



**MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
April 20, 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 Monday, April 20, 2026, at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

President Missy Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:27 am.

**Members in Attendance:**

William Duarte, 1A Conference (Superior Jr./Sr. High School)  
Tierra 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:**

Rosa Leon, Legal Counsel\*  
Toni Corona, Associate Executive Director  
Nathan Slater, Associate Executive Director  
Tayler Coady, Executive Administrative Assistant  
Brian Gessner, Commissioner of Officials  
Amy Richmond, Director of Finance  
Brian Bolitho, Director of Business Development

**Guests:**

Sam Diaz  
Tim Bridges  
Maria Vasquez

*\*Indicates attendance via teleconference*

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA – MARCH 16, 2026**

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the April 20, 2026 agenda.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried, President Townsend in accordance with Article 6, Section 3, Paragraph 3, Subparagraph 2 of the AIA Constitution, called for the following Executive Sessions:

- ✓ 8:31 am – 8:56 am
- ✓ 9:38 am – 10:22 am
- ✓ 11:30 am – 12:15 pm

**REGULAR MEETING:****MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

The Student Leadership Summit was held at Xavier College Prep on April 6<sup>th</sup> with an incredible turn out of over 400 student athletes. A special thanks to Omari Pearson for his continued contribution to this event. The Athletic Director Summit was held in conjunction with the Student Leaders with presentations from The Trust, PlayON!, Fiesta Bowl, AIAAA and PlayFly. A big thank you to Sister Lynn, Tui and the whole Xavier College Prep staff for hosting this event. We could not do it without you all!

The NFHS Legal Meeting was held in Indianapolis April 9-10 with all 51 State Association Directors and most legal counsel representatives. Major topic of conversations was over transfer students and permitting one “free” transfer after establishing eligibility.

The AIA Night of Champions will be held on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Vista Center of the Arts in Surprise. This event is to recognize the outstanding Arizona high school students, teachers, coaches, officials, administrators and schools for all their achievements, on and off the field, and exemplifying trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. We look forward to another incredible event.

**ACTION ITEMS:****COOLIDGE HIGH SCHOOL – PROBATIONARY STATUS REVIEW**

*The following representatives entered the meeting and left upon completion of their presentations.*

Dawn Hodge – Superintendent, Tres Chapman – Athletic Director

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board, **removed** the sanction of probation and placed the Coolidge High School athletic department on **warning** for one-year 2/26/2026-2/26/2027 with the continuation of bi-weekly meetings with AIA staff.

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL****REQUEST FOR HARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY – AGE RULE / BIRTH RECORD**

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

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above appeal.

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL**

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the following student eligibility request:

- Marcos de Niza High School

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION**

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the Executive Director Evaluation.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS****KOFA HIGH SCHOOL** – *Yuma Union School District*

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

**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.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Kofa High School **Softball Program** on **Warning** for one year 4/20/26-4/20/27.

**AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY MESA NORTH** – *American Leadership Academies*

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

**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.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the ALA Mesa North **Girls' Soccer Program** on **Warning** for one year 4/20/26-4/20/27.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

**PARADISE HONORS HIGH SCHOOL** – *Paradise Honors District*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 12 Recruitment Rule (15.12.2 / 15.12.4.6)

**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.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Paradise Honors High School **Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 4/20/26-4/20/27.

**MONUMENT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL** – *Kayenta Unified*

Rule: Article 16. Penalties and Appeals, Section 3 Sportsmanship Rule (16.3.1)

**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 7<sup>th</sup>. We will impose this suspension on the next 2 track meets which is March 20 and March 28<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Monument Valley High School **Athletics Program** on **Warning** for one year 4/20/26-4/20/27.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd**IRONWOOD HIGH SCHOOL** – Peoria Unified School District

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 7 Physical Examination Rule (15.7)

**Reported Violation:**

Two new head track coaches overlooked four athletes when verifying clearance in RMA. These students participated in the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meet vs Centennial. The error was caught on 3/11, when the athletic secretary came across a student's 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.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Ironwood High School **Boys' Track and Field Program** on **Warning** for one year 4/20/26-4/20/27.

**RINCON / UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL** – Tucson Unified School District

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule (15.10)

**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.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Rincon/University High School **Baseball and Athletic Programs** on **Warning** for one year 4/20/26-4/20/27.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

**VERRADO HIGH SCHOOL** – *Agua Fria Union High School District*  
*Rule: Article 21. Baseball, Section 7 Coaches / Coaching (21.7.1)*

**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.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Verrado High School **Baseball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 4/20/26-4/20/27.

**KOFA HIGH SCHOOL** – *Yuma Union High School District*  
*Rule: Article 21. Baseball, Section 1 Rules (21.1.5)*

**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.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Kofa High School **Baseball Program** on **Warning** for one year 4/20/26-4/20/27.

**CHINO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL** – *Chino Valley District*  
*Rule: Article 21. Baseball, Section 1 Rules (21.1.5)*

**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.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Chino Valley High School **Baseball Program** on **Warning** for one year 4/20/26-4/20/27.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

**BOULDER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL** – *Deer Vally Unified School District*  
*Rule: Article 16. Penalties and Appeals, Section 3 Sportsmanship Rule (16.3.1)*

**Reported Violation:**

Baseball athlete was ejected on 3/18/26 from a game/tournament in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Boulder Creek High School **Baseball and Athletic Programs** on **Warning** for one year 4/20/26-4/20/27.

**PINNACLE HIGH SCHOOL** – *Paradise Valley Unified School District*  
*Rule: Article 33. Beach Volleyball, Section 7 Interschool Competition (33.7.4)*

**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 5<sup>th</sup> pair. The following match on 3/23 vs Mtn Pointe, the coach took the same alternate and plugged her into the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Pinnacle High School **Girls' Beach Volleyball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 4/20/26-4/20/27.

*\*Corey Newland abstained*

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont’d

**ARCADIA HIGH SCHOOL** – *Scottsdale Unified School District*  
*Rule: Article 30. Tennis, Section 7 Interschool Competition (30.7.4.1)*

**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.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Arcadia High School **Boys’ Tennis Program** on **Advisement** for one year 4/20/26-4/20/27.

**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 that could have a bearing on regional or state playoffs:

- |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b><u>SCHOOL CANCELLING:</u></b> | <b><u>VARISTY PROGRAM:</u></b> |
| 1. Mayer                         | Softball                       |
| 2. Music Mountain                | Boys/Girls Track               |

**SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS** – 5

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

**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.

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above additional game requests.

**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.

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **denied** the above co-op request from El Capitan and Centennial Academy.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

In accordance with Article 6, Section 5, Paragraph 15 of the AIA Bylaws, the Executive Board **approved** the following financial report.

- ✓ Financial Report for January – March 2026

**LEGAL DEFENSE RECOVERY FUND**

Based on the total expenses paid for legal fees for the 2025-2026 school year it was determined that a total of \$273.67 will be billed to each member schools per AIA Bylaw 9.1.3.3

**2026-2027 BUDGET PROPOSAL**

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the proposed 2026-2027 budget.

**2026-2027 MEETING DATES**

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the 2026-2027 Meeting Dates.

The meeting dates include meetings for the Executive Board, Legislative Council, New AD Workshops, and Coaches Courses. Hardship appeal hearing and deadlines are also included.

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

In accordance with Article 6, Section 4, Paragraph 1 of the AIA Constitution, the Executive Board selected the following to serve as members for the **2026-2029** term:

- AIAAA** Missy Townsend – Prescott – Athletic Administrator
- 2A** Tim Bridges – ALA Anthem South – Athletic Administrator
- 5A** Corey Newland – Paradise Valley District – District Athletic Administrator

**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 – March 16, 2026

**AIA 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       |

**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.

**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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 12:26 pm.

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