



# Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

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

## December 5, 2024

The MIAA is in the process of vetting two important clarifications to MIAA Handbook rules. In the interest of transparency, this edition of the Executive Director's Update is intended to keep the membership apprised of where the process stands as of today.

### MIAA Rule 40

On November 13, 2024, the MIAA Board of Directors reviewed and interpreted MIAA Rule 40, Out of Season Coaching, specifically regarding the definition of a 'candidate'. Following their interpretation, the Board requested revisions to the rule's language to eliminate any potential confusion. The drafted language below will be presented at their December meeting for adoption. Please note that the clarification language initially adopted in October will be removed, as it is no longer deemed necessary. All MIAA member school leaders are encouraged to review MIAA Rule 40 in its entirety to ensure a complete understanding of the rule.

A "candidate" is defined as:

40.7.2 A varsity or sub-varsity athlete who;

- is enrolled at the MIAA member school where the coach is employed or volunteers for the specific sport in question,
- participated in a high school program at any interscholastic level the previous year, and
- has eligibility remaining; or

40.7.3 A middle school student "selected" to participate in an out-of-season program.

40.7.4 A sixth grade student for a 7-12 high school or an eighth-grade student for a 9-12 high school.

### Schedule Commitment

Pursuant to MIAA Rule 32, member schools agree that prior to the first fall season contest, each principal and athletic director [for each member school] must read entirely, understand, and abide by, and be prepared to enforce all rules, regulations, and policies contained within the MIAA Handbook.

For more than 20 years, Rule 35, *Starting and Closing Dates for Tryouts, Practices, and Contests* has been a part of the MIAA Handbook. The [Sport Limitations Sheet](#) is included annually within Rule 35 that clearly publishes the dates for Schedule Commitment Deadlines.

Whereas a number of violations pursuant to Rule 35 occurred in the 2023-2024 Winter Season, the MIAA embarked on a Schedule and Commitment Process in an attempt to prevent these incidents from occurring in the future. On May 15, 2024, the MIAA Board of Directors voted to receive and place on file the administration's recommendations regarding the Schedule and Commitment Process by a vote of 14-0-1.

Schedule Commitment Deadlines for each season are published in the [Sport Limitations Sheet](#). Schools must adhere to the maximum number of competitions allowed per week and per season in each sport and submit this information via the MIAA scheduling system by these seasonal deadlines.

Placeholder games must be entered on the schedule for regular-season contests, including tournaments, that are played before the cutoff date and for which an opponent has not been determined. The Opponent for such games must be listed as "TBA" for each of these games.

- Leagues/conferences/regions may hold end of the regular-season tournaments, approved by the Board of Directors, as part of their committed schedules.
  - The championship game will be exempt from the maximum game limit number for each sport
  - All games prior to the cutoff day WILL COUNT in the power rankings
  - If a tournament is scheduled to run after the cutoff date, those games WILL NOT COUNT in the power rankings and these games must be completed prior to the start of the MIAA tournament.
  - Teams will not be penalized for including a placeholder TBA on the committed schedule for a contest in which they later don't qualify
- After the established commitment deadline, all schedules will be considered FINAL and no changes can be made.
- A school shall not participate in any contest(s) not listed on a team's schedule as of the Schedule Commitment Deadline. Any violation of this policy will result in the team receiving a forfeit loss for each unscheduled contest played.

The Schedule Commitment deadline for Winter 2025 sports, as published in the Sport Limitations Sheet, is Friday, December 20. Three days before the Schedule Commitment deadline (Tuesday, December 17), MIAA staff will produce and publish – on the Tournament Administration section of the MIAA website – schedules for each sport based on the available data for review and verification by member schools. All schedules for Basketball and Ice Hockey must be entered into Arbiter by the end of the day on December 20. After that point, no changes can be made to your opponents or the number of games/matches that can be played. After the December 20 commitment deadline, all schedules will be considered FINAL.

**Thanks for your continued support.**

**Robert Baldwin**