



**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
March 17, 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 Monday, March 17 2025, at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

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, 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
Dean Visser, Director of Athletics & Activities
Dan Nero, Director of Athletics
Tyler Cerimeli, Director of Athletics & Officials
Mary Wimmer, Tournament Coordinator

Guests:

Stacy White
Jason Nuttall

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – MARCH 17, 2025

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the adoption of the March 17, 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:

- ✓ 8:32 am – 8:35 pm
- ✓ 10:15 am – 11:02 am
- ✓ 11:04 am – 11:19 am

REGULAR MEETING:**MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Winter Championships have concluded. Congratulations to everyone for a great season. We look forward to the spring sports seasons!

The 1A and 4A Conference Board Representatives positions will be open beginning July 1, 2025. Applications must be received to the AIA by Friday, March 21st. The Conferences will then have until April 8th to notify the AIA of the three names they are moving forward. The Executive Board will make the final selection at the April 21st Board meeting. Applications should be sent to Tayler Coady at tcoady@aiaonline.org.

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 – February 18, 2025

AIA Lifetime Passes

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Barry Goldwater | Jim Scappaticci |
| 2. Highland | Terry Fair |

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

2023-2024 AUDIT PRESENTATION

Based on the written and oral information provided, on a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the 2023-24 Audit.

ACTION ITEMS:

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS

CHAPARRAL HIGH SCHOOL – *Scottsdale Unified School District*

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

Reported Violation:

On 1/27/25, an in-season transfer student was put into the JV boys' soccer game vs Horizon. Seeing this the varsity coach immediately pulled the athlete out of the game 10 minutes into the game. The game was forfeited, and the coach's contract will not be renewed.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. Soccer staff in-serviced again on Article 15. Equipment manager reminded uniforms are not given to ineligible athletes. JV coach not renewed.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Chaparral High School **Boys' Soccer Program** on **Advisement** for one year 3/17/25-3/17/26. The Executive Board was appreciative of SUSD and Chaparral for taking action and resolving the situation.

Nathan Slater and Matt Belden abstained.

CASTEEL HIGH SCHOOL – *Chandler Unified School District*

Rule: Article 17. Coaches and Coaching, Section 4 Coach's / Sponsor's Code of Ethics (17.4.3.7)

Reported Violation:

Head coach made statements to AZ Central interview blaming referees for championship loss.

Schools Corrective Action:

School AD will include bylaw 17.4.3.7 in all preseason coaches meetings as well as coach in questions completing NFHS Sportsmanship Course.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, **accepted** the report from Casteel High School.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

CAMP VERDE HIGH SCHOOL – *Camp Verde Unified*

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

Reported Violation:

In the March 4th Varsity baseball game, student athlete batted 1 time. After seeing this, the AD contacted the coach, and the student was removed from the game. The students' hardship had been submitted but not approved. He should have not played due the 50% transfer rule.

Schools Corrective Action:

Met with the baseball coaches to ensure processes are in place so details like this are not overlooked again. Contest forfeited.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Camp Verde High School **Baseball Program** on **Warning** for one year 3/17/25-3/17/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**DESERT VISTA HIGH SCHOOL** – *Tempe Union High School District*

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

Reported Violation:

On Friday, February 21st, at 9:08 p.m., the Desert Vista AD was contacted by Highland High School's AD, who informed him that the Highland Principal had observed Desert Vista boys' basketball players arriving at a YMCA facility wearing DV uniform bottoms with the intent to participate in a game. Upon receiving this information, the Desert Vista AD reviewed photos and video footage provided by Highland to verify the students involved. Initial reports indicated that two student-athletes participated, but upon further review, it was determined that three student-athletes had played in the game. Another significant concern in this situation is that as the game began, the YMCA coach was informed by the Highland Principal that AIA rules prohibit student-athletes from participating in outside competition during the season. Despite being made aware of the rule, the YMCA coach did not prevent the Desert Vista players from participating. Instead, the players were encouraged to participate, creating an unfortunate situation where they violated AIA bylaw 14.4.1. After the game, tensions escalated as spectators and others confronted the students, accusing them of violating eligibility rules. It is important to note that Desert Vista's coaching staff had previously communicated to the team and their parents that participating in any outside games during the season is not permitted. Unfortunately, the student-athletes mistakenly believed that because it was a YMCA league and not a formal club team, the rule did not apply—a misunderstanding that was reinforced by the YMCA coach's inaction. While the students ultimately made the decision to play, they did so under the impression that no rules were being broken.

Schools Corrective Action:

Upon confirming the violation, the Desert Vista AD immediately addressed the situation the following morning at practice. Two of the three involved student-athletes were informed that they were now ineligible per AIA bylaw 14.4.1, with the third being notified shortly thereafter. Additionally, the entire team was once again reminded of the rule prohibiting outside competition during the season and the serious consequences of violating AIA regulations. As a result of the violation, Desert Vista will have to forfeit one regular season game and the play-in game from Friday, Feb. 21st against Shadow Ridge High School. These are the games in which the ineligible student-athletes participated. Additionally, per AIA regulations, Desert Vista is ineligible for continuing in the 6A state playoffs scheduled.

To prevent similar situations in the future, Desert Vista has implemented the following corrective actions:

1. **Coach Training and Reinforcement:** The Desert Vista Athletic Director held a meeting with all Desert Vista coaches to thoroughly review AIA bylaw 14.4.1, ensuring they fully understand the rule and reinforcing their responsibility to communicate and enforce it with their teams.
2. **Team and Parent Communication:** Following this meeting, Desert Vista administration communicated with parents informing them of the bylaw and its implications to ensure full transparency and understanding.
3. **Enhanced Compliance Measures:** Moving forward, AIA eligibility rules will continue to be emphasized before the season and throughout, emphasizing the importance of compliance and the consequences of violations.
4. **Collaboration with Outside Organizations:** While Desert Vista does not have authority over non-school programs, efforts will be made to educate external organizations about AIA rules to reduce the likelihood of similar situations occurring.

Desert Vista High School deeply regrets this situation and acknowledges the consequences of the violation. While we take full responsibility for ensuring our student-athletes understand and comply with AIA regulations, it is unfortunate that external influences contributed to this misunderstanding. We remain committed to upholding the integrity of high school athletics and ensuring all eligibility rules are followed moving forward.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Desert Vista High School **Boys' Basketball Program** on **Warning** for one year 3/17/25-3/17/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**GREENWAY HIGH SCHOOL** – *Glendale Union High School District*

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

Reported Violation:

I received an email on 2/20/25, stating that one of our varsity girls' soccer players had participated with a club soccer team while our season was still in session. I called the mother who is the parent as well as the 1st year head coach of the club team in questions. The mother told me that she participated in a scrimmage against a boys' team on Thursday, February 6th. Our regular season games were over, but our season was not as we played Ironwood Ridge in a play-in game on Thursday February 13th. It was determined that the student did not practice with the club team during the season, but did play in the scrimmage on 2/6/25.

When speaking with our Head Girls Soccer Coach, he was aware that the mother was the Head Coach of the Club Team and he specifically told her and her daughter at the Pre-Season Meeting, that she can't play or practice with them until their season was completely done. I am not sure if she though it was the regular season, but she was Ineligible for the Play-In game and still played.

Schools Corrective Action:

We do put an emphasis at our pre-season parent meetings, both full parent and individual sport, on telling parents that once the season of sport beings, the athletes are not allowed to participate in any club sport activities of the same sport. It seems like we need to let them know that includes all playoffs as well and not just the regular season.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Greenway High School **Girls' Soccer Program** on **Warning** for one year 3/17/25-3/17/26.

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

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

Reported Violation:

Student athlete was posted on Instagram through legacyyouthsports regarding being "Player of the Game" in the "Kiss the Rock Basketball Tournament" during the weekend of 02/08/2025. This was with the club team AZ Flight during his regular high school sports season.

Schools Corrective Action:

The student has been removed from the program and any affiliation with the boys' basketball program. In addition, we have added more information regarding the rule for our parent meeting to make sure everyone is informed.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Trevor G Browne High School **Boys' Basketball Program** on **Warning** for one year 3/17/25-3/17/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

ANDRADA HIGH SCHOOL – *Vail Unified School District*

Rule: Article 34. Wrestling Section 1 Rules (34.1.5)

Rule: Article 17. Coaches and Coaching Section 4 Coach's/Sponsor's Code of Ethics (17.4.3.1)

Reported Violation:

Coach intentionally entered incorrect weights into the OPC system to circumvent the system in place to protect wrestlers from being subjected to extreme weight loss demands from coaches. This would potentially allow him to tell his wrestlers to lose weight and compete at a weight class they would not have been eligible to compete in had he entered their correct certified weights at prior weigh-ins. This could have allowed his team to potentially gain a competitive edge in team scoring and dual meet competition the AIA requires all head coach's to record the actual weights from the official weigh-in sheets that are certified at each competition. No athlete was found to be knowingly involved in this incident and all wrestled at their certified weights.

Schools Corrective Action:

This was discovered by the AD as part of our normal audit of data entered by the coach. The coach's employment at our school has been ended as of 1/24/2025 and he was not allowed to have team contact or to attend competitions while the investigation was being conducted.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Andrada High School **Wrestling Program** on **Warning** for one year 3/17/25-3/17/26.

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. Rough Rock
2. Rough Rock
3. Rough Rock
4. San Tan Foothills
5. Trivium Prep
6. Desert Sunrise
7. Rio Rico
8. St. Augustine
9. Cactus Shadows
10. Phoenix Country Day
11. Leading Edge – Gilbert
12. Dishchii'bikoh
13. Palo Verde
14. Mayer
15. Phoenix Christian
16. Sequoia Pathway
17. Sequoia Pathway
18. Red Mesa
19. San Manuel

HEREBY CONSENT:

- VAR Boys/Girls Track and Field Programs
- VAR Softball Program
- VAR Baseball Program
- VAR Boys' Tennis Program
- VAR Baseball Program
- VAR Boys' Tennis Program
- VAR Boys' Tennis Program
- VAR Girls' Tennis Program
- VAR Beach Volleyball Program
- VAR Softball Program
- VAR Baseball Program
- VAR Baseball Program
- VAR Softball Program
- VAR Baseball Program
- VAR Boys' Volleyball Program
- VAR Boys' Volleyball Program
- VAR Golf Program
- VAR Softball Program
- VAR Girls' Track and Field Program

SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS – 131

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

SCHOOL REQUESTING:

1. Carl Hayden

HEREBY DOES NOT CONSENT:

Paradise Valley – VAR Girls' Basketball Contest

ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

- A. **Crismon** – additional VAR baseball game to help fill **Valley Christian's** schedule.
- B. **Crismon** – additional VAR softball game to help fill **Valley Christian's** schedule.
- C. **Miami** – an additional VAR softball game to help fill **Joseph City's** schedule.
- D. **Canyon View** – an additional VAR baseball game to help fill **Yuma's** schedule.
- E. **Winslow** – an additional VAR/JV softball game to help fill **St. Johns'** schedule.
- F. **Perry** – an additional JV beach volleyball game to help fill **Casteel's** schedule.
- G. **Yuma** – an additional VAR softball game to help fill **River Valley's** schedule.

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

REQUEST – CO OP – BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

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.

With recommendations from the 1A Conference, on a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** post-season participation for Fredonia and El Capitan's baseball and softball programs.

NEW MEMBER SCHOOL BALLOTING

After conducting balloting of the membership – the following new member schools were approved by the membership for the 2025-2026 school year.

- Goodyear High School
- American Leadership Academy Vistancia
- Pace Academy (Speech and Esports Only)

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above schools for full membership starting the 2025-2026 school year.

ESPORTS: MARVEL RIVALS

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the game addition of Marvel Rivals after receiving positive feedback from the Conferences.

AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 20 – BADMINTON

20.4 NUMBER OF MATCHES IN SEASON

20.4.4 One preseason interschool varsity scrimmage may be held; this scrimmage is considered a practice and shall not count toward the allowable number of games

20.4.4.1 The varsity scrimmage shall be scheduled the week prior to the AIA date of competition; individual players must have participated in at least ~~ten~~ seven practice sessions and completed the requirements of AIA Bylaw 41.5 – Heat Acclimatization

Rationale: Because the season starts in just two weeks the current ten practices does not allow for any days except maybe a Saturday for a scrimmage and Badminton is an indoor sport with little running therefore seven practices oppose to ten make sense to the Badminton community.

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **tabled** the above amendment until after the AD Summit on April 14th. Discussion will continue at the May 19th Board meeting.

AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 26 – GOLF

26.2 SEASON OF SPORT

26.2.3	<u>Fall Season</u> Division I & II	Practice Season of Competition Championship	no sooner than the begins Monday of the to be concluded by the	5 th week 6 th week 23 rd week
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Rationale: 5 extra days of practice and heat acclimatization. Increased ability to space out matches at a time when golf courses are open and willing to give up tee times and limits the students out of class time.

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **tabled** the above amendment until after the AD Summit on April 14th. Discussion will continue at the May 19th Board meeting

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL
REQUEST FOR HARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY – MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION

15.9 **MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION RULE** – After a student first enrolls in the ninth grade, he/she has a maximum of eight semesters of opportunity and a maximum of four seasons of opportunity in each sport or activity. **Semesters 1-8 must be consecutive.**

- Winslow High School

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **denied** the above appeal.

HARDSHIP APPEALS

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

Queen Creek Chris Driving Hawk – Athletic Director, Parent, Student

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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>
Queen Creek	Denied
Queen Creek	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 February 2025

FUTURE DATES

March 24, 2025	6A Conference Committee Meeting
March 26, 2025	District AD / Conference Leadership Meeting
March 31, 2025	4A Conference Committee Meeting
April 2, 2025	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
April 10, 2025	5A Conference Committee Meeting
April 14, 2025	Athletic Director / Student Leadership Summit – Xavier College Prep
April 18, 2025	Holiday – AIA Office Closed
April 21, 2025	Executive Board Meeting
April 24, 2025	Beach Pairs Seeding Meeting
April 28, 2025	4A Conference Committee Meeting
	6A Conference Committee Meeting
April 30, 2025	District AD / Conference Leadership Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,
David Hines, AIA Executive Director