

Football Sports Advisory Committee Meeting

Jan 15, 2025

10 am – AIA Board Room

Committee Members:

1A Dalton Mills (Bagdad) & George Diehl (Bagdad)

2A Chris Rasmussen (Benson) & Travis Hawkins **NP** (Pima)

3A Jake Petersen (Valley Christian) & Shawn Cluff (Florence)

4A Anthony Figueroa (Marcos de Niza) & Yancey Devore (Mingus Union), Ty Cephers **NP** (Amphi) At Large”

5A Greg Davis (Paradise Valley) & Kevin Belcher **NP** (Central)

6A Dana Zupke (Pinnacle) & Dave Huffine (Tempe Union)

AIA Staff:

Brian Gessner

Tyler Cerimeli

Dan Nero

David Hines

Jim Dean

Guest:

Daniel Jones - Coach (Thatcher)

Agenda Items:

1. **Approval of Minutes Dec 2023: Move to approve; George D.; 2nd; ; Approved.**
2. **Confirmation of Chairman for 2024-25: Greg Davis – nominated and approved.**
3. **Football Reclassification Review (Dave H. and Greg D.):**
 - a. **Movement of Schools up/down**
David Huffine and David Hines gave a history of the Reclassification movement of schools up/down over the last 6+ years. Current Standard Deviation # is 2.0, with 3 year averages for 4A-6A and 5 year averages for 2A-3A. Tyler C. added that the new AIA Bylaw included adjustments to align a school’s FB team with the rest of the school’s AIA teams by size/Conference, if warranted.
 - b. **Size of Conferences**
Greg Davis had concerns about sizes of Conferences. David Huffine (with 6A having 29 schools) and others agreed with the concerns. Possible solutions exist, but it is difficult to get any consensus. Dr. Dean agreed there needs to be a process as we move forward to level up the Conferences.

- c. Scheduling - 1 year or 2 year block
David Huffine mentioned that the 6A Conference would like a 1 year scheduling block, to help with out of state competition, among other reasons. The group consensus was a 2 year block was good for 2A thru 5A. 1A often needs to make yearly adjustments due low numbers of 1A FB teams.
- d. Playoff scenarios including Open
Conferences will be working on Playoff scenarios, especially 2A, 4A, 5A and 6A-Open, as soon as Region placements and scheduling takes place.

4. 1A (Dalton M.):

- a. Even out number of teams in regions. Concern from the 1A South Region – too many teams hurt the Region in Power Rankings
Always a priority with the 1A Leadership, challenges with some schools keeping their programs going.
- b. Forfeits – How to limit forfeits. **Consideration of AIA penalties if forfeits occur. 1A Conference would need to bring proposals to the Executive Board.**
- c. Coronado – State Semifinal and Championship site. **1A Leadership likes Coronado as a site, especially as 1A GVB Semis and Finals are also at Coronado at the same time. Lines for the 8 man field width need to be darker, and Visiting School headsets need to be checked, as frequency problems have occurred.**

5. **3A (Information from Coach Daniel Jones at Thatcher):**

- a. 3A Six (6) quarter participation rule – can plays on special teams not count? **This would be an item 3A Leadership might bring to the Executive Board for Art. 24 editing.**
- b. 2A/3A Championships Media Day. **Good discussion regarding this topic. Director of Sports Information Seth Polansky will be brought into the loop regarding possibilities.**
- c. 2A/3A Playoff Officiating – concerns of quality of playoff officials. **Brian Gessner mentioned all officials are graded weekly and the best officials work the playoffs, including some 4A, 5A, 6A officials working 1A, 2A, 3A Semis and Finals.**
- d. 2A/3A Championship venues – can the 2A/3A Championships be played at Stadiums? **AIA Staff would like to play all Championships at a stadium, but site availability and costs vs. the number of fans who actually attend present a challenge.**
- e. 2A/3A Championships Double Headers tough – make 2A and 3A Championships at separate sites. **AIA Exec. Staff will consider this possibility.**
- f. Re-classification of larger schools into 2A/3A. **This is one of the challenges the Reclassification Committee faces. We have seen schools that come down, then go back up when they get sustained success.**
- g. 2A/3A Rural and Metro schools; Public and Private schools. **Shawn C. mentioned this has been a discussion for quite a while, but again, it is difficult to reach consensus.**

1. **New Business:**

a. **NFHS Football info (Tyler C.)**

Tyler C. went over information re: rules, point of emphasis, and possible rule changes from the NFHS Football Rules Committee. Among the discussion points:

- **Keeping sidelines clear for officials**
- **NFHS player uniform regulations: eye black rules and knee pad rules not likely to change.**

2. **Next Meeting Date: January 2026**

3. **Meeting Adjourned: approx. 12:30 pm**

