



**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
November 18, 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, November 18, 2024, at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

President Matt Belden called the meeting to order at 8:28 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)
Missy Townsend, Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (Prescott High School)
David Verdugo, Arizona School Administrators (Santa Cruz Valley School District – Rio Rico)
David Hines, AIA Executive Director

AIA Staff Present:

Rosa Leon, Legal Counsel
Jim Dean, Associate Executive Director
Erin Coy, Assistant Executive Director
Tayler Coady, Executive Administrative Assistant
Brian Gessner, Commissioner of Officials
Amy Richmond, Director of Finance
Dan Nero, Director of Athletics
Mary Wimmer, Tournament Coordinator
Mark Panepinto, Tournament Coordinator

Guests:

David Huffine
Tommy Eubanks
Stephen McDowell

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – NOVEMBER 18, 2024

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the adoption of the November 18, 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:

- ✓ 8:28 am – 8:56 am
- ✓ 9:26 am – 10:36 am
- ✓ 11:47 am – 12:14 pm

REGULAR MEETING:**MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

Tommy Eubanks, David Huffine and Stephen McDowell presented a proposed amendment to the football placement bylaw. This proposed amendment will be placed on the December 9th Executive Board meeting agenda for consideration. Members from the Football Reclassification committee are meeting with each Conference to discuss the proposal.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

State tournaments are concluding for the fall sports seasons. The 2A-3A Football conferences will conclude on November 30th at Mountain Ridge High School with the 4A – Open teams concluding the weekend of December 6/7th at ASU. A big congratulations to all those that participated in the fall state tournaments. We look forward to a great winter season!

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 – October 21, 2024

AIA Lifetime Passes

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Richard Swanson | Hamilton |
| 2. Rachel Gonzalez | Ironwood Ridge |
| 3. Jerry Fiedler | Betty H Fairfax |
| 4. John Venenga | Kingman |
| 5. Sean Flanigan | Ironwood |
| 6. Chris Hanson | Desert Vista |

Replacement of A Complimentary Pass

- ❖ Rae Donna Spencer – Coach – Red Mesa High School

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

WINDOW ROCK HIGH SCHOOL – *Window Rock Unified*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 4 Academic Rule (15.4.1)

Reported Violation:

It was determined that Window Rock had academically ineligible football players playing in the JV game.

Schools Corrective Action:

JV eligibility will be personally reviewed by the varsity head coach before boarding the bus and/or field.

Executive Board Action:

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

GANADO HIGH SCHOOL – *Ganado Unified School District*

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 4 Nonschool Participation (14.4.1)

Reported Violation:

A varsity volleyball student participation in a high school staff vs/ students' game on October 30th.

Schools Corrective Action:

Coaches did inform students that they were not able to participate in the game. The student athlete is ineligible for the remaining of the AIA volleyball season. We are also working without student council to not schedule in-season competition vs staff in the future. By rescheduling these types of school functions, the student athletes can play and feel part of the school community. This way student athletes are not tempted to forgo eligibility by playing in-season competition at school functions.

Executive Board Action:

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

MESQUITE HIGH SCHOOL – *Gilbert Public Schools*

Rule: Article 32. Volleyball, Section 5. Number of Games in Season (32.5.3)

Reported Violation:

Mesquite High School had a girls' volleyball game and competed in more than 6 sets in our match.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. Reviewed rules and bylaw with coaching staff.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Mesquite High School **Volleyball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 11/18/24-11-18/25.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

VISTA GRANDE HIGH SCHOOL – *Casa Grande Unified High School District*

Rule: Article 24. Football, Section 5 Number of Games in Season (24.5.3)

Reported Violation:

Student played in 6 quarters of a Frosh/So and Varsity football games dating: October 30, 2024 and November 1, 2024.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest Forfeited. Educate all head coaches on the AIA Bylaws and Constitution. Coaches will sign a memorandum of understanding that they are knowledgeable in regards to the respective sports. Our varsity football coach will be suspended for the entirety of the contest on November 8, 2024 against Combs High School.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Vista Grande High School **Football Program** on **Advisement** for one year 11/18/24-11-18/25.

PALO VERDE HIGH SCHOOL – *Tucson Unified School District*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 7 Physical Examination (15.7.1)

Reported Violation:

Palo Verde had a girls' basketball player practice without being cleared, and no valid physical.

Schools Corrective Action:

The player has a similar name to her sister and was mistaken as her. Coaches evaluation will reflect this oversight and a review of our internal checks and balances.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Palo Verde High School **Girls' Basketball Program** on **Warning** for one year 11/18/24-11-18/25.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**SAFFORD HIGH SCHOOL** – *Safford Unified*

Rule: Article 43. Sports Medicine, Section 2 Opioid Education // Section 3 Concussion Education (43.2 and 43.3)

Reported Violation:

Student participated in soccer tryouts without having completed Brainbook or Opioid courses. Student was not cleared in FinalForms. Upon investigation the coach confused her with another athlete, and did not adequately verify clearance.

Schools Corrective Action:

Current policies and procedures are in place for coaches to validate athlete “clearances” through FinalForms. As a veteran coach, it should not have happened, and he takes responsibility for the mistake. There will be no changes to current procedures. Violation will be addressed as part of his formal evaluation process.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Safford High School **Activities Program** on **Advisement** for one year 11/18/24-11-18/25.

DESERT VISTA HIGH SCHOOL – *Tempe Union High School District*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 7 Physical Examination Rule (15.7.1)

Reported Violation:

A student athlete participated in competition without being appropriately cleared. This was due to an oversight by the athletic department and the football program. A new AD, new administrative assistant and a new head football coach all starting at the state of the year may have contributed.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. We will have a training/workshop with all head coaches on all items that need to be submitted into RMA prior to tryouts. We revamped our communication to our head coaches prior to each season of sport regarding which students are cleared and which students cannot tryout. Communication to parents will happen not only through RMA but also through ParentSquare, which is district mandated.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Desert Vista High School **Activities Program** on **Warning** for one year 11/18/24-11-18/25.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont’d

MADISON HIGHLAND PREP

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 4 Nonschool Participation

Reported Violation:

Student athlete participated with a club soccer team on 9/21, 9/22 and 9/28. Student admitted to knowing the rules if he participated in the events and thought he would just get kicked off the team if it was discovered.

Schools Corrective Action:

Madison Highland Prep takes this violation very seriously and is committed to responding appropriately. MHP will forfeit the games that Josiah competed in on 09/26/2024, 09/30/2024, and 10/02/2024 while ineligible. Josiah has been terminated from the MHP soccer program, and permanently banned from athletic participation at MHP. Despite Josiah being one of the best players on the MHP team and the impact his removal will have on the MHP team, it is necessary to take these actions to protect the spirit of sportsmanship within MHP’s athletic programs, and just as importantly among our fellow AIA member schools.

Further, MHP will immediately implement a Nonschool Participation contract (attached) that all student-athletes and parents must sign to continue Fall participation. This contract will then become standard in the MHP Athletic Registration packet (paper document for 2024-2025, electronic document on RMA beginning 2025-2026). At our Winter Coach meeting, all coaches will receive an AIA Bylaw Hot Topic chart that includes quick reference to the following topics: Student Transfers, Nonschool Participation, Recruitment, and Sportsmanship (attached).

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Madison Highland Prep **Boys’ Soccer Program** on **Warning** for one year 11/18/24-11-18/25.

HARDSHIP APPEALS

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

Boulder Creek **Kirstin Ledin** - Athletic Director, Parent, Student

Marcos de Niza **Lenica Ruiz** - Athletic Director, Parent, Student

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>	<u>Granted/Denied</u>
Boulder Creek	Denied
Marcos de Niza	Denied

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL
REQUEST FOR HARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY – AGE RULE

15.6.1 **Age Limits** – If a student becomes 19 years of age on or after September 1, he/she is eligible to compete for the remainder of that school year. If he/she becomes 19 years of age before September 1, he/she is not eligible for any part of that school year.

- ❖ Monument Valley High School

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:

<u>SCHOOL REQUESTING:</u>	<u>HEREBY CONSENT:</u>
1. ALA Ironwood	VAR Girls’ Basketball Program
2. Santa Rita	VAR Boys’/Girls’ Soccer Programs
3. San Pasqual	VAR Baseball Program
4. Mayer	VAR Boys/Girls Wrestling Programs
5. Sequoia Pathway	VAR Girls’ Basketball Program
6. ALA Anthem South	VAR Girls’ Basketball Program

SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS – 33

CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 165 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)

<u>SCHOOL CANCELLING:</u>	<u>DOES NOT CONSENT:</u>
1. Sequoia Pathway	Heritage Academy Laveen – VAR Football
2. Chino Valley	Window Rock – VAR Football
3. Madison Highland Prep	Payson – VAR/JV Football
4. Highland Prep	Payson – VAR Football
5. Northland Prep	Payson – JV Football

ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

- A. **Gilbert Classical** – additional JV boys’ basketball game to help fill **ALA Mesa North’s** schedule.
- B. **Ash Fork** – additional VAR/JV girls’ volleyball games to help fill **Grand Canyon’s** schedule.
- C. **Skyline** – additional VAR baseball game to help fill **Yuma’s** schedule.
- D. **Mesa** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo girls’ basketball games to help fill **Nogales’** schedule.
- E. **Coolidge** – additional VAR boys’ basketball games to help fill **The Gregory School’s** schedule.
- F. **Snowflake** – additional VAR girls’ basketball game to help fill **Sabino’s** schedule.
- G. **Sunnyside** – additional VAR/JV/Fr/So boys’ basketball games to help fill **Rio Rico’s** schedule.
- H. **Sahuaro** – an additional VAR girls’ basketball game to help fill **Sabino’s** schedule.
- I. **Sunnyslope** – an additional VAR/JV/FrSo girls’ basketball games to help fill **Shadow Ridge’s** schedule.
- J. **Higley** – an additional VAR/JV boys’ basketball games to help fill **Desert Vista’s** schedule.
- K. **Duncan** – an additional VAR/JV boys/girls’ basketball games to help fill **Dishchii’kikoh’s** schedule.

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

NEW MEMBER SCHOOL APPLICATION – SITE VISIT

- American Leadership Academy – Sierra Vista

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** a site visit for the above school.

- Goodyear High School (Agua Fria School District)

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** a site visit for the above school.

- American Leadership Academy – Vistancia

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** a site visit for the above school.

- Valiant College Prep

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **denied** a site visit for the above school.

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 October 2024

FUTURE DATES

November 20, 2024	District Athletic Director / Conference Leadership Meeting
November 28-29, 2024	AIA Office Closed – Holiday
December 4, 2024	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting Unified Sports Advisory Committee Meeting
December 9, 2024	Executive Board Meeting
December 11, 2024	Football Reclassification Meeting
Dec 23 – Jan 1	AIA Office Closed – Winter Break

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSTING

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Hines, AIA Executive Director