

NMAA Commission Meeting
May 20, 2015
9:00 AM
NMAA Office

Welcome – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bruce Carver at 9:00 am. A roll call was conducted by Mrs. Mindy Ioane, NMAA Graphic Designer/Special Event Coordinator, and the following members were present:

Mr. Todd Kurth (Small, Area A)
Mr. Wayne Ferguson (Small, Area B)
Mr. Gary Schuster (Small, Area C)
Mr. Dave Campbell (Small, Area D)
Mr. Pete MacFarlane (Non-Public School Rep.)
Mr. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association Rep.)
Mr. Scott Affentranger (National Association of Secondary School Principals Rep.)
Mr. Bruce Carver (Large, Area A)
Mr. Greg Haston (Large, Area B)
Mr. Ernie Viramontes (Large, Area C)
Mr. Kenny Barreras (Large, Area D)
Mr. Cooper Henderson (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association Rep.)
Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association Rep.)
Mr. Don Gerheart (Activities Council Member)
Ms. Debbie Coffman (Jr. High/Middle School Rep.)

Not present:

Mr. Terry Martin (State School Boards Association Rep.)

15 members present representing a quorum.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Carver asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Gerheart made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Haston seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Carver asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2015 Commission Meeting as presented. Mr. Schuster made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Viramontes seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

NMAA Directors' Report:

Mr. Bill Cleland, NMAA Associate Director, discussed three (3) items on his report: 1) the appointment by Commission Chairman Mr. Bruce Carver of Mr. Todd Kurth to the Commission, replacing Mr. Manny Lucero in Small, Area A; 2) the Small, Area B position on the NMAA Board will be vacated upon the retirement of Mr. Paul Benoit. Nominations for this position are being accepted through June 2nd, and 3) the referendums (Petition Process and Football Competition Period) that passed by vote of the NMAA membership since the last Commission meeting.

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed three (3) items on his report: 1) he announced the completion of the 2014-2015 Winter and Spring Sports Championships; 2) announced the three new venues for the 2015 State Golf championships; and 3) thanked the coaches for their patience and understanding of the weather delays during Spring sports championships, and gave a special thanks to Rio Rancho and Cleveland High School for use of their facilities during State Baseball and Softball.

Mr. Chris Kedge, NMAA Assistant Director, showed a video clip of the Special Olympics race held for the first time in NMAA history during the 2015 State Track and Field Championships. Twenty-two athletes from around the state participated in the events.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Dana Pappas, NMAA Deputy Director, discussed five (5) items on her report: 1) 20 activity contests and conferences have taken place since the last Commission meeting; 2) during the month of April, the NMAA hosted Orchestra at Volcano Vista High School and Choir and Band at Cleveland High School with approximately 4000 students participating; 3) all activity results can be found on the NMAA website by clicking on the Activity page; 4) Ms. Pappas is working on solidifying dates of all NMAA activities for the 2015-2016 school year; and 5) transfer guidelines/eligibility issues are starting to become an area of concern for many activity groups.

NMOA Officials Report:

Ms. Dana Pappas, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, discussed five (5) items on her report: 1) during the 2015 State Basketball Championships, the NMOA used mixed crews for the first time this decade. They received good feedback from coaches and officials about this concept. They also used same region officials if the two competing schools were from the same region; 2) NMOA Constitution revision has passed through vote of the officials; 3) the southeast region had severe struggles covering baseball and softball first round games of the State Championships; 4) the NMOA recruitment video will be ready for the 2015-2016 school year; and 5) the NMOA State Clinic will take place Saturday, July 18, 2015 at the Marriott Pyramid in Albuquerque. The luncheon speaker will be Joey Crawford (NBA).

General Discussion/Information Items:

NMAA bylaw 6.15 – Date for physicals: Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, discussed the physical form requirements. Physicals must be taken on/after April 1st of the current year to be valid for the entire upcoming school year. The thought is that it would be very difficult for Athletic Directors/schools to keep track of the date of each individual's year-to-year physical. The April 1st date was initially set by the Sports Medicine Committee. That date was chosen because cheerleading tryouts were taking place at the end of the school year.

CHSAA Board – Allow NM 8th graders to compete: Ms. Marquez announced to Commission members that the Colorado Association's Board of Directors has voted to allow New Mexico 8th graders to compete with their NM high school teams in Colorado.

Classification/alignment schedule: Ms. Marquez announced that her hope is that the classification/alignment proposal will be voted on by the Board in December for the 2016-2017/2017-2018 block. The NMAA must receive 40 day counts from the PED in November in order to present a proposal. In 2014, the numbers were not given to the NMAA until December 5th. Ms. Marquez has already asked the PED if the numbers could be given to the NMAA by the end of November. Also, Ms. Marquez reminded members that the Board of Directors voted to maintain six classifications for the upcoming classification/alignment block.

Amending ejection policy for fighting/excessive contact: Ms. Marquez asked the Commission to discuss the current ejection policy. She spoke of incidents of defenseless players being punched or kicked without the knowledge of the officials. She asked the members for feedback on whether the Executive Director should continue to administer sanctions at her discretion or to have a standard suspension similar to the soccer proposal which will be presented later on the agenda. The members discussed the ejection policy and the importance of the meaning of the words “fighting/excessive contact.”

10% requirement for championships (each class): Ms. Marquez discussed the current bylaw which states that there must be at least 10% of schools participating to become a sanctioned activity or sport. This bylaw applies to a new sport/activity. Ms. Marquez discussed examples of very low participation within the State Championships, specifically only 2 teams in A-3A Dance and only 7 teams total in 2A 11-man football. She asked if there should be a minimum percentage of participants to compete for a State Championship trophy. Golf and tennis may be a bit different because of their qualifying processes and it is unknown year to year how many teams/individuals will be competing.

State first round game times: Ms. Marquez asked the members for feedback on the topic of first round game times. She does not want to dictate when the first round of state championship games will be played. Some athletic directors feel that if they are the top seed they should be allowed to set the time. She asked the committee if the NMAA should put wording in the bylaws or continue to let Athletic Directors and coaches make the decision themselves. The committee would like to have wording put into the bylaw that would have a “window of time” when games would be played and the Executive Director would have the final say when two teams cannot agree. The NMAA will put a proposal together for the Commission meeting in September.

Option for sport programs to move up in class: Ms. Marquez asked for feedback on allowing successful programs to volunteer to move up in classification in sports where they excel. She stated that some teams do want to move up. The current trend nationwide is that if a school has won a certain amount of state championships they automatically move up in class. The move would be for one classification block only. Ms. Marquez will present this question during the next meeting of the Board of Directors for their input.

Grading periods/eligibility: Ms. Marquez announced that schools are discovering that some students are competing for school teams while they are academically ineligible to participate. She asked if the members thought that the NMAA should go to semester only eligibility. Should students be allowed to take more than one summer class in order to regain eligibility? Should they be allowed to take an online class during winter break to become eligible? She explained that online classes continue to be an issue and she expects this issue to continue to grow. By the time nine weeks have been completed, 50% of the coursework should be complete, which is not always the case. Members discussed the possibility of governing the dates for athletes to take online courses, the NCAA wording on credit recovery, and having a grading period to become eligible. Members also discussed a semester rule with a limitation option for the credit allowance and the state of Texas’ “No pass/No play” policy. Ms. Marquez will discuss this with the Board of Directors during their June meeting.

Open Enrollment choice: Ms. Marquez discussed the fact that there are many issues with open enrollment statewide within the public schools. Committee members mentioned various issues associated with open enrollment. Discussion will occur with the Board about restricting immediate eligibility for students who make an open enrollment choice to attend a public school.

Golf schedules/school attendance: Bill Cleland, NMAA Associate Director, told the members that for schools that participate only in Spring golf, the number of days a student misses school for golf can be excessive. He stated that he was aware of two schools where golfers missed 5 out of 6 school days and another where they missed 11 out of 22 school days. Members indicated that if there were a strict requirement for days missed, the coaches would figure out how to adhere to the rule.

Fat timing issues: Chris Kedge, NMAA Assistant Director, discussed several issues related to use of the system. Concerns that some schools cannot purchase the system, additional items need to be purchased for it to function and training is needed to run the system. Also, schools are unable to enter traditional meets where the same teams come back year-after-year, so they have a hard time finding enough meets where FAT is being used without excessive travel.

Break 10:56 – 11:04

General Action Items:

Alumni game prior to start of season: (Action Item) (Referendum Item): Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked committee members to consider amending the current bylaw which allows schools to sponsor an alumni game so that the alumni game must be played prior to the first regular season game (if approved by the Local School Administration) and it still will not count against their scrimmage limit. The rationale for this proposal is that since the member schools voted to allow an alumni game, many schools have been using this game for competition prior to district games or the state tournament. The game, in some cases, is not even being used for fundraising and community support as intended. Mr. Carver asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Gerheart made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. MacFarlane seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (13-1). Note: Mr. Barreras was out of the meeting during this item.

Selection/Seeding change in tie-breaker process: (Action Item): Ms. Marquez asked the Committee to accept a proposal to the Note section of bylaw 7.11.3 Seeding Process which currently states, "In the event of a tie among criteria points, the MaxPreps Freeman Rankings will be used to break the tie." This proposal reads as follows, "In the event of a tie among criteria points, head to head will be used to break the tie. If there is no head to head competition, or the head to head competition is tied, then MaxPreps Freeman Rankings will be used to break the tie." Mr. Carver asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to accept the proposal. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Ms. Marquez asked the Commission members to think about the question, "What to look at when reviewing "overall record"? Is a 10-0 record the same as a 7-0 or a 4-0 record? She would like to discuss this item and for members to give suggestions during the September Commission meeting.

Licensed school personnel present at all times during contest: (Action Item) (Referendum Item): Ms. Marquez asked the members to consider the proposal to add to bylaw 3.3 (3.3.3): The administration of each school is responsible to the Association in all matters pertaining to the athletic/activities relations of his/her school. The administration of the school may delegate powers to a licensed coach or sponsor. A licensed administrator, coach, or sponsor must be present before and during a game/contest/event in order for their school to participate." Mr. Carver asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Schuster made a motion to discuss the proposal. Mr. Gerheart seconded the motion. Members discussed the need to properly define "licensed" and "sponsor." Ms. Marquez agreed to do

some more research and to contact NMPSIA for advice on the matter. Mr. Schuster withdrew his motion and asked to table the proposal until more information is obtained. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

New bylaw regarding Academically Ineligible Participant: (Action Item) (Referendum Item): Ms. Marquez asked the members to consider a proposal that would require a student who participates in interscholastic events during his/her period of academic ineligibility, to sit out the number of games/events/contests that he/she participated in once he/she becomes academically eligible. Mr. Carver asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Barreras made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Henderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Swimming/diving: Increase meet limits to 12: (Action Item) (Referendum Item): Ms. Stacy Salinas, Swimming and Diving Sport Specific Representative, asked the committee to increase the competition limits for swimming/diving from 10 meets for a team or individual to 12 meets. Mr. Carver asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. MacFarlane made the motion. Mr. Kurth seconded the motion. The members discussed the proposal and the impact that increasing meets would have on other sanctioned sports. A vote was taken and failed (13-2).

Wrestling: Middle school competition limits: (Action Item) (Referendum Item): Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, asked the members to consider a proposal to amend bylaw 9.8.12.B – Match Limitations, from “The maximum number of matches for teams or individuals is twelve (12). A match of any type counts toward the limit and a tournament counts as only one match” to “The maximum number of meets for teams or individual is eight (8).” The rationale for this proposal is that the language in the current bylaw doesn’t clearly define competition limits thereby allowing for misinterpretation. The amended bylaw clears up this confusion by utilizing a standard meet limit. This updated meet limit also follows other middle school limits closely. Mr. Carver asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Ferguson made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Haston seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Soccer: Change to Misconduct Progression Rule: (Action Item) (Referendum Item): Mr. Joe Butler, NMAA Assistant Director, asked the members to consider a proposal that would establish appropriate penalties for players and coaches who engage in fighting before, during or following a high school soccer match in New Mexico, during the period of the official’s jurisdiction over the match. The proposal to bylaw 7.17.3.A4 (Misconduct Progression Rule) is as follows: “A coach or player who is issued a red card for (D1) Violent Conduct - Fighting shall receive a 3-match suspension, starting with the next scheduled match and including any carryover to the state soccer tournament. A second ‘violent conduct – fighting’ red card received in the same season will result in an automatic suspension for the remainder of the season, including carryover to the state soccer tournament. The appeals process and additional sanctions available to the NMAA Executive Director are as per the provisions of NMAA 7.7.2 (Ejection Penalties).” Mr. Carver asked for a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Schuster made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Mabrey seconded the motion. Members discussed the need to define “Violent Contact - Fighting”. Mr. Schuster modified his motion as follows: to accept the proposal with the stipulation that “Violent Contact - Fighting” be defined before being presented to the Board of Directors. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Soccer: Change of State Tournament Dates: (Action Item): Mr. Joe Butler, NMAA Assistant Director, along with A.J. Herrera, St. Pius boys soccer coach, and Cameron Clarke, Cibola High School boys soccer

coach, asked the Commission members to consider a proposal to restructure the state soccer tournament as follows:

Week #1 (NMAA Week 18) - 1st Round (Friday) and Quarterfinal Round (Saturday)

Week #2 (NMAA Week 19) - Semi-final Round (Friday) and Championship Finals (Saturday)

All matches at host soccer site - APS Soccer Complex.

Mr. Carver asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. MacFarlane seconded the motion. The members made a recommendation to survey the soccer coaches and bring this item back to the Commission before the next 2-year block. A vote was taken and the motion failed (9-6).

Tennis: Change of State Tournaments Dates: (Action Item): Mr. Joe Butler, NMAA Assistant Director, did not present this proposal since the change to soccer dates was not approved.

Football: Date/Time of Championship Games: (Action Item): Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, asked the members to consider a proposal to adjust NMAA bylaws regarding the date/time of State Football Championship games (7.15.4.F) as follows, "Championship games must be played on Saturday, unless there is mutual agreement between the schools to play on Friday night." Mr. Carver asked for a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Mabrey made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Gerheart seconded the motion. The time frame was discussed and the committee wanted the time frame defined. Mr. Mabrey amended his motion to state: Championship games are to be played on Saturday afternoon at 1:00 or 2:00 pm. Games may be played on Friday if mutually agreed upon by the two schools. Mr. Henderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (15-0).

Football: Adjust the number of 8-man state qualifiers: (Action Item): Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, asked the members to consider a proposal to adjust the number of qualifiers for the 8-Man State Football playoffs (bylaw 7.15.4.B). This proposal would increase the number of qualifiers from 8 to 12. The change would add one week to the 8-man season, thus pushing back the championship game to Week 22 (held November 27-28 in 2015). Mr. Carver asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Ferguson made the motion to discuss the proposal as presented. Mr. Barreras seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion failed (15-0).

Football: Adjust definition of past history: (Action Item): Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, asked the members to consider a proposal to adjust the definition of past history as it pertains to determining the host site for certain football playoff games (7.15.7 Q & A). Past history is currently defined by the NMAA as any playoff game played between 2 schools dating back to 1953, regardless of round. This proposal would change the definition to include only semifinal or final round playoff games between 2 schools. Mr. Carver asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Barreras made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Schuster seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (13-2).

Football: Host site determination when no past history: (Action Item): Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, asked the members to consider adjusting NMAA bylaws regarding host sites for state football playoff games when schools have no past history (7.15.4) as follows:

Class 8-Man, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A - In the semifinal and final rounds, the home site is determined by past history. If the two schools do not have past history, the higher seed will host.

Class 6-Man, 2A - In the final rounds, the home site is determined by past history. If the two schools do not have past history, the higher seed will host.

Mr. Carver asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Barreras made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. MacFarlane seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Football: Adjustment regarding the mercy rule clock: (Action Item) (Referendum Item): Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, asked the members to consider a proposal to adjust NMAA bylaws regarding the football mercy rule (bylaw 7.15.1.I).

Class 8-Man, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A 6A (updated slightly - starting the running clock earlier) - When a team is ahead by 35 points or becomes 35 or more points ahead, the clock will not stop during out of bounds, incomplete passes or first downs. The clock only stops for timeouts or scores. If the point differential becomes less than 35 points, regular timing resumes. A game is ended at halftime or during the second half if a team is 50 or more points behind.

No change to Class 6-Man from the current rule.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Schuster seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (14-1).

Consider Adjournment: Mr. Carver asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:36 pm. Mr. Schuster made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. MacFarlane seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Next Commission Meeting – Wednesday, September 9, 2015 (NMAA)