



# Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrator Association

[www.miaaa.org](http://www.miaaa.org)



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Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Gerry Durgin, CMAA, and I am honored to serve as the Executive Director of the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA). The MIAAA currently represents 152 high school athletic administrators, as well as numerous middle-level administrators, throughout the State of Maine. For more than twenty years, our organization's mission has been to provide high-quality professional development and certification opportunities to our members in support of educational excellence.

On behalf of the MIAAA, we respectfully express our formal acceptance and support of the proposal for Athletic Administrator Certification. This defines a clear pathway to certification and continuous professional development.

The MIAAA has consistently demonstrated its commitment to preparing athletic administrators to meet the increasingly complex challenges of contemporary education. We have provided verifiable evidence of accredited coursework and comprehensive professional resources specifically designed to address the multifaceted responsibilities of athletic administration. Through sustained collaboration and professional dialogue with educational leaders across Maine, I have emphasized that our state is recognized nationally as a leader in promoting and implementing best practices in interscholastic athletic administration. Our efforts extend beyond the acquisition of knowledge to the practical and ethical application of that knowledge in daily administrative practice.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Maine School Superintendents' Association Executive Director Eileen King and Maine Principals' Association Executive Director Michael Burnham for their endorsement of the MIAAA and its certification program. I also wish to acknowledge Fern Desjardins and Tom Keller for their leadership in establishing clear, reasonable, and meaningful expectations for Athletic Administrator Certification. The scope of responsibility assumed by Maine's athletic administrators—who frequently serve in multiple administrative capacities within their schools—is significant and warrants careful consideration and professional support.

The mission of the MIAAA is to provide professional development opportunities for its members through the support and promotion of educational values in interscholastic activities. Our members

are steadfast in their commitment to delivering high-quality athletic experiences for all students by fostering collaborative and productive relationships with educational leaders and allied organizations.

As articulated in the Association's Policy and Procedures Manual, the purposes of the MIAAA are as follows:

- To enhance opportunities for the educational and physical development of student-athletes;
- To promote unity, goodwill, and professional fellowship among members;
- To provide a forum for the exchange of current practices and procedures;
- To promote the highest standards of leadership in the administration of athletics;
- To establish and maintain productive working relationships with related professional organizations;
- To foster exemplary standards of professional development among our members;
- To instill in each athletic administrator a commitment to ethics, citizenship, and appropriate personal conduct in athletics; and
- To promote healthy lifestyles through interscholastic athletic participation.

The members of the MIAAA subscribe to a comprehensive Code of Ethics that guides both individual conduct and the collective work of the organization. We firmly believe that interscholastic athletics constitutes an integral component of the total educational program in Maine's secondary schools. When properly organized, administered, and conducted, athletic programs provide students with meaningful opportunities to develop leadership qualities, social and recreational skills, and habits that promote lifelong health and responsible citizenship. These objectives are most effectively achieved when programs are grounded in the highest ethical standards and led by well-prepared professional administrators.

In closing, my experience engaging with the multiple layers of Maine's educational system has afforded me a deep respect for the structure, governance, and responsibilities inherent at each level. Athletic administrators operate within this framework while balancing substantial and often complex duties. A comprehensive understanding of their role can only be attained through direct experience and professional engagement.

The dual membership of the MIAAA and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) ensures that Maine's athletic directors receive professional development and certification aligned with the highest national standards. Accredited courses, developed and approved through a National Board of Education, continue to evolve in response to the expanding demands placed upon athletic administrators.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to educational excellence in the State of Maine.

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