

NMAA Commission Meeting

May 17, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

Hall of Pride and Honor

Welcome – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gary Allison, 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:

Mr. Ben Tensay (Large Area A)
Mr. Gary Allison (Small Area A)
Mr. Cooper Henderson (Large, Area B)
Mr. Dickie Roybal (Small, Area B)
Ms. Karen Nougues (Large, Area C)
Mr. Jory Mirabal (Small, Area C)
Ms. Ann Stewart (Large, Area D)
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small Area D)
Mr. Willie Owens (Non-Public Schools)
Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)
Ms. LeeAnn Moores (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association)
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)
Ms. Linda Montoya (New Mexico School Boards Association)
Mr. Adrian Pete (Jr. High/Middle School Committee)

14 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:

Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals)
Mr. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association)

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve an amended agenda that would move the Hardship and Appeal Action Items to Discussion Items. Ms. Moores made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Mabrey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2023, Commission Meeting as presented. Ms. Montoya made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Mirabal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

NMAA Director's Report:

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed two (2) items on his report: 1) recapped the spring state championship season and thanked the NMAA staff for their hard work; and 2) provided information regarding the NMAA Foundation Golf Classic fundraiser and scholarship program that the event supports. Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, added two (2) items to the report: 1) provided results from a recent survey regarding basketball district tie breakers and district tournaments; and 2) stated the NMAA will be looking at bylaw violations committed by coaches and the ensuing sanctions assessed.

NMAA Financial Report:

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, NMAA Business Manager, presented the financial report. She discussed two (2) items on her report: 1) provided box reports for fall & winter championships and stated spring financials would not be closed out until June; and 2) reported on ticket sales for all 2022-2023 championships.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Tammy Richards, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the activities report. She discussed four (4) items on her report: 1) stated all activity state events have concluded with the exception of FFA, which will take place in June; and 2) reported that Powerlifting was a huge success again this year and will continue with its transition to a sport in 2023-2024; 3) provided a recap of the State Esports Championships; and 4) stated that the next Activities Council Meeting will take place in September.

New Mexico Officials Association Report:

Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the officials report. He discussed six (6) items on his report: 1) presented data that was collected during state basketball pertaining to time of possession as compared to shot clock standards used in other states; 2) updated the group on a new NFHS Rule regarding team fouls that will be implemented in high school basketball; 3) provided an update on the online officials education program that is being used by many schools around the state (RefReps); 4) reported on DragonFly and collaborative efforts to improve the platform for New Mexico; 5) stated that regional assignors will be meeting with schools to begin coordinating schedules for the fall semester; and 6) provided information pertaining to the NMOA State Clinic – Mr. Young referenced that the event will conclude with a collaborative awards banquet that will honor individuals from the NMAA, NMHSCA, NMOA, and NMADA. Ms. Marquez added that Mr. Dillon Metzgar, former NMAA employee, will be working with DragonFly and thus will still be a resource moving forward.

General Discussion/Information Items

CPR/AED Requirement - Ms. Marquez stated the NMAA is working with the NMPED regarding the state statute that was recently passed which requires CPR/AED for athletic coaches beginning in 2023-2024. The state is trying to see if this will be best as part of coach licensure or as a separate required certification. Feedback included the concerns with implementation due to timing, funding, and adding another requirement for coaches when schools are already struggling to fill these roles.

Classification & Alignment - Ms. Marquez discussed classification and alignment for the 2024-2026 block on the possible use of a “lack of success factor” in the sport of football. Feedback included surveying schools to see if the membership would be in favor of this and looking at how it could impact other sports in the future.

Dropping Games/Tournaments - Ms. Marquez discussed the increased number of games/events and tournaments that schools are dropping, leaving opponents in difficult situations. Feedback included going back to a required paper contract and holding firm on the parameters listed within this agreement.

Middle School Membership - Ms. Marquez discussed the need for the NMAA to better serve its middle schools and asked for ideas as to how to get them more involved. Feedback included holding mandatory virtual meetings to go over NMAA bylaws and basic expectations, introduce staff, and collaborate as a group.

Track & Field: Weekday Meets - Ms. Marquez discussed weekday track meets and the burden this can place on schools/students based on the length of the meet and time that the events may end. She suggested that if these meets take place, limitations on the number of entries and/or teams participating should be considered. Feedback was mostly positive but also included questions about being allowed to start meets earlier and holding JV and varsity meets on different days.

Eligibility: Hardship – Bullying – Ms. Marquez deferred to NMAA Assistant Director, Mr. Scott Owen, regarding recent updates to the definition of an Eligibility Hardship and adjustments to paperwork that now address bullying, hazing, and harassment in more detail. Feedback included the importance of adding these parameters to help with consistency when the hardship committee reviews these cases.

Eligibility: Appeals Process - Ms. Marquez discussed potential changes to the appeal process that would include a new step where the petition would be reviewed by an independent third party. This would be a retired judge that could look at all facts pertaining to the situation and provide a neutral ruling. Feedback included a request to ensure that both the sending and receiving school are a part of this process.

Football: State Playoff Sites - Mr. Young presented possible guidelines to help member schools assess their football facilities when hosting state playoff contests. Feedback included difficulties in determining how these guidelines could be applied across all classifications, concerns with eliminating the ability for certain schools to host due to the lack of resources, and concerns with consistency as to what is “sufficient” when hosting.

Football: Summer Activity - Mr. Young discussed possible updates to summer activity policies for football that would allow schools the opportunity to use pads and utilize full contact for a limited timeframe. Feedback included concerns with liability, equipment reconditioning, and staffing. Mr. Mabrey encouraged the group to be open to this based on recent changes to out-of-season coaching for other sports and a school's ability to opt in or out based on their own policies/beliefs.

Administrative Presence at Athletic Contests - Mr. Henderson asked the group to consider adjustments to the policies requiring an administrator or designee that is not the head coach be present at all athletic contests. He stated that the head coach could easily serve in this capacity for certain events that take place in sports like golf or tennis where crowd control is typically not a major issue.

Action Items

Sportsmanship / Compete with Class - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to update the Crowd Control Bylaw to include specific penalties for egregious acts of unsportsmanlike conduct. Bylaw 7.7.4 Crowd Control and Unsportsmanlike Conduct shall read as follows: A school is responsible for the conduct of its team, coaches, students, and fans at any interscholastic event in which the school is participating. The basic responsibility for crowd control lies with the host administration who are required to provide an administrator or administrator's designee to be in attendance. It is also recommended that the visiting school provide an administrator or administrator's designee for any potentially contentious contests. In both situations, the administrator and/or administrator's designee cannot be a coach participating in the event. The Executive Director may invoke penalties upon a member school for actions, which violate the principles of "Compete with Class." These actions include, but are not limited to, hindering the normal progress of an event, creating situations that may lead to the restriction or discontinuance of interscholastic competition, or endangering or threatening the personal safety of any individuals involved. Unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, students, and/or spectators may cause the school or individual to be placed on probation or suspension for 180 school days/365 calendar days (See also 7.6.23).

A. Team/Fan Suspension from Athletic Activities for Unsportsmanlike Conduct

1. Any time an egregious act of unsportsmanlike conduct by a team participant, including a coach, occurs two or more times during the same season, at the same school, in the same activity, the team will be suspended from participation in that activity for the remainder of the season.
2. Any time an egregious act of unsportsmanlike conduct by a non-team participant occurs two or more times during the same season, at the same school, in the same activity, all school spectators will be suspended from attendance in that activity for the remainder of the season.
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined in the NMAA Handbook as non-compliance with sport specific rules and NMAA policies, including behaviors incompatible with "Compete with Class" and the interscholastic educational objective. Examples of egregious unsportsmanlike conduct by participants, coaches, or spectators include but are not limited to, fans entering the playing surface to engage in acts of violence or abuse, constant verbal attacks on officials, attacking other fans, coaches physically or verbally attacking officials, players fighting other players during post game handshakes, or student sections verbally chanting inappropriate or demeaning comments towards individuals, teams, or officials.
4. In the event the second act of misconduct occurs when there are no contests left in the current season, the penalty may be applied to the next season in the same activity. The NMAA will notify the school that the team and/or individual/spectators has been placed on warning after the first offense.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Nougues seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Amateurism / NIL - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to update Amateurism bylaws to provide clarity on when amateur status is lost and the means in which student-athletes can utilize their name, image and likeness. Bylaw 6.18.3 Loss of Amateurism Status shall read as follows: An amateur athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by: A. Competing for money or other monetary compensation. B. Receiving any award or prize of monetary value. C. Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value in affiliation or connection with activities involving the student's school team or school. 1. This provision is not intended to restrict the right of any student to participate in a commercial endorsement provided there is no school team, school, or NMAA affiliation. 2. The student is prohibited from appearing in the uniform of the student's school and may not utilize the marks, logos, etc. of the school, or NMAA as part of any endorsement. Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Ms. Stewart made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Owens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Video Taping Policy: Telescopic Poles/Cameras - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to regulate the use of telescopic camera/video poles during NMAA sanctioned events. Bylaw 7.7.9 Video Recording/Telecasts/Radio Broadcasting Consent Rule/Procedures (D) shall read as follows: Telescopic camera poles shall be banned at

all times and shall only be utilized by approved media or school personnel. Telescopic camera poles shall not be permitted on the players' sideline or inside the spectator seating area. Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Roybal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Mr. Allison congratulated Mr. Henderson on his upcoming retirement and thanked him for his service to the NMAA and the kids of New Mexico.

Consider Adjournment

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:19 p.m. Ms. Stewart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Owens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).