NMAA Commission Meeting
May 20, 2026
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)
Mr. Alan Edmonson (Large Area C)
Mr. Adrian Ortega (Large Area D)
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals)
Mr. Isaac Gamboa (New Mexico Athletic Directors Association)
Ms. Taryn Bachis (Non-Public Schools)
Mr. Adrian Pete (Jr. High/Middle School Committee) – *conference call*
Mr. David Briseno (New Mexico Officials Association)
Mr. Toby Velasquez (New Mexico School Boards Association)
Mr. Angel Castillo (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)

14 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small Area D)
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)

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. Lackey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Approval of Minutes:
Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2026, Commission Meeting. Mr. Tensay made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

NMAA Directors' Report:
Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Associate Director, discussed nine (9) items in his report: 1) stated that spring championships were successfully completed; 2) thanked the NMAA staff for their hard work in conducting spring championships and thanked Albuquerque Academy and Cleveland High School for use of their facilities during spring championships; 3) stated the NMAA staff will take part in networking and professional development throughout the summer to include attending the NFHS summer meeting in Salt Lake City, UT; 4) stated the annual NMAA Foundation Golf Tournament will take place on June 15th at Tanoan Country Club with all funds raised going to support school grants and student scholarships; 5) reported that the Annual NMAA/NMHSCA/NMOA/NMADA Summer Conference will take place July 23-26th at the Crowne Plaza; 6) mentioned the NMAA is working to create an online platform for eligibility petitions which

will help with transfer tracking and allow more access for athletic directors; 7) stated the Bylaws Committee continues to meet to discuss eligibility and bylaw changes and will focus on classification and alignment over the next year; 8) reported that due to the retirement of Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, Ms. Annette Castillo has moved into the Business Manager role and Ms. Victoria Barba has been hired to fulfill the Bookkeeper position; and lastly 9) congratulated Ms. Taryn Bachis on her retirement and thanked her for her service to the NMAA and to the dedication shown to the student athletes of New Mexico.

Ms. Mary Hahn entered the meeting.

Financial Report:
Ms. Annette Castillo, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA Financial Report. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) presented the 2025-2026 box reports for all sports with increases seen in most sports; some sports are incomplete due to pending settlements from UNM and RREC; and 2) presented tickets sales for all 2025-2026 state championships showing an increase overall from last year.

NMAA Foundation Report:
Ms. Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director, presented the NMAA Foundation Report. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) The Foundation has recognized and awarded 67 student athletes with a total of $93,000 in scholarship funds and approximately $21,000 in grant funding to schools for the 2025-2026 school year; 2) The Annual Foundation Golf Classic will take place on Monday, June 15th at Tanoan Country Club. For more information visit the NMAA Foundation webpage.

NMAA Activities Report:
Ms. Sanchez presented the NMAA Activities Report. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) reported state competitions and conferences for most sanctioned activities have concluded and were very successful. The final state event of the school year will be FFA held next week in Las Cruces; 2) thanked all NMAA activity liaisons for their hard work in providing opportunities for students throughout the state. Mr. Affentranger requested information be sent to activity liaisons regarding the newest NMAA sanctioned activity, Academic Competition.

NMAA Officials Report:
Mr. Carl Vigil, Coordinator of Officials, presented the Officials' report. He discussed eight (8) items in his report: 1) stated board elections took place for President, Vice-President, Secretary and for representatives in the sports of baseball, basketball, soccer, swim and dive, and track and field; 2) the Awards Committee for NMOA Hall of Fame will meet next week; 3) an update to post season eligibility for officials was made outlining requirement options which may include clinics, camps, rules meetings, quizzes, video training, or other approved instructional activities; 4) stated spring championships were successful with more than 70 officials in town for state baseball, softball, and track and field; he also thanked the assignors for their hard work throughout the year; 5) officials evaluations were brought back from fall and winter state championships, and feedback was positive and evaluations will continue in the future; 6) spring elections were held for assignors for baseball and softball; 7) stated the NMOA is working on summer conference details and is excited to have Mr. Brad Rogers, NFL Head Referee, as the keynote speaker; and lastly 8) officials numbers for 2025-2026 were fairly steady.

General Discussion/Information Items:
Boys Volleyball: Ms. Kasi Giovenco, East Mountain High School Athletic Director, discussed the growth of boys' volleyball. Boys' volleyball has now completed its fifth season in New Mexico and is currently classified as a club sport. Nationally, boys' volleyball is recognized as the fastest-

growing boys sport, with several states approving it as a sanctioned sport. It was also noted that existing administrative guidelines are already in place concerning facilities, officials, equipment, and coaches. Sanctioning the sport would create additional opportunities for student athletes and provide consistency in the rules and regulations across the state. Feedback included the importance of providing athletic opportunities for students but also concerns related to Title IX compliance and the impact on school/district budgets.

Adrian Pete entered the meeting in person.

Officials Conflict of Interest: Mr. Vigil discussed concerns regarding existing policies that prohibit officials from working postseason games that involve schools within the geographic area in which they reside. Mr. Vigil stated that some of the strongest officials are being excluded and overlooked for championship games simply due to the location of their residence. Mr. Vigil discussed the potential of an amended policy reserved for true conflicts of interest which might include employment by a school, close family relationships with a school, or having officiated a high number of games at a school. A change in policy would provide greater flexibility and help expand the pool of qualified officials available for postseason assignments.

Soccer General Bylaws: Mr. Zac Stevenson, Assistant Director, discussed several potential proposals within the sport of soccer to include removing overtime during regular season non-tournament games; expanding the state tournament field to 16 teams in 4A and 5A and 12 teams in A-3A with additional teams entered as play-in games; returning to a centralized state tournament location for semi-finals and finals; and removing goal differential from District Tie-Breaking procedures. Mr. Lackey made a motion to elevate the overtime proposal to action at the next Board of Directors Meeting. Mr. Pete seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0). Mr. Tensay made a motion to elevate the tournament expansion proposal to action at the next Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Gamboa seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Basketball General Bylaws: Mr. Stevenson discussed several potential proposals within the sport of basketball to include moving to a state tournament assignment process for officials that identifies true conflicts of interest rather than physical address of the official, modifying the mercy rule to have a 5-10 point spread from the start of the running clock to the return of regulation timing, removing the mandatory district tie-breaker game played at a neutral site, removing or modifying the District Tournament format, reducing/removing seeding and selection criteria and moving to MaxPreps for seeding/selection, and returning to two weeks of preseason practice prior to the first regular season game. Feedback varied amongst most of the various proposals but did include that close familial relationships should be more defined when it comes to conflict of interest.

Baseball State Tournament Format: Mr. Tyler Dunkel, Assistant Director, discussed the state tournament format for baseball citing concerns with lack of competitiveness in later round games due to pitching restrictions. Possibilities included moving to regional sites for early round games and/or moving to a two-out-of-three series in both the first round and quarterfinals. Feedback supported a format change.

Volleyball State Tournament Format: Mr. Gary Allison, Assistant Director, discussed the need for possible changes to the state tournament format, citing concerns with the current double elimination format. Recommendations included returning to a pool play format followed by bracket play and potentially expanding the tournament field to 16 teams. He also addressed the

importance of creating a true “Championship Saturday,” and returning to playing all championship games separately.

Track Fully Automatic Timing (FAT): Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, requested feedback regarding the use of the Fully Automated Timing system required for district track meets. Feedback included cost, which can make it difficult for smaller schools to purchase the system, resulting in fewer small schools willing or able to host. The lack of qualified personnel to operate the system can also create difficulties. However, the difficulty in removing the requirement at this point and regressing was also mentioned as a concern.

NMMA Calendar: Mr. Young discussed extending the spring championship calendar by one week. This would help with UNM facility usage and help clear the area as most UNM graduations will have finished. Feedback included the need to plan years in advance to allow school districts time to adjust their school calendars and graduation dates to minimize conflicts.

Annual Meeting: Mr. Young requested feedback regarding language in the NMAA Handbook that requires an annual meeting of the membership. Mr. Young explained that this is an antiquated rule which refers to a time in which all member schools met to vote on NMAA and Board proposals. Since that time, quarterly Commission and Board of Directors Meetings with subsequent referenda have replaced the voting purpose of the Annual Meeting. The modern use of the Annual Meeting has been for the professional development of athletic administrators and information dissemination by the NMAA. Feedback included the importance of continuing with an annual meeting of athletic administrators but to clarify that its purpose is professional development and information gathering.

Coaches Seeding/Selection Input Forms: Mr. Young discussed a policy which would make public coaches seeding/selection input forms. Feedback included that such a policy would increase transparency and incentivize coaches to submit more thoughtful responses. A survey will also be sent to coaches by the Coaches Association to get their feedback on the proposed change.

Seeding and Selection: Mr. Young stated that the NMAA continues to regularly evaluate and assess its current seeding/selection process. While it’s understood that there is some skepticism by the membership concerning MaxPreps rankings, they tend to be very accurate and inline with the current NMAA seeding process which relies heavily on the compilation of large amounts of data by NMAA staff which occasionally can lead to errors. The NMAA will continue to evaluate its current data collection processes and assess if there are better ways to collect that data and minimize errors.

Action Items:
Track and Field: 2027 State Track Meet Dates: Mr. Young presented a proposal to move the 2027 Large School State Track meet up one week from Week #46 to Week #45 to conduct all state meets the same week, with the 4A/5A meets taking place Wednesday and Thursday and the A/2A/3A meets taking place Friday and Saturday. Additionally, require district track meets in all classifications to be conducted between Thursday of Week #43 and Tuesday of Week #44 to provide sufficient time for entry submission and event preparation for the following Week #45. This adjustment would be for the 2027 season only to accommodate the University of New Mexico hosting the Mountain West Conference outdoor track meet during Week #46. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Pete made a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Ortega seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Track and Field: District Meet Dates: Ms. Jackie Martinez, Assistant Director, presented a proposal to add Thursday as a possible starting date for District Track Meets.

Underlined language added:

7.22.2 District Meets
A. Dates – District meets are held <u>Thursday and/or</u> Friday and/or Saturday during:
1. Week #44 for Classes A, 2A, and 3A for both boys and girls.
2. Week #45 for Classes 4A and 5A for both boys and girls.

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

Cross Country: State Qualification: Ms. Martinez presented a proposal to adjust Class A and 2A cross country district entry and state qualification standards.

Proposed Revisions:
7.14.2.B and C – District Meet

B. Number Qualifying for State Championships
1. 2A-5A – District meets qualify the top three (3) teams in each district and the top three (3) individual district meet finishers from non-qualifying teams to the State Championships.

2. Class A – District meets qualify the top three (3) teams in each district and the top two (2) individual district meet finishers from non-qualifying teams to the State Championships.

C. All teams are allowed to enter a maximum of nine (9) runners in the Pre-State meet. Class 2A-5A are allowed to enter a maximum of nine (9) runners in the District Meet. At the Class A District Meet and Class A State Meet, Class A teams may enter a maximum of five (5) runners, with the top three (3) runners from each team scoring. At all other varsity meets, teams are limited to seven (7) runners.

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

NMOA: Game Cancellations: Mr. Vigil presented a proposal to establish a consistent and fair policy across New Mexico for handling game cancellations or postponements, ensuring accountability, minimizing financial loss, and aligning NMOA with best practices from other state associations.

Proposed Updates:

1. Notice Requirement: Notify the assigned officials at least 4 hours prior to game time = Full game fee
2. Travel Exception Clause:
   a. IF canceled after travel has begun, school must pay travel policy and ½ game fee.

b. IF cancellation occurs at the game site, the full game fee and travel will be owed. Note: If multiple contests are scheduled on the same day and one is canceled, the official is entitled to only one game-fee payment.

3. Weather & Emergency: No fee will be owed IF:
   a. Inclement weather, natural disasters, emergencies, or transportation issues occur.
   b. All parties agree prior to travel if a game is unplayable

   Note: This shall not include low participation numbers due to injuries, disciplinary actions, or other events (e.g., band concerts, schools plays, class trips) that prevent participants' attendance at the scheduled event.
4. Rescheduled Games:
   a. Officials originally assigned to a canceled game will be given first right of refusal for the rescheduled date.
   b. An official may have another assignment prior to the rescheduled date but shall not accept another assignment over the rescheduled contest.

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

NMOA: Solo Official Compensation: Mr. Vigil presented a proposal to establish a standardized and fair compensation policy for game contests where only one official, referee, or umpire is required or assigned due to shortages, emergencies, or unavoidable circumstances. Equivalent to an additional ½ game fee. The policy ensures that solo officials are compensated appropriately for the additional responsibilities and workload they assume when working a contest alone. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Gamboa made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Pete seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Football: Film Submission: Mr. Tyler Dunkel presented a proposal to Update Bylaw 7.15.1.M – Film Requirement to include a progression penalty for weekly game film not turned in on time.

Proposed Revisions:

Thursday games – film must be submitted by 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.
Friday games – film must be submitted by 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.
Saturday games – film must be submitted by 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Film not received in the NMAA/NMOA Hudl account using the above deadlines will now be subject to penalty as follows:

1st Offense – Warning in Writing to Head Coach and Athletic Director
2nd Offense – Suspension from the 1st Half of the next game for the Head Coach
3rd Offense – Suspension from the entire next game for the Head Coach

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

Baseball: State Qualifiers: Mr. Tyler Dunkel presented a proposal to increase the number of State qualifiers in Class 1A to 8 teams and Class 2A & 3A to 16 teams. Mr. Affentranger asked for a

motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Lackey made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Edmonson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Soccer: Misconduct Progression: Mr. Stevenson presented a proposal to remove the card count misconduct progression for players and coaches from the soccer bylaws entirely. Ejection penalties would still exist in alignment with all other sports.

> Modify Rule 7.17.3 – Misconduct Progression Rule
> A. Regular season – remove sections 1-3 referring to card counts during the regular season for teams and individuals. Sections 4 a, b, c and 5 specific to ejections would remain.
> Note: Q & A sections would require updating upon approval.

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

Governance Structure: Mr. Young presented a proposal to update Section 3.1 of the NMAA Handbook (NMAA Governance Structure) due to the realignment of schools for the 2026-2028 block. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Lackey made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Tensay seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Executive Director Duties and Responsibilities: Mr. Young presented a proposal to provide the Executive Director with the authority/autonomy to hire professional staff and structure employment positions.

> New language underlined, stricken language removed.
>
> 2.2.2 Executive Director - Duties and Responsibilities
>
> A.2. ~~Recommend employment of professional staff (Associate Directors) for approval by the Board~~. The Director shall <u>organize employment positions and hire</u> ~~employ~~, retain and/or dismiss ~~classified and discretionary positions (Assistants to the Director, clerical, administrative assistants, general operational personnel, etc.)~~ staff.

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

Section 6 (Eligibility) Handbook Revision: Mr. Young presented a proposal to revise Section 6 (Eligibility) of the NMAA Handbook and update various eligibility and transfer bylaws. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Pete made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Gamboa seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken and passed (14-1).

Yes	**No**	**Name**	
X		Ms. Debra Sena-Holton	Small Area A
X		Mr. Ben Tensay	Large Area A

X		Mr. Kevin Lackey	Small Area B
X		Mr. Britt Cooper	Large Area B
X		Mr. Jory Mirabal	Small Area C
	X	Mr. Alan Edmonson	Large Area C
X		Mr. Adrian Ortega	Large Area D
X		Ms. Taryn Bachis	Non-Public Schools
X		Mr. Toby Velasquez	NM School Board Association
X		Mr. Isaac Gamboa	NM Athletic Directors Association
X		Mr. Angel Castillo	NM High School Coaches Association
X		Mr. David Briseno	NM Officials Association
X		Ms. Mary Hahn	Activities Council
X		Mr. Scott Affentranger	NM Association of Secondary Principals
X		Mr. Adrian Pete	Jr. High/ Middle School Committee

Consider Adjournment: Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tensay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).