



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

Call to Order President Missy Townsend

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

REGULAR MEETING:

4. **MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**
5. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**
 - AD/SLAC Summit
 - NFHS Legal Meeting Update
 - AIA Champions Gala – May 17th – The Vista Center of the Arts

ACTION ITEMS:

6. **COOLIDGE HIGH SCHOOL – PROBATIONARY STATUS REVIEW** **9:15 AM**

7. **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL**
REQUEST FOR HARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY – AGE RULE / BIRTH RECORD **9:45 AM**

15.6.1 **Age Limits** – *If a student becomes 19 years of age on or after September 1, he/she is eligible to compete for the remainder of that school year. If he/she becomes 19 years of age before September 1, he/she is not eligible for any part of that school year.*

- Valley Christian High School

8. **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL**
 - Marcos de Niza High School

9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION**

10. **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) **KOFA HIGH SCHOOL** – Yuma Union School District

Reported Violation:

Two student athletes on the varsity softball team practiced and played in a slow pitch rec league during season of play.

Schools Corrective Action:

Coach found out on 3/14/26 and called AD to inform me that her assistant coach witnessed one of the players actively playing a slow pitch rec game. On 3/16/26 I spoke with the mother of the athlete, as the student was not in school. Mother informed me that her daughter was aware of the rule and choose to ignore it, against her advice. We discussed bylaw 14 and the consequences of this violation. Parent understood the violation. Student is ineligible for the remainder of the season. On 3/16/26 I spoke with the other student involved and she admitted she was playing and has been for the past couple weeks, and she was informed that she could not do this since making the team but she didn't think anyone would find out. We discussed bylaw 14 and the consequences for this violation. Student understood, contacted parent. Student is ineligible for the remainder of the season.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

10. 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.

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.

(C) 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) AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY MESA NORTH – American Leadership Academies**Reported Violation:**

On 3/9/26, AD had a conversation with AIA regarding an issue brought to the AIA's attention regarding ALA Mesa North's girls' soccer team. The report given to the AIA was that Mesa North had current students participating on a club/AYSO team during the season of sport. After speaking with coach and reviewing a roster for the AYSO team provided to us it was confirmed that two students on that roster were also members of our school soccer team.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. Effective immediately, ALA is implementing a District-wide coach bylaw compliance plan that applies to all coaching personnel. Head coaches, assistant coaches, and volunteer coaches across every ALA school and every athletic season (fall, winter, spring). Conversations have taken place with the Mesa North's soccer coaches. AD has re-communicated with these coaches the mandate of running any rule-based decision for our high school team by me. We will continue to talk about Bylaw 14.4 and 16.1 with our coaches in our seasonal coaches meetings.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

10. SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

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

15.12 RECRUITMENT RULE - *There shall be no recruitment of athletes. Recruitment is defined as the act of influencing a student to enroll in a school or to transfer from one school to another in order that the student may participate in interscholastic athletics. No school administrator, athletic coach or employee of a high school district shall engage in recruitment either by direct contact with a student or indirectly through parents, legal guardians, common school employees, directors of summer athletic programs or other persons who are in a position to influence the student's choice of a school.*

15.12.2 *If school personnel condone or actively engage in recruitment or a school uses a recruited student, the school shall be subject to disciplinary action by the AIA Executive Board. (See Article 16, Section 1.*

15.12.4 Interpretations

15.12.4.6 *A high school coach may not initiate contact with a student at a junior high/middle school or other high school, or the parents of that student, about attendance at the school. It is not a violation for a coach to have normal community contact with a student who attends a junior high/middle school of the same system, which is a feeder to the high school.*

(1) PARADISE HONORS HIGH SCHOOL – Paradise Honors District

Reported Violation:

Football coach directly contacted two students at a neighboring school about attending Paradise Honors via Instagram.

Schools Corrective Action:

The coach involved was immediately removed from our staff. Additionally, all Paradise honors coaches will receive further in-service training to reinforce the expectation that all AIA bylaws are followed fully and without exception.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

10. SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**(E) Rule: Article 16. Penalties and Appeals, Section 3 Sportsmanship Rule****16.3 SPORTSMANSHIP RULE**

16.3.1 Ejection from a Contest – *If an AIA contest official determines that a coach or player has acted in an unsportsmanlike manner during either a period or intermission, the coach or player may be ordered to leave the contest.*

16.3.1.1 Penalties for Ejection – *A coach or player ejected from a contest for any reason shall be subject to the following without appeal*

16.3.1.1.4 Fighting Ejection – *Ineligible for the next two or three contests (depending on sport) at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim at any level.*

16.3.1.1.4.1 *Any Player ejected for fighting shall be ineligible for the next two contests in the following sports: badminton, cross country, football, flag football, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, track, beach volleyball, and wrestling.*

(1) MONUMENT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL – Kayenta Unified**Reported Violation:**

A student athlete was ejected during the final football game of the season on October 31, 2025. As a result of the ejection, the student athlete was required to sit out the next two contests. Because the incident occurred approximately four and a half months ago during the football season, we unfortunately overlooked the carry over suspension when the student began participating in the track and field meet on March 7th. We will impose this suspension on the next 2 track meets which is March 20 and March 28th.

Schools Corrective Action:

Moving forward, all coaches will be informed throughout the school year of any student athletes suspensions or ejections. This will ensure that violations form one sport season and communicated to coaches in the next season. Students and parents will be notified when a violation occurs and the incident will be documented in FinalForms. Any student with an outstanding suspension will be flagged in FinalForms and placed on hold until the suspension has been served.

Prior Violation(s):

September 9, 2025 – Warning – Football Program. Article 15.7 – Physical Exam.

October 20, 2025 – Warning – Cross Country Program. Article 14.5 – Individual Competition.

10. SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**(F) 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:

15.7.2.1 **Part One – Annual Preparticipation Physical Evaluation** – To be completed and signed by the parent or guardian and student athlete. This form must also be signed by the examining medical provider. (See Form 15.7-A).

15.7.2.2 **Part Two – Annual Preparticipation Physical Examination** – To be completed and signed by the examining medical provider. (See Form 15.7-B).

15.7.2.3 **Part Three – Annual Preparticipation Acknowledgement** – To be completed and signed by parent or guardian and student athlete. (See Form 15.7-C).

15.7.2.4 **Part Four – Annual Preparticipation Consent to Treat Form** – to be completed and signed by the parent or guardian and student athlete (See Form 15.7-D).

(1) IRONWOOD HIGH SCHOOL – Peoria Unified School District**Reported Violation:**

Two new head track coaches overlooked four athletes when verifying clearance in RMA. These students participated in the March 3rd meet vs Centennial. The error was caught on 3/11, when the athletic secretary came across a students account and noticed he was not cleared to participate. That triggered a broader investigation into the track program where three more athletes were found to have competed without the required forms. The Centennial AD was notified.

Schools Corrective Action:

The AD met with the track coaches, athletic secretary and the athletic trainer to review the current protocols and develop a system within the track program to take attendance from a list of cleared athletes provided by the athletic secretary or the athletic trainer.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

10. 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.*

(1) RINCON / UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL – Tucson Unified School District**Reported Violation:**

On Friday 3/6/26 the Rincon AD was informed by the Sabino AD that there was a player on the varsity baseball team that had played baseball for Sabino last year (24-25). The AD from Sabino stated that he had not received a 550 form for the transfer of the student. On Monday 3/9/26 the Rincon AD confirmed that the student had been at Rincon since the start of the 25-26 school year and had indeed been at Sabino the previous 2 years. Upon confirmation the Rincon AD contacted the AAI for the procedure to report the violation. He contacted the coach and student athlete. The student athlete is in the process of completing the 550 and it was submitted via the AIA dashboard.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. We have addressed the coach regarding the process of confirming new students to the program. We have also re-evaluated our current system for “clearing” students and we are adding another step of verification for each student to ensure that this does not happen again. Coach has officially been reprimanded.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

10. SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

(H) Rule: Article 21. Baseball, Section 7 Coaches / Coaching

21.7 COACHES / COACHING

21.7.1 A coach in the coach's box must wear a helmet.

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

Reported Violation:

The JV baseball coaches did not wear coaches' helmets while coaching on the field in the game against Youngker HS.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. Coaching staff has been informed and instructed that they need to be in a helmet during the game at all times. If more helmets need to be purchased, then to come see the athletic director for assistance. If this continues, there will be more corrective actions to come moving forward.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

10. SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

(I) Rule: Article 21. Baseball, Section 1 Rules

21.1 RULES

21.1.5 No pitcher shall exceed the daily maximum number of pitches per the Arizona Pitch Smart Guidelines limit and required rest recommendations. **(Emergency Legislation 12/5/16)** Coaches at all team levels are required to follow the Arizona Pitch Smart Guidelines protocol.

YEAR	MAX PITCHES	REQUIRED REST BASED ON PITCHES THROWN				
		0 DAYS	1 DAY	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 DAYS
FRESHMAN	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
SOPHOMORE	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
JUNIOR	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
SENIOR	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+

(1) KOFA HIGH SCHOOL – Yuma Union High School District

Reported Violation:

Pitching violation for Kofa JV baseball team. Used a pitcher that was not cleared to pitch until next day of play.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. The AD and head coach have meet with the JV coach and discussed the importance of inputting the pitchers and pitches into Game Changer correctly during the game for accuracy, receiving and adhering to the pitching timelines for players from the AIA and marking that down in game books to ensure that a pitcher does not pitch until eligible.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

(1) CHINO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL – Chino Valley District

Reported Violation:

Student athlete pitched 106 pitches in our last game. He was only allotted 105 and pitched one more than he should have.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. Coaches will be more diligent with updating live pitch counts during the game.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

10. SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

(J) *Rule: Article 16. Penalties and Appeals. Section 3 Sportsmanship Rule*

16.3 SPORTSMANSHIP RULE

16.3.1 *Ejection from a Contest – If an AIA contest official determines that a coach or player has acted in an unsportsmanlike manner during either a period or intermission, the coach or player may be ordered to leave the contest.*

(1) BOULDER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL – Deer Vally Unified School District

Reported Violation:

Baseball athlete was ejected on 3/18/26 from a game/tournament in the 3rd inning. Athlete played in the next game on 3/19/26 in a tournament. Athlete sat the following game in the tournament on 3/20/26.

Schools Corrective Action:

Emails will be checked on vacation or a designee is appointment. Requests for AIA to send ejections to coaches as well as ADs. Coach was in-service on 3/23 on AIA bylaw rules and regulations as well as a plan put forth when/if these situations occur and follow up email sent on 3/31/26.

Prior Violation(s):

August 11, 2025 – Warning – Baseball Program. Article 21.1 – Pitch Count.

10. SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**(K) Rule: Article 33. Beach Volleyball, Section 7 Interschool Competition****33.7 INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION**

33.7.4 *Beach volleyball pairs in team competition shall compete with pairs on the opposing team with the same skill rank. The line-up shall always be based on order of ability. Player movement within the team lineup is restricted to one position up or down from one event (dual or tournament) to another.*

When a regular team member is unable to participate in her established position, that position shall be filled by inserting a substitute or advancing all team members, whether they be varsity, junior varsity or freshman. In subsequent events, when the replaced team member returns, she must return to the position she last played. If a regular team member is out of the lineup for a significant amount of time (at least 3 matches) she may return to any position based on her skill rank. When a regular pair is unable to participate in their established position, that position shall be filled by advancing all other pairs, whether they be varsity, junior varsity or freshman.

Any violation of the anti-stacking policy shall result in forfeiture of the entire match.

(1) PINNACLE HIGH SCHOOL – Paradise Valley Unified School District**Reported Violation:**

Girls beach volleyball coach did not understand how an alternate fit into the anti-stacking policy. On 3/4 vs Red Mountain, coach plugged in our alternate into the 5th pair. The following match on 3/23 vs Mtn Pointe, the coach took the same alternate and plugged her into the 1st pair for an injured player. That violates the anti-stacking policy and Pinnacle must forfeit the Mtn Pointe match on 3/23.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. I went over the bylaws with the head coach and she now understands how she has to manage alternates with the anti-stacking policy.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

10. SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**(L)** Rule: Article 30. Tennis. Section 7 Interschool Competition**30.7 INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION**

30.7.4 *Tennis players shall compete with players on the opposing team with the same rank. The line-up should always be based on order of ability. When a regular team member is unable to participate in his/her established singles position, that position shall be filled by advancing all team members, whether they be varsity, junior varsity or freshman. When a regular team member is unable to play in his/her established doubles position, that position shall be filled by a direct line substitution, whether they be varsity, junior varsity or freshman.*

30.7.4.1 *Player movement, including a doubles team, within the team ladder is restricted to one position up or down from one match to another.*

(1) ARCADIA HIGH SCHOOL – Scottsdale Unified School District**Reported Violation:**

Our boys' doubles 1 and doubles 3 teams flipped flopped based off of an in-season challenge tournament. This led to our 3 doubles and 1 double playing opposite. This is a direct violation of the above bylaw.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. AD sat down and had an in-service with both head coaches to go over the rules and expectations for player movement. Specifically went over bylaws 30.7.4.1 and discussed the importance of following this to maintain the integrity of the sport. Communicated with the other school and forfeited the games questioned. To prevent this from happening the coach will submit his line-up to AD the day before a match. This will happen for the remainder of the season.

Prior Violation(s):

None.

11. 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 CANCELLING:

1. Mayer
2. Music Mountain

VARISTY PROGRAM:

- Softball
- Boys/Girls Track

SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS – 5

CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 238 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)

12. ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

- A. **Phoenix Christian** – additional VAR softball game to help fill **Scottsdale Christian's** schedule.
- B. **Show Low** – additional VAR softball game to help fill **Round Valley's** schedule.
- C. **Shadow Mountain** – additional VAR football game to help fill **Sierra Linda's** schedule.
- D. **Mingus Union** – additional VAR girls' tennis match to help fill **Northland Prep's** schedule.
- E. **Centennial** – additional VAR softball game to help fill **Mohave Accelerated's** schedule.
- F. **Page** – additional VAR baseball game to help fill **El Capitan's** schedule.

13. REQUEST – EL CAPITAN/CENTENNIAL ACADEMY – CO-OP

El Capitan High School is requesting to join in a cooperative for interscholastic competition beginning the 2026-27 school year with Centennial Academy.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

14. 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 January – March 2026

15. LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

16. 2026-2027 BUDGET PROPOSAL

17. 2026-2027 MEETING DATES

18. COMMITTEE MEMBER NOMINATIONS – EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (AIAAA, 2A, 5A)

Rule: Article 6. Executive Board, Section 2 Selection & Terms of Office – AIA Executive Board Members

6.2 SELECTION & TERMS OF OFFICE – AIA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

6.2.3 *Each representative shall be chosen at the regularly scheduled Executive Board meeting in April, preceding the beginning of his/her term of office and shall serve until a qualified successor is duly designated.*

AIAAA Missy Townsend – Prescott – Athletic Administrator

2A Derek Wahlstrom – Trivium Prep – Athletic Administrator
Mel Garcia – Tombstone – Athletic Administrator
Tim Bridges – ALA Anthem South – Athletic Administrator

5A Armando Soto – Amphitheater District – District Athletic Administrator
Corey Newland – Paradise Valley District – District Athletic Administrator
Julie Patton – Glendale – Athletic Administrator

19. 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 – March 16, 2026

(b) AIA Lifetime Passes

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

1. Shane Hawkins Fort Thomas
2. Jace Hancock Pima
3. Craig Marcus Mountain Ridge
4. Herschel Wayne Hill Westwood
5. Richard Lance Heister Westwood

(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>

20. FUTURE DATES

April 27, 2026	4A Conference Committee Meeting // 6A Conference Committee Meeting
April 29, 2026	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
May 7, 2026	5A Conference Committee Meeting // 3A Conference Committee Meeting
May 8, 2026	2A Conference Committee Meeting
May 17, 2026	AIA Champions Gala – The Vista Center of the Arts
May 18, 2026	AIA Executive Board Meeting
May 25, 2026	Holiday – AIA Office Closed
May 29, 2026	Office Closed – Summer Hours Begin

21. ADJOURNMENT