ARTICLE 31

TRACK

31.1 RULES

31.1.1 Official rules for track shall be those published in the current edition of the National Federation Track And Field and Cross Country Rules Book.

31.1.2 School athletic programs at all levels are subject to disciplinary action when a school team is removed from the floor or field prior to completion of the contest.

31.1.3 Schools shall qualify a relay team, not the individual runners on the team.

31.1.3.1 Being listed as a member of a relay team does not count as an event unless the individual actually runs in the event.

31.1.4 In each division, schools may enter four athletes per school per event provided they have met the qualifying mark for the state tournament.

31.2 SEASON OF SPORT

31.2.1 The AIA Standardized Calendar shall be used to identify the starting week for practice, competition and the conclusion of post-season competition.

31.2.2 The season of competition for a school shall conclude with that school's last AIA sanctioned competition.

31.2.3

Spring Season	Practice	no sooner than the	32nd week
	Season of Competition	begins Wednesday of the	34th week
	Championship	to be concluded by Tuesday of the	45th week

31.2.4 **Pre-Competition Practice** – Prior to competition, individual players must have participated in at least eight practice sessions.

31.3 SCHEDULES

31.3.1 If scheduling difficulties occur, schedules may be increased by one match. The additional match shall be approved by the AIA Executive Board.

31.4 NUMBER OF MEETS IN SEASON

31.4.1 No school shall schedule more than **13** varsity meets.

31.4.2 No school shall schedule more than **10** junior varsity or **8** freshman matches per team.

31.4.3 No player may participate in more than **13** meets per season, excluding the state tournaments.

31.4.4 Schools may send individuals to only one non-scoring invitational without counting the meet as one of the 13 varsity meets. Schools can additionally send athletes to one non-scoring specialty meet without counting the meet as one of the 14 varsity meets. These meets would include distance classics, throws meets or a field event only meet.

DETERMINATION: A school sending a member or a relay team to a scoring track meet shall consider the meet as one of the school's allowable 13 varsity meets.

31.4.5 Freshman and junior varsity teams may schedule multiple school meets.

31.5 CONTEST PARTICIPATION

31.5.1 When a student enters an interscholastic contest, regardless of the length of time, it shall be considered participation in the interscholastic contest.

31.6 COACHES / COACHING

31.6.1 The AIA shall not have regulations concerning coaches coaching their own school teams outside of the AIA defined season of sport.

31.6.2 Coaches / Players - Match participation outside the season of sport between coaches and players of a single school for fund raising or entertainment purposes will not jeopardize the eligibility of any high school player.

31.6.3 Attendance shall be voluntary and no student athlete shall be prohibited from participating on the team for failing to attend the out-of-season activity.

31.7 SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

31.7.1 School Transportation - School provided transportation for activities is a local option.

31.7.2 School equipment outside of the season of sport is a local option.

31.7.3 High school athletes may wear school uniforms and use school equipment while participating in the following athletic competition:

- Meet of Champions (Track)
- State Decathlon Championship

31.8 POST-SEASON TOURNAMENTS

31.8.1 Post-Season Tournaments

NOTE: See Article 12 for additional post-season tournament rules.

31.8.1.1 The top 26 automatic and provisional qualifiers for each individual event will advance to the state tournament. The top 18/16 (based on venue) automatic and provisional relay teams will advance to the state meet. (Refer to rule 31.1.4)

31.8.1.2 Dates and Sites

31.8.1.2.1 The AIA Executive Board shall determine the dates and sites of post-season tournaments.

31.8.1.3 There shall be Individual Champions and Team Champions for both boys and girls.

31.8.1.4 Preliminaries shall be considered a part of the finals and any records set in the preliminaries shall be considered a state record.

31.8.2 Awards - The AIA shall be responsible for the purchase and standardization of all post-season tournament awards. *(See Article 13, Section 1)*.

31.8.3 Practice on Site - A practice or competition on the site of the Post-Season Championship Tournament, except for a regularly scheduled contest, is not permitted for seven calendar days prior to the Post-Season Championship, except in the case of the host school.

DETERMINATION: The host school may participate at the site only if that is their regular practice site.

31.8.4 Protests

31.8.4.1 In the event of a question or a protest during a qualifying meet or post-season tournament, the decision of the Tournament Director and/or Tournament Games Committee shall be.

31.8.4.2 Regular season protests, if any, will be handled as indicated in the current edition of the National Federation Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book.

31.8.5 Unmanned aerial systems at AIA post season events

31.8.5.1 The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at all AIA post season events. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium/field/arena structure. For the purpose of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.

31.9 **UNIFIED TRACK** and field is a joint effort between the AIA and SOAZ to incorporate Unified programs in AIA member schools recognizing and offering opportunities for SOAZ athletes and partners to compete in an AIA sanctioned activity. Unified track and field programs shall be administered by each participating member school and follow the requirements per AIA Bylaws for eligibility, rules and program administration.

31.9.1 Official rules for Unified track and field shall be those published by SOAZ and the AIA prior to each season, as approved by the AIA Executive Board. See Article 35.