

**Arizona Interscholastic Association
Football Sports Advisory Committee**

Date: April 22, 2020

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: ZOOM meeting

MEETING ATTENDEES:

Committee Members:

- 1A - Dalton Mills, Bagdad & Lee Haws, Ft. Thomas; 2A - David Peters, Az. Lutheran & Don Conrad, Thatcher; 3A – Kevin Standefer, Snowflake & Dave Inness, NW Christian; 4A - Brian Walker, Tempe & Matt Mayo, Seton; 5A - Greg Davis, Paradise Valley & Kevin Belcher, Fairfax (Chairman); 6A - Nick Gehrts, Westview & Dave Huffine, Mesa.
- **Absent:** Don Conrad unable to log onto Zoom.

AIA Staff Members:

- David Hines – AIA Executive Director; Joe Paddock – AIA Asst. Executive Director; Dean Visser - AIA Sports Administrator; Brian Gessner – AIA Commissioner of Officials; Tyler Cerimeli – AIA Officials Dept.; Brian Bolitho – AIA Director of Business Development; Dan Nero – AIA FB Tournament Coordinator.

Guests:

- None

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Approval of Minutes**

FB SAC meeting Dec 18, 2019 – Unanimous.

2. **AIA Officials Dept. Items-**

- NFHS information

Tyler Cerimeli explained:

- 1) Please send game films to AIA Officials Department for evaluation.
- 2) FB rules changes include:
 - a) During pregame, Officials will be asking for decision designee for penalties, etc.
 - b) 40 second clock will be set after an injury.
 - c) 25 second clock after any kick.
 - d) Player can spike or “clock” the ball from shotgun.
 - e) Disconcerting acts now 5 yard penalty - such as defense yelling signals and jumping around intentionally. No automatic first down no unsportsmanlike conduct.

- f) Lightning delay within three minutes of the first half. If both teams agree halftime can be adjusted.
- g) Players with improper equipment will be sent off to fix the problem, no longer will the game be stopped.

- Mercy Rule.

Brian Gessner explained the rule and requested change:

Change going to the AIA Executive Board (by FB SAC unanimous 11-0 vote):

Game clock will not revert back to normal timing once the 42 point differential in the second half is reached or reduced. As before, game clock will revert back to normal timing for the last two minutes of the game. ****Approved by AIA Exec Board May 2020 for Fall 2020****

3. **1A Items-**

Dan Nero – As was discussed in Dec 2019, please alert the AIA of field conditions which may pose a concern, especially moving into state playoffs.

4. **2A Items-**

David Peter (AZ Lutheran)

- Discussion of recommended delayed start dates to fall practices / contests if necessary.

Brian G. - AIA in a wait-and-see situation many variables including State guidelines.

Dave Huffine - asked if the AIA is looking at NCAA ideas? Brian G. - not at this time. Dave Peter - offered as small school - can get a team ready in four weeks to play a game.

- Can we please get a schedule? There are things like Homecoming that our school and community need to plan for and we cannot without this.

Brian G. - we are all waiting on schedules pending litigation early May. Dan N. - Any schedules that may be out there may be incorrect including those thought to be circulated by some 2A schools.

- Was there supposed to be a new mandatory test that had to be completed before this upcoming season? If so, can we PLEASE curb that since school has been cancelled and we do not know when we will have access to our students for them to complete this test?

Dan N. - Opioid awareness (similar to Brain Book concussion awareness) will be required and more information once we find out the start of school process and dates.

5. 3A Items-

David Inness (NW Christian)

- 2A-3A Open Division State Playoffs; this would allow more teams into the State Playoffs and let the best team compete for the Championship and the 2A & 3A would have new schools competing for the Title.

Kevin B. - Open division for 2A and 3A Conferences was discussed by football reclassification committee, but there were concerns of “watering down the field” and this did not have substantial support.

- Have State Playoff games stick on either Friday or Saturday. Over the past couple of years the 1st Round and 2nd Round are on Friday night and the Semi Finals is on Saturday night and Championship back on Friday night. Dan N. - 3A Leadership has decided to have FB Semis on Friday Nov 20, 2020.
- State Championship game at a different venue besides a High School, like a Jr. College Field or back at NAU. Dan N. - looking at multiple venues such as NAU, UA, and ASU. Junior college is not an option as they have no football, some soccer and concerns of football chewing up the soccer turf. Multiple challenges in getting big venue done Friday of Thanksgiving week. Kevin Standefer of 3A said the 3A would consider moving to the following first week of December to get a bigger venue.

Randy Ricedorf (ALA-Gilbert-North)

- State Championship venue; could we go back to NAU? Grand Canyon? Jr. Colleges?

Dan N. - These venues would be under consideration. The 2A/3A Leadership has decided this Spring 2020 to have championship games at HS venues for Fall 2020.

Richard Ormand (Payson)

- Does not like the scheduling process and is concerned about losing a rivalry game with Fountain Hills (Battle of the Beeline with a Trophy). Kevin B. - scheduling done by the conferences including cross conference games per direction of the reclassification committee.

Willie Dudley (Fountain Hills AD) & Jason Henslin (Fountain Hills Head Coach)

- Semi Finals and Championship game played somewhere other than a high school venue, similar to the 90's and 2000's at MCC. Kevin B. – discussed previously above.

Tres Chapman (Coolidge)

- For both the 2A & 3A create a Rural and Metro State playoff bracket. 8 teams in the Rural Playoff and 8 teams in the Metro Playoff bracket. **Kevin S. briefly discussed the attached Rural and Metro brackets, and mentioned this would be brought to the 3A Leadership.**

Kevin Standerfer (Snowflake) - Kevin S. Discussed and will present to the 3A conference.

- I am bringing something forward to the 3A Conference about playing a regular season with all schools in the 2A/3A, but for the playoffs separate into a small playoff with Rural School Playoff and Metro School Playoff. ****See the attachments for the division between Rural and Metro**.**

6. 4A/5A Items-

Greg Davis (Paradise Valley)

- A topic that might need to be explored is, what happens with private schools that have a huge hit in enrollment because people can no longer afford it? I was talking with a coach that fears that happening and them being stuck in a division that they should not be in. **Brian Walker and Matt Mayo also had concerns with 4A schools (possible numbers of athletes concerns) playing games vs. 5A schools?? David P. – Added that in CIF, if a school has a documented 15% drop in enrollment, the school can appeal to drop a level down. Dan N. and Brian G. - Understood that this could be an issue this fall. AIA Executive Board has not had anything formally presented with these concerns, but would take under consideration.**

7. 6A Items-

Josh Sekoch (Valley Vista)

- Can we push to move the start of the season back, July 27? **Brian G. – several possibilities under consideration by the AIA Executive Board.**

Brock Farrell (Highland)

- Weighted categories for games since best teams from each conference moved up. i.e. 6A opponents are weighted more heavily than 5A or 4A when it comes to getting into the open division playoffs. Or something like that to account for the movement of teams up divisions. If the best teams are playing each other and split, but a team in 4A goes 9-1, we may have a team mathematically in the open that is not really one of the best 8 teams in the state. The open was great for AZ football and should stay, but there needs to be some adjustment. **Dan N. - in discussion with AIA's Brian Bolitho, the AIA Maxpreps ranking system takes into consideration multiple levels of competition, this is why cross conference scheduling is beneficial to a better ranking system. Weighting of schedules/teams is not part of the AIA Maxpreps system.**

Dana Zupke (Pinnacle)

- 40 quarter rule.
Kevin B. - much discussion again on this topic. Mr. Belcher will formulate and draft ideas to be presented to the 4A/5A/6A conference leadership regarding a “40 quarter rule.” It is understood the AIA SMAC would need to support this.
- Hudl and film trade. Hudl has a competitor: qwikcut. I would be interested in seeing that competition grow. To that end, I would like some discussion about adding language that makes it clear that we do not have to use hudl.
- Film trade. The Mountain Pointe thing really put a spotlight on ethics with regard to sharing film etc. Some might argue that it is violating the unfair advantage rule if you acquire film in any way other than a direct exchange with an opponent. However, we all know that coaches are sharing film in other ways. There’s almost no direct exchanges on lower levels. I propose that we have a clear position on this so the AIA doesn’t decide for us. **It was understood that this should be brought to the Executive Board through the Conferences.**

Michael Zdebski (Hamilton)

- Create a pool of film in each region where teams can access any game they want from any team.
- Move JV games to Mondays - any varsity player can play in that game and still play in a varsity game that Friday if they played in 10 or less plays the prior Friday night. Freshman games Thursday. This means eliminate or adjust the current quarter rule.
- Exchange sideline -end zone cut up marked with ODK, DD, Quarter, run/pass.
- Use all 7 man crews. **Brian G. – said this was the goal of the AIA Officials Dept: 15 seven member crews were used two years ago, 15 in the fall of 2019.**
- Have the NFHS use college rules when it comes to dress code and uniform rules. **Brian G. – only Texas uses NCAA rules. AIA does not want to jeopardize the ability to vote on NFHS rules changes if AIA goes against NFHS regulations.**
- Semi Final playoff games at the best stadiums in AZ or just play a home game there too. **4A/5A/6A Conferences this spring agreed to play FB semis at high seeds in fall 2020. District can move to another site if needed.**
- All state finals at ASU. Play 3 games per day. Friday 1-3-5 (1pm, 4pm, 7pm)
Saturday 2-4-6- Open (10am, 1pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm). **As mentioned, AIA staff always working with multiple venues.**
- Allow freshman and JV to scrimmage
- Have two preseason scrimmages. 1 and 2 weeks prior to 1st game.
- Spring ball allows helmets. **Many opinions, and some concerns with aggressiveness. Brian W. – felt this would give more time to teach tackling.**

Dan N. - these items would need to be brought to the AIA SMAC, Executive Board and/or Legislative Council by one or more Conferences.

Richard Taylor (Centennial)

- 6 quarters a week If a player is on special teams on varsity he could never get to play in a JV game. 40 quarter rule to be brought by Conferences to Exec. Board.
- Rule change if a transfer came in he could play right away but would be ineligible for playoffs. Dan N. - This method has been used in states like Ohio. Has met legal challenges. Little support of this FB SAC.

8. **Other Items/New Business-**

9. **Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday Dec 9th 2020

Adjourned – Approx. 12 noon