

NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting
September 23, 2026
9:00 a.m.
NMAA Hall of Pride and Honor

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Martin Madrid, 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:

Ms. Debra Sena-Holton (Small Area A)
Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Ms. Dawn Kalberg (Small Area C)
Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)
Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large School District I) - entered during Financial Report
Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II) - *Via Teleconference*
Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large - President)
Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo (New Mexico School Boards Association)

13 members were present representing a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda:

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Moyer made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2026 Board Meeting. Mr. Strickland made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. White seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Executive Session

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:01 a.m. Mr. White made the motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Ms. Debra Sena-Holton (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		Ms. Dawn Kalberg (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)

Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo (NM School Boards Association)

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 9:41 a.m. Mr. White made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. Mr. Madrid stated no action was taken in the Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Ms. Debra Sena-Holton (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		Ms. Dawn Kalberg (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo (NM School Boards Association)

Board Officers:

Election of NMAA Vice-President: Mr. Madrid asked for nominations for NMAA Board of Directors Vice-President. Mr. Hawkins nominated Mr. Gene Strickland. Mr. Bibiano seconded. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken to approve Mr. Strickland as Vice-President and passed unanimously (12-0).

NMAA Directors' Report:

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, discussed eight (8) items in his report: 1) welcomed to the Board of Directors, Ms. Debra Sena-Holton representing Small Area A, and Ms. Dawn Kalberg representing Small Area C; 2) stated the first NMAA Strategic Planning meeting was held with initial discussions focusing on how to better support athletic directors, future meetings will take place in conjunction with regular scheduled Board Meetings; 3) stated the Bylaws Committee meeting will take place next week with discussion to focus on Classification and Alignment for the 2028-2030 block; 4) stated the NMAA is working with School Board Associations across the state and attending their regional meetings; 5) provided information regarding the NFHS Section 6 meeting that took place in Austin, TX; 6) provided an update on changes in NFHS Leadership with Mr. Davis Whitfield elected as the new NFHS Executive Director, and New Mexico native, Mr. Mark Koski, appointed as the new NFHS Deputy Executive Director, Strategy and External

Affairs and lastly; 8) welcomed to the NMAA Staff Mr. Leonard Longhorn serving as Manager of Officiating Affairs.

NMAA Financial Report:

Annual Audit Report: Mr. Frank Lovato, CPA with Loftis and Lovato, presented the Annual Audit report for the 2025-2026 school year.

Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey entered the meeting

Approval of 2025-2026 Audit Report: Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Audit Report as presented. Mr. White made the motion to approve. Mr. Strickland seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Ms. Annette Castillo, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA Financial Report. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) presented the 2025-2026 spring championship box reports; and 2) presented tickets sales for all 2025-2026 state championships.

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.

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) reported that 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 is one more regional meeting scheduled to take place in Las Cruces. The council meetings have been successful with discussion focusing on mental health. They are looking to hold one in the southeast area in the

spring. The council is currently looking to fill several student positions. The council is made up of 18 members and is seeking students from each region to ensure representation across the state from large and small schools.

Basketball Start Date:

Mr. Zac Stevenson discussed a return to two weeks of preseason practice prior to the first regular season game. This mirrors the same preseason time as football and allows for appropriate time for team logistics such as try-outs, team parent meetings, scrimmages, etc. prior to the first game. Currently there is one week of preseason prior to the start of regular season games.

New Eligibility Bylaws:

Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Deputy Director, stated transfer petitions are up from last year and appeals remain steady. Initial areas needing frequent clarification and interpretation have included the timing of transfers; home school and charter school students; specialized sport academies, and the NMAA following a coach rule. Mr. Young also included that the NMAA is working to move the petition process to an online platform to help modernize this work.

Charter School Scholastic Eligibility:

Mr. Owen discussed concerns with 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. Feedback was mixed with which school's standard should take precedent. A recommendation was also made that an agreement regarding scholastic eligibility should be in place prior to start of season.

Non-Traditional School Eligibility:

Mr. Owen discussed three (3) items: 1) eligibility to participate outside a member public or private school if the sport is not offered; 2) attendance zones for private and charter schools; and lastly 3) eligibility for students enrolled in virtual programs that are part of a local school/district. Feedback included potential issues for students enrolled virtually in a school district program if they live too far away to participate in that school's extracurricular programs.

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.

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 Member 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.

Sanctioned Activities – NMAA Involvement:

Mr. Young 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.

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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Affengranger made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed (9-4).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Ms. Debra Sena-Holton (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
	No	Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
	No	Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
	No	Ms. Dawn Kalberg (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)
	No	Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large School District I)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo (NM School Boards Association)

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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. White made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Publication of Coaches Input Forms: Mr. Young presented a proposal to publicize member school input (Coaches Input Forms) as part of the NMAA's Seeding and Selection process. Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Strickland made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Bibiano seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Appeals Review Committee Representatives: Mr. 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. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Consider Adjournment:

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. Mr. Strickland made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2026