



**MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
October 21, 2024**

In accordance with Article 6, Section 3, Paragraph 1 of the Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc. (AIA) Constitution, a regular meeting of the Executive Board was held on Monday, October 21, 2024, at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

President Matt Belden called the meeting to order at 8:26 am.

**Members in Attendance:**

William Duarte, 1A Conference (Superior Jr./Sr. High School)  
Tierra Yazzie, 2A Conference (Hopi High School)  
Toni Corona, CAA, 3A Conference (Safford High School)  
Matt Belden, 4A Conference (Glendale Union School District)  
Nathan Slater, 5A Conference (Scottsdale School District)  
Jennifer Burks, 6A Conference (Perry High School)  
Tim Carter, Cognia (Yavapai County School Superintendent)  
Steve Johnson, Arizona School Boards Association (CAVIT)  
David Verdugo, Arizona School Administrators (Santa Cruz Valley School District – Rio Rico)  
David Hines, AIA Executive Director

**Members Absent:**

Missy Townsend, Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (Prescott High School)

**AIA Staff Present:**

Rosa Leon, Legal Counsel  
Jim Dean, Associate Executive Director  
Erin Coy, Assistant Executive Director  
Tayler Coady, Executive Administrative Assistant  
Brian Bolitho, Chief Business Development Officer  
Brian Gessner, Commissioner of Officials  
Dean Visser, Director of Athletics and Activities  
Dan Nero, Director of Athletics  
Tyler Cerimeli, Director of Athletics and Officials  
Mary Wimmer, Tournament Coordinator

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA – OCTOBER 21, 2024**

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the adoption of the October 21, 2024 agenda.

**LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT**

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried, President Belden, 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:

- ✓ 8:27 am – 8:39 am
- ✓ 12:00 pm – 12:21 pm
- ✓ 12:29 pm – 1:43 pm

**REGULAR MEETING:**  
**MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Outside of the season of sport there are groups that are participating in Sunday activities, outside the realm of AIA. Historically, the AIA has not had concerns with these groups participating on Sunday outside of the season of sport. It has been brought to the attention of the Executive Board to determine if the bylaw needs to be applied differently. It's been requested that the bylaw continues to be applied as in the past.

Congratulations to Mr. Hines for being inducted into the Mesa Community College Hall of Fame.

**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 – September 10, 2024
- Special Executive Board Meeting – October 3, 2024

**AIA Lifetime Passes**

- |                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Travis Hawkins       | Pima            |
| 2. Jeff Decker          | Mountain Pointe |
| 3. Rick Quinn           | Mountain Pointe |
| 4. Carol Ann Michaelson | Xavier          |
| 5. Susan Contreras      | Xavier          |
| 6. Timothy McHale       | Xavier          |
| 7. Chris Pfaff          | Xavier          |
| 8. Brian Anderson       | Greenway        |
| 9. Neil MacDonald       | Corona del Sol  |
| 10. Richard Taylor      | Centennial      |

**Replacement of A Complimentary Pass**

- ❖ Amashia Albert, School Board Member – Dishchii'bikoh

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above requests once the \$25 fee has been paid.

**Request for AIA Sanction/Intrastate and Interstate Activities – 2024-25 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 2024-2025 Master Calendar. The master calendar is posted online at <http://www.aiaonline.org/calendar/?id=5>.

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

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS**

**RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL** – *Colorado River Union High District (15.10.2)*

**Reported Violation:**

Volleyball student participated without sitting 50%

**Schools Corrective Action:**

I take fault I thought when the former AD and I went over the eligibility that our coaches, thought it was sent to the coaches, our coach did not have this information.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the River Valley High School **Athletics Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/21/24-10/21/25.

**CANYON DEL ORO HIGH SCHOOL** – *Amphitheater Unified District (15.7.1)*

**Reported Violation:**

Football athlete practiced without a valid physical on file. Coach didn't verify attendance and cleared sheet.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Coach called in and given letter of direction to follow school sport attendance protocols.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Canyon Del Oro High School **Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/21/24-10/21/25.

**EASTMARK HIGH SCHOOL** – *Queen Creek Unified (15.7.1 and 15.8)*

**Reported Violation:**

Several student-athletes participated in pom tryouts without having a completed and approved physical examination on file. In addition, other required items such as parental consent / statement of awareness were not electronically signed through our online eligibility platform. The pom coach was aware of the eligibility requirements and had account access to our online platform to review which students were able to participate in pom tryouts.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Outline any new procedures and/or revisions to current procedures, which have been implemented to prevent a recurrence of this violation.

- (1) Eastmark High School is searching for a new head pom coach.
- (2) Student-athletes in the pom program will not participate in practices until cleared by the Athletics office.
- (3) When a new head pom coach is hired, student eligibility rules will be reviewed as part of the onboarding process.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Eastmark High School **Spiritline Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/21/24-10/21/25.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd**CASA GRANDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL** – *Casa Grande Unified High School District (2.4.2.3)***Reported Violation:**

On Friday, August 30, 2024, Casa Grande Union High School was playing a home varsity football game vs Corona del Sol. With around 8 ½ minutes left in the fourth quarter, a couple of physical altercations erupted on our home side stands involving approximately 4 adults and 1 student (related to one of the adults). At 7:15 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the game was placed on pause to clear the stands on both sides (home & visitors). There were 3 arrests made by our police department. We have 4 police officers present at our home games. When the stadium was empty (except for our band and cheer squad), the game was allowed to proceed and finish. Our opponent (Corona del Sol) was very gracious to us during this time.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Casa Grande Union High School is embarrassed by the behavior of a few of our fans. This is not who we are, but we totally accept the responsibility of making our fans behave at home and away games. As a result of this incident, we are going to implement these steps to improve our fans game day experience as it relates to safety:

1. Three fans arrested – 2 adults, 1 student
  - a. Both adults will be suspended for the year and not allowed to attend any CGUHS events.
  - b. The students will be suspended and placed in an alternative school in our district.
2. Two fans that were verbally disruptive at the game will be suspended for three home games. They will be able to attend our last home game on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Casa Grande Police are still investigating. More suspensions are highly anticipated.
3. Fans must complete the required NFHS Sportsmanship Course
4. We have 4 police officers at all home games
5. We will utilize our JROTC program students and use them as spotters at games. They will NOT engage in any situation. Only as an extra set of eyes.
6. CGUHS held a productive Community Forum at our school on September 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm. We will be addressing this issues and seeing how we can get better.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, **accepted** the Casa Grande High School violation report.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

**WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL** – *Glendale Union High School District (15.6.1)*

**Reported Violation:**

Football student self-reported on 9/12/24 that he turned 19 on April 21<sup>st</sup>. His birthday is 4/21/2005.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Contests forfeited. WHS creating a report to determine all students with a birthdate prior to 9/1 and cross reference with RMA to determine any ineligible students prior to seasons starting.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Washington High School **Activities Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/21/24-10/21/25.

*Matt Belden abstained.*

**MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL** – *Mingus Union (15.3.1)*

**Reported Violation:**

Prior to the start of our school year, our Governing Board approved online/charter students to participate. We had an online student participating in football. The student's mother completed the verification form to confirm eligibility. It was not until this morning that I discovered he was in a paid tuition school. I informed his parents and forfeited the contest with Blue Ridge High School. He played on special teams and was the only game he participated in this season.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Contest forfeited. We have removed the athlete from the program. We have changed the MUHS verification form to confirm online/charter students are cleared for participation. If a forfeiture has any bearing on power rankings, I ask the AIA Executive Board to consider leaving this game as a loss for MUHS. We lost 33-6 to Blue Ridge. I don't want Blue Ridge to be negatively impacted for post-season play.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Mingus Union High School **Activities Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/21/24-10/21/25.

*Tim Carter abstained.*

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd**APOLLO HIGH SCHOOL** – *Glendale Union High School District (15.3.1)***Reported Violation:**

An individual not enrolled at Apollo High School or at any school within Glendale Union High School District participated as a member of the Apollo High School Varsity Football team. The individual played in a football game held on 08/30/2024 at Sunnyside High School. Glendale Union High School District Governing Board does not allow any individuals who are not enrolled in any GUHSD school to participate in interscholastic athletics within the school district.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Contest forfeited. Additional Training will be provided within the Athletics Department to include the following staff members: Athletics Secretary, Head Football Coach, Athletic Trainer, Training will consist of the following:

1. Process to verify enrollment in Synergy for both Apollo High School and GUHSD Online Learning Academy/Glendale Union Online.
  - a. If needed- Verify students last school of attendance using the SAIS ID assigned to that student
2. Reviewing the process for final clearance of athletes within Register My Athlete including the completion of a 550 form.
3. Develop procedures with coaches to cross reference Synergy with Register My Athlete when creating Sports Rosters
4. Developing a procedure for the Athletic Trainer to cross reference Synergy and Register My Athlete Roster of cleared athletes prior to issuing Sports equipment

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Apollo High School Activities Program on **Warning** for one year 10/21/24-10/21/25.

*Matt Belden abstained.*

**MARANA HIGH SCHOOL** – *Marana Unified School District (24.1.1)***Reported Violation:**

Athlete, “mic’d up” on 9/13/24 football game by an independent media group for a documentary.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

The following steps have been taken by the athletic director at Marana High School to prevent a recurrence of this violation:

1. Notification of the violation was sent to football coach, athlete, and athlete’s family.
2. A directive was issues to the football coach and athlete to comply with AIA and NFHS rules.
3. A notification was sent to all coaches of athletic programs at Marana High School concerning athletes being, “mic’d up” and this is a violation of policies.
4. All coach meetings will include review of policy and policy added to coach handbook.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Marana High School Football Program on **Advisement** for one year 10/21/24-10/21/25.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd**GILBERT HIGH SCHOOL** – *Gilbert Public Schools (15.10.2)***Reported Violation:**

The student is a transfer student scheduled to sit out the first half of the swim season. When this particular student's transfer was processed, Gilbert High School was scheduled to compete in the Crosswhite Invite on September 14th. The inclusion of this meet would have made this student eligible to compete on September 20th. Gilbert High School contacted the AIA to inform them that they would not compete in this meet, this took place after the transfer eligibility date was processed. An updated date was not processed after the schedule was altered, which lead to this student compete one meet ahead of schedule.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Gilbert High School sincerely apologizes for this oversight. Once the meet was moved, the transfer eligibility date should have been updated. Since this was an invitational meet that the student participated in, Gilbert High School's plan is to have the student sit out the next invitational meet on our schedule, the Cummins Invitational this upcoming weekend September 27/28 at Skyline High School. Moving forward, the communication between coach and athletic director will be transparent n and fluid for meet changes and schedule updates in order to adjust eligibility dates when needed.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Gilbert High School **Boys' Swim Program** on **Advisement** for one year 10/21/24-10/21/25.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd**MOUNTAIN VIEW MESA HIGH SCHOOL** – *Mesa Public Schools (15.10.2)***Reported Violation:**

Boys' swim coach had a student swim in a varsity invitational on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>. The student was a transfer student and our coach understood the bylaw to mean this young man was ineligible for his first invite but eligible for each subsequent invite. The team sports rule was applied instead of the individual sport rule. Student had sat out all duals and the previous invite.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Coach has been addressed. I'm also visiting with golf, track, cross country, wrestling, badminton and beach volleyball to ensure that no other coaches have this confusion. I will follow up with an email as well. Athletes times from the Brophy invite will be voided. Participating schools in that invite will be notified via email. Student will be eligible by rule Oct 3 which is our 7<sup>th</sup> opportunity.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Mountain View Mesa High School **Boys' Swim Program** on **Advisement** for one year 10/21/24-10/21/25.

**ALHAMBRA HIGH SCHOOL** – *Phoenix Union High School District (15.5.2)***Reported Violation:**

Alhambra played this athlete in several FR/SO Girls VB games in violation of the rule. The student attends Bioscience HS, but lives in the North HS attendance zone. Alhambra inadvertently allowed her to join and play. Alhambra failed to cross reference her school of residence when processing her RMA registration.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Contests Forfeited. Alhambra will seek and obtain Synergy permissions for our Sr. Ofc Assistant to check school of residence; AD will supervise the clearance process of all athletes by checking school of residence for all non-Alhambra athletes; Principal has dialogued with AD about improving the supervision of the clearance process; District AD has dialogued with all AD's about the importance of supervising clearance process, and he will assisting getting the Sr. Ofc Assistants access to all alternative school's data..

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Alhambra High School **Activities Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/21/24-10/21/25.



**HARDSHIP APPEALS**

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

**Brophy**                      **Josh Garcia** - Athletic Director, Parents, Student  
**Saguaro** – Matt Harris – Athletic Director

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:

<b><u>School/Appeal</u></b>	<b><u>Granted/Denied</u></b>
Brophy	Denied

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL**  
**REQUEST FOR HARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY – 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.***

- ❖ Snowflake High School

Based on the students’ eligibility it was requested that Snowflake resubmit the appeal in August 2025 for the 2025 fall soccer season.

- ❖ Arizona Lutheran Academy

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **denied** the above appeal.

**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 that could have a bearing on regional or state playoffs:

<b><u>SCHOOL REQUESTING:</u></b>	<b><u>HEREBY CONSENT:</u></b>
1. Highland Prep	VAR Boys/Girls Swimming Programs
2. Cholla	VAR Boys/Girls Swimming Programs
3. Desert Heights	VAR Boys’ Soccer Program
4. Antelope	VAR Boys’ Soccer Program
5. Cicero Prep	VAR Boys’ Swimming Program
6. Coronado	VAR Flag Football Program
7. Rough Rock	VAR Boys’ Cross Country Program
8. Desert Star	VAR Boys/Girls Wrestling Programs
9. NFL YET	VAR Girls’ Soccer Program

**SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS** – 20

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**CONTEST(S) Cancelled:** 271 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)

<b><u>SCHOOL CANCELLING:</u></b>	<b><u>DOES NOT CONSENT:</u></b>
Mohave	ALA West Foothills – Football

**ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS**

- A. **Joseph City** – additional VAR/JV volleyball games to help fill **El Capitan’s** schedule.
- B. **Joseph City** – additional VAR/JV boys’ basketball games to help fill **Hopi’s** schedule.
- C. **Flagstaff** – additional VAR flag football game to help fill **Bradshaw Mountain’s** schedule.
- D. **Sunnyslope** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo girls’ basketball games to help fill **Shadow Ridge’s** schedule.
- E. **Campo Verde** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo girls’ basketball games to help fill **McClintock’s** schedule.
- F. **Tucson** – additional VAR flag football games to help fill **Nogales’** schedule.
- G. **Kofa** – additional VAR/JV boys’ soccer game to help fill **Cibola’s** schedule.
- H. **El Capitan** – an additional girls’ volleyball game to help fill **William’s** schedule.
- I. **Yuma** – an additional VAR girls’ basketball game to help fill **Gila Ridge’s** schedule.
- J. **Central** – an additional VAR/JV/FrSo boys’ basketball games to help fill **Pinnacle’s** schedule.

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

**NEW MEMBER SCHOOL APPLICATION – SITE VISIT**

- PACE Academy – Casa Grande Union High School District

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above school to have a site visit conducted pending documentation of Cognia Accreditation.

**AMENDMENT – SEASON OF SPORT – BOYS’ VOLLEYBALL**

<u>Spring Season</u> (Boys)	Practice Season of Competition Championship	no sooner than the begins <b>Wednesday</b> of the to be concluded by the	32 <sup>nd</sup> week <del>35<sup>th</sup></del> -34 <sup>th</sup> week 45 <sup>th</sup> week
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On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above amendment request which will align with all spring sports.

**REQUEST – SEASON OF SPORT – SOFTBALL**

The Amphitheater District is requesting an expectation to the softball season of sport bylaw. They have hosted this tournament for over 3 decades. As you know softball venues are difficult to obtain to handle such a large tournament. The week after we host the Dorado Classic a small college tournament has the fields reserve. We are asking for us to be able to start the season one week earlier to include our Rodeo Break so that we can continue to host this tournament without interruption.

- 7. This is the 31st Dorado Classic.
- 8. Between 29 and 32 teams have attended the tournament over the last 5 years. 32 is the maximum number of teams with 8 fields at Lincoln Park.
- 9. For at least 15 years, only 5 to 8 out of State teams play in the Tournament.

Cancelling the tournament would deny over 500 young ladies from playing in Southern Arizona’s premier softball tournament.

Moving the date away from the “Rodeo Break” would require 350+ Arizona students to miss at least 2 days of school — as well as teachers, coaches and administrators.

*The following representatives entered the meeting for a student eligibility appeal and left upon completion of their presentations*  
Armando Soto – District Athletic Director; Kelly Fowler – Softball Head Coach

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

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:****FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

- ✓ Financial Report for September 2024

**HARDSHIP APPEALS**

Discussion took place regarding hardship appeals and determinations when it comes to open enrollment. After establishing their school of record and then transfers does domicile make a difference. Arizona is an open enrollment state, students can choose their school of record as a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student, any change after that to the school of record could result in loss of eligibility for up to 365 days.

Further discussion took place regarding the hardship appeal processes and potential changes to the current process. Any changes will be discussed at the Athletic Director Summit in April for the 2025-26 school year.

**FUTURE DATES**

October 22-23, 2024	Winter Hardship Appeal Hearings – Conference
October 28, 2024	4A Conference Committee Meeting
	6A Conference Committee Meeting
October 30, 2024	District Athletic Director / Conference Leadership Meeting
November 2, 2024	Winter Coaches Course Deadline
November 6, 2024	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
	Unified SAC Meeting
November 11, 2024	AIA Office Closed – Holiday
November 14, 2024	3A Conference Committee Meeting
November 15, 2024	2A Conference Committee Meeting
November 18, 2024	Executive Board Meeting
November 20, 2024	District Athletic Director / Conference Leadership Meeting

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSTING**

With Mr. Hines' announcement of his retirement for June 2025, a timeline has been established for posting, interviewing and the hiring process of a new Executive Director.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 1:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Hines, AIA Executive Director