

## **Football Sports Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes in RED**

Dec 17, 2025

10 am – AIA Board Room

### **Committee Members Present:**

- 1A Dalton Mills (Bagdad) & Drew Gamboa (Mogollon)
- 2A Chris Rasmussen (Benson) & Travis Hawkins **NP** (Pima)
- 3A Daniel Jones (Thatcher) & Shawn Cluff **NP** (Florence)
- 4A Anthony Figueroa (Marcos de Niza) & Yancey Devore (Mingus Union)
- 5A Greg Davis **NP** (Paradise Valley) & Max Ragsdale (Campo Verde)
- 6A Dana Zupke (Pinnacle) & Dave Huffine (Tempe Union)

### **AIA Staff:**

Jim Dean  
Nathan Slater  
Brian Gessner  
Tyler Cerimeli  
Dan Nero  
Seth Polansky

### **Guest(s):**

Brian Fair – Phx Union Dist. AD

### **Agenda Items:**

1. **Approval of Minutes Jan 2025:**  
**Unanimous approval of Jan 2025 minutes.**
2. **Confirmation of Chairman for 2025-26:**  
**Max Ragsdale confirmed Chairman – unanimous approval.**
3. **Football Reclassification Review (Jim D.):**
  - a. Current Reclassification will take place after the end of the 2026 football season.  
**Dr. Dean mentioned that the Reclassification Committee will meet in Jan-Feb to prepare for reclassification possibilities after the 2026 AIA FB season.**

#### 4. 1A (Dalton M.):

- Move more teams down into 1A. **Dalton M. – would be very helpful if 8 or more teams would move down to 1A. Dr. Dean agrees – more 1A ADs are open to this idea. 1A and 2A Leadership need to continue to work together.**
- 1A / 2A Crossover Games if both sides agree. **Dr. Dean confirmed that 1A 8-man FB and 2A FB are two different sports with two separate Power Rankings. Working with the Power Rankings scenario can be explored to possibly have crossover games.**

**\*\*AIA's Brian Bolitho reports that this would require Executive Team/Board considerations of 1A 8 Man and 2A FB being two different sports and two different Power Rankings.**

- Coronado as a Host site for State Site - Older Location now & (Headphones still don't work for 2 of the teams on the Visitor Side). **Other sites can be explored. Per 1A Leadership - combination site with 1A GVB has been positive. Visiting coach's headsets do work during the regular season for Coronado HS. Different types of headsets may be the answer?**

#### 5. 3A (Daniel J.)

- **Coach Jones wanted to thank all for improvements on items from last year's FB SAC meeting.**
- Balance of region numbers. **Dr. Dean mentioned that this was an ongoing challenge for 1A Leadership.**
- Continuing to push for a venue for 2A/3A title games. **Dan N: Mtn Pointe was a very good venue re: staff, field, locker rooms, parking, etc. being among the best high schools. Dr. Dean: AIA attempted to get 3A Finals at ASU as part of a triple-header, but the ASU grass turf was a great concern to ASU Admin and Ops. Having more centrally located college-sized stadiums in Arizona proves to be a challenge.**
- Changes to the small school media day. **Good start 2025; possible Day of Game Zoom for 2026 per Seth P.**
- Making Varsity/JV the standard... FR/SO if applicable. **3A Leadership would need to address this during FB scheduling. Possibly in conjunction with 2A and 4A Leadership as well.**
- Making special teams plays not count against the 6-quarter rule. **This would be up to 3A Conference Leadership (and other conferences interested) to bring to the Executive Board for Art. 24 FB Policies and Procedures changes.**

## 6. 6A (Dana Z.)

### Officiating:

- The relationship between officials and coaches:
- Perceived 1-sided accountability **Brian G. reported approx. 30% of HFBCs submit Official's Evals each week. Evals are confidential and assist AIA Officials Dept. with helping referees improve or have assignments adjusted.**
- Egregious penalties for assistant coaches. **Per Brian and Tyler C: All multiple game ejections and games leading into playoffs are appealable.**
- Inconsistency. **Evals could improve situation. Possible "Auto Email" to ADs if HFBC does not submit an eval??**
- Not following NFHS rules consistently and not following directions from AIA

AIA "Ownership" of post-season contests with respect to broadcast rights. **Some schools have good broadcasting crews – could this assist the AIA and NFHS Network for post-season games?**

### 6A Scheduling Issues

- ADs not properly representing the coaches.
- Poor/no communication about scheduling/ scheduling changes. **Coaches need to stay in constant communication with their ADs and Principals, before and during the scheduling process. It was discussed and mentioned by Max R. that Football needs to go back to the old school method of scheduling meetings as well as post-season honors. In person by ADs (in communication with coaches) on the Region and Conference levels.**

### Spring Football

- Language prohibits showcase competition with other schools **Conferences would need to approach Executive Board with proposals to make changes to Spring FB in Art. 24 Football.**
- Track "State Championship" essentially eliminates spring practice for some **State Championship schedules are set by the Executive Board.**

## 7. **New Business:**

- a. NFHS Football info (Tyler C.)  
**No major 2026 rules changes expected by the NFHS, including eye black rule (one stripe for NFHS FB). Possible discussions re: Defense may be permitted to score on a PAT.**
- b. **Jeff Browlee – AD & HFBC at Williams retirement and recognition!!**

8. **Next Meeting Date: Dec 2026?? YES**

9. **Meeting Adjourned: 11:50 am**

