

**ARTICLE 25**

**FLAG FOOTBALL**

**25.1 RULES**

- 25.1.1 Official rules for Flag Football shall be the current rules approved by the AIA Executive Board.
- 25.1.2 School athletic programs at all levels are subject to disciplinary action when a school team is removed from the floor or field prior to completion of the contest.
- 25.1.3 Varsity games ending in a tie at the end of regulation play shall utilize the “Overtime” rules as found in the AIA Arizona Girls’ Flag Football Rulebook.
- 25.1.4 Mercy Rule – The clock will continue to run once a team is ahead by at least 28 points, except during time-outs, at the end of a quarter, and during an injury time-out.

**25.2 SEASON OF SPORT**

- 25.2.1 The AIA Standardized Calendar shall be used to identify the starting week for practice, competition, and the conclusion of post-season competition.
- 25.2.2 The season of competition for a school shall conclude with that school's last AIA sanctioned competition.
- 25.2.3 

<u>Fall Season</u> (Girls)	Practice Season of Competition Championship	no sooner than the begins Monday of the to be concluded by the	6 <sup>th</sup> week 11 <sup>th</sup> week 25 <sup>th</sup> week
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- 25.2.4 **Pre-Competition Practice** – Practice shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the guidelines set forth in Bylaw 43.5.1 – Heat Acclimatization Protocol, where applicable.

**25.3 PRESEASON INTERSCHOOL VARSITY SCRIMMAGE**

- 25.3.1 One preseason interschool varsity scrimmage may be held; this scrimmage is considered a practice and shall not count toward the allowable number of games.
  - 25.3.1.1 The varsity scrimmage shall be scheduled the week prior to the AIA date of competition; individual players must have participated in at least eight practice sessions and completed the requirements of AIA Bylaw 43.5 – Heat Acclimatization.
  - 25.3.1.2 The following guidelines shall be used:
    - Scrimmage is open to the public, charging admission is at the discretion of the host school.
    - Scoreboards shall not be used.
    - No official score may be kept (recorded) or reported.
    - Game uniforms shall not be worn; numbered jerseys may be used.
    - AIA officials may be used.
    - Unlimited substitution and re-entry of players.
    - Coaching is permitted during play.
    - Timeouts are unlimited.
    - Other adjustments mutually agreed upon by coaches and officials before the scrimmage begins; adjustments cannot be less restrictive than the guidelines or sport policy.
  - 25.3.1.3 Limits:
    - 25.3.1.3.1 Scrimmage length shall not exceed two (2) hours on the field.
  - 25.3.1.4 Schools may hold multi-school scrimmages while adhering to Article 25.3.

**25.4 SCHEDULES**

- 25.4.1 If scheduling difficulties occur, schedules may be increased by one match. The additional match shall be approved by the AIA Executive Board.

**25.5 NUMBER OF GAMES IN SEASON**

- 25.5.1 No school shall schedule more than 13 varsity games, including one invitational which shall count as one game each.
- 25.5.2 No school shall schedule more than 12 junior varsity or 12 FR/SO games per team.
- 25.5.3 No player shall participate in more than 13 games during the season, excluding qualifying and post-season tournaments.

**25.6 CONTEST PARTICIPATION**

- 25.6.1 When a student enters an interscholastic contest, regardless of the length of time, it shall be considered participation in the interscholastic contest.

**25.7 INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION**

- 25.7.1 Any school, regardless of Division, may compete with any other school in good standing.
- 25.7.2 The football to be used shall meet the requirements found in the AIA Arizona Girls' Flag Football Rulebook.

**25.8 COACHES / COACHING**

- 25.8.1 The AIA shall not have regulations concerning coaches coaching their own school teams outside of the AIA defined season of sport.
- 25.8.2 Coaches / Players - Game participation outside the season of sport between coaches and players of a single school for fund raising or entertainment purposes will not jeopardize the eligibility of any high school player.
- 25.8.3 Attendance shall be voluntary, and no student athlete shall be prohibited from participating on the team for failing to attend the out-of-season activity.

**25.9 SCHOOL EQUIPMENT**

- 25.9.1 School Transportation - School provided transportation for activities is a local option.
- 25.9.2 School equipment outside of the season of sport is a local option.

**25.10 POST-SEASON TOURNAMENTS**

- 25.10.1 Post-Season Tournaments  
*NOTE: See Article 12 for additional post-season tournament rules.*
- 25.10.1.1 Dates and Sites
- 25.10.1.1.1 The AIA Executive Board shall determine the dates and sites of post-season tournaments.
- 25.10.1.2 There shall be team post-season tournament(s) as approved by the Executive Board.
- 25.10.1.2.1 School must play a minimum of eight (8) games in order to qualify for post season play.
- 25.10.1.3 The type of tournament shall be determined by the AIA Executive Board.
- 25.10.1.4 The football to be used shall meet the requirements found in the AIA Arizona Girls' Flag Football Rulebook.
- 25.10.1.5 Seeding for the post-season tournament shall be based on AIA power ranking system if available and/or the AIA section qualifying process.
- 25.10.1.6 Single elimination tournament(s) shall be used.
- 25.10.2 Awards - The AIA shall be responsible for the purchase and standardization of all post-season tournament awards. (See Article 13, Section 1).

25.10.3 Practice on Site - A practice or competition on the site of the Post-Season Championship Tournament, except for a regularly scheduled contest, is not permitted for seven calendar days prior to the Post-Season Championship, except in the case of the host school.

*DETERMINATION: The host school may participate at the site only if that is their regular practice site.*

25.10.4 Unmanned aerial systems at AIA post season events.

25.10.4.1 The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at all AIA post season events. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium/field/arena structure. For the purpose of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.

**25.11 UNIFIED FLAG FOOTBALL** – A joint effort between the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) and Special Olympics of Arizona (SOAZ) to incorporate Unified programs in AIA member schools recognizing and offering opportunities for SOAZ athletes and partners to compete in an AIA sanctioned activity. Unified Flag Football programs shall be administered by each participating member school and follow the requirements per AIA Bylaws for eligibility, rules and program administration, unless otherwise stated below.

25.11.1 Official rules for Unified Flag Football shall be those published by the SOAZ and AIA prior to each season, as approved by the AIA Executive Board. See Article 35.

