

## **1. Call to Order & Introductions**

- Members introduced themselves and identified their organizations

**Attendees:** Matt Fryberger, Angela Shaba, Lauren Walsh, Randon Hall, Dr. Shaarawy, Tamara McLeo, Crystal Fix, Bart Peterson, John Kearney, Monica Ortiz, Roger McCoy, Tina Kwasnica, Amy Overlin, Amethyst Shepherd, Shelli Escamilla, Jim Dean

## **2. Fall Sports Season Updates**

- An update on fall sports was provided, reporting that all eight fall sports are underway with football reaching the halfway point of its regular season schedule.
- The group discussed concerns about a national company's proposal for a high school national football championship, scheduled just four days after the state championship game, which SMAC and Dr. Shaarawy opposed due to the short turnaround time and travel involved.
- Jim also mentioned a new social media segment called "Friday Night Bites" that reviews snack bars at football games, which has gained popularity on AZPreps365.

## **3. Injury Statistics and Training Requirements**

- The group discussed national injury statistics noting that concussions, ankle sprains, and knee/thigh injuries were the top three across various data sets.
- It was mentioned that while Arizona currently have participation in high school surveys, RIO is asking to recruit nine more trainers to meet the NFHS requirement of 10 per state, as the process has been streamlined and now includes a small stipend.
  - AIA staff committed to reaching out to certified athletic trainers about participating, and Bart confirmed he has been contributing data for 15 years.

## **4. Concussion Assessment Tool, Program Funding, Management and Policy Updates**

- The group discussed a new tool for concussion assessment called the eye box from Oculogica. Dr. McCoy mentioned a potential opportunity for medical spotting in high school games, as Perry Ettinger, former head athletic trainer at ASU, approached him about implementing this in high schools. The group acknowledged the challenge of funding for such initiatives at the high school level.
- The group discussed concerns about a proposed concussion spotting program, with participants agreeing that the funding would be better allocated to hiring more certified athletic trainers at the high school level rather than training existing staff for NFL-level concussion spotting.
  - Dr. McCleod highlighted the significant training requirements and logistics involved in the program, while it was noted that the approach may also direct school funds away from where they are most needed, with certified athletic trainers.
- The group discussed scheduling challenges for certified athletic trainers during evening hours and the decline in concussion cases referred to the Barrow Concussion Network.
- Dr. Kwasnica highlighted the need to inform trainers about available standardized measures like IMPACT, sway, SCAT, and SCOAT to aid decision-making.
- Dr. Overlin raised concerns about increasing parental interest in peptides for athletic injuries and requested updates on policy development, which had been discussed previously but not yet implemented.

## **5. Upcoming Symposiums**

- Dr. Kearney announced an upcoming symposium on October 7th at O'Connor Auditorium from 6:30-8 PM, which will feature a panel discussion about navigating youth sports in 2026 and offer 1.5 units of free CME for physicians, athletic trainers, and physical therapists.