



**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
December 9, 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, December 9, 2024, at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

President Matt Belden called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Members in Attendance:

William Duarte, 1A Conference (Superior Jr./Sr. High School)
Tierra Yazzie, 2A Conference (Hopi High School)
Tim Bridges, 3A Conference (Catalina 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
Dean Visser, Director of Athletics
Mary Wimmer, Tournament Coordinator

Guests:

Tommy Eubanks
Stephen McDowell
Brandon Larson
Richard Obert
Thom Luedemann

**Indicates attendance via Zoom*

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – December 9, 2024

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the adoption of the December 9, 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:

- ✓ 8:30 am – 9:34 am

REGULAR MEETING:**MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

Tommy Eubanks presented the results of the boys' beach volleyball season. A total of 18 teams participated in the fall with an end of season tournament. Over 40 teams have shown interest in participating in a boys' beach volleyball season next year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The State Football Championships concluded this past weekend at ASU's Mountain America Stadium. Overall a great turnout for the four games. The communities showed up to support their players. Bands and Spiritlines worked great together to provide an incredible experience for all those in attendance. A big congratulations to all those that participated and to the state champions!

The 5A Conference has requested to opt-out of the Open Football Division beginning the next block. With the 5A requesting to opt-out of the Open, the 6A Conference is working on a system that would allow teams to participate in the Open Tournament with the potential to return to the 6A Conference tournament if a loss occurs during the first round. This system would be similar to the current Open Basketball tournament.

Brian Gessner discussed Bylaw 16.3.1 and requested the Executive Board to allow him, as the State Commissioner of Officials, to determine if an ejection should remain and ejection or be considered a disqualification of a player. Thom Luedemann spoke to the Board regarding this application, specifically, when it comes to soccer. The Soccer Advisory Committee agrees to allow Mr. Gessner the authority to make the determinations when reviewing ejection reports.

The Executive Director Position was posted and emailed out on December 2nd. The application deadline is January 7th with in-person interviews taking place on January 21, 2025. The new Executive Director will be introduced to the membership at the March 7th Legislative Council Meeting.

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 – November 18, 2024

AIA Lifetime Passes

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Joe Hajek | AIA Official |
| 2. James Summers | AIA Official |
| 3. Steve Kanner | Hamilton |
| 4. Perry Francis | Monument Valley |
| 5. Chuck Powell | Red Mountain |

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****SAN LUIS HIGH SCHOOL** – *Yuma Union High School District*

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

Reported Violation:

The parent of a volleyball player called the Athletics Department reported that another student on the team had been playing in an outside league and that the coach was aware. Upon investigation it was found that another staff member became aware that this student was playing and reported it to the coach immediately. He advised Coach to report to the AD. Coach stated that she spoke with the student, and the student stated that she quit the league when the season started at SLHS. On Oct 16th the student was injured while playing outside of school, this was reported to the coach on October 17th, the coach did not report this.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. The Head Coach will partner with the AD to review the bylaws and complete the coaching requirements and training for a second time. She will also partner with the AD on a player contract that will be delivered before the tryouts begin. All players and parents will sign.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the San Luis High School **Volleyball Program** on **Warning** for one year 12/9/24-12/9/25.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**COCONINO HIGH SCHOOL** – *Flagstaff Unified School District*

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

Reported Violation:

Student did not have a physical on file in the athletic office prior to participating in wrestling practice.

Schools Corrective Action:

A daily list of cleared athletes will be provided to the coach to ensure athletes are cleared via RMA

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Coconino High School **Wrestling Program** on **Warning** for one year 12/9/24-12/9/25.

PUSCH RIDGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY – *Pusch Ridge Christian Academy*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 1 Student Eligibility Requirements (15.1.1.1)

Reported Violation:

It was discovered on 11/20/24 that a boys' soccer student athlete did not complete registration requirements (Opioid, Brainbook, Impact) and attended/participated in a practice.

Schools Corrective Action:

Student is prohibited from participation until all registration requirements are met.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Pusch Ridge Christian Academy **Boys' Soccer Program** on **Advisement** for one year 12/9/24-12/9/25.

MARYVALE HIGH SCHOOL – *Phoenix Union High School District*

Rule: Article 16. Penalties and Appeals, Section 2 Ineligible Player (16.2.1.1)

Reported Violation:

Student attended and played football for Maryvale in the 23-24 season. Student transferred out to Cesar Chavez HS for the 2nd semester of the 23-24 school year. During the 24-25 school year, Maryvale hired a new Athletic Director and Athletics secretary one month after school started. During that time, a new Varsity football coach was hired who is the student in questions father. Also, student transferred to one of Phoenix Union's alternative schools, Phoenix Digital Academy for the 24-25 school year. At the end of the season, we discovered that the student should have played football at his school of residence, which is Betty Fairfax HS. That is why we are reporting that an ineligible player played football with Maryvale this year.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. We will come up with a system between comprehensive campuses and alternative schools in our district when new students arrive and apply for sport programs.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Maryvale High School **Activities Program** on **Advisement** for one year 12/9/24-12/9/25.

HARDSHIP APPEALS

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

ALA Queen Creek **Rich Edwards** - Athletic Director, Parents, Student
Mesquite – Stephen McDowell, District 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:

<u>School/Appeal</u>	<u>Granted/Denied</u>
ALA Queen Creek	Granted – 50%

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. Seton Catholic	VAR Girls’ Wrestling Program
2. Mountainside	VAR Girls’ Basketball Program
3. Camelback	VAR Boys/Girls Wrestling Programs
4. Tanque Verde	VAR Boys’ Volleyball Program
5. Saguaro	VAR Girls’ Wrestling Program
6. Kingman Academy	VAR Boys’ Soccer Program
7. BASIS Phoenix	VAR Girls’ Soccer Program
8. BASIS Phoenix	VAR Girls’ Basketball Program

SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS – 76

CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 103 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)

ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

- A. **Payson** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo girls’ basketball games to help fill **Safford’s** schedule.
- B. **Miami** – additional VAR/JV boys’ basketball games to help fill **Glendale Prep’s** schedule.
- C. **Salpointe Catholic** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo girl’s basketball games to help fill **Millennium’s** schedule.
- D. **McClintock** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo girls’ basketball games to help fill **Millennium’s** schedule.
- E. **Pinnacle** – additional VAR/JV boys/girls soccer games to help fill **Desert Mountain’s** schedule.

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

PROPOSED AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 8 – CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER HIGH SCHOOLS
EMERGENCY LEGISLATION

8.1.6. Classification of Schools – INITIAL PLACEMENT

8.1.6.8 Football Placement – Schools will first be placed in the conference in which the school competed during the previous season. With the exception of the 1A Conference, using the average weighted (over 3 years for schools placed in the 4A/5A/6A Conferences and 5 years for schools placed in the 2A/3A Conferences) AIA Rankings powered by Maxpreps, schools with a standard deviation of plus 2 or more move up 1 conference, schools with a standard deviation of plus 1, 0 or minus 1 do not move, schools with a standard deviation of -2 or below move down 1 conference.

<u>Standard Deviation</u>	<u>Conferences</u>
Plus 2 or greater	Up 1 Conference
1, 0, -1	No Movement
Minus 2 or greater	Down 1 Conference

8.1.6.8.1 ~~This will be the final conference placement for football. If a school's enrollment conference placement is different than their football conference placement, the football program will be moved, during football reclassification.~~

If playing football in a conference lower than the other team sports...

- *Football will be moved up one conference if, by using the same average weighted AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps used in the reclassification process, their football ranking is in the top 33% of the conference they would be moving into.*

If playing football in a conference higher than the other team sports...

- *Football will be moved down one conference if, by using the same average weighted AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps used in the reclassification process, their football ranking is in the bottom 33% of their current football conference or was rated in the bottom 50% for both years of a scheduling block.*

8.1.6.8.2 Football reclassification will take place every two years during the year opposite other sports reclassification. (**Emergency Legislation – Ex. Brd 5/15/2023**)

8.1.6.8.3 A school may not be placed more than 2 conferences above or below the conference of the other team sports it participates in.

8.1.6.8.4 For initial placement, new schools will be placed in the same conference as the initial placement of other team sports. For the second conference placement of a newly created school, the projected number of the fourth senior class will automatically place the school in a conference. All subsequent conference placements shall be based on the rules for existing member schools.

~~8.1.6.8.5 A school that was moved up a conference based on Standard Deviation will be moved down one conference if the following occurs:~~

- ~~• Based on the rating system used, if a school is rated in the bottom 50% of that conference for two consecutive years.~~

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above Bylaw amendment as **Emergency Legislation**.

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 November 2024

FUTURE DATES

Dec 23 – Jan 1	AIA Office Closed – Winter Break
January 8, 2025	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
January 9, 2025	5A Conference Committee Meeting
January 14, 2025	Spring Hardship Appeal Submission Deadline
January 20, 2025	AIA Office Closed – Holiday
January 21, 2025	AIA Executive Board Meeting
January 22-23, 2025	Spring Hardship Appeal Hearings – Committee
January 27, 2025	4A Conference Committee Meeting
	6A Conference Committee Meeting
January 29, 2025	District AD / Conference Leadership Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 11:09am.

Respectfully submitted,
David Hines, AIA Executive Director