



MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



MIAA Board of Directors Meeting February 9, 2022

The MIAA Board of Directors (BOD) met on February 9, 2022. The meeting consisted of approximately 30 participants representing the BOD, MIAA staff, guests, and media.

Finance/Personnel Committee Report: Vice President and Finance/Personnel Committee Chair, Stephanie Sibley provided the following summary:

The quarterly report was provided in the new format as discussed in December, including updates on Institutional Dues and Statewide Tournament. Finances are on track with an overall balanced budget. The fall tournament was a success. Looking forward to the excitement to continue into the winter tournaments.

Executive Director Report: Dr. Baldwin, Executive Director, provided the following:

Updates:

Supply Chain issues – The Association has seen the impact of supply chain issues. Examples include mandatory lacrosse equipment (new chest protector) not being available as well as championship trophies. A reach out to NFHS requesting a one-year reprieve for the new equipment has occurred. Another arrangement to assure there are championship trophies is in process.

Update on OCR (Office of Civil Rights) Complaint: The Association previously received a notification about a letter of complaint that was filed with the OCR regarding inequities of the 1A ice hockey tournament. A “no-finding” decision by the OCR was just received. This finding is due in part to recent actions of the Blue Ribbon and Tournament Management Committees to restructure and evaluate the Division 1A tournament. . Relevant to the issues raised in this complaint, the report noted the MIAA’s Board of Directors approved policy governing Division 1A tournaments. Under the policy, there will be no Division 1A tournaments before July 1, 2025. After that date, MIAA may establish a Division 1A tournament in any sport if specified criteria are met, including a pattern of dominance by a specific group of schools that necessitates a 1A tournament to bring competitive equity to all divisions. Any approved 1A tournament will be administered as other tournaments using single elimination format and the same power rating system as other tournaments for selection and seeding.

Swimming and Diving State Championships – There is a requirement by Boston University (BU) that all individuals using their venue must show proof

of vaccination. Discussion with BU is ongoing with this matter ahead of the state championships.

Organizational Analysis

Bob Baldwin shared a synopsis of organizational information from the MIAA Handbook, Governance Document, and the Constitution. The presentation included general information about the Association and will be used as the sounding board for future decisions for the Association.

Working Group Update

Jim Quatromoni, AD Hingham HS, and Dr. Keith Crowley, Principal St. John's Prep shared that the Board of Directors Advisory Group is an advisory group to the Board with members from the Board, Sports Medicine, and Tournament Management Committees. The purpose of this group is to focus on the health, safety, and well-being of student-athletes and staff working with student-athletes. The aim is to maintain normalcy, provide structure for student-athletes, and promote the experiences that student-athletes are looking for. Examples of discussions from this group include reinstating the post-game handshake rule and supporting the TMC with the existing tournament timeline.

Annual Meeting Planning – April 8, 2022

The Planning Committee appointments: Stephanie Sibley, Ellen Holmes, Charlie Conefrey, Christine Vigneux, Dave Bouchard, and Lindsey von Holtz. A virtual meeting will be scheduled.

Fall Statewide Tournament recap

Sherry Bryant provided the following: The inaugural season of the Statewide Tournament hit the mark with the identified tournament performance goals:

- Schools played liked sized schools
- Path to championships is equal
- The same format is used across the state
- One seeding and qualifying method for all teams
- Brings state together, unifying
- Student-athletes growth and opportunity for new experiences
- Gender equity opportunity

Power rankings: Feedback to date has included how exciting it is to receive rankings throughout the season as this builds momentum for the post-season, the formula seemed to work based on the final championship competition, and there was an increase in participation and attendance. There is still a lot to learn and looking at the first full year of implementation will provide for great discussions.

Finances: Positive results from the new tournament structure. Initial bumps with online ticketing but ultimately the move to online ticketing resulted in seeing how efficient and effective this ticketing method is.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Pilot Program

The DEI Summit was held virtually on January 21, 2022, and was a great success! With over 350 participants and great presentations, the event feedback was very positive. Bob Baldwin noted how the opportunity to deliver content to classrooms of students who were engaged with the speakers and

allowed for openness and courage was very impactful. He acknowledged the work of Mike Rubin, DEI Liaison, Peter Smith, MIAA Associate Director, and the DEI committee for their work.

The DEI pledge and incident report form approved by the Board of Directors in the fall is a pilot program and will be assessed accordingly. This proactive approach will provide an opportunity for review and feedback.

Ski cutoff date change proposal:

Ann Trytko, liaison to Alpine/Nordic Ski requested permission to change the cutoff dates in the MIAA handbook due to inconsistency between the ski formats and the handbook. The format date is the correct date. This was an oversight.

Motion: To change the cut-off dates to align with the intention of season entry for the state championship. (M. Miville/E. Holmes) **APPROVED 20-0**

Sister Association communications/report:

MSSADA: Jim Quatromoni reported: Tania Rich, Nashoba HS AD was elected as the new MIAC rep. Matt Trahan is leading the MSSADA conference development. Jeff Long will pick up the retired AD initiative in hopes to revive participation.

MASC: Ellen Holmes reported: Thank you to Bob Baldwin for taking part in the recent Learning Lunch Program. Many positive responses from members who participated were received.

M.A.S.S.: Gordon Smith reported: Managing health and safety protocols have been a major focus and this will continue with the recent Governor's announcement. Working alongside the Attorney General's office to progress sport and society training on how to address behaviors that should no longer exist; to eradicate hate and bias with student-athletes. Looking to ensure that Superintendents are in the communication loop between Principal and AD faster and how to better support students in their endeavors.

MSAA: Brian McCann reported: Bobbi French is organizing the upcoming MSAA EdCamp on February 12th; March 10th and 11th is the PreK-8 School Administrators half-day conference; Summer Institute planning is underway.

Rule change process protocol:

Richard Pearson and Phil Napolitano provided an overview of MIAA Rule 89: Procedure for Requesting a Rule Change

Motion: To approve the updated MIAA Rule 89: Procedure for Requesting a Rule Change. (K. Crowley/S. Sibley) **APPROVED 20-0**

Discussion took place about the impact that rules with a financial component may have on schools and the importance of getting this information to schools as soon as possible for budget purposes.

SMC recommendation to change Rugby season start date:

Motion: For the sport of rugby only, the spring season can start no sooner than the Wednesday preceding the third Monday of March with no more than three practices, that may only include conditioning and non-contact technique training, permitted during the first four days. No practice is permitted on the 3rd Sunday of March. (S. Sibley/E. Holmes) **APPROVED 20-0**

Other:

Tournament Feedback: TMC committee members are gathering feedback from their constituents and bringing it back to the committee. TMC invites feedback during sports meetings as well. Brian Callaghan, Westborough Principal suggested TMC might consider a more formal feedback process so the totality of the experience is captured from the various stakeholders and voices.

Meeting went into Executive Session

Next meeting: – Annual Meeting – April 8, 2022



EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS

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