



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

September 16, 2026

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
33 Forge Parkway
Franklin, MA 02038

Dear Members of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association,

I am writing to express my strong support for the addition of girls flag football as an official MIAA varsity sport.

Massachusetts has long been committed to expanding opportunities for young people to learn, grow, and succeed through education and athletics. As girls flag football continues to gain momentum across the state, we have a unique opportunity to create new pathways for student-athletes while reinforcing our commitment to equity and advancement for young women.

The growing interest in girls flag football reflects a clear demand from students themselves. Across Massachusetts, young women have expressed a desire for additional opportunities to participate in school athletics, and girls flag football has emerged as one of the most compelling examples of that demand being met. As educational institutions evolve to serve the interests and needs of their students, it is important that athletic offerings evolve as well. The question is not whether young women in Massachusetts want to play flag football; they have already answered that through their participation, commitment, and advocacy for the sport. The opportunity before us is whether we will provide them with the same level of recognition, support, and competitive structure afforded to other varsity student-athletes.

While the growth of the sport is impressive, its significance extends far beyond participation numbers. Girls flag football is helping young women develop leadership skills, build confidence, learn teamwork, and experience the many benefits that come from representing their schools through interscholastic athletics. For many participants, it has opened the door to athletic involvement that may not otherwise have existed and has created a meaningful sense of belonging within their school communities.

Just as importantly, girls flag football is helping create educational pathways. As collegiate programs continue to expand across the country, student-athletes are increasingly able to pursue

higher education while continuing to compete in the sport they love. These opportunities can have a lasting impact, providing access to new academic experiences, leadership development, mentorship, and pathways to future success.

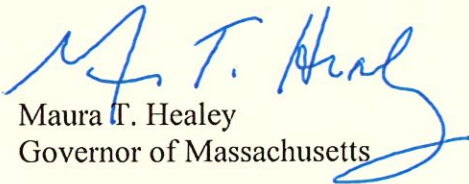
The future of the sport is equally promising. With flag football continuing its rapid growth at the collegiate level and its inclusion in the 2028 Olympic Games, young women today have access to possibilities that did not exist just a few years ago. Student-athletes across Massachusetts should have every opportunity to pursue those aspirations and compete on the same stage as their peers across the country and around the world.

The addition of girls flag football as an official MIAA varsity sport would represent more than the sanctioning of a new athletic program. It would demonstrate Massachusetts' continued commitment to investing in the future of young women and ensuring they have equitable access to the benefits of educational athletics. The momentum is already here. Students have demonstrated their interest, dedication, and passion. Now is the time to ensure that the recognition and support afforded to other varsity sports are extended to them as well.

I respectfully encourage the MIAA to support the addition of girls flag football as an official varsity sport and to continue Massachusetts' proud tradition of expanding opportunities for students across the state

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your continued commitment to the young people of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,



Maura T. Healey
Governor of Massachusetts