

NMAA Commission Meeting

September 9, 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. Britt Cooper (Large Area B)
Mr. Jory Mirabal (Small Area C)
Mr. Alan Edmonson (Large Area C)
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small Area D) - entered after roll call
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)
Ms. Rainy Crisp (Non-Public Schools) - *Via Teleconference*
Mr. David Briseno (New Mexico Officials Association) - entered after roll call
Mr. Toby Velasquez (New Mexico School Boards Association)
Mr. Angel Castillo (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)

14 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:

Mr. Kevin Lackey (Small Area B)
Mr. Adrian Pete (Junior High/Middle School Committee)

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. Ortega seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2026, Commission Meeting. Mr. Gamboa made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Mr. Briseno entered the meeting

NMAA Directors' Report:

Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Deputy Director, discussed seven (7) items in his report: 1) provided an update on the new transfer/eligibility bylaws; 2) stated that the Bylaws Committee will meet September 30th to discuss the new eligibility bylaws and classification and alignment; 3) stated the Strategic Planning Committee will meet September 22nd to discuss and plan for future Association goals and initiatives; 4) stated that the NFHS Section 6 meeting will take place in Austin, TX next week providing an opportunity for NMAA staff to network and share ideas about what associations are facing within their respective states; 5) stated that the NMAA will be sending representatives to the NFHS Sport Summit on October 6-7th where the current state of

interscholastic sports will be discussed; 6) stated that School Board Association meetings will be taking place throughout the month of September/October and that the NMAA will be present to provide updates focusing on eligibility and sportsmanship; and lastly 7) reported on new NMAA additions welcoming Mr. Leonard Longhorn, Manager of Officiating Affairs, to the NMAA Staff, Ms. Rainy Crisp to the Commission as the new Non-Public School representative; and congratulated Ms. Debra Sena Holton who was elected to NMAA Board of Directors.

Financial Reports:

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 stating spring sports showed an overall increase; 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 three (3) items in her report: 1) The NMAA Foundation held its annual Board of Directors meeting in August; 2) The Foundation will continue its work to support students and schools by distributing funds this year through the Foundation's school grant and scholarship programs; and lastly, 3) The Annual Bowl-A-Thon will take place in February and consideration is being given to moving the Golf Classic from June to September.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Sanchez presented the NMAA Activities report. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) the annual Activities Council Meeting was held on September 8th with Council members providing summaries of the previous school year's activities and giving updates on state events for this year; 2) state events for the fall will include the State Marching Band competition taking place on Saturday, October 24 at Rio Rancho High School and the State One-Act Play competition taking place in November at Volcano Vista High School. All other state events for activities will be taking place in the spring. Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, also stated that although individual activities typically have their own bylaws and constitutions for adjudicating violations and disputes, the NMAA will be evaluating its role in that process.

NMAA Officials Report:

Mr. Carl Vigil, Manager of Officials Operations, presented the NMOA report. He discussed five (5) items in his report: 1) welcomed Mr. Leonard Longhorn to the NMAA as the Manager of Officiating Affairs; 2) thanked Mr. Zac Stevenson and Mr. Gary Allison for their leadership and guidance; 3) stated the 2026 NMOA Summer Conference was held in July and welcomed close to 300 officials in all sports. The conference provided officials from across the state with sport-specific education, professional development, and an opportunity to prepare for the 2026–2027 school year; 4) congratulated Mr. David Briseno, Mr. Danny Lujan, and Mr. Jess Martinez for their induction into the NMOA Hall of Fame. Cliff Jenkins was also once again honored with the Paul LaPorte Award, and Nate Acosta received the NMOA Distinguished Service Award; and lastly 5) current fall official numbers remain steady.

General Discussion/Information Items:

Student Leadership Advisory Council:

Mr. Gary Allison, NMAA Associate Director, provided an update on the Student Leadership Advisory Council. There are three more regional meetings scheduled, one in Albuquerque, and one in Farmington, with the final meeting taking place in Las Cruces. The council meetings have been successful with discussion focusing on mental health. The council is currently looking to fill

several student positions. The council is made up of 18 members and are seeking two students from each region to ensure representation across the state.

Robbie Robinson entered the meeting

Basketball Start Date:

Mr. Zac Stevenson discussed returning to two weeks of preseason practice prior to the first regular season game. This mirrors the same preseason timeline as football and allows for appropriate time for try-outs, team-parent meetings, scrimmages, etc. prior to the first game. Mr. Roy Sanchez, Athletic Director, Eldorado High School added they used to have three weeks and this request is only for two weeks.

Girls Flag Football:

Mr. Young discussed girls' flag football and some of the recent community advocacy for it to become a sanctioned NMAA sport. Mr. Young emphasized that the NMAA is a membership led organization and it is the purview of the membership to determine what activities/sports become sanctioned.

New Eligibility Bylaws:

Mr. Young reported an increase in transfer petitions compared to last year and stated there have been a few unique situations that will need evaluation specifically concerning the timing of transfers and situations involving multiple transfers without students participating in a sport or program. Concerns have also occurred regarding home-school and charter-school student transfers. He also stated that the NMAA is working to move the petition process to an online platform to help with tracking transfers.

Foreign Students:

Mr. Young stated there have been concerns regarding foreign student transfers who enter NMAA schools without their parents. Currently, these students are ineligible for varsity competition for 365 calendar days, but after the one-year sit out, are eligible for varsity participation in all sports for the remainder of their enrollment. Discussion included ensuring these students are not recruited/influenced to transfer and possibly evaluating the varsity ineligibility duration.

Charter School Scholastic Eligibility:

Mr. Young discussed scholastic eligibility standards for charter school students who also participate in sports at their local public high school. While schools with a higher standard typically supersede schools with a lower standard, concerns have been raised when the charter school has a higher standard as this creates an undue burden on the local public high school to ensure the student is meeting a standard different from the remainder of their general enrollment.

Non-Traditional School Eligibility:

Mr. Young stated bylaws and eligibility requirements for charter and home-school students is under the purview of state statute. Under state statute, charter and home-school students must participate at the public school within their home attendance zone.

Ejection Appeal Fees:

Mr. Young stated currently there is a fee for eligibility appeals and discussed the possibility of adding a fee for appeals regarding ejections of students and coaches.

Commission/Board Officer Terms:

Mr. Young stated that Board Officers are elected to a two-year term, with elections currently held in June of odd-numbered years while Commission Officers are elected to two-year terms, with elections currently held in September of odd-numbered years. Additionally, non-officers are elected to three-year terms with terms running on a January–December cycle. Mr. Young discussed the need for more consistency and the possibility of an action item later this school year.

Action Items:

Basketball: Mercy Rule: Mr. Zac Stevenson presented a proposal to modify the mercy rule score to have a 10-point spread from running clock to return to regulation timing. Bylaw 7.13.1.G. would read as follows with stricken language removed and underlined language added:

7.13.1.G. Mercy Rule – When a team is ahead ~~at half-time by 35~~ 30 or more points ~~or becomes 35 or more points ahead~~ in the second half, the clock will stop only for time-outs. If the point differential becomes less than ~~35~~ 20 points, regular timing resumes. A mercy rule “substitution time out” may be utilized where any remaining time-outs may stop the clock without teams coming to the bench. The clock would not start again until the ball becomes live.

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Briseno made a motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (13-1).

Basketball: District Tie Breaker Game: Mr. Zac Stevenson presented a proposal to remove the mandatory district championship tie-breaker game and to instead utilize the remaining established procedures listed within 7.13.3.E. to break any ties. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made a motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Baseball: Double First Base: Mr. Tyler Dunkel presented a proposal to adopt a state-wide bylaw that all high school baseball contests must use the double first base.

Bylaw 7.12.1.H.8. – Double First Base – All high school baseball contests must use the double first base at all levels.

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made a motion to approve the proposal. No second was made, motions dies.

Publication of Coaches Input Forms: Mr. Dusty young presented a proposal to publicize member school input (Coaches Input Forms) as part of the NMAA’s Seeding and Selection process. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Gamboa made a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Appeals Review Committee Representatives: Mr. Dusty Young presented a proposal to amend Bylaw 13.1.2. to remove the limitation on maximum number of Appeal Review Committee members. Bylaw 13.1.2. would read as follows with stricken language removed and underlined language added:

13.1.2. Appeals Review Committee – The Appeals Review Committee (“Appeals Review Committee” or “Review Committee”) shall be composed of ~~up to ten (10) members who~~ are current and / or retired superintendents or headmasters of NMAA member schools. Three members of the Appeals Review Committee shall constitute a quorum for an appeal hearing. The Director shall appoint the members of the Appeals Review Committee.

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Velasquez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Consider Adjournment:

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tensay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m. Mr. Gamboa seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).