



**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
February 18, 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, February 18, 2025, at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

Vice President Missy Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

Members in Attendance:

William Duarte, 1A Conference (Superior Jr./Sr. High School)
Tiarra Yazzie, 2A Conference (Hopi High School)
Tim Bridges, 3A Conference (Catalina High School)
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

Members Absent:

Matt Belden, 4A Conference (Glendale Union School District)

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
Tyler Cerimeli, Director of Athletics & Officials

Guests:

Tommy Eubanks
Stephen McDowell
David Huffine
Mark Ernster
Corey Newland

**Indicates attendance via Zoom*

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – FEBRUARY 18, 2025

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the adoption of the February 18, 2025 agenda.

REGULAR MEETING:**MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Winter Championships begin with wrestling at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum this week. Basketball championships will be held at the VMC beginning March 1st with 1A – 3A and Copper Division and conclude the following week with 4A – 6A and Open Division. Soccer Championships begin with 2A – 3A on February 22nd and will conclude with 4A – 6A and Open on March 1st. Good luck to all those participating in the winter championship tournament.

At the request of the Track and Field Sports Advisory Committee, Division II will hold their tournament on Thursday/Saturday. A survey went out to request feedback from the membership with over 80% in favor of the change.

Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has made a few changes to the Physical Forms. The new forms will be posted and ready for use prior to March 1st.

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 – January 21, 2025
- Special Executive Board Meeting – January 30, 2025

AIA Lifetime Passes

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Mark Faust | Mountain Ridge |
| 2. Matt Gutierrez | Gilbert |
| 3. Julie Patton | Glendale |
| 4. Jennifer Runger | Glendale |

Replacement of A Complimentary Pass

- Mallory Summers – Seton Catholic – Coach
- Darien Schoolcraft – Centennial – Athletic Director

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.

ESPORTS: MARVEL RIVALS PRESENTATION

Members of the Esports Advisory Committee, Kenya Corrigan and Robert LaPlante, presented a new and popular game the committee is hopeful to have approved as an AIA Esports Game.

- "Marvel Rivals" is an exciting team-based video game that combines strategy, action, and iconic characters from the Marvel universe.
- Players form teams of heroes or villains to engage in dynamic battles across various Marvel-themed environments.
- The game features a mix of fast-paced combat, objective-based gameplay, and team coordination.
- Each character has unique abilities and roles, requiring players to strategize effectively to outwit their opponents. Whether it's controlling the battlefield with a tank, providing support as a healer, or dealing damage as a DPS, the diverse roster allows for varied playstyles.

The Executive Board will take the information back to their respective conferences / organizations for feedback from the membership. A vote will take place during the March 17th meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS****PARADISE HONORS HIGH SCHOOL** – *Charter*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule (15.10)

Reported Violation:

A student transfer was allowed to play in tennis matches prior to sitting the required half of the season. No 550 was complete.

Schools Corrective Action:

Coaches will be in-serviced on bylaw 15-10. All athletes will be screened by the coaches PRIOR to being allowed to work with the team in any way. The athletic department will add transfer questionnaires to Register My Athlete so we can identify transfer students and make sure they are processed correctly prior to the season starting.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Paradise Honors High School **Activities Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/18/25-2/18/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL** – *Mesa Public Schools*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 3 Enrollment Rule (15.3.1)

Reported Violation:

A home school football athlete was brought in by a parent who is an employee of MPS to enroll their home school student at Skyline. The athlete was registered by our Registrars assistant and enrolled in a JROTC class as well as a football class. The registrar assistant failed to obtain the Affidavit of Intent to Homeschool and the registrar and the AD weren't notified of the home school student enrolling. The counselor also didn't catch the mistake made by the registrar assistant when they set up the student with his schedule. The athlete filled out his information on RMA and because he was enrolled at Skyline, it didn't raise a red flag for the athletics secretary. The athletics secretary was able to catch that he was a homeschooled student when it came time to run eligibility. The athlete is a freshman, so per the eligibility timeline, the athletic secretary did not run grades on him until Sept. 3rd. This was a month after tryouts. Once she noticed he was a homeschooled student without an affidavit on file, she notified the previous AD that he was not registered correctly. There was a chance in AD position at Skyline during the current football season and the resulting violation was never brought to the attention of the new AD until it was found during our process of reviewing our home school students. It was also determined that the student did not live in our school boundary.

Schools Corrective Action:

The AD met with the school principal and the registrar to review the policy and procedures of enrolling a homeschool student who is planning on attending Skyline and participating in athletics. The purpose of the procedures is to ensure the AD is involved in the process, once a home school student has been identified as a potential athlete on the campus. See document for roles and procedures we will follow.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Skyline High School **Activities Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/18/25-2/18/26.

ALHAMBRA HIGH SCHOOL – *Phoenix Union High School District*

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

Reported Violation:

The Alhambra boys' soccer player participated in a private practice session with an outside coach and another non PXU Player.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. The rule of "nonparticipation" was reiterated with all players. All players were told not to participate in outside practices with private coaches. The AD will contact the GCU Men's Soccer Club player to notify him of the rule, and request that they do not contact our players for training.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Alhambra High School **Boys' Soccer Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/18/25-2/18/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

NOGALES HIGH SCHOOL – *Nogales Unified*

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

Reported Violation:

It was reported that 3 of our student-athletes with JVB boys' soccer participated in a non-school club tournament the weekend of 1/17-1/20. Upon investigation, it was confirmed these students were in violation of 14.4.1, having participated with their club team, RSL, in a club tournament that weekend.

Schools Corrective Action:

Students and parents were reminded article 14.4.1, and how it affects eligibility and contest forfeitures. The Athletic Department will continue to provide education during preseason meetings on topics relating to student-athlete eligibility.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Nogales High School **Boys' Soccer Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/18/25-2/18/26.

GILA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL – *Yuma Union High School District*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 3 Enrollment Rule (15.3.1.2)

Reported Violation:

A family came in to sign their two student-athletes up for wrestling for the 4th year in a row at Gila Ridge. The family indicated that they are now receiving ESA funds and are enrolled in an online charter school. Wrestling season 2023-2024, the family provided an Affidavit of Intent from the Yuma County School Superintendent's office and indicated both students were being homeschooled.

Schools Corrective Action:

As part of the athletic clearance process, home school or ESA students must go through a checklist to ensure athletic eligibility. The athletic department will review this checklist, which requires families to submit specific documentation, which includes an academic transcript. By reviewing the transcripts, GRHS athletic department will be able to determine if a student was previously enrolled in another school in the same year as they were to be homeschooled or on an ESA contract.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Gila Ridge High School **Activities Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/18/25-2/18/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

GILA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL – *Yuma Union High School District*

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

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 8 Parental or Legal Guardian Consent Rule (15.8.1)

Reported Violation:

Boys' wrestling athlete participated in practice without having a physical on hand or parental consent.

Schools Corrective Action:

GRHS will provide training on Article 15 of the AIA bylaws to stress the importance of the clearance process.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Gila Ridge High School **Activities Program** on **Warning** for one year 2/18/25-2/18/26.

CHINLE HIGH SCHOOL – *Chinle Unified*

Rule: Article 22. Basketball, Section 5 Number of Games in Season (22.5.3)

Reported Violation:

Boys' basketball athlete played in more than 6 quarters on 1/17 against Tuba City.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. To ensure compliance and prevent future occurrences, the following steps will be implemented:
1. Mandatory AIA Bylaw Training. 2. Policy Integration into the Athletic Handbook. 3. Ongoing Training and Monitoring.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Chinle High School **Boys' Basketball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/18/25-2/18/26.

TREVOR G BROWNE HIGH SCHOOL – *Phoenix Union High School District*

Rule: Article 22. Basketball, Section 5 Number of Games in Season (22.5.3)

Reported Violation:

Our varsity coach played a JV girls' basketball player for three quarters after she had already played four quarters on JV. So, he violated the 6 quarter rule. We verified.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. I have reminded our girls coach that he MUST verify the quarters a player can play prior to the start of his game. I also let the JV Coach know they need better communication as he was sitting on the bench when this occurred.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Trevor G Browne High School **Girls' Basketball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/18/25-2/18/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

CASTEEL HIGH SCHOOL – *Chandler Unified School District*

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

Reported Violation:

Student boys' soccer player participated in an MLS Next Game on Saturday, 1/11/2025.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. 14.4.1 is defined in per season parent meeting and reiterated by coaches.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Casteel High School **Boys' Soccer Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/18/25-2/18/26.

COPPER CANYON HIGH SCHOOL – *Tolleson Union High School District*

Rule: Article 19. Policies and Procedures, Section 1 Violations (19.1.1)

Reported Violation:

During a boys' soccer tournament game between Copper Canyon and Highland, our coach from CC decided to stop the game. Both teams were playing a physical game that escalated in the second half. The sideline referee was yelling at the middle referee to get control of the game and to pay attention to her calls. In the second half, a hard foul occurred on a Copper Canyon player, leading to a scuffle between a Copper Canyon player and a Highland player. Our coach felt that the center referee had lost control of the game and, considering the safety of his players, decided it was best to stop the game.

Schools Corrective Action:

I educated the coach that it is a violation to stop a contest. I explained to the coach he should make attempts to call the Athletic Director to explain the situation.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Copper Canyon High School **Boys' Soccer Program** on **Warning** for one year 2/18/25-2/18/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont’d

SAFFORD HIGH SCHOOL – Safford Unified

Rule: Article 14. Policies and Procedures, Section 2 Practice (14.2.1)

Rule: Article 17. Coaches and Coaching, Section 5 Open Facilities (17.5.1.1)

Reported Violation:

It was discovered on January 7th that boys’ basketball was utilizing the gym on a Sunday by a volunteer assistant coach. The coach held an open gym/shoot around on Friday January 3rd. The invite was communicated to the varsity team via the Remind app.

Schools Corrective Action:

Given the fact that the assistant coach was educated and acknowledged the SUSD, SHS and AIA policies, yet made the decision to open the gym on a Sunday without permission or knowledge by the head coach or school, abuse of District policy (key), was insubordinate and deceptive, I took the following actions:

1. Assistant coach was terminated. He is not eligible for hire as a coach in any capacity within any of our programs.
2. The district personnel will be more diligent in the collection of keys.
3. I will continue to emphasize the bylaw (i.e. Real-life example and consequences to our program). I met with basketball staff and players to re-educate.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Safford High School **Boys’ Basketball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/18/25-2/18/26.

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. Rio Rico
2. Morenci
3. ALA Gilbert North
4. Scottsdale Prep
5. BASIS Flagstaff
6. Veritas
7. Combs
8. Catalina
9. BASIS Flagstaff
10. Sequoya Pathway
- 10 Sequoya Pathway

HEREBY CONSENT:

- VAR Boys’ Volleyball Program
- VAR Golf Program
- VAR Girls’ Beach Volleyball Program
- VAR Softball Program
- VAR Golf Program
- VAR Softball Program
- VAR Boys’ Tennis Program
- VAR Baseball Program
- VAR Girl’s Tennis Program
- VAR Baseball Program
- VAR Softball Program

SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS – 52

CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 374 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)

SCHOOL REQUESTING:

1. Heritage Academy

HEREBY DOES NOT CONSENT:

Northwest Christian – JV Girls’ Soccer

REQUEST TO RESCIND NONCONSENT FINE

Payson High School is requesting to rescind the JV fine for the football contest between Payson and Madison Highland. The cancellation was made due to weather conditions.

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **rescinded** the fine implemented to Madison Highland Prep for the JV football game with Payson High School.

ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

- A. **Parker** – additional VAR/JV boys' basketball games to help fill **Highland Prep's** schedule.
- B. **St. Mary's** – an additional VAR girls' softball game to help fill **Sunnyslope's** schedule.
- C. **Brophy** – an additional VAR boy's tennis match to help fill **Catalina Foothill's** schedule.
- D. **Show Low** – additional VAR/JV softball games to help fill **St. Johns'** schedule.
- E. **Show Low** – additional VAR/JV baseball games to help fill **St. Johns'** schedule.
- F. **Alhambra** – an additional VAR baseball game to help fill **ALA Gilbert North's** schedule.
- G. **Payson** – an additional VAR softball game to help fill **St. John's** schedule.
- H. **Mohave Accelerated** – an additional VAR boys' basketball game to help fill **Seligman's** schedule.
- I. **Mingus Union** – an additional VAR baseball game to help fill **Mica Mountain's** schedule.
- J. **McClintock** – an additional VAR/JV baseball game to help fill **Dobson's** schedule.
- K. **San Simon** – an additional VAR boys' basketball game to help fill **Lourdes Catholic's** schedule.
- L. **Marcos de Niza** – an additional VAR softball game to help fill **McClintock's** schedule.
- M. **St. Johns** – an additional VAR baseball game to help fill **Window Rock's** schedule.

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

REQUEST – CO OP – BASEBALL

Fredonia and El Capitan are requesting to combine both baseball and softball teams for the 2025 spring season. This is due to the low numbers and not being able to field individual teams at each school.

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the co-op for Fredonia and El Capitan for the regular baseball and softball seasons.

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **tabled** discussion of post-season participation pending recommendation from the 1A Conference Region representatives.

AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 30 – TENNIS**30.10 POST-SEASON TOURNAMENTS****30.10.1 Post-Season Tournaments**

30.10.1.2 There shall be Individual Champions and Team Champions for both boys and girls.

30.10.1.2.1 There shall be individual and/or team post-season tournaments as determined by the Executive Board

30.10.1.2.1.1 ~~Losers in the semifinal round shall play a consolation round.~~

Rationale: This rule has not been followed for many years.

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above policy and procedure amendment.

AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 30 – TENNIS**30.10 POST-SEASON TOURNAMENTS**

~~30.10.3 Practice on Site – A practice or competition on the site of the Post-Season Championship Tournament, except for a regularly scheduled contest, is not permitted for seven calendar days prior to the Post-Season Championship, except in the case of the host school.~~

Rationale: Teams and players are currently not allowed to warmup on the site of the tournament. The Tennis Advisory Committee believes that this is an outdated rule that unfairly punishes out of Phoenix schools. Tennis Coaches were surveyed and 120 out of 138 (87%) voted to change the rule.

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **denied** the above policy and procedure amendment.

EXCEPTION – ARTICLE 14.4 – NONSCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Chaparral High School is looking for an exception to 14.4 for a student athlete. This student would like to compete on Canada's 15U National Softball Team in the Pan American Games, March 19-30 in Mexico. Our exception request is to allow her to participate on this national team and retain eligibility or allow the student to participate for Chaparral after the games have been completed and she returns to school.

After review of the written and oral information provided by Chaparral High School Athletic Director, Jack Bagley, on a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above request for the student to participate on her National Softball Team.

Nathan Slater – abstained

REQUEST – ARTICLE 43 – SPORTS MEDICINE

- 2024.43.10-3

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

HARDSHIP APPEALS

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

Pinnacle David Abrams – Athletic Director, Corey Newland – District Athletic Director, Parents
Cactus Shadows – Rob Gilmore – Athletic Director, Jill Sarraino – District Athletic Director

Tucson Stephanie Miller – Athletic Director, Parents

Empire James Sye – Athletic Director, Parent, Student, Attorney
Mica Mountain – Whitney Holland – Athletic Director, Jay Campos – Principal

Phx Country Day Shane Lewis – Athletic Director, Bob Kosower – Assistant Athletic Director, Parents
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:

<u>School/Appeal</u>	<u>Granted/Denied</u>
Pinnacle	Denied
Tucson	Granted
Empire	Denied
Phx Country Day	Granted

EXCEPTION – ARTICLE 15 – INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

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

Phoenix Christian Ben Stryczek – Athletic Director, International Director, Assistant AD, Student

Az Lutheran David Peter – Athletic Director, International Director, Host Family, 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, **upheld the bylaw** on the following student eligibility requests:

<u>School/Appeal</u>
Phoenix Christian
Az Lutheran

FOOTBALL REGION PLACEMENT APPEALS

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

<u>Salpointe Catholic</u>	Phil Gruensfelder – Athletic Director
<u>Westwood</u>	Brady Pond – Athletic Director
<u>Vista Grande</u>	John Kashner – Athletic Director
<u>Douglas</u>	Maria Trinta – Athletic Director, Hunter Long – Football Coach
<u>Skyline</u>	Ray Madrid – 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>
Salpointe Catholic	Denied
Westwood	Denied
Vista Grande	Denied
Douglas	Denied
Skyline	Denied

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 January 2025

FUTURE DATES

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
March 4, 2025	2A Basketball All Conference Selection Meeting
March 5, 2025	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
March 6, 2025	3A Basketball All Conference Selection Meeting
March 7, 2025	Legislative Council Meeting – DLR Group
March 13, 2025	5A Conference Committee Meeting
March 17, 2025	Executive Board Meeting
March 24, 2025	6A Conference Committee Meeting
March 26, 2025	District AD / Conference Leadership Meeting
March 31, 2025	4A Conference Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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:

- ✓ 9:46 am – 12:50 pm
- ✓ 2:38 pm – 3:45 pm

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Hines, AIA Executive Director