



OUR STUDENTS, OUR TEAMS . . . OUR FUTURE.

# 2024 AIA State Football

## ADMINISTRATOR/HEAD COACH TOURNAMENT GUIDE

**Schedule, Rules, Regulations, Instructions**

**\*Information Subject to Change\***

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**School conference/ division/ section alignments:**

Can be found at: <https://aiaonline.org/alignments/2024>

**2024 Football State Playoff Brackets**

To see the AIA State Tournament Bracket for each level of AIA State football, click on the desired AIA State Football Conference link below from Azpreps365.com:

<https://azpreps365.com/brackets/football>

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

**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 5A and 6A conferences combined, based on AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps with multipliers, 6A (10x), 5A (9X), 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 5A-6A conferences

**6A, 5A (16-team bracket):** In order 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: Teams ranked 1-16 following qualification of Open Division participants

**3A, 4A (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, 4A: Teams ranked 1-16



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**2A (16-team bracket):** In order 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 state tournament bracket will be seeded according to the overall AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps of the 16 teams. The state tournament will consist of four rounds and be single elimination.

- 2A: Eight (8) automatic bids and eight (8) at-large qualifiers based on ranking

**1A (12-team bracket):** In order 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. Remaining teams will be added to the state tournament bracket based on AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps. The 12 teams will be seeded according to AIA rankings. Teams seeded Nos. 1-4 will receive first-round byes. The state tournament will consist of four rounds and be single elimination.

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

### **2024 Football State Tournament Information**

**For accurate information regarding the AIA State Football tournament schedules as well as locations, including addresses, of all neutral state football game sites, please go to the included link below:**

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



**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.

**See Admission Fees - Football on Page 8.**

**SITE AIA BUDGETS**

Rounds #1, #2 and Semis (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](mailto:dnero@aiaonline.org) or 602-385-3820 to confirm the specifics related to the staffing need.**

**SCORE REPORTING**

**Post-Season Results- immediately at the conclusion of the game:**

Two hours prior to the start of your state tournament game, 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.**

**The goal is to have the result reported and posted immediately at the conclusion of the game.**

## **EMERGENCY/MEDICAL HOST SITE REQUIREMENTS**

- Every school must have an emergency action plan in place and submitted to Jess Garcia [jegarcia@aiaonline.org](mailto:jegarcia@aiaonline.org) at the AIA in order to host a post season tournament. Please go to link for the **Anyone Can Save A Life - Emergency Action Plan** at:

<http://aiaonline.org/files/14196/tournaments-anyone-can-save-a-life-policy.pdf>

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.

At all AIA managed State Football games at neutral site locations, the AIA has the responsibility to engage a qualified medical professional (QMP) or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) at the neutral site.

### **IF THERE IS NO QMP OR EMT AT THE GAME, THE GAME WILL NOT BE PLAYED.**

QMP means:

- ATC - Certified Athletic Trainer
- MD - Medical Doctor
- DO - Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
- NP - Licensed Nurse Practitioner
- PA - Licensed Physician's Assistant

*(QMP as defined by Arizona Revised Statute 15-341)*

- If a school does not have a QMP or EMT and the opposing school does, in order for the game to proceed, the QMP or EMT agrees to cover the opposing school as well as their own school.

Method of Payment for QMP/EMT:

- Refer to <http://aiaonline.org/about/procedures-manual> QMP/EMT Coverage/Protocol instructions.
- **NOTE: If ONLY an EMT is at the game, any player removed due to suspected head injury or concussion will not be allowed to enter or re-enter the game based on an EMT evaluation. Return to play or practice can only be based on evaluation by a QMP (Arizona Revised State Statute 15-341).**

• **Required 4 BUSINESS DAYS notice:**

- If you are unable to provide for a Qualified Medical Professional (MD, DO, Physician's Assistant, Nurse Practitioner or Certified Athletic Trainer) or an EMT to be at your game, please contact AIA Office Assistant Jessica Garcia (602-385-3810 X206) ([jegarcia@aiaonline.org](mailto:jegarcia@aiaonline.org)) for assistance. **This does not remove the School Administration's responsibility to have a QMP present at State Tournament events.**

## HOST MEDIA INFORMATION

### Enforcing the AIA Media Credential Policy

#### **MEDIA CREDENTIAL POLICY**

The AIA has a [Media Policy](#) that needs to be followed to protect the proprietary rights of the Association and to protect the student-athletes and coaches at region and state tournament events. The following link (<https://www.aiaonline.org/files/14632/2022-2023-press-master-media-list-for-pass-gate.pdf>) is to the AIA approved media list (those that have requested and been granted AIA media credentials). Please note that members of the media may show up with freelance credentials. These have no pictures or names on them, but do allow for access to the event per the designated media outlet on the AIA media credential. Additionally, all member schools were allotted a number of school-based credentials for the school year. These will allow admittance equal to a media or freelance credential. Once again, please remember to download the AIA approved media list to use at the gates for signing in the media and school media.

- Schools/host sites are required to allow entry to any properly credentialed media entity for a postseason event.
- Schools/host sites are required to deny free media entry to any individual without a proper credential. Those individuals are allowed to purchase a ticket and cover the event from the spectator seating area and will not be granted any postgame access to the playing area.
- Each media credential allows admittance for the bearer only and no guests.
- The AIA operates under a closed locker room policy at all AIA events. At no time will media representatives be granted this access. Team boxes, team benches, huddles and dugouts (etc.) are considered extensions of locker/dressing rooms.

### **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.**

## **ADMISSION FEES- FOOTBALL**

### **State Tournament (State Championship Games only):**

TBD Adults

TBD Students with High School ID

Children five and under admitted free

### **State Tournament (all rounds prior to State Championship):**

\$10.00 Adults

\$5.00 Students with High School ID

**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. [Click here](#) to access GoFan's site and from there you will be able to select your championship event or download the free app and search for AIA events.**

### **FREE ADMISSION:**

#### **AIA Passes Only**

Children five (5) or under

Players in uniform entering with their School Board approved FB Coaching staff

School Board Approved Varsity Football Staff

Team Support Staff

Twenty Spirit Line (in uniform) with their Sponsor(s)

Band members (in uniform) with their 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*

## **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 downloads:**

**<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 National Federation 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 in use at any sites that have this equipment 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 playoffs, including the state championship games. (See AIA policy/procedure; article 24.1.3)
- The AIA policy/procedure; article 24.1.5 (Football Speed-up Rule) 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. Note: Every school team that makes the AIA State Football playoffs will receive a complimentary Wilson Collegiate Style GST F1003B game football so that all AIA State Football Playoff games can meet the AIA sponsorship agreement with Wilson.**
- **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 Rd. and Quarterfinal games, it will be 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) 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 hash marks and college goal posts.

### 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 avoidance of similarity of colors; however, if there is doubt, the referee may require the home team to change. (See N.F. Football Rule Book, Rule 1-5-1-c-4, page 17). When games are played on a neutral site, the AIA recommends the high seed team bring two different color sets of jerseys.



## **COMPETING TEAM INSTRUCTIONS (continued)**

### **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.**

### **Participating Schools: Administrator Control of Spectator Responsibility**

The National Federation of High School Associations 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 responsibility 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 within the stadium. The playing of music/amplified sound, etc. shall only be permitted from the press box, during pre-game, time-outs, intermission and post-game. Approved school bands will be permitted.**
- **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 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 in which to secure items not allowed inside the facility. Items may also 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.
- **Amplified music/sounds in the stadium, other than from the Pressbox or approved School Bands.**
- Clothing deemed obscene or indecent
- Fireworks or sparklers
- Illegal drugs
- Smokeless Cigarettes
- Weapons - Included but not limited to firearms & knives

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

- 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** – This 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.

## **TROPHY/BANNER PRESENTATIONS**

The presentation of trophies and banners will be made on the field immediately after all championship games. **Participating team administrators and coaches must to take steps to ensure that the field remains clear of all non team related individuals for this activity.** Please assist the Tournament Site Directors in keeping all fans off the game field and in the stadium seating areas.



## **SPIRITLINES**

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

## **MARCHING BANDS**

Marching Band specific information will be sent out as needed to participating schools before each tournament game.

## **ADA COMPLIANCE NOTICE**

### **ADA NOTICE:**

It is the policy of the Arizona Interscholastic Association not to discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services and activities, or in its hiring and employment practices.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as sign language interpreter, by making a request to the office staff. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

### **AIA ADA COMPLIANCE OFFICER:**

Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information may be forwarded to the AIA ADA Compliance officer:

Jim Dean – Associate Executive Director  
Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc.  
7007 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, Arizona, 85020  
602-385-3811  
[jdean@aiaonline.org](mailto:jdean@aiaonline.org)

## 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, back packs, 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

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