

**NMAA Commission Meeting**  
**November 16, 2022**  
**9:00 AM**  
**Hall of Pride and Honor**

**Welcome** – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernie Viramontes at 9:04 am. A roll call was conducted by Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, and the following members were present:

Mr. Ben Tensay (Large Area A)  
Mr. Dickie Roybal (Small, Area B)  
Mr. Cooper Henderson (Large Area B)  
Mr. Jory Mirabal (Small, Area C)  
Mr. Ernie Viramontes (Large Area C – Chair)  
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small Area D)  
Ms. Ann Stewart (Large Area D)  
Mr. Willie Owens (Non-Public Schools)  
Ms. LeeAnn Moores (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association)  
Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)  
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals)  
Mr. Adrian Pete (Jr. High/Middle School Committee)  
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)

Not Present:

Mr. Donald Valdez (New Mexico State School Boards Association)  
Mr. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association)

13 members were present representing a quorum.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Moores made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Stewart seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2022, Commission Meeting as presented. Mr. Affentranger made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Tensay seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

**NMAA Director's Report:**

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed four (4) items on his report: 1) stated that elections are underway for Small Area A, Small Area C, and Large Area C on the Commission and for Small Area A, Small Area C, and Large Area D on the Board of Directors; he also thanked Mr. Ernie Viramontes for his service as the chair on the Commission, Board Member, and to the students of New Mexico since this will be his last meeting; 2) provided information regarding the NMAA Foundation Scholarship program and upcoming Bowl-A-Thon fundraiser; 3) recapped the Fall Championship season and thanked Albuquerque Academy, Rio Rancho HS, and Cleveland HS for their help in hosting some of these events; and 4) stated that several concerns have been brought to the NMAA office regarding some of the facilities used as host sites for the state football playoffs. NMAA Executive Director, Sally Marquez, echoed these comments and stated that the NMAA will be discussing this issue with the membership to determine if adjustments are needed to state football host site bylaws.

**NMAA Financial Report:**

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, NMAA Business Manager, presented the financial report. She discussed two (2) items on her report: 1) provided basic ticket sales information for State Soccer, Cross Country,

and Volleyball; and 2) stated that the annual audit and taxes for 2021-2022 have been completed and will be presented to the Board of Directors at their December meeting.

#### **NMAA Activities Report:**

Ms. Sally Marquez, Executive Director presented the activities report. She discussed three (3) items on her report: 1) recapped the State One Act Play Festival that took place earlier in the month; 2) stated that Student Leadership regional meetings have begun and have been very well received thus far; and 3) provided an update on the possibility of a State Student Leadership Conference to take place during the summer in conjunction with the NMHSCA Coaches Clinic and NMAA/NMOA State Clinic.

#### **New Mexico Officials Association Report:**

Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the officials report. He discussed six (6) items on his report: 1) provided an update on officials' utilized for Fall Championships; 2) thanked the regional assignment coordinators and athletic directors for their hard work throughout the fall season; 3) reported on officials' numbers and stated although these are up from last, actual availability for each individual has led to assignment issues; 4) recapped the recruitment initiatives that have been implemented at the NMAA and school levels; 5) stated that regular season tournaments are causing assignment issues in many areas of the state; and 6) provided information regarding the current youth officials' curriculum/instruction initiatives that are underway within several school districts. Mr. Roybal inquired about regular season tournament assignors and additional fees to provide these services. Mr. Affentranger asked for the NMOA to look at the instruction given through the officials' curriculum to try and ensure consistency with the program. Mr. Stevenson stated he would work with the membership to address both of these issues.

#### **Discussion/Informational Items:**

Boys Volleyball - Mr. Greg Villareal, Sandia HS Head Volleyball Coach, presented information regarding Boys' Volleyball and the possibility of it becoming an NMAA sanctioned sport or activity to be held during the spring semester. He stated that many schools are already participating as club teams and that the sport is growing and very popular around the country. Feedback included potential budgetary issues created by adding another program, especially with the sanctioning of Esports and Powerlifting in recent years. Ms. Marquez also reminded the group that a minimum of 16 full programs/schools were needed to even consider the addition of a new sport/activity, and many of the schools listed as interested or currently participating do not have enough students to form their own team.

Sports Academies / Specialized Sports Training - Ms. Marquez provided information regarding students participating in specialized sports academies. She presented two possible proposals to help with this growing trend. Transfer students who enroll in an NMAA-member school after attending a specialized sport training academy or school, shall be ineligible for varsity participation in that sport(s) for 180 school / 365 calendar days from the date of their enrollment. Specialization sport training programs include, without limitation, non-school sponsored sports training academies or facilities that recruit participants for specialized training. Specialized sport training programs also include non-NFHS member prep school, non-scholastic team/program or municipal sports teams, or transfer students who enroll in an NMAA-member school after attending a specialized sport training academy or school, shall be ineligible for varsity participation in that sport(s) for 180 school / 365 calendar days from the date of their enrollment unless they enroll in their previous school. Specialized sport training programs include, without limitation, non-school sponsored sports training academies or facilities that recruit participants for specialized training. Specialization sport training programs also include non-NFHS member prep school, non- scholastic team/program or municipal sports teams. Feedback from the Commission included treating these individuals as transfer students, thus making them ineligible at the varsity level upon their return for 180 school days.

2023-2024 Calendar for Football - Ms. Marquez stated that based on feedback from the membership, the 2023 football season will start on its traditional date. All other sports will still begin one week later due to state championship facility conflicts referenced in the summer of 2022, meaning cross country, soccer, and volleyball will start two weeks after football begins.

Music License – ASCAP - Ms. Marquez updated the Commission on music licensure. She stated through the NFHS, all NMAA member schools are covered under the ASCAP performance license, however schools can purchase other licensure if they so choose since each library is limited to certain music. There will be a time, however, when this NFHS/ASCAP agreement is no longer in place.

Sportsmanship / Compete with Class - Ms. Marquez discussed the NMAA's current sportsmanship bylaws and the possibility of adopting similar policies used in Oklahoma and Louisiana which have significant sanctions in place, including postseason bans or season shutdowns, for schools/programs involved in more than one incident. Feedback included support of severe sanctions for sportsmanship violations, but possibly separating incidents in to two categories – fans/spectators and players/coaches.

Appeals Process and Hardship Petitions - Ms. Marquez and Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, discussed the current hardship and appeals processes and possible updates needed due to an increase in litigation and NMAA decisions being overturned by the courts. Discussion included the use of a former judge to mediate these cases, adopting specific standards for certain hardship petitions, and involvement from the student's sending school.

District Chairs - Ms. Marquez stated that an inquiry was made to the NMAA office regarding district chairs and a possible requirement that these individuals be active/current athletic directors. Feedback included keeping those decisions at the district level and the possibility of the NMAA helping to standardize more district level policies and/or operating procedures.

#### **Action Items:**

Baseball: Class A State Qualifiers - Mr. Young presented a proposal to consider adjusting the number of qualifiers for the Class A State Baseball playoffs from 4 to 6 starting with the current school year (2023 season). This will add an additional round to the state playoffs. The new quarterfinal round will be played the Wednesday of Week #45 at the site of the higher seed. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Henderson made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Roybal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Baseball: Home/Visitor for State - Mr. Young presented a proposal to edit State Baseball Playoff Bylaws so that the higher seed serves as the home team for the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals. The new language for Bylaw 7.12.4 State Tournament Information would read as follows: During the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals, the higher seed will be the home team. Note – in the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals, the higher seed may opt to be the visiting team but must provide notice of this choice to the Tournament Director no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the contest. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Ms. Moores made the motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (12-1).

Baseball: Sub-Varsity Time Limit - Mr. Young presented a proposal to consider addition of a statewide limit for sub-varsity baseball games. New language would read as follows: 7.12.1.H.6. a. Time Limits – Only the below time limits are permitted in the sport of baseball. A. District Time Limits – A time limit can be implemented by a district if they choose to do so. Games that end due to a time limit will be considered regulation games regardless of how many innings are played. The score will remain as recorded when the game was called. B. Invitational Tournament Time Limits – Time limits can be implemented for invitational tournaments put on by schools/school districts. Games that end due to a time limit will be considered regulation games regardless of how many innings are played. The score will remain as recorded when the game was called. C. Sub-Varsity Time Limits – At the sub-varsity level, no inning may start after two hours of play. Schools can lower this time limit if mutually agreed upon in advance (i.e. 1 hour & 45 minutes). Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Henderson made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Owens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Scholastic Eligibility & Minimum Contests for State - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to exempt students who are unable to meet the one-quarter participation rule due to scholastic ineligibility. Bylaw 7.6.5 Minimum Contests for Post-Season Competition Eligibility (Individual) would read as follows: Students must participate in a minimum of one quarter (1/4) of the varsity contests scheduled to be eligible for post-season competition. 1) Injured Player – A player who sustains an injury that precludes participation in one quarter of varsity contests scheduled during the regular season, may participate in post-season competition provided the student has been on the team roster throughout the season. In addition, the injury must be certified in writing by a licensed medical physician and submitted to the Director as well as kept on file by the school principal. For this exception to apply, the injured player cannot have participated in any other sport (inside or outside of the school) during the regular sports season. 2) Scholastically Ineligible Student – A student whose scholastic eligibility status precludes participation in one quarter of the varsity contests scheduled during the regular season may participate in post-season competition provided the student has regained scholastic eligibility. For this exception to apply, the student must have been actively participating in team practices throughout the duration of the season and the school must be able to verify that participation. Note: Sub-varsity players can be moved up for post-season play without playing in one quarter of the varsity contest scheduled. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Ms. Robinson made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Pete seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Foreign Exchange Student Residence Policies. Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to permit foreign exchange students wishing to participate in athletics to reside with school employees who are not coaches or athletic department staff members. The New Language shall read as follows: 6.1.3 Undue Influence of a Student; F. Living on a full- or part-time basis, regardless of whether rent is paid, with any school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests, unless legal guardianship appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction has been obtained (See also 6.8.2 Foreign Students). (See 6.8.2.A for Foreign Exchange exceptions). 6.8.2 Foreign Students A. International Student Exchange Participant-Eligible immediately if the student is participating in a formal program sanctioned through the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and is not directly placed by the CSIET program. Directly placed foreign exchange students will be eligible at the sub-varsity level only. Students who receive a foreign exchange waiver are eligible to participate in NMAA sanctioned athletic events for a period of one calendar school year. If they return for a second year to the host school or any other member school, they are ineligible to participate in NMAA sanctioned athletic events; this includes students who change their visa status. Foreign exchange students who receive a foreign exchange waiver may reside with school employees who are not athletic department staff members. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made the motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Moores seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Participant Ejections & Impact on Game Limitations. Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to count games missed due to an ejection or suspension toward the student's overall competition limit. New language would read as follows: 7.6.6 Maximum/Minimum Number of Games/Contests Permitted (Schools/Teams) 1. Game Limitation (Maximum) - Schools/teams may not schedule more than the maximum number of games/contests allowed for each sport relative to each level of competition. For example, a 26-game limitation means that a school can schedule only 26 games at the varsity level. Refer to 7.0 in this section for the number of games/contests permitted. 2. Schedule/Competition Requirement (Minimum) – Schools must compete within the assigned district (as determined by the NMAA) and must complete their entire district schedule, as determined by the district, to qualify for the post season. Districts must minimally schedule to play each school in the assigned district one time. Exception: Golf, Spirit, Swimming and Diving, and Girls Wrestling. District play must be completed prior to state tournament seeding and selection. 3. Sub-varsity district tournaments/meets - Sub-varsity district tournaments/meets count towards game limitations. A player cannot play in two tournaments (regular season or district) simultaneously (See also 7.6.14, 7.8.5). 4. Ejections/Suspensions - Games/contests missed by an individual due to an ejection or suspension shall count toward the student athlete's individual contest limitations. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the

proposal as presented. Ms. Robinson made the motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Stewart seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Post-Secondary School Participation. Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to edit Bylaw 6.13.3 to clarify that student-athletes cannot participate at any time against collegiate teams/individuals while representing an NMAA member school. Bylaw 6.13.3 Post-Secondary School Participation would read as follows: A Student who, while representing a member school, competes against any collegiate individual or team, shall be subject to NMAA sanctions. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Owens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

NMOA: Mileage Rings. Mr. Stevenson presented a proposal to modify the current Officials fee's structure, moving away from mileage for one driver to a standard fee for all Officials based on incremental rings from the Officials home to the contest site. Three proposals were discussed: Option 1 – \$10 game fee increase and mileage rings with fees starting at mile 26; Option 2 – No game fee increase and mileage rings with fees starting at mile 16; Option 3 - \$5 game fee increase and mileage rings with fees starting at mile 26. In each option, travel rings are determined by one-way mileage from the officials home to the contest site. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve one of the three proposals as presented. Ms. Stewart made the motion to approve option #3, increasing the game fee by \$5 and adding travel rings. Mr. Roybal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

NMOA: Per Diem - Mr. Stevenson presented a proposal to increase Officials Hotel Per Diem from \$75 to \$100 when requested for trips over 150 miles one way. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Ms. Moores made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Tensay seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

NMOA: Softball Game Fees - Mr. Stevenson presented a proposal to increase softball umpires' fees to match those of baseball officials. Varsity- from \$55.00 to \$70.00; JV & 9th grade from \$45.00 to \$50.00 and junior high (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>) from \$35.00 to \$40.00. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Ms. Robinson made the motion to amend the proposal to increase the varsity game fee to \$65 and leave the JV/9<sup>th</sup> grade fee at \$45 and junior high (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>) fee at \$35. Mr. Mirabal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

NMOA: Officials' Fees for Future. Mr. Stevenson presented a proposal to increase game fees in all sports and all levels by \$5 in 2025, 2027, 2029. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Pete made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Mabrey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and failed (2-11).

#### **Consider Adjournment:**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:37 p.m. Ms. Stewart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hahn seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).