



OUR STUDENTS, OUR TEAMS . . . OUR FUTURE.

2024 AIA State Football

ADMINISTRATOR/HEAD COACH TOURNAMENT GUIDE

Schedule, Rules, Regulations, Instructions
Information Subject to Change

Director of Athletics - Football

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Information for spectators including admission pricing, the digital ticketing process, programs, souvenirs, venue information & schedules: <https://azpreps365.com/championships/football>

Media information, including policies, credential requests, broadcasting & media rights agreements: <https://aiaonline.org/host-media-info>

ADA Compliance information: <https://aiaonline.org/files/14160/committees-ada-compliance.pdf>

Emergency personnel required protocols & information related to AIA postseason competitions: <https://aiaonline.org/files/17188/qmp.pdf>

School conference/ division/ section alignments:

11-man: <https://aiaonline.org/alignments/2024/activities/football>

8-man: <https://aiaonline.org/alignments/2024/activities/football-8>

2024 Playoff Brackets: <https://azpreps365.com/brackets/football>

All rules as stated in the National Federation Rules Book for this sport, along with the AIA Constitution & Bylaws as well as these tournament instructions apply.

Note: Playoff games are subject to time and date changes and/or venue relocation. Factors include, but are not limited to: location of high seed, contractual obligations, broadcast commitments, seating capacity, and travel considerations of participating schools.



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Team Roster/ Photo Requirements

Note: All schools must input their 2024 team photos and current roster of players who will participate in the 2024 AIA State Football Playoffs via the MaxPreps website through the school login system. This information will be included in the 2024 AIA State Football commemorative program that is available to spectators online. For instructions, go to the following link: <https://www.aiaonline.org/files/17485/maxpreps-rosters-how-to.pdf>

Postseason Qualifying Criteria– Football **SUBJECT TO UPDATE BY CONFERENCES**

Open Division (8-team bracket): To qualify, a school must have played a minimum of eight (8) games. Following the regular season, the top eight teams from the 4A-6A conferences combined, based on AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps with multipliers [6A (10x), 5A (9X), 4A (8X)], will be placed onto the state tournament bracket. The state tournament bracket will be seeded according to the overall AIA rankings. The state tournament will consist of three single-elimination rounds.

- Open: Top eight teams from 4A-6A conferences

6A, 5A, 4A (16-team bracket): To qualify, a school must have played a minimum of eight (8) games. After qualifying teams are added to the Open Division state tournament bracket and removed from the conference rankings (if applicable), the remaining teams will be re-seeded and will make up the state tournament brackets. The state tournament brackets will be seeded according to the overall AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps. The state tournaments will consist of four single-elimination rounds.

- 6A, 5A, 4A: Teams ranked 1-16 following qualification of Open Division participants

3A (16-team bracket): To qualify, a school must have played a minimum of eight (8) games. Based on the overall AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps, the top 16 teams will advance to the state tournament. The state tournament will consist of four single-elimination rounds.

- 3A: Teams ranked 1-16

2A (16-team bracket): To qualify, a school must have played a minimum of eight (8) games. Based on region standings, the top team in each region will earn an automatic bid to the state tournament. The remainder of state tournament bracket will be filled and seeded according to the overall AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps. The state tournament will consist of four single-elimination rounds.

- 2A: Seven (7) automatic bids and nine (9) at-large qualifiers based on ranking

1A (12-team bracket): To qualify, a school must have played a minimum of six (6) games. Based on region standings, the top team in each region will earn an automatic bid to the state tournament. The remainder of the state tournament bracket will be filled and seeded according to the AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps. The top four ranked teams will receive first-round byes. The state tournament will consist of four single-elimination rounds.

- 1A: Four (4) automatic bids and eight (8) at-large qualifiers based on ranking



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SITE ADMINISTRATOR/ HOST SITE GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

AIA GAME TICKETS

Ticket sales for all AIA state championship events will be conducted digitally. Spectators can only attend events in the postseason by ordering their tickets online through the association's official partner GoFan. Additional GoFan information to be released as playoffs approach.

Admission fee information: <https://azpreps365.com/championships/football>

FREE ADMISSION:

AIA Passes Only

Children five (5) or under

Players in uniform entering with their School Board-approved varsity football coaching staff

School Board-approved varsity football staff

School Board-approved team support staff

Twenty Spiritline team members (in uniform) with their school board-approved sponsor(s)

Band members (in uniform) with their school board-approved sponsor(s)

All AIA tournament workers

Media with proper AIA credentials

AIA Lifetime Pass Holder and One Guest

AIA Complimentary Pass and One Guest

Arizona Football Officials Association (AzFOA) Pass Holder (self only)

Photo ID required for AIA Pass Holder and all AIA Complimentary Passes

SITE AIA BUDGETS

Rounds #1, #2 and Semifinals (4A/5A/6A) budgets for the host site athletic director can be located at: <http://aiaonline.org/athletics/budget-expense>

The budget shows the **maximum** staff by position allowed for the event. **The host site athletic director can determine that, at their event site, they require less event staff than indicated as the maximum and cut the number of staff or hours allotted for the event.**

The host site athletic director does not need to submit a budget for approval if they are at or below the allocated budget amount for their Conference level Round #1, #2 or Semifinal game.

Note: If additional staff (than is allotted on the pre-determined budget) is required, please contact Dan Nero at dnero@aiaonline.org or 602-385-3820 to confirm the specifics related to staffing needs.

SCORE REPORTING

Two hours prior to the start of state tournament games, an email will be sent to the visiting and host school athletic director, as well as the host high school venue (if a neutral site) with a score reporting link. At the conclusion of the game, any of the three mentioned above may click on the score reporting link to be taken to the scores portion of their admin (upon logging into the system) to enter the game result. It is expected that scores will be reported by the schools and posted immediately at the conclusion of the game.



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EMERGENCY/MEDICAL HOST SITE REQUIREMENTS

Every school must have an emergency action plan in place and submitted to Jessica Garcia jegarcia@aiaonline.org at the AIA to host a post-season tournament.

Per AIA Executive Board approved policy, **AIA Member School Administration** must engage a qualified medical professional (QMP) or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for all AIA State Football games at high seed site locations.

Required 4 BUSINESS DAYS notice:

- o If you are unable to provide a Qualified Medical Professional (MD, DO, Physician's Assistant, Nurse Practitioner or Certified Athletic Trainer) or an EMT at your game, contact Jessica Garcia for assistance. **This does not remove the School Administration's responsibility to have a QMP present at state tournament events.**

More information can be found here: <https://aiaonline.org/files/17188/qmp.pdf>

IF NO QMP OR EMT IS PRESENT AT THE GAME, THE GAME WILL NOT BE PLAYED.

AIA STATE FOOTBALL MEDIA BRACKET SHOWS

On **Saturday, Nov 2 (1A/2A/3A)** and **Saturday Nov 9 (4A/5A/6A/Open)** the **AIA State Football Bracket Show** will be held as part of the AZPreps365 Radio Show. Check AZPreps365 for more information.

PROGRAMS AND SOUVENIRS

PepWear is the official supplier for AIA Programs and Souvenirs.

State tournament programs will be provided, free of charge, in PDF files for users to download, when available. Please note that hi-res programs may be best suited for desktop downloads and low-res programs may be best suited for mobile and tablet device downloads.

Please see the following link for state tournament programs:

<http://www.azpreps365.com/programs/football>

Sale or distribution of AIA State Tournament-related game programs, t-shirts or any other souvenirs by any individual or company other than the PepWear at any AIA State Tournament playoff site or game is prohibited.

COMPETING TEAM INSTRUCTIONS

- Official rules shall be those of the current NFHS Football Rule Book, the AIA Constitution and Bylaws, and these tournament instructions.
- At least five officials shall be assigned to all post-season football contests.
- The game officials are responsible for the conduct of the game as prescribed by AIA-adopted playing rules.
- 25/40 second field-level clocks will be used at all sites where this equipment is available.
- For all AIA State Football **Semifinals and Finals**, **AIA-assigned officials will operate the game clock, 25/40 second clock (if 25/40 clock in place), and supply the chain crew and ball runners.**
- The National Federation Playoff System shall be used to resolve a tie game in all state



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- playoffs, including the state championship games. (See AIA policy/procedure 24.1.3)
- The Football Speed-up Rule (AIA policy/procedure 24.1.5) will be used anytime a team is ahead of an opponent by 42 or more points. Regular timing rules shall apply in the last two minutes of the game.
 - **Teams must use a Wilson ball that has the “National Federation of State High School Associations” stamp on it. Every school team that makes the AIA State Football playoffs will receive a complimentary Wilson Collegiate Style GST F1003B game football for use in all AIA State Football Playoff games.**
 - **At all game sites, each participating team shall provide an AIA-approved (i.e. Wilson) game ball to the game officials for use during the tournament game.**
 - If available, dressing rooms will be assigned by the Site Director; however, all players must provide their own towels and locks.
 - A **school board-approved coach** shall be in attendance during all pre-game warm-up sessions.
 - **In the first round and quarterfinal games, it is the responsibility of each participating school to provide ball runners to assist the officials in exchanging footballs during the game. For liability reasons, the ball runner must be of high school age or older.**
 - **No pre-game entrance tunnels (inflatable or other) are permitted at neutral site state playoff games.**

Please Note: No pre-game practice is allowed at any neutral site game site by any team.

Teams playing at college team playing sites may use college hashmarks and college goalposts.

UNIFORMS

- The home (high seed) team shall wear their dark jerseys and the visiting team shall wear light jerseys.
- The visiting team is responsible for the avoidance of similarity of colors; however, if there is doubt, the referee may require the home team to change. (See NFHS Football Rule Book, Rule 1-5-1-c-4.) When games are played on a neutral site, the AIA recommends the high-seed team bring two different color sets of jerseys.

Coaching Staff/Sideline Spectators

Only school board-approved members of participating schools’ football coaching or training staff will be permitted in the team box. All others on the sideline must have Site Administrator or AIA permission.

- **All individuals on the field sidelines for AIA State Tournament games must be of high school age or older due to AIA insurance liability.**



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Participating Schools: Administrator Control of Spectator Responsibility

The NFHS disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances.

School administrators from the state tournament participating schools are assigned the following responsibilities as AIA member school tournament participants:

16.3.4 Spectator Behavior – In the event that spectators, parents, or other non-school personnel initiate or use profanity in cheers or cheers having the intent of sounding profane, single out opposing players personally and/or heckle them by directing derogatory or profane statements or chants at them, use racist remarks, direct offensive cheers/chants at opposing cheering sections, or engage in physical conflict or other threatening or aggressive behavior with school personnel, officials, players, coaches, or other spectators, the school(s) involved shall utilize all available law enforcement resources to prosecute such offenders, and shall take all reasonable actions to help ensure that future similar incidents do not occur, such as temporarily or permanently prohibiting the offender(s) from attending future contests.

- Artificial music, other than that played by AIA announcers at the football playoff sites, is prohibited. The playing of music/sound effects shall only be permitted from the press box, during pre-game, time-outs, intermission, and post-game. (NFHS rule 1-18)
- Unsportsmanlike/derogatory signs are not permitted at any AIA state tournament venues under the administration of school site directors or AIA personnel.
- Air horns and noisemakers such as whistles deemed disruptive are not permitted at AIA events and will be confiscated.
- Disruptive/unsportsmanlike behavior by spectators will not be tolerated. Violators will be removed from the venue.
- **FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY AT NEUTRAL SITES, SPECTATORS ARE PROHIBITED FROM BEING ON THE TRACK OR PLAYING FIELD AT ANY TIME, INCLUDING AFTER THE GAME.***

AIA VENUE RESTRICTIONS FOR ALL FOOTBALL PLAYOFF VENUES

- **Including high school sites and stadiums**

All spectators are reminded that the items listed below will not be permitted inside any AIA playoff game facility. There are no lockers available outside of the stadium to secure items not allowed inside the facility. Items may not be held by stadium staff members or left unattended on stadium grounds.

- Alcohol
- Animals (except for service animals)
- Signs may not be displayed in a manner that obstructs other fans' views of the game or stadium scoreboards/advertising signage.
- Clothing deemed obscene or indecent
- Fireworks or sparklers
- Illegal drugs
- Smokeless Cigarettes
- Weapons - including but not limited to firearms & knives

*Any item deemed inappropriate or hazardous by AIA Staff, school administration, or stadium security.



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Unmanned aerial systems at AIA post-season events:

Per AIA Policy 24.10.5.1 - 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.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME PROCEDURES

- **Pre-game Meeting** – There will be a short “safety and protocols” meeting 75 minutes before the scheduled kick-off. Required to attend: Participating Schools Admin, Head Coaches, Head Referee, AIA Site Admin, Security and/or PD at Site.
- Event timelines, arrival instructions, pre-game procedures, and halftime instructions for the championship game participating teams, spiritlines, and bands will be e-mailed to the competing schools on the Monday following the semi-final games.

SPIRITLINES & MARCHING BANDS

Spiritline & marching band specific information will be sent out as needed to participating schools before each tournament game.



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ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY STADIUM POLICIES

ASU Athletic Guests: To enhance public safety and make stadium access more efficient, Sun Devil Athletics adopted a **Clear Bag Policy**. Fans may bring in one (1) clear bag no larger than 12" x 6" x 12" or a 1-gallon plastic storage bag. Fans are limited to one clear bag per person, along with a small clutch or purse for privacy.

The following list of allowable and prohibited items is provided in order to enhance everyone's safety and experience while visiting our facilities. Should you bring any item that is not allowed into the facility to the gates, you will be asked to return the item to your car before entering the stadium. We apologize, in advance, for any inconvenience this may cause you. We hope you have an enjoyable experience attending an ASU Athletic event. If you have a question about an item not on this list, please call (480) 965-3933. Thank you for your cooperation. Office of Athletic Operations & Facilities

ITEMS ALLOWED IN ASU ATHLETIC FACILITIES: (Subject to change without notice)

- Factory-sealed or completely empty water bottles 44 ounces or smaller
- Banners and signs (at the discretion of Athletic Operations and Facilities staff) without poles
- Food (small, individual portions)
- Cameras in which the length of the lens is smaller than the width of the base unit (no flash photography)
- Clear Bags including fanny packs, backpacks, and purses smaller than 12"x12"x12"
- Small personal-size retractable umbrellas
- Seat cushions • Binoculars
- Empty personal misting devices
- Clear Diaper bags (Only if accompanied by a baby/infant)
- Blankets
- Cell phones/pagers
- Small umbrella strollers (must collapse to fit underneath seat)
- Video cameras

ITEMS PROHIBITED IN ASU ATHLETIC FACILITIES: (Subject to change without notice)

- Outside beverages/containers/cans
- Poles or hard objects
- Bags larger than 12"x12"x12"
- Weapons/knives • Animals (except guide dogs)
- Artificial Noisemakers
- Tripods
- Bats
- Large/golf umbrellas
- Glass containers
- Ice chests/coolers
- Alcohol
- Thermos Bottles