

**Massachusetts Youth Sports Working Group
Public Hearing #1 Minutes
January 27, 2026
12:00 – 2:00 PM**

DOL Deputy Chief of Staff Sean Pierce opened the meeting at 12:10 PM and introduced Chair Zakim for the Roll Call:

Member	Appointing Authority	Attendance	
Josh Zakim, Chair	MSAC Chair	X Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Barry R. Finegold	President of the Senate	X Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Michael Vaughan	President of the Senate	X Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Jose Masso	Speaker of the House	X Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
TBD	Speaker of the House	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Ryan C. Fattman	Senate Minority Leader	X Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Marcus S. Vaughn	House Minority Leader	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	X Absent
John Andreoli	Governor	X Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
TBD	Governor	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Melissa Hart	Governor	X Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Dr. Patty Raube Keller	Governor	X Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Steph Lewis	Governor	X Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
TBD	Governor	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Sarah Wilkinson, DOL Commissioner	Governor	X Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent

- After Roll Call, Chair Zakim asked for any motions on the meetings from the previous Working Group meeting.
- Senator Finegold made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous Working Group meeting.
- Commissioner Wilkinson seconded the motions and Chair Zakim called the roll.

Aye:

Chair Josh Zakim
 Senator Barry Finegold
 Michael Vaughan
 Jose Masso
 Senator Ryan Fattman
 Melissa Hart
 Dr. Patty Raube Keller
 Steph Lewis

Commissioner Sarah Wilkinson

Nay:

None

Abstention:

John Andreoli – Abstained as he did not attend the previous meeting.

Rob Holliday – Massachusetts Youth Soccer

Rob Holiday, Executive Director of Massachusetts Youth Soccer, was present in-person and the first person/organization to testify. Mr. Holliday opened by describing the structure of his organization and pointing out Massachusetts Youth Soccer serves 1 in every 8 children in the Commonwealth. He also went on to discuss their coaching certification process and struggles such as the difficulty they have retaining officials due to poor spectator behavior. Mr. Holliday recommended laws on the abuse of officials; while they have a set of regulations, a lack of laws backing them up makes enforcement more difficult. Director Holliday then took several questions from the Working Group and offered his support to the group moving forward.

Mary Ayotte and Kevin Barney – Massachusetts Youth Lacrosse

Mary Ayotte, President, and Kevin Barney, Executive Director, of Massachusetts Youth Lacrosse testified virtually next. They gave an overview of the organization which is charged with overseeing town-based, non-profit organizations; they do not have a role in the oversight of for-profit club teams/organizations. Ms. Ayotte and Mr. Barney described their coaching certification process which is required to be renewed every other year. They also described the financial barriers their member organizations face such as equipment, securing fields on a reliable basis and getting players to stay with their teams. After taking questions from the members, they both also offered Massachusetts Youth Lacrosse's support in helping the Working Group achieve its goals.

Tom Spangenberg – Massachusetts Youth Lacrosse

The Working Group members then heard from Tom Spangenberg, Chair Emeritus of Massachusetts Youth Lacrosse who joined virtually. Mr. Spangenberg advocated for a return to the town/community, non-profit youth sports model. He told members that private equity can certainly help with funding but should not overtake the town-based model; he implored the Working Group to help vocalize that across the Commonwealth and use that thought in their decision making. He closed his testimony by flagging that cost is the biggest enemy of growing youth sports and asked the members to investigate if it is possible to lower the cost to running CORIs. Members had no questions for Mr. Spangenberg,

- Chair Zakim then thanked everyone who came to testify and the members for their attendance. He then offered to entertain a motion to adjourn.

- Senator Finegold made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Commissioner Wilkinson seconded the motion and Chair Zakim called the roll:

Aye:

Chair Josh Zakim
Senator Barry Finegold
John Andreoli
Michael Vaughan
Jose Masso
Senator Ryan Fattman
Melissa Hart
Dr. Patty Raube Keller
Steph Lewis
Commissioner Sarah Wilkinson

Nay:

None

Abstention:

None

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:05pm.