

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 Monday, March 20, 2023 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)
Matt Belden, 4A Conference (Glendale Union School District)
Jim Dean, Ed.D., 5A Conference (Dysart School District)
Jennifer Burks, 6A Conference (Perry High School)
Tim Carter, Cognia (Yavapai County School Superintendent)
Jerry Jennex, Arizona School Administrators (Globe Unified School District)
Renee Regoli, Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (Dobson High School)
David Hines, AIA Executive Director

Members Absent:

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 Brian Bolitho, Chief Business Development Officer Denise Doser, Chief Financial Officer 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:

Robert Villa, Coronado Robert Bonillas, Desert View Angelica Duddleston, Desert View Mike Bejarano, Desert View

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 9:00am
- ✓ 10:12am 10:17am
- ✓ 10:20am 10:57am

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS

Toni Corona and Ricky Greer discussed 2A and 3A conferences concerns regarding football scheduling for the 2024 season. They requested an item be added to the agenda regarding the season of sport for the 2024 football season.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Winter tournaments have concluded. A big thank you to the tournament directors and tournament workers for another successful winter tournament season. Wrestling finished with an overall increase of attendance from last year. Last minutes changes came up in the 4A girls' soccer finales to accommodate the two Tucson teams and the game was moved to Tucson High. The number of contests played in the basketball tournament increased with the addition of the Open Tournament. Congratulations to all the participants in the winter tournaments.

As a reminder the Athletic Director and Student Leadership Summit will be held at Xavier College Prep on Monday, April 10th from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Registration links have been sent out for both the Athletic Directors and Student Leaders. Registration will close on April 5th so make sure to get your students registered. Schools are permitted to bring up to six student athletes, with a balance of male and female participants.

Discussion regarding the Girls' Flag Football conferences took place. Currently 55 member schools have indicated interest in participating in the 2023 inaugural flag football season. With the high number of interested schools there could be a potential to divide the schools into two conferences. Deadline for schools to add Flag Football and be added to the scheduling list is March 31st. Schools may join as an independent at any time.

Sister Lynn Winsor from Xavier College Prep will be inducted into the National Federation of State High School Associations Hall of Fame during the summer meeting. Sister Lynn will be the 10th inductee of the Hall of Fame from Arizona. Congratulations to Sister Lynn, the honor is well deserved.

ACTION ITMES:

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Approval of Minutes

- Executive Board Meeting February 21, 2023
- Southern Arizona AD Meeting Minutes February 7, 2023, 2023
- 2A Conference Committee Meeting Minutes February 27, 2023
- 5A Conference Committee Meeting Minutes March 9, 2023

AIA Lifetime Passes

1.	Christopher Serafini	Tucson High	25 years
2.	Steve Kanner	Hamilton	26 years

REPLACEMENT OF A COMPLIMENTARY PASS

1. Salpointe Catholic High School – Alma Mejia-Garcia – Coach

Request for AIA Sanction/Intrastate and Interstate Activities – 2022-23 Master Calendar

In accordance with Article 10, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, the Executive Board approved the sanction requests for the intrastate and interstate activities reflected in the 2022-2023 Master Calendar. The master calendar is posted online at <u>http://www.aiaonline.org/calendar/?id=5</u>.

The Master Calendar, which is prepared by the AIA for its member schools, reflects activities (events) that have been sanctioned by the AIA Executive Board. It is the responsibility of each member school to limit its participation in these sanctioned activities to the maximum number of contests set forth in the AIA Bylaws.

FINANCIAL REPORT

In accordance with Article 6, Section 5, Paragraph 15 of the AIA Bylaws, the Executive Board **<u>approved</u>** the following financial report:

✓ Financial Report for February 2023

CANCELLATION REQUESTS – CONTEST AND/OR PROGRAMS

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

SCHOOL REQUESTING: HEREBY CONSENT: 1. Valley Union VAR Boys/Girls Tennis Program VAR Boys/Girls Track & Field Program 2. San Manuel 3. Gilbert Classical VAR Softball Program 4. Maryvale VAR Girls' Tennis Program 5. Mayer VAR Softball Program 6. St. Michael VAR Baseball Program 7. Palo Verde VAR Girls' Tennis Program 8. Santa Rita VAR Softball Program 9. Santa Rita VAR Boys' Tennis Program 10. Cactus Shadows VAR Beach Volleyball Program 11. Camelback VAR Baseball Program 12. Pueblo VAR Boys' Tennis Program 13. Carl Hayden VAR Boys' Tennis Program 14. NFL Yet VAR Boys' Volleyball Program VAR Baseball Program 15. San Pasqual 16. Red Mesa VAR Boys/Girls Track and Field Program 17. Scottsdale Christian VAR Boys' Tennis Program VAR Boys' Volleyball Program 18. Catalina

SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS - 60

CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 154 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)

ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Board **<u>approved</u>** the following requests:

- A. Agua Fria an additional VAR softball game to help fill Trivium Prep's schedule.
- B. Horizon an additional VAR baseball game to help fill Chandler's schedule.
- C. Catalina Foothills additional VAR/JV/FR/SO boys' volleyball games to help fill Rincon/UHS schedule.
- D. Eastmark an additional VAR/JV girl's tennis match to help fill Miami's schedule.
- E. Arcadia an additional VAR/JV beach volleyball game to help fill Veritas' schedule.
- F. St. Michael an additional VAR softball game to help fill San Carlos' schedule.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE – ARTICLE 25 – GIRLS' FLAG FOOTBALL

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board <u>approved</u> the policy and procedures for Girls' Flag Football for the 2023-2024 school year.

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board determined that Girls' Flag Football will be considered a team sport and will fall under the non-school participation and discrimination bylaws.

GIRLS' FLAG FOOTBALL – CONFERENCES

A total of 55 member schools have shown interest in participation for the 2023-2024 girls' flag football season requiring the potential need for multiple conferences.

As requested by the Executive Board, AIA Staff along with the Girls' Flag Football committee will establish conference placements for the 2023-2024 season. Once those placements are determined the Executive Board will review and finalize at the April meeting. A school may join as an independent after the placements and schedules have been created. The Executive Board, AIA staff and Girls' Flag Football committee will revisit the placements for the 2024-2026 two-year block.

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **<u>approved</u>** the above process to establish conference placements for the 2023-2024 season.

NEW MEMBER SCHOOLS – BALLOTING CONCLUDED

- Maryvale Preparatory Academy 1A
- Somerton High School 4A
- Music Mountain Jr./Sr. High School 1A

Based on the results from balloting the membership, on a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above schools to begin membership for the 2023-2024 school year.

NEW MEMBER SCHOOL

• Rough Rock High School

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board recommends Rough Rock High School reapply for membership next year for the 2024-2025 school year.

STUDENT ELIGIBLITY APPEAL

Marana High School

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **<u>approved</u>** the above eligibility appeal.

• Rancho Solano High School

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **<u>approved</u>** the above eligibility appeal.

<u>STUDENT ELIGIBLITY APPEAL – PAPER REVIEW</u> 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 <u>Legal Guardian</u> - 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.

<u>DETERMINATION</u>: 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)

- <u>EXCEPTION</u>: 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).
 - Casa Grande Union High School

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board <u>approved</u> the request from Casa Grande Union High School.

San Carlos High School

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board <u>denied</u> the request from San Carlos High School as the request does not meet the Legal Guardian/Ward of Court requirements.

HARDSHIP APPEALS

The following representatives entered the meeting for a student eligibility hardship appeal and left upon completion of their presentations:

Steve Botkin – AD, Parents, Student

Desert Vista David Klecka – AD, Parent, Student, Legal Counsel

Following review and discussion of the written and oral information presented, the Executive Board, in accordance with Article 15, Section 14 of the AIA Bylaws, granted / denied the following hardship eligibility requests:

<u>School/Appeal</u>	Granted/Denied	
Sahuaro	Granted	
Desert Vista	Denied	

APPEAL OF SCHOOL VIOLATION SANCTION

DESERT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL – Sunnyside Unified School District Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 12 Recruitment Rule (15.12.4.6)

Reported Violation:

Head girls' soccer coach sent a direct message to a student from another school.

Schools Corrective Action:

- The AD and Principal met with the coach for his explanation of the events that led to the violation. A clarification of the AIA bylaws, Article 15 was provided. There was also a review of the coaching expectations at Desert View HS.
- AD and AP will continue to provide training for all coaches at the beginning of each school year and throughout the season coaches' meetings.
- AD and/or AP will be responsible for clearing all information being posted on the Desert View sports' social media accounts.
- A letter of reprimand will be issues to the coach by the principal, who has been involved in the creation of the corrective action plan.
- The coach will register and complete the NFHS course: Social Media
- The coach will be suspended for the rest of the season. Any further violation of rules set by the AIA and/or Desert View HS may result in dismissal as a coach from Desert View.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Desert View High School **Girls' Soccer Program** on **Probation** for one year 2/21/23-2/21/24.

Based on new information provided, on a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **rescinded** the probation sanction and placed the Desert View High School girls' soccer program on **Warning** for one year 2/21/23-2/21/24.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL – Glendale Union High School District

Rule: Article 16. Penalties and Appeals, Section 2 Ineligible Player

Reported Violation:

Washington high school played two softball players who were academically ineligible for the first game of the Carl Hayden Softball tournament. Athletic office told the coach that the players were ineligible. Coach thought it was a pending week, which would have allowed the girls' to play. The pending week was the week prior. Coach did not see the email in her emails. Discovered email after game played. Girls' played during an academically ineligible week.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contests forfeited. Restated to coach the procedures for pending week and ineligible week. Weekly review of eligibility much be done by coach. Spoke with coach on the dates/timelines. Coach is aware.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, <u>accepted</u> the report from Washington High School.

Matt Belden abstained.

<u>SOUTH MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL</u> – Phoenix Union High School District Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 4 Nonschool Participation (14.4.1)

Reported Violation:

One of our varsity boys' soccer players played in a USYS National League P.R.O. tournament with his club team, Tuzos Academy 05, on December 3rd in Orlando, FL. This tournament falls within the interscholastic season of competition for soccer. South Mountain was unaware of this participation until it was reported to us, over 2 months after the violation.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contests forfeited. The boys' soccer coach was met with to ensure he completed understood bylaw 14.4.1. additionally, there was a meeting held with boys' soccer team in which the violation was outlined and the resulting forfeitures were explained. Prior to the start of the future soccer season, the bylaw will be a point of emphasis at pre-season parent meetings. In addition, an information parent letter, containing important eligibility rules will be included, will be distributed to all student-athletes who get cleared to participate in soccer.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the South Mountain High School **Boys' Soccer Program** on <u>Warning</u> for one year 3/20/23-3/20/24.

DESERT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL -

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule (15.10.1)

Reported Violation:

We received notice on 2/28 from Dan Fort at Phoenix Christian that a transfer student participated in four baseball games in their tournament. These games occurred on 2/22, 2/23, 2/24 and 2/25. Our coach states that he was unaware of the rule pertaining to tournaments and I take responsibility for that, he also stated that it was never his intention to knowingly violate said rule. When Mr. Fort made us aware of this potential violation, it wasn't his intent to report the violation, rather to make us aware, (as I wasn't in attendance) but we as an athletic department and school believe in teaching our students to always do what's right and accept responsibility leading us to file a self-report.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest Forfeited. The coach has been suspended for 5 games to send the message that even accidentally, these mistakes are unacceptable. Furthermore, we are prepared to forfeit all games the player participated in which resulted in two wins. We also will be meeting with all coaches to ensure they are completing their coaches workshops prior to seasons beginning, as well as setting a zero-tolerance policy for eligibility violations.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Desert Heights High School **Baseball Program** on <u>Advisement</u> for one year 3/20/23-3/20/24.

CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL – Scottsdale Unified School District

Rule: Article 16. Penalties and Appeals, Section 3 Sportsmanship Rule (16.3.2)

Reported Violation:

During a boys' soccer contest with Cortez, players and a coach from the Coronado bench left the bench area after an altercation began putting Coronado in violation of 16.3.

Schools Corrective Action:

- All players involved in leaving the bench area and involved in the physical altercation are not permitted to participate in any other sports.
- Coronado and Cortez declared the game a no-contest
- Coronado removed their team from participating in the state tournament.
- Head coach received a letter of direction along with a two-game suspension to start the 2023-2024 season.
- Assistant coach will be required to serve a two-game suspension for leaving the sideline during the altercation.
- Head coach was required to develop a plan to ensure that this type of incident will not occur in the future to be approved by the school and district athletic directors.
- All players will enter into a contract regarding conduct and sportsmanship prior to the 2023-2024 season.
- All players and coaches will be required to take the Sportsmanship Class through NFHS to be guided and discussed with the AD prior to being able to tryout.
- The team and coaches will meet with the AD every two weeks to discuss progress as well as areas of improvement during the 23-24 season.
- All players and coaches will participate in a program called Mindfulness First to assist in preventing further incidents and boosters will assist in paying for the program.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Coronado High School **Boys' Soccer Program** on **Warning** for one year 3/20/23-3/20/24.

Matt Belden abstained.

THUNDERBIRD HIGH SCHOOL – Glendale Union High School District

Rule: Article 21. Baseball, Section 1 Rules (21.1.5)

Reported Violation:

A baseball pitcher was substituted into the game when he had not had enough rest from the previous game that he pitched. He threw 82 pitches on Saturday and according to the Arizona Pitch Smart guidelines he needed to have a 4 day rest. After 6 pitches, the coach realized he mistake and immediately removed the pitcher from the game.

Schools Corrective Action:

The athletic director reviewed the guidelines to make sure that the coaching staff knew them explicitly. The guidelines have been posted on multiple places in the dugout, club house and scorebooks. The head coach has designated two separate individuals responsible for pitch count and game changer to update him every day and throughout games who is eligible to pitch and who is not. Also, the head coach will use spreadsheets that keep track of pitch counts and rest days to ensure that this does not happen again.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Thunderbird High School **Baseball Program** on <u>Warning</u> for one year 3/20/23-3/20/24.

Matt Belden abstained.

MARANA HIGH SCHOOL – Marana Unified School District

Rule: Article 39. Spiritline, Section 10 Coaches / Coaching (39.10.5)

Reported Violation:

Because our former assistant cheer coach resigned from her position, we hired a new assistant cheer coach when the football season ended. The new coach was not able to become AACCA safety certified because all available opportunities to become certified no longer available. As an alternative, the new assistant coach became USA Cheer Certified. On January 31, the head coach was out sick and the assistant ran practice. The varsity team practiced some prep-level stunting for 10 minutes. I was notified about the violation and confirmed with the coaches that the stunting did take place.

Schools Corrective Action:

I have addressed the violation with both coaches and they understand the mistake that was made. Both coaches know that our head coach needs to be in attendance if any stunting is to take place until our assistant coach is certified. Our assistant coach plans on attending the AACCA Safety Certification trainings that will take place in July to ensure that she is certified before the next cheer season begins.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Marana High School **Spiritline Program** on **Advisement** for one year 3/20/23-3/20/24.

IRONWOOD HIGH SCHOOL – Peoria Unified School District Rule: Article 16. Penalties and Appeals, Section 2 – Ineligible Player (16.2.1)

Reported Violation:

A transfer student was coaching 1st base and was put in as a courtesy runner by mistake.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. A meeting was held by the AD, which included both the JV and Varsity softball coaches to remind them of the importance not putting ineligible players on the roster until they are eligible to play. It was also stressed, the importance of effective communication from the head coach to the JV coach, as their contests aren't played at the same time.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Ironwood High School **Softball Program** on <u>Advisement</u> for one year 3/20/23-3/20/24.

PRESCOTT HIGH SCHOOL – Prescott Unified

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule (15.10.1)

Reported Violation:

A softball student transferred to Prescott January 2023 as a junior. She played varsity softball at Bradshaw Mountain her freshman year and told us she quit after making the team her sophomore year and that she didn't play in any games. The 550 form was completed by everyone. It did say that she practiced and competed for BMHS but said she left BMHS Feb 2021. After being told that she didn't play her sophomore year by the family and after seeing that she left BMHS Feb. 21, I determined that she was eligible due to compliance with 15.10.1 having not participated in this sport for the previous 12 months. On 3/6/23, Bradshaw Mountain AD emailed me and reported that the student had played for BM. I told her that I was told she didn't and that the way the 550 came across it looked like she hadn't either. She said that her coach said she did. I asked her to send me proof from Gamechanger or MaxPreps since I had already looked and couldn't find anything that said she played for BMHS. The student was pulled before the game on 3/6 and she told our coach that she did not play in anything her sophomore year, so we allowed her to play. On 3/8 we received pictures of a scorebook from BM that said the student had subbed in for a player in two games. The family continued to insist that she didn't play and felt BM coaches were not telling the truth. On 3/13 the BM AD sent a screenshot of ALA-CQ Gamechanger that listed the student as a sub in the top of the 5th inning and ground out. At this point, I felt there was enough evidence that she did in fact enter a game her sophomore year. The student repeated to us that she did not remember ever entering any games before she quit her sophomore year. I don't think there was an intent to lie on the part of the athlete or family, rather time (over a year) had expired and she didn't remember getting in for an inning and a half.

Schools Corrective Action:

We went off the information shared by the family and the 550 from which stated she left BMHS February 2021, which would have made her eligible to participate. as soon as we were made aware of the violation we acted. The athlete is not sitting 50% and we are holding her out of an additional 3 games to make up for the games we have to forfeit.

Executive Board Action:

Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Prescott High School **Activities Program** on **Advisement** for one year 3/20/23-3/20/24.

2A/3A FOOTBALL SCHEDULES - 2024 SEASON

The 2A/3A conferences are requesting an adjustment to the season of sport for the 2023 football season. Practice may begin during week 4 (July 24th) with first games being conducted no sooner than the Wednesday of the 7th week (August 16th). Teams will have 11 weeks to play 10 games and shall be concluded the 22nd week.

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above request.

2A FOOTBALL REGIONS

The 2A conference is requesting the below change to the 2023 football regions: ALA – Anthem South moved from the Salt Region to the Black Region

The move is being requested as a result of unbalanced regions after the Executive Board granted the below appeals:

- Holbrook moving from the Black Region to the Little Colorado Region
- Chinle moving from 2A to 3A football.

The request allows for the 2A Conference to have three regions of eight and four regions of seven which will create scheduling scenarios that are beneficial to the conference.

The 2A conference went through the following process to get approval for all schools involved before making this change:

- ALA Anthem South agreed to move from the Salt Region to the Black Region
- 2A Conference received unanimous decision from the Salt Region and Black Region AD's to approve ALA Anthem South's change in regions.
- 2A Conference AD's voted unanimously to approve the decision

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **<u>approved</u>** the above request.

FUTURE DATES

March 30, 2023	Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting
April 5, 2023	AD / Student Leadership Summit Registration Deadline
April 7, 2023	Holiday – AIA Office Closed
April 10, 2023	AD / Student Leadership Summit – Xavier College Prep
April 17, 2023	Executive Board Meeting
April 19, 2023	District AD/Conference Leadership Meeting
April 27, 2023	Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting
May 3, 2023	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
May 15, 2023	Executive Board Meeting
May 21, 2023	AIA Champions Gala
May 29, 2023	Holiday – AIA Office Closed

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 11:24 am.

Respectfully submitted, David Hines, Executive Director