

NMAA Commission Meeting
February 4, 2025
9:00 AM
Hall of Pride and Honor

Welcome – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Scott Affentranger, Chairman of the Commission at 9:00 am. A roll call was conducted by Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, and the following members were present:

Ms. Debra Sena-Holton (Small Area A)
Mr. Ben Tensay (Large Area A)
Mr. Kevin Lackey (Small Area B)
Mr. Britt Cooper (Large Area B)
Mr. Jory Mirabal (Small Area C)
Ms. Karen Nougues (Large Area C)
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small Area D)
Mr. Adrian Ortega (Large Area D)
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals) - *Chairman*
Mr. Isaac Gamboa (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association)
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)
Ms. Taryn Bachis (Non-Public Schools)
Mr. Adrian Pete (Jr. High/Middle School Committee)
Mr. David Briseno (New Mexico Officials Association)
Mr. Toby Velasquez (New Mexico School Boards Association)

15 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:

Mr. Angel Castillo (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Tensay made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025, Commission Meeting as presented. Mr. Tensay made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

NMAA Directors' Report:

Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Associate Director, discussed six (6) items in his report: 1) provided an update on winter and spring sports; 2) stated the Bylaws Committee met in January and discussed potential revisions to eligibility bylaws; 3) provided a legislative update and detailed a bill introduced during the current 30-day session that proposes to put student eligibility under the purview of the New Mexico Public Education Department; 4) stated that the NMAA will induct Ms. Dana Pappas and Mr. Mike Chambers into the NMAA Hall of Fame; 5) welcomed to the Commission, Mr. Alan Edmonson of Alamogordo High School representing Large Area C and Mr. Toby Velasquez representing the New Mexico School Boards Association; and 6) congratulated Ms. Shari Kessler-Schawaner, NMAA Business Manager, on her upcoming retirement and

thanked her for all of her hard work and dedication in her 24 years at the NMAA. Ms. Annette Castillo, NMAA Bookkeeper, will take over her position upon retirement.

Financial Report:

Ms. Annette Castillo, NMAA Bookkeeper, presented the NMAA Financial Report. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) presented the 2025-2026 fall championships reports; and 2) presented tickets sales for fall championships which shows an overall increase from last year.

NMAA Foundation Report:

Ms. Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director, presented the NMAA Foundation report. She presented three (3) items in her report: 1) stated the Foundation wrapped up their January grant cycle and five schools have been awarded funding; 2) stated Foundation scholarship applications are being reviewed with nearly 650 submissions and a total of over 60 scholarships to be awarded; and 3) the NMAA Foundation recently hosted its 17th annual Bowl-A-Thon, the event was very successful, and all proceeds will go to scholarship programs and/or school grants.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Sanchez, presented the activities report. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) State Drama took place last week and had a great turnout; and 2) all remaining activity state events will take place between February-June.

NMAA Officials Report:

Mr. Carl Vigil, Commissioner of Officials, presented the Officials' report. He presented four (4) items in his report: 1) stated winter seasons are nearing completion and selection of state officials are currently underway; 2) varsity regional assigner ballots have gone out with a slight change in terms moving from a 2-year term to a 3-year term; 3) three NMOA affiliated individuals have been selected for NFHS officiating awards - Ms. Dana Pappas, NFHS Director of Officiating Services; Mr. Land Clark, NMAA multi-sport tournament and current NFL official, and Mr. John Vance Lee Sr. the NFHS Section 6 Active Official of the Year for his outstanding service to New Mexico; and 4) presented the number of officials for winter sports, which are down slightly but holding steady.

General Discussion/Information Items:

Member Charter School Transfers: Ms. Chris Rigali, Athletic Director, Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School, and Mr. Trey Smith, Executive Director, East Mountain Charter School, discussed the effect of the charter school lottery system on student transfers and proposed providing an eligibility exception to students who later transfer into a charter school after previously being denied a lottery selection. Mr. Owen clarified the request would be specifically for students who had continually shown intent on attending a charter school by continuously applying for acceptance.

Volleyball Tournament Structure: Ms. Debra Sena-Holton discussed the possibility of bringing back the district tournament along with increasing the number of state qualifying teams from 12 to 16, proposing that this would provide better statewide representation as well as provide the opportunity for all teams to participate in a post-season tournament. Feedback included the need to reduce the regular season schedule and number of games to fit in the district tournament, as well as the financial feasibility of conducting a volleyball district tournament.

Tournament Entry Fees: Ms. Debra Sena-Holton discussed tournament entry fees and the need for host schools to lower/prorate fees when a school is bringing a reduced roster, specifically in individual sports. Discussion included making it a recommendation for host schools to work with schools with smaller rosters to lower/prorate entry fees.

Cheerleading Competition Requirements: Ms. Debra Sena-Holton discussed the difficulties smaller schools face in meeting the three-meet minimum in order to be post-season eligible, stating that smaller schools share a lot of athletes making it difficult for cheerleading squads to travel to these events. Feedback included the possibility of moving the state competition to late fall to reduce the year-long overlap.

Student Leadership and Mental Health Initiatives: Mr. Gary Allison, NMAA Assistant Director, discussed the student leadership advisory regional meetings. Mr. Allison stated that they have been a huge success, and a major discussion at each regional meeting has been around mental health and having access to resources and help lines for young students and athletes.

Attendance for Success Act: Mr. Owen stated there have been several questions about the Attendance for Success Act. Many districts withhold credit due to absenteeism. Mr. Owen asked for feedback concerning how that should affect scholastic eligibility as well as how it should affect the seven-day grace period for declaring eligibility. Because there is a lack of consistency in how school districts are employing the statute, general response was to allow each district/school to regulate how absenteeism is handled on an individual district/school basis.

Eligibility/One-Free Transfer: Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, discussed the need for a review of eligibility bylaws including the possibility of a one-free transfer for each student athlete during their high school career. Mr. Young discussed trends across the nation as well as external pressures for change. He emphasized the importance of evaluating our current policies to ensure they stay consistent with national trends but also that any policy changes are vetted thoroughly to ensure they function as intended. A proposal for action will go to the Commission at the May meeting. Feedback included needing strict regulations for undue influence as well as out-of-state transfers.

State Championship Formats: Mr. Young discussed that state tournament formats in all sports would be evaluated over the coming months to ensure that events are organized and structured to best meet the needs of both the membership as well as participants and family members.

Action Items

Tennis Match Coaching Policy: Ms. Sanchez presented a proposal regarding a pilot which would expand coaching opportunities during team and individual play throughout the 2026 season, including the state championships under bylaws 7.21.3.C.7 and 7.21.3.E.3.

*Stricken language is removed. Underlined language is added.

Coaching: Coaching during play is permitted. The designated high school coach(es) may communicate with his/her players between points and during change of sides through the fence only. Coaching shall not disrupt the normal flow of play and shall only occur at the fence during changeovers. In the case of split sets, a 10-minute break may be awarded at the request of either player. Coaching may occur off-court during this time.

Note: New pilot regulations are underlined.

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Gamboa made the motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Bachis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

NMOA: Scrimmage Fees/Protocol: Mr. Vigil presented a proposal to allow schools to compensate officials for services provided in scrimmage style events not to exceed one-half of a regular game fee per similar time commitments or approximately \$20 per hour. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Briseno made a motion to approve the proposal, but with an amendment to allow schools to also charge admission during scrimmage style events. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Consider Adjournment

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tensay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).