



**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
October 19, 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, October 19, 2026, at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

President Corey Newland called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

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)*
Steve Johnson, Arizona School Boards Association (CAVIT)
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

Guests:

Dennis Coyle
Brie Dragonetti
Arjun Puri*

**Indicates attendance via zoom*

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – OCTOBER 19, 2026

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the October 19, 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):

- ✓ 8:30 am – 8:40 am
- ✓ 9:04 am – 9:09 am
- ✓ 10:01 am – 11:32 am

REGULAR MEETING:**MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Members of the AIA Staff attending the Section 7&8 Conference in Cody, Wyoming in September. There was great conversation and discussion that took place. Transfers continue to be a hot topic amongst all states. AIA staff shared the efforts of social media and production taking place in Arizona and the success we are having with both.

In early October members of AIA staff attended the first annual NFHS National Sports Summit in Indianapolis. The summit was a two-day course showing the process of how rules come to fruition. Approximately 100-150 individuals from across all state associations were in attendance. The NFHS will work towards adding the summit to the summer meeting.

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:

- ✓ Quarter 3 Financial Report

FUTURE DATES

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
November 4, 2026	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
November 7, 2026	Winter Coaches Course Deadline
November 10, 2026	Winter Hardship Appeal Deadline
November 11, 2026	AIA Office Closed – Holiday
November 12, 2026	5A Conference Meeting // 3A Conference Meeting
November 13, 2026	2A Conference Meeting
November 16, 2026	AIA Executive Board Meeting
November 17-18, 2026	Winter Hardship Appeal Hearings
November 18, 2026	Unified Sports Advisory Committee Meeting
November 23, 2026	6A Conference Meeting
November 26-27, 2026	AIA Office Closed - Holiday

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 – September 15, 2026

AIA Lifetime Passes

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Thad Gates | Florence Unified |
| 2. Shelly Arredondo | Tempe |
| 3. Gary Reed | Phoenix Country Day |
| 4. Terrence Tillett | Chaparral |
| 5. Trent Hanzal | Valley Christian |
| 6. Michael Welch | Tonopah Valley |
| 7. John Burke | La Joya Community |
| 8. Jose Mendoza | Brophy |
| 9. Andy Schmidbauer | Brophy |
| 10. Frank Antonioli | Brophy |

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****SAGUARO HIGH SCHOOL** – *Scottsdale Unified School District*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility, Section 10 Transfer Rule

Reported Violation:

Student was an in season transfer the year prior that had a first day of attendance of 9/5/2026. As such, said student should have not been eligible to participate in football game until week 3, but played week 1.

Schools Corrective Action:

Meeting with the head coach going over policies and procedures on ensuring he is aware of any transfers within the program, even those in the past prior to his tenure. A review within the athletic department procedures to ensure all transfers are made aware of (past and present) and alternations to procedures and a meeting with department staff to go over these procedures. Correspondence sent out to all head coaches about transfer communication past/present and procedure to reiterate of how to handle. A point of clarification; if Saguaro had won the contest the student athlete participated in, the contest would have been resulted in a forfeit.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Saguaro High School **Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/19/26-10/19/27.

BUCKEYE UNION HIGH SCHOOL – *Buckeye Union High School District*

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

Reported Violation:

New athletic director and new coach hired after student transferred from La Joya (2/19/26). Student completed 550 from then, was informed of sitting out 50% from previous athletic director, student was informed for track season. Student participated in the first two flag football games of the season (9/15/26 and 9/17/26), which they were to sit 50%

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. new procedures within the athletic department are made to review all current and past 550 forms for new coaches and athletic director. New procedure of using Aktivite/RMA by placing all 550 forms approval and non-approval. Student athlete met with new athletic director and held accountable and made aware of the non-approval and has knowledge of when they are able to participate.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Buckeye Union High School **Flag Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/19/26-10/19/27.

Bill Wright – abstained

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

Rule: Article 16. Penalties and Appeals, Section 2 Ineligible Player (16.2.1)

Reported Violation:

Student athlete submitted all appropriate RMA information and was able to pay his fee in our bookstore so our head coach was under the assumption athlete was cleared to play football. After a conversation with Peoria Flex Academy we found out that this student just recently registered with them on 9/4/26. We did not know this student was not enrolled yet, this is why he played in our first game. Athlete has been pulled from all practices and games indefinitely. Student is not a transfer and has been a Peoria student and Peoria Flex Academy student all four years. We had no reason to believe otherwise.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest Forfeited. We will double check all roster and cross reference them with Synergy. We will also ensure efficient communication with Peoria Flex Academy so we know who is there.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Peoria High School **Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/19/26-10/19/27.

DESERT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL – *Scottsdale Unified School District*

Rule: Article 24. Football, Section 5 Number of Games in Season (24.5.3)

Reported Violation:

Student athlete participated in two quarters of the JV football games and 4 quarters of the varsity football game against ACP. Student participated in a total of 6 quarters for the week of August 31-September 4 which is in violation of article 24.5.3.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest Forfeited. When the violation was discovered the DMHS AD spoke to the head varsity coach. Information was confirmed through film footage. The violation was not intentional and not malicious. DMHS was playing 2nd and 3rd string players to not run up the score. Due to the injury in the 1st half, student athlete played sooner than was the game plan. DMHS AD spoke with the SUSD District AD and DMHS Principal. Correction actions: filing this violation to the AIA, contacting ACP's AD, conducting a bylaw training with SUSD District AD on October 9th with all DMHS coaches. In addition, head JV football coach will be responsible for monitoring quarters played by all players who play on both JV and varsity.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Desert Mountain High School **Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/19/26-10/19/27.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd**NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY** – *Catholic Diocese of Phoenix*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 12 Recruitment Rule (15.12.4.1 // 15.12.4.3)

Reported Violation:

Notre Dame Prep determined that the girls' basketball coach provided financial assistance toward the tuition of a student-athlete at NDP by making a tuition payment through a foundation with which she is affiliated.

Notre Dame Prep has also determined that the girls' basketball coach communicated directly with a prospective student and the student's family regarding tuition assistance and represented that she would find a donor to pay the student's tuition at NDP prior to and during her enrollment at NDP.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest Forfeited. As of 9/29/26 the coach is no longer employed at the school. We have held a mandatory coaches meeting on 10/2 to educate all our coaches on AIA bylaws with a focus on recruitment and financial assistance.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Notre Dame Preparatory **Girls' Basketball** on **Warning** for one year 10/19/26-10/19/27.

CHAPARRAL HIGH SCHOOL – *Scottsdale Unified School District*

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

Reported Violation:

Student athlete transferred from Highland Prep Academy where she participated in flag football in the 2025 season. She played in two games this season with Chaparral on 9/15 and 9/17. Confirmed with coach that she only played in the two games.

Schools Corrective Action:

Contest forfeited. Coach will complete bylaw training with the AD for flag football and for Article 15 and Article 14. The AD will also have training for administration, counselors, coaches, and the registrar regarding incoming transfers to the school. Student will sit out 50% of games plus 2 that we already played. Student will be able to participate in the season again on 10/26.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Chaparral High School **Flag Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/19/26-10/19/27.

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. Maryvale Prep
2. Valley Lutheran
3. Camelback
4. Camelback
5. Youngker
6. Bagdad

VAR PROGRAM CANCELLING:

- Flag Football Program
- Football Program
- Girls' Cross Country Program
- Flag Football Program
- Boys/Girls Wrestling Programs
- Boys/Girls Wrestling Programs

VARSITY CONTEST CANCELLATIONS: 85
SCHOOL CANCELLING:

1. Highland Prep West
2. Arete Prep
3. Mohave

SCHOOL DOES NOT CONSENT:

- Veritas – VAR Football
- San Tan Charter – VAR Football
- Prescot – VAR Football

ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

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

- A. **South Mountain** – additional Fr/So football game to help fill **Skyline's** schedule.
- B. **Northland Prep** – additional VAR boys' soccer game to help fill **Payson's** schedule.
- C. **Walden Grove** – additional VAR boys basketball game to help fill **Palo Verde's** schedule.
- D. **Valley Christian** – additional VAR boys basketball game to help fill **Palo Verde's** schedule.
- E. **Flowing Wells** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo boys/girls' basketball games to help fill **Notre Dame's** schedule.
- F. **Crismon** – additional VAR/JV/FrSo boys' basketball games to help fill **Agua Fria's** schedule.

OVERTIME NATIONALS REQUEST

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

The concern related to the number of days between the Open Championship Game and the OT Nationals Game was discussed by SMAC in its entirety at their meeting on September 24. SMAC reiterated the concern about the lack of rest days between games. As such, AIA staff's recommendation is to approve OT Nationals request with two stipulations:

1. The OT Nationals Game be played at least six days following the conclusion of the Open Championship Game
2. That any money paid for game participation be distributed in a manner determined by the Executive Board.

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the request with the above stipulations.

AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 27 – SOCCER**27.1 RULES****27.1.5 Procedures to Determine the Winter of a Match**

~~27.1.5.1 Regular Season Games Two ten (10) minute overtime periods shall be played. If the score is still tied at the end of the two overtime periods, the result will be recorded as a tie. (NO Kicks from the Mark)~~

27.1.5.2 Mercy Rule – A soccer game shall end any time after the 60th minute of play when a team is 8 6 or more goals behind.

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

AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 30 – TENNIS**30.7 INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION**

30.7.7 Individual ~~varsity~~ matches for boys and girls shall consist of no more than three sets. The match score for JV and freshmen tennis will be the 8 game ~~pro-set no-ad method~~. All matches will utilize the no-ad method.

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

AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 18 – OFFICIALS

Requesting consideration to take amendment to Legislative Council in April.

18.3 FEES / SCHOOLS – OFFICIAL'S RESPONSIBILITY

18.3.5 Official's regular season contest and tournament fee rate increase shall be recommended by the AIA Executive Board. Recommendations shall be made ~~at the January Executive Board meeting~~ prior to November 1 to be approved by Legislative Council and go into effect July 1 of said year. Newly established rates shall be rounded to the nearest quarter. Rate increases shall not exceed 5% annually.

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above amendment to be taken to Legislative Council at the April 16 meeting.

Steve Johnson & Tim Carter - abstain

OFFICIALS FEE INCREASE

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the requested amendment to be taken to Legislative Council at the April 16 meeting.

Steve Johnson & Tim Carter - abstain

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

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

Bourgade Catholic Tom Brennan – Athletic Director, Coach

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

HARDSHIP APPEALS

The following representatives entered the meeting for a student eligibility appeal and left upon completion of their presentations:

NW Christian David Inness - Athletic Director, Parent, Student
Glendale Prep – Mike Fiore – Athletic Director

Desert Edge Pete Jelovic - Athletic Director, Parents, Student
Raymond S Kellis – John Destin – Athletic Director

Skyline Ray Madrid - Athletic Director, Parents, Student
Mesa – Jack Francis – Athletic Director, Tommy Eubanks – Director of Student Affairs (MPS)

Following review and discussion of the written and oral information presented, the Executive Board, in accordance with Article 15, Section 14 of the AIA Bylaws, **granted / denied** the following hardship eligibility requests:

<u>School/Appeal</u>	<u>Granted/Denied</u>
NW Christian	Granted
Desert Edge	Granted
Skyline	Denied

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Dean Ed., D.