



MIAA Rule Clarification Virtual Schools – Rule 51 and 52

Ultimately the interpretation and application of Association rules rests with the MIAA executive director/staff and the Board of Directors. On May 10, 2022, the Executive Director reiterated his interpretation regarding the eligibility and participation of students attending virtual schools. This interpretation was supported by the MIAA Board of Directors. The purpose of this notification is to communicate to the membership clarity regarding virtual schools.

A virtual school is a separate educational entity where students dis-enroll from their traditional school and attend a virtual school by CHOICE. This is no different than a student, who is a resident of Milton that chooses to attend Milton Academy. Those students are NOT eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for Milton High School.

As outlined in MIAA Rule 51, "For a student to practice with, or to represent a MIAA member school in athletic competition, the student must be duly enrolled in that school. Additionally, the student must be a candidate for that school's diploma, subject to the jurisdiction of that school's principal (i.e. the principal must have the authority to suspend the student from classes), and under the supervision of that school's principal (i.e. the principal must have control and knowledge of the student's daily attendance and achievement)."

Students attending Virtual Schools do not meet the requirements outlined in Rule 51, therefore are ineligible to participate in athletics at MIAA Member Schools.

Students who are not being educated on the high school campus that will issue their diplomas are not eligible to represent that, or any member high school, unless the criteria within this rule are satisfied and waiver approved by MIAA.

*Students attending Virtual Schools do not meet any of the eligibility standards that are required of their teammates, therefore a waiver as outlined in Rule 52 is **not an option.***

Principals, athletic directors, and guidance personnel should counsel students regarding athletic eligibility prior to committing to non-traditional educational pursuits.

Effective July 1, 2022, waivers are not permitted for those students choosing to attend Virtual Schools that have no affiliation to an MIAA member school. These students are ineligible to participate in MIAA interscholastic athletics.

