

ARTICLE 2

MEMBERSHIP

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

2.1.1 A school must be recommended by the appropriate accrediting agency for acceptable standards for secondary schools.

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

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

2.1.3 A member school shall abide by all rules and regulations of the AIA. A violation of AIA rules and regulations subjects the member school to possible disciplinary action as set forth in Article 16, Section 16.1 of the AIA Bylaws.

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

2.2 **APPLICATION FOR AIA MEMBERSHIP**

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

2.2.2 An on-site evaluation of schools applying for full membership shall be conducted. At least one member of the evaluation team shall be from the Conference and, when possible, from the Region with which the new school will be aligned. Expenses incurred for the on-site evaluation of a high school seeking membership into the AIA shall be assessed to the school.

2.2.3 AIA member schools will then be balloted for approval of the membership application. A simple majority vote shall decide the acceptance or rejection

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

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

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

DETERMINATION: The AIA Executive Board determined that the attendance zone boundaries of a charter school that is not sponsored by a public school district is the county in which the school is located. (Ex. Bd. 9/15/97)

2.3.2 Private or Parochial Schools – The attendance zone boundaries shall be the county in which the school is located.

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

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

(Section 2.3 cont'd. on next page)

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 recommend that said school be expelled from the AIA. Membership expulsion shall require a majority vote of the AIA member schools.

2.3.4.1.1 An expelled member may request reinstatement one year from the date of expulsion. Reinstatement of an expelled school shall require a majority vote of the AIA member schools

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 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, with the exception of Article 3 of the AIA Constitution.

2.4.1 An associate member school that fails to abide by all AIA rules and regulations, with the exception of Article 3 of the AIA Constitution, 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 schedule interscholastic activities with member, associate member or nonmember schools as follows:

2.4.3.1 May participate in invitational athletic contests.

2.4.3.2 May participate in clinics, festivals or contests sanctioned by the AIA.

2.4.3.3 Shall not participate in any AIA regional or state athletic championship tournament.

2.4.3.4 Shall not participate in any district or state nonathletic tournaments.

2.5 BORDERING STATE SCHOOL – AIA MEMBERSHIP – A bordering state school may become an AIA associate member or a full member if:

2.5.1 Accrediting standards are met.

2.5.2 Recommended for AIA membership by a Region to its Conference.

2.5.3 The Conference approves the Region recommendation and supports the application for AIA membership.

2.5.3.1 Continued AIA membership of a bordering state school shall be subject to review and renewal by Conference recommendation to the AIA Executive Board every two years

2.5.4 All requirements stipulated in Article 2, Section 2.2 of the AIA Constitution are satisfactorily fulfilled.

2.6 RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

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

2.6.2 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:

(Section 2.6 cont'd. on next page)

- 2.6.2.1 Host School - The basic responsibility of the host school is to take every possible measure at any athletic or nonathletic activity to assure courteous, friendly, safe and fair treatment to visiting players, school representatives, fans and game officials.
- 2.6.2.2 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.
- 2.6.2.3 Conduct of Participants - The responsibility for the conduct of the coaches, players and spectators at any athletic or nonathletic 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.**
- 2.6.2.4 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.
- 2.6.2.5 The school administrator must ensure that there is no recruitment of students for athletic purposes as defined in Article 15, Section 15.12.
- 2.6.3 The school administration must assume responsibility for verification of all student eligibility rules.
- 2.6.4 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.
- 2.6.5 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.
- 2.6.6 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 (16.1).
- 2.6.7 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 (16.1).

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.