

**NMAA Commission Meeting**  
**February 2, 2022**  
**9:00 AM**  
**Virtual via Zoom**

**Welcome** – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernie Viramontes at 9:00 am. A roll call was conducted by Mr. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, and the following members were present:

Mr. Kamau Turner (Small, Area A)  
Mr. Ben Tensay (Large Area A)  
Mr. Dickie Roybal (Small, Area B)  
Mr. Cooper Henderson (Large Area B)  
Mr. Jory Mirabal (Small, Area C)  
Mr. Ernie Viramontes (Large Area C) \**Chair*  
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small Area D)  
Ms. Ann Stewart (Large Area D)  
Mr. Willie Owens (Non-Public Schools)  
Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)  
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals)  
Mr. Larry Chavez (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association)  
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)  
Mr. Dale Lindley (Jr. High/Middle School Committee)  
Mr. Donald Valdez (New Mexico State School Boards Association)

Not Present  
Mr. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association)

15 members were present representing a quorum.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Hahn made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Lindley seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2021 Commission Meeting as presented. Mr. Chavez made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Owens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

**NMAA Director's Report:**

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed two (2) items on his report: 1) provided an update on the NMAA Foundation which included information about the 2021-2022 scholarship program, the 2021-2022 school grant/support program, and the annual Bowl-A-Thon & Golf Classic fundraisers. 2) stated that the NMAA is looking to further advance their partnership with The NFHS Network through a program that would ensure all member schools have Pixellot cameras installed within their athletic facilities at no charge that would allow for the streaming of various contests/events. NMAA Executive Director, Sally Marquez, introduced the Commission's newest member, Mr. Donald Valdez of Chama Schools, who will represent the New Mexico School Boards Association.

**NMAA Financial Report:**

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer, NMAA Business Manager, presented the financial report. She discussed two (2) items on her report: 1) provided financial reports for all fall championships; and 2) presented ticket sales information for all fall championships.

**NMAA Activities Report:**

Ms. Tammy Richards, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the activities report. She discussed five (5) items on her report: 1) stated all state activity events will take place this semester with most showing an increase in participants; 2) reported that one activity has already held its state event with Act Production taking place in January; 3) provided information regarding the February state activity events in Bowling, Educators Rising, Science Olympiad, English Expo, Chess, & Student Council; 4) reported on the recent NMAA Student Leadership Advisory Council Meeting; and 5) gave more information regarding the NMAA Foundation Bowl-A-Thon and NMAA Foundation Golf Classic that Mr. Young referenced in his report.

**New Mexico Officials Association Report:**

Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the officials report. He discussed eight (8) items on his report: 1) stated Winter Sports Officials Appreciation week is currently underway; 2) reported that the NMAA/NMOA has seen ninety-eight (98) first time official registrations this school year; 3) provided information regarding the NMOA's recruitment, retention, and training/educational efforts, which included a meeting with the NFL to discuss its Grassroots Pipeline Initiative; 4) reported on the upcoming NMOA Board Meeting which will include discussions pertaining to the NMOA Constitution and possible changes to mileage payments; 5) provided information on officials numbers showing an increase in basketball, wrestling, and spirit officials and a slight decrease in swimming and diving officials; 6) reported that current spring official numbers are down about 9% from last year; 7) provided survey data related to current registered officials and their plans to register for next year; 8) stated the NMOA is working on offering a Sports Officiating curriculum that would provide training for future young officials. Ms. Marquez added New Mexico is one of the first states working on this initiative which could establish the NMAA as a pipeline for other state associations.

**Discussion/Informational Items:**

Winter State Championships - Ms. Marquez provided an update on the changes made to the 2022 NMAA Winter Sports State Championships. These changes were made to help schools navigate the current overnight travel regulations implemented by the Public Education Department due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that Swimming & Diving will be a two-day event with the boys taking place on Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, and the girls taking place on Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>; Only two spectators only per athlete will be allowed to attend due to capacity limitations. Wrestling will take place on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> for Classes A-3A and 4A and on Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup> for Class 5A and Girls. Basketball will begin with the first round on March 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> at host school sites and continues at host school sites for the Quarterfinals on March 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>; the Semifinals and Finals will take place March 10<sup>th</sup>-March 12<sup>th</sup> at The Pit, Bernalillo High School, and the Rio Rancho Events Center. She also stated some districts have decided to forgo the district tournament which would automatically qualify the regular season champion only. Lastly, Spirit will take place on March 18-19<sup>th</sup> with cheer taking place over one day on Friday, and dance over one day on Saturday.

NMOA State Clinic / NMHSCA Summer Clinic - Ms. Marquez discussed the possibility of holding the NMOA State Clinic and NMHSCA Summer Clinic at the same time in future years. This would bring coaches and officials together as was done many years ago. The Commission provided positive feedback as the group felt this would help with communication between the two groups while also ensuring the same messages were heard. This would also allow for a much larger scale and collaborative event for the state's leadership organizations for education based athletics/activities (New Mexico Activities Association, New Mexico Officials Association, New Mexico High School Coaches Association, and the New Mexico Athletic Directors Association).

Bylaws Committee Update: Classification and Alignment - Ms. Marquez provided an update on the work of the Bylaws Committee and Classification & Alignment for the future. She stated that the group discussed the possible implementation of formulas pertaining to socio-economic factors and/or success/lack of success to classify schools. She also mentioned that the group provided feedback

regarding scheduling and seeding/selection as those two factors seem to be intertwined with C & A. The Commission provided feedback supporting changes to seeding/selection that would remove wins versus district champs from the criteria points used and change the second tiebreaker from MaxPreps Rankings to MaxPreps Strength of Schedule. Ms. Marquez stated the Bylaws Committee would continue to meet to work on these topics and updates would be provided to both the Commission and Board of Directors.

**Action Items:**

**Powerlifting: Sanction as Sport** - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to elevate powerlifting from temporary activity status to a fully sanctioned NMAA winter sport beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made the motion to table the proposal until the next Commission meeting. Mr. Affentranger seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

**Wrestling: Boys' Weight Class Realignment** - Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, presented a proposal to reduce and realign the boys' wrestling weight class beginning with the 2022-2023 wrestling season. Bylaw 7.24.1.F.4 would be amended to read as follows: There will be thirteen (13) weight classes utilized for boys' wrestling: 107,114,121,127,133,139,145 152,160,172,189, 215 and 285. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Chavez made the motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Stewart seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

**Wrestling: Regional State Qualifying** - Mr. Owen presented a proposal, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, to use a regional format for state qualifying instead of the district format. Teams would continue to compete in team duals within their standard district alignment but would qualify individually to state through a regional qualifier. Bylaw 7.24.5 would read as follows: State Tournament is held during week #34, State Tournament qualifying shall be determined by placement in the regional tournament or by the wild card procedure, and the number of automatic qualifiers in each region and classification are as follows: Class 5A (27 schools) 1-5A (7), 2-5A (7); Class A/4A (38 schools) 1-A/4A (7), 2-A/4A (7). Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Mabrey made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Tensay seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

**Football: 6-Man Calendar** - Mr. Young presented a proposal to consider amending the calendar (Bylaw 7.15.6-Playoff Weeks) for Class 6-Man Football so that brackets for the state tournament are released on the Saturday of Week #17 (one week later). This would add one week to the regular season and push back all rounds of the playoffs one week. Finals would take place on the Saturday of Week #20. Game limitations would be left at 9 but would provide one open/bye week for schools. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Turner made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Valdez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

**Esports: Bylaw Amendments** - Mr. Young presented a proposal to consider amendments to Section 8.3 (Esports Bylaws) of the NMAA Handbook which reflect the current process/procedures utilized by the New Mexico Activities Association in conjunction with its Esports provider. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Turner seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. (15-0).

**Consider Adjournment:**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m. Mr. Affentranger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lindley seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).