



PILLARS OF EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS

*Criteria to achieving
excellence in your school's
athletic program*

BUILDING THE FUTURE
...through Educational Athletics



Wellness
Sportsmanship
Coaches' Education
Leadership
Community Service



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WHAT IS EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS?

Interscholastic athletic competition is an extension of the classroom and an educational activity that provides outstanding opportunities to teach life lessons. Through participation in such programs, young people learn values and skills that help prepare them for the future. Leadership, goalsetting, teamwork, decision making, perseverance, integrity, sacrifice, healthy competition and overcoming adversity are inherent in the interscholastic athletic framework and also support the academic mission of schools. Student-athletes earn the privilege to participate by succeeding academically, and the resulting positive outcomes continue far beyond graduation. These programs exist to prepare young men and women for the next level of life, not the next level of athletics. Wins are achieved through athletics by developing successful athletes and teams, but more importantly, wins are achieved through the educational experience by developing successful and responsible students, leaders and community members.

THE POSITIVE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS DO NOT HAPPEN BY CHANCE. THEY HAPPEN BECAUSE TEACHER-COACHES AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION ADOPT AN INTENTIONAL AND PURPOSEFUL APPROACH TO THE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE.



EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS CAN BE TAUGHT IN YOUR SCHOOL THROUGH THE FOLLOWING FIVE PILLARS

W

Wellness

To empower students to make healthy life choices

S

Sportsmanship

To teach respect for self, team, opponents, officials, rules and the game itself

C

Coaches' Education

To provide resources for teacher-coaches who serve as curriculum instructors of educational athletics

L

Leadership

To promote the power of positive influence that student-athletes and teacher-coaches share as role models

C

Community Service

To recognize the privilege of athletic participation and the responsibility of giving back to the community



Wellness



To empower students to make healthy life choices

CRITERIA FOR INTENTIONAL RESULTS

- Participate in the MIAA Wellness Summit with Student-Athletes and Teacher-Coaches each fall.
- Promote substance free Student-Athletes through the YOU LEAD program.
- Create partnerships with the Athletic Department and SADD/MADD in your school.
- Offer educational materials for parents, Teacher-Coaches, and Student-Athletes about positive decision making and consequences of poor decision making.
- Correlate athletic performance and substance use for athletes, through the body of work by John Underwood's program "Life of an Athlete" which is focused on providing information to students regarding the negative effects alcohol consumption can have on their athletic performance and their life.
- Encourage Teacher-Coaches to participate in the MIAA Wellness Workshops.
- Use MIAA Partners In Prevention relationships to help promote wellness in your school (i.e. Be a Parent, Not a Pal and It's All About You are multimedia programs designed by attorney Richard P. Campbell and the law firm of Campbell, Campbell Edwards & Conroy to educate students, parents, teachers and members of the community about the Social Host Law).
- Communicate clearly and concisely to parents and all participants regarding the consequences of violating the MIAA Chemical Health Rule.
- Include the Wellness Pillar as part of pre-season meetings.



Sportsmanship

To teach respect for self, team, opponents, officials, rules and the game itself



CRITERIA FOR INTENTIONAL RESULTS

- Attend the Annual MIAA Sportsmanship Summit in November with Student-Athletes and Teacher-Coaches from your school.
- Develop policy for league wide sportsmanship programs and awards.
- Nominate your school for a District Sportsmanship Award.
- Encourage Student-Athletes to participate in the MIAA Sportsmanship Essay/Multimedia Contest each Fall.
- Promote Sportsmanship in your school through fan behavior guidelines, rewarding positive sportsmanship.
- Host a District or League Meeting with Student-Athletes and Teacher-Coaches on Sportsmanship.
- Distribute the MIAA Sportsmanship Guidelines to Parents and Student-Athletes at Pre-Season Meetings.
- Cultivate resources to promote positive Sportsmanship in your school.
- Promote your own Student-Athlete of the Month Award in your school that recognizes a student-athlete for positive sportsmanship and or initiatives of sportsmanship on his or her team.
- Explain the MIAA Sportsmanship Honor Roll to Student-Athletes and Teacher-Coaches and promote the Honor Roll as a goal for all teams.
- Nominate a Team or Individual for MIAA “The Only Way to Win” Award - allows coaches, athletic directors, game officials or school administrators to nominate individuals or teams to be recognized for outstanding acts of sportsmanship.
- Include the Sportsmanship Pillar and expectations in every pre-season meeting.

Coaches' Education

To provide resources for teacher-coaches who serve as curriculum instructors of educational athletics



CRITERIA FOR INTENTIONAL RESULTS

- Ensure all coaches (paid or volunteer) are in compliance with MIAA Rule 33.
- Encourage and support Coaches in your school to attend professional development opportunities within their sport.
- Provide orientation for all coaches on the curriculum of Educational Athletics.
- Promote and Support MIAA Leadership Training Institute for members of your coaching staff.
- Nominate Coaches from your school, league and district for MIAA Coach of the Year Awards.
- Host roundtable discussions with coaches from all sports, all seasons, and all levels in your school to discuss, collaborate and problem solve about issues in athletics that arise in your school.
- Host an NCAA and College Recruiting Information Night in your school to help coaches and parents better understand the opportunities and the difficulty of participating in NCAA athletics, and therefore gain perspective about the true values of interscholastic athletics.
- Have discussions with coaches about the goals and values of educational athletics, while encouraging repetitive discussions within your school amongst Teacher-Coaches and Student-Athletes about the place of winning in interscholastic athletics.
- Make all Teacher-Coaches aware of www.nfhslearn.com - National Federation of State High School Associations Educational Website and the courses available to them. Many courses are free and beneficial to both the Teacher-Coach and Student-Athlete.
- Acquaint each coach with the NFHS Locker Room (www.nfhslearn.com) and all the valuable tools available for them on this site.

Leadership

To promote the power of positive influence that student-athletes and teacher-coaches share as role models



CRITERIA FOR INTENTIONAL RESULTS

- Nominate Student-Athletes that demonstrate leadership in interscholastic athletics for the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award.
- Involve two Student-Athletes from your school with the MIAA Student Ambassador Program.
- Encourage Teacher-Coaches and Student-Athletes to participate in the New England Student Leadership Conference each summer.
- Nominate two female athletes each year to participate in Girls and Women In Sport Day at Faneuil Hall.
- Participate in MIAA Captain's Workshops and/or host a Captain's Workshop for Student-Athletes in your school.
- Provide reading materials on leadership to Student-Athletes, Teacher-Coaches, and parents through athletic website, email distribution list of captains, or through social media.
- Create an Athletic Unity Council, Captain's Council, or Student-Advisory Council of Student-Athletes in your school, that discuss issues in athletics and look to become leaders of all Student-Athletes in your school.
- Encourage Teacher-Coaches to examine different leadership and ways to select captains to meet the needs of their team.
- Cultivate resources to promote positive leadership for parents, Teacher-Coaches and Student-Athletes in your school.
- Create a model Student-Athlete handbook for your school, that emphasizes and discusses leadership, and the expectations for becoming leaders in your athletic program, including the evaluation and selection of Teacher-Coaches.
- Involve members of the community in panel discussions with Student-Athletes about the positive impact of educational athletics in career, family, and decision making later in life.

Community Service

To recognize the privilege of athletic participation and the responsibility of giving back to the community



CRITERIA FOR INTENTIONAL RESULTS

- Encourage every team in your school to participate in a community service project over the course of their season.
- Cultivate a list of resources and community service opportunities for teams and individual Student-Athletes.
- Encourage Teacher-Coaches and Student-Athletes to become involved with younger students in their community that view them as role models (i.e. Andover's Warrior Way, Elementary Reading Programs, Youth Sports Clinics).
- Nominate an individual, team, or school class/club/organization for the MIAA Community Service Award each spring.
- Support free or discounted gate admission once a season for the benefit of a community service initiative (e.g. Coaches vs. Cancer, Toy Drive) that your athletic teams promote and coordinate.
- Have Student-Athletes and Teacher-Coaches blog about their community service initiatives to be shared with other schools in your league, district and state, and promote the positive give and take of athletics with members of your community and school committee.
- Acclimate parents, athletes, and coaches to Community Service expectations at each pre-season meeting.
- Send Student-Athletes who have excelled in the classroom, on the playing field and perform community service to the annual MIAA Student-Athlete Citizenship Day Ceremonies each spring.



GOALS AND OUTCOMES OF CREATING AND PROMOTING A CURRICULUM OF EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS IN YOUR ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

- Establish the goals and promotion of Interscholastic Athletics in your school to include more than scheduling, game management, and eligibility.
- Create an experience through interscholastic athletics that is positive and rewarding for all participants, not just the good athletes.
- Take advantage of the mission and programs of the MIAA.
- Make stakeholders aware of all that you do in interscholastic athletics to ensure support and funding for your mission.
- Promote comprehensively the benefits that occur with participation in Educational Athletics.
- Reward MIAA member schools that do an exceptional job of promoting the entire educational athletic philosophy through the MIAA Excellence in Educational Athletics Award.
- Provide awareness to all Student-Athletes of the responsibilities that they have as Student-Athletes.
- Provide awareness to all Teacher-Coaches for the unique responsibility that they have to intentionally teach the pillars of educational athletics.
- Continue to be inclusive of all Student-Athletes and Teacher-Coaches as well as promote diversity with athletic teams, and amongst Student-Athletes and Teacher-Coaches.



MIAA EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS MAJOR INITIATIVES

Fall, Winter and Spring High School Captains Workshops

Summer - New England Student Leadership Conference

October - Wellness Summit

November - Sportsmanship Summit

January – Leadership Training Institute

February - Girls and Women in Sport Day

April – Massachusetts Student Athlete Citizenship Days

Plus... YOU LEAD and Wellness Workshop Series offered
throughout the year

.....and much more!

Check our website for dates, location and registration.



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