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OUR STUDENTS, OUR TEAMS . . . OUR FUTURE.

2023 State Football Administrator/ Head Coach Tournament Guide

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Information for spectators including admission pricing, the digital ticketing process, programs, souvenirs, venue information & schedules can be found at:
<https://azpreps365.com/championships/football>

Media information, including policies, credential requests, broadcasting & media rights agreements can be found at: <https://aiaonline.org/host-media-info>

ADA Compliance information can be found at: <https://aiaonline.org/files/14160/committees-ada-compliance.pdf>

Emergency personnel protocols & information related to AIA postseason competitions can be found at: <https://aiaonline.org/files/17188/qmp.pdf>

School conference/ division/ section alignments can be found at:
<https://azpreps365.com/teams/football/6a>

Playoff Tournament Brackets: <https://azpreps365.com/brackets/football>

Playoff Schedule: For accurate information regarding the AIA State Football tournament schedules as well as locations, including addresses, of all neutral state football game sites, please click here:
<http://www.azpreps365.com/championships/football>

Note: All schools must input their 2023 team photos and current roster of players that will participate in the 2023 AIA State Football Playoffs into the MaxPreps website through the school login system to be included in 2023 AIA State Football commemorative program that is available to spectators online. For instructions to input your team photo and current roster go to the following link:
<https://www.aiaonline.org/files/17485/maxpreps-rosters-how-to.pdf>

All rules as stated in the National Federation Rules Book for this sport, along with the AIA Constitution & Bylaws as well as these tournament instructions apply.



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Qualifying Criteria

Open Division (8-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have played a minimum of eight (8) games. Following the regular season, the top eight teams from the 4A-6A conferences combined, based on AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps, and the multiplier, will be placed onto the state tournament bracket. The state tournament bracket will be seeded according to the overall AIA rankings. The state tournament will consist of three rounds and will be single elimination.

- Open: Top eight teams from 4A-6A conferences

6A, 5A, 4A (16-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have played a minimum of eight (8) games. After qualifying teams are added to the Open Division state tournament bracket and removed from the conference rankings (if applicable), remaining teams will be re-seeded No. 1 through No. 16 and will make up the state tournament brackets. The state tournament brackets will be seeded according to the overall AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps. The state tournaments will consist of four rounds and be single elimination.

- 6A, 5A, 4A: Teams ranked 1-16 following qualification of Open Division participants

3A (16-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have played a minimum of eight (8) games. Based on the overall AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps, the top 16 teams will earn an automatic bid to the state tournament. The 16 teams will be seeded according to AIA rankings. The state tournament will consist of four rounds and be single elimination.

- 3A: Teams ranked 1-16

2A (16-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have played a minimum of eight (8) games. Based on region standings, the top team in each region will earn an automatic bid to the state tournament. The state tournament bracket will be seeded according to the overall AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps of the 16 teams. The state tournament will consist of four rounds and be single elimination.

- 2A: Seven (7) automatic bids and nine (9) at-large qualifiers based on ranking

1A (12-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have played a minimum of six (6) games. Based on region standings, the top team in each region will earn an automatic bid to the state tournament. Remaining teams will be added to the state tournament bracket based on AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps. The 12 teams will be seeded according to AIA rankings. Teams seeded Nos. 1-4 will receive first-round byes. The state tournament will consist of four rounds and be single elimination.

1A: Four (4) automatic bids and eight (8) at-large qualifiers based on ranking



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Site Administrator Host Site General Instructions

AIA Game Tickets

Ticket sales for all AIA state championship events will be conducted digitally. Spectators can only attend events in the postseason by ordering their tickets online through the association's official partner GoFan. Additional GoFan information to be released as playoffs approach.

AIA Site Budgets

Rounds #1, #2 and Semis (4A/5A/6A) budgets for the host site athletic director can be located at:

<http://aiaonline.org/athletics/budget-expense>

The budget shows the **maximum** staff by position allowed for the event. **The host site athletic director can determine that, at their event site, they require less event staff than indicated as the maximum and cut the number of staff or hours allotted for the event.**

The host site athletic director does not need to submit a budget for approval if they are at or below the allocated budget amount for their Conference level Round #1, #2 or Semifinal game.

Note: If additional staff (more than number allotted on the predetermined budget) is required, please contact Dan Nero at dnero@aiaonline.org or 602-385-3820 to confirm the specifics related to the staffing need.

Score Reporting

It is expected that scores will be reported by the schools and posted immediately at the conclusion of the game.

Two hours prior to the start of your state tournament game, an email will be sent to the visiting and host school athletic director, as well as the host high school venue (if a neutral site) with a score reporting link. At the conclusion of the game, any of the three mentioned above may click on the score reporting link to be taken to the scores portion of their admin (upon logging into the system) to enter the game result.

General Rules & Instructions

- At least five officials shall be assigned to all post-season football contests.
- The game officials are responsible for the conduct of the game as prescribed by AIA adopted playing rules.
- 25/40 second field level clocks will be in use at any sites that have this equipment available.
- For all AIA State Football **Semifinals and Finals**, AIA assigned officials will operate the game clock, 25/40 second clock (if 25/40 clock in place), and supply the chain crew and ball runners.
- The National Federation Playoff System shall be used to resolve a tie game in all state playoffs, including the state championship games. (See AIA policy/procedure; article 24.1.3)
- The AIA policy/procedure; article 24.1.5 (Football Speed-up Rule) will be used anytime a team is ahead of an opponent by 42 or more points in the first half or 35 or more points in the second half. Regular timing rules shall apply in the last two minutes of the game or when the score returns to less than 42 points in the first half. The speed up rule will remain in effect if the score returns to less than 35 points in the second half.
- Teams must use a Wilson ball that has the “National Federation of State High School Associations” stamp on it. Note: Every school team that makes the AIA State Football playoffs will receive a complimentary Wilson Collegiate Style GST F1003B game football so that all AIA State Football Playoff games can meet the AIA sponsorship agreement with Wilson.
- At all game sites, each participating team shall provide an AIA approved (i.e. Wilson) game ball to the game officials for use during the tournament game.
- If available, dressing rooms will be assigned by the Site Director; however, all players must provide their own towels and locks.
- A **school board approved coach** shall be in attendance during all pre-game warm-up sessions.



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- In the first round and quarterfinal games, it will be the responsibility of each participating school to provide ball runners to assist the officials in exchanging footballs during the game. For liability reasons, the ball runner must be of high school age or older.
- No pre-game entrance tunnels (inflatable or other) permitted at Neutral Site State Playoff games.

Please Note: No pre-game practice is allowed at any neutral site game site by any team. Teams playing at college team playing sites may use college hash marks and college goal posts.

Uniforms

- The home (high seed) team shall wear their dark jerseys and the visiting team shall wear light jerseys.
- The visiting team is responsible for avoidance of similarity of colors; however, if there is doubt, the referee may require the home team to change. (See NFHS Football Rule Book, Rule 1-5-1-c-4, page 17). When games are played on a neutral site, the AIA recommends the high seed team bring two different color sets of jerseys.

Coaching Staff/Sideline Spectators

Only school board approved members of participating schools' football coaching or training staff will be permitted in the team box. All others on the sideline must have Site Administrator or AIA permission.

All individuals on the field sidelines for AIA State Tournament games must be of high school age or older due to AIA insurance liability.

AIA State Football Bracket Show

On **Saturday, Oct. 14 (1A), Saturday, Oct. 28 (2A/3A) and Saturday, Nov. 4 (4A/5A/6A/Open)** the [AIA State Football Bracket Show](#) will be held as part of the AZPreps365 Radio Show. Check [AZPreps365.com](#) for more information.

Participating Schools: Administrator Control of Spectator Responsibility

The National Federation of High School Associations disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances.

School administrators from the state tournament participating schools are assigned the following responsibility as AIA member school tournament participants:

16.3.4 Spectator Behavior – In the event that spectators, parents, or other non-school personnel initiate or use profanity in cheers or cheers having the intent of sounding profane, single out opposing players personally and/or heckle them by directing derogatory or profane statements or chants at them, use racist remarks, direct offensive cheers/chants at opposing cheering sections, or engage in physical conflict or other threatening or aggressive behavior with school personnel, officials, players, coaches, or other spectators, the school(s) involved shall utilize all available law enforcement resources to prosecute such offenders, and shall take all reasonable actions to help ensure that future similar incidents do not occur, such as temporarily or permanently prohibiting the offender(s) from attending future contests.

- Artificial music, other than that played by AIA announcers at the football playoff sites, is prohibited. The playing of music/sound effects shall only be permitted from the press box, during pre-game, time-outs, intermission and post-game. (NFHS rule 1-18)
- Unsportsmanlike/derogatory signs are not permitted at any AIA state tournament venues under the administration of school site directors or AIA personnel.
- Air horns and noisemakers such as whistles deemed disruptive are not permitted at AIA events and will be confiscated.
- Disruptive/unsportsmanlike behavior by spectators will not be tolerated. Violators will be removed from the venue.

FOR SAFETY & SECURITY AT NEUTRAL SITES, SPECTATORS ARE PROHIBITED FROM BEING ON THE TRACK OR PLAYING FIELD AT ANY TIME, INCLUDING AFTER GAMES.



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Spiritline Information

Spiritline specific information will be sent out as needed to participating schools before each tournament game.

Marching Band Information

Information TBD

Championship Game Procedures

Pre-game Meeting:

This will be a short safety and protocols meeting 75 minutes before the scheduled kick-off.

Required to attend: Participating Schools Admin, Head Coaches, Head Referee, AIA Site Admin, Security and/or PD at Site.

Event timelines, arrival instructions, pre-game procedures and halftime instructions for the championship game participating teams, spiritlines, and bands will be e-mailed to the competing schools on the Monday following the semi-final games.

Trophy/ Banner Presentations

The presentation of trophies and banners will be made on the field immediately after all championship games. **Participating team administrators and coaches must take steps to ensure that the field remains clear of all non-team related individuals for this activity.** Please assist the Tournament Site Directors in keeping all fans off the game field and in the stadium seating areas.

AIA Restrictions for all Football Playoff Venues Including high school sites and stadiums

All spectators are reminded that the items listed below will not be permitted inside any AIA playoff game facility. There are no lockers available outside of the stadium in which to secure items not allowed inside the facility. Items may also not be held by stadium staff members or left unattended on stadium grounds.

- Alcohol
- Animals (except for service animals)
- Signs may not be displayed in a manner that obstructs other fans' views of the game or stadium scoreboards/advertising signage.
- Clothing deemed obscene or indecent
- Fireworks or sparklers
- Illegal drugs
- Smokeless Cigarettes
- Weapons - Included but not limited to firearms & knives

***Any item deemed inappropriate or hazardous by AIA Staff, high school administration or stadium security.**

Unmanned aerial systems at AIA post season events:

Per AIA Policy 24.10.5.1 - The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at all AIA post season events. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium/field/arena structure. For the purpose of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.



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Arizona State University Stadium Policies

ASU Athletic Guests: To enhance public safety and make stadium access more efficient, Sun Devil Athletics adopted a **Clear Bag Policy**. Fans may bring in one (1) clear bag no larger than 12" x 6" x 12" or a 1-gallon plastic storage bag. Fans are limited to one clear bag per person, along with a small clutch or purse for privacy.

The following list of allowable and prohibited items is provided in order to enhance everyone's safety and experience while visiting our facilities. Should you bring any item that is not allowed into the facility to the gates, you will be asked to return the item to your car before entering the stadium. We apologize, in advance, for any inconvenience this may cause you. We hope you have an enjoyable experience attending an ASU Athletic event. If you have a question about an item not on this list, please call (480) 965-3933. Thank you for your cooperation. Office of Athletic Operations & Facilities

ITEMS ALLOWED IN ASU ATHLETIC FACILITIES: (Subject to change without notice)

- Factory sealed or completely empty water bottles 44 ounces or smaller
- Banners and signs (at the discretion of Athletic Operations and Facilities staff) without poles
- Food (small, individual portions)
- Cameras in which the length of the lens is smaller than the width of the base unit (no flash photography)
- Clear Bags including fanny packs, backpacks, and purses smaller than 12"x12"x12"
- Small personal size retractable umbrellas
- Seat cushions • Binoculars
- Empty personal misting devices
- Clear Diaper bags (Only if accompanied by a baby/infant)
- Blankets
- Cell phones/pagers
- Small umbrella strollers (must collapse to fit underneath seat)
- Video cameras

ITEMS PROHIBITED IN ASU ATHLETIC FACILITIES: (Subject to change without notice)

- Outside beverages/containers/cans
- Poles or hard objects
- Bags larger than 12"x12"x12"
- Weapons/knives • Animals (except guide dogs)
- Artificial Noisemakers
- Tripods
- Bats
- Large/golf umbrellas
- Glass containers
- Ice chests/coolers
- Alcohol
- Thermos Bottles