NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting
June 4, 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. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
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)
Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large School District I)
Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)
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)
Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)

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 February 18, 2026 Board Meeting. Mr. Jaramillo made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Executive Session:
Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:01 a.m. for a legal counsel report and to discuss pending and threatened litigation. Mr. Hawkins made the motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Bibiano seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		**Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)**
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 School District I)**
Yes		**Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)**
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 9:44 a.m. Mr. White made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. Mr. Madrid stated no action was taken in Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		**Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)**
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 School District I)**
Yes		**Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)**
Yes		**Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)**
Yes		**Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)**
Yes		**Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo (NM School Board Association)**

Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo left the meeting

NMAA Director's Report:
Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, discussed six (6) items in his report: 1) stated that spring championships were successfully completed, 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; 2) stated that the NMAA staff will attend the NFHS Summer Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT at the end of June; 3) reported that the Annual NMAA/NMHSCA/NMOA/NMADA Summer Conference will take place July 23-26th at the Crowne Plaza in Albuquerque; 4) mentioned the NMAA is working to create an online platform for eligibility petitions which will allow more access for athletic directors and parents; 5) thanked the Bylaws Committee for all of their hard work over the year and reported the focus of the committee will now shift to general athletic bylaws and classification and alignment and lastly; 6) recognized Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner as she has officially retired and reported that Annette Castillo has taken over the business manager role, and the NMAA has hired a new bookkeeper, Ms. Victoria Barba.

NMAA Financial Report:
Finance 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. Mr. Young stated that while the NMAA is still finalizing reports for various championships, the Association is in a good financial position for the 2025-2026 school year.

2026-2027 NMAA Budget: Mr. Young presented two proposals for the 2026-2027 NMAA Budget. Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve one of the two budgets as presented. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to approve proposal #1. Mr. White seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (9-1).

NMAA Foundation Report:
Ms. Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director, presented the NMAA Foundation Report. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) reported that the Foundation has recognized and awarded 67 student athletes with a total of $93,000 in scholarship funds and has awarded approximately $21,000 in grant funding to schools for the 2025-2026 school year; and 2) reported that 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 all state competitions and conferences for most sanctioned activities have concluded and were very successful; and 2) thanked all NMAA activity liaisons for their hard work in providing opportunities for students throughout the state.

New Mexico Officials Association 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, 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.

Discussion/Informational 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. Additional recommendations included surveying the membership to get additional feedback as well as the creation of a sample budget outlining the costs associated with sponsoring a boys' volleyball program.

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. He also addressed the importance of creating a true "Championship Saturday," and returning to playing all championship games separately. Mr. Allison reported on survery results regarding possible format changes which included moving to a single elimination tournament; moving to 16 qualifying teams; holding the first round at host sites; or leaving as is. The NMAA will continue to look into possible format changes and bring more survey results to the next Board meeting.

Soccer State Tournament Format: Mr. Zac Stevenson, Assistant Director, discussed the prospects of returning to a centralized location for semifinals and finals. Mr. Stevenson also discussed removing goal differential from District Tie-Breaking procedures.

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.

Track Fully Automatic Timing (FAT): Mr. Young requested feedback regarding the use of the Fully Automated Timing system required for district track meets. Feedback included the need to maintain accurate timing protocols through FAT to ensure accuracy and the possibility of working with regional educational cooperatives across the state to provide financial assistance to schools to either help purchase FAT systems or hire personnel to run the system.

NMAA 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 possible increased overlap of graduations with spring championships and the inability of districts to shift graduations due to established school calendars. Potential conflicts with the start of spring football were also discussed.

Student Mental Health Initiatives: Mr. Young discussed the need for increased mental health initiatives for student-athletes across the state. He reported that student leadership groups, administrators, and state legislators have all reached out to the NMAA office regarding this issue. While the Association currently works with the New Mexico Department of Health, the staff will explore other options to expand these offerings which may include additional mental health awareness training for coaches and/or other school personnel.

Coaches Seeding/Selection Input Forms: Mr. Young discussed a policy which would make public coaches seeding/selection input forms. A survey will 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 processes while also assessing possible alternative methods and criteria. Seeding and selection will also be an area reviewed by the Bylaws Committee during the upcoming block.

NMAA Strategic Plan: Mr. Young reported on the NMAA's strategic plan timeline for the 2026-2027 school year and provided an expected execution date of July 2027.
NMAA Board Officers: Mr. Young discussed Board Officers and current status, detailing protocols for the absence of the President which directs the Vice-President to assume all duties until their term concludes.

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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Ruiz made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Hawkins made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Lackey made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Bibiano seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken and did not pass (5-5).

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

Yes		**Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)**
	No	**Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large School District I)**
	No	**Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)**
Yes		**Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)**
Yes		**Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)**

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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Strickland made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Football: Film Submission: Mr. Tyler Dunkel, Assistant Director, 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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Bibiano made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Baseball: State Qualifiers: Mr. 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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Strickland made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Soccer: Regular Season Overtime: Mr. Stevenson presented a proposal to remove overtime during the regular season, except when a regular season tournament requires declaring a winner for advancement. Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Hawkins made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Soccer: State Qualifiers: Mr. Stevenson presented a proposal to expand the tournament field to16 teams in 4A & 5A and 12 teams in A-3A with additional teams entered as play-in games. Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Diehl made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Strickland made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. White made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed (7-3).

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

Yes		**Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)**
Yes		**Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large School District I)**
	No	**Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)**
	No	**Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)**
Yes		**Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)**

Executive Session:
Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss limited personel matters at 12:38 p.m. Mr. Lackey made the motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		**Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)**
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 School District I)**
Yes		**Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)**
Yes		**Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)**
Yes		**Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)**

Mr. Jaramillo returned to the meeting

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 1:04 p.m. Mr. Hawkins made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. White seconded the motion. Mr. Madrid stated no action was taken in the Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken and passed (10-0 with one abstention).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		**Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)**
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 School District I)**
Yes		**Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)**
Yes		**Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)**
Yes		**Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)**

Abstained	**Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo (NM School Board Association)**

NMAA Goals for 2026-2027:
Mr. Young presented the Association goals for approval for the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the goals as presented Mr. Stickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Executive Director Contract:
Consider action pertaining to the Executive Director's contract. Mr. Madrid asked for a motion regarding the Executive Director's contract. A motion was made by Mr. Lackey to extend Mr. Young's contract to June 30, 2029 and to include a 1% raise to match the state approved increase in salary for educators. Mr. Lee seconded. A vote was take and passed unanimously (11-0)

Consider Adjournment:
Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:06 p.m. Mr. Strickland made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

The next Board Meeting will be scheduled for September 23, 2026