



**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
May 19, 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, May 19, 2025, at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

President Matt Belden called the meeting to order at 9:30 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)
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:

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
Rosa Leon, Legal Counsel

Guests:

Toni Corona
Corey Newland

**Indicates attendance via teleconference*

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – MAY 19, 2025

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the adoption of the May 19, 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:

✓ 9:30 am – 10:44 am

REGULAR MEETING:**MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

On behalf of the AIA, we would like to extend a big congratulations to our member schools for all your outstanding performances this spring season and this school year. The hard work, dedication and teamwork has paid off greatly. Your achievements are a testament to your perseverance, discipline and true sportsmanship. In victory or defeat, it has been demonstrated the true spirit of competition, and we are incredibly proud of all that's been accomplished this year. We look forward to the continuation of celebrating our member schools' successes!

The AIA Night of Champions took place on May 18th at The Vista Center of the Arts. It was a night to celebrate the remarkable achievements, hard work, dedication, determination and commitment of our students, administrators, coaches, officials and schools. Each finalist was recognized not only for their outstanding talents but also their integrity and deep passion for learning and growth across academics, athletics, arts, leadership and service. You all have overcome challenges, achieved goals, and set new dreams in motion. You are the leaders, innovators and changemakers of tomorrow and we are incredibly proud to honor you all. Congratulations to all the recipients and finalists!

Sequoia Pathway Academy has submitted their withdraw notice to the AIA that will go into effect for next school year.

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 – April 21, 2025

AIA Lifetime Passes

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Vic Acuna | Salpointe Catholic |
| 2. Simone Jolivet-Manuel | Salpointe Catholic |
| 3. Danny Preble | Salpointe Catholic |
| 4. Matt Hough | Salpointe Catholic |
| 5. David Merrill | Blue Ridge Unified |
| 6. Harold Quinonez | Thatcher |
| 7. Glen Coy | Xavier College Prep |
| 8. Doug Meyer | Arizona Lutheran Academy |
| 9. Robert Devere | Tombstone |

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.

ACTION ITEMS:

ELECTION OF 2025-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

In accordance with Article 6, Section 4, Paragraph 1 of the AIA Constitution, the Executive Board selected the following to serve as officers for the **2025-2026** school year:

<u>President</u>	Missy Townsend – Prescott High School AIAAA
<u>Vice President</u>	Tiarra Yazzie – Hopi High School 2A Conference

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS

CORONA DEL SOL HIGH SCHOOL – *Tempe Union High School District*

Rule: Article 33. Beach Volleyball, Section 7 Interschool Competition (33.7.4)

Reported Violation:

One of our players played in a #3 pair and subsequently played in a #1 pair. Coach just made a mistake and did not notice the violation.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contests forfeited. Coach is a first-year head coach and has been educated about the bylaw governing anti-stacking.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Corona Del Sol High School **Beach Volleyball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 4/19/25-4/19/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

DESERT EDGE HIGH SCHOOL – *Agua Fria Unified School District*

Rule: Article 21. Baseball, Section 1 Rules (21.1.5)

Reported Violation:

Pitcher exceeded the pitch count.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. Continued in-service of the Arizona Pitch Count Guidelines.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Desert Edge High School **Baseball Program** on **Warning** for one year 4/19/25-4/19/26.

CHAPARRAL HIGH SCHOOL – *Scottsdale Unified School District*

Rule: Article 21. Baseball, Section 1 Rules (21.1.5)

Reported Violation:

On Monday, April 7th, during a 9th grade baseball game vs Desert Mountain, our coach was confused about the number of days rest and pitched a pitcher who was supposed to rest 4 days but he pitched him in a game on the 4th day.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. Coaches will have additional training on the pitch-count rules. We will also have additional coaches keep track of the number of pitches thrown and the number of days rest to ensure this does not happen again.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Chaparral High School **Baseball Program** on **Warning** for one year 4/19/25-4/19/26.

Nathan Slater - abstained

IRONWOOD RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL – *Amphitheater Unified District*

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

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

Reported Violation:

Coach allowed his son (not a student or in high school) to participate in Varsity baseball practices.

Schools Corrective Action:

The coach/individual is no longer employed with Amphitheater Unified District.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, **accepted** the Ironwood Ridge High School reported violation.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

SANTA RITA HIGH SCHOOL – Tucson Unified School District

Rule: Article 28. Softball, Section 3 Preseason Interschool Varsity Scrimmage (28.3.1)

Reported Violation:

Santa Rita had only 8 eligible softball players and given it was senior night with Catalina already on site a scrimmage was held to move forward and honor our seniors rather than end the season with a forfeit/cancellation.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. Had an administrative conference with activities principal, athletic director and coach to review the NFHS Softball rules/regulations and reeducate on the proper practices moving forward.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board **tabled** the Santa Rita High School reported violation.

TUCSON HIGH SCHOOL – Tucson Unified School District

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 12 Recruitment Rule (15.12.4.14)

Reported Violation:

Student who had prior contact participated in a softball tournament.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. We will continue to review AIA transfer policies in our pre-season coach and parent meetings. This includes sending emails notifying coaches of athletes that need to sit due to transfer/prior contact rules. Additionally, we are following up with employee disciplinary action with the Head Coach associated with this incident.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Tucson High School **Softball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 4/19/25-4/19/26

ARIZONA COLLEGE PREPARATORY – Chandler Unified School District

Rule: Article 24. Football, Section 9 Spring Football Instruction (24.9.1-2)

Reported Violation:

Coach Zellner's son was out at Spring ball and participated in some drills with the team. His son is currently an 8th grader and will be attending ACP for the 2025-2026 school year.

Schools Corrective Action:

School Administration has had a meeting with the coach. Trainers and coaching staff have been told to make sure all students out there are current students. Administration will be out at future practices verifying this as well.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Arizona College Preparatory **Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 4/19/25-4/19/26.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY** – *Catholic Diocese of Phoenix*

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

Reported Violation:

When coaching in the late 90s, my young sons were often at and in practice, so I was told the coaches that having their 8th grade sons there was okay. While talking to Jim Dean I asked him to clarify and he told me it was against the rules. Periodically I would walk into practice or check the gym camera, and if the boys were there, they were off to the side by themselves. The coaches may have allowed it to happen at a time when I wasn't present.

Schools Corrective Action:

Coaches attended in-service regarding enrollment rule. Head coach was put on a PIP.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board **tabled** the Notre Dame Preparatory High School reported violation.

CATALINA FOOTHILLS HIGH SCHOOL – *Catalina Foothills District*

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 2 Practice (14.2.2)

Reported Violation:

The boys' volleyball coach ran an unapproved practice with alumni / club coaches from Tucson.

Schools Corrective Action:

Training of staff members on AIA bylaws, forfeit of playoff games. Addressing personnel ramifications.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, **accepted** the Catalina Foothills High School reported violation.

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:

CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 185 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)

SCHOOL REQUESTING:

1. Phoenix Christian

HEREBY DOES NOT CONSENT:

Fountain Hills – VAR Beach Volleyball

ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

- A. **Holbrook** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo girls' volleyball games to help fill **Joseph City's** schedule.
- B. **River Valley** – additional VAR/JV girls' volleyball games to help fill **Somerton's** schedule.
- C. **San Luis** – additional VAR/JV girls' volleyball games to help fill **Somerton's** schedule.
- D. **Kofa** – additional VAR/JV girls' volleyball games to help fill **Somerton's** schedule.
- E. **Odyssey Institute** – additional VAR/JV girls' volleyball games to help fill **Somerton's** schedule.
- F. **Highland Prep** – additional VAR/JV boys' basketball games to help fill **Somerton's** schedule.
- G. **Odyssey Institute** – additional VAR/JV girls' basketball games to help fill **Somerton's** schedule.
- H. **Odyssey Institute** – additional VAR/JV boys' basketball games to help fill **Somerton's** schedule.
- I. **Odyssey Institute** – additional VAR/JV girls' soccer games to help fill **Somerton's** schedule.
- J. **Odyssey Institute** – additional VAR/JV boys' soccer games to help fill **Somerton's** schedule.

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

REQUEST – ARTICLE 43 – SPORTS MEDICINE

- 2025.43.10-1

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

AIA MISSION STATEMENT

Provide governance and state coordination for interscholastic activities, which enriches the education-based athletics and activities of AIA member high schools, in a competitive and fair manner.

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the AIA Mission Statement.

AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 2 – MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1.5 AIA events are the collective property of the Association. Events are held in a public setting and participant photos or videos may be used by the AIA to promote and advance its interests through various publication outlets.*

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **tabled** the above amendment.

AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 6 – EXECUTIVE BOARD**6.2 SELECTION & TERMS OF OFFICE – AIA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

- 6.2.1 Terms of all AIA Executive Board members shall expire on June 30. New terms of office shall begin on July 1.
- 6.2.2 ~~The Conference representatives, AIAAA member, ASA member, ASBA member and The Arizona North Central Association shall serve three-year terms.~~ Each AIA Executive Board member shall serve a three-year term.
- 6.2.3 Each representative shall be chosen at the regularly scheduled Executive Board meeting in April, preceding the beginning of his/her term of office and shall serve until a qualified successor is duly designated.
- 6.2.4 The selection of each Conference or organization representative on the AIA Executive Board shall be **representative of their conference and be** based on the following process: ~~in order to promote diversity and equality of representation to the AIA Executive Board:~~
1. Nominees must represent AIA member schools in good standing. If a school fails to maintain their standing, committee representation by that school is not permitted.
 2. ~~In an effort to promote diverse representation in the membership of the Executive Board, the following process has been instituted by the Board. It is designed to encourage and foster the policy that the composition of these groups should mirror the demographics of our member schools and state.~~
 2. For the Executive Board, when the applicable conference chair is open. The Conference ~~or organization~~ will submit three nominations **representative of their Conference**, ~~of which at least one must be a person of color, one a female and one a male.~~ The Executive Board will make a selection from one of these three nominees. **Organizations will submit the representative to the Executive Board.**
 3. If, during a Board member's term, he or she is unable to meet his/her commitment, step **2** will be followed in order to select a replacement.

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above amendment to Article 6 for Emergency Legislation.

AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 6 – EXECUTIVE BOARD**6.6 COMMITTEES OF THE AIA EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- 6.6.1 Standing Committees – Standing committees shall be appointed for the purpose of addressing and resolving issues pertaining to officials, girls' equity in sports, and ethics/sportsmanship.
- 6.6.2 Advisory Committees – Special ad hoc advisory committees, including conference and region committees, may be commissioned to study areas assigned by the AIA Executive Board.
- 6.6.3 Committee Selection Process –
1. Nominees to AIA committees must represent AIA member schools in good standing. If a school fails to maintain their standing, committee representation by the school is not permitted.
 - ~~2. In an effort to promote diverse representation in the membership of AIA committees, the following process has been instituted by the Board. It is designed to encourage and foster the policy that the composition of these groups should mirror the demographics of our member schools and state.~~
 2. Individuals appointed to serve on AIA committees shall meet one or more of the following requirements:
 - a) an employee of a school district – as an administrator, supervisor, teacher or coach
 - b) be an AIA registered high school officials.
 3. When conferences or regions submit nominations for committee membership, they must submit three nominations, **representative of their conference**. ~~of which at least one must be a person of color, one a female and one a male.~~
 4. If, during a committee member's term, he or she no longer meets at least one of the criteria in Section **2**, eligibility for committee membership ceases and a replacement shall be appointed. In the case of an unexpired term, the region of the former committee member is contacted to submit replacement nominations for approval by the Executive Board using the guidelines in Section **3**. Should no nominations be received, the other regions in that conference are contacted to submit their nominations. When the appointment is made to fill an unexpired term, the appointee shall be eligible to serve an additional term provided the appointed term is less than three years in length.
 5. All full terms for sport advisory committees, activities committees, conference and other general committees will be three years. A full term shall mirror the corresponding term of the conference and/or organizational Board Members term.
 6. Committee members shall serve at the discretion and pleasure of the Executive Board.

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above amendment to Article 6 for Emergency Legislation.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL – BOYS' – SEASON OF SPORT

33.2.3	Fall Season	Practice	no sooner than the	6th week
	(Boys)	Season of Competition	begins Monday of the	10th week
		Championship	to be concluded by Friday of the	22nd week

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above season of sport dates for boys' beach volleyball for the fall season.

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 April 2025

The Executive Board **approved** a longevity recognition section to be added to the AIA Employee Handbook.

FUTURE DATES

May 26, 2025	AIA Office Closed – Holiday
May 29, 2025	Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting
June 23-July 4	AIA Office Closed – Summer Break
July 29, 2025	New Athletic Director Workshop – AIA Office

Beginning May 30, 2025, thru July 11, 2025, the AIA Office will be on summer hours as follows:
Monday – Thursday | 7:00am – 3:00pm
Closed Fridays

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 1:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hines,
AIA Executive Director