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7 *Attorneys for Defendant*

*Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc.*

9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

10 DISTRICT OF ARIZONA, TUCSON

11 Jane Doe, by her next friends and parents  
Helen Doe and James Doe; and Megan  
12 Roe, by her next friends and parents, Kate  
Roe and Robert Roe,

13 Plaintiffs,

14 vs.

15 Thomas C. Horne, in his official capacity  
16 as State Superintendent of Public  
Instruction; Laura Toenjes, in her official  
17 capacity as Superintendent of the Kyrene  
School District; Kyrene School District;  
18 The Gregory School; and Arizona  
Interscholastic Association, Inc.,

19 Defendants.

Case No. 4:23-cv-00185-JGZ

**DEFENDANT ARIZONA  
INTERSCHOLASTIC ASSOCIATION,  
INC.'S RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS'  
MOTION FOR  
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

21 Defendant Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc. (“AIA”) supports all children’s  
22 safe and healthy participation in athletic events – regardless of their assigned sex at birth or  
23 their gender identity. With that backdrop, it is clear that Plaintiffs’ Motion for a Preliminary  
24 Injunction should be denied as to AIA because it is not AIA that enacted the Save Women’s  
25 Sports Act (i.e., A.R.S. §15-120.02) and it is not AIA that enforces compliance with the  
26 statute. In fact, AIA does not have control over which students participate in sports or what  
27 designations are given to teams, as now required under the statute. As the AIA’s  
28

1 Constitution, Bylaw, Policies and Procedures make clear, it is the principal of each school  
2 that is ultimately responsible in all matters pertaining to interscholastic activities of each  
3 school, including student eligibility. Not only has AIA not taken any adverse action against  
4 Plaintiffs, AIA has not even adopted an association rule precluding the acts that Plaintiffs  
5 now claim must be enjoined. Thus, because Plaintiffs cannot show a high likelihood of  
6 prevailing on the merits of their claims against AIA and cannot demonstrate irreparable harm  
7 if an injunction is not issued against AIA, the Motion for Preliminary Injunction should be  
8 denied as to AIA.

9 AIA’s Response to Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Injunction is supported by the  
10 following memorandum of points and authorities and the attached exhibits.

### 11 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

#### 12 **I. Factual Background**

13 The AIA is a non-profit corporation under the laws of the state of Arizona, operating  
14 as a voluntary association of member high schools. *See* AIA’s 2022-2023 Constitution,  
15 Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, Article 1, ¶1.1., a copy of which is attached as **Exhibit 1**.  
16 The AIA’s philosophy is that “interscholastic athletics and activities are beneficial to the  
17 total education program.” *Id.* at ¶1.3. And to this end, the AIA “is committed to the inclusion  
18 of equitable interscholastic opportunities for both girls and boys in all AIA member high  
19 schools.” *Id.* at ¶ 1.3.1.

20 When it comes to determining which sports a member high school will assemble  
21 teams for and how teams will be designated (i.e., boys only, girls only, or co-ed), such  
22 decision is ultimately left to the principal of each member school. *Id.* at Article 2, ¶2.5.2  
23 (“School Principal - Final authority and ultimate responsibility in all matters pertaining to  
24 interscholastic activities of each school shall be vested in the school principal.”). This  
25 includes the responsibility for verifying all student eligibility rules. *Id.* at ¶2.5.3 (“The  
26 school administration must assume responsibility for verification of all student eligibility  
27

1 rules.”). And, when it comes to participation in sports, the AIA has adopted a Transgender  
 2 Policy for its members that is inclusive of all students:

3 GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION – all students should have the  
 4 opportunity to participate in Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA)  
 5 activities in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity, irrespective  
 6 of the sex listed on a student’s eligibility for participation in interscholastic  
 athletics or in a gender that does not match the sex at birth . . .

7 *Id* at Article 41, ¶41.9. In fact, as Plaintiffs even point out in their Complaint, prior to the  
 8 enactment of the Save Women’s Sports Act, the AIA permitted students whose gender  
 9 identities were different than those assigned to them at birth to participate in interscholastic  
 10 events on teams whose gender matched the student’s gender identity. *See* Doc. 1  
 11 (Complaint) at ¶¶20, 21. At no point in time since the adoption of the new statute has the  
 12 AIA amended<sup>1</sup> its Transgender Policy, nor has it taken any adverse action with respect to  
 13 Plaintiffs. Thus, this action is not one based on past discriminatory practices, but rather pure  
 14 speculation as to what may happen in the future when school principals (not the AIA)  
 15 determine how to comply with the newly enacted law.<sup>2</sup>

## 16 II. Legal Argument

### 17 a. Standard for Preliminary Injunction

18 The Supreme Court has called preliminary injunctions "drastic and extraordinary".  
 19 *Weinberger v. Romero-Barcelo*, 456 U.S. 305, 311-12 (1982) ("An injunction is a drastic  
 20 and extraordinary remedy, which should not be granted as a matter of course."). A  
 21 preliminary injunction therefore "should not be granted unless the movant, by a clear  
 22 showing, carries the burden of persuasion." *Mazurek v. Armstrong*, 520 U.S. 968, 972  
 23 (1997) (quotations and citation omitted) (emphasis added in *Mazurek*); *accord Winter*, 555

24 <sup>1</sup> In April 2023, AIA was contacted by a staff member of the Arizona legislature and notified  
 25 of the enactment of A.R.S. §15-120.02. The AIA added, on an emergent basis, a prefatory  
 26 statement acknowledging its awareness of the new law, but did not modify the substantive  
 policy in any manner.

27 <sup>2</sup> *See, e.g.*, Motion for Preliminary Injunction at 4:23 (Speaking in the future tense, the  
 28 statute “will apply when [Jane Doe] enters Kyrene Aprende Middle School tis July.”).

1 U.S. at 22 (recognizing that a preliminary injunction is "an extraordinary remedy that may  
2 only be awarded upon a clear showing that the plaintiff is entitled to such relief") (citing  
3 Mazurek). "A plaintiff seeking a preliminary injunction must establish (1) that [the plaintiff]  
4 is likely to succeed on the merits, (2) that [the plaintiff] is likely to suffer irreparable harm  
5 in the absence of preliminary relief, (3) that the balance of equities tips in [the plaintiffs]  
6 favor, and (4) that an injunction is in the public interest." *Winter v. Nat. Res. Def Council,*  
7 *Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008) (citations omitted). Plaintiffs' Motion fails to establish these  
8 factors as it concerns AIA.

9 **b. The Request for a Preliminary Injunction Against AIA Should Be Denied**  
10 **Because Plaintiffs Are Unlikely to Prevail on the Merits of Their Claims**  
11 **Against AIA at the Time of Trial.**

12 Plaintiffs are asserting 1983 claims against the AIA for purported violations of the  
13 Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, violations of Title IX, violations of the  
14 Americans with Disabilities Act, and violations of the Rehabilitation Act. Yet, Plaintiffs  
15 point to no act by AIA in their Complaint evidencing a violation of any of these federal laws.  
16 In fact, Plaintiffs' point out in their Complaint and Motion that prior to the adoption of the  
17 Save Women's Sports Act, the AIA considered requests by students who have a gender  
18 identity that is different than the one assigned to them at birth to participate on teams where  
19 the biological genders of the other participants were different. See Doc. 3 (Motion for  
20 Preliminary Injunction) at 6:20-24. Thus, Plaintiffs will not be able to demonstrate at trial  
21 that the AIA violated their equal protection rights under the Fourteenth Amendment of the  
22 Constitution or otherwise discriminated against them on the basis of their sex. Further, if  
23 the newly enacted statute is held to be constitutional, Plaintiffs claims against the AIA for  
24 any act that it may end up taking to adhere to the requirements (if any) will fail as a matter  
25 of law. Simply put, citizens and organizations like the AIA do not have discretion to  
26 disregard validly enacted laws of the State of Arizona. Because Plaintiffs fail to establish a  
27 likelihood of prevailing on the merits of their claims against the AIA, the Court need not go  
28 any further and should summarily deny the Motion for Preliminary Injunction as it concerns

1 the AIA. *See Global Horizons, Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of Labor*, 510 F.3d 1054, 1058 (9th Cir.  
2 2007) ("Once a court determines a complete lack of probability of success or serious  
3 questions going to the merits, its analysis may end, and no further findings are necessary").

4 **c. The Request for a Preliminary Injunction Against AIA Should Be Denied**  
5 **Because Plaintiffs Fails to Demonstrate Irreparable Harm Should a**  
6 **Preliminary Injunction Not Be Granted Against AIA.**

7 As mentioned above, the AIA has not changed its Transgender Policy. Further,  
8 nowhere is it alleged that the AIA has taken any action that discriminates on the basis of sex  
9 or violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Simply put, Plaintiffs  
10 fail to identify why an injunction preventing any act by the AIA is necessary and without  
11 which they would suffer irreparable harm. Plaintiffs are free to challenge the  
12 constitutionality of the Save Women's Sports Act and Defendant Horne and representatives  
13 of the Arizona legislature are free to defend the same, but that does not show a need for the  
14 issuance of a preliminary injunction against the AIA. *See Winter v. Natural Res. Def.*  
15 *Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 22, 129 S. Ct. 365, 172 L. Ed. 2d 249 (2008) ("Issuing a  
16 preliminary injunction based only on a possibility of irreparable harm is inconsistent with  
17 our characterization of injunctive relief as an extraordinary remedy that may only be  
18 awarded upon a clear showing that the plaintiff is entitled to such relief.").<sup>3</sup>

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 <sup>3</sup> With respect to the third factor, a district court "must balance the harm that will occur to  
21 the moving party from the denial of the preliminary injunction with the harm that the non-  
22 moving party will incur if the injunction is granted." *Hybritech Inc. v. Abbott Labs.*, 849  
23 F.2d 1446, 1457 (Fed. Cir. 1988). There will be no harm to Plaintiffs if a preliminary  
24 injunction is not granted, as they will still be free to participate in sports given subsection  
25 (b) of the statute does not prevent participation based on biological gender assignment, using  
26 only the phrase "male sex." With respect to the fourth factor, "the focus of the district court's  
27 public interest analysis should be whether there exists some critical public interest that would  
28 be injured by the grant of preliminary relief." *Id.* at 1458. "[T]he public interest will be at  
most a neutral factor in the analysis rather than one that favors granting or denying the  
preliminary injunction" when an injunction's reach "is narrow, limited only to the parties,  
and has no impact on non-parties." *Stormans, Inc. v. Selecky*, 586 F.3d 1109, 1138-39 (9th  
Cir. 2009). Because Plaintiffs only appear to seek an injunction that applies to them, public  
interest is a neutral factor in the analysis.

1 **III. Conclusion**

2 In sum, Plaintiffs’ Motion for a Preliminary Injunction as to Defendant AIA should  
3 be denied because Plaintiffs fail to show a highly likelihood of succeeding on the merits of  
4 their claims against the AIA and because they fail to show that they will suffer irreparable  
5 harm if an injunction is not granted. Again, the AIA supports all children’s safe and healthy  
6 participation in athletic events – regardless of their assigned sex at birth or their gender  
7 identity – and has never taken or threatened action against Plaintiffs that now needs to be  
8 enjoined.

9  
10 DATED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

11 LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

12 By: Kristian E. Nelson

13 Kristian E. Nelson

14 Gregg E. Clifton

15 *Attorneys for Defendant*

16 *Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc.*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on May 25, 2023, I electronically transmitted the foregoing document to the Clerk's Office using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to all CM/ECF registrants of record in this matter.

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/s/ DC Hatheway

# **EXHIBIT 1**

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**AIA**

™

**2022-2023**

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**CONSTITUTION,  
BYLAWS, POLICIES  
AND PROCEDURES**

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**ARIZONA INTERSCHOLASTIC  
ASSOCIATION**

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PROUD MEMBER OF THE  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
STATE HIGH SCHOOL  
ASSOCIATIONS



- 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 or associate 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 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.
- 2.4 **ASSOCIATE MEMBER SCHOOLS** – An associate member school is one that has paid the annual dues and fees and agrees to abide by all AIA rules and regulations, and has the following limitations of membership:
- 2.4.1 An associate member school that fails to abide by all AIA rules and regulations, may be refused further affiliation with the AIA.
- 2.4.2 Associate member schools desiring to schedule a member school in any sport shall meet all provisions of the student eligibility rules enumerated in Article 15 of the AIA Bylaws.
- 2.4.3 Associate member schools may:
- 2.4.3.1 Schedule interscholastic athletics and activities with member, associate member or nonmember schools.
- 2.4.3.2 Shall not participate in any AIA regional or state athletic or activity championship tournament.
- 2.4.3.3 Shall not participate in any district or state nonathletic tournaments
- 2.5 **RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**
- 2.5.1 The school principal or his/her designated representative shall be the responsible administrative officer of a school.
- 2.5.2 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:
- 2.5.2.1 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.
- 2.5.2.2 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.
- 2.5.2.3 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 which adheres at all times to the principles and spirit of good sportsmanship.**

- 2.5.2.4 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.
- 2.5.2.5 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.
- 2.5.3 The school administration must assume responsibility for verification of all student eligibility rules.
- 2.5.4 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.
- 2.5.5 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.
- 2.5.6 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.
- 2.5.7 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.

**ARTICLE 15****STUDENT ELIGIBILITY RULES****15.1 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

15.1.1 All participants in interscholastic activities must be in compliance with all student eligibility rules. The student eligibility rules are enumerated and presented in detail in Article 15 of the AIA Bylaws.

15.1.1.1 Failure to meet all eligibility requirements by all participants while participating in an interscholastic event may result in forfeiture or disqualification by the offending school and/or such other disciplinary action as the AIA Executive Board may impose. The disciplinary actions authorized in the event of a violation of the AIA rules and regulations are: Advisement, Warning, Probation, Disqualification and Forfeiture. (See Article 16, Section 1 of the AIA Bylaws.) The AIA Executive Board shall consider possible violations of the AIA rules and regulations at its regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting. A special meeting to hear a violation report may be called by the President of the AIA Executive Board at any time deemed necessary. The President shall call a special meeting when so directed by a majority of the AIA Executive Board. At the discretion of the AIA Executive Board, said special meeting may be held by telephone conference call.

**15.2 APPLICATION OF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY RULES**

15.2.1 No part of the student eligibility rules shall be set aside, nor shall any attempt be made to set aside by mutual agreement of any participating schools or their agents, for any contest whatsoever. The student eligibility rules shall not be supplemented or supplanted in any contest under the jurisdiction of the AIA.

15.2.2 The student eligibility rules apply to all interscholastic competition in sports governed by the association and portions thereof to nonathletic activities, as applicable, and as set forth in Articles 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40 of the AIA Bylaws.

15.2.3 Prior to participation, the school principal or his/her designated representative shall have determined that each participant is in compliance with all provisions of the eligibility rules as enumerated in Article 15.

**15.3 ENROLLMENT RULE**

15.3.1 Only students enrolled at a member school in grades 9 through 12, inclusive, shall be eligible for interscholastic competition, team practices and tryouts. For purposes of this rule, a student's school of enrollment is defined as the school where the student's permanent grades/records are maintained and from which the student will be eligible to graduate. (*Emergency Legislation – Ex. Brd 3/21/22*)

15.3.1.1 **EXCEPTION:** A home school student may be eligible if said student is in compliance with A.R.S. §15-802.01.

***DETERMINATION:** Considering the terms, spirit and intent of ARS §15-802.01, a home school student who has made a full and good faith effort to participate in a particular interscholastic sport or activity at the school in the student's attendance area, but been unsuccessful, may then utilize the provisions and process set out in 15.10.5 and related subsections (Form 550), and obtain eligibility at the receiving school in that particular sport or activity. (Ex. Bd. 8/14/09)*

15.3.1.2 **Online Charter School Students** – Notwithstanding any other bylaw, a student who is enrolled in an Arizona online charter school and who is domiciled within the attendance zone of a member school, may be allowed to try out for interscholastic athletics and activities on behalf of that member school, if permitted by the member school's governing board. On an annual basis, prior to the beginning of the school year, the member school governing board shall determine by formal board action whether it will permit online charter school students to try out for interscholastic athletics and activities and said board determination will remain in effect for that school year. If permitted, the member school may charge online charter school students additional fees to participate in interscholastic athletics and activities.

(Section 15.3 cont'd. on next page)

All other eligibility requirements shall apply to online charter school students consistent with requirements established for students enrolled in that member school, including but not limited to, that the online charter school shall submit to the member school written verification that, in a manner and timeline that is consistent with the member school's policies, the student is both: 1) receiving a passing grade in each course or subject being taught, and 2) maintaining satisfactory progress towards advancement or promotion.

A student who is enrolled in an online charter school and who was previously enrolled in a school that is part of a school district is not eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics or activities for the remainder of the school year during which the student was enrolled in a school that is part of a school district.

- 15.3.2 In order to establish eligibility for that semester, a student's initial enrollment shall be no later than the 14<sup>th</sup> official school day of the semester. If a student's initial enrollment occurs after the 14<sup>th</sup> official school day of the semester, he/she is ineligible for that semester.

*DETERMINATION: The AIA Executive Director, as designee of the AIA Executive Board, may rule on the eligibility of a student who enrolls after the 14<sup>th</sup> official school day of a session. (Ex. Bd. 4/15/96)*

- 15.3.3 In case of initial enrollment after the first official school day and by the 14<sup>th</sup> official school day, a student shall have been in attendance for as many days as he/she missed from the opening day of the semester before eligibility can be established.

- 15.3.4 In order to maintain eligibility, a student shall demonstrate regular attendance.

#### 15.4 ACADEMIC RULE

- 15.4.1 A student must be enrolled in a minimum of five courses the first six semesters of high school and a minimum as determined by the district during the seventh and eighth semesters. The configuration and method of course delivery shall be as determined by the member school.

#### 15.5 DOMICILE

- 15.5.1 Domicile – Except as otherwise stated in Article 15, a domicile is a place where a person has his/her true, fixed and permanent home, and to which, whenever absent, he or she has the intention of returning. A student shall have only one domicile for the purposes of these eligibility rules.

##### 15.5.2 Special Domicile Placements

- 15.5.2.1 Ninth-Grade Enrollment – Except as stated in 15.15, an eighth grade student graduate enrolling in the ninth grade for the first time may attend any member high school and be eligible for interscholastic activities. This recognizes the concept of open enrollment. Upon any transfer by the student after the initial enrollment in the ninth grade, the Transfer Rule applies.

- 15.5.2.2 Legal Guardian – Except in the case of a foreign exchange student or an international student under 15.15, a student for whom a legal guardian has been appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction may be declared eligible at the school in attendance zone in which said legal guardian is domiciled by petitioning as outlined in the AIA Bylaws under Article 15, Section 15.14 Hardship. (*Form 15.5.3*). For purposes of this rule, a court of competent jurisdiction does not include courts outside the United States.

*DETERMINATION: The AIA Executive Director, as designee of the AIA Executive Board, may rule on the eligibility of a student for whom a legal guardian has been appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction. (Ex. Bd. 4/15/96)*

- 15.5.2.2.1 EXCEPTION: If a legal guardianship appointment has been in effect for at least two years prior to the student's participation in interscholastic competition, it shall not be necessary to petition the AIA Executive Board for domicile hardship eligibility.

- 15.5.2.2.2 The use in interscholastic competition of a student for whom a legal guardian has been appointed, without compliance with the above requirements, shall constitute the use of an ineligible player.

*(Section 15.5 cont'd. on next page)*

15.5.2.2.3 **Where it is determined by the Executive Board or the Executive Director that athletic motivation and/or circumvention of AIA domicile requirements is involved in the legal guardianship, this is sufficient in and of itself for denial of the hardship request (see 15.14.1.4).**

15.5.2.3 **Ward of the Court** - A student who is a ward of the court or the state and is placed in a school by court order may become eligible for interscholastic competition at that school by petitioning for and receiving approval of the AIA Executive Board as outlined in the AIA Bylaws under Article 15, Section 14 Hardship. (Form 15.5.3).

15.5.2.4 **Dual Enrollment** - A student registered in dual enrollment or in special programs at a school outside the attendance zone within that school district in which his/her parents are domiciled is eligible to participate in interscholastic competition at the school where the student's permanent records are maintained. The student is eligible for interscholastic competition at that school only.

15.5.2.5 **District Alternative School Students** - Students attending an AdvancEd Commission on Accreditation & School Improvement accredited alternative school that is void of any AIA interscholastic activity programs are eligible to participate in such activities at their home school (school of domicile). All AIA and school district eligibility requirements must be met.

15.5.2.6 **Deaf and Blind Students**

15.5.2.6.1 A student enrolled in an AIA member or associate member school who also qualifies for enrollment at Phoenix Day School for the Deaf or Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind shall have primary interscholastic eligibility at the school in which he/she is enrolled. In the event the handicap precludes the student from participating in an activity at the school in which the student is enrolled, the student shall have eligibility at one of the aforementioned special program schools for that activity while maintaining enrollment and attendance at the school where enrolled.

15.5.2.6.2 If an Arizona state school for the deaf and blind does not offer a particular AIA sanctioned sport or activity, a student enrolled in said school may participate in that sport or activities at the AIA public member school nearest to the state school for the deaf and blind or at the AIA public member school in which the student's parents or legal guardians are domiciled. The student is not eligible under this provision without the mutual consent of the sending and receiving school principals.

15.5.2.7 **First Time Enrollment from Out of State** – Except as stated in 15.15, an out of state student whose parents/legal guardian have changed their domicile to and is attending high school for the first time in Arizona may attend any member high school without the transfer ineligibility period(s) provided under 15.10.1, 15.10.1.1 and 15.10.1.2 and be eligible for interscholastic activities and shall not be considered a transfer.

## 15.6 **AGE LIMIT / BIRTH RECORD RULE**

15.6.1 **Age Limits** – If a student becomes 19 years of age on or after September 1, he/she is eligible to compete for the remainder of that school year. If he/she becomes 19 years of age before September 1, he/she is not eligible for any part of that school year.

15.6.2 **Birth Records** – Acceptable record of birth shall be submitted before a student's name is placed on an eligibility list for varsity participation. Acceptable records shall be:

15.6.2.1 **Certified Birth Certificate** – One certified by the appropriate state agency.

15.6.2.2 **Acceptable Substitutes** – Hospital Certificate of Birth with seal or appropriate signature; a Department of Commerce Certificate; a Bureau of Immigration Certificate; a Department of Justice Certificate; a Certificate of Indian Blood signed and sealed by the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs; a birth registration card issued by the State of Arizona Department of Health Services with seal; or a passport issued to a United States citizen (born in the United States or a naturalized citizen) by the State Department of the United States.

15.6.2.3 **Verification of Birth** – Verification of birth may also be established when three reputable sources of information acceptable to the AIA Executive Board all agree as to the date of birth (i.e., school records, immunization records, etc.). Such documents must demonstrate utilization of the birth date over an extended period of time (i.e., each document should reflect issue dates encompassing a number of years).

(Section 15.6 cont'd. on next page)

- 15.6.3 **Birth Record Retention** – A record of the certified birth certificate or an acceptable substitute shall be kept on file by the school. The certified birth certificate or acceptable substitute should be returned to the student.

## 15.7 **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE**

15.7.1 A student shall not be allowed to practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until there is on file with the principal or his/her designee a record of a preparticipation physical examination (PPE) performed by a doctor of medicine (M.D.), an osteopathic physician (D.O.), a naturopathic physician (N.D., N.M.D.), a certified registered nurse practitioner (N.P.) licensed to practice, a certified physician's assistant (PA-C) registered by the Joint Board Of Medical Examiners and the Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery, or a certified chiropractic sports physician (CCSP). The physical examination for the following school year shall be given **on or after March 1**. The physical examination on file shall be signed by one of the aforementioned medical providers and shall state that, in the opinion of the examining provider, the provider did not find any medical reason to disqualify the student from practice or competition in athletic contests. The principal or his/her designee, if deemed advisable, may require a student to be reexamined.

15.7.2 Member schools shall utilize the physical examination forms provided by the AIA. There shall be four parts:

15.7.2.1 **Part One – Annual Preparticipation Physical Evaluation** – To be completed and signed by the parent or guardian and student athlete. This form must also be signed by the examining medical provider. (See Form 15.7-A).

15.7.2.2 **Part Two – Annual Preparticipation Physical Examination** – To be completed and signed by the examining medical provider. (See Form 15.7-B).

15.7.2.3 **Part Three – Annual Preparticipation Acknowledgement** – To be completed and signed by parent or guardian and student athlete. (See Form 15.7-C).

15.7.2.4 **Part Four – Annual Preparticipation Consent to Treat Form** – to be completed and signed by the parent or guardian and student athlete (See Form 15.7-D).

15.8 **PARENTAL OR LEGAL GUARDIAN CONSENT RULE** – Parental or legal guardian consent is required before a student can be eligible to practice or compete in interscholastic competition. All students shall have on file with the principal or his/her designee appropriate permission in which the parent or legal guardian authorized participation.

15.8.1 It is recommended that such authorization state:

I/We give our permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in organized interscholastic athletics, realizing that such activity involves the potential for injury, which is inherent in all sports. I/We acknowledge that even with the best coaching, use of the most advanced protective equipment and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility. On rare occasions, the injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis, quadriplegia or even death.

I/We acknowledge that I/we have read and understand this warning.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player

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.**

15.9.1 Enrollment for at least fifteen school days during any semester, or participation in any interscholastic contest, constitutes a semester of opportunity and a season of opportunity.

15.9.2 A student's ineligibility during any semester or season does not affect application of the Maximum Participation rule and does not extend the number of semesters of opportunity or seasons of opportunity.

15.9.3 During a school year a student shall be eligible to participate in only one season of competition per sport, except freshman tennis.

15.9.4 **Absence for Reason Other Than Confinement or Disabling Illness of Self or Immediate Family** – A Student absent from school for a period of more than ten consecutive school days for reasons other than a disabling illness or injury of himself/herself or a member of his/her immediate family shall be ineligible for the remainder of the semester or until he/she has been in attendance for the same number of days as he/she was absent. (See Article 15, Section 3, Paragraph 5).

(Section 15.9 cont'd. on next page)

15.9.5 Any period during which a student is not enrolled or is out of school due to suspension, expulsion or removal for disciplinary reasons shall be included for purposes of the Maximum Participation Rule.

**15.10 TRANSFER RULE** – After enrolling and attending one or more classes, a student changing enrollment from one school (sending school) to another school (receiving school) shall be considered a transferring student. For information and record keeping purposes, the receiving and sending school shall reasonably cooperate and complete Form 550.

15.10.1 A student shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels until after the first 50% of the maximum allowable Power Rankings regular season contests in those sports in which the student participated during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the season in which the student is seeking eligibility. Participation is defined as a student participating in the sport during a regular season game as is specified by the AIA standardized calendar.

15.10.1.1 For individual sports, the student will be ineligible for 50% of allowable competitions for that school on the AIA calendar.

15.10.1.2 If a transfer occurs during the season in which the student is participating, the student is ineligible for one year from the date of first attendance at the receiving school in that sport.

15.10.1.3 In case of any subsequent transfer by the student, the student is ineligible for one year from the date of first attendance at the receiving school.

15.10.1.4 A transfer from an AIA member school (sending school) to a non-AIA member school that does not offer any interscholastic athletics, will not be considered a transfer.

15.10.1.4.1 A subsequent transfer from that non-AIA member school back to the sending school will also not be considered a transfer under 15.10.

15.10.1.4.2 A subsequent transfer from that non-AIA member school to an AIA member school other than the sending school will result in the appropriate transfer rule period of ineligibility.

15.10.2 (Form 550) - The sending school administration shall provide to the receiving school, via Form 550, the verification of activities in which a transferring student has participated. The receiving and sending school(s) shall **reasonably cooperate and complete Form 550**. Upon receipt by the receiving school of a completed Form 550, assuming all other eligibility requirements are met, the student becomes eligible for all interscholastic activities except for those activities in which the student has competed during the current or previous school year.

“Statement of Philosophy / Rationale for Transfer Rule”

- Promotes the educational philosophy that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, which should not take a dominant role over academics;
- Recognizes the overwhelming administrative difficulty in attempting to determine the motives or reasons for each and every transfer, and, therefore, adopts a uniform objective standard to be followed by all member schools.
- Helps to protect opportunities for participation by students who attend school in the attendance zone of their domicile;
- Helps to protect and promote continuity of school programs;
- Serves as a deterrent to students running from or avoiding an athletic discipline that has been or may be imposed;

Except as otherwise stated, this rule is intended to and shall encompass any and all transfer situations and shall apply to any and all member schools, be they public, private or parochial.

NOTE: *The fact that a student may or may not have paid tuition has no bearing on the applicability of transfer rules.*

15.10.3 **Transfer Rule Exceptions** – A student who transfers from one high school (the “sending school”) to another high school (the “receiving school”), where there has been no change in domicile of parents or legal guardian, shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities at the receiving school when one of the following eligibility requirements has been fulfilled:

15.10.3.1 **Ethnic Balance** – In case of a transfer within a school district by a student under an approved compliance plan for racial balance (ethnic transfer), the period of ineligibility subsequent to such a transfer, if any, shall be determined by the district.

*(Section 15.10 cont'd. on next page)*

- 15.10.4 School Closures / Drop of AIA Membership – Upon closure or drop of AIA membership by the governing board, students may transfer at the beginning of the following semester to another school in the district as approved by the governing board, to the public high school of another district closest to the domicile of the parents, or to a private, parochial or BIE school and be automatically granted athletic eligibility.
- 15.10.5 When Sport or Nonathletic Activity Is Dropped by an AIA Member School – When a sport or nonathletic activity is dropped by a governing board, a student may transfer to a school that offers that sport or nonathletic activity and shall be eligible only in the sport or nonathletic activity that has been dropped at the school from which the student transferred. Said eligibility will be granted when the student enrolls in one of the following schools:
- 15.10.5.1 A private or parochial high school in the county in which the parents are domiciled.
- 15.10.5.2 The public high school within the same school district closest to the domicile of the parents.
- 15.10.5.3 In the event the district does not offer the sport or nonathletic activity in any of its schools, the student may transfer to the public high school of another district closest to the domicile of the parents.
- 15.10.5.4 The transfer rule shall apply to other interscholastic sports and activities in which the student participates.
- 15.10.6 Disciplinary Removal - A student suspended, expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary reasons, including revocation or non-renewal of open enrollment, from one high school shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition in any other high school for one year or until all conditions for re-admittance have been fulfilled at the high school where the suspension, expulsion, open enrollment revocation or removal for disciplinary reasons occurred, whichever occurs first.

#### 15.11 AMATEUR RULE

- 15.11.1 Each student, in order to represent his/her school in any AIA sanctioned contest, shall be and shall remain an amateur.
- 15.11.1.1 Name Image and Likeness (NIL): A student is in violation of this bylaw and shall immediately lose eligibility if that student, his/her family member, or anyone else on behalf of that student, enters into an agreement with an individual, corporate entity, partnership, association, or any other party or organization, for use of that student's NIL which in any way relates to the student's connection to his/her high school team or activity program, or to any other non-school athletic team or activity program with which the student is connected. (**Emergency Legislation – Ex. Brd 10/18/2021**)
- 15.11.2 An amateur athlete is one who has never used or is not using his/her knowledge of athletics or athletic skill in an athletic contest for financial gain.  
*DETERMINATION: The AIA Executive Board determined that an amateur may receive merchandise awards that do not exceed the limit as set forth in Article 13, Section 1.*
- 15.11.3 A person who has lost his/her amateur standing in any AIA sanctioned sport loses his/her amateur standing in all sports in interscholastic competition for a maximum of one full calendar year from the date of discovery of the infraction or until reinstated by the AIA Executive Board.
- 15.11.4 Amateur athletes shall retain their amateur standing even though they participate during the summer vacation in schools or clinics sponsored by professionals. (*See Article 14, Section 9*).
- 15.11.5 Individual students may receive monetary rewards for participation in luck-of-the-draw or lottery-type programs. This type of competition must be limited to individual type competition and not put one contestant against another. There is no limit on the amount of monetary award for this type of competition. (Examples: Shooting baskets at half-time at professional basketball games; shooting hockey pucks at goals during intermissions at hockey events).
- 15.11.6 Amateur athletes shall participate and always have participated under their own name
- 15.11.7 An amateur athlete shall not compete for money or other monetary compensation.
- 15.11.7.1 Amateur athletes may receive actual expenses for participating in out-of-town games. This amount shall not exceed the state of Arizona per diem.
- 15.11.7.2 Amateur athletes may receive a fee for officiating non-interscholastic high school and non-intercollegiate sports without jeopardizing their amateur standing.
- 15.11.7.3 Amateur athletes shall retain their amateur standing even though they receive compensation from private clubs for instructing students not enrolled in high school.

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- 15.11.7.3 Amateur athletes shall retain their amateur standing even though they receive compensation from private clubs for instructing students not enrolled in high school.
- 15.11.7.4 Amateur athletes shall retain their amateur standing even though they receive compensation from state, county, city, parks or recreation departments.
- 15.11.7.5 Amateur athletes may enter a tournament with or against professionals without jeopardizing their amateur standing providing they do not receive, or anyone receives for them, any monetary awards, gift certificates or merchandise awards which exceed the limits as set forth in Article 13.1.4.
- 15.11.8 Except for a Letter of Intent to attend a college or university, amateur athletes shall not enter into any agreement with any corporation, association, partnership or individual for their services as an athlete until they have terminated their attendance in high school. This includes professional clubs and/or teams for training and competition.
- 15.11.9 An amateur athlete, or any member of his/her family, shall not receive remuneration, either directly or indirectly; such remuneration being given to influence the student or the family to reside in a given high school district for purposes of establishing the student's eligibility on a team and/or participation with a club and/or team in the form of a scholarship and/or room and board. (See also Article 15, Section 12).
- 15.11.10 A student may participate and receive monetary awards in non-interscholastic and/or non AIA sanctioned activities/contests (such as rodeo, boxing, bowling, judo) and be classified as an amateur under AIA rules. (See Article 11, Section 1, Paragraph 2).

**15.12 RECRUITMENT RULE** – There shall be no recruitment of athletes. Recruitment is defined as the act of influencing a student to enroll in a school or to transfer from one school to another in order that the student may participate in interscholastic athletics. No school administrator, athletic coach or employee of a high school district shall engage in recruitment either by direct contact with a student or indirectly through parents, legal guardians, common school employees, directors of summer athletic programs or other persons who are in a position to influence the student's choice of a school.

- 15.12.1 If the recruitment rule is violated, the student will not be eligible at a member school until reinstated by the AIA Executive Board.
- 15.12.2 If school personnel condone or actively engage in recruitment or a school uses a recruited student, the school shall be subject to disciplinary action by the AIA Executive Board. (See Article 16, Section 1).
- 15.12.3 Contact procedures used in the soliciting of students to enroll in any public, private or parochial school shall be the same for all students.
- 15.12.4 Interpretations
  - 15.12.4.1 Funds which have been donated to schools by clubs and individuals may be given as financial aid to students through the normal financial aid program of the school for all students, without regard to athletic potential. Financial aid based even partially on athletic potential or performance is not permitted from the school or from groups that exist because of or for the benefit of the school (e.g., booster clubs).
  - 15.12.4.2 Individuals not exclusively representing athletic interests of a high school may make general presentations (not just athletic) to eighth grade students (not just athletes). There should be a diversity of presenters, speaking on a variety of topics to students of all interests.
  - 15.12.4.3 It is a violation of this section for a coach or any other unauthorized representative of a school to suggest or promise that any part of tuition will be waived for a prospective student for any reason, including financial need. The only person who may address the possibility of fee reduction is that person who has specific responsibility for admissions and financial aid policies and procedures.

(Section 15.12 cont'd. on next page)

- 15.12.4.4 If it is a faculty member's responsibility to recruit students (not just athletes) and that person makes such contact irrespective of athletic eligibility, such contact is permitted. However, anything done for an athlete that is not done in a comparable fashion for all students is a violation of the Recruitment Rule.
- 15.12.4.5 When a student at a junior high/middle school or other high school, or the parents of that student, contacts the coach about attending the coach's school, the coach shall refer the student or parent to the appropriate school personnel (those who have the responsibilities for seeking and processing prospective students).
- 15.12.4.6 A high school coach may not initiate contact with a student at a junior high/middle school or other high school, or the parents of that student, about attendance at the school. It is not a violation for a coach to have normal community contact with a student who attends a junior high/middle school of the same system, which is a feeder to the high school.
- 15.12.4.7 It is a violation of the Recruitment Rule if coaches or their representatives call, send questionnaires, cards or letters or visit prospective athletes and their families for the purpose of evaluating and recruiting specific prospective athletes.
- 15.12.4.8 High school coaches or their representatives may not attend grade school or youth sports games (e.g., Pop Warner) for the purpose of evaluating and recruiting specific prospective athletes.
- 15.12.4.9 High school coaches and administrators may not request booster clubs, parents, players, former players or alumni from the high school to discuss the merits of their athletic program with prospective athletes or their parents by phone, in person or through letters.
- 15.12.4.10 Any high school may allow all students of any junior high/middle school to attend its athletic events without charge.
- 15.12.4.11 Persons "indirectly associated with the school" include, but are not limited to, parents of players and booster club members. Such persons are prohibited from providing or performing any of the examples of recruitment listed in this section and its interpretations.
- 15.12.4.12 Examples of recruitment shall include, but are not limited to:
- 15.12.4.12.1 Offer or acceptance of money or other valuable consideration such as free or reduced tuition during the regular year or summer school by anyone connected with the school.
- 15.12.4.12.2 Offer or acceptance of room, board or clothing or financial allotment for clothing.
- 15.12.4.12.3 Offer or acceptance of pay for work that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service.
- 15.12.4.12.4 Offer or acceptance of free transportation by any school connected person.
- 15.12.4.12.5 Offer or acceptance of a residence with any school connected person.
- 15.12.4.12.6 Offer or acceptance of any privilege not afforded to non-athletes.
- 15.12.4.12.7 Offer or acceptance of free or reduced rent for parents.
- 15.12.4.12.8 Offer or acceptance of payment of moving expenses of parents or assistance with the moving of parents.
- 15.12.4.12.9 Offer or acceptance of employment of parent(s) in order to entice the family to move to a certain community if someone connected with the school makes the offer.
- 15.12.4.12.10 Offer or acceptance of help in securing a college athletic scholarship.
- 15.12.4.13 **OPEN HOUSE** – The intent of an open house is to allow incoming students to gather information regarding curriculum, programs, and the admissions process. Coaches may provide general information to prospective incoming students but no specific details or enticements as to participation if they were to enroll.

- 15.12.4.14 **PRIOR CONTACT** – Prefatory statement: In an effort to preserve and promote competitive fairness and equity, and consistent with the AIA’s mission to ensure that academics remain the primary focus of its member schools, the Prior Contact rule is an effort to deter recruiting of student-athletes and minimize athletically motivated transfers. However, the rule applies regardless of whether there is any evidence of athletic motivation or recruitment.

Despite compliance with the other provisions of AIA Bylaws, a student who transfers from one school (sending school) to another school (receiving school) is ineligible in the sport involved for one year from the date of attendance at the receiving school, if any of the following circumstances existed during the one year preceding the transfer:

- The student participated or practiced as an individual, on a school team, or on a non-school team coached, directed, supervised, managed, coordinated, owned or operated by any of the receiving school’s coaches (in the sport involved), administrators or parents.
- The student participated or attended an open gym, open weight room, or open athletic facilities at the receiving school. For this circumstance, the sport involved is deemed to be any interscholastic sport in which the student has participated or practiced during the current or previous school year.
- A coach at the receiving school has served as a personal trainer, coach, conditioner or instructor for the student. For this circumstance, the sport involved is deemed to be any interscholastic sport in which the student has participated or practiced during the current or previous school year.
- The student participated or attended a camp, clinic, combine, showcase or similar event where a coach, trainer, or instructor in the sport involved at the receiving school worked, whether on a paid or volunteer basis.

As used in this rule, the term “coach” includes any person who coaches, volunteers, manages, administers, or assists in any capacity with the coaching or training of the school or non-school team, regardless of compensation or contract status. No personal relationship, individual instruction or direct contact between the coach and the student is required for application of this rule. For example, a coach of a football team, regardless of position or group he/she coaches, is considered to be a coach of the entire football team, at all levels (freshman, junior varsity, varsity), and this rule applies. ***(Emergency Legislation – 3/1/2019)***

- 15.12.4.14.1 **During Summer Enrollment** – Beginning with the week identified in the AIA calendar as summer and ending with the week that begins fall practice, a student is considered to have transferred when the student has demonstrated intent to enroll in the receiving school. Intent is identified by the school or school district.

### 15.13 **ELIGIBILITY APPEAL PROCEDURES**

- 15.13.1 In the case of an alleged hardship, a member school may appeal on behalf of a student his/her ineligibility by utilizing the process provided in AIA Bylaw 15.14, Hardship. (Form 15.10)
- 15.13.2 In all other cases, a member school may appeal on behalf of a student his/her ineligibility by notifying the Executive Director of the appeal in writing, setting out fully and completely the basis for the appeal. The Executive Director, utilizing the authority under AIA Bylaw 7.2.3.7, shall respond in writing within a reasonable time. Should the member school disagree with the determination of the Executive Director, it may ask that the matter be considered by the Executive Board (AIA Bylaw 7.2.3.7).
- 15.13.3 **Review of Prior AIA Hardship Appeals Committee Decision** - The AIA Executive Board may review prior decisions regarding eligibility of a student at any regular or special meeting provided:
- 15.13.3.1 Substantially new and different information has been submitted in written form to the AIA Executive Director.
  - 15.13.3.2 If, in the opinion of the AIA Executive Director, the information is not new and different, the item will not be placed on the agenda.

- 15.14 HARDSHIP (Form 15.10)** - In individual hardship cases the AIA Executive Board or the Hardship Appeals Committee may, at their discretion and upon such terms and conditions as may be imposed, waive or modify the Enrollment Rule (Article 15, Section 3, Paragraph 4 only), Domicile Rule (Article 15, Section 5), Maximum Participation Rule (Article 15, Section 9, Paragraph 1 only), Transfer Rule (Article 15, Section 10), and/or Recruitment Rule (Article 15.12.4.14 only), and/or the International Student Eligibility Rule (Article 15.15.2 only). The appeal shall initially be heard and decided by the Hardship Appeals Committee. The decision of the Hardship Appeals Committee shall be final unless appealed to the AIA Executive Board within five business days from the date of said decision. AIA Executive Board consideration of such appeals will take place only at regularly scheduled monthly meetings, unless otherwise scheduled by the Board. (See Article 6, Section 3 regarding procedures for meetings of the AIA Executive Board.) Procedures for appeals to the Hardship Appeals Committee shall be as determined by the AIA Executive Board.
- 15.14.1 Hardship Defined - Each case is dependent upon its facts, but as a general guideline, the Executive Board will use the following criteria:
- 15.14.1.1 An unforeseeable, unavoidable, and uncorrectable act, condition or event, over which the student and his/her family has no control; and
  - 15.14.1.2 Which has caused a severe burden upon the student or his/her family; and
  - 15.14.1.3 Which has caused the student's noncompliance with the eligibility rule(s) involved.
  - 15.14.1.4 Whether athletics plays a role in the circumstances involved in the hardship request.  
*NOTE: Where it is determined that athletic motivation is present; this would be sufficient, in and of itself, for denial of the hardship request.*
  - 15.14.1.5 Loss of eligibility in itself is not to be considered a hardship.
- 15.14.2 Burden of Proof - The burden of providing evidence of hardship shall be on the student. Full particulars must be given by the student and the school principal must certify that the information given is correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.
- 15.14.3 Enrollment Limitation Hardship - A ninth grade student applying for admission or a student transferring who is denied enrollment because of lack of space may be declared eligible.
- 15.14.4 Age Rule Exemption - In individual cases the AIA Executive Board may, at their discretion and upon such terms and conditions as may be imposed, waive or modify the age rule (15.6.1), utilizing the information and process set out in Form 15.14.
- 15.14.5 Upon request by the Executive Director or designee, the sending school shall provide a representative during the hardship appeal hearing(s) before the Hardship Appeals Committee and/or the Executive Board. Failure of the sending school representative to attend shall not prevent or otherwise delay any hearing or decision on the appeal, but the failure to appear SHALL be considered a violation of the AIA Bylaws and may result in sanction as determined by the Executive Board.
- 15.15 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ELIGIBILITY** – Prefatory Statement: In an effort to preserve and promote interscholastic competitive opportunities for Arizona students and further the goals of competitive fairness and equity, and recognizing the concerns of AIA member schools related to displacement of Arizona students by students from foreign countries, the following bylaw addresses the interscholastic eligibility status of international students attending an AIA member school:
- 15.15.1 Foreign Exchange Students: A foreign exchange student is a student that is in the U.S. under a J-1 Visa, and who is placed in a school by an educational exchange program approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). A foreign exchange student is eligible at a school in the attendance zone of the home in which the student is placed. A foreign exchange student must meet all other eligibility requirements and is eligible for a maximum of one school year.
  - 15.15.2 International Students: An international student is a student who is in the U.S. under any Visa or document other than a J-1 Visa and who is attending an AIA member school. Except as stated below with regard to domicile, an international student must meet all eligibility requirements of any regularly enrolled student. An international student is eligible only for non-varsity level competition, which may include only 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and is not at any time of enrollment eligible for varsity level competition. With regard to domicile, an international student's non-varsity eligibility shall be at a school in the attendance zone of the home in which the student is placed.

**ARTICLE 41****SPORTS MEDICINE****41.1 DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO****41.1.1 AIA POSITION STATEMENT – SUPPLEMENTS, DRUGS AND PERFORMANCE ENHANCING SUBSTANCES**

The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) views sports, and the participation of student-athletes in sport, as an activity that enhances the student-athlete's well-being by providing an environment and stimulus that promotes growth and development along a healthy and ethically based path.

- It is the position of the AIA that a balanced diet, providing sufficient calories, is optimal for meeting the nutritional needs of the growing student-athlete.
- It is the position of the AIA that nutritional supplements are rarely, if ever, needed to replace a healthy diet.
- Nutritional supplement use for specific medical conditions may be given individual consideration.
- The AIA is strongly opposed to "doping", defined as those substances and procedures listed on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List ([www.wada-ama.org](http://www.wada-ama.org)).
- It is the position of the AIA that there is no place for the use of recreational drugs, alcohol or tobacco (e-cigarettes) in the lifestyle of the student-athlete. The legal consequences for the use of these products by a student-athlete are supported by the AIA.

In pursuit of Victory with Honor, the AIA promotes the use of exercise and sport as a mechanism to establish current fitness and long-term healthy lifestyle behaviors. It is the position of the AIA that the student-athlete, who consumes a balanced diet practice sport frequently and consistently, and perseveres in the face of challenges, can meet these goals.

41.1.2 At least annually, each member school shall communicate to its students participating in interscholastic activities the AIA Position Statement on the use of supplement, drugs and performance enhancing substances. (See Form 14.13)

41.1.3 Any coach or competitor using tobacco, alcoholic beverages or misusing drugs while participating in interscholastic competition shall be disqualified from the contest or tournament.

**41.2 OPIOID EDUCATION** – All student athletes shall complete the Opioid online education course. Student athletes participating in sports as of the 2021-2022 school year shall complete the course. All student-athletes shall complete the course prior to participation in practice or competition.

**41.3 CONCUSSION EDUCATION** – All student athletes shall complete the Brainbook online concussion education course. Student athletes participating in sports as of the 2011-12 school year shall complete the course. All student-athletes shall complete the course prior to participation in practice or competition.

NOTE: The Brainbook online concussion education course must be completed by a student-athlete only once.

**41.4 CONCUSSION POLICY****41.4.1 Education**

41.4.1.1 All AIA Participating schools must have a concussion policy on file: The policy must address the following:

- Concussion Education
- Removal from Play
- Return to Play

41.4.1.2 Parents and athletes must sign a form acknowledging education regarding concussion.

**41.4.2 Mechanics and Criteria for Removal from Play**

41.4.2.1 An athlete, coach, licensed athletic trainer, team physician, official or parent can remove an athlete from play.

41.4.2.2 Only an appropriate health care professional can refute the diagnosis of a concussion.

*(Section 41.1 cont'd. on next page)*

## 41.4.3 Return to Play Criteria

- No athlete should return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a concussion.
- Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional that day.
- Any athlete with a concussion should be medically cleared by an appropriate health-care professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.
- After medical clearance, return to play shall follow a step-wise protocol with provisions for delayed return to play based as directed by an appropriate health-care professional.
- Return to play should only occur after an athlete has returned to full school attendance without academic accommodations.

## 41.4.4 Appropriate Health-Care Professionals for Return to Play

An appropriate health-care professional is defined as the following:

- Licensed Athletic Trainer
- Physician (MD/DO)
- Licensed Nurse Practitioner
- Physician's Assistant

## 41.4.5 Return to Academics

- Cognitive rest should be recommended for symptomatic athletes. This may include limiting activities such as reading, texting and computer usage.
- In some instances, this may also involve school absences and/or the use of academic adjustments or accommodations as prescribed by the appropriate healthcare professional and school academic team (school nurse, school counselor, administration, etc.).
- Returning an athlete to the classroom following a concussion should follow a return to learn progression.

## 41.4.6 Other

41.4.6.1 At the beginning of a game, the coach must certify to the official that the equipment is in compliance with safety regulations and properly fitted.

41.4.6.2 If a helmet comes off or becomes dislodged during play, must remain out for one play or call a time out to have the equipment reassessed.

41.5 **HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION & EXERTIONAL HEAT ILLNESS MANAGEMENT POLICY**

41.5.1 It is the position of the AIA that prevention is the best way to avoid exertional heat stroke. Prevention includes educating athletes and coaches about:

- Recognition and management of exertional heat illness;
- The risks associated with exercising in hot, humid environmental conditions;
- The need for gradual acclimatization over a 14 day period;
- Guidelines for proper hydrations;
- Implementing practice / competition modifications according to local temperature and relative humidity readings;
- Management/Treatment guidelines for cases of heat illness including heat stroke;
- Appropriate guidelines for Return to Play after Heat Illness.

41.5.2 **Definitions**

Exertional heat illness includes the following conditions, ordered from the least to the most dangerous:

- Exercise associated muscle cramps:** an acute, painful, involuntary muscle contraction usually occurring during or after intense exercise, often in the heat, lasting approximately 1-3 minutes.
- Heat syncope:** also known as orthostatic dizziness, it refers to a fainting episode that can occur in high environmental temperatures, usually during the initial days of heat exposure.
- Exercise (heat) exhaustion:** the inability to continue exercise due to cardiovascular insufficiency and energy depletion that may or may not be associated with physical collapse.
- Exertional heat stroke:** a severe condition characterized by core body temperature >40°C (105°F), central nervous system (CNS) dysfunction, and multiple organ system failure induced by strenuous exercise, often occurring in the hot environments.
- Excessive Heat Warning:** Extreme heat is occurring or imminent. Studies have shown that our bodies have a greater ability to tolerate heat as the summer wears on. There is not one single, constant temperature used by NOAA/NWS Phoenix to determine when an alert will be issued. Instead, the NOAA/NWS HeatRisk product is leveraged to identify unusually hot days.  
(HeatRisk product link: <https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/heatrisk/>)  
(Reference: National Weather Services; <https://www.weather.gov/psr//Heat>)

(Section 41.5 cont'd. on next page)

**Heat Acclimatization Protocol****(A team may not choose to train in a less severe climate)****Days 1-5:**

- Days 1 through 5 of the heat-acclimatization period consist of the first 5 days of formal practice. During this time, athletes may not participate in more than 1 practice per day.
- If a practice is interrupted by inclement weather or heat restrictions, the practice should recommence once conditions are deemed safe. Total practice time should not exceed 3 hours in any 1 day. In addition to practice, a 1-hour maximum walk-through is permitted during days 1-5 of the heat acclimatization period. However, a 3-hour recovery period should be inserted between the practice and walkthrough (or vice versa). (Note: a walk-through is defined as no contact with other individuals, dummies, sleds or shields).
- During days 1-3 of the heat-acclimatization period, in sports requiring helmets or shoulder pads, a helmet is the only protective equipment permitted. The use of shields and dummies during this time is permissible as a non-contact teaching tool.
- During days 4-6, only helmets and shoulder pads may be worn.
- Football only: on days 4-6, contact with blocking sleds and tackling dummies may be initiated.

**Days 6-14:**

- Beginning no earlier than day 6 and continuing through day 14, double-practice days must be followed by a single-practice day.
- On single-practice days, 1 walk-through is permitted, separated from the practice by at least 3 hours of continuous rest. When a double-practice day is followed by a rest day, another double-practice day is permitted after the rest day.
- On a double-practice day, neither practice should exceed 3 hours in duration, nor should student-athletes participate in more than 5 total hours of practice. Warm-up, stretching, cool-down, walkthrough, conditioning and weight-room activities are included as part of practice time. The two practices should be separated by at least 3 continuous hours in a cool environment.
- Beginning on day 7, all protective equipment may be worn and full contact may begin.
- Full-contact sports may begin 100% live contact drills no earlier than day 7.
- Because the risk of exertional heat illnesses during the preseason heat-acclimatization period is high, we strongly recommend that an athletic trainer be on site before, during and after all practices.

**41.5.3 Hydration Strategies**

- Sufficient, sanitary and appropriate fluid should be readily accessible and consumed at regular intervals before, during and after all sports participation and other physical activities to offset sweat loss and maintain adequate hydration while avoiding overdrinking.
- Generally, 100 to 250 mL (approximately 3-8oz) up to 1.0 to 1.5 L (approximately 34-50oz) per hour for adolescent boys and girls is enough to sufficiently minimize sweating-induced body-water deficits during exercise and other physical activity as long as their pre-activity hydration status is good.
- Pre-activity to post-activity body-weight changes can provide more specific insight to a person's hydration status and rehydration needs. Athletes should be well hydrated before commencing all activities.
- The following guidelines are suggested:

Condition	% Body Weight Change
Well Hydrated	+1 to -1
Minimal dehydration	-1 to -3
Significant dehydration	-3 to -5
Serious dehydration	>-5

% Body weight change = [(pre-exercise body weight – post-exercise body weight) / pre-exercise body weight] x 100

(Section 41.5 cont'd. on next page)

41.5.4 **Prevention**

**Pre-participation history and physical exam**

- A thorough medical history will be gathered (history of heat illness, sickle cell trait/disease, etc.)
- Individuals with risk factors will be identified and counseled (see table below):

Risk Factors for Heat Illness	
Intrinsic	Strategies to Minimize Risk
High intensity exercise	Gradually phase in exercise and conditioning
Fever or illness	Monitor and remove at risk athletes as necessary
Dehydration	Educate coaches/athletes on proper hydration Provide adequate access to water
Overweight/obesity	Gradually phase in exercise and conditioning
Lack of heat acclimatization	Follow heat acclimatization program
Medications (antihistamines, diuretics, ADHD drugs)	Monitor and remove at risk athletes as necessary
Skin disorder (sunburn or malaria rubra)	Monitor athletes closely
Predisposing medical conditions	Monitor and remove at risk athletes as necessary
Extrinsic	Strategies to Minimize Risk
High ambient temperature, solar radiation or humidity	Avoid exercise in hotter parts of the day
Heavy gear or equipment	Gradually introduce equipment
Poor practice design	Educate coaches regarding strategies to minimize risk

- When applicable the Athletic Trainer or persons responsible will be notified of individuals with pre-existing conditions that place the individual at risk of exertional heat illness.
- As necessary, coaches are notified of individuals at higher risk.

**Environmental Monitoring and Activity Modifications/Cancellation**

- It is recommended environmental monitoring occur utilizing a WBGT device equivalent to **Kestrel 5400**.
- It is recommended environmental monitoring occur any time it is warm outside (i.e. over 80°F)
- Environmental monitoring and activity modifications may be necessary for certain of indoor facilities.
- Recommend monitoring of WBGT occur every 30 minutes beginning 15 minutes prior to the scheduled practice time.
  - If school designee/athletic trainer is present he/she will monitor WBGT and recommend appropriate modification of activity. If the school designee/athletic trainer is not present the head coach or athletic director will monitor WBGT recommend appropriate modification of activity. WBGT will be measured at the practice/event venue on the playing surface.
  - All environmental monitoring should be documented and stored by the school.
- Modifications will be made in accordance with the best practice guidelines for our region. Arizona is located in WBGT **Region 3**, therefore we will follow the activity guidelines for that region **after** the 14 day acclimatization period.
  - To find what region/category your school is in, please read the Grundstein et al. Regional heat safety thresholds for athletes in the contiguous United States. Applied Geography, 2015 manuscript ([https://ksi.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1222/2018/08/RegionalWBGT\\_2015\\_AppliedGeography.pdf](https://ksi.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1222/2018/08/RegionalWBGT_2015_AppliedGeography.pdf))
- Modifications should change based on real time environmental conditions. Therefore, if the environment changes to a higher or lower WBGT that falls in a different category then the activity modifications should reflect the recommendations in the new category.

During Acclimatization Period (Day 1 – Day 14)	Acclimatized Athletes (Day 15+)	Activity Guidelines
<79.7	< 82.0	Normal Activities – Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 3 minutes each during the workout.
79.8 - 84.6	82.1- 86.9	Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise; Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 minutes each. Make equipment modifications as necessary.
84.7 - 87.6	87.0 - 90.0	Maximum practice time is 2 hours. <b>For Football: players are restricted to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during practice. If the WBGT rises to this level during practice, players may continue to work out wearing football pants without changing to shorts. Make additional equipment modifications as indicated. Including not beginning practice with equipment on for warmups etc. For All Sports: Provide at least four separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 minutes each. Make equipment modifications as indicated.</b>
87.7 – 89.6	90.1 - 91.9	Maximum practice time is 1 hour. <b>For Football: No protective equipment may be worn during practice, and there may be no conditioning activities. For All Sports: There must be 20 minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout the hour of practice. Provide at least four separate rest breaks (every 15 minutes) each hour with a minimum duration of 5 minutes each. Off-Campus sports, (such as Cross Country) practices and games should remain on campus unless dedicated healthcare providers are immediately accessible in case of heat illness. Reduce or eliminate conditioning drills.</b>
> 89.7	≥ 92.0	No outdoor workouts. Delay practice until a cooler WBGT is reached.

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Equipment Considerations

- Wear loose-fitting, light colored and absorbent/moister wicking clothing
- During hot or humid conditions minimize the amount of equipment and clothing worn. (Football: reduce the amount of equipment worn, i.e. helmet and/or shoulder pads)

Practice Structure and Time Considerations

- Direct sunlight and high temperatures are most common between the hours of 10 am and 5 pm. When conditions indicate practices should be moved from this time window.
- As temperatures rise the ability of the athlete to compensate for prolonged activity at high temperatures decreases. Practices should be shortened when indicated by current environmental conditions.
- High intensity and long duration bouts of exercise (sprints, conditioning, etc) should not be completed when conditions indicate.

Education

- Member Schools will ensure education of medical staff, athletes, coaches, emergency personnel, and parents about EHI and proper hydration has been completed.
- Encourage athletes to sleep at least 6–8 hours and eat a well-balanced diet (Reference: Korey Stringer Institute; <https://ksi.uconn.edu/emergency-conditions/heat-illnesses/exertional-heat-stroke/heat-stroke-prevention/>)

Management

- Monitoring of student-athletes safety will be continuous during any physical activity.
- Athletic trainers, coaches, administrators and other athletics personnel will be educated on the signs and symptoms of exertional heat illness.
  - These signs and symptoms include (but are not limited to) the table below:

Rectal temperature greater than 105 (40°C) at time of incident.	Rapid pulse, low blood pressure, quick breathing
Headache	Dehydration, dry mouth, thirst
Confusion or just look "out of it"	Decreasing performance or weakness
Disorientation or dizziness	Profuse sweating
Altered consciousness, coma	Collapse, staggering or sluggish feeling
Nausea or vomiting	Muscle cramps, loss of muscle function/balance, inability to walk
Diarrhea	Irrational behavior, irritability, emotional instability

41.5.5 Treatment in the event of an exertional heat stroke (medical emergency)Recognition

- Any athlete with signs of central nervous system dysfunction during exercise in the heat should be suspected to be suffering from EHS.
- **It is important to emphasize that during and following intense exercise in the heat, temporal, aural, oral, skin, axillary and tympanic temperature are not valid and should never be utilized in evaluating a potential exertional heat stroke.**

Cooling

- The patient must be moved to a cooling zone, begin appropriate treatment and continuously monitor the patient.
- Excess clothing shall be removed to aid cooling.
  - If removal of clothing and/or equipment would cause delays of 5+ minutes, do not remove clothing and equipment, simply initiate cooling.
- Place patient in a cold-water immersion (35-59°F) tub up to the neck if possible.
  - Wrap a towel across the chest and beneath both arms to prevent the athlete from sliding into the tub.
  - Ice shall cover the surface of the water at all times.
  - Water shall be continuously and vigorously stirred to maximize cooling.
  - An ice-cold towel will be placed over the head/neck and rewet and replaced every 2 minutes.
  - Cooling shall cease when core body temperature (best measured rectally) reaches ~102°F or when signs and symptoms indicate.
- Cold Water Immersion (CWI) Tub
  - Must be present at the site and readily accessible when practices and games begin.
  - Recommended set-up includes:
    - A tub filled with water. (Or a tub with water ready to be filled. Water temps may climb to over 100°F if pre-filled in the sun.)
    - Two or more chests filled with ice next to the tub ready for treatment.
    - Available bed sheet or large towels.
    - Towels for placement over the head and neck.

(Section 41.5 cont'd. on next page)

- Cool First, Transport Second
  - When a patient is diagnosed with EHS, the principle of Cool First, Transport Second should be used.
    - Note: EMS should not transport the patient until they reach ~102°F due to the inability to continue vigorous cooling in the ambulance.

#### Vital Sign Monitoring

- The QHP will monitor vital signs.
- Vital Signs will be monitored in the unstable patient every 5 minutes.

#### EMS

- EMS must be called immediately if a patient is suspected of EHS
- HOWEVER, any patient with EHS must be **cooled FIRST and then transported via EMS**.
  - This cool first transport second EAP protocol will be communicated/shared with EMS annually PRIOR to the first official sport practice at the school in accordance with the EAP policy and procedures.

#### 41.5.6 Return to Play Following Exertional Heat Stroke

The following is the protocol for return to play following heat stroke:

- Refrain from exercise for at least 7 days following the acute event.
- Follow up in about 1 week for physical exam by licensed physician (MD,DO)
- When cleared for activity by a licensed physician, begin exercise in a cool environment and gradually increase the duration, intensity, and heat exposure for 2 weeks to acclimatize and demonstrate heat tolerance under the direction of a licensed healthcare professional.
- If return to activity is difficult, consider a laboratory exercise-heat tolerance test about one month post incident.
- Athlete may be cleared for full competition if heat tolerance exists after 2-4 weeks of training.

The AIA also recommends that any athlete suspected of having suffered exertional heat exhaustion be referred to a licensed physician for follow-up medical examination and clearance.

### 41.6 EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS

41.6.1 An Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for each practice and competition site, used by the school, shall be completed annually by each member school. The EAP must be kept on file at the school and shared with the appropriate coaches and staff. The emergency action plan should be comprehensive and practical, yet flexible enough to adapt to any emergency situation.

41.6.2 The Emergency Action Plan should contain the following information and/or components:

- Emergency plans must be written documents and should be developed in concert with the member schools' certified athletic trainer(s).
- Emergency plans must be written documents and should be distributed to team and attending physicians, athletic training students, institutional and organizational safety personnel, institutional and organizational administrators, and coaches.
- The emergency plan should be developed in consultation with local emergency medical services personnel.
- An emergency plan for athletics identifies the personnel involved in carrying out the emergency plan and outlines the qualifications of those executing the plan.
- Sports medicine professionals, officials, and coaches should be trained in automatic external defibrillation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, and prevention of disease transmission.
- The emergency plan should specify the equipment needed to carry out the tasks required in the event of an emergency. In addition, the emergency plan should outline the location of the emergency equipment. Further, the equipment available should be appropriate to the level of training of the personnel involved.
- Establishment of a clear mechanism for communication to appropriate emergency care service providers and identification of the mode of transportation for the injured participant are critical elements of an emergency plan.
- The emergency plan should be specific to the activity venue. That is, each activity site should have a defined emergency plan that is derived from the overall institutional or organizational policies on emergency planning.
- Emergency plans should incorporate the emergency care facilities to which the injured individual will be taken. Emergency receiving facilities should be notified in advance of scheduled events and contests. Personnel from the emergency receiving facilities should be included in the development of the emergency plan for the institution or organization.

*(Section 41.6 cont'd. on next page)*

- The emergency plan specifies the necessary documentation supporting the implementation and evaluation of the emergency plan. This documentation should identify responsibility for documenting actions taken during the emergency, evaluation of the emergency response, and institutional personnel training.
- The emergency plan should be reviewed and rehearsed annually, although more frequent review and rehearsal may be necessary. The results of these reviews and rehearsals should be documented and should indicate whether the emergency plan was modified, with further documentation reflecting how the plan was changed.
- All personnel involved with the organization and sponsorship of athletic activities share a professional responsibility to provide for the emergency care of an injured person, including the development, implementation and regular, periodic evaluation of an EAP.

#### 41.7 **STUDENT INSURANCE**

41.7.1 It is recommended that each student athlete have on file with the principal or his/her designee proof of insurance coverage or a waiver prior to practice.

#### 41.8 **POST SEASON EVENT PROTOCOL**

41.8.1 Applies for the following AIA Post Season Events:

- |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| • Football   | • Basketball | • Softball   |
| • Volleyball | • Wrestling  | • Spiritline |
| • Soccer     | • Baseball   |              |

41.8.2 An Emergency Action Plan (EAP) must be filed with AIA in order to host a post season tournament.

41.8.3 Qualified Medical Profession (QMP)/EMT Coverage.

41.8.3.1 All ATC/QMP/EMT services at AIA Post Season Events will be paid or reimbursed by the AIA.  
(Note: "Region" events are not AIA events – ATC/QMP/EMT is not paid by AIA)

41.8.4 AIA State Tournaments at High Seed Sites:

41.8.4.1 Member schools must engage a qualified medical professional (QMP) or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). One of the following three protocol options must be followed or payment may not be issued:

41.8.4.2 If there is no QMP or EMT at the game, the game shall not be played.

41.8.4.2.1 QMP as defined by Arizona Revised Statute §15-341:

- ATC – Certified Athletic Trainer
- MD – Medical Doctor
- DO – Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
- NP – Licensed Nurse Practitioner
- PA – Licensed Physician's Assistant

41.8.4.2.2 If a school does not have a QMP or EMT and the opposing school does, in order for the game to proceed, the QMP or EMT agrees to cover the opposing school as well as their own school.

41.8.4.3 If ONLY an EMT is at the game, any player removed due to suspected head injury or concussion will not be allowed to enter or re-enter the game based on an EMT evaluation. Return to play can only be based on evaluation by a QMP.

41.8.5 AIA State Tournaments at Neutral Sites:

- AIA Staff will secure QMPs that will be contracted through the AIA or a third party vendor.
- If the QMP is a Certified Athletic Trainer, **the ATC must provide the AIA with a certificate of professional liability insurance** and be familiar with the AIA/ATC protocol.

**41.9 TRANSGENDER POLICY**

**GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION** – all students should have the opportunity to participate in Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) activities in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity, irrespective of the sex listed on a student's eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics or in a gender that does not match the sex at birth, via the following procedure below. Once the student has been granted eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics consistent with the athlete's gender identity, the eligibility is granted for the duration of the student's participation and does not need to be renewed every sport season or school year. All discussion and documentation will be kept confidential, and the proceedings will be sealed unless the student and family make a specific request.

**41.9.1 NOTICE TO THE SCHOOL:** the student and/or parents shall contact the school administrator or athletic director indicating that the student has a consistent gender identity different than the sex listed on the student's school registration records, and that the student desires to participate in activities in a manner consistent with the student's gender identity.

**41.9.2 NOTICE TO THE AIA:** The school administrator shall contact the AIA office, which will assign a facilitator who will assist the school and student in preparation and completion of the AIA Gender Identity eligibility appeal process.

**41.9.3 FIRST LEVEL OF REVIEW**

The appealing student should provide the AIA with a form that includes the following:

- a) A student request to participate on an athletic team(s) that differs from their sex assigned at birth;
- b) Support from the student's parent or guardian.
- c) Support from a school administrator
- d) A copy of the PPE, signed by a qualified health care provider

The AIA shall schedule a meeting with the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee, a subcommittee of the AIA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee as expeditiously as possible after receipt of all required documentation. The committee may request an in person meeting with the student and parents and/or guardian if there are any additional questions or concerns by the committee after review of above documentation. If the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee, upon review of the above documentation, finds that the student's request is appropriate and is not motivated by an improper purpose and there are no adverse health risks to the athlete, then a supportive recommendation shall be made by the committee to the AIA Executive Board for the athlete's participation in sex-segregated activities consistent with the student's gender identity.

**41.9.4 SECOND LEVEL OF APPEAL**

Per AIA Bylaws 15.13.2 in all other cases, a member school may appeal on behalf of a student his/her ineligibility by notifying the Executive Board of the appeal in writing, setting out fully and completely the basis for the appeal. The Executive Board, utilizing the authority under AIA Bylaw 7.2.3.7, shall respond in writing within a reasonable time.