

MINUTES AIA Baseball Sports Advisory Committee

August 7, 2025

10 am

AIA Meeting Agenda

1. Roll Call

Committee members: Those present in RED:

1A Coach - Reed Porter – Mogollon; 1A Admin – Sam Diaz – Ft. Thomas

2A Coach Terry Antonio – San Carlos; 2A Admin – Mel Garcia - Tombstone

3A Coach Hal Frost – Show Low; 3A Admin – TBD

4A Coach – TBD; 4A Admin – Chris Laughland - Rio Rico

5A Coach – TBD; 5A Admin – Barry Cromer - Verrado

6A Coach JR Langston – Westwood; 6A Admin – Jason Grantham – RM(@ EV AD mtg)

AIA Staff:

Brian Gessner, Jake Gustafson, Dan Nero

2. Approve minutes from May 2024 Baseball SAC mtg:

Move to approve: Hal F.; 2nd – Mel G. Unanimous approval.

3. Agenda items:

Brian G:

- **Use of Pitch Clock at Neutral Site State Playoff games - where available?**
 - >Most Spring Training sites have this available
 - >Would be kept by 3rd Base Umpire with “clicker”
 - >BB SAC generally OK with the idea

- **Sportsmanship – Bat Flips and On-base Celebrations**
 - >Brian G provided hand out of proposal
 - >Jake G. gave some input of how proposal would work
 - >SAC would like more info.

****Brian G. said a survey to ADs and Head Coaches can be sent out by Officials Dept re: Pitch Clock & Sportsmanship.**

- **Pitch Count**
 - >Brian G. – 2025 had a good upgrade with AIA programming of PC from past games and pitchers restricted for upcoming games.
 - >Still concern of PCs not completed on time.
 - >JR L. asked why those are not immediate violations?
 - >Coaches unwillingness to confer during games is still a concern. This has lead to discrepancies at the end of games.
- **Lower level umpire certification for school site staff**

- **New NFHS Rules for 2026**
 - >Brian G. noted double first base will be required in 2027, but OK for 2026. There will be a learning curve for umpires as there a few interpretations of actual rules.
 - >Also a rule change limiting player to player conferences.

Sam D:

- **Adding the use of one-way communication to call pitches from the coach to the catcher and the pitcher.**
 - >NFHS only allows Coach to Catcher communication.
 - >Interest growing NFHS for additional communication to pitcher and other defensive players, but not permitted at this time.

JR:

- **Pitch Count Coordinator (score keeper)**
 - >Dan N. mentioned this is a paid position on the AIA Home High Seed budgets.
 - >JR L. mentioned having this PC Coordinator sit behind home plate screen?
- **Power point explanation**
 - >FAQ of AIA Power Rankings provided.
- **Region size (do we have to do a home and away)**
 - >JR L. asked for flexibility in scheduling to get additional competitive games.
 - >Dan N. reminded SAC that Region size, schedules, and Home/Aways up to each Conference with Region input.
- **Open Division**
 - >Would need to be brought to the Executive Board. Perhaps by the AZ Baseball Coaches Assn through a Conference. This is how Basketball evolved into the Open Division.

4. New Business

- ****Reed P. asked about changing the 1A Conf. first two home high seed baseball playoff games from Saturday & Saturday (a team with one tough pitcher can dominate) to Thursday & Saturday??**
 - >It was mentioned that the 1A Conference asked for this set up for the 2023 State Playoffs to reduce time out of school and travel in short intervals. 1A Leadership is encouraged to discuss (possibly at the AIAAA Prescott meeting).
- **Hal F. asked about the best 2 out of 3 format for the 3A Conference Semifinals.**
 - >It was mentioned that 3A Conference asked for this format before the 2022 State Playoffs. Also, it was mentioned that all Finals are one game only.

- Sam D. mentioned that it is getting tougher to have athletes ready for their season with AIA Playoffs going longer from the previous season.
>Several coaches and admin concurred, but at times this is the consequence of longer playoffs such as the Open Basketball, etc. Coaches and ADs need to share with Region Chairs and Conference Chairs if there are ideas to shorten any overlap.

Baseball – Spring 2026

2025-26 Quick Glance Calendar: **has been updated:**

*****Please check your Graduation dates vs. Quick Glance Calendar*****

Start of Practice: All Conferences: **Mon Feb 9, 2026**

Start of Competition: All Conferences: **Wed Feb 25, 2026**

End of Competition: **Mon Apr 27, 2026**
Tue Apr 28, 2026 (1A - No Play-in Games)

Play-in Games: **Wed Apr 29, 2026**

State Tournaments Start: **as early as Sat May 2, 2026**

Championships: **approx. May 16, 18, 19, 2026.**

5. New Business:

6. Next meeting:

May or Aug 2026 @ AIA Board Room

7. Adjournment