



**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – TELECONFERENCE**  
**April 23, 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, April 23, 2024 at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020 and via teleconference.

President Jennifer Burks called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

**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)\*  
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)\*  
David Verdugo, Arizona School Administrators (Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District – Rio Rico)\*  
Missy Townsend, CMAA, Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (Prescott High School)\*  
David Hines, AIA Executive Director

**Members Absent:**

Matt Belden, 4A Conference (Glendale Union School District)

**AIA Staff Present:**

Mark Mignella, Legal Counsel  
Jim Dean, Associate Executive Director  
Eric Coy, Assistant Executive Director  
Tayler Coady, Executive Administrative Assistant

**Guests:**

Richard Obert  
Peter Jelovic  
Tamme Gressett  
Gretchen Hann  
Phillip Nowlin

*\*Indicates attendance via teleconference*

**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:

- ✓ 9:02 am – 9:21 am

**APPEAL OF SCHOOL VIOLATION SANCTION**

**DESERT EDGE HIGH SCHOOL** – *Agua Fria Union High School District*  
*Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 12 Recruitment Rule (15.12)*

**Reported Violation:**

A member of the football coaching staff responded directly to a parent on social media. The parent was asking for feedback on high schools due to their child transferring. The coach responded directly to the parent which could be perceived as suggesting Desert Edge as a possible destination. Additional comments to the parent from the coach could be viewed as influencing. No school administrator, athletic coach or employee of a high school district shall engage in recruitment either by direct contact with a student or indirectly through parents, legal guardians, common school employees, directors of summer athletic programs or other persons who are in a position to influence the student's choice of a school.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Desert Edge High School corrective actions:

- Continued in-service for all coaches regarding recruitment bylaws.
- In-service on the do's and don'ts of social media for all coaches.
- Executive Session is requested to discuss specifics of the corrective action plan.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Desert Edge High School **Football and Boys' Track and Field Programs** on **Probation** for the 2024-2025 school year.

On a motion made, seconded and carried, based on the information provided, the Executive Board revoked the sanction of probation and placed the Desert Edge High School **Football and Boys' Track and Field Programs** on **Warning** for the 2024-2025 school year.

There being no further business, and on a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Hines,  
Executive Director