



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

October 31, 2024 – Happy Halloween!

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.

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

Middle Level and Coop Application Deadlines

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

State Tournament Director Vacancy

The MIAA is seeking candidates for Ice Hockey State Tournament Director and Indoor Track Tournament Director. Candidates should send letter of interest and resume:

Ice Hockey - Richard Pearson, rpearson@miaa.net

Indoor Track – Keith Brouillard, kbrouillard@miaa.net

Deadline for applications is November 8, 2024. For more information, [Click here](#).

Fall Tournament Seeding Guidelines and Schedule

As we enter Year 4 of the Statewide Tournament format, the MIAA – including tournament directors and seeding committees -- will continue to follow the guidelines developed in Fall 2022 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. [Click here](#) for the guidelines and seeding/bracketing schedule for each of the five Fall 2024 power ranked sports, as published in the tournament formats.

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

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 15-16

Worcester State

Football – December 4, 5 & 6

Gillette Stadium

Soccer – State – November 23

Swim & Dive – Sectional – November 3

MIT

Swim & Dive – State – November 10

Boston University

Volleyball – State – November 15-16

Worcester North HS and Billerica HS

Unified Basketball – November 7-22

Various Sites

Fall Individual Tournament Deadlines:

- **Cross Country** – November 4th. No late entries will be accepted after this date.
- **Swimming & Diving**
 - State Meet – Monday, November 4th – 5:00pm

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. [Click here](#) to complete the "Opt-Out" Form.

Roster Collection for Tournaments

We will be asking for team rosters of schools qualifying for the Final Four in their respective sports. A roster form will be sent to schools as the dates of the respective tournaments approach.



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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>

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.](#)

Football Handshake Lines – IMPORTANT

Many of our schools and teams are aware of a disappointing and challenging trend starting to appear in football handshake lines. The acronym BTA is being used as they proceed through the handshake line and slap the opponents. Additionally, there have been some reports of "we whipped you" and then a losing team being struck with belts. Please consider getting ahead of this and inform coaches and players about the sportsmanship expectations for all students. The handshake line has been an important part of Educational Athletics, and it serves one purpose only: to celebrate the effort and value of competition. Please ask coaches to address their team about these expectations and by no means should any player strike or aggressively place hands on another player of the opposing team during the handshake line. Actions such as this must be mentioned in advance and addressed swiftly should they occur. Let's all be aware of how to help our students navigate the social media bluster that can cause severe challenges for players and teams.

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 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.

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 Alignment Process

The TMC alignment process calendar for the 2023-25 alignment cycle is as follows:

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

*Using October 2023 enrollment numbers

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.

RefReps Officiating Education curriculum webinars

Earlier this year, the MIAA partnered with an officiating education company called RefReps (www.refreps.com). RefReps provides a comprehensive Sports Officiating Education curriculum for more than a dozen sports. Numerous districts in Massachusetts such as Taunton, Fall River, Pentucket, and Cohasset have experienced success offering Sports Officiating education to students during their curricular day as an elective course with RefReps.

We encourage you to [click here](#) and sign up to attend an informational webinar we will be co-hosting with RefReps on November 14th and 20th.

At present, over 750 high schools and universities across 43 states are actively teaching Intro to Sports Officiating classes using RefReps' highly engaging learning experience. It is our experience that this curriculum, along with an engaged



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instructor from your staff has alleviated the barriers to offering this course to high school students, and provide immediate benefits to our students, MIAA member schools, and our sports community.

These webinars will outline the success that's been achieved with partner schools thus far, and how you may consider this course offering as a stand-alone Sports Officiating class or how the curriculum may still fit into a pre-existing course you already have planned such as Advanced Physical Education, Team Sports, or an athletic period.

Your support as a partner school will help us further develop this offering for schools across the state in the future!

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.

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 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:

December 1 – Spring sport rulebooks

Call for Presenters – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit

The DEI Committee is currently accepting workshop proposals for the annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit. This event will take place at the College of the Holy Cross on Friday, January 17, 2025. The theme of this year's event is "Leading With Courage." Approximately 300 attendees are expected at this event. Concurrent workshop sessions will be scheduled in 60-minute blocks. Interested presenters are requested to submit the proposal information at [this link](#) by November 15.

MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors – November 21, 2024

The MIAA is excited to announce that the next MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors will be offered on Thursday, November 21, 2024 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. For more information and to register, [Click here](#).

Call for Nominations: MIAA MA Women in Athletics Distinguished Service Award

The MIAA Women in Leadership Committee yearly recognizes women who have worked with distinction on behalf of the girls' sports in their communities with the Massachusetts Women in Athletics Distinguished Service Award (MWADSA). This award celebrates the efforts of those whose contributions have had a lasting and profound effect on female student athletes. [Click here](#) for nomination form – due November 15, 2024.

Becoming a Student of Leadership Workshop December 13, 2024

This free student leadership workshop will be hosted at the MIAA Office on Friday, December 13. The workshop will be facilitated by Deb and Trevor Hult from Core Trainings. Workshop topics include Defining Leadership, Courage and Collaboration, and Why I Can. Schools may register up to 7 students to participate in the training. [Click here](#) for more information.

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.

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.



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Upcoming Events

- November 7 – [Sportsmanship Summit at Gillette](#)
- November 21 – Rule/Orientation Workshop
- December 11 – MIAA Awards Banquet at DoubleTree Hotel, Milford
- December 13 – Becoming a Student of Leadership Workshop
- January 17 - MIAA/MSAA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit at Holy Cross

November & December Calendar

- November 11 – Urban AD Meeting (Virtual)
- November 12 – DAC Chairs (Virtual)
- November 13 – Board of Directors (Virtual)
- November 14 – TMC
- December 5 – Field Hockey Committee (Virtual)
- December 10 – DAC Chairs (Virtual)
- December 11 – Board of Directors
- December 12 – Swim & Diving Committee (Virtual)

Holiday Office Hours

- November 27 – Close at 11:00am
- November 28 & 29 – Closed
- December 24 – Close at Noon
- December 25, 26 & 27 – Closed
- December 31 – Close at noon
- January 1 & 2 - Closed

Thanks for your continued support.

Robert Baldwin

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