



MINUTES
SPECIAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – TELECONFERENCE
January 30, 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 Thursday, January 30, 2025 in-person at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020 and teleconference.

President Matt Belden called the meeting to order at 8:32 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)*
David Verdugo, Arizona School Administrators (Santa Cruz Valley School District – Rio Rico)*
Missy Townsend, Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (Prescott High School)*
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

Guests:

Chrystal Reyes
Michael Ibarra
Elizabeth Ibarra

**Indicates attendance via Zoom*

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – JANUARY 30, 2025

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the adoption of the January 30, 2025 agenda.

ACTION ITEMS:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board approved the hiring of Dr. Jim Dean for the next Executive Director of the AIA. [Press Release](#)

BOARD AUTHORIZES THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND LEGAL COUNSEL TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTRACT

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board gave approval to authorize the President, Vice President and Legal Counsel to begin negotiations with the newly appointed Executive Director regarding the contract.

NEW MEMBER SCHOOL – BALLOTING

- Pace Academy (Esports and Speech Only)

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approve** the above school to move forward to membership balloting.

SCHOOL VIOLATION**SANTA CRUZ VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL** – Santa Cruz Valley Union High School District

Rule: Article 17. Coaches and Coaching, Section 4 Coach's / Sponsor's Code of Ethics (17.4.2.1 // 17.4.3.3)

Reported Violation:

The rule in question was violated when the boys' wrestling coach engaged in misconduct with spectators that resulted in a physical altercation. The coach did not act in accordance with Bylaw 17.4.3.3 by not exercising patience, tolerance and diplomacy in relations with all players and co-workers, contest officials and spectators. He also did not follow bylaw 17.4.2.1 and did not abide by the NFHS and AIA rules in both spirit and letter.

Schools Corrective Action:

- The coach has been suspended from coaching for the remainder of the school wrestling season.
- The athlete has been notified that he will sit out the next two matches in accordance with AIA bylaws related to fighting. Additionally, he will be required to complete the NFHS sportsmanship course to emphasize the importance of sportsmanship and proper conduct in athletic competitions and a part of the bylaw for fighting. It is important to note that, according to video evidence, the student in questions did not run to the fight he was simply making his way back to his team area when the fight began in front of him. At wrestling tournaments, wrestling teams typically sit in the stands rather than having a designated bench area. This setup allows the teams to watch and support their teammates during matches while also providing a communal space for them to rest and prepare for their own bouts. The stands serve as the central gather point for the teams, creating a more integrated and supportive environment throughout the tournament.
- To ensure a safe and positive environment at all wrestling events, Santa Cruz will have an administrator present at all home and away matches for the remainder of the season. This measure aims to provide oversight and more support during competitions.
- We have conducted a parent meeting and a coach's meeting to discuss expectations and guidelines for all wrestling events moving forward. This initiative is aimed at reinforcing our commitment to sportsmanship, safety and the overall well-being of our student athletes. We will continue these types of meetings with all sports moving forward.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Santa Cruz Valley Union High School **Athletics' and Activities Programs** on **Warning** for one year 1/30/25-1/30/26 with the addition of more corrective actions being put into place. Communication will be made to the school regarding the additional corrective actions and the requirements that must be met.

SCHOOL VIOLATION – Cont'd

NORTH HIGH SCHOOL – *Phoenix Union High School District*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 5 Domicile (15.5.2.5)

Reported Violation:

Student is registered full-time at Bioscience HS, a district alternative school. Based on his address he is eligible to play sports at Cesar Chavez HS but was inadvertently allowed to play sports at North.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contests forfeited. Student is registered full-time at Bioscience HS, a district alternative school. Based on his address he is eligible to play sports at Cesar Chavez HS but was inadvertently allowed to play sports at North.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the North High School **Activities Programs** on **Advisement** for one year 1/30/25-1/30/26 and upheld the forfeitures.

REQUEST – FLAG FOOTBALL – ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE

With over 130 schools planning on participating in Flag Football for the 2025-2026 school year, it was requested to create an additional conference to allow the smaller schools the ability to grow their programs.

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board approved the addition of the 3A Conference for flag football.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:40am.

Respectfully submitted,
David Hines, AIA Executive Director