

NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting
September 17, 2025
9:00 a.m.
NMAA Hall of Pride and Honor

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Anthony Casados, NMAA Board of Directors President, at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A – President)
Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C)
Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large School District I)
Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)
Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
Mr. Gary Tripp (New Mexico School Boards Association)

13 members were present representing a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Diehl made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2025, Board Meeting. Mr. Moyer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Board Officers:

Mr. Casados asked for nominations for NMAA Board President. Mr. Tripp nominated Mr. Anthony Casados. Mr. Strickland seconded. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Mr. Casados asked for nominations for NMAA Board Vice-President. Mr. Tripp nominated Mr. Martin Madrid. Mr. White seconded. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

NMAA Directors' Report:

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, discussed six (6) items in his report: 1) reported that the fall sports season has kicked off and is going well; 2) reported that the 2025 New Mexico High School Sports Conference, held in collaboration with the NMADA, NMHSCA, NMOA, and Student Leadership Advisory Council, took place in July was well received. Mr. Young also thanked Angel Castillo from the NMHSCA for all of his work in assisting with the conference; 3) stated the Bylaws Committee recently met to discuss classification and alignment and handbook revisions; 4)

provided information regarding the NMAA Directors Cup, including updated policies; 5) provided an update on the Section 6 meeting that took place recently and reported that there was great discussion and dialogue from all Section 6 State Associations during the meeting; and 6) reported that monthly AD meetings are ongoing and held monthly via zoom.

Financial Reports:

Annual Audit Report: Mr. Frank Lovato, CPA with Loftis and Lovato, presented the Annual Audit report for the 2024-2025 school year.

NMAA Finance Report: Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA Financial Reports. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) presented the 2024-2025 financial reports; and 2) presented tickets sales for the 2024-2025 school 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 two (2) items in her report: 1) stated that the Activities Council met on September 2nd where Ms. Mary Hahn was re-elected as chairperson and representative on the Commission; 2) stated most state events for activities will take place next semester, with the exception of Marching Band held in October.

New Mexico Official's Association Report:

Mr. Carl Vigil, Commissioner of Officials, presented the NMOA Report. He discussed six (6) 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. Several were 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; 5) reported that current numbers are slightly down but hoping to see an increase for winter sports; and 6) emphasized the importance of support and resources for officials in their first through third years.

General Discussion/Information Items

NM MESA as a Sanctioned Activity:

Mr. Dusty Young provided a brief overview of NM MESA, an extracurricular STEM program interested in becoming an NMAA sanctioned activity.

NMOA: Game Cancellations/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. Feedback included clarifying the notification process to ensure proper communication between officials and assigners and investigating whether the policy would violate school district procurement policies by paying for services not rendered.

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 and Alignment Update:

Mr. Young provided an update on Classification and Alignment for the next two-year block. He stated that the Bylaws Committee is in the preliminary stages of review and is currently evaluating potential district alignments. No major changes are anticipated for the 2026-2028 block aside from some minor adjustments due to fluctuating school enrollments. The Board of Directors will vote on proposed classifications and alignments in December with appeals later that same month. Feedback included minimizing travel considerations specifically in the sport of football due to the geographical and scheduling difficulties specifically associated with that sport.

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 potentially allowing co-ops in the sport of wrestling and the benefits it would provide small schools by allowing more individuals the opportunity to participate.

One-Free Transfer:

Mr. Young discussed the changing landscape of high school eligibility and the concept of one free transfer for each student. There would still be standards and regulations in place to maintain a level playing field. Discussion included evaluating athletic director support for such a proposal on a classification basis to see if any trends exist between the different classifications. Feedback also included concerns with increased recruitment, undue influence, and displacement. Sentiment was also shared that families with the means to contest eligibility through lawsuits create an inequity that needs to be considered.

8th Grade Open Enrollment:

Mr. Young discussed current 8th grade enrollment bylaws and current issues surrounding the policy.

Following a Coach:

Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Associate Director, discussed applying the Following a Coach rule only after a student has made a high school open enrollment choice rather than applying the rule after the 6th grade year.

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 varied from granting waivers to any school personnel, to only athletic administrators and head coaches, and to only head coaches of established athletic programs.

Member Private/Charter School Attendance Zone:

Mr. Young discussed private schools having a designated attendance zone. Feedback included bringing a judge in to review the new bylaws.

Executive Session

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:16 a.m. Mr. Dempsey made the motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Gary Tripp (NM School Board Association)

Mr. Ignacio Ruiz left the meeting

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 12:15 p.m. Mr. Madrid made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. Mr. Casados stated no action was taken in the Executive Session. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. (12-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Gary Tripp (NM School Board Association)

Action Items

Powerlifting: Head Judge requirements:

Mr. 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. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tripp made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Amendment to 2025-2026 NMAA Budget:

Mr. Young presented a proposal to consider an amendment to the 2025-2026 NMAA Budget. Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tripp made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Bibiano seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Consider Adjournment:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:24 p.m. Mr. Dempsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2025