



**MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
August 11, 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, August 11, 2025, at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020 and via teleconference.

President Missy Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:24am.

**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)  
William Wright, 4A Conference (Estrella Foothills High School)  
Corey Newland, 5A Conference (Paradise Valley School District)  
Jennifer Burks, 6A Conference (Perry High School)  
Tim Carter, Cognia (Yavapai County School Superintendent, Retired)  
Steve Johnson, Arizona School Boards Association (CAVIT)\*  
David Verdugo, Arizona School Administrators (Santa Cruz Valley School District – Rio Rico)  
Missy Townsend, Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (Prescott High School)  
Jim Dean, Ed.D, AIA Executive Director

**AIA Staff Present:**

Toni Corona, Associate Executive Director  
Nathan Slater, Associate Executive Director  
Erin Coy, Assistant Executive Director  
Tayler Coady, Executive Administrative Assistant  
Brian Bolitho, Chief Business Development Officer  
Brian Gessner, Commissioner of Officials  
Amy Richmond, Director of Finance  
Dan Nero, Director of Athletics  
Tyler Cerimeli, Director of Athletics and Officials  
Mary Wimmer, Tournament Coordinator  
Rosa Leon, Legal Counsel\*

**Guests:**

Tommy Eubanks  
Stephen McDowell

*\*Indicates attendance via Zoom*

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA – AUGUST 11, 2025**

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the adoption of the August 11, 2025 agenda.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried, President Townsend, in accordance with Article 6, Section 3, Paragraph 3, Subparagraph 2 of the AIA Constitution, called for the following Executive Sessions:

- ✓ 8:24 am – 8:48 am
- ✓ 10:00 am – 10:56 am

### **REGULAR MEETING:**

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

None.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

The NFHS Summer Meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois in June. AIA Staff members attended as Prince Amukamara and Mr. David Hines were both honored with awards. Prince Amukamara was inducted into the NFHS Hall of Fame and Mr. David Hines received the NFHS Citation Award.

The September 9<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting will be held in Prescott, AZ at the conclusion of the AIAAA Conference at the Prescott Resort Convention Center.

Blitz 282 is underway with visits taking place across the state. We look forward to visiting with each of our member schools and touring your facilities. Site visits are set to conclude the first week of October.

Construction on the new and existing buildings are on the way to concluding. Final touches are being done in the next few weeks, and we hope to take occupancy the end of August.

Congratulations to Mr. Tim Carter as he was recognized by the ASA and honored the Raymond S Kellis Leadership Award for his outstanding dedication and leadership. Mr. Carter will also be awarded the AIAAA Legacy Award for all his dedication to Prescott High School and the Prescott Community. These awards are very well deserved. Congratulations Mr. Carter!

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

In accordance with Article 6, Section 5, Paragraph 15 of the AIA Bylaws, the Executive Board **approved** the following financial reports:

- ✓ Financial Report for End of Year 2025
- ✓ Financial Report for July 2025

**FUTURE DATES**

August 12, 2025	Hardship Appeal Deadline – Fall Round 2
August 12-13, 2025	Hardship Appeals – Fall Round 1
August 18, 2025	Bylaw Workshop – Lake Havasu High School
August 19-20, 2025	Hardship Appeals – Fall Round 2
August 25, 2025	6A Conference Meeting
August 26, 2025	Executive Board Meeting – Hardship Appeals – Fall Round 1
August 27, 2025	District AD / Conference Leadership Meeting
August 28, 2025	3A Conference Meeting
	Bylaw Workshop – Deer Valley District Office
September 1, 2025	Holiday – AIA Office Closed
September 2, 2025	Executive Board Meeting – Hardship Appeals – Fall Round 2
September 3, 2025	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
September 6-9, 2025	AIAAA Conference – Prescott
September 9, 2025	Executive Board Meeting – Prescott
September 24, 2025	District AD / Conference Leadership Meeting

**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 – May 15, 2023

**AIA Lifetime Passes**

1. Curtis Weber	Yuma
2. David Stark	Marcos de Niza
3. Jerome Burns	Ganado
4. Benjamin Holzer	Gilbert
5. Jeff Welsing	Yuma Catholic
6. Shawn Lytle	Benjamin Franklin
7. Thom Luedemann	Shadow Ridge
8. Eddie Lopez	Moon Valley
9. Michael DeLaTorre	Chandler District
10. Frank Narducci	Chandler District
11. Jack Olinger	Valley Christian
12. Kay Solomon	Snowflake
13. Ed Barnes	Glendale District
14. Chris Crowl	Desert Vista
15. David Gonzalez	Desert Vista
16. Patrick Hurley	Pinnacle
17. Isla Bednar	AIA Official
18. Paul Carrillo	AIA Official
19. Chuck Coplan	AIA Official
20. Baldemar Dagnino	AIA Official
21. Glenn Dobbin	AIA Official
22. Thomas Drzazgowski	AIA Official
23. Edward Enriquez	AIA Official
24. Rodd Gatewood	AIA Official
25. Erich Helmich	AIA Official
26. Russell Hill	AIA Official
27. Stan Hoover	AIA Official
28. Tom Jenkins	AIA Official

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – Cont'd**

29. Terry Jones	AIA Official
30. Guilleromo Lopez	AIA Official
31. Jeff Lopez	AIA Official
32. Romulo Martinez	AIA Official
33. Michael Ransom	AIA Official
34. Jose Ruiz	AIA Official
35. Jerry Schuchardt	AIA Official
36. Harold Sakamoto	AIA Official
37. Jon Terpay	AIA Official
38. Rubin Rinidad	AIA Official
39. Mick Varela	AIA Official
40. Sharon Watson-Murray	AIA Official
41. John White	AIA Official
42. James Winfrey	AIA Official
43. Ron Williams	AIA Official

**Request for AIA Sanction/Intrastate and Interstate Activities – 2025-26 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 2025-2026 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:****ARBITER PAY – LATE FEES**

When a school's Arbiter Pay is in arrears and deficient they are sent an Insufficient Fund email advising of their Current Balance and their Insufficient Balance. This triggers a late fee invoice to the school of 8% of their negative balance. Each week the school is in the arrears it prompts additional late fees and are invoiced. In some cases, the late fee has been minimal and ineffective. So, it is being requested to create a \$20 minimum late fee for being in the arrears for Arbiter Pay to match and be consistent with the \$20 game change fee.

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

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS****SANTA RITA HIGH SCHOOL** – Tucson Unified School District

*Rule: Article 28. Softball, Section 3 Preseason Interschool Varsity Scrimmage (28.3.1.1)*

**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, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Santa Rita High School **Softball Program** on **Warning** for one year 8/11/25-8/11/26.

**CATALINA HIGH SCHOOL** – Tucson Unified School District

*Rule: Article 28. Softball, Section 3 Preseason Interschool Varsity Scrimmage (28.3.1.1)*

**Reported Violation:**

8 players on their lineup sheet. Per Coach, both umpires and the host site AD informed him that the game could still be played as a scrimmage. The host site AD informed Catalina Coach that he would contact this writer to inform him the game would be played as a scrimmage. This writer is still waiting for that call. The officials dismissed themselves and the two teams engaged in approx. 3 innings of competition. The game was entered into the dashboard with a score in favor of Catalina and was later reported as Santa Rita Forfeit. Please see Catalina Coach addendum Chronology of this incident.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Catalina Coaches from all season(s) of sport will be informed that any change(s) to a sanctioned event must be reported to the Athletic Director immediately prior to competition. Furthermore, be required to read/review their respective sport bylaw language as well as bylaw's 14 & 15.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Catalina High School **Softball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 8/11/25-8/11/26.

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

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 3 Maximum Teams per Sport / Student Grade Level (14.3.2.1)

**Reported Violation:**

An EL student enrolled without any 11<sup>th</sup> grade credits. The student believed that means she was a junior. When completing the Register My Athlete, the student listed herself as a junior. It turned out the student is in fact a senior. Independence Athletics became aware of this when she was doing senior check-out. Student played the 24-25 season on JV even though she is a senior.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Contests forfeited. Moving forward, we will make sure to cross reference our enrollments within Synergy with Register My Athlete. This will ensure that we are certain of the grade level of our students, especially those with unique enrollment situations like this student.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Independence High School **Activities Program** on **Advisement** for one year 8/11/25-8/11/26.

**BOULDER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL** – *Deer Valley Unified School District*

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

**Reported Violation:**

Student started a new batter at pitch number 96. The batter was 3 pitches totaling 98 pitches total.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Contest forfeited. We are currently in the search of a new head baseball coach and program coaches. I as the AD will ensure that all coaches at all levels know the pitch count rules and have a training on this prior to season. I as the AD will forward all pitch count emails to every coach on staff as well as a protocol to communicate when a pitcher is over their count and why, such as if they finished a batter.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Boulder Creek High School **Baseball Program** on **Warning** for one year 8/11/25-8/11/26.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

**BOULDER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL** – *Deer Valley Unified School District*

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

**Reported Violation:**

Student was supposed to rest for 4 days from the game on 4/24, instead student athlete threw 35 pitches on the 3rd day against desert vista on 4/28/25.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

We are currently in the search of a new head baseball coach and program coaches. I as the AD will ensure that all coaches at all levels know the pitch count rules and have a training on this prior to season. I as the AD will forward all pitch count emails to every coach on staff as well as a protocol to communicate when a pitcher is over their count and why, such as if they finished a batter.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Boulder Creek High School **Baseball Program** on **Warning** for one year 8/11/25-8/11/26.

**NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY** – *Catholic Diocese of Phoenix*

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

**Reported Violation:**

It was confirmed through video that two 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were allowed to participate in basketball practice with the NDP team. At the time of the incident, neither 8<sup>th</sup> grade student was officially enrolled at Notre Dame prep or cleared to participate in an AIA sanctioned sport.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Both athletic director and head boys' basketball coach, at the time of incident, are no longer employed at Notre Dame Prep.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, and in light of the corrective action taken by the school, placed the Notre Dame Preparatory **Boys' Basketball Program** on **Warning** for one year 8/11/25-8/11/26.

**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 for a varsity, junior varsity, freshman program(s) that could have a bearing on regional or state playoffs:

**SCHOOL REQUESTING:**

1. Desert Star Academy
2. Combs
3. Buckeye Union
4. Santa Rita
5. Notre Dame Prep
6. Scottsdale Prep
7. Valley Christian
8. North Valley Christian
9. Fredonia
10. Kingman
11. Bisbee

**HEREBY CONSENT:**

- VAR Girls' Volleyball Program
- VAR Boys/ Girls Basketball Programs
- VAR Baseball Program
- VAR Softball Program
- VAR Boys/Girls' Swim Programs
- VAR Flag Football Program
- VAR Golf Program
- VAR Boys' Beach Volleyball Program
- VAR Boys' Beach Volleyball Program
- VAR Boys' Beach Volleyball Program
- VAR Boys' Beach Volleyball Program
- VAR Football Program
- VAR Girls' Volleyball Program
- VAR Boys' Volleyball Program
- VAR Boys' Soccer Program

**SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS – 35**

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**CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 26 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)**

**ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS**

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Board **approved** the following requests:

- A. **Parker** – additional VAR/JV girls/boys' basketball games to help fill **Somerton's** schedule.
- B. **Parker** – additional VAR/JV girls/boys' soccer games to help fill **Somerton's** schedule.
- C. **Show Low** – an additional VAR baseball game to help fill **Page's** schedule.
- D. **Show Low** – an additional VAR softball game to help fill **Page's** schedule.
- E. **Rio Rico** – an additional VAR flag football game to help fill **Sahuaro's** schedule
- F. **Phoenix Country Day** – an additional VAR boys basketball game to help fill **Palo Verde's** schedule
- G. **Winslow** – additional VAR/JV/Fr/So girls' volleyball games to help fill **St. Johns'** schedule
- H. **Highland Prep West** – an additional VAR boys' soccer game to help fill **Sedona Red Rock's** schedule.
- I. **Crismon** – additional VAR/JV boys/girls basketball games to help fill **Somerton's** schedule.
- J. **St. John Paul II** – additional VAR/JV boys/girls basketball games to help fill **Arete Prep's** schedule.
- K. **Snowflake** – an additional VAR girls' soccer game to help fill **Sedona Red Rock's** schedule.
- L. **Northland Prep** – an additional VAR girls' soccer game to help fill **Sedona Red Rock's** schedule.
- M. **Fountain Hills** – additional VAR/JV girls' volleyball games to help fill **ALA Mesa North's** schedule.
- N. **Blue Ridge** – an additional VAR girls' soccer game to help fill **Sedona Red Rock's** schedule.
- O. **Payson** – an additional VAR girls' soccer game to help fill **Sedona Red Rock's** schedule.
- P. **Mayer** – an additional VAR flag football game to help fill **Shonto Prep's** schedule.



**AIA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL – MEETING DATE**

It is recommended that the annual AIA Legislative Council Meeting be held on **March 6, 2026**. Based on a March 6, 2026 meeting date, and in accordance with Article 5, Section 1 of the AIA Constitution, the deadline for submitting an agenda item would be January 23, 2026. The agenda mail-out deadline would be February 6, 2026.

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the date for Legislative Council.

**TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS**

The Executive Board reaffirmed its determination of September 16, 1996 concerning Article 15, Section 15, Paragraph 1 of the AIA Bylaws, which states that the AIA member schools should recognize only the foreign exchange programs approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) ([www.csiet.org](http://www.csiet.org)).

The Executive Board directed that, as a convenience for AIA member schools, these official minutes reflect the travel and exchange programs listed in the CSIET's **2025-2026** edition of **Advisory List** - <https://aiaonline.org/files/17830/current-csiet-advisory-list.pdf>

*It shall be the responsibility of the local school administrator to ensure that all other eligibility requirements are met before a student participates in interscholastic activities.*

**FLAG FOOTBALL “KEEP THE BALL” EXPERIMENT – NFHS APPROVED**

The experiment would allow for a “keep the ball option” if a team is trailing in the fourth quarter. Following a try attempt, the scoring team would be able to elect to retain possession (4<sup>th</sup> down and 15 yards) from its own 25-yard line. If the team is able to attain a first down (40-yard line), they would retain possession as normal. If the team is unsuccessful, they would turn the ball over on downs.

**Rationale:**

A team should have a low percentage mechanism to attempt to come from behind at the end of a game. Tackle football has an onside kick, but flag currently has no process. This would allow for a team to attempt to come from behind. This concept was heavily debated by the Flag Football Rules Committee. The concept had support, the committee was not sure on what the yardage should be and it was determined that the best course of action would be for states to experiment and report back on the conversion percentage.

Arizona is uniquely set up to provide experimental data as officials are required to complete a post-game report for all Varsity contests. We would require all flag football reports to identify when a “keep the ball” attempt occurred and whether it was successful. This will gauge the prevalence of attempts and determine the success rate of a 4<sup>th</sup> and 15 play. This data will accompany a rules proposal for the Flag Football Rules Committee to consider at the next meeting.

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the experiment for flag football to begin during the 2025 season.

**AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 25 – FLAG FOOTBALL****25.5 NUMBER OF GAMES IN SEASON**

25.5.3 No player shall participate in more than ~~six (6) quarters/night. 13 games during the season, excluding qualifying and post-season tournaments.~~ **six (6) quarters/night.**

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

**AMENDMENT – POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

In all sports that allow scrimmages, game uniforms may now be worn during the scrimmage. Practice uniforms are optional and may be worn. Home and away team jerseys still must be followed for contrast during competition.

- Baseball 21.3.1.2
- Basketball 22.3.1.2
- Football Tackle 24.3.1.2
- Football Flag 25.3.1.2
- Soccer 27.3.1.2
- Softball 28.3.1.2
- Tennis 30.3.1.2
- Volleyball 32.3.1.2
- Beach Volleyball 33.3.1.2

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above amendment to the sport specific policies regarding use of game uniforms during scrimmages.

**AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 43 – SPORTS MEDICINE**

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **tabled** this item.

**AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 14 – NONSCHOOL PARTICIPATION****14.4 NONSCHOOL PARTICIPATION**

***DETERMINATION:** An individual student may take private lessons anytime except during the school day or during school practice sessions. For purposes of this rule, individual private lesson means, and is limited to, ~~one~~ **no more than two distinct students** and one coach/instructor. Schools shall not pay for, arrange or in any way provide these individual private lessons. Individual private lessons shall not be used to circumvent or evade the non-school participation rule and any such use of private lessons will be considered a violation of the non-school participation rule.*

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above amendment to the Nonschool Participation determination.

**2025-2026 BEACH VOLLEYBALL RULEBOOK**

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the 2025-2026 Beach Volleyball Rulebook with the expectation that the committee will continue to monitor and review the policies.

**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.***

- Snowflake High School

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

**Snowflake** Kevin Standerfer – Athletic Director

Following review and discussion of the written and oral information, on a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **denied** the above appeal.

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL****REQUEST FOR HARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY – AGE RULE**

15.6.1 **Age Limits** – *If a student becomes 19 years of age on or after September 1, he/she is eligible to compete for the remainder of that school year. If he/she becomes 19 years of age before September 1, he/she is not eligible for any part of that school year.*

- Santa Cruz High School

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

**Santa Cruz** Michael Ibarra – Athletic Director, Parent, Student

Following review and discussion of the written and oral information, on a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above appeal.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Dean Ed., D.  
AIA Executive Director