



**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
January 16, 2024**

In accordance with Article 6, Section 3, Paragraph 1 of the Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc. (AIA) Constitution, a special meeting of the Executive Board was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

President Jennifer Burks called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

Members in Attendance:

William Duarte, 1A Conference (Superior Jr./Sr. High School)
Tierra Yazzie, 2A Conference (Valley (Sanders) High School)
Toni Corona, CAA, 3A Conference (Safford High School)*
Matt Belden, 4A Conference (Glendale Union School District)
Nathan Slater, 5A Conference (Scottsdale School District)
Jennifer Burks, CAA, 6A Conference (Perry High School)
Tim Carter, Cognia (Yavapai County School Superintendent)
Steve Johnson, Arizona School Boards Association (CAVIT)
Missy Townsend, CMAA, Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (Prescott High School)
David Hines, AIA Executive Director

Members Absent:

Jerry Jennex, Arizona School Administrators (Globe Unified School District)

AIA Staff Present:

Mark Mignella, Legal Counsel
Jim Dean, Associate Executive Director*
Erin Coy, Assistant Executive Director
Tayler Coady, Executive Administrative Assistant
Brian Bolitho, Chief Business Development Officer
Jake Litwiller, Chief Financial Officer
Brian Gessner, Commissioner of Officials
Dean Visser, Director of Athletics and Activities
Dan Nero, Director of Athletics
Mary Wimmer, Tournament Coordinator

Guests

Tommy Eubanks	Travis Lingenfelter
Buddy Allen	Natalie Hammon
Tony Miller	Joel Votal
Whitney Holland	Dustin George
Jay Campos	Rachel Fuell
Stacy Spencer	Jerrod Fuell
Kim Crooks	Shaylee Fuell
Jason Rypkema	Rick Erickson
Rosana Rodriguez	

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

On a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, President Burks, in accordance with Article 6, Section 3, Paragraph 3, Subparagraph 2 of the AIA Constitution, called for the following Executive Sessions to receive report from legal counsel:

- ✓ 8:30 am – 9:06 am
- ✓ 10:00 am – 11:17 am
- ✓ 1:54 pm – 3:06 pm

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A brief update was provided to the Board from the NFHS Winter Meeting that occurred at the beginning of January. A point of discussion was surrounding sportsmanship and ejections across the country.

Mr. Visser was selected as the recipient of the Honorary Caballero Award. The award was presented to him during the Flowing Wells Boys' Wrestling Invitational on January 13th. Congratulations to Mr. Visser for his hard work and dedication to the sport of wrestling!

FUTURE DATES

January 17, 2024	District AD's and Conference Leadership Meeting
January 22, 2024	Spring Coaches Workshop Opens
January 23-24, 2024	Spring Hardship Appeal Hearings – Conference
January 25, 2024	Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting
January 26, 2024	Legislative Council Agenda Item Deadline
February 2, 2023	Spring Coaches Workshop Closes
February 7, 2024	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
February 12, 2024	NIL Work Group
February 14, 2024	District AD's and Conference Leadership Meeting
February 19, 2024	Holiday – AIA Office Closed
February 20, 2024	AIA Executive Board Meeting
February 22, 2024	Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting
March 1, 2024	Legislative Council Meeting

ACTION ITEMS:**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

On a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the Executive Board **approved** the following consent agenda items:

Approval of Minutes

- Executive Board Meeting – December 11, 2023

AIA Lifetime Passes

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 11 AIA Passes. Paragraph 1 Lifetime Passes

1. Tim Butler	Agua Fria District	30 years
2. Dave Enos	Washington	29 years
3. Tim Mayfield	Washington	28 years
4. Matt Blackburn	Campo Verde	28 years

Replacement of A Complimentary Pass

- ❖ Delmer Hooke, Coach – Dishchii'bikoh
- ❖ Hugh Moses, Board Member – Fort Thomas
- ❖ George Diehl, Athletic Director - Bagdad

Request for AIA Sanction/Intrastate and Interstate Activities – 2023-24 Master Calendar

In accordance with Article 10, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, the Executive Board approved the sanction requests for the intrastate and interstate activities reflected in the 2023-2024 Master Calendar. The master calendar is posted online at <http://www.aiaonline.org/calendar/?id=5>.

The Master Calendar, which is prepared by the AIA for its member schools, reflects activities (events) that have been sanctioned by the AIA Executive Board. It is the responsibility of each member school to limit its participation in these sanctioned activities to the maximum number of contests set forth in the AIA Bylaws.

Additional Game Requests

- Sierra Linda** – VAR/JV/FrSo boys' basketball game to help fill **Youngker's** schedule.
- Casteel** – VAR boys' volleyball game to help fill **Willow Canyon's** schedule.
- Show Low** – VAR/JV baseball game to help fill **Monument Valley's** schedule.
- Show Low** – VAR/JV softball game to help fill **Monument Valley's** schedule.
- Tonopah Valley** – VAR baseball game to help fill **ALA West Foothill's** schedule.
- St. Michael** – VAR/JV boys/girls' basketball games to help fill **Many Farms'** schedule.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – Cont’d

Cancellation Requests – Contest and/or Programs

Rule: Article 11. Scheduling of Contest and Schedule Contracts. Section 4 Schedule Contracts – Varsity / Junior Varsity / Freshman. Paragraph 4 Cancellation or Postponement – Contest or Program. Subparagraph 1 11.4.4.1 A Varsity contest or program which could have a bearing on a regional or state play-off shall not be cancelled or forfeited without prior approval by the AIA Executive Board.

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| <u>SCHOOL REQUESTING:</u> | <u>CANCELLED PROGRAM:</u> |
| 1. Safford | VAR Girls’ Wrestling Program |
| 2. Mountainside | VAR Girls’ Basketball Program |

SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS – 13

CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 170 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)

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|----------------------------------|---|
| <u>SCHOOL CANCELLING:</u> | <u>DOES NOT CONSENT:</u> |
| 1. South Mountain | Higley – VAR/JV Boys’ Soccer |
| 2. St. Michael | Tuba City – VAR/JV boys/girls’ Basketball |
| 3. Kingman (No Show) | Payson – VAR Girls’ Basketball (2 contests) |
| 4. Fredonia | St. Michael – VAR boys/girls Basketball |

FINANCIAL REPORT

In accordance with Article 6, Section 5, Paragraph 15 of the AIA Bylaws, the Executive Board **approved** the following financial report:

- ✓ Financial Report for December 2023

NEW MEMBER SCHOOLS – BALLOTING

- BASIS Scottsdale – 2A

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above school applications to be balloted by the membership.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

- 18.3 – Fees/Schools – Officials Responsibility
- 18.3 – Fees/Schools – Officials Responsibility (Basketball)
- 16.3.4 – Spectator Behavior
- 16.3 – Sportsmanship Rule (Fighting)
- 16.3 – Sportsmanship Rule (Coaching Ejection)

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above items to be placed on the Legislative Council Agenda.

FLAG FOOTBALL START DATE

Discussion took place regarding the start date for the girls' flag football season for the 2024-25 school year. It was recommended to move the start date back two weeks.

Further discussion occurred in the potential for moving girls' flag football to the Spring. The 4A, 5A and 6A conference have concerns surrounding difficulty in scheduling and space at the school levels during the Fall season moving forward.

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the following adjustment to the girls' flag football season beginning the 2024-25 school year:

<i>Fall Season</i>	<i>Practice</i>	<i>no sooner than the</i>	<i>6th week</i>
<i>(Girls)</i>	<i>Season of Competition</i>	<i>begins Monday of the</i>	<i>11th week</i>
	<i>Championship</i>	<i>to be concluded by the</i>	<i>25th week</i>

REQUEST – AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY – SIERRA VISTA

Buddy Allen, District Athletic Director, American Leadership Academies, addressed the Board regarding the opening of a new school.

Based on the written and oral information provided, on a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **paused** the membership application process.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS**CATALINA HIGH SCHOOL** – Tucson Unified School District

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 2 Practice (14.2.2)

Reported Violation:

On December 1st 2023 this reporter (AD) was notified of a potential violation by the AP of Interscholastic @ CHS (Catalina HS). He reported that the violation involved a wrestling student-athlete who allegedly practiced with another member school RUHS (Rincon/University HS) during the season of sport (Winter). This reporter initiated an investigation that included (in-person) interviews with the following; 1. The named student-athlete enrolled at CHS; 2. The AD of the member school RUHS to which the alleged practice took place; and 3. The head wrestling coach of CHS. An additional investigation was completed by the AP of CHS that included the AP of RUHS. This reporter also communicated with the TUSD district AD and the asst. Executive Director of the AIA for bylaw clarification. Other investigations were completed by RUHS AD and AP. CHS Student-Athletic (Wrestler): The student reported that on about Nov. 28th his cousin, and ex-wrestler, who had apparently graduated from RUHS (22 - 23 SY), and was a coach/participant for the RUHS wrestling program was on the phone with the Head coach of RUHS wrestling program. According the CHS student the RUHS coach was impressed by his skills during a recent dual meet hosted by CHS (NOV 21st). During the phone conversation the RUHS coach/participant invited the CHS student to attend an upcoming RUHS practice to demonstrate, train, or explain how to execute "a single leg take-down technique in front of the entire team in the RUHS wrestling room. It was reported by the CHS student that no other CHS students were present at the practice. He added that, "the other (RUHS) kids/team gathered around and watched me do this single take-down leg move with another RUHS player." He noted that he was at the practice for approx. 90m. The CHS student indicated that the head coach of RUHS invited him to attend another practice during the upcoming winter break practice (Dec 23th - Jan 7th)

Schools Corrective Action:

This writer met with the CHS student-athlete and provided a written document of the AIA bylaw 14.2.2 and he will apologize to his team for missing practice to attend another schools practice, and being dishonest to his coach. Additional education regarding TUSD/AIA policies, procedures, and bylaws will be reiterated and further emphasized to all coaches and student-athletes at CHS during preseason meetings involving transfer protocols, non-participation, and other eligibility related information. This writer will seek translators as necessary to accommodate language/comprehension barriers during school/parent/team meetings.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Catalina High School **Boys' Wrestling Program** on **Warning** for one year 1/16/24-1/16/25.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

DESERT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL – *Scottsdale Unified School District*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule (15.10)

Reported Violation:

Student did not report on his 550 form that he wrestled at Fountain Hills High School last year. Athletic Director from Fountain Hills called and informed me that he had wrestled last year.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contests Forfeited. Student is filling out another 550 form with correct information. Student will sit out 50% of remaining dual meets.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Desert Mountain High School **Boys' Wrestling Program** on **Advisement** for one year 1/16/24-1/16/25.

Nathan Slater abstains.

APACHE JUNCTION HIGH SCHOOL – *AJUSD*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 2 Application of Eligibility Rules (15.2.3)

Rule: Article 43. Sports Medicine, Section 5 Heat Acclimatization Policy (43.5)

Reported Violation:

I cleared a transfer student to compete at a wrestling tournament before he completed the required days of acclimatization to Arizona. I also do not know that he was a home-schooled student when he was in Oregon who was working on a curriculum that we will no accept, so he will not receive credits from us this fall.

Schools Corrective Action:

In conjunction with district leadership I have instituted a hard and fast rule that all players will be held from competition for the first 10 days regardless of the situation. I have spoken with Dr. Dean as well as a couple of other seasoned AD's to ensure that I understand the acclimatization rules. I also worked with our registrar to create a new system that includes her sending me a transcript clearance sheet that will add to our current clearance process for new students.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Apache Junction High School **Activities Program** on **Advisement** for one year 1/16/24-1/16/25.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**KINGMAN HIGH SCHOOL** – *Kingman Unified*

Rule: Article 16. Penalties and Appeals, Section 1 Penalties (16.1.1.5)

Reported Violation:

The girls basketball team was involved in a tournament over the weekend and through a series of events between officials and parents, had one of their games suspended part of the way through the 2nd quarter. The girls felt that the team was treated unfairly since the actions was none of their doing and felt that they may be officiated unfairly on Saturday due to the actions of others. So, they chose to protest and not participate in the scheduled game on Saturday. The coach failed to notify the tournament director and his own athletic director about the decision and the team came home. We then had to forfeit Saturday's game.

Schools Corrective Action:

The coach met with school administrators to discuss the situation and how it was a violation of the AIA rules and expectations. We discussed the importance of communication in situations like this and made sure the coach had the appropriate phone numbers. The coach was suspended from coaching the next game. There was also a discussion with the team to discuss the fact that this can not and will not happen again, along with possible consequences for it happening.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Kingman High School **Girls' Basketball Program** on **Warning** for one year 1/16/24-1/16/25.

HORIZON HIGH SCHOOL – *Paradise Valley Unified School District*

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 4 Nonschool Participation (14.4.1)

Reported Violation:

A member of Horizon's boys' soccer team participated in a club soccer tournament during the AIA season of competition.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contests Forfeited. Horizon has removed the student athlete from our program and has contacted the appropriate schools about the violation. Horizon will forfeit all games that this athlete participated in.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Horizon High School **Boys' Soccer Program** on **Advisement** for one year 1/16/24-1/16/25.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**MICA MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL** – *Vail Unified School District*

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 4 Nonschool Participation (14.4.1)

Reported Violation:

A female soccer athlete participated in the United Futsal tournament in Phoenix on December 16th and 17th during the season of sport. As per the bylaw any contest the student participated in after surrendering their eligibility will be forfeited and the student in violation has been ruled ineligible for the remainder of the 2023-2024 soccer season.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. The athlete was declared ineligible for the rest of the season. Sahuaro game will be forfeited. All coaches are educated on the Nonschool Participation bylaw prior to the beginning of the season. The coach had a parent meeting prior to the season and told the athletes the exact date when they could no longer participate in club activities. The administration team also holds a parent meeting at the beginning of each school year and explains the prior contact and non-school participation bylaw.

Mica Mountain is appealing the violation/forfeitures.

Executive Board Action:

NEW information was presented by a member school supporting that Futsal is a separate sport from Soccer. Due to a lack of clarity and application of the Non-school participation bylaw as it relates to Futsal, the Executive Board is temporarily suspending the application of the bylaw to Futsal pending further review by our Board, Staff, and Soccer Advisory Committee. Schools and athletes will not be deemed in violation of the bylaw as it applies to Futsal during the current soccer season.

MADISON HIGHLAND PREP –

Rule: Article 17. Coaches and Coaching, Section 4 Coach's / Sponsor's Code of Ethics (17.4.3.3)

Reported Violation:

During a conversation between MHP's Head football Coach and the sideline official regarding an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, MHP's Head Coach made unintentional contact with the official while gesturing with his left hand. The official issued a second unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, and the Head Coach was ejected. The ejection report supports that all conversations between the officials and the coaches remained calm.

Schools Corrective Action:

Head Coach has been advised to keep his hands in his pockets and out of conversation heretofore. Additionally, the MHP Coaching staff has created a corrective action response to enforce appropriate interaction with game officials and ensure the game officials are treated with the respect they deserve. That plan has been attached to this report.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Madison Highland Prep **Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 1/16/24-1/16/25.

HARDSHIP APPEALS

The following representatives entered the meeting for a student eligibility appeal and left upon completion of their presentations:

- Cactus Shadows** **Drew Ammon** - Athletic Director, Parent
- Perry** **Jen Burks** - Athletic Director, Parents, Student, Coach
Hamilton – Brett Palmer – Athletic Director
- Chandler** **Jim Culver** - Athletic Director, Parent, Student
- Yuma** **Cecile Lopez** - Athletic Director, Parents, Student, Counsel, Coach
Gila Ridge – Ansel Traynor – Athletic Director

Following review and discussion of the written and oral information presented, the Executive Board, in accordance with Article 15, Section 14 of the AIA Bylaws, **granted / denied** the following hardship eligibility requests:

<u>School/Appeal</u>	<u>Granted/Denied</u>
Cactus Shadows	Denied
Perry	Granted
Chandler	Denied
Yuma	Denied

There being no further business, and on a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 4:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Hines,
Executive Director