

## **NMAA Commission Meeting**

May 20, 2020

9:00 AM

NMAA Office

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

Mr. Brandon Gurule (Small, Area A)  
Mr. Larry Chavez (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)  
Mr. Jason Hightower (Small Area D)  
Ms. LeeAnn Moores (Large, Area D)  
Mr. Al Martinez (Non-Public Schools)  
Mr. David Campbell (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association)  
Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)  
Mr. Daren Jones (Jr. High/Middle School Committee)  
Mr. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association)  
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals)  
Mr. Steve Perea (Activities Council)  
Mr. Frank Cordova (New Mexico School Boards Association)

16 members were present representing a quorum.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Cordova made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Moores seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (16-0).

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Chavez made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Perea seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (16-0).

### **NMAA Director's Report:**

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed three (3) items on his report: 1) thanked the Commission for their leadership during these difficult times; 2) reported that there are ten new students from around the state that will represent the Student Leadership Advisory Council for the 2020-2021 school year; and 3) stated that the NMAA will hold an athletic directors' meeting via Zoom on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. to present and discuss "return to play" guidelines for summer activities/workouts.

### **New Mexico Officials Association Report:**

Ms. Dana Pappas, Commissioner of Officials, presented the officials report. She discussed two (2) items on her report: 1) stated that overall officials' numbers for the 2019-2020 school year were up 15% and that all sports except football (dropped only one) saw growth; and 2) reported that multiple educational webinars are taking place in seven different sports to help keep officials engaged and active even without games/events taking place. Mr. Viramontes and Mr. A. Martinez asked questions pertaining to COVID-19 and how the pandemic may impact the officiating world. Ms. Pappas stated that the NMAA/NMOA will be reviewing information received from both national and state organizations to ensure best practices can be made available for both officials and schools.

## **General Discussion/Information Items**

Wrestling: School Co-ops - Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, discussed the possibility of school co-ops in the sport of wrestling due to limited participation numbers in Classes A-3A. This would help create more competitive and complete teams within the state's smallest classification. The group was open to affording Class A & 2A schools this opportunity, but had concerns with how this might impact other individual sports like Track & Field.

Golf: Centralized State Championships - Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, discussed the possibility of centralizing the Golf State Championships. In previous years, they have been held at three different sites; one north, one central and one south. Centralizing the event would help schools with travel costs/time in years when the tournament is held on the opposite side of the state. The Commission provided positive feedback to centralize the event.

NMAA State Championship Trophies - Ms. Marquez stated that the current pandemic has led the NMAA to table the idea of creating a new state championship trophy. More information about a possible change will be brought to the Commission during the 2020-2021 school year.

Bylaws Committee Work - Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that the Bylaws Committee has met several times since the February meeting and continued to discuss ideas for a new Classification & Alignment process, possible updates to seeding & selection, basketball district tournaments, and possible return to play options/guidelines for the summer.

Scholastic Eligibility for 2020-2021 - Ms. Marquez provided information regarding the scholastic eligibility bylaw updates for the 2020-2021 school year that were recently approved by the Board of Directors due to the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on the 2020 spring semester.

Physical Exams for 2020-2021 - Ms. Marquez discussed physical exam requirements for athletes and possible changes to current bylaws due to the public health crisis and limited access to health care providers. The majority of the group felt that some variation to current bylaws should be considered due to the limited opportunities for students to make appointments in rural areas or those heavily impacted by COVID-19 outbreaks.

2020 Summer/Activity /Regulations - Ms. Marquez provided information regarding the Board of Directors recent approval that, for the summer of 2020 only, summer programs and coaching activities will be under the direction of the NMAA. She stated that return to play guidelines have been drafted and will be discussed with all athletic directors at an upcoming A.D.'s virtual meeting. The guidelines were put together based on information from the National Federation of State High School Associations, Centers for Disease Control, and the State of New Mexico.

Rules Clinics/ Officials Clinics- Ms. Marquez reported that the 2020 NMOA in-person state clinic has been cancelled but will take place virtually. She also stated that NMAA Rules Clinics for all sports (with the exception of the Spirit) will be done online for the 2020-2021 school year.

## **Action Items**

Officials: Invitational Tournaments (Referenda) - Ms. Pappas presented a proposal pertaining to Guidelines for Hosting NMAA Invitational Tournaments, which would include a revision to Bylaw 7.8.9 so that it would read: "Officials used for regular season invitational tournaments in all sports must have their registration verified by the NMAA office, Regional Assignor or Local Assignor prior to their assignments to said tournaments." The guidelines would also state that fees cannot be negotiated at a higher or lower rate than what is on the NMAA Officials' Fee Schedule. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Roybal made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (16-0).

Track and Field: Certified Officials (Referenda) - Ms. Pappas presented a proposal to revise the current NMAA Track and Field Bylaw regarding Certified Officials to read: "Each qualifying meet is required to have a Certified Track and Field Meet Referee, assigned by an NMAA Varsity Regional Track and Field Assignor. This individual will certify/verify the results of the meet and will serve in all roles as outlined by the NFHS Track and Field Rulebook." Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Campbell made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Perea seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (16-0).

Football: Class 2A Calendar - Mr. Young presented a proposal to consider amending the calendar (Bylaw 7.15.6 - Playoff Weeks) for Class 2A Football so that brackets for the state tournament are released at the same time as Class 3A-6A (Saturday of Week #18). Currently, the Class 2A brackets are released on Saturday of Week #17. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Ms. Moores made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Hightower seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (16-0).

Basketball: 2-person crews for Class A (Referenda) - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to amend the recently approved Bylaw 7.13.2.A (Basketball Officials) to read: "Officials working NMAA sanctioned events must be registered through the Association. Class 2A-5A schools are required to use three (3) NMAA/NMOA officials for NMAA regular-season sanctioned varsity contests. Two (2) officials may be used at the sub-varsity level. Class A schools are required to use a minimum of two (2) NMAA/NMOA officials for NMAA regular season sanctioned varsity contests." Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Roybal made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (16-0).

NMPSIA Request: Bullying and Hazing Coach Ed Course (Referenda) - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to, upon request from the New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority, consider approval of a requirement that all coaches review two free online courses (Bullying, Hazing, and Inappropriate Behaviors; and Protecting Students from Abuse) offered via the NFHSLearn website. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to table the proposal based on the Commission's support of the New Mexico High School Coaches Association's interest in using its educational platform(s) to attempt to meet this requirement request from NMPSIA. Mr. Perea made the motion to table the proposal. Ms. Moores seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (16-0).

### **Consider Adjournment**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m. Mr. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Perea seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (16-0).