

NMAA Board Summary September 23, 2026

The New Mexico Activities Association's Board of Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, September 23rd at 9am in the NMAA Hall of Pride and Honor.

Gene Strickland was elected as Board Vice-President.

Executive Director Dusty Young gave his Director's Report which included information pertaining to the NMAA Strategic Planning Committee, the NMAA Bylaws Committee, the NFHS Section 6 meeting, NMSBA regional meetings, new NFHS Leadership, the NMAA Policy Manual, the addition of two new Board members, Debra Sena-Holton and Dawn Kalberg, and the addition of Leonard Longhorn to the NMAA staff.

CPA Frank Lovato of Loftis & Lovato presented the organizational audit for 2025-2026. Business Manager Annette Castillo presented the NMAA Financial Report which included financials and ticket sales numbers for all 2025-2026 state championships.

Assistant Director Julie Sanchez presented the NMAA Foundation Report which included information pertaining to the recent Board of Directors meeting, grants and scholarships to be awarded during the 2026-2027 school year, additional Foundation initiatives, and upcoming Foundation events.

Ms. Sanchez presented the NMAA Activities Report which included information pertaining to the recent Activities Council Meeting, and the upcoming State Marching Band and One-Act Play competitions.

Manager of Officials Operations Carl Vigil presented the New Mexico Officials Association Report which included information regarding the recent hire of Leonard Longhorn as Manager of Officiating Affairs, the increased staff support for officials' services, Zac Stevenson's prior leadership as Commissioner of Officials and Director of Officials Services, the 2026 New Mexico High School Sports Conference and honorees recognized, and current officials' numbers for fall sports.

Associate Director Gary Allison provided an update on the Student Leadership Advisory Council. Assistant Director Zac Stevenson presented a discussion item on the season start date for basketball. Deputy Director Scott Owen presented three (3) discussion items which included new eligibility bylaws, charter school scholastic eligibility, and non-traditional school eligibility. Mr. Young presented four (4) discussion items which included girls' flag football, ejection appeal fees, Commission and Board officer terms, and NMAA involvement in sanctioned activities.

The Board of Directors took action on the following items:

- Voted to approve the 2025-2026 organizational audit.
- Voted in favor of a proposal to amend the mercy rule in the sport of basketball.
- Voted in favor of a proposal to remove the district championship tie-breaker game in the sport of basketball.
- Voted in favor of a proposal to publicize coach input forms for state championship seeding and selection.
- Voted in favor of a proposal to remove the limitation on appeal committee representatives.

The next regular NMAA Board of Directors' meeting will take place on December 3, 2026.