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Hello Team ARIZONA! Who is ready for some FOOTBALL?

## Recognizing Warning Auxiliaries: Reading the Field Before the Big Play

In football, championship teams know that success isn't determined only by the scoreboard. Great coaches and players recognize warning signs before they become game-changing problems. They watch the line of scrimmage, study the formation, and adjust before the next play unfolds.

The same principle applies to our auxiliaries across the Department of Arizona. Healthy auxiliaries are the foundation of a strong team, but even successful organizations can begin showing signs that they need support. As leaders, it is our responsibility to recognize these warning indicators early and provide coaching, resources, and encouragement before challenges become crises.

### Spotting the Yellow Flags

In football, a yellow flag doesn't always mean the game is lost—it means attention is needed. Similarly, auxiliaries may display early warning signs that call for guidance and support.

Some common yellow flags include:

- Declining meeting attendance
- Difficulty filling officer positions
- Reduced participation in programs and events
- Limited communication with members
- Incomplete reporting or missed deadlines
- Member burnout and volunteer fatigue

These indicators do not mean an auxiliary is failing. Instead, they signal an opportunity for mentoring, training, and renewed engagement.

### When Yellow Flags Become Red Flags

If warning signs continue without intervention, they can evolve into more serious concerns. Red flags may include:

- Inability to conduct regular meetings
- Significant membership loss
- Financial management concerns

- Failure to comply with department requirements
- Ongoing internal conflicts
- Loss of connection to the mission and programs

Just as a football team cannot ignore repeated penalties, we cannot overlook these signs. Early action is always more effective than emergency recovery.

## Building a Winning Game Plan

Every successful football team relies on preparation, teamwork, and execution. The same approach can strengthen auxiliaries facing challenges.

When a warning auxiliary is identified, consider the following game plan:

**Huddle Up**
Open communication with auxiliary leadership. Listen first and understand the challenges they are experiencing.

**Review the Playbook**
Utilize National and Department resources, Healthy Auxiliary Toolkits, Extension materials, and training opportunities.

**Strengthen the Bench**
Encourage leadership development and identify future officers who can step into key roles.

**Focus on Teamwork**
Promote collaboration with neighboring auxiliaries, districts, and department leaders.

**Celebrate Small Wins**
Recognize improvements and successes along the way. Positive reinforcement builds momentum and confidence.

## Every Auxiliary Matters

No football team wins a championship with only a few star players. Success comes from every member contributing to the team's mission. Likewise, every auxiliary is an important part of the Department of Arizona's success.

When we recognize warning signs early, offer support, and work together as a team, we create stronger auxiliaries, stronger communities, and a stronger Department. Together, we can build a championship team across Arizona—one auxiliary at a time.