
NEWS RELEASE

AIA HOSTS NASO CONVENTION BEGINNING SATURDAY

PHOENIX, AZ (July 23, 2009) – The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) is set to host the 27th annual Sports Officiating Summit at the J.W. Marriott Starr Pass Resort in Tucson, presented by the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO).

On Saturday, July 25, 2009, the AIA will welcome over 1,100 officials (almost 40 percent of the officials in Arizona) from around the state to the AIA Saturday at the NASO Summit. On this day officials will take part in workshops and meetings that will enhance their knowledge of the sport in which they officiate, and, in addition, the Women in Officiating Symposium will also be held.

"The AIA Saturday event at the NASO Summit is a tremendous opportunity for our officials to touch shoulders with each other and hear from several of the top officials in the country," Gary Whelchel, AIA State Commissioner of Officials, said. "We anticipate over 1,100 officials in attendance that will be the largest gathering of high school sports officials ever in Arizona."

Officials attending the AIA Saturday at the NASO Summit will have the opportunity to listen to speakers in their field of work, including:

- Jerry Markbreit, former NFL Official including four Super Bowls
- Mike Pereira, NFL Supervisor of Officials
- Lisa Jones, NCAA D-I Women's and Final Four Official (former AZ High School Official)
- Bob Scofield, NCAA D-I Basketball Official
- Bob Taylor, NFL Official
- Dave Yeast, former NCAA D-I Coordinator of Officials and College World Series Official
- Sandra Hunt, NCAA Coordinator of Officials and National Trainer
- Kathy Strahm, NCAA Coordinator of Officials and National Trainer
- Joan Powell, NCAA D-I Official and National Trainer
- Mary Struckoff, National Federation of State High Schools
- Marla Denham, Big Sky Conference
- Jeneane Pence and Darla Foutz, Women's Basketball

The planning to host the NASO convention in Tucson took a lot of dedication and buy-in from members of the officiating community across all levels.

"I have been encouraged by the tremendous cooperative spirit within our sports groups that have worked over the last 18 months to make this event happen," Whelchel remarked. "From the professional officials to the collegiate officials, and on to our top high school officials in Arizona, they've stepped up to assist and energize this event."

About Arizona Interscholastic Association

The AIA is a voluntary association of public and private high schools which was established by and is responsible to its members. The democratic governance of the AIA provides representation and input opportunities to all its member schools through their governing board members, administrators and teachers who serve on the Legislative Council, Executive Board and ad hoc committees. There are currently 275 member high schools with over 305,000 students under the AIA. The AIA was established in 1925. The AIA is online at www.aiaonline.org.