



**2024**  
**AIA State Basketball**  
**TOURNAMENT GUIDE**

**SITE DIRECTORS**  
**ADMINISTRATORS/TEAM HEAD COACHES**  
Schedule, Rules, Regulations, Instructions

**\*Information Subject to Change\***

**AIA Director of Athletics - Basketball**

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### AIA STATE BASKETBALL BRACKET INFORMATION

For information regarding all AIA State Basketball tournament and site information for boys, go to the following link on AZPREPS365.com:

<http://www.azpreps365.com/championships/basketball-boys>

For information regarding all AIA State Basketball site information for girls, go to the following link on AZPREPS365.com:

<http://www.azpreps365.com/championships/basketball-girls>

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### HOW SCHOOLS QUALIFY FOR THE AIA STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Open Division: (32-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have played a minimum of 12 games. Following the regular season, the top eight teams from the 4A, 5A and 6A conferences based on the overall AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps will receive a bid. Additionally, the next eight highest-ranked teams from the 4A-6A conferences combined will receive a bid. The state tournament bracket will be seeded according to individual AIA ranking of the 32 teams. The state tournament will consist of five rounds and will be single elimination.

- Open: Top eight (8) teams from the 4A, 5A and 6A conferences and eight (8) at-large qualifiers from the 4A-6A conferences

6A, 5A, 4A (adaptable 16-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have played a minimum of 12 games. After qualifying teams are added to the Open Division state tournament bracket, the next 16 teams will make up the conference play-in bracket. Following the first two rounds of the Open Division state tournament, the losing teams from those games and the eight (8) conference play-in winners will advance to their respective conference tournament. These are the first round scenarios:

1. If exactly eight (8) teams from Open Division tournament return to the conference tournament, the conference tournament will feature 16 teams seeded according to the final regular season AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps.
2. If more than eight (8) teams from Open Division tournament return to the conference tournament, the conference tournament will feature "if necessary" initial round pigtail games with all participating teams seeded according to the final regular season AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps.
3. If less than eight (8) teams from Open Division tournament return to the conference tournament, the affected top teams seeded by the final regular season AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps will receive a first round bye to assure an eight-team quarterfinal round.

The state tournaments will consist of four or five rounds and be single elimination.

- 4A/5A/6A: Teams returning from the Open Division and eight (8) conference play-in winners

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3A (24-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have played a minimum of 12 games. Based on region standings, the top two teams in each region will earn an automatic bid to the state tournament, except for the North Region. The two teams in the North Region tournament final will earn the region's two bids to the state tournament. The remaining 12 teams will qualify at-large based on the AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps. The state tournament bracket will be seeded according to overall ranking of the 24 teams, with teams ranked Nos. 1-8 receiving a first-round bye. The state tournament will consist of five rounds and be single elimination.

- 3A: Two automatic bids per region (12 total), and 12 at-large teams

2A (16-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have played a minimum of 12 games. Based on region standings, the top two teams in each region will earn an automatic bid at minimum to the conference play-in tournament, except for the North and Valley Regions. The two teams in the North Region and Valley Region tournament final will earn the region's two bids to at least the play-in tournament. The conference play-in tournament will match up teams ranked No. 9 through No. 24. Teams ranked No. 1 through No. 8 according to the AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps, along with the eight winning teams from the conference play-in tournament, will make up the 16-team state tournament. The state tournament bracket will be seeded according to overall ranking of the 16 teams. The state tournament will consist of four rounds and be single elimination.

- 2A: Teams ranked Nos. 1-8, and eight (8) conference play-in winners

1A (16-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have played a minimum of 12 games. Based on region standings, the top team in each region will earn an automatic bid to the state tournament. The four (4) Super Regional champions will also earn an automatic bid, if different than the region champion. Remaining teams will be added to the state tournament bracket based on AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps. The 16 teams will be seeded according to AIA rankings. The state tournament will consist of four rounds and be single elimination.

- 1A: 8-12 automatic bids and 4-8 at-large qualifiers based on ranking.

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### Site Director Responsibility:

#### Enforcing the AIA Media Credential Policy

#### **MEDIA CREDENTIAL POLICY**

AIA has a Media Policy that needs to be followed to protect the proprietary rights of the Association and to protect the student-athletes and coaches at region and state tournament events. The following link ([http://aiaonline.org/news/press\\_center.php](http://aiaonline.org/news/press_center.php)) is to the AIA Media Center which houses the AIA online media credential form and the AIA approved media list (those that have requested and been granted AIA media credentials). The editor/manager of an outlet already granted access to AIA media credentials must go online and order credentials for a member of the media not on the master list. Please note that some members of the media might show up with freelance credentials. These have no pictures on them, but do allow for access to the event per the designated media outlet on the AIA media credential. Additionally, all member schools were allotted a number of school-based credentials for the school year. These will allow admittance equal to a media or freelance credential.

Once again, please remember to download the AIA Approved Media and AIA School Media lists to use at the gates for signing in the media and school media.

- For postseason rounds of AIA state championships, the host school/site should cooperate with news media representatives in providing them access to a work area following an AIA state championship contest to aid in filing reports on the contest.
- Schools/host sites are required to allow entry to any properly credentialed media entity for a postseason contest.
- **The AIA operates under a closed locker room policy at all AIA events. At no time will media representatives be granted this access. Team boxes, team benches, team huddles and dugouts are considered extensions of locker/dressing rooms.**

**AIA STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TICKETING AND ADMISSION FEES**

**GoFan digital tickets will be the only tickets for AIA State Tournament events.**

- Due to possible seating restrictions, tickets may be released to School Admin through links, to be distributed at Admin discretion. **Once tickets are released, please advise your school community to use GoFan ticket link: [tickets.AZPreps365.com](https://tickets.AZPreps365.com)**
- **Please alert your school communities that neutral site games at Yavapai College, Prescott HS, and Bradshaw Mtn. HS may need to have gyms cleared between games.**

*Admission Fees*

**State Tournament (All games at VMC):**

\$20.00 Adults

\$7.50 Students with High School ID

Children five and under admitted free

**State Tournament (All games at FTC):**

\$15.00 Adults

\$7.50 Students with High School ID

Children five and under admitted free

**State Tournament (all games not at FTC and VMC):**

\$10.00 Adults

\$5.00 Students with High School ID

Children five and under admitted free

**FREE ADMISSION:**

**AIA PASSES ONLY**

Children five or under

Players in uniform entering with their School Board approved coaching staff

School Board Approved Varsity Basketball Staff

Team Support Staff

Twenty Spirit Line (in uniform) with their Sponsor(s)

Pep Band members (in uniform) with their Sponsor(s)

All tournament workers

Media with proper credentials

**\*AIA Passes may be limited due to gym maximum seating capacities\***

AIA Lifetime Pass Holder and One Guest

AIA Complimentary Pass and One Guest

AIA Basketball Official Pass Holder and One Guest

***Photo ID required for AIA Pass Holder and all AIA Complimentary Passes***

## **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

### **STATE HIGH SEED/ TOURNAMENT SITE DIRECTORS**

#### **State Basketball Tournament Budget**

For High Seed games, budgets for the host site athletic director can be located at:

<https://www.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 High Seed game.**

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

#### **State Tournament Score Reporting**

**Post-Season Results- immediately at the conclusion of the game:**

#### **SHOT CLOCK**

**To host a 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A or Open State Tournament game, the host school is required to have a shot clock installed. If a high seed site does not have a shot clock, the game will be moved to an alternate site.**

#### **TOURNAMENT SIGNS/ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS**

**Signs are not permitted at any indoor tournament sponsored by the AIA (AIA Bylaw 12.1.4).**

**Artificial noisemakers are not permitted at state playoff venues. If any artificial noisemaker is brought into a game site, the item will be confiscated. The playing of music/sound effects shall only be permitted by game announcer during pre-game, time-outs, intermission and post-game. (NFHS rule 1-18).**

#### **CAMERAS**

- Cameras (**with no flash**) are permitted.
- Hand held video cameras are permitted at high school sites by parents of participants filming their own child's performance. Please notify parents that tripod equipment is not permitted in the stands.

## **EMERGENCY/MEDICAL HOST SITE REQUIREMENTS**

- Every school must have an emergency action plan in place and submitted to Jess Garcia [jegarcia@aiaonline.org](mailto:jegarcia@aiaonline.org) at the AIA in order to host a post season tournament. Please go to link for the **Anyone Can Save A Life - Emergency Action Plan** at:

<http://aiaonline.org/files/14196/tournaments-anyone-can-save-a-life-policy.pdf>

Per AIA Executive Board approved policy, **AIA Member Schools Administration** must engage a qualified medical professional (QMP) or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for all AIA State games at high seed site locations.

At all AIA managed State games at neutral site locations, the AIA has the responsibility to engage a qualified medical professional (QMP) or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) at the neutral site.

### **IF THERE IS NO QMP OR EMT AT THE GAME, THE GAME WILL NOT BE PLAYED.**

QMP means:

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

*(QMP as defined by Arizona Revised Statute 15-341)*

- 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.

### **Method of Payment for QMP/EMT:**

- Refer to <http://aiaonline.org/about/procedures-manual> QMP/EMT Coverage/Protocol instructions.
- **NOTE: 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 or practice can only be based on evaluation by a QMP (Arizona Revised State Statute 15-341).**
- **Required 4 BUSINESS DAYS notice:**
  - If you are unable to provide for a Qualified Medical Professional (MD, DO, Physician's Assistant, Nurse Practitioner or Certified Athletic Trainer) or an EMT to be at your game, please contact AIA Office Assistant Jessica Garcia (602-385-3810 X206) ([jegarcia@aiaonline.org](mailto:jegarcia@aiaonline.org)) for guidance. **This does not remove the School Administration's responsibility to have a QMP present at State Tournament events.**



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#### STATE TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATING TEAMS

**A maximum of five (5) school coaches are allowed free entry and the ability to sit courtside with the team.**

No more than 15 players shall suit up, participate or be listed on the roster of a school team for State Tournament teams. (AIA Bylaw; Article 21.10.2.5)

If possible, each team should have two sets of uniforms, one of light color and the other dark. The **light color uniforms are for the home team**. The team that violates this policy should change. If there is doubt, the officials should request the home team to change; on a neutral floor the officials will decide. (National Federation Basketball Rule 3, Section 4, Art. 1 C). The AIA recommends that the designated home team participating in a state playoff (neutral site) game bring two sets of jerseys.

Only **two school statisticians** and **one scorebook recorder** will be admitted free. Statisticians must enter with the team and coaches as support staff. Statisticians and scorebook recorder will be assigned a place to sit adjacent to the team's assigned bench area.

**\*\*For 4A/5A/6A State Semifinal games at high seeds: The AIA will provide an alternate official who will observe and provide assistance to the scoreboard operator and official scorebook keeper, as needed.\*\***

The **home team** bench at all State games will be to the right side of the scorer's table facing the basketball floor.

- All State Sites (high seed and neutral sites) will use a **Wilson ball** that has the "National Federation of State High School Associations" stamp on it. The state site has been issued the Wilson Basketball that will be in use at all AIA State Basketball Tournament playoff games.

**Note:** The ball that will be in use for all neutral site games will be a Wilson Basketball game ball. **\*\*PLEASE DO NOT BRING PRACTICE BALLS TO AIA MANGAGED NEUTRAL SITE VENUES. AIA PROVIDES ALL PRACTICE AND GAME BALLS.\*\***

A QMP is **on duty** 15 minutes before each game and will be at courtside for the entire game. **Pre-game taping is the responsibility of each school's team.**

A school coach shall be in attendance during all pre-game warm-up sessions. Each state neutral site will provide water for both teams courtside adjacent to the bench of the team.

#### CHAMPIONSHIP GAME PROCEDURES

- Pre-game Meeting – This will be a short "safety and protocols" meeting 75 minutes before the scheduled tip-off.
- Required to attend: Participating Schools Admin, Head Coaches, Head Referee, AIA Site Admin, Security and/or PD at Site.

## TOURNAMENT PROGRAMS/SOUVENIRS

PepWear is the official supplier for AIA Programs and Souvenirs.

State tournament programs will be provided, free of charge, in PDF files for users to download, when available. Please note that hi-res programs may be best suited for desktop downloads and low-res programs may be best suited for mobile and tablet device downloads. Please see the following link for state tournament programs downloads:

<http://www.azpreps365.com/programs>

Sale or distribution of AIA State Tournament related game programs, t-shirts or any other souvenirs by any individual or company other than the PepWear at any AIA State Tournament playoff site or game is prohibited.

Playoff programs, t-shirts, caps, etc. will be available at all semi-final sites.

- Please check [shop.azpreps365.com](http://shop.azpreps365.com) if you have any questions regarding the state tournament programs or souvenirs.

## SPIRITLINES

Spirit Lines, cheerleaders, and pep bands are permitted to perform only in designated areas; **Please - no amplifiers.** For safety reasons, if a spiritlines need to warm up or stretch at the state basketball game site, the school ADs should communicate in advance to receive direction for a safe and appropriate space.

For games at VMC, contact Emily Stephens AIA Spiritline Director ([estephens@aiaonline.org](mailto:estephens@aiaonline.org)) Official rules for spiritlines (cheerleaders) shall be those of the current edition of the National Federation Spirit Rules Book and the AIA Constitution and Bylaws.

## HALF-TIME ENTERTAINMENT

- Home team: the spiritline may perform the first three minutes of half time.
- Visiting team: the spiritline may perform the next three minutes of half time.
- Total half-time performance(s) will be six minutes. **Total halftime will be 10 minutes unless otherwise determined by the Site Director.**
- If a school has more than one performance group (spiritline and pom squad), they would share the three minutes of allotted half time performance time.
- It is expected that spiritline, cheerleaders and pep bands will demonstrate respect and good sportsmanship by not disrupting the half-time presentation of their competitor.
- Any music to be used should be provided to the Site Director at the beginning of the game at high school sites, and to the PA Announcer at the arena sites (by way of .mp3 or .wav file).

### **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR CONTROL OF SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR**

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. (National Federation Rule 10, Section 4, article 1 D).

AIA Bylaw; Article 16.3.4 stipulates that student spectators, parents, or other non-school personnel that 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 or direct offensive cheers /chants at opposing individuals, teams or fans are in violation of the AIA sportsmanship rules. **At all contests, including region and state tournament contests, participating school's administrators have the responsibility to control their fan behaviors, either student or adult.**

Any spectator conduct that becomes unruly or interferes with the orderly progress of the game will result in the suspension of the game until offending spectator(s) are removed from the game site. Artificial noisemakers are prohibited at state playoff venues. If any artificial noisemaker is brought into a game site, the item will be confiscated. The playing of music/sound effects shall only be permitted during pre-game, time-outs, intermission and post-game and will be under the control of the site game announcer.

**AIA state high seed site and neutral site game directors should work with the competing team participating school team administrators to assist the site staff with control of fans. Each site director should have a proactive game management plan in place to prevent any and all fans from coming onto the game court during or after any state playoff basketball game.**

### **ADA COMPLIANCE NOTICE**

#### **ADA NOTICE:**

It is the policy of the Arizona Interscholastic Association not to discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services and activities, or in its hiring and employment practices.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as sign language interpreter, by making a request to the office staff. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

#### **AIA ADA COMPLIANCE OFFICER:**

Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information may be forwarded to the AIA ADA Compliance officer:

Jim Dean – Assistant Executive Director  
Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc.  
7007 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, Arizona, 85020  
602-385-3810

## **Findlay Toyota Center Regulations**

Guests are reminded that the following items will not be permitted inside Findlay Toyota Center. There are no provisions to store items not allowed inside and items cannot be held by security staff members.

- Aerosol Cans
- Alcohol
- Animals (except for service animals)
- Banners or signs larger than 3' x 2'
- Beverages of any kind (including bottled water)
- Beverage containers - Bottles, cans and thermos bottles
- Brooms
- Cameras with professional photo lenses (longer than a credit card)
- Chewing tobacco and E-cigarettes
- Clothing deemed obscene or indecent
- Coolers of any kind
- Fireworks
- Folding chairs
- Food (except for children under the age of two)
- Basketballs, footballs and beach balls (inflated or deflated)
- Illegal drugs
- Laptop computers
- Laser Pointers
- Mono/tripods
- Noise Makers (whistles, horns, bells, etc.)
- Poles or Sticks of any kind, including "Selfie-Sticks"
- Umbrellas larger than 12 inches in length
- Video Cameras
- Weapons - including, but not limited to, firearms & knives
- Any item deemed inappropriate or hazardous by stadium security

- Each fan may carry in a small bag or purse (subject to search)
- Firearms and weapons are strictly prohibited.
- No outside food or beverage, or alcohol is permitted.
- All guests are subject to security screening.

**Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:**

- Creating any safety hazard
- Standing on chairs/seats
- Drunk and disorderly conduct
- Fighting or challenging others to fight
- "Mooning" or exposing private body parts

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- Interference or delay of the game/event
- Throwing, tossing or discharging any object or liquid substance
- Using profanity and/or other offensive language
- Taunting or using offensive language against players, referees, performers or facility staff
- Attempting to enter the ice, court, locker room, stage, back stage or any other performance, non-public or VIP areas without authorization
- Entering a seating area without the correct ticket
- Disturbing others guests' enjoyment of the event
- Smoking in other than the approved designated smoking areas
- Failure to comply with facility personnel
- Violation of Findlay Toyota Center's rules, regulations and policies
- Violation of local, state or federal laws and statutes

### Veteran's Memorial Coliseum Fan Information – February/March 2024

- Restricted Items are (**BUT NOT LIMITED TO PER VMC AND AIA STAFF**):
  - **NO OUTSIDE FOOD AND DRINK ALLOWED**
  - NO TAILGATING – USING EXTRA PARKING SPOTS
  - BAGS SUBJECT TO SEARCH
  - NO GLASS CONTAINERS
  - NO COOLERS OF ANY KIND
  - NO SIGNS/POSTERS
  - NO STICKS OR POLES
  - NO FATHEADS
  - NO BALLOONS
  - NO WEAPONS
  - NO AIR HORNS/WHISTLES/NOISE MAKERS
  - NO THUNDER STICKS
  - NO SELFIE STICKS
  - NO ITEMS DEEMED DISRUPTIVE BY VMC OR AIA STAFF
  - NO STROLLERS ALLOWED IN BOWL SEATING
    - VMC will have a stroller check at the NE doors.