



**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
February 17, 2026**

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 Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at the AIA Office located at 7007 N 18th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020 and via teleconference.

President Missy Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:45 am.

Members in Attendance:

William Duarte, 1A Conference (Superior Jr./Sr. High School)
Tiarra Yazzie, 2A Conference (Hopi High School)
Greg Haagsma, 3A Conference (Valley Christian 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
Tayler Coady, Executive Administrative Assistant
Amy Richmond, Director of Finance
Brian Bolitho, Director of Business Development

**Indicates attendance via teleconference*

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – FEBRUARY 17, 2026

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the adoption of the February 17, 2026 agenda.

REGULAR MEETING:

MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The annual Legislative Council meeting will be held on Friday, March 6, 2026 at the AIA Office. Meeting will begin at 10:00 am.

Winter tournaments are underway and will conclude with basketball early March. Wrestling state tournament will be held at Veterans Memorial Coliseum this week into the weekend.

The Open Basketball bracket show was shown this weekend on Arizona Family. We look forward to another successful winter tournament season.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**2024-2025 AUDIT PRESENTATION**

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **accepted** the unqualified audit.

FUTURE DATES

February 17, 2026	Spring Hardship Appeal Submission Deadline
February 23, 2026	4A Conference Committee Meeting // 6A Conference Committee Meeting
February 24-25, 2026	Spring Hardship Appeal Hearings
February 24, 2026	2A Soccer All-Conference Voting Meeting
February 25, 2026	District AD / Conference Leadership Meeting
February 26, 2026	3A Soccer All-Conference Voting Meeting // 3A Conference Committee Meeting
February 27, 2026	2A Conference Committee Meeting
March 3, 2026	2A Basketball All-Conference Voting Meeting
March 4, 2026	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting // 3A BSKT All Conf Voting Mtg
March 6, 2026	Legislative Council Meeting
March 12, 2026	5A Conference Committee Meeting
March 16, 2026	Executive Board 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 – January 20, 2026
- Special Executive Board Meeting – February 4, 2026

AIA Lifetime Passes

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Eli Lopez | Mountain Ridge |
| 2. Laurie White | Xavier College Prep |
| 3. Douglas Eckhardt | Payson |
| 4. Susan Prado | Apollo |
| 5. Dr. John Bush | San Carlos |
| 6. Gilbert Clauschee | Window Rock |

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:**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS****LINCOLN PREPARATORY ACADEMY** – *Great Hearts Academies*

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

Reported Violation:

A girls' varsity basketball athlete participated in organized 3v3 practices and scrimmages during the HS season. The dates of the practices (1/21 and 1/28) and scrimmages (1/24 and 1/31) were during the season of sport for basketball. The family was unaware that this was a violation, and a family friend mentioned this to them and they came forward with this information and self-reported for accuracy. The student athlete competed in games at the JV level (San Carlos) and varsity (Pima and Glendale Prep) during this time frame. She did not compete in any other contest during this time frame.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contests forfeited. We will reassess and alter our current preseason information meeting handouts to place a high emphasis on Bylaw 14.4 and provide complete clarity to what that looks like during season of sport. This will be done for our general athletics meetings at the beginning of the year, and for our team-specific meetings that take place once teams are decided upon. By doing so both on a general level and an individual sport level we will be able to cite examples of what non-school participation may look like for different sports. The family was present for our general information meeting at the start of the year, and by placing a higher emphasis on the bylaw at this meeting it will open the door to families to ask clarifying questions regarding to their athlete's participation.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Lincoln Prep Academy **Girls' Basketball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/17/26-2/17/27.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**PARADISE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL** – *Paradise Valley Union School District*

Rule: Article 34. Wrestling, Section 1 Rules (34.1.4.1)

Reported Violation:

A male wrestling athlete's weight certification was input into the OPC system on 1/20/26 with a weight of 168.6 and body fat percentage of 6.5%. Per bylaw 34.1.4.1 if a male athlete has body fat percentage below 7% the initial weight will be the lowest competitive weight allowed. This student wrestling on 1/21/26 at 165. He was not eligible to wrestle this weight class, and those matches must be forfeited. regarding appealing the initial weight certification, per bylaw 34.1.4.1.1 any athlete who disagrees with the initial assessment may appeal one time. However, it must be within 14 calendar days and prior to their first contest. Once the athlete competed, they were no longer eligible to appeal the initial assessment. Regarding the documentation from the coach/father, the doctor did not use the approved procedure to complete a weight certification, so it does not supersede the initial assessment input by the school weight certification assessor. Since the athlete has competed the initial assessment will stand.

Schools Corrective Action:

Forfeited match along with competing at our proper weight, coaches will be in serviced, so they are aware of proper placement of weight class in the future.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Paradise Valley High School **Boys' Wrestling Program** on **Warning** for one year 2/17/26-2/17/27.

Corey Newland - abstained

PALO VERDE HIGH SCHOOL – *Tucson Unified School District*

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

Reported Violation:

Two male soccer athletes participated in Spartans intersquad scrimmage in front of scouts for Liga Mx Academy Club on 1/13/26. School was informed that they are no longer eligible because they were seen at a club practice. However, they did not participate in or play for the club team. They were invited by a former coach.

Schools Corrective Action:

Athlete have been removed from the program.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Palo Verde High School **Boys' Soccer Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/17/26-2/17/27.

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

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule (15.10.3)

Reported Violation:

Student participated in soccer and went to Greenway during Freshman and Sophomore years of 22-23 and 23-24. Student transferred back to Ironwood for 24-25 year and sat 50% of soccer season. Student transferred back to Greenway after completing full year at ironwood and sat 50% of season before playing in any game at Greenway while he should have been out the entire season.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. Even though bylaws were checked, look at the subparagraphs to ensure accuracy.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Greenway High School **Boys' Soccer Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/17/26-2/17/27.

FOUNTAIN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – *Fountain Hills District*

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

Reported Violation:

A male football athlete was interested in transferring to FHHS. I reached out to the guardian to make them aware of the AIA transfer rules because our registrar was out that week and unable to handle the enrollment. I was very specific that the student was not to participate in any athletics until the registrar returned and enrolled him. I was informed on 1/13/26 that the student had shown up twice to football workouts. The coach who supervised the workouts is an assistant that does not work on campus. He says he was not aware that the student was not enrolled and that the student mentioned to him being a new student who started this semester (statement attached).

Schools Corrective Action:

Student will not have football eligibility at Fountain Hills High School for one calendar year starting on 1/6/26 (the first of two football workouts he attended while being enrolled in another school).

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Fountain Hills High School **Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 2/17/26-2/17/27.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL – Valley Union High School District

Rule: Article 10. Sanctioned Procedures, Section 1 Sanctioned Events (10.1)

Reported Violation:

On 11/29 boys' basketball coach transported the team to Tucson to participate in a scrimmage against a non-school affiliated club team. The trip and competition were conducted without prior authorization or notification from the AD or the school administration.

Schools Corrective Action:

The coach found to be in violation was immediately removed from the head coach position. He was required to complete online coaching courses. Prior to this incident, I had already developed a comprehensive coaches' handbook, which was pending board approval at the time. In addition, monthly coaching meetings with the AD were established for all coaching staff.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Valley Union High School **Boys' Basketball Program** on **Warning** for one year 2/17/26-2/17/27.

DESERT HEIGHTS PREP ACADEMY

Rule: Article 11. Schedules of Contests and Scheduling Contracts, Section 4 Schedule Contracts (11.4)

Rule: Article 17. Coaches and Coaching, Section 4 Coach's / Sponsor's Code of Ethics (17.4.1)

Reported Violation:

Girls' basketball coach removed team from court prior to the end of the contest.

Schools Corrective Action:

Administration met with the coach to discuss the violations. We reviewed the sportsmanship rules, forfeit of contest rules and reviewed our own athletic handbook regarding the violations and reiterated the programs visions and philosophies or practicing sportsmanship. Coach is no longer with the school/program.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Desert Heights Prep Academy **Girls' Basketball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/17/26-2/17/27.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL – *Tempe Union High School District*
Basketball, Section 5 Number of Games in Season (22.5.3)

Reported Violation:

A male basketball player participated in 7 quarters on the same night. He participated in 4 quarters in the JV game and 3 quarters in the Varsity game.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest Forfeited. I met with the coaching staff and went over the rules violation of a student playing in 7 quarters. We discussed ways in which this can be avoided in the future and put systems in place for it to not happen again.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Marcos de Niza High School **Boys' Basketball Program** on **Warning** for one year 2/17/26-2/17/27.

HIGHLAND PREP – *Highland Prep Academies*
Basketball, Section 5 Number of Games in Season (22.5.3)

Reported Violation:

Due to injuries and lack of available players, boys' basketball head coach played two student athletes on JV and Varsity over the allotted quarters allowed. Student athletes participated in 3 quarters on JV and 4 quarters on varsity against Kingman High School on 2/3/26.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest Forfeited. Upon discovery and investigation, AD reached out at affected school to submit forfeiture of games due to the ineligible players. Head coach has been educated and trained on AIA rules regarding AIA eligibility and allotted quarters an individual can play per night. Highland Prep has forfeited both the JV and Varsity games against Kingman due to this violation.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Highland Prep **Boys' Basketball Program** on **Warning** for one year 2/17/26-2/17/27.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont’d

GILBERT HIGH SCHOOL – *Gilbert Public Schools*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule (15.10.3)

Reported Violation:

Two student athletes transfer 550 forms from the sending school designated that the students were to sit 50% of the season, when in fact the students should have sat for the entire boys’ basketball season or play at the sub-varsity level. Awareness of this situation was made after the students sat 50% of the season.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest Forfeited. Follow up procedures with sending schools will be revised. This violation was due to the incorrect information provided by the sending school combined with me being a first-year athletic director at Gilbert High School. Moving forward there will be a change in policy in how our transfers are cleared for participation.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Gilbert High School **Activities Program** on **Advisement** for one year 2/17/26-2/17/27.

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. Morenci
2. Sedona
3. Ash Fork/Seligman
4. Mayer
5. Duncan
6. BASIS Flagstaff
7. Willcox

HEREBY CONSENT:

- VAR Spring Golf Program
- VAR Baseball Program
- VAR Softball Program
- VAR Baseball Program
- VAR Boys/Girls Track Program
- VAR Girls’ Beach Volleyball Program
- VAR Boys/Girls Tennis Program

SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS – 13

CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 191 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)

ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

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

- A. **Alhambra** – additional VAR/JV boys’ volleyball games to help fill **Central’s** schedule.
- B. **Payson** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo boys’ basketball games to help fill **Chinle’s** schedule.
- C. **Payson** – additional VAR/JV softball games to help fill **St. John’s** schedule.
- D. **Vista Grande** – additional VAR girls’ soccer game to help fill **Combs’** schedule.
- E. **Mogollon** – additional VAR softball game to help fill **Mayer’s** schedule.
- F. **Cibola** – additional VAR/JV softball games to help fill **Somerton’s** schedule.
- G. **Cienega** – additional VAR/JV baseball games to help fill **Walden Grove’s** schedule.
- H. **Alhambra** – additional VAR/JV baseball games to help fill **ALA Gilbert North’s** schedule.
- I. **Kingman** – additional VAR/JV baseball games to help fill **Somerton’s** schedule.
- J. **Thunderbird** – additional VAR softball game to help fill **Sunnyslope’s** schedule.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL – ARTICLE 16.3.3.1

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

Peoria Josh Moore – Athletic Director

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **upheld** the bylaw and the students remain ineligible per Article 16.3.3.1.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 am.

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