

## **Football Advisory Meeting**

### **DRAFT - MINUTES**

Dec 13, 2023

10 am – AIA Board Room

#### **Committee Members:**

1A Dalton Mills (Bagdad) & Darryl Suber (Mogollon)

2A Travis Hawkins (Pima)

3A Tim Bridges (Catalina) & Shawn Cluff (Florence)

4A Anthony Figueroa (Marcos de Niza) & Yancey Devore (Mingus Union) & Ty Cephers (Amphi) “At Large”

5A Greg Davis (Paradise Valley) & Kevin Belcher (Central)

6A Dana Zupke (Pinnacle) & Dave Huffine (Tempe Union)

#### **AIA Staff:**

Brian Gessner

Tyler Cerimeli

Dan Nero

David Hines

Jim Dean

Brian Bolitho

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Approval of Minutes May 23, 2023:  
**Move to approve: Tim B. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Yancey D. All in favor – approved.**
2. Confirmation of Chairman:  
Kevin Belcher (Central) for 2023-24 **Approved.**
3. Football Reclassification Review: **Executive Board approved May 2023**
  - a. **2-yr Scheduling Block.**
  - b. **2.0 +/- Standard Deviation (No Rounding).**
  - c. **Effective July 1, 2023.**
  - d. **2024 FB Schedules will be the same – home/away reversed.**  
**(Conferences will adjust as needed – such as out of state games).**

4. 1A Football Agenda Items (Dalton M.):

- a. Could 1A use a committee instead of Power Rankings for seeding the Playoffs?  
ex) Committee of Region Athletic Directors - Reps – Coaches?  
Per Mr. Hines – there has been no consideration by the Executive Board to have a committee select State Playoff teams.
- b. Power Rankings - How out of State Opponents compare with Rankings compared to in State Opponents?  
From Brian Bolitho regarding rankings: In the FAQs at:  
<https://azpreps365.com/rankings/faq>  
**Why are out-of-state games included given that AIA teams play a very small percentage of out-of-state games?** The more data you have the better able the formula is at finding the best result. Out of state games are like any other game, in that they provide more information.  
**How are out-of-state games factored in?**  
Out of state games are treated the same way that all games are.
- c. Forfeits - A stiffer punishment for schools that forfeit.  
Per Mr. Hines – would be by Conference consideration. Discussed – JV only the following year or no State playoffs?
- d. Can Forfeits be included as a Loss for Power Rankings?  
Per Brian Bolitho: Forfeits count in Region Standings, but not in Power Rankings. Games must be played to be included in Power Rankings.
- e. Consider allowing lower level 2A Teams that are struggling to field 11 Man teams to play 8 Man Football to rebuild their program?  
1A and 2A Conferences are working on this process. Could 2A schools come down to play 8-man FB, but not be considered for playoffs?

5. 6A Football Agenda Items (Dana Z.):

- a. Referee issues  
Per – Brian G. – Officials are graded throughout the year. Assignments for playoffs based on how they grade out and experience. Asking again to get seniors FB players who are not going to play at next level to check with AIA Officials Dept. to sign up to ref in the fall – little or no cost. Can get a good start with frosh/JV games.  
Per Tyler C. – Less than 50% of coached give feedback on AIA site. Always a process getting new refs to get through the first 2-3 years.
- b. Playoff formula – Power Rankings  
Discussed – AZPreps Maxpreps rankings – FAQs. Note – 14 pt. differential cap.

c. Season start date issues

2024: 1A-3A Starts July 29; Comp Aug 19  
4A-6A Starts Aug 5; Comp Aug 26

d. Two Year Block/Communication

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e. Post Season Honors Voting

Dana Z. mentioned issues such as lack of consistency, sometimes a rush to get honors done, even before playoffs.

Dave H. added that post season honors are different for many sports such as GVB and Flag FB. Conference Chairs do work hard to assist in this process.

Tim B. added that though each Conference has different dynamics, clarification of language may help.

Kevin B. mentioned the need for consistency in post season honors and development of a step-by-step process.

Greg D. and Yancey D. mention that Honorable Mention should not be a dumping ground and have 2-3 individuals maximum.

6. New Business:

Dave Huffine discussed thoughts of allowing competition between schools during the spring football time frame (43<sup>rd</sup> to 46<sup>th</sup> week). Such as 7 on 7 passing scrimmages; 1 on 1 and other linemen competitions. Mr. Hines mentioned safety and insurance coverage are concerns. This would need approval from the Legislative Council.

7. Next Meeting Date: December 2024??

8. Meeting Adjourned: 12:54 pm