

AIA Basketball Sports Advisory Committee and AZ Basketball Coaches Mtg.
March 23, 2023
10:00 am

Minutes

- Mr. Hines opened by welcoming all and mentioning many of the positive parts of the overall 2023 State Tournament:
 - Nearly 125,000 fans attended start to finish 1A through Open. Thanks to the ADs and coaches for all they do to promote AIA Basketball.
 - AIA appreciates our AIA coaches input over the last 2+ years to get the Open concept up and running.
- Discussion from the group:
 - Games were quite competitive, and it was a very positive 1st year for the Open.
 - Additional promotion and celebrate the Elite Eight and the Final Four - possibly at the Open Championship games.
 - Shorten the schedule and number of days between games.
 - Open Division: Reseeding at the round of 8 or the round of 4?? (There were concerns that 8 teams making the open is too many teams) - depending on where the cut off point is for making the Open Division begins. Treat this like play-in games. We do this for the other state tournaments.
 - Open Division: Multiple recommendations were made about the calendars to create more promotion of the Open Division. One of the recommendations was that the 4A-6A state tournaments should conclude before the Open Division reconvenes at the round of 8 or 4.
 - Venues:
 - (VMC) Positive - available to host AIA State GVB, Spiritline, Wrestling and Basketball on dates the AIA membership needs, at a reasonable price, central location to member schools. Negative - older facility-not "state of the art".
 - (Footprint, GRA, ASU, GCU) Positive – newer facilities, some centrally located. Negative – not available for extended use by AIA (especially Thurs/Fri/Sat); AIA events will not permit sales of alcohol; venues want substantial part of ticket sales; venues can cancel within 60-90 days for another event, parking not available in some cases, etc.
 - Discussion of having Open Quarters or Semis at one location. Positive – multiple games at one location creates a "better atmosphere," easier to scout. Negative – without large venues, may have to clear the HS gyms between games. Boys and girls games may create games at mid-day and mid-week (concerns if school community can/will attend?). Desire of many coaches to play in prime time. Missed school time.
 - With the costs of large venues, fan attendance must increase to cover those costs.

- Rankings - questions on how rankings work:
 - Clarification that AIA rankings are not predictive (only games already played count).
 - AIA rankings do not have a point differential (AIA Staff said that they would run the algorithm with different scoring variables to see how it would impact the rankings). Also, AIA rankings do not include invitational tournaments invitational.
 - Adding invitational tournaments to AIA rankings, and adding a 3rd in season invitational would be up to the membership to bring to the Executive Board and possibly Legislative Council.

- Scheduling – It was mentioned some states start girls basketball a week earlier than boys, and then finish the season with a girls championship week and then the boys championship week. Also, the more cross conference scheduling, the better for more accurate Open rankings. These items can be looked at by the Conferences in the next two year block.

- All in attendance were encouraged to keep their ADs and fellow coaches up to speed with these discussion items.

DN