NMAA Appeals Review Committee Eligibility Hearing
Manzano High School Student
February 2, 2026
9:00 a.m.- Virtual

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Paul Benoit, NMAA Appeals Review Committee Chairman, at 9:06 a.m., Mrs. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Paul Benoit
Ms. Freda Daugherty
Mr. Keith Durham
Mr. Vance Lee
Mr. Brian Stacy

Not Present:
Mr. Mike Chambers
Mr. Bill Green
Mr. Gerry Washburn

5 members were present representing a committee quorum.

Approval of the Agenda:
Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Lee made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Stacy seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (5-0).

Approval of Minutes
Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to approve the minutes from December 16, 2025, appeal review hearing. Mr. Durham made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Daugherty seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (5-0).

Closed Session (unless family requests hearing to be in open session)
Mr. Benoit asked the appealing party if they wish for the appeal hearing to be in open session or closed session. The appealing party requested the hearing be conducted in closed session.

Mr. Benoit- the appeal hearing will be closed as per the request.

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to go into closed session. A motion was made by Mr. Stacy and seconded by Mr. Lee to go into closed session at 9:09 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Keith Durham**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**

X		**Mrs. Freda Daugherty**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**

Executive Session

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for discussion purposes only. A motion was made by Ms. Daugherty and seconded by Mr. Stacy to go into Executive Session at 9:54 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Keith Durham**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**
X		**Mrs. Freda Daugherty**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to go back into closed session. A motion was made by Mr. Durham and seconded by Ms. Daugherty to go back into closed session at 10:15 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (5-0). Mr. Benoit stated there was no action taken during Executive Session.

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Keith Durham**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**
X		**Ms. Freda Daugherty**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to go back into open session. A motion was made by Mr. Lee and seconded by Mr. Stacy at 10:17 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Keith Durham**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**
X		**Ms. Freda Daugherty**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**

Action Items

Vote On Student Eligibility: Mr. Benoit asked if there was any need for further discussion, if not he asked for a motion to uphold, amend or overturn the original decision. A motion was made by Mr. Lee to uphold the New Mexico Activities Association Hardship Review Committee Decision regarding the Manzano High School appeal. Mr. Stacy seconded. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously passed with a vote of 5-0.

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Keith Durham**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**
X		**Ms. Freda Daugherty**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**

Call to Order
Mr. Benoit called to order the appeal for Santa Rosa High School at 10:20 a.m.

Closed Session (unless family requests hearing to be in open session)
Mr. Benoit asked the appealing party if they wish for the appeal hearing to be in open session or closed session. The appealing party requested the hearing be conducted in open session.

Mr. Benoit- the appeal hearing will be open as per the request.

Background and Ruling
Myla is a senior transfer to Santa Rosa High School. Myla has transferred from Manzano High School to Santa Rosa with her child's father who is also a transfer student at Santa Rosa High School from Manzano. Myla and the father are not married but reside in a home in Santa Rosa owned/leased by Jeanette Howe. The father's mother also resides at the Santa Rosa address periodically but still resides regularly in a home in the Manzano attendance zone. Myla's parents also remain in Albuquerque. Because Myla is not married, not fully self-supported, and neither she nor her child's father have established a true bona fide residence per NMAA regulations, she is considered a transfer student at Santa Rosa High School. As a senior transfer, Myla has been ruled ineligible for both varsity and sub-varsity competition but was deemed eligible for sideline cheer. Additionally, although Myla did not participate in any sports while at Manzano, she was deemed ineligible to use the did not participate provision for eligibility because she did not meet scholastic eligibility requirements as required by the rule.

Appealing Party Statement

Mr. Esquibel stated she is eligible for side-line cheer. She and her boyfriend moved into the district at the end of the school year last year. Since she has been there for a full semester, he submitted her grades for the first semester at Santa Rosa HS, classes are all A's and B's. Her attendance is amazing; she has bonded with staff at Santa Rosa. They are asking for approval to participate in competitive cheer, softball and track to finish her senior year. She is on track to graduate in May and has finished her recovery classes. She did move from ABQ from Santa Rosa, and does have adequate childcare and total support in all aspects, in the school and community.

Counselor- she is an educational diagnostician and school psychologist and works close with students and teachers and hears nothing but great things about Myla. She is working hard and completed her credit recovery and at all the games supporting on side-line. They are both excellent parents to their baby, and she is right there with them. Myla is working hard in the classroom and outside classroom doing a lot to be able to be involved in school. She has been able to maintain her grades and be an excellent parent outside of school.

Esquibel- this is a true success story coming in to the community and she is on track to graduate and wants to be apart of something at the high school in addition to cheer.

Committee Questions
Stacy- information received from there are several different absences and grades listed and vastly different from page to page, specifically dealing with absences. Mr. Esquibel stated that her most current were at the end of the semester on January 19th, absences are for a period here and there with different activities she was involved with. In cheer, those are class periods not days.

Stacy- State statute states a student cannot miss 10 or more absences in that semester or needs to be retained. She has moved from D's to A's quickly but have a ton of absences.
Esquibel- he will check with PowerSchool and get clarification on that.

Stacy- what changed to make her flip the script from a negative atmosphere to now which is 180 degree change.

Myla- her daughter gives her daughter the best future she could. She wants to be able to graduate high school and she decided for her own good and her family and wants to thrive and give family a good future.

Stacy- explain her living situation.
Myla- At Manzano the school was not helping her. She had bad grades, would ask a teacher for help and they wouldn't help. Her boyfriend has family at Santa Rosa, His grandmother lives there and she helps a ton with her baby and they are all amazing.

Esquibel- Adrian's family is from Santa Rosa.

Stacy- stated he is proud of Adrian for stepping up taking care of his business.

Durham- what distractions did she have in the fall. Next semester she wants to run track and play softball and cheer, those are three huge distractions vs the fall semester not having any.
Myla- no distractions. She was doing side-line cheer. Teammates would talk about the competitions and she wants to be a part of it, they also talked about track and softball and she wants to do as much as she can before her senior year ends. She wants to make everyone proud.
Durham- competitive cheer and track and softball, will she be able to fit all of that in.
Myla- she has always wanted to do sports, she will always be on track with her grades and turn in everything.

Durham- Manzano did she play softball or track. No.
Durham- did she do Competitive cheer there, no.

Stacy- with her being gone, is Adrian ready to support her. Yes sir, he is, and he is also on track to graduate.

Executive Session
Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for discussion purposes only. A motion was made by Ms. Daugherty and seconded by Mr. Durham to go into Executive Session at 10:41 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Keith Durham**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**
X		**Mrs. Freda Daugherty**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to go back into open session. A motion was made by Mr. Lee and seconded by Ms. Daugherty at 10:47 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (5-0). Mr. Benoit stated there was no action taken during Executive Session.

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Keith Durham**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**
X		**Ms. Freda Daugherty**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**

Action Items
Vote On Student Eligibility: Mr. Benoit asked if there was any need for further discussion, if not he asked for a motion to uphold, amend or overturn the original decision. A motion was made by Mr. Durham to overturn the New Mexico Activities Association Decision regarding the Santa Rosa High School appeal. Mr. Stacy seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously passed with a vote of 5-0.

Call to Order
Mr. Benoit called to order the appeal for Hagerman High School at 10:55 a.m.

Closed Session (unless family requests hearing to be in open session)
Mr. Benoit asked the appealing party if they wish for the appeal hearing to be in open session or closed session. The appealing party requested the hearing be conducted in open session.

Mr. Benoit- the appeal hearing will be open session as per the request.

Background and Ruling
Landen is a junior transfer student who has moved back to Hagerman with his mother and re-enrolled in Hagerman HS. Landen initially moved from mom to dad and spent the fall semester of the 2025-2026 SY with his dad in Artesia playing football for Artesia HS. Because Landen is now making his second parent-to-parent move, moving back with his mother, he has been ruled as a transfer student back at Hagerman. As a result, he has been ruled ineligible for varsity football at Hagerman HS but eligible for varsity participation

in all other sports under the did not participate provision. Additionally, because Landen will be a senior next year, he has also been ruled ineligible for any sub-varsity participation at Hagerman HS during the 2026-2027 season, including in the sport of football.

Aggrieved Party Statement

Rodriguez- stated they understand the ruling and the rule, but they are hoping he gets the chance to participate in football next year. Knows he did participate at Artesia, but he didn't play at the varsity level. Also, he is coming from playing 11-man football to Hagerman to 8-man, which is not a competitive advantage for them with a different set of rules. Landen is a great student and a great kid and active in all the other sports they have there. He would like the opportunity to play football at Hagerman.

Ms. Lucero- know he was eager to come back to Hagerman and be a part of the team again and would like the ability to play.

Committee Question
Stacy- why the move to begin with.
Landen- he moved to Artesia as he wanted the chance to spend more time with his dad. They also did get a new head coach at Artesia they don't see eye to eye.
Stacy- spending more time with dad, not that far from each other, but gave it only a semester. What happened.
Landen- missed being home and they weren't friends he grew up with his entire life. His dad works everyday from 7-5 and he has practice usually until 530 so by time he gets home he is in bed. Little moments he gets to spend it did mean a lot.
Stacy- Football at Artesia, he just played football. Why not basketball.
Landen- basketball is not his favorite sport, he isn't into it that much.
Stacy- would he be on varsity this next year. Yes sir.

Durham- father working in oil fields, did he ever come to Hagerman to visit. No, he does not.
Durham- did he used to live in Hagerman- yes sir

Durham-has his dad always worked in the oil fields- yes sir.
Durham- in Artesia what position did he play. Corner back

Daugherty- did he play varsity at Artesia, no JV at Artesia.

Benoit- understands correctly, other than football his senior year at Hagerman he is eligible in all other sports. Dusty- Correct.
Benoit- lived in Hagerman entire year except this one semester. Yes.
Stacy- mothers letter written to them stated it was a priority was his mental health. That hasn't been discussed or talked about.
Landen- when he was at Artesia he knew it wouldn't be home, walking into practice everyday felt he was forced to be there. Mental took a toll on him. Parents noticed it. He wasn't the same and just wanted to go back home. Friends at Hagerman made him feel like himself.

When did he go to Artesia- late July early August. Did he start with 2 a days with the football program.
Landen- when he got there, they were taking team pictures just practice in the afternoon. First day of

school, week before.

Daugherty- which coach was it that he didn't see eye to eye with. Mr. Giles.

Durham- did anyone let him know about eligibility issues if he transferred.
Landen- no sir.

Benoit- he stated he didn't see eye to eye with the coach, so it wasn't what he thought it would be.
Landen- yes would say so, everyone kept saying he was going to be a good coach and do all he could be better men and better players, could tell he want going to do any of that.

Executive Session
Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for discussion purposes only. A motion was made by Ms. Daugherty and seconded by Mr. Lee to go into Executive Session at 11:12 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Keith Durham**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**
X		**Mrs. Freda Daugherty**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to go back into open session. A motion was made by Mr. Durham and seconded by Mr. Lee to go back into closed session at 11:20 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (5-0). Mr. Benoit stated there was no action taken during Executive Session.

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Keith Durham**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**
X		**Ms. Freda Daugherty**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**

Action Items
Vote On Student Eligibility: Mr. Benoit asked if there was any need for further discussion, if not he asked for a motion to uphold, amend or overturn the original decision. A motion was made by Mr. Stacy to uphold the New Mexico Activities Association Decision regarding the Hagerman High School appeal. Mr. Lee seconded. A vote was taken and passed with a vote of 4-0. Ms. Daugherty abstained.

Adjournment
Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mr. Durham and seconded by Ms. Daugherty. The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.