

**NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting  
February 18, 2026  
9:00 a.m.  
NMAA Hall of Pride and Honor**

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Martin Madrid, NMAA Board of Directors Vice-President, at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Annette Castillo, NMAA, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)  
Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)  
Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)  
Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)  
Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)  
Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)  
Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)  
Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II) – Teleconference  
Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)  
Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)  
Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo (New Mexico School Boards Association)

**Not Present**

Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A – President)  
Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large School District I)

11 members were present representing a quorum.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. White made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2025 Board Meeting. Mr. Lackey made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (10-0) with Mr. Jaramillo abstaining.

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:04 a.m. for a report and discussion with legal counsel, Beth German, on pending and threatened litigation. Mr. Moyer made the motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Bibiano seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed (11-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)

Yes		Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II) - <i>Via Teleconference</i>
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo (NM School Boards Association)

*Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey entered the meeting during Executive Session.*

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 10:18 a.m. Mr. Moyer made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. Lee seconded the motion. Mr. Madrid stated no action was taken in the Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II) - <i>Via Teleconference</i>
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo (NM School Boards Association)

**NMAA Director’s Report:**

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, discussed six (6) items in his report: 1) gave an update on winter and spring sports; 2) welcomed Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo, representing the New Mexico School Boards Association, to the Board; 3) stated that the Bylaws Committee continues to meet with eligibility continuing to be its main focus; 4) provided information regarding two legislative bills, Senate Bill 141, concerning NMPED oversight of NMAA eligibility, and House Bill 256, concerning AED’s at athletic competitions and practices; 5) congratulated Mr. Mike Chambers and Ms. Dana Pappas as the newest inductees to the NMAA Hall of Fame; and 6) thanked Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer for her service to the NMAA ahead of her scheduled retirement later this Spring.

**Financial Report:**

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer, NMAA Business Manager, 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 were awarded funding totaling \$9,500; 2) stated Foundation scholarship applications are being reviewed with nearly 650 submissions and over 60 scholarships awarded; and 3) stated that 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 month and had a great turnout; and 2) stated all remaining activity state events will take place between February-June.

#### **NMAA Officials Report:**

Mr. Zac Stevenson, Assistant Director, 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 expanding to a 3-year term from a 2-year term; 3) presented the number of officials for winter sports, which are down slightly; and 4) stated 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.

#### **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.

*Volleyball Tournament Structure:* Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, presenting on behalf of Commission Member 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.

*Tournament Entry Fees:* Mr. Young, presenting on behalf of Commission Member Ms. Debra Sena-Holton, discussed the increasing costs of tournament entry fees, especially in individual sports, and recommended host schools provide a pro-rated option for schools with limited entries.

*Cheerleading Competition Requirements:* Mr. Young, presenting on behalf of Commission Member Ms. Debra Sena-Holton, discussed the three-meet minimum requirement for state eligibility and its effect on small schools who tend to share a lot of athletes, making it difficult for their cheerleading squads to meet the requirement.

*Student Leadership and Mental Health Initiatives:* Mr. Gary Allison, NMAA Assistant Director, discussed the student leadership advisory regional meetings. Mr. Allison stated 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. Feedback included supporting these

students and working together to bring awareness regarding mental health and providing resources for student athletes and coaches.

*Attendance for Success Act:* Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Associate Director, stated there have been several questions about the Attendance for Success Act. Many districts withhold credit due to absenteeism. Mr. Owen requested feedback concerning how that should affect scholastic eligibility as well as how it should affect the seven-day grace period for declaring eligibility.

*One Free Transfer:* Mr. Young discussed potential changes to eligibility, including a one-free-transfer rule to be proposed later this spring and effective for the 2026-2027 school year if approved. He stated that many other states who have passed similar policies have strengthened their recruitment and undue influence bylaws. Feedback included concerns with the displacement of current students, the creation of “super teams,” and other possible unintended consequences.

*Virtual School Student Eligibility:* Mr. Young discussed the nuances of virtual curriculum as a program within a school and how that can affect where a student is eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities. Feedback included treating students enrolled in virtual curriculum, regardless of how it’s designated, similar to home school students and allowing those students to be eligible to participate at their local attendance zone public school. Other concerns centered around funding for these students as well as how those students are counted for enrollment purposes.

*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 the membership.

*Role of the NMAA in Sanctioned Activities:* Mr. Young discussed the current role of the NMAA regarding its non-athletic activities, detailing that the governing bodies of each activity serve as the primary regulatory body of their individual activity, but that the NMAA provides membership, general eligibility requirements, and limited support of state championship events. The NMAA does not currently have appeal procedures in place for non-athletic activities as those are the oversight of each activity’s governing body. Feedback included the possibility of requiring each activity to include in their bylaws an appeal process, which would include an independent group similar to how the NMAA is structured.

#### **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.

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Moyer made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

*NMOA: Scrimmage Fees/Protocol:* Mr. Stevenson 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 and to also allow schools to charge general admission for these scrimmage style events.

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Strickland made the motion to approve. Mr. Affentranger seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:39 a.m to discuss personnel matters and limited personnel matters including the Executive Director’s contract and evaluation process. Mr. Hawkins made the motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II)- <i>Via Teleconference</i>
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo (NM School Boards Association)

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 12:29 p.m. Mr. Strickland made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. Mr. Madrid stated no action was taken in the Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)

Yes		<b>Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large Schools District I)</b>
Yes		<b>Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II)- <i>Via Teleconference</i></b>
Yes		<b>Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large Member)</b>
Yes		<b>Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)</b>
Yes		<b>Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo (NM School Boards Association)</b>

**Executive Director Contract:**

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to consider action pertaining to the Executive Directors' contract. Mr. Diehl made a motion to extend the Executive Directors' contract through June 30, 2028. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

**Consider Adjournment:**

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:31 p.m. Mr. Diehl made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jaramillo seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

**The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2026**