



**AGENDA
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
March 16, 2026
8:30 am – Executive Session
9:00 am – Meeting**

Call to Order President Missy Townsend

- 1. **ROLL CALL**
- 2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA – MARCH 16, 2026**
- 3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

REGULAR MEETING:

- 4. **MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**
- 5. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**
 - Winter Championships
 - Board Representatives – 2A, 5A and AIAAA

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- 6. **MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL - DISCUSSION**
- 7. **FUTURE DATES**

March 23, 2026	6A Conference Committee Meeting
March 25, 2026	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting (Xavier)
	District AD / Conference Leadership Meeting
March 30, 2026	4A Conference Committee Meeting
April 3, 2026	Holiday – AIA Office Closed
April 6, 2026	Athletic Director / Student Leadership Summit (Xavier)
April 9, 2026	5A Conference Committee Meeting
April 20, 2026	AIA Executive Board Meeting
April 27, 2026	4A Conference Committee Meeting // 6A Conference Committee Meeting
April 29, 2026	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting

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 – February 17, 2026
- Special Executive Board Meeting – February 25, 2026
- Special Executive Board Meeting – February 26, 2026

(b) AIA Lifetime Passes

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

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Max Ragsdale | Campo Verde |
| 2. Ramona Zuvers | Alhambra |
| 3. David Kruszewski | Sahuaro |
| 4. Jennifer Kruszewski | Sahuaro |
| 5. Karl Thompson | Lake Havasu |
| 6. Nicholas Hysong | Shadow Mountain |
| 7. Pamela Wolfe | Salome/Bicentennial |
| 8. Ryan Wolff | Thunderbird |
| 9. Dr. James Dearing | Thunderbird |

(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 14. General Provisions, Section 4 Non School 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.

(1) NOGALES HIGH SCHOOL – Nogales Unified**Reported Violation:**

Two male basketball student athletes competed for a “national” club team in Mexico over the weekend of 1/31-2/1 and again on Tuesday, 2/3.

Schools Corrective Action:

AD received evidence of participation and met with student-athletes and parents regarding infraction. We reviewed the student-athlete handbook in addition to the information reviewed during pre-season student-athlete/parent meetings, both general and team specific. AD met with coaching staff to review incident and established a team meeting to review bylaw 14.4. AD met again with spring staff to ensure this bylaw is also reviewed in their pre-season team meetings to avoid infractions in our spring sports beginning this month.

Prior Violation(s):

December 8, 2025 – Warning – Girls' Basketball Program. Article 15.7 – Physical Exam

9. **SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

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

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(1) **SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL** – Catholic Diocese of Phoenix

Reported Violation:

It was brought to our attention that a male soccer student athlete of ours may have practiced with a group outside of our school's team. Upon investigation it was confirmed that this student did practice over Christmas break with a team making him ineligible. Student did participate prior to this discovery.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. Student forfeited the remainder of his season upon discovery of the violation. Game student participated in is forfeited. School will work to further educate families on the bylaw and implement a sign off sheet in final forms requiring parents and students to sign off confirming their understanding of the bylaw before eligibility is cleared. All coaches will receive further training on the bylaw as well moving forward.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

9. **SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

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

11.4 **SCHEDULE CONTRACTS – VARSITY / JUNIOR VARSITY / FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE**

11.4.1 *To facilitate the preparation of master schedules for all sports, a school must commit by March 15 of the current school year as to whether or not it will participate in a particular varsity sport the following school year.*

(1) **ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL** – *Catholic Diocese of Phoenix*

Reported Violation:

Athletic director received a call from the boys' basketball head coach on 2/5 towards the end of the JV game. He mentioned there were numerous concerns that he had regarding player safety. Coach told the AD that the JV game was very physical from his account, sharing that a few of the players were getting hurt, with one getting an elbow directly to the nose. This caused him to have a bloody nose with an excessive amount of blood. Another was pushed to the ground. This athlete had just returned from a Concussion and our Return to Play protocol. Additionally, he stated that another one of our players was being called derogatory names, ones that I believe would have caused physical retaliation from his end. Thank be to God, this athlete did not retaliate. I shared with my coach to monitor the situation, speak with the officials professionally and with available administration about this situation as player safety should be a priority.

In the end the decision was made by Coach to not play the varsity game out of fear of his athletes receiving extensive injuries. The majority of the JV players would have been playing the varsity game as well. I do not believe Coach was acting out of spite but had a genuine concern for his athletes. Was it the right decision after reflecting on it? No. I as the AD take full responsibility for these decisions as I am the school administrator and leader of my coaches. This type of decision will not take place again by St. John Paul II Catholic High School.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. St. John Paul II will pay the fee for the forfeit/contest cancellation the day of the event. I as the AD have spoken with the Mohave Accelerated AD and apologized to him for this decision and also letting him know we will accept any penalty given. In addition, I as the AD will do a better job to instruct my coaches the importance of honoring a contract between two schools, to be patient and poised in these situations and to speak to all appropriate parties of authority at another site in order to be understanding. With this being said, the coach and St. John Paul II have mutually agreed to part ways. JP2 will begin the process of looking for our next head coach.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

9. SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

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

15.3 ENROLLMENT RULE

15.3.1 *Only students enrolled at a member school in grades 9 through 12, shall be eligible for interscholastic competition, team practices and tryouts. For purposes of this rule, a student's school of enrollment is defined as the school where the student's permanent grades/records are maintained and from which the student will be eligible to graduate.*

15.3.4 *In order to maintain eligibility, a student shall demonstrate regular attendance.*

(1) MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL – *Mingus Union School District*

Reported Violation:

A Mingus online student athlete was dropped/unenrolled on February 12 due to inactivity. She continued to practice softball until February 17 when we were made aware of the problem. This was prior to the start of any games.

Schools Corrective Action:

The Athletic Department will submit rosters to the Mingus Online Director at the start of every season. The Online Director will cross check rosters and identify the students participating in athletics. A season calendar request will be sent to the Online Director who will be reminded to submit a report verifying attendance and progress on a weekly basis (Friday at 8am)

Prior Violation(s):

September 9, 2025 – Warning – Girls' Golf Program. Article 15.8 – Legal Guardian.

9. **SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

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

17.4 **COACH'S / SPONSOR'S CODE OF ETHICS**

17.4.3 *A COACH / SPONSOR SHOULD:*

17.4.3.7 *Not make statements to or use the news media in a manner that is not consistent with the principles and objectives of the AIA, which include promoting cooperation, friendship and good sportsmanship among member schools.*

(1) **CASA GRANDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL** – Casa Grande Union High School District

Reported Violation:

Our head girls' soccer coach made comments about the officials to a newspaper reporter on February 13 after their play-in 5A tournament game.

Schools Corrective Action:

The AD had a meeting with the head coach to reinforce the bylaw that was violated on that day. I let him know that this can't happen again.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

9. **SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

(F) *Rule: Article 19. Policies and Procedures, Section 3 Removal of team*

19.3 **REMOVAL OF TEAM**

19.3.1 *School athletic programs at all levels are subject to disciplinary action when a school team is removed from the floor or field, prior to completion of the contest.*

(1) **MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL** – *Mingus Union School District*

Reported Violation:

Boys' soccer coach removed the players from the game against Lee Williams with 13:32 left in the game. At that time the game was called by the officials.

Schools Corrective Action:

The coach was placed on administrative leave for the remainder of the season. We will further investigate this incident and take necessary steps to correct this from happening in the future.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

(2) **CATALINA HIGH SCHOOL** – *Tucson Unified School District*

Reported Violation:

Boys' soccer coach chose to remove his team from play with 8:21 remaining in the game against Gilbert Christian Academy.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest Forfeited. Coach has been served with a letter of direction which will remain in his file as a warning. A copy of this letter is attached. Coach is required to complete the Sportsmanship certification via the NFHS and will be required to obtain education on AIA bylaws pertaining to this incident from the Athletic Director.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

9. **SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

(G) **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) **MIAMI HIGH SCHOOL** – Miami Area Unified

Reported Violation:

A dual transfer male track and field student athlete participated in an interscholastic athletic event on February 25, 2026. It was determined that a student-athlete enrolled at Miami Senior High School competed in an AIA-sanctioned event on February 25, 2026, despite not meeting eligibility requirements due to a dual transfer situation. The student was previously enrolled at Miami Senior High School, withdrew on January 6th, 2026, and enrolled at Globe High School. The student subsequently withdrew from Globe High School and re-enrolled at Miami Senior High School on January 20th, 2026. The student did not complete and submit the required AIA Form 550 (Transfer Form) upon returning to Miami. The athletic department did not verify the student's withdrawal and re-enrollment status through the attendance office prior to allowing participation. As a result, the student participated in the February 25 event without clearance from the AIA regarding transfer eligibility.

Schools Corrective Action:

To improve efficiency, accuracy, and accountability in student clearance and athletic participation, the following measures shall be implemented immediately:

Before any athlete participates in practices, scrimmages, or competitions, the following will be completed and verified:

- Enrollment Status Confirmed
- Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) Transfer rules reviewed and 550 Form completed
- Academic eligibility confirmed
- Parent residency verified

All requirements must be signed by the Athletic Secretary, Athletic Director, and Head Coach prior to participation.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

9. **SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

(H) Rule: Article 21. Baseball, Section 3 Preseason Interschool Varsity Scrimmage

21.3 **PRESEASON INTERSCHOOL VARSITY SCRIMMAGE**

21.3.1 One preseason interschool varsity scrimmage may be held; this scrimmage is considered a practice and shall not count toward the allowable number of games.

21.3.1.1 The varsity scrimmage shall be scheduled the week prior to the AIA date of competition; individual players must have participated in at least eight practice sessions.

21.3.1.2 The following guidelines shall be used:

- Scrimmage is open to the public, charging admission is at the discretion of the host school;
- Scoreboards shall not be used;
- No official score may be kept (recorded) or reported;
- Game uniforms *may* be worn; numbered jerseys may be used;
- There shall be at least two (2) AIA officials on the field;
- Unlimited substitution and re-entry of players;
- Coaching is permitted during play;
- Timeouts are unlimited;
- Other adjustments mutually agreed upon by coaches and officials before the scrimmage begins; adjustments cannot be less restrictive than the guidelines or sport policy.

(1) **SIERRA LINDA HIGH SCHOOL** – Tolleson Union High School District

Reported Violation:

Sierra Linda and Westview High Schools head baseball coaches held a baseball scrimmage on February 28th without informing school administration or using district transportation.

The scrimmage was not held the week prior to the AIA date of competition (after season started). The scrimmage was not sanctioned by the AIA and no AIA officials were present.

Schools Corrective Action:

The head baseball coach will:

- Serve a 2-game suspension during the next two AIA varsity contests. Effective 3/3/26
- Review and confirm your understanding of all applicable AIA bylaws and TUHSD athletic policies.
- Arrange a meeting with the athletic office every Friday to review the following weeks events.
- Provide a written plan to the principal outlining how you will ensure all future athletic activities are properly authorized and supervised.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

9. **SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

(I) Rule: Article 21. Baseball, Section 3 Preseason Interschool Varsity Scrimmage

21.3 **PRESEASON INTERSCHOOL VARSITY SCRIMMAGE**

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21.3.1.2 The following guidelines shall be used:

- Scrimmage is open to the public, charging admission is at the discretion of the host school;
- Scoreboards shall not be used;
- No official score may be kept (recorded) or reported;
- Game uniforms *may* be worn; numbered jerseys may be used;
- There shall be at least two (2) AIA officials on the field;
- Unlimited substitution and re-entry of players;
- Coaching is permitted during play;
- Timeouts are unlimited;
- Other adjustments mutually agreed upon by coaches and officials before the scrimmage begins; adjustments cannot be less restrictive than the guidelines or sport policy.

(1) **WESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL** – Tolleson Union High School District

Reported Violation:

Sierra Linda and Westview High Schools head baseball coaches held a baseball scrimmage on February 28th without informing school administration or using district transportation.

The scrimmage was not held the week prior to the AIA date of competition (after season started). The scrimmage was not sanctioned by the AIA and no AIA officials were present.

Schools Corrective Action:

The head baseball coach will:

- Serve a 2-game suspension during the next two AIA varsity contests. Effective 3/3/26
- Review and confirm your understanding of all applicable AIA bylaws and TUHSD athletic policies.
- Arrange a meeting with the athletic office every Friday to review the following weeks events.
- Provide a written plan to the principal outlining how you will ensure all future athletic activities are properly authorized and supervised.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

9. **SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

(J) *Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules. Section 2 Application of Student Eligibility Rules*

15.2 **APPLICATION OF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY RULES**

15.2.3 *Prior to participation, the school principal or his/her designated representative shall have determined that each participant is in compliance with all provisions of the eligibility rules as enumerated in Article 15.*

(1) **COOLIDGE HIGH SCHOOL** – *Coolidge Unified*

Reported Violation:

On the evening of March 2, 2026, I was made aware that a baseball student athlete was participating in games without a 550 form submission. Once submitted and speaking with a fellow athletic director, it was discovered that this student competed at the JV baseball level at Perry high school the year prior. Since discovered, we are being proactive by self-reporting and adhering to the AIA bylaws.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. Coolidge High School will meet with all coaches prior to the start of their season to ensure any student athlete that's new to the team (regardless of class) will be thoroughly vetted prior to clearance.

Prior Violation(s):

February 25, 2026. Probation-Athletic Program. Article 2 – Responsibility of School Administrators

9. **SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

(K) 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.

15.7.2 Member schools shall utilize the physical examination forms provided by the AIA. There shall be four parts:

(1) **GOODYEAR HIGH SCHOOL** – *Agua Fria Union High School District*

Reported Violation:

We recently discovered that a student athlete has been participating in baseball since the start of the season without a FinalForms registration. This occurred due to confusion between two students with the same first name and similar last name. one student who is participating in another spring sport, had selected baseball in FinalForms and was properly cleared. The student who actually tried out for and has been participating in baseball never created a FinalForms account. As a result, the coach mistakenly believed the participating student had been cleared, leading to this clerical oversight.

Schools Corrective Action:

School administration will issue district level consequences and meet with coach to review policy and procedure. A formal final forms training and an attendance plan will be created to ensure this does not happen in the future.

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. BASIS Flagstaff
2. Mountain Pointe
3. Apache Junction
4. Leading Edge Academy
5. Cicero Prep
6. North Valley Christian
7. Buckey Union
8. Phoenix Christian
9. Maricopa
10. Veritas
11. Mountainside
12. El Capitan/Fredonia
13. Patagonia

HEREBY CONSENT:

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

SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS – 38

CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 177 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)

SCHOOL REQUESTING:

1. St. John Paul II

HEREBY DOES NOT CONSENT:

Mohave Accelerated – VAR Boys’ Basketball Contest

11. ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

- A. **Odyssey Institute** – additional VAR/JV baseball games to help fill **ALA Mesa North’s** schedule.
- B. **Winslow** – additional VAR/JV softball games to help fill **St. John’s** schedule.
- C. **Desert Mountain** – additional JV girls’ beach volleyball match to help fill **Verrado’s** schedule.

12. REQUEST – RANCHO SOLANO – EXCEPTION TO ARTICLE 42.8.2 – ESPORTS

Rancho Solano Prep is requesting an exception to the ESPORTS playoff requirement that all members of the team must compete from the same room to compete as a team. Members of their team will be scattered in different locations due to their high school grade academic focused class trips scheduled for April 11 - April 17.

Rancho Solano has outlined a plan to ensure a fair and equitable match.

13. NFHS RULE ADOPTION – SOFTBALL

It is requested that beginning the 2026-2027 school year the use of a double first safety bag go into effect for softball.

14. **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL**

15. **HARDSHIP APPEALS**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>RECEIVING SCHOOL</u>	<u>SENDING SCHOOL</u>
10:00 am	Mountain Pointe	Pine Richland (PA)

16. **ADJOURNMENT**