ARTICLE 2

MEMBERSHIP

2.1 **MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS** – Any Arizona high school or bordering state high school, which meets the following requirements, is eligible for membership.

2.1.1 A school must maintain accreditation from an appropriate accrediting agency for acceptable standards for secondary schools.

DETERMINATION: The Executive Director, as designee of the Executive Board, is authorized to determine appropriate accrediting agencies. (Ex. Bd. 2/17/04)

2.1.2 A school must certify that all principals, directors, coordinators, instructors and supervisors are under contract with the Governing Body and that none of the above is receiving any salary or remuneration for his/her school job from any outside source.

2.1.3 A member school shall abide by all rules and regulations of the Association. A violation of the Association rules and regulations subjects the member school to possible disciplinary action as set forth in Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws.

2.1.3.1 As a condition of membership, a member school may not be affiliated with sponsor or otherwise support or operate a team in any AIA sanctioned sport or activity that is not in all respects in compliance with Bylaw 15.12, Recruitment Rule.

2.1.4 As a condition of membership, on an annual basis each member school shall fully execute and return to the AIA no later than September 1 the **Declaration Regarding Membership In the Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc. (AIA).** A member school's failure to comply with the requirement shall subject that member school to any disciplinary action by the AIA Executive Board authorized under Article 16, Bylaw 16.1, Penalties.

2.2 **APPLICATION FOR AIA MEMBERSHIP**

2.2.1 A written application for membership shall be submitted by the principal of the school applying. Such application should be submitted to the AIA Executive Board by November 1 of the school year preceding that for which membership is being sought. Such application shall be distributed to member schools.

2.2.2 Upon review and acceptance of application by the Executive Board, an on-site evaluation of a school applying for membership shall be conducted. At least one member of the evaluation team shall be from the Conference and, when possible, from the Region with which the new school will be aligned. Expenses incurred for the on-site evaluation of a high school seeking membership into the AIA may be assessed to the school.

2.2.3 After consideration and approval of written application and on-site evaluation, the Executive Board will take one of the following actions: 1.) Ballot member schools for approval or rejection of membership application, 2.) Ballot member schools for approval or rejection of membership application with conditions as established by Executive Board, or 3.) Deny application. A simple majority vote by member schools shall decide the acceptance or rejection.

2.2.4 The AIA Executive Board, after investigation and establishment of the fact that membership requirements have been satisfactorily met, shall declare the school eligible for membership.

2.3 **TERMS OF AIA MEMBERSHIP** – The terms of AIA membership for public, private, parochial and BIE schools shall be as follows:

2.3.1 Public Schools – The attendance zone boundaries shall be determined by the governing board of that school.

2.3.2 Private, Parochial and Public Charter Schools – The attendance zone boundaries shall be the county in which the school is located.

2.3.3 BIE Schools – The attendance zone boundaries shall be determined by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

2.3.4 All member schools shall voluntarily abide by all rules and regulations of the AIA.

2.3.4.1 Should the AIA Executive Board determine that a member school has willfully or persistently violated the AIA Constitution and Bylaws, it may expel said school from the AIA.

2.3.5 The AIA Executive Board shall assign member schools to the proper Conference in accordance with the AIA Constitution and Bylaws. The Conference shall assign the member school to a Region.

2.3.6 Membership becomes official and operative after the payment of dues at the beginning of the school year in which an application for membership was submitted and approved.

2.3.7 The school may schedule interscholastic athletics and activities for the school year following the approval of membership.

2.3.8 An AIA member school may not be a member of any other interscholastic association or organization which sanctions or regulates any sport or activity sanctioned by the AIA.

2.4 **RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**

2.4.1 The school principal or his/her designated representative shall be the responsible administrative officer of a school.

2.4.2 School Principal - Final authority and ultimate responsibility in all matters pertaining to interscholastic activities of each school shall be vested in the school principal. The school principal's responsibility shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

2.4.2.1 Host School - The basic responsibility of the host school is to take every possible measure at any athletic or activity to assure courteous, friendly, safe and fair treatment to visiting players, school representatives, fans and game officials.

2.4.2.2 Administrative Control - The administration and supervision of all facets of all activities in the high school program shall be entirely controlled by the properly constituted administrator. During all post season and/or play-off competition held at a neutral site an administrator or administrator's designee from each participating school shall be in attendance.

2.4.2.3 Conduct of Participants - The responsibility for the conduct of the coaches, players and spectators at any athletic or activity contest shall lie with the administrators of the schools whose teams are participating in the contest. **This responsibility includes ensuring conduct by the coaches, players and spectators adheres at all times to the principles and spirit of good sportsmanship**.

2.4.2.4 Conduct of Administrators-News Media – A school administrator **should** never use the news media to criticize another school administrator, school team, coach, player, game official or the AIA.

2.4.2.5 Recruitment - The school administrator must ensure that there is no recruitment of students for athletic or activity purposes as defined in Article 15, Section 12.

2.4.3 The school administration must assume responsibility for verification of all student eligibility rules.

(Section 2.4 cont'd on next page)

2.4.4 All official communication between member schools and the AIA, including student eligibility inquiries, requests and determinations, shall come only from a responsible administrative officer of a school.

2.4.5 When a request is made by the Executive Board or its designee that a responsible school administrator attends a meeting of the Executive Board, a responsible school administrator shall attend that meeting. Failure of the responsible school administrator to attend that meeting shall not prevent or otherwise delay consideration and decision by the Executive Board on the agenda item about which the administrator was requested to attend. The failure to appear shall be considered a violation of the AIA Bylaws and may result in sanction as determined by the Executive Board, including termination of and exclusion from AIA membership.

2.4.6 On an annual basis, the school athletic director shall attend the AIA Athletic Director Information Meeting to be held each April. Failure to comply will subject the member school to possible penalty as defined in Article 16, Section 1.

2.4.7 On an annual basis, each varsity head coach, or school designated coach, shall attend the AIA Head Coach Information Meeting to be held at the beginning of each season of sport. Failure to comply will subject the member school to possible penalty as defined in Article 16, Section 1.

LOCAL CONTROL OF INTERSCHOLASTIC RULES

VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP	Membership in the AIA is voluntary. No school is required to become a member. After membership is granted, the only requirement for indefinite membership is to abide by the rules adopted by the AIA members.
SELF- GOVERNANCE	Member schools believe in self-governance –ADOPTING AND ENFORCING THEIR OWN RULES. Self- governance can only succeed when members DEMONSTRATE SELF-DISCIPLINE.
RULES GOVERN SCHOOLS	Rules are adopted to govern the interscholastic activities between member schools.
SELF- POLICING	Member schools maintain a policy of self-policing including identifying and reporting violations of rules.
ADMINISTRATOR DETERMINES STUDENT ELIGIBILITY	Final authority and ultimate responsibility in all matters pertaining to interscholastic activities of each school is vested in the school principal. The principal must assume responsibility for verification of all student rules of eligibility.