NMAA Appeals Review Committee Hearing
September 14, 2026
10:00 a.m. - Virtual

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Brian Stacy, NMAA Appeals Review Committee Chairman, at 10:01 a.m., Mrs. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Brian Stacy
Mr. Paul Benoit
Mr. Vance Lee
Mr. Bill Green
Mr. Gary Salazar
Mr. Hilario Chavez
Ms. Lynda Spencer

Not Present:
Mr. Keith Durham
Mr. Mike Chambers
Ms. Freda Daugherty
Mr. Gerry Washburn
Dr. Channel Segura

7 members were present representing a committee quorum.

Approval of the Agenda:
Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Benoit made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Lee seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (7-0).

Approval of Minutes
Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 10, 2026, appeal review hearing. Mr. Green made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Benoit seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (7-0).

Organ Mountain 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. Lee and seconded by Mr. Benoit to and go into closed session at 10:05 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**

X		**Mr. Vance Lee**
X		**Mr. Bill Green**
X		**Mr. Gary Salazar**
X		**Mr. Hilario Chavez**
X		**Ms. Lynda Spencer**

Executive Session

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to enter Executive Session for discussion purposes only. A motion was made by Ms. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Lee to go into Executive Session at 10:31 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**
X		**Mr. Bill Green**
X		**Mr. Gary Salazar**
X		**Mr. Hilario Chavez**
X		**Ms. Lynda Spencer**

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Benoit and seconded by Ms. Spencer to exit Executive Session and go back into closed session at 10:37 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0). Mr. Stacy stated there was no action taken during Executive Session.

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**
X		**Mr. Bill Green**
X		**Mr. Gary Salazar**
X		**Mr. Hilario Chavez**
X		**Ms. Lynda Spencer**

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to exit out of closed session. A motion was made by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Lee to exit closed session and go back into open session at 10:38 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**

X		**Mr. Bill Green**
X		**Mr. Gary Salazar**
X		**Mr. Hilario Chavez**
X		**Ms. Lynda Spencer**

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 Organ Mountain High School appeal. A motion was made by Mr. Lee to overturn the New Mexico Activities Association's ruling, granting eligibility. Ms. Spencer seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (7-0).

Meeting continued by Mr. Brian Stacy, NMAA Appeals Review Committee Chairman, at 10:41 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 wish 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 stated the appeal hearing will be open as per the request.

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

Also present from the NMAA staff were 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. William Hays, District AD, Los Lunas Schools; Mr. Lamar Morinia, father; Ms. Morinia, mother and Lamar Morinia, student.

NMAA Summary
Mr. Young stated Lamar is a sophomore transfer student at Los Lunas High School whose father has also recently been named the Los Lunas boys' head basketball coach. Lamar was previously enrolled at Gilbert Sena Charter school and participated in the sport of Football at his home attendance zone public school of Atrisco Heritage Academy HS as permitted by Charter School law. While enrolled at Gilbert Sena Charter school, Lamar opted to play basketball for the "Albuquerque Basketball Club," also known as ABC Academy, instead of participating in Basketball at Atrisco Heritage Academy HS as permitted by Charter School law. Per NMAA bylaw 6.6.8.B., students who transfer to 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 Lamar's participation in Basketball with ABC Academy, he has been deemed ineligible for varsity participation in the sport of basketball at Los Lunas 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
Hays- stated they hired Mr. Morinia in the summer of this year. He is also teaching at Los Lunas High School, along with being the head boys basketball coach at Los Lunas High School. His son also wanted to come with him, and it made sense with travel and finances for the family.

Mr. Morinia- he applied for the job and got it in July. The financial situation at ABC just wasn't working for their family, so he decided to leave and coach and teach and have his son attend Los Lunas High School. He applied in the middle of June and in July he was told he got the head varsity basketball job there. It made more sense for his son to also attend school there. After a year at Gilbert Sena, they realized that in regard to education, LaMar needed more structure and accountability. He needed more support from his teachers that is given in person. He stated that Gilbert Sena was not what they wanted. At the time he was playing football at Atrisco for the season and wasn't at ABC as much, so that helped with the social aspect. Financially it wasn't working for them because basketball he was traveling to other states, because of their jobs he would have to travel alone. Financially and educationally, it made more sense to transfer his son since was now the head coach at Los Lunas.

Ms. Morinia- she has always been more about the academic piece. She could see a difference in his academics and online part wasn't working for him. Feel like he was becoming socially awkward. Noticed he was sleeping a lot, and they could see a decline in his social life and mentall, he was not doing ok. At Los Lunas he is building a relationships with other kids and teachers as well.

LaMar- ABC was mentally draining and he was always traveling by himself, and wasn't performing well. His parents were also spending a lot of money to travel, and it just wasn't working for him.

Committee Questions

Chavez- were academics offered at ABC- Mr. Morinia- just through online with Gilbert Sena Charter.

Chavez- is Gilbert Sena separate from ABC.
Mr. Morinia- Correct, Gilbert Sena is a charter and ABC is solely the athletic side.
Mr. Chavez- are there other sports at ABC.
Mr. Morinia- he believes there is also volleyball there. Chavez- but they mainly specialize in boys and girls basketball.
Mr. Morinia- guess you could say that.

Spencer- what other sports does he plan to play at Los Lunas.
LaMar- just basketball this year, next year he hope to play football again.

Spencer- he is a sophomore correct. Ms. Morinia stated yes.

Salazar-do they still live in the Atrisco attendance zone. Ms. Morinia stated yes they do.
Salazar-was the decision to move to ABC specifically for the basketball academy. Ms Morinia stated yes, they did know the person who started the program.
Mr. Morinia- Brandon Mason is a friend of his and he told them about it and how he attend Gilbert Sena online for his school. He would go to online school and play basketball for an hour and leave to play football at Atrisco. At the moment it made sense. They didn't know there was a rule that if he were to go to ABC he couldn't play high school. He started ABC as an 8th grader. His 8th grade year wasn't a financial burden, he taught at Washington MS and he could still play at Washington, and AB. His freshman year came and that's when the financial burden hit with him traveling a lot.

Ms. Morinia- they do have two other boys, and it effected transportation as they had three kids at 3 different school's. Her husband would take all three boys to school in elementary, but it became hard for them to have to drive the two younger ones. It's been helpful on her end with this transition.

Mr. Morinia- he now has several friends and attends other sport games and he has been enjoying it. Feel like this year they can put it all together. He will still need to earn a spot like everyone, but it would be a detriment if he couldn't play and have to sit out.

Salazar- what is his birthdate. LaMar stated May 12, 2010.

Salazar- credit wise, he is categorized as a freshman because of credits. He has enough credits to be a sophomore. Mr. Morinia stated Gilbert Sena is an accelerated school. Has a lot of electives. Those were the issues he had at Los Lunas as they had enrolled him as a junior, due to the amount of credits he has. If you see the transcripts, you can see he only has one year of Englis, and one year language arts. He just finished his freshman year. He has a lot of credits but he has a lot of electives.

Spencer- he is taking sophomore English currently. LaMar- yes.

What level does he see his son playing at this year- Mr. Morinia stated for sure varsity.
Spencer- does he also coach the jv as well or is that a different coach.
Mr. Morinia stated a different one, he will coach the jv in 7th period, but there is a separate coach for that team.

Mr. Stacy- what is he teaching. Mr. Morinia- credit recovery. Ingenuity
What teaching endorsements does he have. Mr. Morinia stated special ed, PE, language Arts. This is his 10th year teaching.

Mr. Morinia- he is endorsed in k-8 and working on a specialty license to include high school. He is working in credit recovery currently.

Hays- he isn't sure what his specialty will be, they have a PE teacher already.
Stacy- what else could he do as that does not fall into any specialty license.
Hays- he isn't sure, knows he is on a waiver but that is through the personnel department. He knows HR is working with the PED.

Stacy- what did he do prior to 10 years of teaching. Mr. Morinia- he was a professional basketball player in Europe.

Stacy- it was stated that academics are important, but with the transcripts looks like it was a wasted sophomore year.
Ms. Morinia is in his sophomore year, that was her argument with Gilbert Sena, Los Lunas questioned why he has so many credits. He took a lot of electives.

Stacy- so he went to Gilbert Sena for a year and received 20 credits, but majority are electives. Ms. Morinia stated when they got his report cards, they saw he was taking the core classes needed, but did have a lot of electives.

How many years did he play for ABC. Mr. Morinia- he played his freshman year. 8th grade was more of a training team. When he got to high school, he went to Gilbert Sena his freshman year and played.

Stacy- he will be 19 his senior year. Mr. Morinia- no he will graduate in May, two days after graduation he will be 19. Stacy- Did he coach at Atrisco. Mr. Moriana- no.

Executive Session

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to enter Executive Session for discussion purposes only. A motion was made by Mr. Lee and seconded by Mr. Benoit to go into Executive Session at 11:10 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**
X		**Mr. Bill Green**
X		**Mr. Gary Salazar**
X		**Mr. Hilario Chavez**
X		**Ms. Lynda Spencer**

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Benoit and seconded by Mr. Green to exit Executive Session and go back into open session at 11:19 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0). Mr. Stacy stated there was no action taken during Executive Session.

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		**Mr. Paul Benoit**
X		**Mr. Brian Stacy**
X		**Mr. Vance Lee**
X		**Mr. Bill Green**
X		**Mr. Gary Salazar**
X		**Mr. Hilario Chavez**
X		**Ms. Lynda Spencer**

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 Los Lunas High School appeal. A motion was made by Mr. Lee to uphold the New Mexico Activities Association's ruling. Mr. Benoit seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (7-0).

Adjournment

Mr. Stacy asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mr. Benoit and seconded by Mr. Lee to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (7-0). The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.