



**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
December 11, 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, December 11, 2023 at the AIA Office, 7007 N 18th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.

President Jennifer Burks called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

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

Guests

David Gonzalez
Shelly Leydecker
Everest Leydecker
Randy Leydecker
Anthony Leon
Casey O'Brien

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:

✓ 8:30 am – 9:05 am

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The fall season tournaments have concluded. Congratulations to all our fall sports participants, runners-ups and champions. It was a great season, and we look forward to the winter season.

Discussion took place about a possible adjustment to the start date for girls' flag football next season due to heat concerns. The conference representatives were asked to take the information to their respective conferences for feedback. Currently there are 101 schools set to participate in the 2024 fall season.

Congratulations to Camilla Rodriguez from Westwood High School for being selected to the NFHS National Student Leadership Committee. Camilla was selected as one of the two representatives from Section 7 to serve on the 16-person committee.

FUTURE DATES

December 21, 2023	Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting
Dec 22 – Jan. 2, 2024	Holiday – AIA Office Closed
January 9, 2024	NIL Work Group
January 10, 2024	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
January 15, 2024	Holiday – AIA Office Closed
January 16, 2024	AIA Executive Board Meeting
	Spring Hardship Appeal Submission Deadline
January 17, 2024	District AD's and Conference Leadership Meeting
January 19, 2024	Legislative Council Agenda Item Deadline
January 23, 2024	Spring Coaches Workshop Opens
January 23-24, 2024	Spring Hardship Appeal Hearings – Conference
January 25, 2024	Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting
February 2, 2023	Spring Coaches Workshop Closes
February 7, 2024	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
February 12, 2024	NIL Work Group
February 14, 2024	District AD's and Conference Leadership Meeting
February 19, 2024	Holiday – AIA Office Closed
February 20, 2024	AIA Executive Board Meeting
February 22, 2024	Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting
March 1, 2024	Legislative Council Meeting

ACTION ITEMS:**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

On a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the Executive Board **approved** the following consent agenda items:

Approval of Minutes

- Executive Board Meeting – November 20, 2023
- 4A Conference Committee Meeting – November 27, 2023

AIA Lifetime Passes

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

1. Ricardo De La Riva	Nogales	33 years
2. David Moore	Paradise Valley	30 years
3. Anthony Cluff	Youngker	29 years
4. Nick Cornell	Campo Verde	26 years
5. Patrick O'Neill	Red Mountain	27 years
6. William Pasquel	Scottsdale District	29 years

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

- Seligman** – VAR/JV boys/girls basketball game to help fill **Shonto Prep's** schedule.
- Sunrise Mountain** – VAR/JV/FrS boys' basketball game to help fill **Mountain Ridge's** schedule.
- El Capitan** – VAR boys' basketball game to help fill **Music Mountain's** schedule.
- Chandler Prep** – VAR boys/girls' basketball game to help fill **Veritas Prep's** schedule.
- Basha** – VAR girls' soccer game to help fill **Campo Verde's** schedule.
- Campo Verde** - JV girls' soccer game to help fill **Casa Grande's** schedule.
- Many Farms** - VAR boys' basketball game to help fill **Shonto Prep's** schedule.
- Northland Prep** – JV boys' basketball game to help fill **Pinon's** schedule.

Cancellation Requests – Contest and/or Programs

<u>SCHOOL REQUESTING:</u>	<u>CANCELLED PROGRAM:</u>
1. NFL YET	VAR Girl's Basketball Program
2. NFL YET	VAR Softball / Baseball Programs
3. Sequoia Pathway	VAR Boys' Wrestling Program
4. BASIS Phoenix	VAR Girls' Soccer Program
5. Trivium Prep	VAR Girls' Soccer Program
6. Santa Rita	VAR Girls' Soccer Program
7. Rancho Solano	VAR Boys' Soccer Program
8. Mountainside	VAR Boys/Girls Soccer Programs

SUB VARSITY PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS – 34

CONTEST(S) Cancelled: 101 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 November 2023

NEW MEMBER SCHOOLS – BALLOTING

- American Leadership Academy – Mesa North
- American Leadership Academy – Sierra Vista
- Desert Star Academy

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above school applications to be balloted by the membership.

APPEAL – STUDENT PARTICIPATION – WRESTLING

- Sunnyside High School
- Desert Vista High School

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the two female athletes appealing, to participate in the boy's wrestling program for the 2023-24 school year. The two female athletes shall be eligible for post-season participation in the boy's wrestling division.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS

RINCON/UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL – Tucson Unified School District

Rule: Article 14. General Provisions, Section 2 Practice (14.2.2)

Reported Violation:

An RUHS wrestler from Afghanistan, spoke to the head coach about his cousin volunteering as a coach. The student called the coach on Sunday night and asked if he could bring his cousin to practice. When he arrived with his cousins, it turned out they were wrestlers from Catalina High School. After they observed for a while the coach asked them if they wanted to demonstrate since they did some good moves in the match with Catalina the week before. He thought the two wrestlers came to practice because they did not have practice. At the William Bell Tourney, our coach spoke to the Catalina coach about it. The Catalina coach was already unhappy about the wrestlers being ineligible and not making weight. Our coach should not have allowed wrestlers from another school to practice or demonstrate. Due to the students being from Afghanistan, there appears there may be some misunderstanding about rules in Arizona high school.

Schools Corrective Action:

RUHS will go over policies with the coach to make sure this type of thing does not happen again. RUHS will review AIA bylaws and TUSD Guidelines and Interscholastic Handbook with coach.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Rincon/University High School **Boys' Wrestling Program** on **Warning** for one year 12/11/23-12/11/24.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

GILA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL – *Yuma Union High School District*

Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 3 Enrollment Rule (15.3.1)

Reported Violation:

A home school student had open enrolled in Gila Ridge High School and participated on the football, wrestling and track team for the 2022/23 season as well as the 2023/24 varsity football season. Student's home school is Kofa High School.

Schools Corrective Action:

As a part of our clearance process, Gila Ridge will not enter/cross check every student-athlete individually and verify that each student-athlete listed on RMA is also a student on Synergy. If a student is identified as a home school student, the attached form will not be used to ensure all proper documentation is provided. With this form, we can easily check to see if the student-athlete is within Gila Ridge boundaries.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Gila Ridge High School **Athletics Program** on **Warning** for one year 12/11/23-12/11/24.

FLOWING WELLS HIGH SCHOOL – *Flowing Wells*

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

Reported Violation:

Athlete A was allowed to participate in practice by wrestling staff without being cleared through the Athletic Office. Flowing Wells utilizes Final Forms. Athlete was missing last 2 pages of Part 4.

Schools Corrective Action:

Athletic Director met with all wrestling coaches to discuss the violation and reminded of the consequences. All coaches were given copies and reviewed Article 16. All coaches have been given Final Form accounts and directed to schedule a tutorial with Final Forms.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Flowing Wells High School **Wrestling Program** on **Warning** for one year 12/11/23-12/11/24.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

COCONINO HIGH SCHOOL – *Flagstaff Unified School District*

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

Reported Violation:

Wrestling was not cleared through RMA.

Schools Corrective Action:

Meeting with coaches about the importance of this process and checking their RMA account daily for clearances. Will require coaches to check with me daily for their cleared athlete list instead of them looking it up themselves. Further violations will result in disciplinary action from the school.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Coconino High School **Wrestling Program** on **Warning** for one year 12/11/23-12/11/24.

MICA MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL – *Vail Unified School District*

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

Reported Violation:

Wrestler was practicing without Physical Form uploaded on Aktivite website.

Schools Corrective Action:

Coach will be suspended for one wrestling meet and will be documented on coaches final evaluation.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Mica Mountain High School **Wrestling Program** on **Warning** for one year 12/11/23-12/11/24.

CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL – *Scottsdale Unified School District*

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

Reported Violation:

Student did not properly clear RMA and participated in cheer practice without a physical.

Schools Corrective Action:

- Head Coach will review AIA Bylaws with Athletic Director (Specifically AIA Bylaw 15.7).
- Head Coach received a Letter of Direction along with a two-game suspension.
- Head Coach is required to develop a plan to ensure that this type of incident will not occur in the future to be approved by the school and district athletic directors.
- Cheer coaches will meet with Athletic Director one week prior to tryouts for each season to review the status of each potential participant. Follow-up meeting will take place the day before tryouts to verify who is permitted to tryout.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Coronado High School **Spiritline Program** on **Warning** for one year 12/11/23-12/11/24.

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

Rule: Article 17. Coaches and Coaching, Section 3 Completion of Contest – Ejection of Coach (17.3.1)

Reported Violation:

One of our football coaches was ejected from the contest. He did not immediately leave the area. He walked out of the stadium and grabbed his belongings in the press box, and walked back down to the fence line where he was talking with parents. I then made contact with him when I saw him at the fence and told him to leave the premises and that he could no longer stay in the stadium. He did not instruct or coach after he was ejected.

Schools Corrective Action:

AD met with the coaches the following morning and had a corrective meeting. As the AD, I should have been clearer to the coach needing to leave the premises. We have since reviewed the AIA bylaws and reiterated the need to remain calm and not be ejected in the first place. A football staff meeting also occurred to review AIA bylaws, and reset the expectations of our coaches, and athletic director in these situations.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Basha High School Football Program on **Advisement** for one year 12/11/23-12/11/24.

CANYON VIEW HIGH SCHOOL – Agua Fria Union High School District

Rule: Article 27. Soccer, Section 3 Preseason Interschool Varsity Scrimmage (27.3.1.2)

Reported Violation:

A preseason scrimmage was scheduled between Canyon View, Youngker, and Dysart girls' varsity soccer teams. Canyon View was the host. Upon arrival, officials let the Canyon View coach know they were allotted 80 minutes between the 3 teams. The coaches agreed to 40 minutes each and played 40 minutes after the AIA officials left. Canyon View head coach made the call to do this.

Schools Corrective Action:

AD met with head coach and went over bylaws, coach received a letter of direction, coach instructed to call her direct AD for questions prior to making decisions about games/scrimmages, officials.

Executive Board Action:

The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Canyon View High School Girls' Soccer Program on **Advisement** for one year 12/11/23-12/11/24.

NEW MEMBER SCHOOLS – APPLICATION

- BASIS Scottsdale

On a motion made, seconded, and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above school to continue in the new member application process of scheduling a site visit.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,
David Hines, Executive Director