



# **ARIZONA INTERSCHOLASTIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

## **MINUTES**

### **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

**FRIDAY – MARCH 7, 2025**

In accordance with Article 4, Section 4.5, Paragraph 4.5.1 of the Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc. (AIA) Constitution, the regular annual meeting of the AIA Legislative Council (Council) was duly called and held on Friday, March 7, 2025 at the DLR Group at 6225 N 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 250, Phoenix, AZ 85016.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **1A Conference**

Carl Adams – St. Michael  
George Diehl – Bagdad  
Angela Earnhart – The Gregory School  
Lydia Martinez – Hayden  
Joe Page – North Phoenix Prep  
Nate Porter – Patagonia

##### **2A Conference**

Tom Kandler – Pinon District  
Casey Fraughton – Gilbert Classical  
Duane Ediger – Scottsdale Prep  
Aaron Trigg – Rancho Solano  
Derek Wahlsrom – Trivium Prep  
David Peter – Az Lutheran  
Eric Tatham – Benson

##### **3A Conference**

David Innes – NW Christian  
CJ Woods – Chinle

##### **4A Conference**

Whitney Holland – Mica Mountain  
Shelly Arredondo – Tempe  
Jeannine Brandel – Flagstaff  
Jeff Feldman – Greenway  
Ty Cepfers – Amphitheater  
Lenica Ruiz – Marcos de Niza  
Stacy Spencer – Deer Valley

##### **5A Conference**

Dena Anderson – Horizon  
Andrea Hudson – Canyon View  
Chad McCluskey – Metro Tech  
Randy Robbins – Casa Grande  
Julie Patton – Glendale  
Demenico Solorzano – Cienega

##### **6A Conference**

Tim Matteson – Sunnyslope  
Derek Fahleson – Tolleson District  
Ansel Traynor – Gila Ridge  
Tommy Eubanks – Mesa District  
Brian Fair – Phoenix Union District  
Shawn Rustad – Chandler District  
Kim Crooks – Deer Valley District

##### **School Board Members**

1A – Carolyn Freeman – Bicentennial Union  
3A – Mike DeLaO – Safford USD

##### **Board Members**

2A – Tiarra Yazzie  
3A – Tim Bridges  
4A – Matt Belden  
5A – Nathan Slater  
ASBA – Steve Johnson  
ASA – Tim Carter

##### **AIA Staff**

David Hines  
Jim Dean  
Tayler Coady  
Erin Coy  
Brian Bolitho  
Brian Gessner  
Tyler Cerimeli  
Jeanie Kosower  
Naomi Smith  
Amy Richmond  
Brandy Young  
Mary Wimmer

##### **Legal Counsel**

Rosa Leon

##### **Guests**

Mark Ernster  
Corey Newland  
David Huffine  
Steve McDowell  
David Loutzenheiser

##### **Members Absent**

5A – Jon Williams – Willow Canyon  
3A – Toni Corona – Safford  
3A – Greg Haagsma – Valley Christian  
3A – Scott Hoffmeyer – Show Low  
3A – Shawn Cluff – Florence  
3A – Jeff Welsing – Yuma Catholic  
1A – Jeff Bownlee – Williams  
4A – Joseph Mora – ASBA  
5A – Wendy Effing – ASBA

After completion of roll call, Mr. Belden introduced all others present and outlined procedures to be observed during the meeting. He reminded the Council Members that Article 5, Section 2 of the AIA Constitution stipulates that a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total Council membership (32 members) is required to amend the AIA Constitution and that a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a duly called meeting is required to amend the AIA Bylaws. Mr. Belden continued by stating that Article 4, Section 5 of the AIA Constitution stipulates that a quorum must be present at a meeting for the transaction of business, a quorum being two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership. He concluded that a quorum was present since roll call reflected that 37 of the 48 Council Members were present (32 members required for quorum). It was also determined, based upon the 37 members present, that a vote of 28 would be required for adoption of amendments to the AIA Bylaws. Mr. Belden then reminded the Council that in accordance with Article 4, Section 5, Paragraph 5 of the AIA Constitution, proxy votes could not be accepted.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the March 1, 2024 meeting were approved by a unanimous vote.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Before entertaining a motion to approve the agenda for the March 7, 2025 meeting as presented, Mr. Belden called for any request for additions or deletions to the agenda.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE DELAO AND SECONDED BY JULIE PATTON TO ADD ITEM #9.

### **MOTION TO AMEND – PASSED**

**(Votes Cast: yes-37; No-0)**

**CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER HIGH SCHOOLS**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD – PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

Amend AIA Bylaw:

Article 8. Classification of Member High School. Section 1. Classification and Alignment

Rationale for Proposed Amendment:

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**(Add/Remove Text)**

**8.1 CLASSIFICATION AND ALIGNMENT**

**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.

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

8.1.6.8.1 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 the prior scheduling block. **(Emergency Legislation – Ex. Brd 12/9/2024)**

~~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.~~

MOTION WAS MADE BY JULIE PATTON AND SECONDED BY MIKE DELAO TO ADOPT THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED.

**MAIN MOTION AS ORIGINALLY PRESENTED – PASSED**

**(Votes Cast: Yes-37; No-8)**

#####

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**  
**5A CONFERENCE – PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

Amend AIA Bylaw:  
Article 14. General Provisions, Section 4 Nonschool Participation

*Rationale for Proposed Amendment:*

*This bylaw amendment provides clarity related to ancillary sports that derive from the AIA sanctioned sport, for example (but not limited to) 3 on 3 basketball, futsal, etc.*

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**(Add Text)**

**14.4 NONSCHOOL PARTICIPATION**

14.4.1 A student who is a member or becomes a member of a school team shall not practice, have practiced or compete with any other group, club, organization, association, etc., in that sport, **or derivative of that sport** during the interscholastic season of competition. This rule applies to the following team sports: football, flag football, baseball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, track relay and swimming relay teams. For purposes of this rule, the interscholastic season of competition shall begin on the competition date as set in the policies and procedures of each sport and conclude with that particular team's final game. Any student violating the above rule shall forfeit his/her eligibility for a minimum of the balance of the season for that sport or up to a maximum of one calendar year

MOTION WAS MADE BY WHITNEY HOLLAND AND SECONDED BY JEANNINE BRANDEL TO ADPOT THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED.

MOTION WAS MADE BY WHINTEY HOLLAND AND SECONDED BY JEANNINE BRANDEL TO AMEND THE PROPOSAL. THE AMENDMENT TO 14.4.1 ... in that sport, **or derivative of that sport that is not already sanctioned by the AIA** during the interscholastic season of competition.

**MOTION TO AMEND – PASSED**  
**(Votes Cast: Yes-37; No-0)**

#####

**MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED – PASSED**  
**(Votes Cast: Yes-37; No-0)**

#####

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY RULES**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD – PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

Amend AIA Bylaw:  
Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules. Section 11 Amateur Rule

*Rationale for Proposed Amendment:*

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**(Add Text)**

**15.11 AMATEUR RULE**

15.11.1.2 **NIL Guidelines:** A student-athlete may benefit from the use of their name, image, and likeness (NIL) provided.

15.11.1.2.3 The compensation is not provided by the school, a booster club, a collective, or any person/entity acting as an agent on behalf of the school or athletic program.

- No student-athlete may be a member of nor receive compensation or any other benefit from a Collective or NIL Club. A Collective is defined as any group organized or existing for the purpose of compensating or benefiting an individual student athlete or a group of student athletes of a member school. NIL Clubs are defined as a group of student athletes organized or existing for the purpose of soliciting funds or other benefits from fans, members or other sources, managing or promoting NIL activities of student athletes or otherwise providing funds or other benefits to an individual student athlete or group of student athletes.
- Booster Clubs are not considered Collectives or NIL Clubs if such Booster Club is operated under the supervision of a member school and provides monetary or other benefits to school athlete facilities, school athletic equipment, school team meals or other school team benefits rather than to an individual student athlete or group of student athletes.

***(Emergency Legislation – Ex Board – 9/10/2024)***

MOTION WAS MADE BY DENA ANDERSON AND SECONDED BY LENICA RUIZ TO ADOPT THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED.

**MAIN MOTION AS ORIGINALLY PRESENTED – PASSED**  
**(Votes Cast: Yes-37; No-0)**

#####

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY RULES**  
**6A / 5A CONFERENCE – PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

Amend AIA Bylaw:  
Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 5 Domicile

*Rationale for Proposed Amendment:*

*The proposed revised bylaw would allow students attending specialty or alternative schools to participate in AIA athletics and activities at the AIA-member school of their choosing within their school district upon initial enrollment. Any subsequent changes in the school of participation would follow the established transfer rule guidelines. However, alternative or specialty school students who reside outside the boundaries of their school district would remain ineligible to participate at any school.*

*This proposed revised bylaw does not change homeschool student policies.*

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(Add/Remove Text)

**15.5 DOMICILE**

15.5.2 Special Domicile Placements

15.5.2.5 District Alternative School Students - Students enrolled in a Cognia Commission on Accreditation & School Improvement accredited alternative school or specialty school that is void of any AIA interscholastic activity programs are eligible to participate in such activities at any other school within the same enrolled district. Upon establishing eligibility at a school that provides AIA Interscholastic activities programs within the enrolled district, students must ensure compliance with all AIA and school district eligibility criteria. An alternative school student who resides outside the attendance zone of their LEA is not eligible for interscholastic competition. If a student transfers, they may then use the provisions and process set out in 15.10 and related subsections (Form 550) and obtain eligibility at the receiving school in that particular sport or activity. ~~Students attending a Cognia Commission on Accreditation & School Improvement accredited alternative school that is void of any AIA interscholastic activity programs are eligible to participate in such activities at their home school (school of domicile). All AIA and school district eligibility requirements must be met.~~

MOTION WAS MADE BY BRIAN FAIR AND SECONDED BY TIM MATTESON TO ADPOT THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED.

MOTION WAS MADE BY CHAD MCCLUSKEY AND SECONDED BY BRIAN FAIR TO AMEND THE PROPOSAL. THE AMENDMENT TO 15.5.2.5 ... ~~Students initially enrolled...~~

**MOTION TO AMEND – PASSED**  
(Votes Cast: Yes-37; No-0)

#####

**MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED – FAILED**  
(Votes Cast: Yes-3; No-35)

#####

**SPORTS MEDICINE****EXECUTIVE BOARD – PROPOSED AMENDMENT** (As recommended by the AIA Staff)

Amend AIA Bylaw:

Article 43. Sports Medicine, Section 10 Transgender Policy

*Rationale for Proposed Amendment:*

*In compliance with state law, and to provide additional clarity to the bylaw, the recommended change in language is provided to clearly identify compliance with the Keeping Men out of Women's Sports Federal Executive Order, signed on 2/5/25.*

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**(Add/Remove Text)****43.10 TRANSGENDER POLICY**

~~GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION~~ **Title IX Participation** – If made in compliance with **Title IX and A.R.S. 15-120.02**, a school may make a request on behalf of a student utilizing the procedure **in the link below**. If the student has been granted eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics consistent with **Title IX the athlete's gender identity, and A.R.S. 15-120.02**, the eligibility is granted for the duration of the student's participation and does not need to be renewed every sport season or school year. All discussion and documentation will be kept confidential, and the proceedings will be sealed unless the student and family make a specific request

**Place the below information under a link titled - Title IX Participation Request**

- 43.10.1 **NOTICE TO THE SCHOOL:** the student and/or parents shall contact the school administrator or athletic director indicating that the student has a **participation request under Title IX and A.R.S 15-120.02**. ~~consistent gender identity different than the sex listed on the student's school registration records, and that the student desires to participate in activities in a manner consistent with the student's gender identity.~~
- 43.10.2 **NOTICE TO THE AIA:** The school administrator shall contact the AIA office, which will assign a facilitator who will assist the school and student in preparation and completion of the AIA ~~Gender Identity~~ **Title IX** eligibility appeal process.
- 43.10.3 **FIRST LEVEL OF REVIEW** The appealing student should provide the AIA with a form that includes the following: a) A student request to participate on an athletic team(s), **consistent with Title IX and A.R.S. 15-120.02**, that differs from their sex assigned at birth: b) Support from the student's parent or guardian. c) Support from a school administrator d) A copy of the PPE, signed by a qualified health care provider The AIA shall schedule a meeting with the ~~Gender Identity~~ **Title IX** Eligibility Committee, a subcommittee of the AIA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee as expeditiously as possible after receipt of all required documentation. The committee may request an in-person meeting with the student and parents and/or guardian if there are any additional questions or concerns by the committee after review of above documentation. If the ~~Gender Identity~~ **Title IX** Eligibility Committee, upon review of the above documentation, finds that the student's request is **in compliance with Title IX and A.R.S. 15-120.02**, appropriate and is not motivated by an improper purpose and there are no adverse health risks to the athlete, then a supportive recommendation shall be made by the committee to the AIA Executive Board.
- 43.10.4 **SECOND LEVEL OF APPEAL** Per AIA Bylaws 15.13.2 in all other cases, a member school may appeal on behalf of a student his/her ineligibility by notifying the Executive Board of the appeal in writing, setting out fully and completely the basis for the appeal. The Executive Board, utilizing the authority under AIA Bylaw 7.2.3.7, shall respond in writing within a reasonable time.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JEANNINE BRANDEL AND SECONDED BY WHITNEY HOLLAND TO ADPOT THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED.

**MAIN MOTION AS PRESENTED – PASSED**

**(Votes Cast: Yes-37; No-0)**

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 am by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Hines, Executive Director