



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

December 15, 2022

Addressing Hate in School Sports Conference

On Thursday, December 8th, the MIAA and MSAA in conjunction with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and the Anti-Defamation League sponsored a conference entitled "Addressing Hate in School Sports" at the TD Garden. Over 700 participants, many from MIAA member schools, participated in the day-long event. MIAA/MSAA Executive Director Bob Baldwin, along with Governor-elect Maura Healey, spoke during the morning session and provided a commitment from both offices to addressing this issue ([CLICK HERE](#) for video). The day was also highlighted by Assistant Director Mike Rubin's panel discussion on the Associations' efforts to address hate and bias in sports. The next step in this process will be regional meetings and trainings throughout the state to ensure a deeper understanding of the power that sports have in eradicating hate in our society. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



Promote the Respectful Treatment of All Members of a School Community

Consistent with one of the main objectives within our Plan for Growth and Improvement, the MIAA will utilize interscholastic athletics as the platform that promotes behavior change that supports the respectful treatment of all members of a school community.

Beginning in the fall of 2021, we established a pilot training program for all athletes, coaches and officials. Addressing incidents of hate and bias is a top priority and we cannot do it alone. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about this plan.

Board of Directors Actions

Rule Clarification on Rule 53 – Middle Level Waivers

The MIAA Board of Directors has delegated the approval or disapproval of Middle Level Waivers to the host school District Athletic Committee (DAC). The Board intends that these policies:

- Respect the goals of the petitioning school districts.
- Protect competing schools from competitive disadvantage.
- Guarantee increased participation (in order to fill multiple levels of teams within a school structure).
- Ensure that no displacement of athletes in grades 9 – 12 occurs.

To reiterate:

Consideration will be given only for sub-varsity teams, unless the school offers only a varsity level team. Approved Rule 53 Middle Level Waiver students may only participate in the lowest level offered.

To clarify:

Consideration can only be given to middle level students when school district residency creates the direct path to a single high school, and does not require application for admission or have any other conditions impacting a students' matriculation.

Fall Tournament

The MIAA administers the state tournaments based upon an objective criteria for qualification in order to energize athletic teams and schools, and to provide experiences for entire communities to rally around their student-athletes. [CLICK HERE](#) for Fall Tournament analysis.

MIAA Power Rankings once again reflect accurate tournament brackets. [CLICK HERE](#) for *The Enterprise* article titled, "MIAA Algorithm Was on the Nose" by Rich Maclone.

Winter Season Reminder

Thank You Athletic Directors! The success of the Fall Tournament and the ability to release Power Rankings twice a week was due, in large part, to the efforts of the Athletic



Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

33 Forge Parkway | Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997 | miaa.net

Directors across the state and their commitment to updating Arbiter in a timely manner. Again, we are asking Athletic Directors to record their team results expeditiously so power rankings are accurate and up-to-date. Winter Power Rankings will be available starting in early January.

2021-2022 MIAA Awards Banquet

Congratulations to the 2021-2022 Coach-of-the-Year, Heart of the Arts and Spirit of Sport winners honored at the annual awards banquet last Wednesday evening in Milford. The banquet highlighted a coach from most MIAA sponsored sports and recognized them for their success, commitment to the sport, and dedication to their student-athletes. Heart of the Arts and Spirit of Sport winner were also recognized. [CLICK HERE](#) for full list of honorees.

DPH Get Boosted Campaign

As we move indoors for the winter sports season, we urge you to help student-athletes and their families stay up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccinations, including the updated boosters. Helping our communities stay as protected as possible from COVID 19 will increase our young peoples' chances of staying healthy and playing this winter.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has launched its Get Boosted campaign, which aims to increase vaccination rates across [20 Vaccine Equity Initiative municipalities](#) and [priority populations](#) statewide, with a focus on boosters. This campaign will also include increased efforts in [three rural clusters and 10 more municipalities](#).

As part of the Get Boosted campaign, Massachusetts residents who get vaccinated (first dose, second dose, or booster) at [participating clinics](#) will receive a \$75 gift card to area retailers, while supplies last. This offer runs through December 31, 2022. Clinics are family-friendly and free to all. No ID or health insurance needed. Anyone ages 6 months and up can get a COVID-19 vaccine and anyone ages 5 and up can get a COVID-19 vaccine or booster.

Resources are available to help spread the word about these clinics, including this [customizable booster flyer](#), [social media graphics](#), and [more](#).

You can also learn more about the campaign and participating clinics by visiting mass.gov/GetBoosted.

Student-Athlete of the Month Award

Nominations are currently being accepted for the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award. This award recognizes two student-athletes on a monthly basis (September-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. Award

recipients will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and be honored at an event in collaboration with their school. Nominations are due by the last day of each month. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the nomination form.

ArbiterGame Website Training

MIAA staff are offering an ArbiterGame training session on January 25th at the MIAA office in Franklin starting at 9:00 am. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for this NO COST training.

Calendar

- December 28-29 [Coaches Ed](#) (10:00 am virtual)
- January 10 Baseball Committee (10:00 am)
- January 11 Basketball Committee (10:00 am)
- January 12 Sportsmanship Committee (10:00 am)
- January 17 Track & Field Committee (10:00 am)
- January 19 Wrestling Committee (8:30 am)
- January 19 Football Committee (10:00 am virtual)
- January 20 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Summit [REGISTER HERE](#)
- January 25 Unified Sports Advisory Committee (10:00 am)
- January 25 Arbiter Training (9-11:00 am)
- January 27 Student Ambassador Huddle
- January 31 Ice Hockey Committee (10:00 am)

In case you missed it...

[Executive Director's Update November 17, 2022](#)

Thanks for your continued support.

Robert Baldwin



Massachusetts Interscholastic
Athletic Association

33 Forge Parkway Franklin, MA 02038
508-541-7997 | miaa.net