MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
November 16, 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, November 16, 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:
Toni Corona, Associate Executive Director
Nathan Slater, Associate Executive Director
Tayler Coady, Executive Administrative Assistant
Brian Gessner, Commissioner of Officials

Guests:
Brady Pond
Tommy Eubanks

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – NOVEMBER 16, 2026
On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the November 16, 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):

- ✓ 8:32 am – 8:56 am
- ✓ 10:15 am – 10:45 am

REGULAR MEETING:

MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS
None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

As we begin to wrap up another successful fall season of championship events, we want to thank everyone who has helped make these events possible. Congratulations to all participating schools, student-athletes, coaches, and communities on their accomplishments. Thank you for your dedication, sportsmanship, and continued commitment to making these championships memorable.

The Deer Valley District SALT groups organized a successful turkey drive, collecting 100 frozen turkeys to be donated to families in need this Thanksgiving. Thank you to Steve Johnson, the DVUSD and SALT for a wonderful example of student leadership, community service and making a big difference. We look forward to expanding this event next year.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

TRUST PRESENTATION

Kendra Callaghan and Chris Welker thanked the Executive Board, Dr. Dean and AIA member schools for their continued support and collaboration regarding the hazing prevention course. The course has seen over 87,000 views since launching in July 2026. The Trust, AIA and our member schools continue to emphasize the importance of hazing prevention through education, awareness and proactive efforts to ensure all students feel safe, respected and supported.

FUTURE DATES

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
November 30, 2026	4A Conference Meeting
December 2, 2026	Student Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
December 7, 2026	Executive Board Meeting
December 9, 2026	Football Reclassification Meeting
December 11-15, 2026	NIAAA Conference – Phoenix, AZ
December 16, 2026	Transfer Committee Meeting
Dec 24, 2026 – Jan 1, 2027	Winter Break – AIA Office Closed

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 – October 19, 2026

AIA Lifetime Passes

1. Paul Valkingburg Westview
2. Kimberly Dennis Coconino
3. Todd Rogers Desert Ridge
4. BJ Little Winslow
5. Lynne Sawyer Winslow
6. Scott Corum Winslow
7. Jim MacLean Winslow

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

DESERT VISTA HIGH SCHOOL – *Tempe Unified High School District*
Rule: Article 17. Coaches and Coaching, Section 1 Coaching Qualification (17.1.1)

Reported Violation:
It came to my attention following the ejection of our JV flag football coach on 9/22 that he was not complete onboarded as a volunteer coach by TUHSD HR. Although he had completed his application and background check, he had not finalized his employment with a signature at district office. In addition to this issue, while coach left the stadium on 9/22 following the ejection, I was made aware that he attempted to continue coaching by using his cell phone to video call to his daughter on the team.

Schools Corrective Action:
Upon learning of the coach's status. I, AD, ensured that coach wen to RS and has since been cleared as a volunteer coach for TUHSD. In addition, my assistant and I have ensured that she has access to verify volunteers to TUHSD. All coaches and volunteers are recorded and marked as clear through HR on a district athletic coaching document as well as in Register my Coach/Aktivate. My assistant and I do regular checks of these documents. Coach has also been made aware that his actions violated AIA Bylaws.

Executive Board Action:
The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Desert Vista High School **Athletics Program** on **Advisement** for one year 11/16/26-11/16/27.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

PINNACLE HIGH SCHOOL – *Paradise Valley Unified School District*
Rule: Article 15. Student Eligibility Rules, Section 12 Recruitment Rule (15.12.4.14)

Reported Violation:
An anonymous email to Pinnacles AD alleged prior club contact. The athlete in question played for a different volleyball club other than the one Pinnacle's coaches are affiliated with, but the athletes' mother confirmed that in Sept. 2025 her daughter did attend a skills evaluation workout at a club employing Pinnacle volleyball coaches. Through Pinnacle's investigation, it was concluded that the Pinnacle coaches were not in attendance at this workout but were employed at that club. The student transferred in July 2026 and began attending August 3, 2026. After consultation with AIA, prior contact under 15.12.4.14 was confirmed. After serving the initial 50% transfer restriction the student played against Boulder Creek and Canyon View, both matches must be forfeited.

Schools Corrective Action:
Contest Forfeited. The AD will meet with all head coaches to review prior contact requirement and the need to follow up carefully with every transfer athlete. Transfer screening will include a documented review with the athlete and parent of club teams, open gyms, camps, clinics, training, and coach affiliation during the preceding year. Any possible prior contact will be reviewed with the District AD.

Executive Board Action:
The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Pinnacle High School **Volleyball Program** on **Warning** for one year 11/16/26-11/16/27.

Corey Newland – abstained

CORONA DEL SOL HIGH SCHOOL – *Tempe Unified High School District*
Rule: Article 26. Golf, Section 3 Number of Matches in Season (26.3.1)

Reported Violation:
Corona del Sol's boys varsity golf team participated in 15 matches during the 2026 season, exceeding the 14-match limit under AIA bylaws. First year head coach recorded 15 match scores in iWannamaker. However, the discrepancy between these records and the official AIA dashboard schedule was not identified during the season. The violation was an unintentional scheduling oversight due to insufficient communication and verification between coaching staff.

Schools Corrective Action:
Contest forfeited. The Athletic department has reviewed the AAI match limitations and all golf bylaws with the coach to ensure a clear understanding of the bylaws. Moving forward, all golf schedules will be reviewed and approved by the Athletic Department prior to the start of the season. Coaches will also be required to ensure all matches are accurately reflected on the official AIA dashboard. Any additional matches or schedule changes must receive written prior approval from the athletic department to ensure compliance with AIA bylaws and prevent future violations.

Executive Board Action:
The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Corona del Sol High School **Athletic and Boys' Golf Program** on **Advisement** for one year 11/16/26-11/16/27.

SCHOOL VIOLATIONS – Cont'd

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR HIGH SCHOOL – *Deer Valley Unified School District*
Rule: Article 33. Beach Volleyball, Section 7 Interschool Competition (33.7.4)

Reported Violation:
SDOHS Boys Beach coach violated bylaw 33.7.4 by moving the #1 pair from the state pairs tournament to the #2 pair in the team state tournament. The bylaw states that the lineup should always be placed in order of ability. The coach identified the best pair during the state pair selection meeting. Therefore, they should have been placed at #1 for the team tournament.

Schools Corrective Action:
Contest forfeited. New procedures: The Athletic Director will review the bylaw infraction and tournament-qualifying documents. The Athletic Director will provide direct guidance to coaches of sports that have bylaws regarding Interschool Competition. The focus will be on lineups and player ability. Moving forward, the Athletic Director will meet with each coach and review their lineups before they are entered for the AIA state playoffs, to ensure all bylaws are followed.

Executive Board Action:
The Executive Board, in accordance with Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws, placed the Sandra Day O'Connor High School **Boys' Beach Volleyball Program** on **Warning** for one year 11/16/26-11/16/27.

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:	VAR PROGRAM CANCELLING:
1. Heritage Academy – Mesa	Boys' Soccer Program
2. Lincoln Prep	Girls' Soccer Program
3. Fredonia	Girls' Basketball Program
4. Andrada Polytechnic	Girls' Basketball Program
5. BASIS Flagstaff	Girls' Basketball Program
6. El Capitan	Girls' Basketball Program
7. Tempe Prep	Girls' Basketball Program

VARSITY CONTEST CANCELLATIONS: **71**

SCHOOL CANCELLING:	SCHOOL DOES NOT CONSENT:
1. Desert Christian	Santa Cruz Valley – VAR Football Contest
2. Sedona Red Rock	Joseph City – VAR Football Contest
3. Pueblo	Casa Grande – VAR Flag Football Contest

ADDITIONAL GAME REQUESTS

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

A. **Mesa** – additional VAR/JV/FrSO boys' soccer games to help fill **Brophy's** schedule.
B. **San Carlos** – additional VAR/JV boys/girls' basketball games to help fill **Baboquivari's** schedule.
C. **Sahuarita** – additional VAR/JV boys/girls soccer games to help fill **Walden Grove's** schedule.
D. **Safford** – additional VAR/JV boys/girls basketball games to help fill **Fort Thomas'** schedule.
E. **Paradise Valley –** additional VAR/JV/FrSo boys basketball games to help fill **St. Mary's** schedule.
F. **ALA West Foothills –** additional VAR/JV/FrSo boys' basketball games to help fill **St. Mary's** schedule.
G. **Crismon –** additional VAR/JV girls' basketball games to help fill **Agua Fria's** schedule.
H. **Winslow –** additional VAR/JV/FrSo boys/girls basketball games to help fill **Hopi's** schedule.
I. **Benjamin Franklin –** additional VAR boys basketball game to help fill **Rancho Solano's** schedule.
J. **Chinle –** additional VAR/JV/FrSo boys/grils basketball games to help fill **St. Johns'** schedule.
K. **Sunnyside –** additional VAR/JV boys' soccer games to help fill **Walden Grove's** schedule.

ARTICLE 43 – SPORTS MEDICINE UPDATE

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board amended Article 43 in compliance with state law.

NEW MEMBER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS – REQUEST TO CONDUCT SITE VISIT

- Arcadia Christian Academy (Phoenix, AZ)
- Trinity Christian School (Prescott, AZ)
- American Leadership Academy - Buckeye (Buckeye, AZ)

On a motion made, seconded and carried the Executive Board **approved** the above schools to be contacted to conduct a site visit.

STUDENT ELIGIBLITY APPEAL
REQUEST FOR HARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY – MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION

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****.*

- Blue Ridge High School

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

Blue Ridge Dustin Cluff – Athletic Director, Student, Parents

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:49 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Dean Ed., D.