

4A Conference Committee  
Minutes  
March 26, 2018 @ 9am AIA Office

**Region Rep Attendees:**

Matt Belden, Chair, Jeannine Brandel, AIA Exec. Board Rep, Ron Safcik, Skyline, Missy Townsend, Grand Canyon, Barry Cromer, Kino, Bill Wright, Southwest, Eddie Lopez, West Valley, Shelley Arredondo, Desert Sky, Eric Zimmerman, AIAAAA Rep, Tess Dellisanti, 4A Admin Asst.

**Absent:** Brian Galbreath, Armando Soto

**Guests:** None

**Call to Order:** 8:57a

**AIA Staff:**

Dean Visser, Tournament Coordinator

Joe Paddock, Asst. Executive Director

**Meeting Notes for all Conferences:**

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**AIA Executive Board Report Update: Ms. Brandel**

- AD Meeting @ Xavier at 9:15a. If schools are not represented at the coaches meeting, they must understand that they are in violation of AIA bylaw. A list of absentees has not yet been compiled/provided to Athletic Directors. Videos of the general meeting should be available on the dashboard. Mr. Belden asked if there has been any more discussion of regionalizing the meetings. The sports specific meetings are the most critical and at this point are not videoed. The interaction at those meetings is very valuable. Having the coach's association meetings within the AIA meeting would be well received.
- The Student Leadership meeting on 3/9 went very well. These student reps will be attending the 4/2 AD meeting.
- The Childhelp video was reviewed and discussed being placed so students must review it prior to continuing on to the Brainbook section. This would be available to new participants but not required of athletes that have already done Brainbook. The Childhelp video will be shown at the meeting on Monday, 4/2
- Ejection data for this year was discussed by Brian Gessner. There have been 815 ejections so far this year; 700 athlete ejections, a little over 100 were coaches' ejections. There are 113 member schools that have had NO ejections this year. Mr. Gessner discussed tracking data. The biggest number of ejections come from basketball and soccer.
- Budget was discussed and it was reported that gates receipts are down slightly. RefPay isn't being used by 6 schools in the state. Making RefPay mandatory for all member schools may be on the next Executive Board agenda.
- 3A conference has asked for a special dispensation to allow football players to play 6 quarters per week. Mr. Paddock discussed a concern about putting players at possible risks for injury with this change.
- The first Native American Basketball Classic held at ASU was reported.
- The year in Recap with Mr. Hines
- Mr. Belden talked about the new proposed State legislation on concussion protocol and parent notification.

**Region Reports:**

**Skyline** –Ron Safcik

**Black Canyon** – Absent

**Gila** – Absent

**Southwest**- Bill Wright

**Desert Sky** – Shelley Arredondo

**Kino** – Barry Cromer

**Grand Canyon** – Missy Townsend

**West Valley** – Eddie Lopez

### **AIAAA Report Update:**

State Conference planning has started. The nominations for the awards must be submitted by April 1st. Ms. Townsend needs the nominations ASAP. The two NIAAA awards that must be completed, to which no nominations have come in, are the Citation Award and the Distinguished Service Award (must submit by 4/1).

### **AIA Report:** Joe Paddock

The last hour will be a pod meeting with all Reps and ADs from their conference. This meeting will be a hybrid from the meeting last year and will include:

1. Security
2. Legal Issues – ChildHelp Video will be seen
3. Sports Medicine Advisory – Dr. Cardenas will speak
4. All Things AIA – leadership, sportsmanship, officials, AIAAA
5. April 2nd Meeting Items to be discussed:
  - a. Current conference playoff rules (region tournaments, playoff games, etc.)
  - b. Next two year block – pulling football out of the equation (scheduled separately). A committee (3 reps from each conference for adhoc committee) will be built to discuss building football conferences and making the sport more equitable.
  - c. The Glen Treadaway Sportsmanship Award – school needs to be chosen.
  - d. Hardship Appeals – more than 200 came in after the deadline. How is eligibility being processed? A discussion for a hard deadline needs to be considered. 50% rule is not being upheld as it should. The goal should be that the majority of hardships should be completed by the third week of the season. Those that come in late may possibly be held until the next conference rep meeting for discussion. If an appeal goes to the Executive Board, new information must be provided before the appeal will be considered.
  - e. Spectator behavior – what makes this become a bylaw violation.
  - f. Region Tournaments and Play-In games –
  - g. Feedback from conferences this year for AIA on the year and needs schools may have.
  - h. Coach's meetings. Next year, schools will be given a list of absences and if a sport/school has sent no representation, that will be a violation. If not a head coach, then a rep for that sport must be there.

### **Meeting notes for 4A Conference:**

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#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

##### **1. Wrestling Schedules – Belden**

Mr. Visser discussed possible changes to divisions and sections for the 2018-20 alignment for wrestling. More than sixteen (16) teams in a section increases the wrestling tournament to a two (2) day event rather than one (1). A review of the AIA recommended changes were discussed. Mr. Visser asked for 4A input on the following AIA recommendations:

- Moving Casa Grande and Vista Grande to Div III, Sec I (Kino Region) giving Section 1 fifteen schools. This would leave Div III, Sec II with seventeen (17) schools.
- Moving Lee Williams, Mohave, (Grand Canyon Region), and Kingman to Div III, Sec III taking that section from 11 to 14 schools and possibly moving Arcadia and Coronado to Sec III.
- Sectional Tournaments – hosting changes were discussed.

Concerns discussed:

- Having to redo the wrestling schedule.
- Chinle's placement
- No input from conferences on possible changes.
- Possible change from Div/Sec to Conferences/Regions.
- Travel for meets and Sectional Tournaments.
- Decision from 4A prior to the wrestling meeting in May.

Mr. Belden requested that 4A be prepared to give a decision after the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Currently, a wrestler can only wrestle 5 matches in one day, but the national federation of wrestling rules committee is in discussion about changing the rule to 6 matches.

2. **4A Conference AD of the Year** – Mr. Belden asked for biographies for the Athletic Director of the Year nominees.  
Phil Grunesfelder – Salpointe Catholic  
Ron Safcik – Shadow Mountain  
The 4A Committee selected **Ron Safcik for AD of the Year**

3. **Rookie of the Year 4A** – Belden

This award is given to an AD that has been in the job 3 years or less and is willing to be involved at the Local and State level. The next meeting of AIAAA will meet on 4/19 where Ms. Townsend will present the 4A nominees.

Nominees for this award for 4A are:

Southwest– Joe Kinney

Grand Canyon – Missy Townsend

**The Reps selected Missy Townsend, Prescott AD, Grand Canyon Region as the 4A nominee.**

**The NIAAA Distinguished Service Award** is presented based off of length of service, special accomplishments, and contributions to athletic administration at the Local, State and National levels.

**Citation Award** is a NFHS award citing someone that makes significant contributions to NFHS or other national organizations that have impacted high school athletic activities, has long standing and distinguished record of involvement in high school athletic activities at the local and state levels, and recognized by colleagues to be the best in their profession.

**State Award of Merit** is recognizing meritorious service and special contributions at the local and state levels.

**Special Commendation Award** is an AIAAA special award.

4A Nominees are:

**Glendale HS – Julie Patton – DSA**

**Washington HS – Eric Zimmerman - State Award of Merit**

**Youngker HS – Rob Roberson – Citation**

4. **All Region Baseball/Softball Meeting Dates** – Belden

Mr. Belden asked Reps to have the region teams done and posted on AZPreps by 4/27 for baseball/softball, play-in games will be on 4/25. Whomever is hosting region meetings must be sure that Offensive/Defensive POY must be listed on all region first team. Reps should send schools/coaches the region voting list showing what positions they are selecting. The All Conference survey will be done by 5/1. The survey will close the week after the State Championship.

5. **Release of Schedules** – Belden

Lots of inquiries from schools about schedules (mostly football) so homecomings, etc. can be scheduled. Fall schedules are complete and can be released. 4A is working on the winter schedules now. Mr. Belden asked if the 4A Conference Reps are good with the fall schedules being released. All agreed to release. Mr. Belden will email Mr. Bolitho to have the fall schedules released. Canyon View Frosh team needs games.

6. **Region Rep Selection for 2018-19** – Belden

Need reps for the next block so they can attend the 4/23 meeting:

Desert Sky – Kraig Leuschner

Skyline – Ron Safcik

Kino – Ty Cephers

Gila – Jonathan Chavez

West Valley – Scott Warner

7. **April 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting** – Xavier 9:15a – Belden

The big meeting will be in the auditorium – 4A will go to a pod (auditorium seating). At that meeting, Reps will need to sit up front for discussions. Mr. Belden will forward the meeting agenda.

8. **Division II Golf** - Belden

The Golf schedule is incomplete. Mr. Belden met with Mr. Sivertson a week ago to discuss needs and offer assistance with scheduling. The South schedule is done (need to verify). The golf group needs to come together for scheduling completion. Boys schedule will be created first then have girls be opposite. Mr. Belden asked for names of coaches that would be willing to meet and create the schedules. Ms. Arredondo and Mr. Safcik will ask the Eastside boys' golf coaches and Mr. Belden will ask a GUHSD coach for West valley, Mr. Wright will seek someone from the Southwest region. Craig Mai in the North has a schedule built, Mr. Visser may be able to suggest names as well. Knowledge of courses will help with this task.

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#### **ADD ON ITEMS:**

##### **\*Ejection of Spectators – Safcik**

Mr. Safcik would like to see the practice of the assigned official going to the AD working the event with the concern before kicking a spectator out of the venue. This does not give the AD an opportunity to get to the person first to correct the concern or remove the spectator.

##### **\*Concerns about Officials' Relationship with Coaches – Zimmerman**

Mr. Zimmerman discussed how to foster better relationships with officials to keep from escalating situations with the crowd. The two way communication piece must improve between coaches and officials. This could defuse crowd reaction. Ms. Townsend shared that she has a solid relationship with the Area Commissioner for Officials in the North. He is receptive to information on officials, communicates well, and takes action where needed.

##### **\*Glen Treadaway Award Nominees** will need to be selected. Schools discussed were:

Canyon Del Oro, Combs, Estrella Foothills, Douglas, Gila Ridge, Metro Tech, Seton Catholic Salpointe Catholic, Rio Rico, Yuma. Voting will take place at the 4/2 meeting.

Two candidate schools were selected: **Estrella Foothills and Rio Rico**

#### **Future Items:**

New Region Reps will be invited to the 4/23 meeting.

Football Realignment Reps – we need representation from Grand Canyon, Valley, and South – or possibly adding fourth rep (to cover the valley area). If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please email Mr. Belden.

**Good of the order: none**

**Adjourned: 12:15**