

NMAA Appeals Review Committee Hearing
August 4, 2026
8:00 a.m. - Virtual

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Brian Stacy, NMAA Appeals Review Committee Chairman, at 8:04 a.m., Mrs. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Brian Stacy
Mr. Gerry Washburn
Ms. Freda Daugherty

Not Present:
Mr. Vance Lee
Mr. Bill Green
Mr. Keith Durham
Mr. Paul Benoit
Mr. Mike Chambers

3 members were present representing a committee quorum.

Approval of the Agenda:

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Washburn made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Daugherty seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (3-0).

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2026, appeal review hearing. Mr. Washburn made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Daugherty seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (3-0).

Cleveland High School Appeal

Closed Session (unless family requests hearing to be in open session)

Mr. Stacy asked the appealing party if they wished for the appeal hearing to be in open session or closed session. The appealing party requested the hearing be conducted in open session.

Mr. Stacy reviewed the procedures for the hearing and then introductions took place.

Also present from the NMAA staff was Mrs. Alissa Wesbrook, Assistant to the Executive Director; Mr. Scott Owen, Deputy Director; and Mr. Dusty Young, Executive Director. Present for the aggrieved party was Mr. Matt Martinez, Athletic Director. Cleveland High School; Mr. Zack Cole Head Basketball coach, Cleveland High School; Mr. Todd Resch, Rio Rancho Public Schools District Athletic Director; Mr. and Mrs. Nanez, Evan's parents, and Evan Nanez, student.

NMAA Summary

Evan is a junior transfer student at Cleveland High School. Evan was previously enrolled at Gilbert Sena Charter school and participated in the sports of Football and Track at Cleveland HS, as permitted by Charter School law. While enrolled at Gilbert Sena Charter school, Evan opted to play basketball for the

“Albuquerque Basketball Club,” also known as ABC Academy, instead of participating in Basketball at Cleveland HS as permitted by Charter School law. Per NMAA bylaw 6.6.8.B., students who enroll in an NMAA-member school after attending a specialized sport training academy or school, shall be ineligible for varsity participation in that sport(s) for 365 calendar days from the date of their enrollment. Because of Evan’s participation in Basketball with ABC Academy, he has been deemed ineligible for varsity participation in the sport of basketball at Cleveland HS for 365 calendar days from the date of his enrollment, but eligible immediately in all other sports under the “first transfer” provision.

Aggrieved Summary

Ms. Nanez- This request is not about avoiding a rule or gain an unfair athletic advantage. Evan is not moving schools due to athletics; he is returning to the public high school that serves his residence. Transfer rules are important and protect against recruitment at this level. He was not recruited into Cleveland. He just wants to be a part of his home school. Recently his ABC Prep team has dissolved and with it, his scholarship opportunities. Participating with ABC Prep was limited due to his participation in Cleveland HS football. At ABC he participated in less than 33% of games last season. It became a hardship financially due to other aspects of family life and became an emotional and financial burden. Driving time was 2 hrs. a day to now 20 minutes a day. Gilbert Sena Charter became a significant academic hardship while some thrive at an online capacity, Evan does not. It was a detriment to his mental health as he needs the structure offered by being in-person. If he is not allowed to play at the varsity level, it would be a detriment on his athletic career. They are not asking for special treatment because he is a strong athlete, but his eligibility is based on where he resides and connection with the school.

Mr. Nanez- they are well aware of the league as the person that runs ABC, they are friends, but they made the decision that is best for Evan and his mental health stability. Evan needs structure for school and how things are run. Evan’s team he was with at ABC has dissolved. Many are going to different places and the rest of kids were seniors that graduated. There is a postgrad team, but Evan not graduating would be an issue.

Evan- the atmosphere at ABC wasn’t great. There was no structure and when he saw the rule change, he felt blessed that he could come back. It was a lot of driving.

Resch- advocate for his family, it is in the best interest for this young man, he has lived in this area for a while and is returning to his home high school.

Martinez- when Evan went to ABC for basketball, he was promised a lot of things and they didn’t deliver. Found out the structure was different and returned to Cleveland, he does already play football and track at Cleveland.

Coleman- he feels this rule is discriminatory to these kids. He does this job because he cares about his kids and wants to keep them at their school. Evan is a Cleveland kid. He is confused why they are here and feels the NMAA missed an opportunity with this rule to allow kids like Evan to return and play at their home school.

Committee Questions

Daugherty- did the entire company of ABC basketball dissolve. Mr. Nanez stated no it has not, the team he was on has. The only option for Evan would be to play at the post-grad level, so students that have already graduated high school.

Daugherty- it was stated that Evan was excited when the rule came out. What rule is he referring to. Evan- the NMAA transfer rule, the one-time transfer rule.

Washburn- when Evan went to ABC was, he made aware of what the rules where he had to sit out if he came back. Mrs. Nanez- she was unaware of that rule.

Washburn- what grade is Evan in.
Mrs. Nanez- he will be a junior

Stacy- ABC is out there for a reason, the reason is the fact they don't think they are getting the exposure at the public school, so they do something else. If didn't dissolve this specific team, would he still be there.

Mrs- yes, he would. They submitted this request before the dissolution of the team. Cleveland requested to have him move back before the team dissolved. She said sorry, no he wouldn't be there.

Stacy- why the over to Cleveland his grades at Gilbert are great, there was no issue there playing on ABC league.

Mr. Nanez. - the reason is that he has done very well online at Gilbert Sena, however he does need to get pushed academically, and he will get that push at Cleveland. He was lacking social interaction with kids and teachers, which were the biggest reasons for the transfer. Evan didn't hang out with those guys at ABC outside of basketball, and he wants him to have more opportunities socially. He has received the structure with the football team and needs those expectations and structure Cleveland offers.

Stacy- what does Mr. Nanez do for Cleveland.

Mr. Nanez is a special education teacher at Cleveland. He has always been a teacher at Cleveland. He just renewed his coaching license; he was a head coach at Organ Mt and as of July 1st got hired at Cleveland HS as an assistant coach for basketball.

Stacy- the kids that were seniors at ABC on his team were they all from different schools.

Evan- yes, they were all at different schools or out of state.

Stacy- mentioned by coach Coleman that he doesn't understand the reason why they are here and having to appeal. He stated there are rules that are made and it is their responsibility that they are followed, and people have broken the rules in the past which is why they are in place. Most of all, they consider displacement of student athletes, when there have been kids working hard attending Cleveland and playing basketball and now with Evan coming over to Cleveland, he will be displacing other kids that have been involved in the program the entire time.

Executive Session

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to enter Executive Session for discussion purposes only. A motion was made by Mr. Washburn and seconded by Ms. Daugherty to go into Executive Session at 8:34 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Gerry Washburn
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Ms. Freda Daugherty

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Washburn and seconded by Ms. Daugherty to exit Executive Session and go back into open session at 9:01 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (3-0). Mr. Stacy stated there was no action taken during Executive Session.

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Gerry Washburn
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Ms. Freda Daugherty

Action Item

Vote On Student Eligibility: Mr. Stacy asked if there was any need for further discussion. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to uphold, amend or overturn the original decision for the Cleveland High School appeal. A motion was made by Mr. Washburn to overturn the New Mexico Activities Association's ruling. He stated that while the violation of the rule was apparent, due to the extenuating and unique circumstances of the student's long-term residency in the Cleveland High School attendance zone and prior participation in other sports at Cleveland High School, varsity eligibility should be granted. Ms. Daugherty seconded. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (3-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Gerry Washburn
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Ms. Freda Daugherty

Mr. Stacy adjourned the meeting for a short recess.

Mr. Stacy called the meeting back to order at 9:03 a.m.

Los Lunas High School Appeal

Closed Session (unless family requests hearing to be in open session)

Mr. Stacy asked the appealing party if they wished for the appeal hearing to be in open session or closed session. The appealing party requested the hearing be conducted in closed session.

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to go into closed session. A motion was made by Mr. Washburn and seconded by Ms. Daugherty to go into closed session at 9:04 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Gerry Washburn
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Ms. Freda Daugherty

Executive Session

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for discussion purposes only. A motion was made by Mr. Washburn and seconded by Mr. Daugherty to go into Executive Session at 9:30 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Gerry Washburn
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Ms. Freda Daugherty

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session and go back into closed session at 9:54 a.m. A motion was made by Mr. Washburn. Ms. Daugherty seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (3-0). Mr. Stacy stated there was no action taken during Executive Session.

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Gerry Washburn
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Ms. Freda Daugherty

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to exit out of closed session. A motion was made by Mr. Washburn and seconded by Ms. Daugherty to exit out of closed session and go back into open session at 9:55 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Gerry Washburn
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Ms. Freda Daugherty

Action Items

Vote On Student Eligibility: Mr. Stacy asked if there was any need for further discussion. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to uphold, amend or overturn the original decision for the Los Lunas High School appeal. A motion was made by Mr. Washburn to overturn the decision made by the New Mexico Activities Association due to the student's short duration with the club team, no competitive advantage gained by the transfer, and the affiliation with the coach occurring at the sub-varsity level. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (3-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Gerry Washburn
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Ms. Freda Daugherty

Adjournment

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mr. Washburn and seconded by Ms. Daugherty to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (3-0). The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.