



**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
September 22, 2022**

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 Thursday, September 22, 2022 at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

President Jim Dean called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

Members in Attendance:

William Duarte, 1A Conference (Superior Jr/Sr High School)
Ricky Greer, 2A Conference (Hopi Jr./Sr. High School)
Toni Corona, CAA, 3A Conference (Safford High School)
Jim Dean, Ed.D., 5A Conference (Dysart School District)
Jennifer Burks, 6A Conference (Perry High School)
Tim Carter, Cognia (Yavapai County School Superintendent)
Renee Regoli, Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (Dobson High School)
David Hines, AIA Executive Director

Members Absent:

Matt Belden, 4A Conference (Glendale Union School District)
Jim Love, Arizona School Boards Association (Flowing Wells Unified School District)

AIA Staff Present:

Mark Mignella, Legal Counsel
Joe Paddock, Associate Executive Director
Tayler Coady, Executive Administrative Assistant
Naomi Vaughn, Director of Special Projects
Brian Gessner, State Commissioner of Officials
Dean Visser, Director of Athletics and Activities
Dan Nero, Director of Athletics
Tyler Cerimeli, Director of Athletics & Officials
Mary Wimmer, Tournament Coordinator

Guests:

Tommy Eubanks, Mesa District

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried, President Dean, in accordance with Article 6, Section 3, Paragraph 3, Subparagraph 2 of the AIA Constitution, called for the following Executive Sessions to receive report from legal counsel:

- ✓ 8:30am – 8:48am

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

- Perry High School, mentioned the hardships that Thursday night Football games are causing (student support at volleyball games and swim meets, short staffed in athletic trainers and officials)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- AIAAA held in Prescott from September 10th-13th. Five members of AIA Staff were in attendance to lead question and answer session of the conference. The sessions were successful, and the conference was well attended.
- Four members of the AIA Staff attended the annual Sections 7/8 meeting on September 18th-21st.
- Football promotion video created by the Southern California region of CIF was played, highlighting students who have gone on to play at collegiate and professional levels.
- On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Executive Board requests that Rio Rico High School administration attends the next board meeting and provide a copy of the investigative report.
- Update on Girls Flag Football survey that was sent to the membership.
- AIA Staff will continue working on Strategic Planning and Priorities for the year.

ACTION ITEMS:**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

On a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Executive Board **approved** the following consent agenda items.

Approval of Minutes

- August 15, 2022 Board Meeting
- August 30, 2022 Hardship Appeals
- September 6, 2022 Hardship Appeals
- 2A North Region Conference Meeting, August 5, 2022
- 3A Conference Meeting, August 11, 2022
- 5A Conference Meeting, September 11, 2022

AIA Lifetime Passes

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 11 AIA Passes. Paragraph 1 Lifetime Passes

1. Gregg Pestka	Shadow Mountain	29 Years
2. Lori Showers	Camp Verde	29 Years
3. Trina Ganster	Scottsdale	31 Years
4. Teresa Hill	Walden Grove	29 Years
5. Will Babb	Liberty	28 Years
6. David Hyams	Officials	35 Years
7. Don Logan	Officials	28 Years

FINANCIAL REPORT

In accordance with Article 6, Section 5, Paragraph 15 of the AIA Bylaws, the Executive Board **approved** the following financial reports:

- ✓ Financial Report for August 2022

CANCELLATION REQUESTS – CONTEST AND/OR PROGRAMS

In accordance with Article 11, Section 4, Paragraph 3, Subparagraph 1 of the AIA Bylaws, the Executive Board **approved** the following cancellation request for a varsity, junior varsity, freshman program(s) that could have a bearing on regional or state playoffs:

<u>SCHOOL REQUESTING:</u>	<u>HEREBY CONSENT:</u>
1. Glendale Prep	VAR Boys & Girls Swim
2. Kingman	VAR Girls Golf
3. Maricopa	VAR Boys Golf
4. San Tan Charter	VAR Boys & Girls XC
5. ALA Anthem South	VAR Boys & Girls XC
6. La Joya Community	VAR Girls Golf
7. Apache Junction	VAR Girls Golf
8. Apache Junction	VAR Boys & Girls XC
9. Camelback	VAR Girls Badminton
10. Ray	VAR Boys & Girls XC
11. McClintock	VAR Boys Golf
12. Santa Rita	VAR Boys Golf
13. PDS	VAR Girls Volleyball
14. Wickenburg	VAR Boys & Girls XC
15. Anthem Prep	VAR Boys & Girls Swim
16. Palo Verde Magnet	VAR Boys Golf
17. Desert Sunrise	VAR Girls Golf

26 Sub Varsity Program Cancellations

<u>SCHOOL REQUESTING:</u>	<u>HEREBY DOES NOT CONSENT:</u>
1. Veritas Prep	Florence – VAR Football
2. Santa Rita	Cortez – VAR Football
3. Catalina	Cortez – VAR Football
4. Notre Dame Prep	Chandler – JV Football

SPIRITLINE TRANSFER RULE

5. **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS** – Spiritline will be required to meet eligibility requirements stipulated in Article 15 of the AIA Bylaws, **with the exception of the Transfer Rule.**

SOFTBALL/BASEBALL COACHES HELMETS

After further discussion and research by AIA Staff, it came to staff's attention that NOSCAE does not certify baseball and softball helmets. On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Executive Board approved to modify coaches helmet rule. Any Coach in the Coaches Box must wear a helmet.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL – The Gregory School

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Executive Board **approved** the above Student Eligibility Appeal.

Tim Carter, William Duarte, Jerry Jennex abstained from the vote.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL – PAPER REVIEW**REQUEST FOR HARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY – MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION**

Rule: Article 15, Student Eligibility Rules, Section 9 Maximum Participation.

15.9 **MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION RULE** – After a student first enrolls in the ninth grade, he/she has a maximum of eight semesters of opportunity and a maximum of four seasons of opportunity in each sport or activity. **Semesters 1-8 must be consecutive.**

- Desert View High School

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Executive Board **denied** the above Student Eligibility Appeal.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL – PAPER REVIEW**REQUEST FOR HARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY – LEGAL GUARDIAN**

Rule: Article 15, Student Eligibility Rules, Section 5 Domicile Rule, Paragraph 3 Special Domicile Placements, Subparagraph 2 Legal Guardian

15.5.3.2 *Legal Guardian* - Except in the case of a foreign exchange student or an international student under 15.15, a student for whom a legal guardian has been appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction may be declared eligible at the school in attendance zone in which said legal guardian is domicile by petitioning as outlined in the AIA Bylaws under Article 15, Section 15.14 Hardship. (Form 15.5.3). For purposes of this rule, a court of competent jurisdiction does not include courts outside the United States.

DETERMINATION: The AIA Executive Director, as designee of the AIA Executive Board, may rule on the eligibility of a student for whom a legal guardian has been appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction. (Ex. Bd. 4/15/96)

- **EXCEPTION:** If a legal guardianship appointment has been in effect for at least two years prior to the student's participation in interscholastic competition, it shall not be necessary to petition the AIA Executive Board for domicile hardship eligibility.
- The use in interscholastic competition of a student for whom a legal guardian has been appointed, without compliance with the above requirements, shall constitute the use of an ineligible player.
- Where it is determined by the Executive Board that athletic motivation and/or circumvention of AIA domicile requirements is involved in the legal guardianship, this is sufficient in and of itself for denial of the hardship request (see 15.14.2.4).

1. Combs High School
2. Tombstone High School

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Executive Board **approved** the above Student Eligibility Appeals.

3. ALA Ironwood

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Executive Board **approved** the above Student Eligibility Appeal, with the condition that member school provide the court findings after October 6th court action.

REQUEST SEASON OF SPORT EXTENSION – Cross Country 2A

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Executive Board **approved** the 2A Conference request to extend the 2A North Region Cross Country Tournament.

DIVISION APPEAL – Boys Volleyball – ALA Gilbert North

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Executive Board **approved** the request of ALA Gilbert North Boys Volleyball to move up to 5A. Opposing school must consent to any schedule changes.

ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

- A. **The Gregory School** – an additional VAR Boys Soccer game to help fill **Madison Highland Prep's** schedule.
- B. **San Tan Foothills** – an additional JV girls' volleyball game to help fill **Hayden High School's** schedule.
- C. **Benjamin Franklin** – an VAR Boys Soccer game to help fill **Phoenix Country Day's** schedule.
- D. **Madison Highland Prep** – a VAR boys' soccer game to help fill **Pima High School's** schedule.

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Executive Board **approved** the above additional game requests.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS**GILBERT CLASSICAL ACADEMY** – *Gilbert Public Schools*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility, Section 7, Physical Examination Rules

Reported Violation:

A 10th grade student told the coach he was cleared to practice. The coach did not double check with Administrator or check on Register My Athlete to see if he was cleared. Although the athlete had the physical completed, it was not uploaded or on file that day. Administration noticed, held him out immediately until the paperwork was properly uploaded.

Schools Corrective Action:

Athletic Director met with both coaches, reviewed our school, district, and AIA Policies that go over clearance protocols. It was reviewed in the coaches meeting as well. Coaches committed to have access, print out for up to date clearance regularly, and committed to double check with admin.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Gilbert Classical Academy **Cross Country Program** on **Warning** for one year 9/22/22-9/22/23.

HOLBROOK HIGH SCHOOL – *Holbrook School District #3*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility, Section 7, Physical Examination Rules

Reported Violation:

We had a freshman girls soccer athlete participate in soccer practice without a cleared physical examination. This player said she was unaware that she needed a physical. Our coach initially thought she was a different freshman player who was cleared. This player has not competed in any games thus far as she does not have her required number of practices in. She is obtaining her physical by the end of this week. She will not be practicing any further until physical and proper paperwork is completed.

Schools Corrective Action:

Upon discovering this issue yesterday afternoon, (08/29) while in the process of doing a double check on athletic clearance before teams get into action, it was discovered we had a student practicing girls soccer without a physical. This student has not yet played in a contest. Due to this oversight of having a player practice without a physical we are adding another level of checks and balances to our athletic clearing process. We are also suspending our head girls soccer coach for the next two regular season matches. 08/31 vs. Payson and 09/14 vs. Northland Prep. I will also meet with all head coaches, school wide, next week and review our procedures and why we need to check and double check clearance of all athletes before they are allowed to compete in practices and/or games.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed Holbrook High School **Girls Soccer Program** on **Warning** for one year 9/22/22-9/22/23.

BLUE RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL – *Blue Ridge Unified*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility, Section 7, Physical Examination Rules

Reported Violation:

A 10th and 11th grader did not submit physicals and consent to treat form before they practiced. We have a new JV Boys coach and he did not follow through with these players, head coach, and AD to make sure the players were cleared to practice. However none of these players have participated in a game. The 10th grade student has never played sports and the 11th grade student is a foreign exchange student.

Schools Corrective Action:

- I have notified all counselors to identify any incoming student athletes and to send them to my office upon enrollment
- I have spoken with all the coaches and anyone who was not on their roster the previous season needs to send them to my office so I can clear them or make sure they are cleared
- I will make it a point to connect with any players not on the cleared list
- My JV and Head Boys soccer coach have been educated on the rule violation and why it is important to follow the bylaws
- Coaches have been put on warning status and the next violation of any AIA bylaw will result in suspension
- Our 2 students will start their eight practice once they are cleared through Register My Athlete

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed Blue Ridge High School **Boys Soccer Program** on **Warning** for one year 9/22/22-9/22/23.

PUSCH RIDGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility, Section 7, Physical Examination Rules

Reported Violation:

On August 4th, 2022 it was found that a football player at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy practiced without a current physical on file. See back up materials for more information.

Schools Corrective Action:

Our first corrective action is ensuring that we will have an athletic administrator present for the reading of rosters during the first week of practice. This will ensure that if an athlete is at practice, but not on the roster during the first week, they will not be missed.

Our second corrective action is going to be educating all our coaches on the safety issue that not practicing with a physical causes. Had this athlete had a medical emergency while he was practicing without a physical, we would have been unprepared to assist them properly in that situation. We informed Joe Paddock of the incident after it occurred, and we told him that a written violation would follow in the following weeks.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed Pusch Ridge Christian Academy **Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 9/22/22-9/22/23.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

GILBERT HIGH SCHOOL – *Gilbert Public Schools*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule

Reported Violation:

Transfer student competed in Tri-match on August 18th. See back up materials for more information.

Schools Corrective Action:

Student to sit out the amount of matches they are intended to sit out heading into the season. The AD will print out eligible rosters to all coaches prior to the start of each season, to re-ensure they are aware of all eligibility requirements.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed Gilbert High School **Boys Golf Program** on **Advisement** for one year 9/22/22-9/22/23.

SAHUARO HIGH SCHOOL – *Tucson Unified School District*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule

Reported Violation:

Student participated in the cross country dual meet on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. She was a transfer from Tempe, Corona Del Sol and should have sat out 50% of the season.

Schools Corrective Action:

- Coaches will have a formal documentation process by creating an ineligible/do not compete list that will be shared with all coaches. The list will include the date the student-athlete will be eligible to compete.
- Create a weekly coaches staff meeting (paid/volunteer) to improve communication and exchange information.
- Create a more open line of communication with the student-athlete and their family.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed Sahuaro High School **Girls Cross Country Program** on **Advisement** for one year 9/22/22-9/22/23.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**SEQUOIA PATHWAY ACADEMY** – *Edkey Schools*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule

Reported Violation:

After receiving notification that our football team may have played ineligible players, the investigation found this true. The players named did participate in a Varsity game versus Trivium Prep on August 26, 2022. We will forfeit this contest due to the violation of article 15, section 10, paragraph 2. The players will sit the mandatory five games starting September 2, 2022, returning October 7, 2022/ Adhering to transfer rule 15.10. See backup materials for more information.

Schools Corrective Action:

We will establish a new standard operation procedure to prevent this violation's recurrence. The following will occur; the AD will provide professional development for all coaches concerning sports-specific rules and bylaws. Along with attending a bylaw workshop, myself included, it will happen yearly and get added to our coaching handbook. Each coach will sign a signature agreement acknowledging the understanding of the bylaws.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed Sequoia Pathway Academy **Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 9/22/22-9/22/23.

HOPHI HIGH SCHOOL

Rule: Article 16. Penalties and Appeals, Section 3, Sportsmanship Rule

Reported Violation:

Throughout our investigation, it became clear that the environment surrounding our bylaw violation during the varsity football game at Ganado on September 2nd was a perfect storm. Ganado has experienced a great deal of transition over the summer including 2 separate AD's. Their current AD was hired for a different position in July and was given the AD responsibilities on top of in August. In talking with their principal over the phone, she stated that she wasn't present for the majority of the game. She arrived at the beginning of the 4th quarter. I fully intended to attend the game due to those circumstances but became ill Thursday and didn't attend. As a result, Hopi didn't have an administrator present to assist. That was a major in preventing the behavior. (See backup materials for additional information).

Schools Corrective Action:

Statement and apology sent to Ganado, game officials, officials department, and released to our staff and community. (See attached). Held a coaches meeting and educated on our expectations and sportsmanship implementing the Inside Out Initiative along with Character Matters curriculum to improve our overall department and school culture. Increase signage and handouts regarding sportsmanship at all games/events.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed Hopi High School Activities **Program** on **Warning** for one year 9/22/22-9/22/23.

REQUEST TO AMEND 26.2 SEASON OF SPORT – Soccer

Discussion took place regarding the change of start date for winter soccer. It was requested that the practice date begin the 18th week for all conferences and competition begin either the 21st week or the 22nd week.

On a motion made, seconded and carried, the Executive Board tabled the discussion to the October 17th Board Meeting for further discussion after hearing from 2A-6A Conferences.

FUTURE DATES

September 29, 2022	Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting
October 17, 2022	Executive Board Meeting
October 18, 2022	Winter Sports Hardship Deadline
October 25-26, 2022	Winter Sports Hardship
October 28, 2022	Winter Sports Coaches Meeting Deadline

There being no further business, and on a motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hines
Executive Director