



# 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

**September 5, 2024**

## Fall Informational Meetings

The launching of our new website, the continuation of our Executive Director's Update, and the attendance of MIAA Liaisons at league and/or district meetings are ways to provide you with pertinent information, while trying to respect your time.

In our on-going attempt to make our communication more effective and efficient, the MIAA will be conducting a series of fall informational meetings in regional areas of the Commonwealth with a virtual option as well. If you are unable to attend your respective regional meeting, you may attend any listed below.

These meetings will begin at 8:30 a.m.

District 1	9-10-24	<a href="#">Belchertown HS</a>
Districts 6 & 7	9-12-24	<a href="#">MIAA Office, Franklin, MA</a>
Districts 8 & 9	9-17-24	TBD
Districts 4 & 5	9-19-24	<a href="#">Tewksbury Memorial HS</a>
Districts 2 & 3	9-24-24	<a href="#">Hudson HS</a>
	10-1-24	<a href="#">Virtual</a>

## 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 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.

- Fall – September 22, 2024
- Winter – December 15, 2024
- Spring – April 1, 2025

## Fall 2024 Schedule Commitment Deadline & Process

With practices and tryouts for Fall 2024 sports now under way, this is a reminder that the MIAA schedule commitment deadline is **Friday, September 13**.

All schedules for **Field Hockey, Football, Fall Golf, Soccer, and Girls Volleyball** must be entered into Arbiter by the end of the day on September 13. After that point, no changes can be made to your opponents or the number of games/matches that can be played. After the September 13 commitment deadline, all schedules will be considered **FINAL**.

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 2024-25 school year:

- FALL 2024
  - First contest date: Sunday, September 1
  - Schedule data published for review: Tuesday, September 10
  - Schedule Commitment deadline: Friday, September 13
- 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.

## Soccer Game Day Form/Reporting Infractions

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

## 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.



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## 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.

## MIAA Alignment Process

The TMC alignment process calendar for the 2023-25 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

## 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](#).

**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.

## 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](#)

## MIAA Launched a New Website

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is pleased to announce the launch of our new website at [miaa.net](http://miaa.net), which is now live.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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](mailto: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.



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## 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](#).

## 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 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](#).

## NFHS Rulebooks for Schools

You may recall reading in the June 13<sup>th</sup> 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

## Upcoming Events

- September 14 – Gymnastics Clinic
- October 10 - 2024 [Student Leadership Summit](#) at DoubleTree Hotel, Westboro
- October 10 - Student Sportsmanship Essay/Multimedia Contest Deadline
- November 7 – Sportsmanship Summit at Gillette
- 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 9 – Urban AD's – Virtual
- September 9 – Volleyball Committee
- September 11 – MIAA Board of Directors
- September 14 – Student Advisory Committee
- September 18 – Soccer Committee
- September 18 – Football Committee
- September 18 – Golf Committee
- September 23 – Swim & Diving Committee
- September 25 – Track Committee
- September 25 – Sportsmanship Committee
- September 25 – TMC
- September 26 – Unified Sports Advisory
- September 30 – Ice Hockey Committee
- October 2- Gymnastics Committee
- October 2 – Wrestling Committee
- October 9 – MIAA Board of Directors (Virtual)
- October 15 – Game Officials Committee
- October 17 – Lacrosse 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.**

**Robert Baldwin**

**Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association**

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