



AGENDA
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
January 20, 2026
8:30 am – Executive Session
9:00 am – Meeting

Call to Order President Missy Townsend

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA – JANUARY 20, 2026**
3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

REGULAR MEETING:

4. **MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**
5. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**
 - NFHS Winter Meeting

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

6. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Rule: Article 6. Executive Board, Section 5 Duties of the AIA Executive Board. Paragraph 15

6.5.15 The AIA Executive Board shall establish and monitor an annual AIA Operation Budget.

- ✓ Financial Report for November 2025
- ✓ Financial Report for December 2025

7. **FUTURE DATES**

January 26, 2026	4A Conference Meeting
	6A Conference Meeting
	Spring Coaches Courses Open on AIA Dashboard
January 28, 2026	District AD / Conference Leadership Meeting
January 29, 2026	Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting
February 4, 2026	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
February 5, 2026	5A Conference Meeting
February 7, 2026	Spring Coaches Course Deadline
February 16, 2026	AIA Office Closed – Holiday
February 17, 2026	AIA Executive Board Meeting
	Spring Hardship Appeal Submission Deadline

8. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following items may be enacted by one motion and approved as consent agenda items with or without discussion. Any item may, however, be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately if a Board member so requests.

(a) Approval of Minutes

- Executive Board Meeting – December 8, 2025

(b) AIA Lifetime Passes

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 11 AIA Passes. Paragraph 1 Lifetime Passes

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Jason Girnius | Mountain Ridge |
| 2. Rick McCutcheon | Paradise Valley |
| 3. Monti Martinez | Florence Unified School District |
| 4. Karen Crane | McClintock |
| 5. Christopher Chacon | Alhambra |

(c) Request for AIA Sanction/Intrastate and Interstate Activities – 2025-26 Master Calendar

Rule: Article 10. Sanction Procedures. Section 10.1 Sanctioned Events

Sanction requests, 2025-26 Master Calendar. The master calendar is posted online at <http://aiaonline.org/calendar/tournaments>

ACTION ITEMS:**9. SCHOOL VIOLATIONS****(A) Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 7 Physical Examination Rule****15.7 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE**

15.7.1 A student shall not be allowed to practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until there is on file with the principal or his/her designee a record of a preparticipation physical examination (PPE) performed by a doctor of medicine (M.D.), an osteopathic physician (D.O.), a naturopathic physician (N.D., N.M.D.), a certified registered nurse practitioner (N.P.) licensed to practice, a certified physician's assistant (PA-C) registered by the Joint Board Of Medical Examiners and the Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery, or a certified chiropractic sports physician (CCSP). The physical examination for the following school year shall be given **on or after March 1**. The physical examination on file shall be signed by one of the aforementioned medical providers and shall state that, in the opinion of the examining provider, the provider did not find any medical reason to disqualify the student from practice or competition in athletic contests. The principal or his/her designee, if deemed advisable, may require a student to be reexamined.

(1) INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL – Glendale Union High School District**Reported Violation:**

1. Student participated during wrestling tryouts before being cleared.
2. Student participated in cheer practice without a cleared Physical Form. Student was marked not cleared due to needing glasses. Student did not participate in any competitions.

Schools Corrective Action:

Independence High School administration and coaches are reviewing current procedures for notifying students and coaches of clearing process and will make changes that will further guard issues such as this from happening in the future. The coach has been contacted regarding this situation. There will be a mandatory wait period for students who are cleared to allow for proper communication to coaches on athletes' status.

Prior Violation(s):

August 11, 2025 – Advisement – Activities Program. Article 14.3 – Maximum Teams Per Sport

9. **SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

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

14.3 **MAXIMUM TEAMS PER SPORT / STUDENT GRADE LEVEL FOR PARTICIPATION**

14.3.2 A member school may have multiple junior varsity and freshman/sophomore teams per sport.

14.3.2.1 A junior varsity team shall be limited to 9th, 10th and 11th grade students, with the exception of the 1A Conference.

(1) **DESERT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL** – Sunnyside Unified School District

Reported Violation:

Flag football coach played a girl in the 12th grade in a junior varsity game.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. Flag football coach was directed not to play girls in the 12th grade on junior varsity contests. In our second season of girls' flag football, we re-educated our coach on the AIA bylaws.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

9. SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**(C) Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule**

15.10 TRANSFER RULE – Except as stated in 15.10.6, after enrolling and attending one or more classes, a student changing enrollment from one school (sending school) to another school (receiving school) shall be considered a transferring student. For information and record keeping purposes, the receiving and sending school shall reasonably cooperate and complete Form 550.

15.10.2 For individual sports, the student will be ineligible for 50% of scheduled opportunities, including invitationals/tournaments for that school.

(1) KOFA HIGH SCHOOL – Yuma Union School District**Reported Violation:**

Student transferred to Kofa High School in May of 2025. In June of 2025 student filled out the 550 form for the 25/26 school year. She was marked according to this rule as sit out 50% of the season. On Tuesday December 9th the AD of Kofa received a phone call from the AD of Yuma stating that this student played during the girls' varsity basketball game. Kofa's head coach misinterpreted the bylaw as to this only being applicable to students who played at the varsity level.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. The coach responsible for this violation has received in service regarding relevant bylaws. The Kofa High School AD will require all programs/coaches to meet with the AD prior to the season of spot to review an updated transfer/clearance lists. The coaching staff will continue to receive additional in services provided by the AD during monthly head coaches meetings on AIA bylaws to prevent future violations.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

9. SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**(D) Rule: Article 16. Penalties and Appeals, Section 2 Ineligible Player****16.2 INELIGIBLE PLAYER**

16.2.1 *When an ineligible player(s) participates in a contest, the member school must automatically forfeit all contests in which the ineligible player(s) participated.*

(1) ESTRELLA FOOTHILLS HIGH SCHOOL – Buckeye Union High School District**Reported Violation:**

EFHS head freshman football coach did not use the eligibility monitoring platform (RANKONE) to keep accurate or update team roster for determining students eligibility. Once students began to pay for athletic fees in late October, it was determined several students were not on the roster and had not completed their Brainbook or Opioid video requirements.

EFHS Fr/So football team played five ineligible players in eight games total. The ineligible students had no completed the Brainbook or Opioid requirements.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contests forfeited. Head Fr/So coach is terminated. Once the new coach is hired and the new coaching staff is identified, there will be an in-service and training on the eligibility process to ensure all requirements are met and followed throughout the entire season. Notice has been sent to each school notifying them the contests are forfeited.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

9. SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**(E) Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 4 Nonschool Participation****14.4 NONSCHOOL PARTICIPATION**

14.4.1 A student who is a member or becomes a member of a school team shall not practice, have practiced or compete with any other group, club, organization, association, etc., in that sport, **or derivative of that sport that is not already sanctioned by the AIA** during the interscholastic season of competition. This rule applies to the following team sports: football, flag football, baseball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, track relay and swimming relay teams. For purposes of this rule, the interscholastic season of competition shall begin on the competition date as set in the policies and procedures of each sport and conclude with that particular team's final game. Any student violating the above rule shall forfeit his/her eligibility for a minimum of the balance of the season for that sport or up to a maximum of one calendar year.

***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, **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. (Ex. Bd. 2/18/03.*

(1) CIBOLA HIGH SCHOOL – Yuma Union School District**Reported Violation:**

On December 14 a freshman male basketball student-athlete from Cibola participated in an unsanctioned basketball tournament outside of the US during the AIA basketball season. Participation occurred while the student-athlete was an active member of the Cibola boys' basketball program. The student-athlete competed in a weekend tournament held in Mexico on December 14th playing for Duke Mexicali basketball Club, which constitutes outside competition during the high school season and is a violation of AIA eligibility rules.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. There will be additional training to all coaches involving Article 14 of the AIA bylaws. The matter involving the coach has been referred to Human Resources for investigation. The student-athlete has been declared ineligible for the remainder of the 2025-2026 basketball season.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

10. CANCELLATION REQUESTS – CONTEST AND/OR PROGRAMS

Rule: Article 11. Scheduling of Contest and Schedule Contracts. Section 4 Schedule Contracts – Varsity / Junior Varsity / Freshman. Paragraph 4 Cancellation or Postponement – Contest or Program. Subparagraph 1

11.4.4.1 A Varsity contest or program which could have a bearing on a regional or state play-off shall not be cancelled or forfeited without prior approval by the AIA Executive Board.

SCHOOL REQUESTING:

1. Mayer
2. Valley Sanders
3. San Simon
4. Mountainside

HEREBY CONSENT:

- VAR Girls' Wrestling Program
 VAR Girls/Boys Wrestling programs
 VAR Softball Program
 VAR Girls' Basketball Program

SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS – 20

CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 187 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)

11. REQUEST TO RESCIND NONCONSENT FINE

Marana High School is requesting to rescind the fine for the VAR/JV boys' basketball contests against Amphitheater.

12. ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

- A. **Benjamin Franklin** – additional VAR girls' soccer game to help fill **Thatcher's** schedule.
- B. **Crismon** – additional VAR/JV softball games to help fill **Valley Christian's** schedule.
- C. **Northland Prep** – additional VAR girls' basketball game to help fill **Mohave Accelerated's** schedule.
- D. **Payson** – additional VAR/JV baseball games to help fill **ALA Mesa North's** schedule.
- E. **San Luis** – additional VAR/JV baseball games to help fill **Somerton's** schedule.
- F. **ALA Ironwood** – additional VAR/JV baseball games to help fill **ALA Mesa North's** schedule.
- G. **Flagstaff** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo boys' basketball games to help fill **Northland Prep's** schedule.

13. NEW MEMBER SCHOOL APPLICATION

- Heritage Academy Maricopa
- Heritage Academy Mesa
- Heritage Academy Gateway
- American Leadership Academy – Sierra Vista
- American Leadership Academy – Radiance
- Franklin High School (Mesa District)
- Shepherd College Prep (Mesa District)

14. REQUEST – CO OP – SOFTBALL

Fredonia and El Capitan are requesting to combine softball programs for the 2026 season. This is due to the low numbers and not being able to field individual teams at each school.

15. AMENDMENT – SPORTS MEDICINE

At the recommendation of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee amendments have been provided to update the Heat Acclimatization Policy.

16. DIVISION PLACEMENT APPEAL

TIME	SCHOOL	SPORT	APPEAL
Paper Screen	Alchesay	Wrestling	D IV to D III

17. SECTION PLACEMENT APPEALS

TIME	SCHOOL	SPORT	APPEAL
10:00 AM	Casa Grande	Boys/Girls' Tennis	D I Tucson to D I Desert SW
10:10 AM	Marana	Girls' Wrestling	D I Sec IV to D I Sec III
10:20 AM	Maricopa	Girls' Wrestling	D I Sec IV to D I Sec III
		Girls' Beach VB	D I South to D I East Valley
		Boys/Girls Tennis	D I Desert SW to D I Metro
10:30 AM	Salpointe Catholic	Boys' Wrestling	D II Sec IV to D II Sec II
		Girls' Wrestling	D I Sec IV to D I Sec II
10:40 AM	Peoria	Boys' Wrestling	D III Sec I to D III Sec II
10:50 AM	Desert Sunrise	Boys' Wrestling	D III Sec IV to D III Sec III
		Girls' Wrestling	D II Sec IV to D II Sec II
		Girls' Tennis	D II Sec VII to D II Sec IV

18. REGION PLACEMENT APPEAL

TIME	SCHOOL	APPEAL
11:00 AM	Apollo	6A Central to 6A West Valley

19. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEALS

TIME	SCHOOL
11:15 AM	Canyon View High School
11:45 AM	Paradise Honors High School

20. ADJOURNMENT