

**NMAA Commission Meeting**  
**August 24, 2022**  
**9:00 AM**  
**Hall of Pride and Honor**

**Welcome** – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernie Viramontes at 9:03 am. A roll call was conducted by Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, and the following members were present:

Mr. Ben Tensay (Large Area A)  
Mr. Cooper Henderson (Large Area B)  
Mr. Jory Mirabal (Small, Area C)  
Mr. Ernie Viramontes (Large Area C – Chair)  
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small Area D)  
Ms. Ann Stewart (Large Area D)  
Mr. Willie Owens (Non-Public Schools)  
Ms. LeeAnn Moores (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association)  
Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)  
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals)  
Mr. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association)  
Mr. Adrian Pete (Jr. High/Middle School Committee)  
Mr. Donald Valdez (New Mexico State School Boards Association)  
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)

Not Present:

Mr. Dickie Roybal (Small, Area B)

14 members were present representing a quorum.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Tensay made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Stewart seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2022, Commission Meeting as presented. Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Hahn seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

**NMAA Director's Report:**

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed five (5) items on his report: 1) welcomed the group and introduced two new Commission members: Mr. Adrian Pete, representing the Middle/Junior High School Committee and Ms. LeeAnn Moores, representing the NMADA; 2) stated the annual commission elections will take place in October for Small Area A; Small Area C and Large Area C; 3) provided information regarding the upcoming Fall Conference that is scheduled to take place on September 25-26<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites Hotel; 4) reported that the NMAA Foundation would be continuing with its Together We Rise Scholarship program which would ensure over \$40,000 in funds would again be distributed to students from across the state; and lastly 5) stated that the NMAA Foundation would also be distributing up to \$15,000 to school athletic and activity programs through its school support/grant initiative.

**NMAA Financial Report:**

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA Financial Report. She discussed two (2) items: 1) stated that the annual audit for 2021-2022 is underway and should be finalized within the next couple weeks with a final report presented to the Board at its December meeting; and 2) provided box reports and ticket sales information for all state championships held during the 2021-2022 school year.

**NMAA Activities Report:**

Ms. Tammy Richards, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the NMAA Activities Report. She discussed four (4) items: 1) stated that the annual Activities Council Meeting will be held on September 6<sup>th</sup> at the NMAA; 2) reported that participant numbers for most activities increased in 2021-2022; 3) stated that State One Act Play would be held in the Fall with all other state activity events again in the Spring; and 4) presented information regarding the continued partnership with Western New Mexico University that provides scholarship opportunities to students that participate in each NMAA sanctioned activity.

Mr. Pete joined the meeting.

**New Mexico Officials Association Report:**

Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the NMOA Report. He discussed ten (10) items on his report: 1) reported on the survey results for individuals that called in previous years but have not registered to continue as an official; 2) provided an update on current officials numbers which for Fall sports which have increased some as compared to previous years; 3) stated that heavy recruiting efforts are underway to help improve officials' numbers in all sports; 4) provided information regarding the new statewide officials' curriculum that has been created for schools to offer sports officiating as an elective for its students; 5) reported that Dragonfly trainings have been ongoing since the summer months and the NMAA will continue to provide individual support as needed; 6) recapped the fall assignor/A.D. meetings that were held in an effort to identify dates with officials scheduling problems so that these could be addressed in advance; 7) stated that the NMOA State Clinic took place in July with a new format that provided more training and educational opportunities for officials; 8) mentioned that the NMOA will be communicating with the NMAA, NMHSCA, and NMADA about a possible collaborative summer clinic in the future; 9) provided an update on the work of the NMOA Board and its work to remove barriers and lessen administrative requirements for officials; and 10) reminded the Commission about policies pertaining to the payment of officials during the state playoffs for various sports.

**Discussion/Informational Items:**

NMOA Mileage Rings - Mr. Stevenson provided information regarding a new mileage system that the NMOA would like to propose in the future. He stated the NMAA & NMOA have been looking at this for several years now and the change should help to improve the process of paying officials while also providing more equitable fees to everyone within the contest crew. Examples of the new system did show an increase in expenses for the few schools that were researched. Feedback included concerns with the increase in expenses, especially for districts that have multiple schools. It was also stated that more research should be done to look at how this will impact smaller and more rural schools. Mr. Stevenson also mentioned that the proposed changes to mileage payments would serve to increase fees slowly over time in an effort to compensate officials accordingly for their work officiating events and for their travels.

2023-2024 Calendar - Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, provided information regarding the calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. She stated that sports seasons will look like they are starting later than normal due to where July 1<sup>st</sup> falls. Schools will need to plan accordingly for the dates used to schedule based on a 2-year block. Ms. Moores asked the group to consider a more consistent start and end date to the Fall sports season since football starts earlier than the others and volleyball finishes after soccer and cross country.

Music License for State Playoffs - Ms. Marquez reported that the NFHS has placed an emphasis on public performance music licenses for state associations and school districts. Lawsuits have been filed against many schools across the country for failure to obtain these licenses prior to playing music during athletic contests and other school events. She stated that the NMAA will need to address this soon for early round playoff games that are held at host school sites.

CPR Requirement for Coaches - Ms. Marquez stated that the NMAA has been researching coach requirements within states across the country and has found that the majority do have a CPR requirement either through the state association or department of education. She stated that the membership will need to consider this in the future. Mr. Mabrey presented concerns from the coaches' standpoint due to the cost of this type of training and because of the numerous requirements and trainings that are already in place.

Middle School Championships - Ms. Marquez discussed the possibility of holding state championships for middle schools and stated that this has been implemented in other states to enhance middle school athletics, increase participation, and ensure the association can provide additional support to these programs. Feedback included concerns that adding championships would lead to other issues that are currently seen only at the high school level. The group did state that middle school athletics in New Mexico could be improved and thus should be a focal point of the Association in the near future.

Collaborative Summer Clinic - Ms. Marquez discussed the idea of holding a larger statewide clinic during the summer that would include the New Mexico High School Coaches Association, the New Mexico Officials Association, the New Mexico Athletic Directors Association, the NMAA and student leaders from schools across the state. It is felt that bringing these groups together will help build and improve relationships for all stakeholders while also helping to ensure collaboration in addressing the current challenges within interscholastic athletics and activities. Feedback provided was extremely positive.

Mr. Henderson left the meeting.

Definition of Practice - Ms. Marquez asked for feedback regarding a contradiction that was found within the NMAA Handbook that pertains to the definition of practice and how tryout periods are handled to determine student eligibility. Feedback included continued review of this issue and the possibility of proposing a bylaw change that would state that 5 days of practice and/or tryouts constitutes participation in a sports season when attempting to determine student eligibility.

### **Action Items:**

Seeding/Selection: Coach Input Form Requirement - Mr. Pete presented a proposal to mandate that all head coaches in each team sport submit the school input form that is used for state championship seeding/selection. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. No motion was made, proposal fails due to lack of a motion.

Golf: State Qualifiers - Mr. Tyler Dunkel, NMAA Assistant Director, presented a proposal to change the state qualifying process in the sport of Golf to include the following:

**Team Qualifying:** Teams must compete in a minimum of five regular season tournaments, recording a team score in those tournaments to be eligible for the State Tournament. If a District does not have a District Champion for either boys or girls, the next team in the iWanamaker rankings will be used to fill the remaining team slots at State. If a school participates in more than 5 tournaments, only their top 5 events will be used to calculate rankings. The District Tournament does not count towards the minimum five tournaments needed to be eligible for State.

**Individual Qualifying:** The individual District Champions will automatically qualify for State if they are not on a qualifying team. Individuals need to participate in a minimum of five regular

season tournaments. Only the individuals top-5 tournaments of the year will count in the iWanamaker rankings. The District Tournament does not count towards the minimum five tournaments needed to be eligible for State.

**Maximum Score:** Maximum Score will be used in all regular season, District and State Championships.

**Tie Breaking Procedure for First Place Team at State:** The Head Coach will select three golfers from his/her team to participate in the team playoff. The two teams will tee off from a hole to be determined.

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Owens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Tennis: State Qualifiers - Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, presented a proposal to reduce the number of individual state qualifiers (singles/doubles) from 20 to 16 in the sport of tennis. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made the motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Moores seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Non-Scholastic Events During NMAA Playoffs - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to amend Bylaw 7.6.8 (Season Ends) to read as follows: A season ends when a team/individual does not qualify for, or is eliminated from, post season competition (playoffs, district, and/or state tournament). Once post-season play has begun or state tournament seeding and selection has taken place, no regular season or non-scholastic games/matches/events can be scheduled/played in the same sport. At the sub-varsity level, the regular season concludes at the end of regular season competition. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Owens made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Mabrey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

### **Consider Adjournment**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Mr. Tensay made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

The next NMAA Commission Meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2022.