



**ARIZONA INTERSCHOLASTIC ASSOCIATION**  
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### **Important Facts Regarding Membership**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA), since its inception in 1913, has been a crucial member of the educational community. Prior to incorporation, AIA was referred to as the Arizona State High School Association. Initially housed by the Tempe and Phoenix Union High School Districts and administered by TUHSD and PUHSD administrators, the association later shared facilities with the Arizona Educators Association, Arizona School Administrators, and the Arizona School Boards Association. Membership in the AIA is strictly voluntary and is available to any Arizona high school or bordering state high school that meets membership requirements.

The AIA was established in 1913 as a service to our ever-growing family of high schools. We are committed to continuing our role as the major force in shaping the future for high school interscholastic participants. We face the future with optimism for our organization and our membership.

The AIA is charged with regulating the competitive interscholastic activities of its members and seeks to supplement the overall aims and objectives of secondary schools by organizing, developing, directing, and regulating activities and interscholastic competition in athletics, spiritline, speech, theatre, chess, robotics and JROTC. In addition to coordinating and scheduling athletic and other events, AIA adjudicates disputes within and/or between schools, interprets and implements AIA bylaws—rules, regulations and procedures created by Legislative Council action—and recruits, trains, assigns, and evaluates sports officials for all AIA contests.

As a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations, the AIA works cooperatively with states across the country in promoting consistency and uniformity in contest rules as well as general rules governing participation in high school athletics and activities programs.

#### **MISSION**

The mission of the AIA is to create and sustain an ethical culture through activities that encourages maximum student participation by providing AIA member schools with an even playing field to ensure fair and equitable competition in interscholastic activities. The rules, regulations and procedures (the AIA Constitution and Bylaws), which provide the means by which this may be accomplished, are developed by a Legislative Council composed of school administrators and Governing Board members elected by high schools throughout Arizona (see page 2).

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the AIA is to serve as a membership association for its member high schools; all of AIA's activities are performed and conducted on behalf of and/or in support of the schools and students of AIA's membership.

#### **STRUCTURE**

As a means of facilitating interscholastic competition, Arizona high schools are placed into one of six Conferences based upon school enrollment. Regardless of size, all of AIA's member schools are crucial members of the AIA family and are considered of equal importance.

#### **CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS – INITIAL PLACEMENT FOR CONFERENCE REPRESENTATION:**

Member schools shall be divided equally into small and large conferences, with small defined as the 1A, 2A and 3A Conferences and large defined as the 4A, 5A and 6A Conferences.

1A Conference – The first (smallest enrollment) 30%-40% of schools with student enrollment of 1,000 or less.

2A Conference – The next largest (in enrollment) 30%-40% of schools with student enrollment of 1,000 or less.

3A Conference – The largest (in enrollment) 30%-40% of schools with student enrollment of 1,000 or less.

4A Conference – The smallest (in enrollment) 33% of schools with student enrollment of 1,000 or more.

5A Conference – The middle (in enrollment) 33% of schools with student enrollment of 1,000 or more.

6A Conference – The largest (in enrollment) 33% of schools with student enrollment of 1,000 or more.

In the case of an uneven number of schools with student enrollment above 1,000 or more, the school(s) shall be placed in the lower conference. (For example, if there are 113 schools, the 4A and 5A Conferences will initially have 38 members and the 6A Conference will initially have 37 members).

## **RESPONSIBILITIES INHERENT IN AIA MEMBERSHIP**

Responsibilities inherent in AIA membership include:

- Development and utilizing of a game management plan, including starting games on time, meeting scheduling commitments, ensuring an appropriate relationship with game officials, and assuring that a responsible school official or administrator from each participating school attends all interscholastic competitions.
- Appropriate in-service of coaches/staff/students regarding AIA rules and regulations.
- Establishing and implementing an appropriate plan related to sportsmanship.
- Maintaining equitable practices and procedures related to girls' and boys' programs.
- Consideration of AIA's recommendation that there be proof of student insurance coverage or a waiver prior to practice.
- Attendance at all post-season and/or play-off competitions by an administrator from each participating school.
- Assuring courteous, friendly, safe and fair treatment to visiting players, school representatives, fans, and game officials at any athletic or non-athletic activity.
- In keeping with the above, developing and following an emergency medical plan of action and an appropriate philosophy related to participant safety (i.e., providing sufficient drinking water, preventing heat exhaustion, considering CPR instruction for staff, etc.)
- Assuming responsibility for verification of compliance with all student eligibility rules by the appropriate school administrator.
- Assuring that only the AIA and an appropriate school administrative officer conduct all official communications between member schools and the AIA.
- Refrain from utilizing the news media to criticize another school administrator, school team, coach, player, game official, or the AIA.

## **FINANCIAL COMMITMENT/ OBLIGATION**

The AIA Executive Board approves and levies annual membership dues and fees. Membership dues consist of a set amount assessed to all schools regardless of membership status (i.e., full or associate member), conference affiliation, etc., as well as a participation fee for each varsity sport in which the school participates. Fees are not paid for participation in non-athletic activities governed by the AIA.

Net revenue generated by AIA tournaments is credited to the AIA member schools' account. Reconciliation of gate receipts and tournament expenses is done on a fiscal year basis – July 1 through June 30.

An important benefit of membership has been the AIA's negotiation of affordable student catastrophic insurance for the entire membership. For each member school to acquire this coverage individually would be cost prohibitive. Schools are charged per student-athlete.

Under current coverage, catastrophic insurance takes effect when a participant in an AIA sanctioned activity is injured and his/her medical expenses exceed \$25,000.

## **SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE AIA TO ITS MEMBER SCHOOLS**

The following list, while not exhaustive, describes many of the services the AIA provides to its member schools:

- Leadership and representation at the national level

- Special programs and awards (Scholar-Athlete/Activity, Excellence Awards, Outstanding Girls Athletic Program, Directors Cup Award, AIA Champions Awards Program)
- Bylaws interpretations
- Source of rules books, score books, case books, and other publications
- Adjudication and resolution of issues and concerns
- Officials-related services
- Student Excess Catastrophic Accident Insurance
- Calendar of Sanctioned Events/Information Calendar
- Promotion of sportsmanship and a cooperative spirit among member schools, coaches, and athletes
- Seminars, in-service training, and workshops
- Dissemination of informational materials to member schools
- Extensive website information
- In-servicing schools to implement sportsmanship and coaches education programs.

## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

To best meet the needs of AIA member schools, the AIA has two classifications of members. Full member schools are accredited by the AdvancED, may only schedule activities with other AIA member schools, and participate in both regular-season and post-season play. Associate members do not require AdvancED accreditation, may schedule activities with either member or non-member schools, and participate only during the regular season.

To apply for AIA membership, the school's head administrator must submit a written request for either a full or associate membership application. This request for an application must be received by the AIA prior to November 1 of the school year preceding the year for which membership is being sought. Why the preceding year? Scheduling of athletic activities for the following school year takes place during the preceding year. Should a school not begin the membership process until the spring of the year, it is possible that the school would be unable to obtain a satisfactory schedule for their first year of membership.

For membership with the AIA for the following school year, the completed application containing the approval signatures of the school's governing board, must be received by the AIA office prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of January deadline date. An on-site evaluation of a school applying for full membership is conducted. Upon recommendation of the On-Site Evaluation Committee, AIA member schools are balloted for approval of the membership application. A simple majority vote decides the acceptance or rejection of the application.

After investigation and establishment of the fact that membership requirements have been satisfactorily met, the AIA Executive Board, declares the school eligible for membership. Membership becomes official and operative upon payment of dues at the beginning of the following school year.

The AIA advises that a new member become involved in activities with their conference as soon as possible after membership is approved.

## **HOW TO CONTACT THE AIA**

**AIA Website:** [www.aiaonline.org](http://www.aiaonline.org)

Visit AIA's website to read and/or download information concerning numerous aspects of the AIA. The website is updated on a continual basis – "bookmarking" the site is recommended. AIA's website includes:

- The AIA Constitution and Bylaws
- AIA forms
- AIA Policies & Procedures
- AIA Executive Board minutes
- AIA Legislative Council minutes
- AIA tournament guides
- Updated tournament brackets/results
- Sanctioned events calendar, informational calendar, building use calendar
- Member school directory
- Coaching positions
- Available games
- Press releases

- Officiating information
- Materials and information about AIA programs including:
  - ✓ Pursuing Victory With Honor
  - ✓ Character Counts
  - ✓ AIA Academy
  - ✓ Scholar-Athlete/Activities
  - ✓ Excellence Awards
- Links to NFHS, AMEA, ASBA, ASA, AZ Central.com
- AIA staff, direct dial telephone numbers and e-mail addresses

**Additional Information**

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact any of the AIA staff on their direct dial telephone numbers listed on the AIA website, or by calling the main office number at 602-385-3810.