



**Minutes  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
September 15, 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, September 15, 2026, at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

President Corey Newland called the meeting to order at 1:19 pm.

**Members in Attendance:**

William Duarte, 1A Conference (Superior Jr./Sr. High School)  
Tim Bridges, 2A Conference (American Leadership Academy – Anthem South)  
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)  
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

**Members Absent**

Steve Johnson, Arizona School Boards Association (CAVIT)

**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  
Brian Bolitho, Director of Business Development

**Guests:**

Jim Culver  
Peter Jelovic  
Ryan Salazar

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA – SEPTEMBER 15, 2026**

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the September 15, 2026 agenda.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

- ✓ 1:20 pm – 1:53 pm
- ✓ 2:21 pm – 2:28 pm
- ✓ 3:56 pm – 4:00 pm

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

None.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

The annual AIAAA Conference took place this past weekend at the Prescott Convention Center. It was another successful conference, as AIAAA continues to make improvements across the board.

Flag football began competition this week, which makes all fall sports underway. We look forward to another successful fall season.

Section 7&8 Conference will be held in Wyoming from September 19-23. Members of AIA staff will be in attendance with some presenting. Presentation will focus on the Passion, Purpose and Platform of the AIA. The National Sports Summit is taking place in Indianapolis in early October, a new summit hosted on by the NFHS. A NFHS Rules Work Group will take place following the Summit that will be attended by Dr. Dean.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:****FUTURE DATES**

|                       |                                                      |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| September 21-26, 2026 | Fall Officials Appreciation Week                     |
| September 28, 2026    | 6A Conference Meeting                                |
| September 30, 2026    | District AD / Conference Leadership Meeting          |
| October 7, 2026       | Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting        |
| October 8, 2026       | 5A Conference Meeting                                |
| October 14, 2026      | 2A Conference Meeting                                |
| October 17, 2026      | Badminton Seeding Meeting                            |
| October 19, 2026      | Executive Board Meeting                              |
| October 26, 2026      | Winter Coaches Course Opens // 6A Conference Meeting |
| October 28, 2026      | District AD / Conference Leadership Meeting          |
| October 29, 2026      | Boys' Beach Volleyball Pairs 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 – August 10, 2026
- Executive Board Meeting – Hardship Appeals – August 26, 2026
- Executive Board Meeting – Hardship Appeals – September 1, 2026

**AIA Lifetime Passes**

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Tammy Hall    | Willcox                   |
| 2. Thomas Burke  | Heritage Academy Laveen   |
| 3. John Farmer   | Alhambra                  |
| 4. Joshua Olshan | Alhambra                  |
| 5. Dave Glasgow  | Coolidge Unified District |
| 6. Derek Zellner | Hamilton                  |
| 7. Troy Hoffland | Gilbert District          |
| 8. Greg Hull     | Phoenix Country Day       |

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – Cont'd**

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 9. Denise Macrina      | Xavier College Prep |
| 10. Jay Johnson        | Mica Mountain       |
| 11. Scott Anderson     | AIA Official        |
| 12. Suzanne Arias      | AIA Official        |
| 13. Leslie Claudio     | AIA Official        |
| 14. Robert Covington   | AIA Official        |
| 15. Frank Duarte       | AIA Official        |
| 16. Bob Duresky        | AIA Official        |
| 17. Jacinto Espinoza   | AIA Official        |
| 18. Timothy Eyer       | AIA Official        |
| 19. Mariano Felix      | AIA Official        |
| 20. James Gibson       | AIA Official        |
| 21. Monseis Gonzales   | AIA Official        |
| 22. Thomas Graca       | AIA Official        |
| 23. Jaime Guerrero     | AIA Official        |
| 24. Jacob Gustafson    | AIA Official        |
| 25. Larry Heath        | AIA Official        |
| 26. Sally Jones        | AIA Official        |
| 27. Neil Katz          | AIA Official        |
| 28. Todd Lichtas       | AIA Official        |
| 29. Randy Pressentin   | AIA Official        |
| 30. Jerry Price        | AIA Official        |
| 31. Fred Robles        | AIA Official        |
| 32. Paul Salamone      | AIA Official        |
| 33. Eric Sanders       | AIA Official        |
| 34. James Sims         | AIA Official        |
| 35. Jeff Vance         | AIA Official        |
| 36. Nikolay Vinnikov   | AIA Official        |
| 37. Ted Watson         | AIA Official        |
| 38. Pamela Wolfe-Brady | AIA Official        |
| 39. Samuel Yarrington  | AIA Official        |
| 40. Robert Murrieta    | AIA Official        |

**Request for AIA Sanction/Intrastate and Interstate Activities – 2026-27 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 2026-2027 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****MINGUS UNION HIGH SCHOOL** – *Mingus Union District*

*Rule: Article 17. Coaches and Coaching, Section 1 Coaching Qualifications (17.1.1)*

**Reported Violation:**

We had a swim coach that was not cleared by Mingus Union High School coaching on 8/11/26 and 8/12/26. We thought we had a HR file on him. When I inquired about the file, our HR department had no record of him. This was a lack of oversight on my part.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

I have conference with the coach, and I will get information out to all our coaches about the process if we have coaches who want to return after an extended period away. I will follow-up with HR to assure a file is in place and cleared prior to approving a coach.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Mingus Union High School **Activities Program** on **Warning** for one year 9/15/26-9/15/27.

**FLOWING WELLS HIGH SCHOOL** – *Flowing Wells District*

*Rule: Article 43. Sports Medicine, Section 4 Hazing Education (43.4)*

**Reported Violation:**

Flag football student athlete did not have clearance through FinalForms to participate in practice because the required Hazing Prevention course has not been completed. An administrator on site permitted the student to participate in practice on the condition that the course be completed by the of the of day.

Coaches should not have allowed this student to participate in practice without the required clearance. As second-year coaches, they were aware of the established rules and procedures regarding player clearance.

The administrator also understood the student did not have the required clearance and should not have verbally authorized the student to participate in practice.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

The bylaws, player clearance requirements, and the potential consequences of violations were reviewed with both the coaches and the administrator to reinforce expectations and ensure compliance with established procedures. All parties agreed and are committed to following correct procedures with increased monitoring.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Flowing Wells High School **Flag Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 9/15/26-9/15/27.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd****CASTEEL HIGH SCHOOL** – *Chandler Unified School District*

Rule: Article 24. Football, Section 2 Season of Sport (24.2.3)

**Reported Violation:**

On 8/25/26, Casteel High School and Perry High School played a frosh football game, to accommodate Casteel's Thursday Night Varsity Football game as part of the Fiesta Bowl Game of the Week.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

New year and all years moving forward, we will ensure the first frosh game begins on Wednesday of the first permissible week according to bylaw 24.2.3. Frosh will need to play home and JV play away on the same day if Varsity is played on Thursday Night. Officials were assigned and it was schedule in the dashboard, but ultimately this falls on us as the host site to ensure compliance not the AIA or Perry.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Casteel High School Football Program on **Warning** for one year 9/15/26-9/15/27.

*Jennifer Burks – abstained*

**PERRY HIGH SCHOOL** – *Chandler Unified School District*

Rule: Article 24. Football, Section 2 Season of Sport (24.2.3)

**Reported Violation:**

On 8/25/26, Casteel and Perry High School played a freshman football game. The game was played on a Tuesday, which was one day prior to the 8/26/26 official start of competition per the AIA Quick Glance Calendar. Normally, our freshman games are scheduled for Wednesdays, however, to accommodate Casteel's Thursday night varsity football Fiesta Bowl Game of the Week, we scheduled the freshman game for Tuesday and the JV game for Wednesday.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

This was not an intentional violation. Officials were assigned and it was not listed as a black out date on the dashboard. However, this error is the fault of both AD's as neither of us checked the quick glance calendar. In the future, we will be sure to play our first games on the Wednesday of the first permissible week according to bylaw 24.2.3. Additionally, we will more diligently check the quick glance calendar as well as add a calendar appointment for all permissible start dates for all sports/seasons to avoid this situation in the future.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Perry High School Football Program on **Warning** for one year 9/15/26-9/15/27.

*Jennifer Burks – abstained*

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd****MOON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL** – *Glendale Unified School District*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule (15.10.1)

**Reported Violation:**

A Badminton player played in three matches prior to filling out her 550 form. The student and parent were not aware of the transfer rule. Moon Valley hired a new Badminton coach and the new coach was not familiar with who was on the team last year and did not know that one of the players that made the team played last year for a different school. Once it was determined that the player would have to sit out for 50% of the season, I notified the coach, player, parent, and the AIA. Moon Valley will forfeit our win vs Maryvale that occurred on August 26, 2026.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Contest Forfeited. More detailed orientation for new head coaches to identify athletes who may have eligibility restrictions. Add a step to Registermyathlete.com that will direct parents to fill out a 550 form on aiaonline.org. Emphasize transfer student guidelines during back-to-school orientation week coaches meeting. Also, make it a standing item on monthly coaches meeting agendas.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Moon Valley High School **Activities Program** on **Warning** for one year 9/15/26-9/15/27.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**

**GILA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL** – *Yuma Union High School District*  
*Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 2 (15.2.3)*

**Reported Violation:**

On 8/21, 8/25, 8/26, and 9/2, a student participated in cross-country practice. The 8/26 event was a local cross-country meet that does not award scoring or points toward state competition.

Prior to boarding the bus for the 8/26 meet, the student-athlete borrowed a cross-country uniform from an injured teammate. The student boarded the bus and sat in the back. The student manager took a headcount, and the head coach did as well. The head coach identified one extra male cross-country runner, determined which athlete was unaccounted for, and added him to the travel tally — but did not cross-check RegisterMyAthlete to confirm the athlete was cleared. As a result, the ineligible athlete competed in the local meet.

The ineligible athlete said he did not practice again. The ineligible athlete later attempted to turn in the borrowed (old) uniform to the equipment manager and requested our newly purchased uniform on 9/1. At that point, the equipment manager discovered the athlete had not been cleared in RegisterMyAthlete.

That evening, the head coach spoke with the ineligible student's mother and with the student who had lent the uniform. The ineligible student would not say who lent him the uniform until asked several times.

On 9/2, I met with both students and the coach. During the meetings, the ineligible student said he had told the head coach he had borrowed the uniform. The head coach says he was not informed of the uniform exchange. The student who lent the uniform stated that the head coach was unaware of the uniform being shared. I reminded this student about the equipment form on RMA.

The ineligible student-athlete is now cleared and eligible. I met with his mother and reinforced the importance of completing the RegisterMyAthlete steps, noting he had already completed this process once before as a spring athlete.

At this time, all student-athletes are eligible and practicing, but only one athlete can compete until the other meets his acclimatization requirements and completes the baseline concussion test. Additional corrective actions taken are listed below.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Coach has been retaught the eligibility process with Register My Athlete. Guardian and student-athlete have been retaught the eligibility process. YUHSD human resource policies are being complied with. An audit of all RMA cleared registrations, early dismissal rosters, Synergy Groups, and AIA rosters has been completed. Another column has been added to the coach's clipboard to document that all acclimatization practices are completed before the previously ineligible athlete competes.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Gila Ridge High School **Cross Country Program** on **Warning** for one year 9/15/26-9/15/27.

**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 program(s) that could have a bearing on regional or state playoffs:

**SCHOOL REQUESTING:**

1. North Canyon
2. Glendale Prep
3. Goodyear
4. Gilbert Classical
5. Desert Star Academy
6. ALA Radiance
7. Many Farms
8. Independence
9. Combs
10. Amphitheater
11. Kingman Academy
12. Fountain Hills
13. Arcadia
14. Desert View
15. Lourdes Catholic
16. Dischii'bikoh
17. Heritage Academy-Mesa
18. Tonopah Valley
19. Crismon
20. Dobson

**VAR PROGRAM CANCELLING:**

- Girls' Golf
- Football (Varsity Only)
- Girls' Golf
- Boys' Beach Volleyball
- Baseball
- Boys/Girls Cross Country
- Football
- Girls' Golf
- Girls' Golf
- Boys/Girls Swimming
- Football
- Girls' Wrestling
- Badminton
- Boys' Golf
- Boys' Fall Soccer
- Softball (Varsity Only)
- Boys' Golf
- Football
- Badminton
- Girls' Golf

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**VARSITY CONTEST CANCELLATIONS: 190**
**SCHOOL REQUESTING:**

1. Sedona Red Rock
2. Valley Lutheran

**HEREBY DOES NOT CONSENT:**

- Mohave Accelerated – VAR Football
- Joseph City – VAR Football

**ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS**

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

- A. **Coolidge** – additional VAR baseball game to help fill **Gilbert Christian's** schedule.
- B. **Odyssey Institute** – additional VAR football game to help fill **Sabino's** schedule.
- C. **Duncan** – additional VAR/JV boys/girls basketball games to help fill **Bisbee's** schedule.
- D. **Blue Ridge** – additional VAR girls' soccer game to help fill **Northland Prep Academy's** schedule.
- E. **Thunderbird** – additional VAR/JV/Fr/So girls' basketball games to help fill **Sunnyslope's** schedule.
- F. **Canyon View** – additional VAR/JV baseball games to help fill **Kofa's** schedule.

**OVERTIME NATIONALS REQUEST**

Overtime Nations is requesting for an Arizona team to play in their National Championship Game.

After discussion the Executive Board, on a motion made, seconded and carried **tabled** the above item until the next Board meeting.

**FOOTBALL RECLASSIFICATION TIMELINE**

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the timeline as presented.

**AMENDMENT – SPORTS MEDICINE**

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **tabled** the above item until October.

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL****REQUEST FOR HARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY – FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT**

15.15.1 **FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS** – *A foreign exchange student is a student that is in the U.S. under a J-1 Visa, and who is placed in a school by an educational exchange program approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSJET). A foreign exchange student is eligible at a school in the attendance zone of the home in which the student is placed. A foreign exchange student must meet all other eligibility requirements and is eligible for a maximum of one school year.*

- Desert Edge High School
- Mesquite High School

*The following representatives entered the meeting for a student eligibility appeal and left upon completion of their presentation.*

**Desert Edge** Peter Jelovic – Athletic Director, Guardians, Student

Following review and discussion of the written and oral information, on a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **denied** the appeal.

**Mesquite** Ryan Salazar – Athletic Director

Following review and discussion of the written and oral information, on a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **denied** the appeal.

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL****REQUEST FOR HARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY – AGE RULE**

15.6 **AGE LIMIT / BIRTH RECORD RULE**

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.*

- Bourgade Catholic High School

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **tabled** the item as requested by the school.

**HARDSHIP APPEAL DETERMINATION – RECONSIDERATION**

- Chandler High School

*The following representatives entered the meeting for a student eligibility appeal and left upon completion of their presentation.*

**Chandler**

Jim Culver – Athletic Director, Parent, Student, Coach

Following review and discussion of the written and oral information, on a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **upheld** the previous decision.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

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