



**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
January 21, 2025**

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 Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 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, Ret.)
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
Brian Bolitho, Director of Business Development
Amy Richmond, Director of Finance
Dan Nero, Director of Athletics
Dean Visser, Director of Athletics

Guests:

Tommy Eubanks
Stephen McDowell
David Huffine
Shawn Lytle
Bill Wright
Duane Ediger
Mark Ernster

**Indicates attendance via Zoom*

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – JANUARY 21, 2025

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the adoption of the January 21, 2025 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:

- ✓ 9:06 am – 9:36 am
- ✓ 12:41 pm – 1:58 pm
- ✓ 2:10 pm – 3:15 pm

REGULAR MEETING:**MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The NFHS Winter Meeting was held in Florida with 51 state Executive Directors. Was a great meeting with a lot of discussion surrounding transfers and the increase across the country and engagement at state tournaments. The next NFHS meeting with Directors will be in April at the Legal Meeting in Indianapolis.

Mr. Nero, Dr. Dean and Mr. Hines traveled to Texas to watch their State Football Championship games. They all took a lot away from the experience. Shared the great things the AIA is already doing and have more ideas of ways to continue to improve our state championships for the participants and spectators.

An unreported violation has been addressed and will be forthcoming for the February 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 – December 9, 2024

AIA Lifetime Passes

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Michael Fenton | Sunnyslope |
| 2. Brian Burgess | Centennial |
| 3. Cari Bauer | Centennial |
| 4. Scott Reed | Hamilton |
| 5. Joe McDonald | Centennial |
| 6. Dr. Leon Ben | Ft. Thomas District |
| 7. Rob Reniewicki | Chaparral |

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

MONUMENT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL – *Kayenta Unified*

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 2 Practice (14.2.1)

Reported Violation:

Fr/So basketball coach allowed two students athletes to practice drills and shoot around on a Sunday (Nov 24). This session also included a coach from a neighboring school.

Schools Corrective Action:

Coach's access to the facility was removed. Coach was informed of the AIA bylaw regarding practices on Sundays. Informed region school that their coach was at the session.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Monument Valley High School **Girls' Basketball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 1/21/25-1/21/26.

LEE WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL – *Kingman Unified School District*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule (15.10.2)

Reported Violation:

Both brothers should have sat out one half of the varsity season. They played in the first boys' soccer game.

Schools Corrective Action:

Lee Williams will ensure that the coaches are aware of any ineligible players before the seasons.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Lee Williams High School **Boys' Soccer Program** on **Advisement** for one year 1/21/25-1/21/26.

PAGE HIGH SCHOOL – *Page Unified*

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 1 Rules / Procedures (14.1.1)

Reported Violation:

One of our new volunteer boys basketball coaches held an open gym on a Sunday in another community.

Schools Corrective Action:

Coach Flores is a first-year volunteer and he was unaware that he was violating the bylaw since he was in a different community, not our own. We have given him a copy of the bylaws and have asked him to check with our head coach, his mentor, before he does anything regarding basketball.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Page High School **Boys' Basketball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 1/21/25-1/21/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**CANYON VIEW HIGH SCHOOL** – *Agua Fria Union High School District*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule (15.10.12)

Reported Violation:

A girls' flag football student was enrolled at Shadow Ridge as a freshman. Her mother enrolled her without disclosing her long-term suspension from Shadow Ridge, she also stated she was coming from online school. We are not sure if this was an oversight or not. Not all paperwork was submitted until 10/26/24. This is the question asked in our enrollment paperwork: Is the student currently expelled or in the process of being expelled from any school or district? No The student did not fill out a 550 form either.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. 1. The Registrar will notify AD and Principal of any suspensions from previously attended schools. Cross-check disciplinary records with the student's previous school before enrollment is finalized. 2. Provide training for enrollment and administrative staff to identify discrepancies or incomplete information in enrollment applications. 3. Ensure the 550 form and all required paperwork are completed and submitted before the student is enrolled. Enrollment will not proceed until all documentation is received and verified.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Canyon View High School **Activities Program** on **Warning** for one year 1/21/25-1/21/26.

YUMA HIGH SCHOOL – *Yuma Union High School District*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule (15.10.3 // 15.10.5)

Reported Violation:

On December 11, 2024, the Yuma High School Athletic Director was informed that two girls' varsity soccer players were transfer students who participated in games on December 6 and December 10, 2024. The students attended Yuma High School during the 2023–2024 school year and played soccer. They began the 2024–2025 school year at Yuma High School but later transferred to Kofa High School. Subsequently, they returned to Yuma High School on November 12, 2024, during the soccer season. Although the students were cleared for athletic participation by the Athletic Office, their transfer status was not identified at the time. The Athletic Director was unaware of the transfers and was not notified by the coach. The coach, assuming the students were eligible because they did not play soccer at Kofa High School, did not report their transfer history to the Athletic Office.

Schools Corrective Action:

The Coach responsible for the violation has received an in-service regarding relevant bylaws. The Yuma High School Athletic Department will require all programs/coaches to meet with the Athletic Director prior to the season of sport to review an updated clearance/transfers lists. The Athletic Director will continue to do walkthroughs at practice to verify that only cleared athletes are participating. The coaching staff will continue to receive additional in-services on AIA bylaws to prevent future violations.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Yuma High School **Girls' Soccer Program** on **Warning** for one year 1/21/25-1/21/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

RAYMOND S KELLIS HIGH SCHOOL – Peoria Unified School District
Rule: Article 16. Penalties and Appeals, Section 2 Ineligible Player (16.2.1.1)

Reported Violation:

The head coach at Raymond Kellis played an ineligible boys' soccer athlete during the AIA sanctioned game against Independence.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. The athletic director will be working with the new head coach on roster management, AIA bylaws and player preparation/evaluation. The coach will have to submit a roster sheet prior to leaving the facility before games with an attendance section.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Raymond S. Kellis High School **Boys' Soccer Program** on **Advisement** for one year 1/21/25-1/21/26.

Matt Belden abstains

CHINO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL – Chino Valley School District
Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 1 Student Eligibility Requirements (15.1.1)

Reported Violation:

Article 15, Student Eligibility Rules (15.1.1.1) It was discovered that on 12/13/24 that a boys' wrestling student athlete did not complete the registration requirements (Opioid, Brainbook) and had been attending practices and participated in meets. The student Did not go through the athletic office to be cleared. The coach assumed that the student had been cleared by the athletic office. Corrective Action: The student was removed from practices until the registration requirements have been met. the coach will now verify his players eligibility directly with the athletic office.

Schools Corrective Action:

Corrective Action: The student was removed from practices until the registration requirements have been met. The coach has been instructed that eligibility must come from the athletic office prior to athletes participating.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Chino Valley High School **Activities Program** on **Advisement** for one year 1/21/25-1/21/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

RIO RICO HIGH SCHOOL – Santa Cruz Valley Unified

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 3 Maximum Teams per Sport / Student Grade Level for Team Participation (14.3.2.1)

Reported Violation:

Our girls' soccer program played a senior in a JV contest on 12/13/24..

Schools Corrective Action:

Bylaw has been received with the head coach. The athlete was thought to be classified as a junior.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Rio Rico High School **Girls' Soccer Program** on **Advisement** for one year 1/21/25-1/21/26.

David Verdugo abstains

SAN LUIS HIGH SCHOOL – Yuma Union High School District

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 1 Rules / Procedures (14.1.1)

Reported Violation:

Girls' soccer student athlete participated in an outside league competition.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. student removed from roster. The bylaw about participating outside of the school team is part of the team meeting prior to the season. Student/Parent also signs to acknowledge. Coach also reached out to Mexico leagues to inform them of the AIA bylaw and inform them that students cannot play in both leagues. We will continue to share that information with our families and make it more of an emphasis with our younger players and any other families new to AIA.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the San Luis High School **Girls' Soccer Program** on **Advisement** for one year 1/21/25-1/21/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

NOTRE DAME PREP – *Catholic Diocese of Phoenix*
Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 2 Practice (14.2.1)

Reported Violation:

Boys' basketball coach was in the gym on Sunday with his son but allowed three other players to shoot as well. Coach was not coaching.

Schools Corrective Action:

Meeting with coach and administration to review rule and document with signatures. Communicated with all coaches as well.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Notre Dame Preparatory **Boys' Basketball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 1/21/25-1/21/26.

CIBOLA HIGH SCHOOL – *Yuma Union High School District*
Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 2 Practice (14.2.2)

Reported Violation:

On 12/26/24 and 12/27/24 there were 2 former wrestlers that have since transferred out of state that participated in practice with our wrestling teams. There was 1 female athlete and 1 male athlete. This was reported to me on 12/29/24 and I clarified and put an end to them coming to practice. No other violations occurred.

Schools Corrective Action:

There will be 1 on 1 training with the coaches to go over the bylaws pertaining to this incident. This will also be supplemented with training with all of my head coaches at the school to mitigate this from occurring again.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Cibola High School **Wrestling Program** on **Advisement** for one year 1/21/25-1/21/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL** – *Gilbert Public Schools**Rule: Article 22. Basketball, Section 5 Number of Games in Season (22.5.3)***Reported Violation:**

Our JV girls' basketball coach had an emergency and could not be at the game, our freshman coach had to step in at the last minute and was not accustomed to keeping track of the 6 quarter rule. The coach played two players into a 7th quarter before it was noticed, in which the players were removed from the game immediately.

Schools Corrective Action:

The head varsity coach addressed it immediately with the coach and will have AD meet with coach as well to review systems in which can be implemented to ensure any coach knows how many quarters have been played.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Highland High School **Girls' Basketball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 1/21/25-1/21/26.

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:

SCHOOL REQUESTING:

1. Chaparral
2. Catalina

HEREBY CONSENT:

- Girls' Wrestling Program
Girls' Basketball Program

SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS – 24

CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 212 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)

ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

- A. **Joseph City** – additional VAR/JV girls' basketball games to help fill **Chinle's** schedule.
- B. **Williams** – additional VAR/JV boys/girls' basketball games to help fill **Grand Canyon's** schedule.
- C. **Kofa** – additional VAR/JV girls' basketball games to help fill **San Pasqual's** schedule.
- D. **Pueblo** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo boys' basketball games to help fill **Tanque Verde's** schedule.
- E. **Cibola** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo girls/boys' basketball games to help fill **Cienega's** schedule.
- F. **Coolidge** – additional VAR boys' basketball game to help fill **The Gregory School's** schedule.
- G. **Gila Ridge** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo boys' basketball games to help fill **Yuma's** schedule.
- H. **Baboquivari** – additional VAR/JV girls' basketball games to help fill **San Pasqual's** schedule.
- I. **Flagstaff** – additional VAR softball game to help fill **Mohave Accelerated's** schedule.
- J. **McClintock** – additional VAR/JV baseball game to help fill **Dobson's** schedule.
- K. **Northland Prep** – additional JV boys' basketball game to help fill **Bourgade Catholic's** schedule.
- L. **Northland Prep** – additional Fr/So boys' basketball game to help fill **Payson's** schedule.

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

NEW MEMBER SCHOOL – BALLOTING

- Goodyear High School

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above school to be balloted by membership.

- ALA Vistancia

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above school to be balloted by membership.

- ALA Sierra Vista – application was pulled by the member school.

REQUEST – ARTICLE 43 – SPORTS MEDICINE

- 2024.43.10-1
- 2024.43.10-2

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the requests based on recommendations from the Sports Medicine Committee.

REQUEST – ARTICLE 18 – OFFICIALS

An analysis was completed, distributed, and endorsed by the Officials Advisory Committee for a 2.25% (rounded to the nearest quarter) as noted in the bylaw, officials’ fees increase for next year to be approved by Legislative Council.

The request was amended to freeze officials fee increases due to budgetary concerns across the state for the 2025-2026 school year.

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **accepted** the amended request from the Officials Department.

HARDSHIP APPEALS

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

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| <u>Payson</u> | Ryan Sherling - Athletic Director, Parents, Student |
| | NW Christian – David Inness, 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>
Payson	Denied

FOOTBALL PLACEMENT APPEALS

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

<u>Northwest Christian</u>	David Inness - Athletic Director
<u>Salpointe Catholic</u>	Phil Gruensfelder – Athletic Director, Danny Preble – Assistant Athletic Director
<u>Saguaro</u>	Matt Harris – Athletic Director, Nathan Slater – District Athletic Director
<u>Morenci</u>	Tiffany Powers – Athletic Director, Casey Woodall – Coach
<u>Pima</u>	Travis Hawkins – Athletic Director, Cody Barlow – Principal, Sean Rickert – Superintendent
<u>Chino Valley</u>	Matt Dunn – Athletic Director
<u>Yuma Catholic</u>	Rhett Stallworth – President, Jeff Welsing – Athletic Director
<u>Flowing Wells</u>	Mark Brunenkant – Athletic Director, Frank Thomas – Principal
<u>Barry Goldwater</u>	Chandler Evans – Athletic Director, Kim Crooks – District Athletic Director
<u>Betty Fairfax</u>	John-Martin Rigsby – Athletic Director, Brian Fair – District Athletic Director, Ty Preyer – Coach

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>
NW Christian	Denied
Salpointe Catholic	Denied
Saguaro	Denied
Morenci	Granted
Pima	Granted
Chino Valley	Granted
Yuma Catholic	Denied
Flowing Wells	Denied
Barry Goldwater	Denied
Betty Fairfax	Denied
Nogales	Denied – Paper Screened

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 December 2024

FUTURE DATES

January 22-23, 2025	Spring Hardship Appeal Hearings – Committee
January 27, 2025	4A Conference Committee Meeting 6A Conference Committee Meeting Spring Coaches Course Opened
January 29, 2025	District AD / Conference Leadership Meeting
February 5, 2025	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
February 6, 2025	5A Conference Committee Meeting
February 8, 2025	Spring Coaches Course Deadline
February 12, 2025	Sportsmanship Advisory Committee
February 17, 2025	Holiday – AIA Office Closed
February 18, 2025	AIA Executive Board Meeting
February 24, 2025	4A Conference Committee Meeting 6A Conference Committee Meeting
February 25, 2025	2A Soccer All Conference Selection Meeting 3A Soccer All Conference Selection Meeting
February 26, 2025	District AD / Conference Leadership Meeting
February 27, 2025	3A Conference Committee Meeting
February 28, 2025	2A Conference Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INTERVIEWS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Hines, AIA Executive Director