January 17 - MIAA/MSAA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit at Holy Cross

September & October Calendar

- September 30 – Ice Hockey Committee
- October 1- Fall Informational Meeting - Virtual
- October 2- Gymnastics Committee
- October 2 – Wrestling Committee
- October 2 – Ski Committee
- October 9 – MIAA Board of Directors (Virtual)
- October 15 – Game Officials Committee
- October 17 – Lacrosse Committee
- October 19 – Fundamentals of Coaching Course
- October 21 – Softball Committee
- October 21 – Tennis Committee
- October 22 – Basketball Committee
- October 23 – Baseball Committee
- October 23 – TMC (Virtual)
- October 24 – Rugby Committee
- October 30 – Track Committee

Thanks for your continued support.

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