NMAA Commission Meeting
September 3, 2025
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 Mrs. 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)
Ms. Karen Nougues (Large Area C)
Mr. Adrian Ortega (Large Area D)
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals) – *Chairman*
Mr. Isaac Gamboa (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association)
Mr. Adrian Pete (Jr. High/Middle School Committee) – *Via Teleconference*
Mr. David Briseno (New Mexico Officials Association)
Mr. Angel Castillo (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)
Mr. Earl James Martinez (New Mexico School Boards Association)

13 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:
Ms. Taryn Bachis (Non-Public Schools)
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small Area D)

Approval of Agenda:
Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Approval of Minutes:
Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2025, Commission Meeting as presented. Mr. Tensay made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Nougues seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Election of Commission Chair:
Mr. Affentranger asked for nominations for Commission Chair: Mr. Castillo nominated Mr. Scott Affentranger for the Commission Chair. Mr. Gamboa seconded the motion.
A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Election of Commission Vice-Chair:
Mr. Affentranger asked for nominations for Commission Vice Chair. Mr. Ortega nominated Mr. Isaac Gamboa as the Commission Vice-Chair. Mr. Tensay seconded the motion.
A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Ms. Robinson and Ms. Hahn entered the meeting

NMAA Directors' Report:
Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Associate Director, discussed five (5) items in his report: 1) stated the 2025 New Mexico High School Sports Conference took place in July and was successful; 2) stated the Bylaws committee met recently to discuss classification and alignment, and that the committee will continue to also review eligibility and sports regulations throughout the school year; 3) provided information regarding the NMAA Directors Cup, including updated policies; 4) stated the NMAA staff would be attending the NFHS Section 6 meeting in Oklahoma City the following week; and 5) welcomed new members to the Commission: Mr. Kevin Lackey, Athletic Director/Principal at Logan High School, representing Small Schools Area B, and Ms. Deborah Sena-Holton, Superintendent of Pecos Schools, representing Small Schools Area A. He thanked Ms. Mandy Montoya and Mr. Billy Burns for their service on the Commission.

Financial Reports:
Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA Financial Report. She discussed three (3) items in her report: 1) presented the 2024-2025 financial reports; 2) presented tickets sales for the 2024-2025 school year; and 3) stated the NMAA has a new auditor in place for this year.

NMAA Foundation Report:
Ms. Julie Sanchez, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the NMAA Foundation report. She discussed three (3) items in her report: 1) stated the NMAA Foundation held their annual Board Meeting in August where they continue to work distributing more grants and scholarships to schools and student-athletes; 2) discussed additional Foundation initiatives for the school year; and 3) stated the Foundation would continue to hold its two annual fundraising events, the NMAA Golf Classic and NMAA Bowl-A-Thon.

NMAA Activities Report:
Ms. Sanchez presented the NMAA Activities report. She discussed three (3) items in her report: 1) stated that the Activities Council met on September 2nd where Ms. Mary Hahn was re-elected as chairperson; 2) stated most state events for activities will take place next semester, with the exception of Marching Band held in October; and 3) thanked Ms. Hahn for her service as the Activities Council Chair and Representative on the Commission.

New Mexico Officials Association Report:
Mr. Carl Vigil, Commissioner of Officials, presented the NMOA Report. He discussed five (5) items in his report: 1) stated that fall sports have begun and are off to a great start; 2) reported on the 2025 New Mexico High School Sports Conference that took place in July which had over 300 officials in attendance with several recognized and honored for their service and leadership; 3) stated Mr. Tom Litchfield and Mr. Vic Romero were inducted into the NMOA Hall of Fame; 4) provided information on RefReps training which works to maintain recruitment of officials and remains an essential training tool statewide for officials; and 5) reported that current numbers are slightly down but hoping to see an increase for winter sports. Mr. Affentranger inquired if compensation and/or assignments outside metropolitan areas had an effect on recruitment/retention and Mr. Vigil stated that the effect was minimal at this time. Mr. Ortega asked for clarification on scrimmage compensation and Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, stated it would be clarified through a proposal at the next regular Commission meeting.

General Discussion/Information Items:

NM MESA as a Sanctioned Activity:

Ms. Anita Gonzales and Ling Faith-Heuertz presented information on the inclusion of NM MESA as an NMAA sanctioned activity, emphasizing the value NMAA sanctioning would bring to their program. NM MESA is an academic STEM enrichment program offering students academic skills, community service, critical thinking skills, and leadership workshops. The program includes a state competition both at the local level and national level. Feedback included additional costs for schools, and timing of events throughout the year.

NMOA: Game Cancellation/Suspension of Play Policy: Mr. Vigil discussed a standardized game cancellation policy to help establish a consistent and fair compensation policy across the state for handling game cancellations or postponements. Clarifying questions included the management of hotel costs and travel ring compensation.

NMOA: Single Official Policy: Mr. Vigil discussed a policy to establish a standardized and fair compensation policy for game contests where only one official, referee, or umpire is available/assigned due to shortages, emergencies, or unavoidable circumstances. This usually occurs in lower classifications as well as at the sub-varsity and middle school levels.

Classification/Alignment Update: Mr. Young provided an update on Classification and Alignment for the next two-year block. He stated that the Bylaws Committee is the preliminary stages of review and is currently evaluating potential district alignments.

Co-Ops: Mr. Young discussed the possibility of co-ops in individual sports as well as expanding beyond the A and 2A classifications. Feedback included hesitation with allowing large schools/districts to co-op due to the possibility of creating power houses; but expanding to individual sports could give more opportunities for students to participate if implemented at the lower classification levels.

One Free Transfer: Mr. Young discussed the changing landscape of high school eligibility and the concept of one free transfer for each student. Mr. Young clarified that the NMAA would still have standards and regulations in place to maintain a level of playing field. Feedback included management of second-time transfers, and possible increased recruitment and displacement of students.

8th Grade Open Enrollment: Mr. Young discussed the current 8th grade enrollment policy and current issues surrounding the policy. Discussion included the pros and cons of removing the residency requirement and replacing it with a feeder school enrollment requirement. Additional discussion included counting 8th graders toward a school's total enrollment.

Following a Coach: Mr. Owen discussed applying the Following a Coach rule only after a student has made a high school open enrolment choice. It was discussed that the current policy can make it difficult to find sub-varsity coaches who are not already associated with a student from club participation at the 6th and 7th grade level. The possibility of removing the indefinite link timeline was also discussed.

School Personnel Transfer Waivers: Mr. Young discussed transfer eligibility waivers for students of school personnel. Requests are beginning to be made for students of administrators in addition to head coaches. Feedback included waiving students of school administrators and head coaches only.

Members Private/Charter School Attendance Zone: Mr. Young discussed private schools having a designated attendance zone. Feedback included difficulty in determining boundary lines as well as additional benefits to private schools.

Action Items
Powerlifting: Head Judge Requirements: Mr. Scott Owen presented a proposal to require the assignment of an independent head judge to meets desiring state qualification consideration and to disallow head coaches from certifying these meets in the future:

Bylaw 7.25.2 – Officials shall read as follows:

A. Officials working any NMAA sanctioned event must register through the Association. Schools are required to use a registered NMAA/NMOA official for regular season sanctioned events.
B. The use of a non-registered official for meets subjects the violating school to a fine. Fines/fees are determined by the Board annually.
C. For a meet to be considered for state qualification, a Head Judge must be assigned and present. This individual will certify/verify the results and serve in all roles as outlined by the NMAA Powerlifting Rulebook.

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

Consider Adjournment
Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tensay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).