



Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

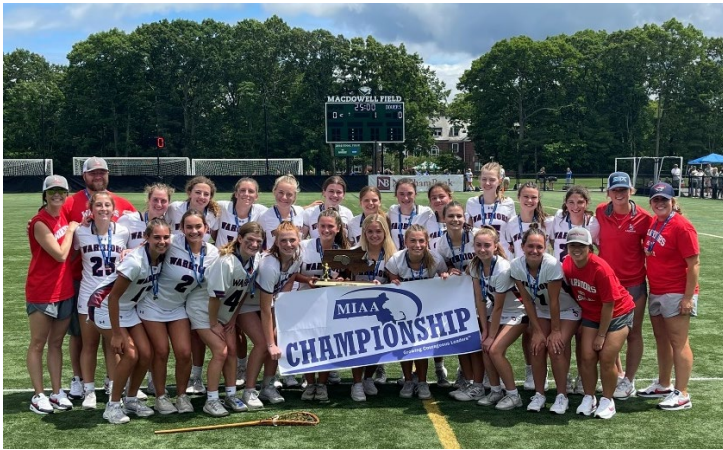
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An Update from Executive Director Robert Baldwin
Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

June 22, 2023

The Grand Finale!!!!

What a great end to the MIAA's Championship Spring Season. State Champions were crowned in Track, Unified Track, and Golf prior to last weekend's State Finals in Boys Volleyball, Lacrosse, Tennis, Softball, Rugby, and Baseball. The crowds were tremendous and the spirit of competition was a tribute to the numerous schools and communities that participated in the three-week long journey to raise the trophy. Congratulations to all student-athletes, coaches, referees, and fans on a culmination of the 2022-2023 year.



Spring Tournament Data

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 Spring Tournament analysis.

Spring Tournament Tidbits

- A total of 316 member schools (out of 385 ... 82.1 percent) participated in at least one of the MIAA's nine power seeded fall tournaments – Baseball, Softball, Boys or Girls Lacrosse, Boys or Girls Rugby, Boys or Girls Tennis, and Boys Volleyball.
- Of those 316 schools, a total of 244 hosted at least one event (77.2 percent).
- Lincoln-Sudbury Regional participated in the postseason in eight of the nine power-ranked sports –the most of any member school – while nine more schools participated in tournament play in seven sports.
- Three schools – Boston College High, St. John's Prep and Xaverian – took part in the postseason in all five team sports they sponsor.
- Three schools earned No. 1 seeds in two different sports – Belmont (Boys Rugby and Girls Rugby), Westfield (Softball and Boys Volleyball), and Weston (Boys Tennis and Girls Tennis).
- Two schools – Dover-Sherborn and Weston – advanced to the state semifinal round in four different sports while seven others – Brookline, Duxbury, Lincoln-Sudbury, Medfield, Newburyport, St. John's Prep and Wayland – were in the Final 4 in three sports. A total of 27 schools reached at least the state semifinal round in two different sports.
- Two schools were crowned state champions in three different sports – Lexington (Boys Tennis, Girls Tennis, Boys Track) and Newburyport (Girls Lacrosse, Girls Tennis, Girls Track). Three other schools won a pair of state titles -- Belmont (Boys and Girls Rugby), Burlington (Softball, Boys Track), and Taunton (Baseball, Softball).
- Including Spring Golf and Outdoor Track and Field, at least one state champion was crowned from each of the nine MIAA districts.
- Unified Track and Field teams from 73 member schools competed in the five sectional meets that were hosted across the state. In total, over 1,300 students participated in the Unified Track and Field postseason which concluded with the state championship meet at Natick High School on May 24th.
- Of the 31 overall tournament champions, 17 were No. 1 seeds. There were five No. 2 seeds, four No. 3 seeds, three No. 4 seeds, and one No. 5 and No. 6 seed apiece.
- A total of 24 No. 1 seeds (out of 31) advanced to the championship round in their respective brackets, while 28 overall were in the Final 4.
- Across more than 1,000 spring championship tournament events, the higher-seeded team was victorious 82.4 percent of the time.



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Tournament Alignments for 2023-24 & 2024-25

The Fall, Winter, and Spring 2023-24 / 2024-25 tournament alignment process has been completed. Finalized alignments are now posted on the MIAA website. [CLICK HERE](#) to view.

MIAA Student Eligibility and the Waiver Process

Please be reminded of the 2023-25 MIAA rule changes that were approved by the membership and will be in effect July 1, 2023 ([click here](#)). While each rule change should be reviewed carefully, we wanted to bring your attention to the following rule changes that directly impact student eligibility and the waiver process:

- League advisory votes are no longer required to be submitted with student eligibility waivers (proposal 39).
- Additional language was approved to be added to MIAA rule 59, Time Allowed for Participation After First Entering Grade Nine (proposal 19). This will impact waivers beginning with the 2023-24 school year. **In these instances, waiver applications cannot be submitted and will not be accepted for review.** This rule change was supported by a vote of 311-24-10.
 - Added to rule 59.1.1 - A waiver shall not be permitted for a student who has demonstrated proof of passing grades and earned enough credits to advance to the next academic grade level.
 - Added to rule 59.2 - A waiver will not be permitted for students who choose to repeat a grade they have already successfully passed. These instances do not satisfy the criteria outlined in rule 59.2.
- Beginning in 2023-24, all standard coach and student contest disqualifications in all sports will be one (1) game, unless indicated otherwise by the game official on the disqualification form (*proposal 12 and 13*). However, any disqualifications earned during the 2022-23 school year that have not been served, will remain two (2) games, if that is the length of the suspension owed.
 - For example, if a soccer, ice hockey or baseball player was ejected from the final game of the season during this past school year, they would still owe two games to start their respective season next school year. The rule is applied in this manner because the suspension was earned prior to the rule change going into effect when a standard disqualification for these sports was an automatic two games.

As a reminder, below are the seasonal deadlines for student eligibility waiver submissions as outlined in MIAA

rule 87.1. These are firm deadlines and late waivers will not be accepted.

- Fall – September 22, 2023
- Winter – December 15, 2023
- Spring – April 1, 2024

Supporting Our Game Officials

On behalf of all game officials across the Commonwealth, and the member schools of the MIAA, we have contacted the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Judiciary in the Massachusetts legislature in support of legislation being considered for increased penalties and actions against those who commit assault and battery on school game officials. Current legislation under consideration, H.1825, H.1407, and H.1753 contain necessary guidance for enhanced penalty toward those people who chose to engage in unlawful violence toward sport game officials. Working to be an experienced game official is serious for those who have chosen this profession. They give their time for the benefit and enjoyment of young athletes across the Commonwealth. They must be treated with the respect they deserve and allowed to practice their passion safely and free from harm.

MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors – August 23, 2023

The MIAA is excited to announce that the next MIAA Orientation Workshop for Principals & Athletic Directors will be offered on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. The workshop will be held at the MIAA Office located at 33 Forge Parkway, Franklin, MA 02038. This is an in-person workshop with no virtual option.

This workshop fulfills the MIAA mandatory attendance requirement for new Principals and Athletic Directors per MIAA Handbook Rule 32.1.

For more information and to register, [CLICK HERE](#).

Save the Date: MIAA Field Hockey EdCamp

The MIAA is excited to announce that the 2023 Field Hockey Coaches' EdCamp is scheduled for Saturday, August 12, 2023. Additional information and registration link will be forwarded to schools.

The FastTrack Sports Medicine program



The FastTrack Sports Medicine program at Plymouth Bay Orthopedic Associates, Inc. provides superior sports medicine care to local high school athletes. Our team of expert providers will help you assess, treat, and recover from any sports injury. Some benefits of FastTrack include:



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- Athlete Priority; we will see all high-school athletic injuries within 24-hours, Monday-Friday – often seen same day
- In-house Physical and Occupational Therapy; all of our therapists work closely with our MDs
- Custom Splint Design and Fabrication; sports-specific splints and braces customized to your athlete's injury
- Concussion Clinic; adult, pediatric, and therapy concussion care providers
- Injury Screening and Injury Prevention Seminars; in person or via Zoom

For more information, please call our office at 781-934-2400.

Advance NIL and Life Skills Education

We hope your spring championships have gone smoothly! As MIAA's official NIL Education partner, we wanted to take a minute to check in and remind you that we are here as a resource. With NIL now being allowed at the high school level in 29 States, it is clear that NIL is continuing to expand rapidly, and that education is critical. ADVANCE had the opportunity to attend some of your winter championships and our team had great conversations with many of you. We are fielding similar questions from coaches, parents/guardians, and student-athletes across the country. The common theme is that they don't know enough about NIL, and they want to know more.

As a reminder, ADVANCE's NIL and Life Skills education is available to Massachusetts' student-athletes, parents/guardians, coaches, and administrators through utilization of our Mobile Learning App (which is subscription based), webinars, and in-person workshops.

The ADVANCE leadership team is here to assist you. Should you have any questions or would like additional information please do not hesitate to reach out to Jen Pilling, our Director of High School Partnerships. She can be reached at jpilling@advancenil.com

About ADVANCE: Unbiased Industry Leader in Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) Education, Consulting and Athlete Development. Empowering High School, Collegiate, Pro Athletes and Their Families Through Financial, Legal, Business and Life Skills Education Our team's diversity and real-world experiences provide enhanced relatability and unparalleled engagement. We strategically bring together expertise across sports business, athletic administration, education, finance, law, marketing, branding and risk/compliance for the benefit of our partners. With over

40,000 student-athletes in our NIL Protective Education ecosystem, we are committed to educating, equipping and empowering your student-athletes and their families.

<http://www.advancenil.com>.

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Association Summer Schedule

- The MIAA/MSAA offices will close at noon on Friday's beginning June 23 through September 1
- The offices will be closed July 3-5 and July 31-August 4

Thanks for your continued support.

Robert Baldwin



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