



**MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
October 16, 2023**

In accordance with Article 6, Section 3, Paragraph 1 of the Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc. (AIA) Constitution, a special meeting of the Executive Board was held on Monday, October 16, 2023 at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

President Jennifer Burks called the meeting to order at 8:23am.

**Members in Attendance:**

William Duarte, 1A Conference (Superior Jr./Sr. High School)  
Tiarra Yazzie, 2A Conference (Valley (Sanders) High School)  
Toni Corona, CAA, 3A Conference (Safford High School)  
Matt Belden, 4A Conference (Glendale Union School District)  
Nathan Slater, 5A Conference (Scottsdale School District)  
Jennifer Burks, CAA, 6A Conference (Perry High School)  
Tim Carter, Cognia (Yavapai County School Superintendent)  
Steve Johnson, Arizona School Boards Association (CAVIT)  
Jerry Jennex, Arizona School Administrators (Globe Unified School District)  
Missy Townsend, CMAA, Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (Prescott High School)  
David Hines, AIA Executive Director

**AIA Staff Present:**

Mark Mignella, Legal Counsel  
Jim Dean, Associate Executive Director  
Erin Coy, Assistant Executive Director  
Tayler Coady, Executive Administrative Assistant  
Brian Bolitho, Chief Business Development Officer  
Jake Litwiller, Chief Financial Officer  
Dean Visser, Director of Athletics and Activities  
Dan Nero, Director of Athletics  
Tyler Cerimeli, Director of Athletics & Officials  
Mary Wimmer, Tournament Coordinator  
Naomi Smith, Director of Special Projects

**Guests:**

Joe Paddock  
Kristin Ledin, Boulder Creek  
Lordes Lauterborn, SLAC  
Shelby O'Donnal, SLAC  
Addison Han, SLAC  
Blake Eddy, SLAC

**LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT**

On a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, President Burks, in accordance with Article 6, Section 3, Paragraph 3, Subparagraph 2 of the AIA Constitution, called for the following Executive Sessions to receive report from legal counsel:

- ✓ 8:23 am – 8:35 am
- ✓ 10:12 am – 10:27 am
- ✓ 10:40 am – 12:45 pm

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:****MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Discussion surrounding the possibility of moving member schools participating in girls' fall soccer to the winter season with the rest of the membership. Currently ten schools plan to participate in the fall soccer season for the 2024-2025 school year. Two possible options for those schools currently participating in the fall season were to become a co-ed fall soccer team or make the fall soccer season a developmental league with no state or conference championships. The small school representatives were asked to take the discussion points to their respective conferences for feedback to be shared at the November meeting.

The State Championship site has been determined for the inaugural girls' flag football championship. The event will be held at Mountain View High School in Mesa on November 4<sup>th</sup> for both the 5A and 6A conferences.

With the increase of school participation in boys' volleyball and girls' flag football it has been requested by AIA staff to add another conference to each sport for the new two-year block. A request will go to the Executive Board at the November meeting to add a 3A conference to boys' volleyball and a 4A conference to girls' flag football.

In hopes to bring more spectators, Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> has been deemed Volleyball Day in Arizona as the 2A-6A conferences compete for the State Championships titles. All championships will be held at Veterans Memorial Coliseum beginning with 2A at 11:00am. Further information on the tournament can be found [here](#).

The 1A-3A conferences are requesting to add a Small School Open Division to the State Tournament for the 2024-25 school year with 16 teams advancing to the Small School Open Division.

The number of ejections for fighting and foul language towards the officials from coaches, athletes and spectators continues to increase. A policy was brought forward to the Legislative Council but not approved as the schools felt it was something they could continue to work on. Over the last two years, 30% of ejections occurring are coaches.

Discussion surrounding a 4A-6A boys/girls' soccer Open division took place with the Sports Advisory Committee. The committee would like to see the Open Division added for the 2024-2026 two-year block.

**FUTURE DATES**

October 17, 2023	Winter Hardship Appeal Submission Deadline
	Conference Placement Appeal Deadline to Conference
October 18, 2023	District AD/Conference Chair Meeting
October 19-24, 2023	Conferences meet to review appeals and set regions
October 24-25, 2023	Winter Hardship Appeal Hearings
October 25, 2023	Updated Conference/Region/Division/Section Placements Posted
October 26, 2023	Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting
October 27, 2023	Winter Coaches Workshop Deadline
November 1, 2023	Conference Placement Appeal Deadline to Executive Board
November 10, 2023	Holiday – AIA Office Closed
November 14, 2023	Region, Division and Section Placement Appeal Deadline
November 20, 2023	Executive Board Meeting
November 23-24, 2023	Holiday – AIA Office Closed

**ACTION ITEMS:****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 13, 2023

**AIA Lifetime Passes**

*Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 11 AIA Passes. Paragraph 1 Lifetime Passes*

1. Jack DeGriner	Mesa	25 years
2. William "Chip" Stratton	Sahuarita	27 years
3. Art Gherna	AIA Official	25 years
4. Curtis Flannigan	Tucson	25 years
5. Greg Barker	St. David	28 years
6. Jonathan Charley	Many Farms	26 years
7. Tullus S Deschenie	Many Farms	25 years
8. Robert Barnes	McClintock	30 years
9. Dan Bowles	Highland	27 years
10. Kenneth Vargas	Miami	37 years
11. Greg Perkins	Holbrook	25 years
12. Troy Hickel	Desert Vista	32 years
13. Nathan Richardson	St. David	30 years
14. Darrell Stangle	Williams Field	28 years
15. Lance Michel	Hamilton	30 years
16. Rocky Parra	Hamilton	25 years
17. Jake Kober	Red Mountain	26 years
18. Michael Elder	Northland Prep	Retired

**Replacement of A Complimentary Pass**

- ❖ Paradise Valley School District – Jill Barragan – Assistant Superintendent
- ❖ ALA Queen Creek – Alan Ramage – Volleyball Coach
- ❖ Monument Valley High School – Fred Tagoai

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – Cont’d**

**Request for AIA Sanction/Intrastate and Interstate Activities – 2023-24 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 2023-2024 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.

**Additional Game Requests**

- A. **Somerton** – FR/SO boys’ soccer game to help fill **Gila Ridge’s** schedule.
- B. **Apollo** – VAR/FR/SO girls’ basketball games to help fill **St. Mary’s** schedule.
- C. **Paradise Valley** – VAR boys’ basketball game to help fill **Sierra Linda’s** schedule.
- D. **St. Mary’s** – VAR/JV/Fr/SO boys’ basketball games to help fill **Desert Mountain’s** schedule.
- E. **Cortez** – VAR/JV/Fr/SO boys’ basketball game to help fill **Shadow Mountain’s** schedule.
- F. **Show Low** - VAR/JV/Fr/SO boys/girls’ basketball game to help fill **Crismon’s** schedule.
- G. **Duncan** – VAR/JV boys/girls basketball games to help fill **Hayden’s** schedule.
- H. **Central** – VAR girls’ basketball games to help fill **Xavier’s** schedule.
- I. **Mesa** – VAR/JV/Fr/SO boys’ basketball games to help fill **Desert Mountain’s** schedule.
- J. **Pinnacle** – VAR/JV/Fr/SO boys’ basketball games to help fill **Desert Mountain’s** schedule.
- K. **Duncan** – VAR/JV boys/girls basketball games to help fill **Hayden’s** schedule.

**Cancellation Requests – Contest and/or Programs**

<b><u>SCHOOL REQUESTING:</u></b>	<b><u>CANCELLED PROGRAM:</u></b>
1. Mesquite	VAR Girls’ Golf Program
2. Sedona Red Rock	VAR Girls’ Soccer Program
3. Arizona Lutheran	VAR Boys’ Soccer Program
4. ALA Anthem Prep	VAR Boys’ Soccer Program
5. Sequoia Pathway	VAR Football Program

**SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS – 8**

-----  
**CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 154 total contests cancelled (VAR/JV/FR/SO)**

**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 September 2023

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Members of the Student Leadership Advisory Committee (SLAC) gave an update on what the committee is currently working on. The students have been working on creating a respectful environment for the officials during all events occurring at the schools. The SLAC created an acronym for RESPECT in hopes to get it displayed at schools throughout the state.

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENT – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – SOCCER**

### **27.1 RULES**

#### **27.1.5 Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match**

27.1.5.5 State Championship: Two ten (10) minute overtime periods shall be played. ~~If the score is still tied at the end of the two overtime periods, the team will play no more than two five minute Sudden Victory (Golden Goal) overtime periods.~~ If the score is still tied at the conclusion of the two ~~Sudden Victory~~ overtime periods, the “Kicks from the Mark” procedures shall be utilized to determine a winner.

The Sports Advisory Committee has requested this be implemented for the 2023 fall soccer season as it is consistent with the rest of the tournament.

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

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENT – BYLAW – CLASSIFICATION**

**8.6 DIVISION AND SECTION PLACEMENT PROCESS (for individual sports: badminton, cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track, wrestling)** – A school shall be placed in a Division based on the Division Placement Determination (see below). A school’s Section placement for the sports of wrestling and cross country shall be based on the recommendations of the Wrestling Sports Advisory and Cross Country Sports Advisory committees, respectively. A School may appeal its Division or Section placement directly to the Executive Board, following the procedure and timeline adopted by the Board for that purpose. The Board’s consideration of any Division or Section appeal will utilize the criteria set out under Bylaws 8.1.10.1 and 8.1.10.4.

Swim / Dive – Divisions I – III

- a. Division I – top ~~30%~~ 30% of schools (~~32 individual qualifiers, 24 relays~~)
- b. Division II – next ~~30%~~ 35% of schools (~~32 individual qualifiers, 24 relays~~)
- c. Division III – lowest ~~40%~~ 35% of schools (~~24 individual qualifiers, 24 relays~~)

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

**REQUEST TO APPEAL BYLAW – VALLEY CHRISTIAN****14.2 PRACTICE**

14.2.2 *AIA member schools may only practice with or scrimmage against their own school team during the interscholastic season of that sport as set forth in the appropriate Article of the Sport Policy*

Valley Christian High School would like to appeal Bylaw 14.2.2 for our baseball team this upcoming season.

Valley Christian has gone to a 2 week spring break where all students (including athletes) are required to do a service mission project. This project does make spring sports difficult especially for tournaments. Our baseball team has the opportunity to do a mission project in the Dominican Republic from March 2 - 9, with March 2 and 3 being travel and getting accustomed to the DR and area. They would leave the DR on Saturday, March 9. This opportunity is with a group called 212 International. Mission opportunities would include beach trash cleanup as well as supporting local kids 0-10 years old with medical and school supplies for the local community. Our team would also be bringing down some baseball equipment for the youth in the area. VCS baseball players and coaches would also be heavily involved in baseball training opportunities for young boys in the area in the mornings.

We are appealing Bylaw 14.2.2 as this opportunity also includes scrimmages with local youth teams a few times during the week.

We realize that this is against Bylaw 14.2.2 but are asking for an exception as none of these will be official games but 2-3 scrimmage opportunities for some of the local high school athletes in the DR. Valley Christian is currently scheduled to play in a tournament the following week in the east valley and VCS is going to bypass this tournament if we are allowed to go to DR for this opportunity. Although we are not playing any games and could stay in 2 tournaments for the season, we are willing to give up one of our tournaments since they are going to participate in a few scrimmages with DR athletes.

We ask that you please consider this one-time proposal and approve it for the upcoming March 2 – 9 week. Head Coach Vince LaGatta, our Engage Missions coordinator – Greg Tonkinson, and myself are willing to come to the Executive board meeting and answer questions if that would help as well

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **denied** the above request.

**SOCCER – POINT DIFFERENTIAL**

At the request of the Soccer Sports Advisory Committee, a five-point differential be put into place beginning the 2023-24 winter soccer season. Anything scored above five points will not affect the power rankings.

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the request to add a five-point differential.

**WINTER SOCCER – 2A**

The 3A Conference has requested that a 2A Conference be added to the Winter Soccer season. Currently, the 3A winter soccer conference consists of 61 teams, adding a 2A conference would decrease that number in half as well as allowing for easier scheduling processes.

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above request beginning the 2024-2025 soccer season.

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY APPEAL – PAPER REVIEW**  
**REQUEST FOR HARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY – MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION**

*Rule: Article 15, Student Eligibility Rules, Section 9 Maximum Participation Rule*

15.9 **MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION RULE** – After a student first enrolls in the ninth grade, he/she has a maximum of eight semesters of opportunity and a maximum of four seasons of opportunity in each sport or activity. **Semesters 1-8 must be consecutive.**

- ❖ North High School

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **denied** the above eligibility request.

**NEW MEMBER APPLICATION**

- White Mountain Christian Academy
- Tohono O’odham High School

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above new membership applications and requested that site visits be conducted.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS**

**TONOPAH VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL** – Saddle Mountain USD

*Rule: Article 15, Student Eligibility Rules, Section 2 Application of Student Eligibility Rules // Section 7 Physical Examination Rule (15.2.3 // 15.7.1)*

**Reported Violation:**

Football coaches allowed a student to practice and play in a JV football game while the student was not cleared in RMA. Student had not completed the Brainbook or Opioid course and did not have all required signatures in RMA. He did have an AIA physical form on file and approved by the AD. Student has since completed all courses and requirements in RMA.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Contest Forfeited. Tonopah Valley HS will start a new process of athletes starting practices for every sport. The athlete will be required to turn in a "OK to play" pass signed by the AD prior to stepping foot on the field/court or bring issued equipment. All coaches will also be re-trained on how to use/check RMA. These procedures should ensure that this violation does not happen again.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Tonopah Valley High School **Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/16/23-10/16/24.

**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd

**APOLLO HIGH SCHOOL** – *Glendale Union High School District*

*Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 7 Physical Examination Rule (15.7.1)*

**Reported Violation:**

The JV Football coach allowed 2 players to practice and participate without them having a completed physical on file with the athletic office.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Contest Forfeited.

- The coach received school discipline from supervisor.
- Reviewed the AIA bylaws regarding eligibility requirements in article 15 section 7 & 8 with football coach.
- Reiterated the clearance process through the athletic office and the expectation of Head football coach and lower-level coaches in that process.
- Coach will print updated physical clearance rosters before each practice. Coach will take attendance at every practice throughout the season using physical clearance roster.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Apollo High School **Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/16/23-10/16/24.

**NORTH CANYON HIGH SCHOOL** – *Paradise Valley Unified School District*

*Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 10 Transfer Rule (15.10.4)*

**Reported Violation:**

The sub varsity rule: a transfer student who was assigned to the FR/SO team inadvertently put in a Varsity football game due to many injuries that occurred during the game.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

- \*We've had corrective meetings
- \*We have a district declaration form that we will be using
- \*Better communication from admin to coach and coach to parent/student
- \*AD will be assisting Coaches with paperwork/eligibility during the tryout process.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the North Canyon High School **Football Program** on **Warning** for one year 10/16/23-10/16/24.



**SCHOOL VIOLATIONS** – Cont'd**TUCSON HIGH SCHOOL** – Tucson Unified School District

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

**Reported Violation:**

Student played in a pop warner game without the consent or knowledge of the parent. Please see attached for more information.

**Schools Corrective Action:**

School has previously reviewed rule with coaches at pre-season meeting and will include it with preseason parent and student athlete meetings with written acknowledgement.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, **accepted** the report submitted by Tucson High School with the determination that the student involved is ineligible for the remainder of the season.

**AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY – WEST FOOTHILLS** – American Leadership Academies

*Rule: Article 32. Volleyball, Section 5 Number of Games in Season (32.5.3.2)*

**Reported Violation:**

We had one athlete compete in 7 sets in one evening (2 JV and 5 Varsity) VS ALA Ironwood. Our Varsity Head Coach was in a very intense game going to 5 sets and not paying attention to how many sets this one specific athlete had played in. When the 5th and final set came, she rotated this athlete in as normal and did not realize what had happened until she looked at the book while doing stats after the game. This was not a double header and therefore is in violation of 32.5.3 and the exception rule of 32.5.3.2

**Schools Corrective Action:**

Varsity Head Coach will receive a written reprimand and a 1 game suspension. They will also be required to retake the Fundamentals of Coaching and Volleyball Specific NFHS Courses.

Our varsity and Junior varsity athletes will also be educated on all volleyball by-laws in a meeting with the athletic department.

Moving forward our JV and Varsity coaches will meet between the JV game and Varsity game to go over who played in the JV game and how many sets they played and are set to play in Varsity. This will be written down and sent to the Athletic Director before the Varsity game. At the end of the Varsity game photos of the book will be sent to the Athletic Director every away game.

**Executive Board Action:**

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the ALA – West Foothills High School **Girls' Volleyball Program** on **Advisement** for one year 10/16/23-10/16/24.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Hines, Executive Director